

# UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019

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## September Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2019 @ 7:00 pm  
The Zone

## Tracking Trial (TD/TDU)

September 22, 2019  
Tautphaus Park Lilac Circle

## Agility Trial

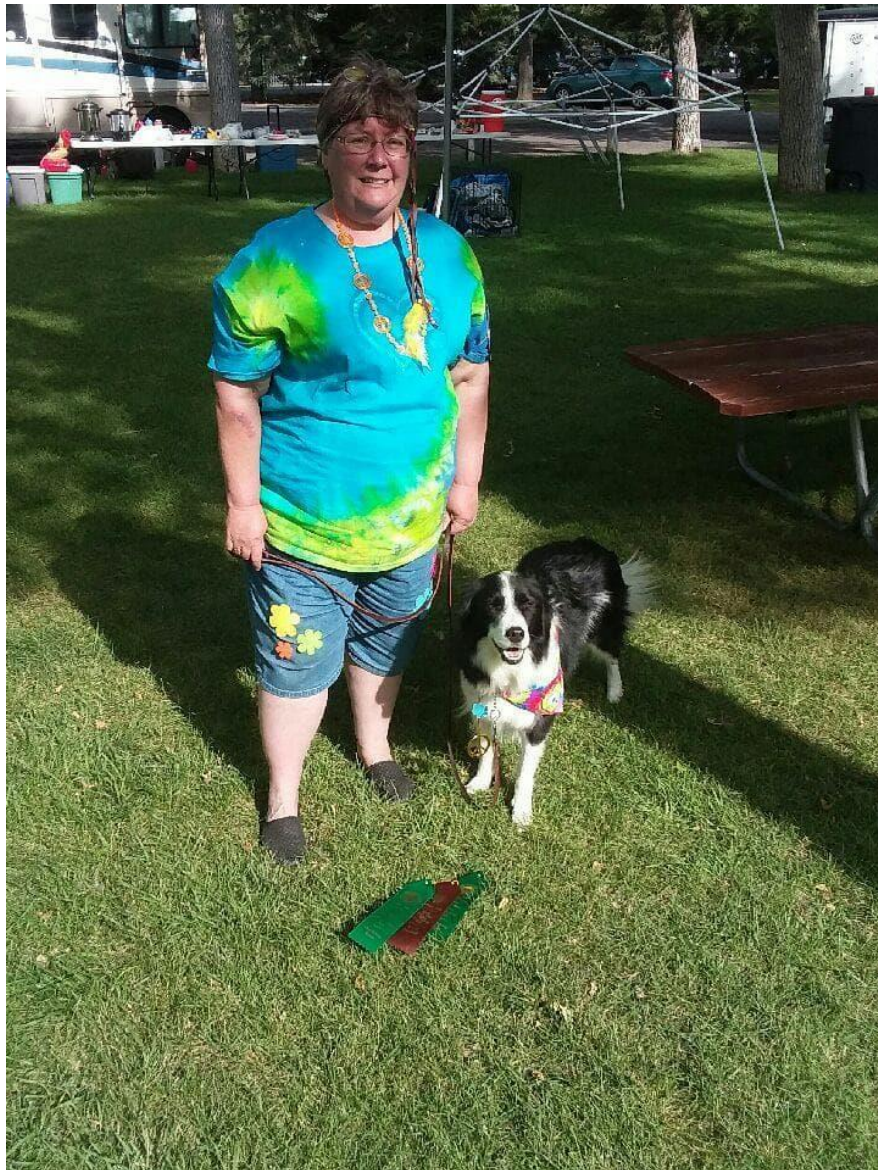
October 25 – 27, 2019  
Wind River Arena & Stables – Ririe, Idaho

If you have Brags or any other ideas or information you'd like to see  
in the newsletter – please send them to me @  
[nedwob88@gmail.com](mailto:nedwob88@gmail.com)

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# THE BRAG BOARD

**Shel Williams and Cailean**



Cailean earned his first RAE leg and was part of the Peace and Love team at our trial!!  
Way to go Shel and Cailean!



## Elise Desautel with Simon and Skipper



Simon and I haven't competed in obedience rally for at least 3 years **cough school cough** and this was Skipper's first trial. For those reasons I was definitely a little nervous and was unsure of my skill at balancing two dogs as well as helping with the trial. But my boys did great. Simon earned his rally intermediate title - 3 days, 3 Q's. He NQ'ed on his single novice obedience run, but he overall did very well and I'm very proud of him. Skipper earned his beginner novice obedience title as well as placing first a couple of days. He also got one leg towards his rally novice title. They both seem to enjoy it and relaxed at the site and mostly just chilled when I wasn't with them which was really good to see.

## LeeAnn Chaffin and Ben



Lee Ann and Ben earned their Rally Intermediate title with three qualifying scores over the trial weekend.

*Congratulations!*

# Upcoming Opportunities

be a volunteer



**Remember...**Volunteering at our club events helps you to fulfill some of the requirements to be an Active Club Member and receive free training classes!

Upcoming Opportunities:

- September 21 – 22, 2019 - Tracking Trial – we need help with set up, track laying, etc.
- October 9, 2019 – CGC Testing – help is needed to set up, tear down and people to be a part of the crowd to test the dogs, etc.
- October 25 – 27, 2019 – Agility Trial – we need help with set up on Thursday night (10/24) and tear down on Sunday afternoon (10/27) and everything in between.

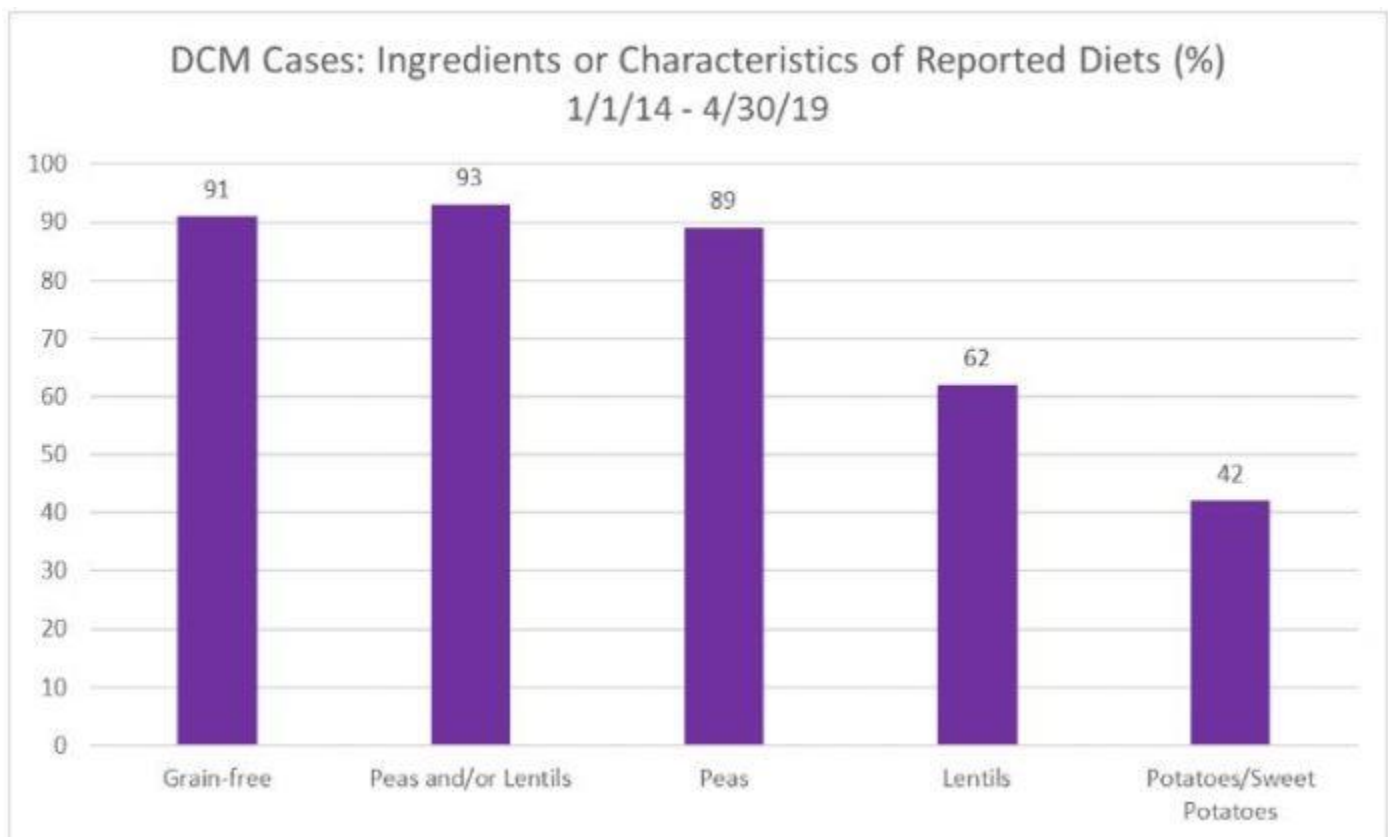
Don't worry, if you haven't helped with events like these before, there are always plenty of people willing to show you the ropes **and** it's a great way to learn more about various dog sports.



## Update on grain-free diets and DCM cases in dogs

By  
**Nancy Kerns**

Published: July 9, 2019  
90



On June 27, 2019, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [released an update](#) to two previous advisories regarding dog food and dogs who had developed dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). The release made a splash in the mainstream news – but this is all that most people seemed to get out of the news coverage: “THERE ARE 16 BRANDS OF DOG FOOD THAT ARE KILLING DOGS!”

Unfortunately, this is a wildly oversimplified take-away message. It set off a panic in the countless dog owners who feed their dogs some variety made by one of those companies, and may have inflicted serious financial damage to

the companies named (as well as all the retailers who sell them) – this, despite the fact that the FDA stated at the outset of the release that the cause of the DCM cases is still unknown. “Based on the data collected and analyzed thus far, the agency believes that the potential association between diet and DCM in dogs is a complex scientific issue that may involve multiple factors.”

Further, in a [“Questions and Answers” addition to the update](#), the agency says things like, “At this time, we are not advising dietary changes based solely on the information we have gathered so far,” and “It’s important to note that the reports include dogs that have eaten grain-free and grain-containing foods and also include vegetarian or vegan formulations. They also include all forms of diets: kibble, canned, raw and home-cooked. Therefore, we do not think these cases can be explained simply by whether or not they contain grains, or by brand or manufacturer.”

It’s a bit puzzling, then, why the agency named the brands of foods that were reportedly fed to some of the 560 dogs whose DCM cases they are investigating (and even more puzzling: why they didn’t include the *varieties* of foods that were implicated, just the company names). Naming the companies suggests that those companies were responsible for the dogs’ illnesses, even as the agency denied this as an explicit causation. We’re not usually conspiracy theorists, but this move undoubtedly gave a boost to these companies’ competitors.

We don’t mean to sound protective of the companies. Don’t get us wrong: If it can be proven that a company has knowingly or even inadvertently (through cost-saving measures, say) taken steps that resulted in a previously known or predictable harm to dogs, we’d be happy to help drum them out of business. The point is, the cause of these cases is STILL unknown. So why name the companies, rather than just describe the characteristics of the products that have been implicated so far?

Our guess is that so many people buy and feed products without having a clear reason for doing so, and so many fail to read the ingredients panel and guaranteed analysis – perhaps naming companies was the only way to get owners’ attention, and to alert them to check their foods, and think about their dogs’ condition. If they are feeding a product from one of the named companies, are their dogs displaying any symptoms of compromised cardiac health?

The *only* explicit advice that the FDA offered to owners wanting to protect their pets came at the end of the update: “If a dog is showing possible signs of DCM or other heart conditions, including decreased energy, cough, difficulty breathing and episodes of collapse, you should contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. If the symptoms are severe and your veterinarian is not available, you may need to seek emergency veterinary care.” This is sound advice – and owners would do well to follow it regardless of what diet their dogs are fed.

## **Information about the cases**

We do believe that the agency is more concerned about protecting our health and that of our pets than protecting industry interests, though, again, naming some (not all!) of the companies was kind of a weird move. However, we very much appreciate the fact that, in an effort to give pet owners *and* industry insiders more information about the issue, the agency has shared much more information in this update and other linked documents than was previously released.

Between January 1, 2014 and April 30, 2019, the FDA received 524 reports of DCM; this includes some 560 dogs and 14 cats. Some of the reports include cases in which multiple pets in the same household developed DCM – which is why total affected animals (574) add up to more than the number of reports (524). The cat cases are beyond WDJ’s area of expertise and we will not discuss these.

The agency also has received many reports regarding dogs with *other* cardiac problems, but if a dog was not diagnosed with DCM by a veterinarian or veterinary cardiologist, his or her case was not counted in the totals above. The FDA says it will continue to collect information about these cases, as dogs may exhibit cardiac changes before they develop symptomatic DCM. For more about these changes, see “Non-DCM Cardiac Cases” in [this linked addendum](#) to the June 27 update.

Some of the detail included in the update dramatically helps illustrate the immediacy of the issue. Though earlier reports referred to DCM cases dating back to 2014, we learned from this update that there were only *seven* reports regarding DCM made to the FDA from 2014 through 2017: one in 2014, one in 2015, two in 2016, and three in 2017.

But in 2018, the FDA received a communication from a group veterinary cardiology practice in the northeast concerning an unusual cluster of cases of DCM. The veterinarians reported that they had seen a number of dogs with DCM who were 1) not breeds known to be at a higher inherited risk of DCM, and 2) most had been eating grain-free diets prior to diagnosis.

Veterinary cardiologists discussed this with colleagues. Soon, other practitioners realized that they, too, had seen more cases of DCM in dogs of atypical breeds for the condition – and many of them, too, were eating diets that were grain-free and/or high in legumes and/or potatoes. More and more veterinarians started submitting reports about their patients to the FDA.

The FDA released its [first advisory](#) about this issue in July 2018, in order to alert pet owners and general-practice veterinarians of the possibility for DCM to develop in dogs, especially if they had been maintained on grain-free/legume-rich diets for any significant period of time. The agency warned interested parties to be on the lookout

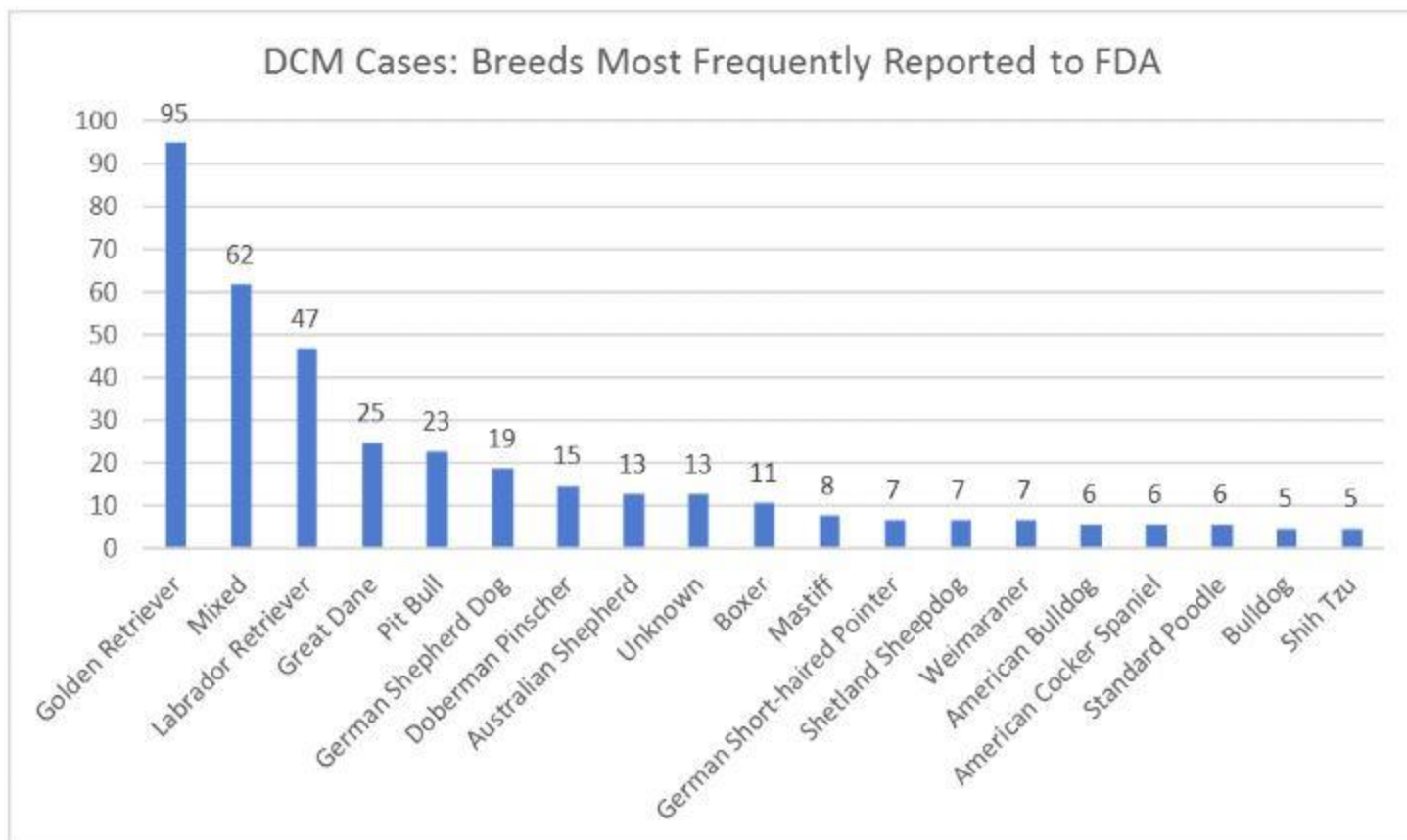


for the symptoms of DCM: loss of appetite, pale gums, increased heart rate, coughing, difficulty breathing, periods of weakness, and fainting.

This news almost immediately triggered a spike of cases being reported to the FDA. Some 320 reports of DCM were made in 2018; so far in 2019 (through April 30, the most recent date included in the FDA advisory update), some 197 reports of DCM have been made. Of the 560 dogs discussed in these reports, 119 have died.

The FDA cannot confirm, however, whether these numbers indicate an actual increase in the population of dogs that develop or die from DCM or whether the attention brought to bear on this issue has increased awareness and hence reporting; unlike in human epidemiology, rates of disease and deaths are not kept for animals. (FDA: “Because the occurrence of different diseases in dogs and cats is not routinely tracked and there is no widespread surveillance system like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have for human health, we do not have a measure of the typical rate of occurrence of disease apart from what is reported to the FDA.”) Because we don’t know what the rate of DCM is overall, it’s possible that many cardiac problems, diet-related or not, have gone unreported or even undetected (for example, mistakenly attributed to “old age”) until the FDA advisories and updates brought it to the attention of many dog owners.

One of the major points made in the 2018 advisory was that cardiologists were seeing the unexpected development of DCM in atypical breeds and in dogs with other atypical characteristics. DCM tends to affect dogs of certain breeds (most of which are large and giant breeds), older dogs, and more dogs who are overweight than of ideal or low weight. Veterinary cardiologists say they are seeing more cases in breeds that are not known to have a genetic predisposition to DCM, in younger dogs, and in medium and even very small dogs.



The FDA's 2019 update confirmed that there has been, at a minimum, a shift in the makeup of the dogs involved in these 560 cases. The update contains a table that enumerates how many dogs of various breeds are represented in the 560 cases. The breed with the most cases (95) is the Golden Retriever. However, according to registration numbers of purebred dogs, it's the third most popular breed in the U.S. Also, the FDA has speculated that there has been greater awareness and social media discussion about DCM among Golden Retriever owners (as they are prone to a taurine-responsive form of DCM), and this perhaps prompted Golden owners to bring their dogs to the vet and be diagnosed sooner, *and* to report their cases to the FDA.

Mixed-breed dogs are next on the list with 62 cases, then Labrador Retrievers with 47; in neither case would those dogs be expected to have a genetic predisposition to DCM. There are more mixed-breed dogs in the U.S. than any individual pure breed, and Labradors are the most numerous purebred dog in the U.S., so it may be that these dogs are represented so high on this list by virtue of their greater representation in the population. Fourth on the list, though, is a breed that *is* known to have a genetically higher risk of DCM: Great Danes, with 25 cases. There were 23 pit bulls, and then two more breeds known to be at higher risk of DCM: German Shepherd Dogs (with 19 cases) and Doberman Pinschers (15).

DCM tends to affect more male dogs than females, and that pattern has held, with 58.7% of the cases involving males. This, as well as the atypical age and breed distribution of the cases, had led FDA researchers to surmise that the cases that have been reported to them this far are the result of a combination of expected causes (inherited predisposition) *and* dietary causes.

## The implicated companies

Again, it's a little weird that the FDA named pet food companies, when the link between the foods and the cases of DCM is not yet clear. Even stranger is that they named only 16 companies – that fact seemed to make the biggest impression on the mainstream media. Headlines in [publication](#)after [publication](#) make it sound like there are just 16 companies that have been doing something wrong –making it sound as if as long as you avoid those companies when buying your dog's food, all will be well. If only!

The 16 companies named by the FDA appear on a table presented in the update (linked again [here](#), scroll down). The table lists the 16 companies that were named in 10 or more of the cases of canine DCM reported to the FDA since 2014. These 16 were implicated in 431 of the cases; the foods that were fed to the pets in the other 129 of the cases were *not* in the table – which leaves open the possibility that someone feeding a food that caused, say, *nine* cases, remains unaware that their dog's food, too, may potentially contribute to their dog developing DCM. It's a tad random.

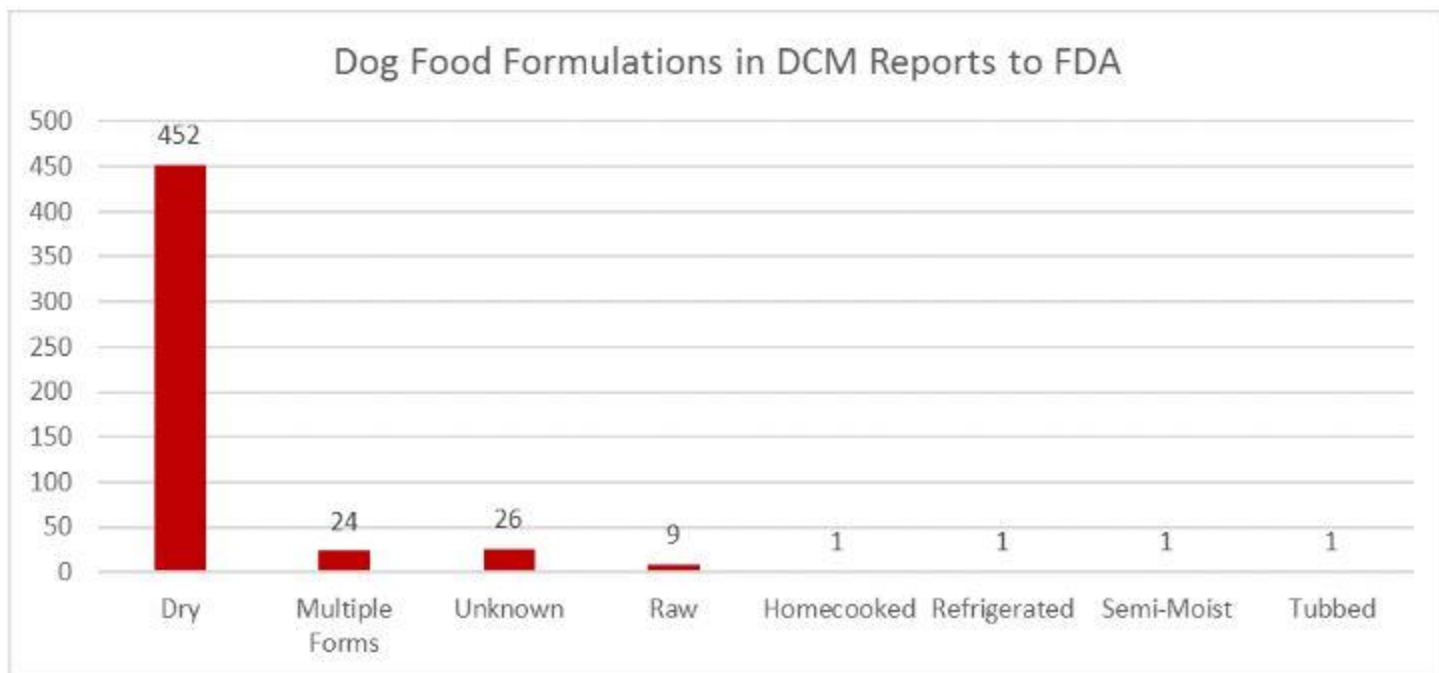
The companies mentioned in every single one of the 560 cases *are* available, but not in a particularly accessible way. A link provided in the update takes the reader to a [77-page table](#) that lists all known information about each DCM case presented to the FDA. We plan to mine that 77-page table for all this information – the companies named in fewer than 10 cases, as well as the varieties mentioned in *every* case – in the weeks ahead. We will share it with you when we're done – or share a link if someone does this and posts the information before us.

Also, the update did not specify *which varieties* of each company's products were implicated. While some of the companies named make *only* the type of products that have been implicated in the majority of reports (we will get to that in a minute), some of those 16 companies make two types of products: the type that has been implicated in the vast majority of the 560 cases, as well as products that contain grain and do not contain any of the ingredients that seem to be associated with the development of DCM. In the case of these companies, naming only the brand and not the varieties implicated in the reports was a disservice to the companies and consumers alike.

## Characteristics of the implicated foods

The FDA has not yet reached any conclusions about definitive links between the foods that the 560 dogs were being fed and their development of DCM. However, if, in an abundance of caution, an owner wanted to avoid products that share the traits of these foods, it's possible to do so. The update includes enough information about the implicated foods that could help consumers select foods that do not share the traits of the implicated foods. Just keep in mind that causation is still unknown and that the FDA's only conclusion so far is that "DCM in dogs is a complex scientific issue that may involve multiple factors."





The vast majority of the products that the owners were feeding to the dogs in the reports submitted to the FDA were dry dog foods: 452 of the 515 reports involved dry dog food. The thing is, 452/515 is 88%. Currently about 85 to 90 percent of owners feed dry food, so this proportion is probably equal to the proportion of healthy dogs who are fed dry diets, so (statistically speaking) is meaningless information.

Grain-free diets represented 91% of the products implicated in the reports; 93% contained peas and/or lentils. Potatoes and/or sweet potatoes were present in 42% of the products. These numbers are far more intriguing.

The inclusion of peas, lentils, chickpeas, and other legume seeds have reached some sort of critical mass in recent years with pet food manufacturers. Though they've been present in many pet foods for at least a decade, in recent years, the percentage of their representation in formulas has grown. We wouldn't worry unduly about one of these ingredients appearing on an ingredients panel in a minor role – 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> or lower on the list, say. But if there is more than one of these ingredients on the list and/or one in one of the top five or so positions on the ingredients list, for now, we'd look for another product to feed our dogs.

There are a number of animal nutrition experts speculating about what might be happening with these foods and why some dogs who have been eating them have developed heart problems. We will follow up with some analysis of some of the leading theories in future posts, but for now, let's focus on what owners can do immediately to protect their dogs, based on what is currently understood and/or suspected about the relationship between the foods named in the reports made to the FDA and the dogs' health problems.

## **Our recommendations for action**

1. As we stated in [our response to the 2018 advisory](#) a year ago, *no matter what your dog eats*, if she has any signs of DCM – including decreased energy, cough, difficulty breathing, and episodes of collapse – you should make an appointment to see your veterinarian ASAP, preferably one who can refer you to a veterinary cardiologist.

2. For now, we would strongly recommend avoiding foods that use peas – including constituent parts of peas, such as pea starch, pea protein, and pea fiber, and especially multiple iterations of peas (such as green peas, yellow peas, pea protein, etc.) as major ingredients. If any one of these appears higher than the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> ingredient on an ingredient list, for now, we'd switch to foods that do not display this trait.

Same goes for chickpeas (may be referred to as garbanzo beans), any other type of bean, and lentils.

We'd switch away from any foods containing more than one of these ingredients (peas, beans, or lentils).

3. Also, if you read through the 77-page table that includes every one of the 515 reports received by the FDA about a pet with DCM, you will see many times over that pet owners fed whatever they had been feeding to their dogs for months or even years. The same food, day in and day out. Month in and month out. Year in and year out! We've said it before and we will say it again: Feeding the same food for months on end amounts to putting your dog's life in a single company's hands. Is there any company on earth that you would trust to provide ALL the nutrition you consume for the rest of your life?

Please switch foods frequently, and *not* just from one variety to a different variety made by the same company. Switch among products that are made by *different* companies, with *different* ingredients. Unless your dog has a proven allergy to a number of ingredients, switching from one food to another, as often as every time you buy a new bag of food, helps provide your dog with “balance over time,” and keeps any nutritional imbalances, overages, or deficiencies from contributing to your dog's health problems.

4. As we have stated many times, we would feed grain-free foods ONLY to dogs with a demonstrated allergy to or intolerance of grains.

When grain-free dry dog foods were first introduced to the market, we were happy that owners of dogs who had a proven intolerance of or allergy to one or more grains could find commercial dry food options. However, as this segment of the market exploded, it became apparent that many more owners were choosing these products than dogs *needed* them. Somehow, the message spread among dog owners that grain-free foods were “better” – with little or no explanation offered as to why this was alleged. We based our concern about their over-popularity on the high levels of inclusion of ingredients that did not have a long history of use in dry dog foods. Potatoes and sweet

potatoes worry us less than peas, chickpeas, and beans; they have been utilized in dry dog formulas for longer than the legumes.

What if your dog absolutely can't consume ANY grain (and this has been demonstrated with a sound food allergy trial)? There are a number of companies whose grain-free foods do not appear or appear very infrequently on the 77-page table of all the DCM reports. We are aware that some dog food manufacturers add supplemental taurine to their products (and have always done so). Whether this or some other factor (ingredient sourcing, better manufacturing, better formulation, etc.) is responsible for their scarcity on that list, no one knows for sure. But if your dog absolutely can't consume ANY grain, we'd look for products without peas or legumes (or those with perhaps ONE of these ingredients low on the ingredients list), from a manufacturer whose name is not found on the table... and to hedge your bet, we'd check to see whether they add supplemental taurine to their formulas (and go with one of their products if they do).

Not all of the dogs in these reports have been found to exhibit low taurine levels – and none of the diets implicated in the reports have been found to contain levels of the amino acids that dogs use to manufacture the taurine they need (cysteine and methionine) that fail to meet the current levels legally required for a “complete and balanced diet.” However, there are *several* compelling possible reasons that could result in the dogs' failure to utilize or benefit from these amino acids. For example, some chicken meals are so low in digestibility – and often so heat-damaged – that the methionine is not present in an available form. Also, high fiber levels can interfere with some dogs' ability to convert these amino acids into the amount of taurine they need. The main point is, there are dogs who have shown improvement after their diets have changed and supplemental taurine was prescribed.

Note: The possibility has been raised that there may be more than one mechanism at work causing all these DCM cases and cases of other cardiac problems, something to do with the cysteine /methionine/taurine issue *and* something else. While the vast majority of the implicated diets mentioned in the FDA's reports are dry, grain-free foods, some food that do contain grains also have been implicated, as well as some canned, raw, etc. diets. All owners need to be alert to their dogs' symptoms – and don't just chalk up exercise intolerance, panting, lethargy, etc. to “old age” in previously healthy senior dogs! Make an appointment and discuss these symptoms with your veterinarian soon.



# It's a Puppy, Not a Problem

Foundations Mindset

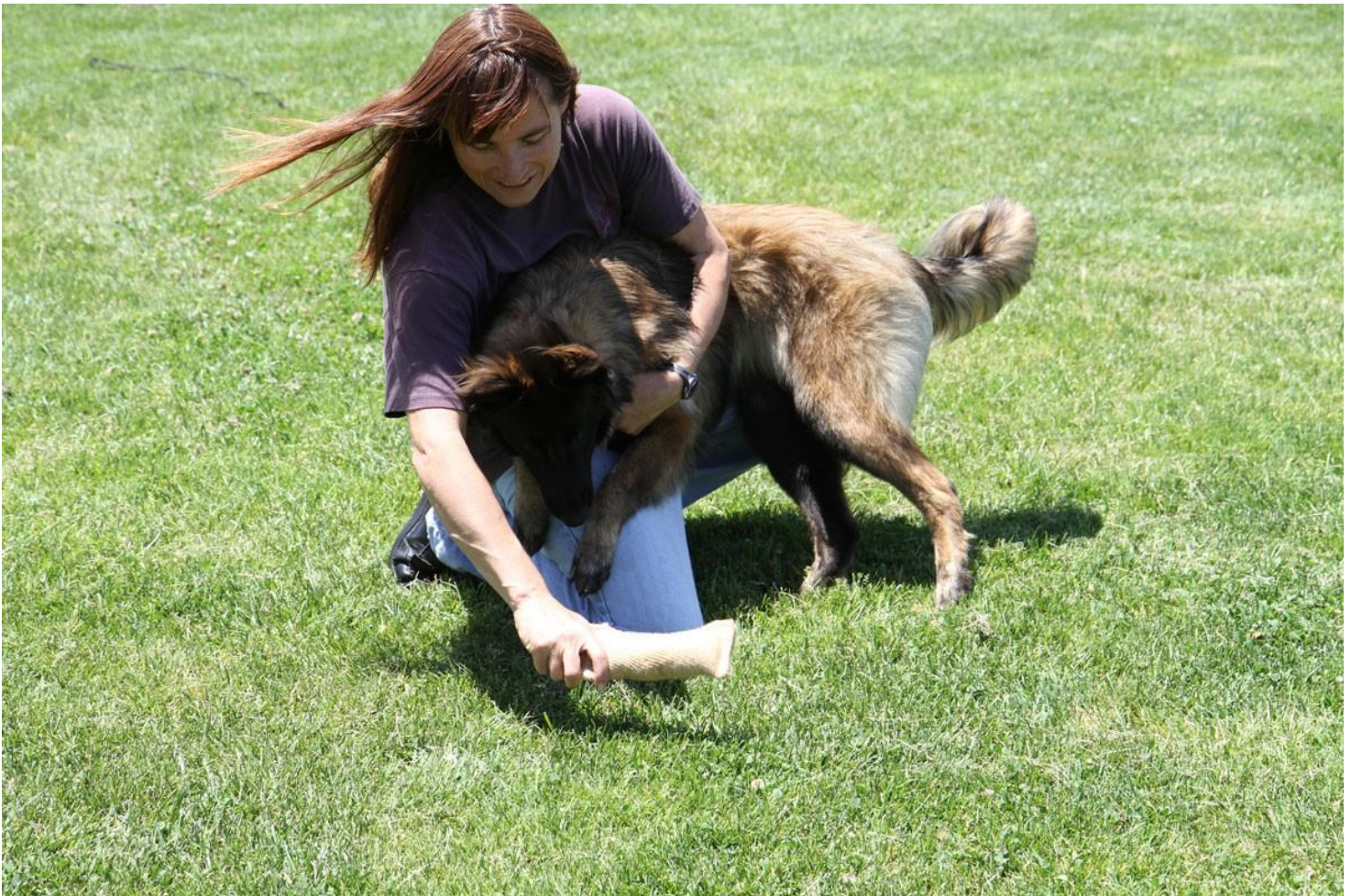
Denise Fenzi

Monday, 26 August 2019

Left to their own devices, what do puppies like to do?

They like to bark, play, run through the house (sometimes with muddy feet), jump on people, put things in their mouths and chew on them, eat tasty foods, explore, sniff things, dig holes in mud and sand and dirt, and a host of other things that I don't have time to mention. They do these things because they are baby dogs. Fortunately we can train our dogs to show more appropriate behaviors, but it takes time and the natural outcome of maturity. Puppies are a challenge.

**Left to their own devices, what do small children like to do?**



They like to yell, play, run through the house (sometimes with muddy feet), jump on people, put things in their mouths and chew on them, eat tasty foods, explore, look at things, dig holes in mud and sand and dirt, and a host of other things that I don't have time to mention. They do these things because they are baby humans. Fortunately we can raise our children to show more appropriate behaviors, but it takes time and the natural outcome of maturity. Children are a challenge.

In the past, I trained pet dogs. The first session would almost always go something like this:

Student would pull a list of problem behaviors out of their pocket. Meanwhile, their four month old puppy chewed on the leash and pulled various directions, causing the student to express obvious irritation. The student would then lay out all of the problems that they wanted to fix.

"We're having problems with barking, wanting to play all the time, running through the house with dirty feet, jumping on people, chewing stuff up, excessive interest in human food, constant pulling on the leash to get to things, and digging holes in the garden. Oh yeah – could you teach a reliable recall, off leash, so that when I'm ready to leave the park we can go without me having to chase my dog?"

In short, could I make their young puppy behave like a grown up dog?

I'm curious about something. Since many of my clients also had human children (that the dog may have been nipping when the kids ran and screamed and behaved like children), did they take a similar list of problems behaviors to the pediatrician?

"Doctor, my toddler has a lot of problems that I want to stop. He talks really loud, wants me to play all the time, runs through the house with dirty feet, jumps on people, puts stuff in his mouth that he finds on the ground, shows an excessive interest in sweets, and is constantly pulling on my hand to get to things when we go places. And also, can you make him listen to me when it's time to leave the park, so I don't have to go and get him when I want to go?"

In short, could the doctor make the young child behave like an adult?

## **Don't Worry, that's Normal...**

My guess is that the first thing the pediatrician would tell the person is that these are NORMAL behaviors for children and that they will go away with a combination of time, maturity, and appropriate direction and training from the parents. It's not a problem for a child to act like a child.

How about that puppy? Are those problem behaviors or normal ones? And if we don't like them, can we just get rid of them to save ourselves the inconvenience, whether they are normal or not?

Well, sort of.

If you use punishment, you can suppress behavior, whether or not you've actually taught anything at all. "Suppressed" behavior doesn't mean the dog or child is trained, simply that by virtue of not moving too much it's hard to be annoying to others. This is true for both children and puppies. For example, I recently sat in a restaurant where I watched a father with his three young children, ranging in ages from about five to twelve. They were all eating their meals in silence (which one clearly didn't like) while dad looked at his phone. The kids were told to shut up and sit down if they tried to do anything to entertain themselves or expressed an opinion. Even the smallest one was behaving. Dad didn't even have to raise a hand – they listened and did what they were told. Which was....nothing. Do nothing.

Wow! Amazing. He had obedience, and at a very young age! Good, obedient children who made no trouble for anyone, anywhere. They did nothing, a truly abnormal state of existence for anyone, least of all for small children. On the other hand, those children never looked at their dad. They stared at their plates, or looked around vacantly. He had effectively taken the child out of the children, leaving behind a well behaved shell. I doubt he knew or even really cared that the oldest children clearly disliked him. He had what he wanted – a peaceful evening with his dinner and his smartphone.

Punishment works for dogs too. If you keep on top of your puppy non-stop, physically or verbally correcting him for all of the things he does wrong while instilling a solid foundation of obedience, you can eventually end up with a puppy who exists quietly, staring vacantly at nothing. A good, obedient puppy who makes no trouble for anyone, anywhere! You can effectively take the puppy out of the dog and leave behind a well behaved shell. On the other hand, that puppy will make no effort to spend time with you, which brings up the question – why did you get a dog in the first place, if not to enjoy each other?

## **Most of the Time, You'll Get What You Give**

The vast majority of parents simply accept the fact that they'll have to hold their children's hands when they walk on busy streets. They accept that their meals won't be too peaceful for awhile because they'll have to chase their children down just as they try to sit down and eat. They accept that children need to use the bathroom at inconvenient times and that they'll get sick and disrupt their lives. There will be messes, noise, and disruption. And while parents often experience frustration and look forward to the coming stages when life is a little easier, they won't refer to this phase as the "toddler problem," and they won't ask the pediatrician to fix these annoyances. It's just the nature of small children. They aren't adults yet.

When you bring home a puppy, get used to the fact that you'll have to keep them on leash to keep them safe for awhile. You won't be able to have peaceful conversations because they'll want your attention too. They'll need to use the bathroom at inconvenient times. They'll get sick and disrupt your life. There will be messes, noise, and disruption. There is no "problem," there's simply a puppy who still has to grow into an adult dog. These behaviors will not resolve in days or weeks; it takes many months before you'll see glimmers of the adult dog that your puppy will mature into.



With time, consistency, maturity and well thought out raising, both your dogs and your children will make it to adulthood, and life will be a lot easier and smoother. How you choose to get there – whether you use structure and positive interaction for good choices or focus on punishment to suppress all behavior – will have both short term and long term effects on your relationship.

Your decisions early on will influence how much time your charges choose to voluntarily spend with you. How much time they try to engage you for interaction. How much they use you as a resource when they aren't sure what to do. In short, how much they like you – if at all.

Of course, there are very forgiving puppies and children. In some cases, no matter what you do, you'll be rewarded with a wonderful outcome. But don't hold your breath on that one. Most of the time, you'll get what you give.

## **Remember: It's a Puppy, Not a Problem**

When my children were small, I removed valuable and breakable objects from the house. Same with my puppies. No more fights about "don't touch this" or "don't chew that." When my children were small, we ate most of our meals at home; no more fights about how to behave at a table in public. If I don't want puppies underfoot when I make food then I remove them from the room. When my children shared their toys or talked quietly with friends or remembered to remove their dirty shoes before entering the house – I told them I appreciated that! And the puppies? I help them too – they're puppies. Doing their puppy best. But they still need to be given a chance to express their puppy natures.

I'm not perfect with my kids or with my puppies. I get frustrated. I get mad! But at the end of the day, I know perfectly well that I am the adult – the one who is responsible – and that there is nothing wrong with my child or my puppy for behaving like a child or a puppy. There is no problem.

My kids are doing fine. They are growing into interactive confident young people with excellent manners and joyful personalities. My puppies are doing fine as well, and consistently grow into entertaining, interactive, confident dogs with lively natures. No one is breaking things or chewing up the wrong stuff anymore. The best part is that the kids and the dogs seem to like me! They choose to spend time with me, which is why I wanted them in the first place! It's working out okay, in spite of the fact that I spared the rod all around. It does not appear that I have spoiled anyone.

When you're frustrated or mystified by your puppy, consider how you raised your children and you might find a comparable technique that will work just fine. Think of puppies as pre-verbal children. Show patience. Structure the environment for success. Accept that inconvenience will happen. Remember that what you do now is going to determine the type of relationship you will have into the future. What are you looking for? Do you want to be seen as an accommodating person who creates opportunities to do interesting things, or as a domineering tyrant that is best avoided? When you ask your dog or child to come see you, do you want them to come running with enthusiasm, or to experience worry and anxiety about your presence?

If you hit your small kids, yelled a lot, and considered their childhood a problem to be solved, then it would make sense that you would do the same with your dogs. But if you raised your small children with patience and you accepted that small children are not little adults, then you might find that you have all of the tools you'll need to raise your puppies very well. Now you just need a few tricks of the trade to give you ideas for how to manage specific situations and you're on your way. That's where a good dog trainer will be able to help you.

Find a trainer who focuses on what is right for both you and the puppy! Find a trainer who can help you understand appropriate management strategies as your puppy works through his more challenging phases. Find a trainer who can listen to you complain about how hard puppies are, and who helps you see the light at the end of the tunnel! Add a few skills like walking nicely on a leash and a solid recall, throw in a healthy dose of time and maturity, and you're on your way to having a very rich and interactive relationship with a well behaved adult dog.

But start by understanding that there is nothing wrong – there is no problem. There is only a puppy, and training to be done. What happens now is up to you.

Good luck.

Want more FREE puppy advice? Check out *Growing Up FDSA*, a free ebook from the instructors at FDSA on raising a puppy.

Or looking for socialization advice? Check out Casey Coughlin's PPP Workshop on Socialization --



# **USRVDTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**August 15, 2019**

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Marilynne Manguba, at 6:56 p.m., on Thursday, August 15, 2019, at Tautphaus Park in Idaho Falls ID.

Nicki Bowden moved to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter. Suzanne Belger seconded. Passed.

Board Members Present:

Marilynne Manguba	Frank Mason	LaDawn Moad
Suzanne Belger	Steven Olson	Nicki Bowden
Lucien Frederick		

Report of President: none

Report of Vice President: none

Report of Secretary: none

Report of Treasurer: Report held for regular meeting

Report of Committees: none

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: none

Suzanne Belger moved to adjourn. Steve Olson seconded. Passed.

Time Adjourned: 6:57 pm

# USRVDTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**August 15, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Marilynne Manguba, at 6:57 p.m., on Thursday, August 15, 2019, at Tautphaus Park in Idaho Falls ID.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors: Lacey Moon just finished Obedience Class and is looking to join the club.

Members Present:

Jordan French	Sarah Hatcher	Richard Brizzee	Desi Chase
Stephanie Nielsen	Alecia Thompson	Arynne Belger	LaDawn Moad
Diana Robinson	Maryann Igoe	Cheryl Loomis	Duane Loomis
Marilynne Manguba	Heike Vitacolonna	Suzanne Belger	Elise Desautel
Steve Olson	Lois Olson	Melissa Meyer	Brian Meyer
Jane Guidinger	Maurice Guidinger	John Baughman	Carl Freidrick
Jim Norrell	Sun Norrell	Janet Frederick	Lucien Frederick
Nicki Bowden	Frank Mason	Don Williams	Shel Williams

Nicki Bowden moved to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter. Suzanne Belger seconded. Passed.

Report from the Board Meeting: none

Report of the President: none

Report of the Vice President: none

Report of the Secretary: none

Report of the Treasurer: Suzanne Belger read the monthly and year-to-date financial reports.

Report of Committees: Maryann Igoe reported that we will be having a Scent Work Trial on December 7 and 8, 2019, at the new 4-H facilities.

Marilynne Manguba and Melissa Meyer are finishing up work on the Tracking Trial September 22, 2019.

Heike Vitacolonna reported obedience classes begin next week, August 21, 2019. There are still a few available spots in the 5:30 p.m. obedience class.

Unfinished Business: Steve Olson asked about the Trailer Wrap for the Obedience Trailer, Marilynne asked him to help come up with an idea.

New Business: Marilynne Manguba reported that the board had met to discuss changes to our rules regarding what constitutes and "active" member. ***Please review the attached documents for discussion and vote at our next meeting, September 19, 2019.***

LaDawn Moad asked that we put together a Nominating Committee to present nominations for 2020 Club Offices. Suzanne Belger, Elise Desautel and Melissa Meyer volunteered for the committee, with Deis Chase as an alternate.

Membership Applications were read for Lacey Moon and Kyra Brookover.

Steve Olson moved to adjourn. Elise Desautel seconded. Passed.

Time Adjourned: 7:11 p.m.

Location of Next Club Meeting: September 19, 2019 at the Zone.

# Proposed Rule Change:

Please review and come to the September meeting ready to discuss and vote.

## Member Responsibilities

WE EXPECT MEMBERS TO:

1. PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS – Attend, voice concerns, vote, volunteer for committees, offices, special assignments.
2. HELP AT CLUB EVENTS – Obedience trials, agility trials, tracking tests, sanctioned matches, picnics, parties, demonstrations, (set up, clean up, lay tracks, food service, tow trailer, steward, judge, etc.).
3. PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING – Instruct, assist, lay tracks, set up, clean up, sell equipment, study and adhere to AKC Obedience Regulations (review periodically).
4. CONCERN YOURSELF with the welfare of dogs and their behavior.
5. SEEK OUT AND WELCOME new members.

## Active Member Requirements

TO BE CONSIDERED AN ACTIVE MEMBER; MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO MEET TWO OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS A-YEAR SEMI-ANNUALLY (Jan-June and July-December). Until you have met this requirement and complete the self-certification form you will be considered an inactive member. To qualify as an active member these requirements must be met semi-annually.

1. Attend 4 club meetings (10 meetings, club picnic, Christmas Party are all considered meetings). Attend 2 club meetings (does not include July picnic and Christmas Party).
2. Instruct or assist one training class per-year semiannually (includes obedience, agility, tracking, scent work, and Rally).
3. Serve as a Club Officer or Committee Chairperson.
4. Steward at two trials per-year a minimum of four hours semiannually.

## Membership Dues

Membership dues are:

- Family Membership Application – \$20.00
- Single Membership Application – \$15.00
- Junior Membership – \$10.00

Membership dues are due and payable on or before January 31st of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year.

Note: Text in green is new

Self-certification form will include a list of opportunities to assist in classes, trials, and other events.



## SEMI-ANNUAL SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR MEMBERS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Jan-June \_\_\_\_\_ July-Dec \_\_\_\_\_

Complete at least two of the following:

- Attend 2 club meetings
- Instructor or assistant in a training class
- Service as Club Officer or Committee Chairperson
- Steward a minimum of four hours

Club Activity	Your Contribution
Basic Obedience Class	
Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall	
STAR Puppy Class	
Rally Class – Summer	
Agility Class	
Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall	
CGC Tests – Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall	
Scent Work Class	
Tracking Class	
Spring Agility Trial (set up/take down, assisting course set up, ring or table steward)	
Scent Work Trial (Blackfoot)	
Obedience Trial (August)	
Fall Agility Trial (October)	
Scent Work Trial	
Tracking Test	
Demonstration/Education	
Pull Trailer or haul equipment	
Set up or organize practice	
Board Member/Officer	
Committee Chair	
Meetings Attended (list months)	
Other (list below)	