



# UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019

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## October Meeting

Thursday, October 17, 2019 @ 7:00 pm  
Johnny Carino's Patio

## CGC Test

October 16, 2019  
Tautphaus Park

## Scent Work Classes

Beginning and Advanced start October 7, 2019  
Sign up at [USRVDTC.org](http://USRVDTC.org)

## Agility Trial

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

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# Reading Your Dog: **BODY LANGUAGE**

*See Better, Know Better, Do Better*

Dogs primary means of communication is their body language. Because of this, it is important to be able to tell what your dog's body language means.

Behaviors are sequential, and being aware of more subtle signs of stress, as exemplified in the yellow and orange boxes, will enable you to make changes that will help prevent your dog's behavior from escalating.

## **Defensive Behaviors**

Defensive behaviors are displayed by dogs who are under extreme stress. They are a defense mechanism, and your dog's way making themselves very clear that they need space.

## **Examples**

Biting  
Barking  
Lunging  
Growling  
Snapping  
Stiffening  
Staring

by, **leash & learn**  
professional dog training  
[leashandlearnnyc.com](http://leashandlearnnyc.com)

## **Displacement Behaviors**

Displacement behaviors are performed by dogs in response to an external, stressful event. They indicate stress and conflict within your dog. They also are often behaviors that your dog does in everyday life.

## **Examples**

Sudden scratching  
Sniffing obsessively  
Fixation on things  
Sniffing obsessively

## **Calming Signals**

Calming Signals are signals that dogs use to calm themselves in an environment. The dog is trying to keep his or her own personal space safe. Calming signals are used at the early stages of interactions to prevent conflict, avoid threats, and create safety.

## **Examples**

Licking lips  
Avoidance  
Head or body turned away  
Play Bow  
Slowed or stopped movement  
Yawning

## **Relaxed, Neutral, Content**

Your dog should spend most of their time relaxed or neutral. Dog's displaying this body language are unconcerned, relaxed, and content.

## **Examples**

Lack of tension  
Loose and wiggly through the whole body, lots of curves  
Relaxed ears and eyes  
Lips loose  
Dog is balanced on all four legs, not leaning or pulling in any direction



# THE BRAG BOARD

**Shel Williams and Loch**



Loch's first time in the ring! 4-6 month puppy class at Farmington, UT. Took 3rd place over a pretty blue gal. SO much thanks to Kirsten McNeal for handling him!



## **Diana Robinson and Baxter**



Dianna and Baxter earned their TD on Saturday, September 22, 2019. Great Job!

## **LeeAnn Chaffin and Ben**





Lee Ann and Ben earned their TD on Saturday, September 22, 2019. Congrats!

*Congratulations!*





## Mary Ann Igoe and Pari

Pari earned her RATCHX at the Barn Hunt in Emmett on September 28<sup>th</sup>. She is now a Master Champion Barn Hunter! What an awesome accomplishment for this team! Congratulations Pari and Mary Ann.



# Upcoming Opportunities



**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! Both of these opportunities can be listed on your self-certification form.

## Upcoming Opportunities:

- October 16, 2019 – CGC Testing – help is needed to set up, tear down and to be a part of the crowd to test the dogs, etc. If you can help, please be at Tautphaus Park @ 5:00 pm
- 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.

# **Club Member of the Year Nominations**

## **Charlie Urbanski**

I would like to nominate Charlie Urbanski for Club Member of the Year. He works so hard to help everyone improve their handling skills and relationships with their dogs by teaching agility. He spends many hours teaching, helping at trials and building equipment for others. I always see him at the park doing whatever he can to promote our club, agility and dog training. He is an excellent example for all of us.

## **Marilynne Manguba**

I would like to nominate Marilynne Manguba for 2019 Club Member of the Year. Marilynne contributes to the club in many different aspects from President duties, chairing the tracking test, attending all the events, answering endless telephone calls/emails, instructing classes, pulling the agility trailer to all our events/classes/practices. Marilynne thank you for all you do for the USRVDTC.



## Understanding Your Dog's Nose

Putting your dog's nose to work is a fun and effective way to improve his behavior and responsiveness to you.

By

[Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA](#)



Most people are aware that dogs have far more olfactory cells in their noses than we humans do. Dogs also have a far larger area in the brain devoted to analyzing the things that they smell. It's been estimated that this area in the dog's brain is 40 times greater than ours. It makes sense, then, that employing the dog's nose is a great way to engage his brain!

All dogs have noses – and they all know how to use them. Our awareness of our dog's nose capabilities is nothing new. We humans have long taken advantage of our dogs' scenting prowess in a variety of ways – hounds who track game, rescue dogs who search for missing persons, narcotics detection dogs who find hidden drugs, and much more.

Recently, however, both science and the dog-training world have taken a new look at and developed a new respect for the dog's olfactory abilities, and what putting them to use can do for your dog's mental and behavioral health!

## Know this about Dog Noses

First, some basic biology. According to Alexandra Horowitz, Ph.D., psychology professor and head of Barnard College's Horowitz Dog Cognition Lab at Columbia University in New York, while humans have about 5 million olfactory cells, dogs have between 200 million and 1 billion. Did you get that? Between 200 million and 1 billion. So even the dogs at the low end of that range have 1,000 times as many olfactory cells as we humans!

## SNIFF OUT THESE RESOURCES

***Being a Dog: Following the Dog into a World of Smell*** by Alexandra Horowitz (Scribner, 2016)

**“Science Says Nose Work is Good For Your Dog”** by Linda P. Case [tinyurl.com/Case-nose](http://tinyurl.com/Case-nose)

***Scent, Science, and the Amazing Ways Dogs Perceive the World*** by Cat Warren (Touchstone, 2013)

**Missing Animal Response Network**(Information on how to train your dog to find missing pets): [missinganimalresponse.com](http://missinganimalresponse.com)

**K9 Nose Work** (Information on scent work classes and competition, and how to find trainers who teach K9 Nose Work): [k9nosework.com](http://k9nosework.com)

**Search and Rescue Dogs** (provides certification, training, and education for search and rescue dog teams): [sardogsus.org](http://sardogsus.org)

Dogs also have a “second nose” – the vomeronasal organ (also called Jacobson's organ), which enhances the dog's ability to detect and identify scent. These two factors combined help to explain why our dog's sense of smell is so much better than our own.

## Nosing Around

Today, dog noses are employed in a long list of activities that go far beyond hunting for game. The list is ever expanding, and we are just beginning to recognize the benefits the dogs themselves reap from being allowed and encouraged to use their super-noses.



The rapidly growing popularity of K9 Nose Work competition and titling has brought revelations to the dog-training world about the behavioral advantages of encouraging dogs to use their noses. A growing number of shelters and rescue groups are also realizing the benefits of allowing/encouraging their canine charges to engage in scenting activities to make their dogs more adoptable. Many previously fearful dogs have come out of their shells and gained confidence in leaps and bounds as a result of doing scent work – perhaps because it is so innately reinforcing to them, and they are so capable of success.

Most humans recognize how immensely success contributes to our self-confidence. The same is true of dogs (and other species). Even something as simple as the “Find it!” game (described on the next page) can do wonders to help a shy or fearful dog adjust to the scary world. If you are interested in enrolling your dog in K9 Nose Work classes and/or competition there are certified trainers all over the country who can help you; see “Sniff Out These Resources,” above.

## Nose Jobs

Here are just some of the things you might find dog noses detecting these days in addition to hunting game, drugs, and lost persons:

- Diabetic alert
- Seizure alert
- Cancer
- Explosives
- Bed bugs, fire ants, termites, red palm weevils
- Missing pets
- Truffles (yes, that expensive mushroom)
- Invasive knapweed (Montana)
- Invasive brown tree snakes (Guam)
- Feces of endangered species
- Illegal currency
- Human cadavers
- Dead birds on wind farms
- Smuggled agricultural products
- Illegal animal and plant exports/imports (ivory, etc.)
- Counterfeit items
- Environmental contaminants and toxic products

# Scent and Cognition

Horowitz has been exploring the connection between a dog's sense of smell and his cognition. A "sense of self" or self-recognition is one of the elements of cognition, and the long-held test for self-recognition has been an animal's ability to recognize himself in a mirror. The way this is usually tested is to put a dot of colored paint on the face of the subject and hold up a mirror. If the subject touches the dot on his own forehead, the conclusion is that he realizes it's him in the mirror – he has a sense of self. If he touches the dot on the reflection instead, he supposedly does not recognize himself.

As of 2015, only great apes (including humans), a single Asiatic elephant, dolphins, orcas, and the Eurasian magpie had passed this test. A wide range of species have reportedly failed the test, including several species of monkey, giant pandas, sea lions, and dogs.

Recognizing that dogs may have a stronger self-recognition through *scent* rather than sight, Horowitz devised a study to test this, by allowing them to smell the scent of their own urine and another dog's urine. The results of her study seem to confirm her hypothesis. Her subject dogs spent more time sniffing another dog's pee than their own, indicating a self-association with their own scent, hence a sense of self.

## Scent as a Reinforcer: "Premack" It!

Switching from science back to practical (with a touch of science) if you are frustrated by your dog's constant sniffing on walks, here are a couple of things to consider:

- As humans we really rely on our sense of vision. Imagine if you were walking along a path with gorgeous vistas, beautiful scenery, and amazing wildlife, and your guide kept grabbing your hand and dragging you along every time you wanted to stop, take in the view, and maybe take some pictures. That's how your dog feels.
- When you take your dog for a walk, who is the walk for, anyway? If it's so she has an enjoyable experience, consider her preferences, and let her stop and sniff!
- You can use the Premack Principle to teach your dog to walk more willingly with you even when there are tempting scents present.

## A Nose Game All Dogs Enjoy: Find It!

"Find it" is a ridiculously easy and delightful game that any dog can play, as well as a game you can play to change behavior in the presence of a fear- or arousal-causing stimulus, eventually changing your dog's emotional response from frightened to happy.



Start with your dog in front of you, and handful of tasty treats behind your back. Say “Find it!” in a cheerful tone of voice and toss one treat at your feet. Click just before your dog eats it. (Tap your foot or point if necessary, to draw your dog’s attention to the treat.)

When he’s done eating the treat, say “Find it!” again, and toss a second treat at your feet. Click as he eats the treat. Repeat multiple times until your dog’s face lights up when he hears the “Find it!” cue and he orients to your feet in anticipation of the treat. (Use a different “search” cue if you want to toss treats farther away, so “Find it!” will always orient your dog to your feet.)

Now if a scary skateboarder or some other arousal-causing stimulus appears while you’re walking your dog around the block on his leash, play “Find it!” and keep the tossed treats close to you. Your dog will take his eyes off the scary thing and switch into happy-treat mode. You’ve changed his emotions by changing his behavior.

To employ the Premack Principle, you use a more likely/more desirable behavior as the reinforcer for a less likely/less desirable behavior. (Some people call this “Grandma’s Law”: You have to eat your vegetables before you can eat your dessert.)

You can click-and-treat your dog for walking nicely with you, but if you occasionally tell her to “Go sniff!” as the reinforcer for polite walking, you’ll score big points in her eyes. Do it frequently and you’ll likely end up with a much more willing walking partner who trots happily next to you in eager anticipation of the next “Go sniff!” cue.

## The Bond

There is one more incredibly important benefit of encouraging your dog to use her nose: Your presence during her highly reinforcing, very enjoyable scent activities will enhance your relationship with her, and strengthen the bond that you already have. What’s not to like about that?

So, consider the various options for playing with your dog’s nose, from the very simple “Find It!” to finding lost pets and humans, and everything in-between, decide what you want to do, and start getting nose-y. Your dog will love you for it!

To learn to play “Nose Games” with your dog, read [\*How to Teach Your Dog to Play “Nose Games”\*](#).

# Rate of Reinforcement - why is this such a big deal?

August 21, 2019 (From Kommetjie Canine College Blog)

|  
Taryn



A client was asking me about another dog in the class they attend who is doing so well in training that it stands out obviously to anyone observing the class. In fact, the assumption was made that this adolescent husky (yes, a husky - for all those who think they're untrainable ) could not possibly be the first dog this person has trained. In fact, this is the first dog they've had from a puppy and the first they've trained. Added to that, this young ball of energy had two homes in his short life, prior to the current owners taking him in - so not necessarily the easiest start to life.

Yet his performance in class is nothing short of brilliant: He is attentive, focused, highly motivated and learning at a rapid rate. We're all seriously impressed by this new dog/handler team and the question is "Why are they doing so well?"

The answer in my opinion lies in one main crucial area: **RAPID RATE OF REINFORCEMENT**. The handler part of the team is always ready to reinforce the behaviour we're working on immediately and every time after each of many quick repetitions. The dog is never left hanging around wondering what to do. He is consistently set up to be reinforced for the desired behaviour and doesn't have time to think about getting distracted by anything else. As a consequence, he is rehearsing and being reinforced for the behaviour as well as continual engagement so much that these behaviours just get stronger and stronger. Plus, because he experiences a high rate of reinforcement, the association with working with his "dad" and being at training is such a positive one that there is no room for frustration or any other negative emotions that could interfere with learning.



We find so often that people are inherently stingy when it comes to dispensing food in training. While we may have succeeded in convincing most owners to use food to train, resistance remains in the form of trying to use as little as possible. Others simply make the mistake of expecting too much too soon in the form of raising criteria for an exercise way too quickly, unintentionally setting the dog up to fail and thereby lowering the rate of reinforcement to almost nothing - because the dog isn't able to meet the requirement for reinforcement.

Dogs that succeed have owners who reinforce readily and frequently. Think about it logically and it makes sense: We are using positive reinforcement as a training method i.e. food is given to reinforce the behaviour you desire. The acquisition of food causes a release of dopamine which acts on neural pathways and strengthens those involved in the behaviour that has just been performed. Therefore the more frequently you actually reinforce, the more learning is actually taking place in the brain - it's not just a nice idea, it's a scientific fact!

Many new trainers or owners struggle a bit with the mechanics of training - holding a clicker, managing treats, getting timing right etc. which might also impact on getting a good rate of reinforcement. We completely understand that this is a new skill for many and have endless patience for clients who are actually trying to learn it - I promise if you keep trying you'll get there and your dog will do well. But please leave the baggage around using "lots of food", "spoiling my dog" or "he should do it because I say so" at the door. It's only setting yourself and your dog up for failure.

And guess what...? The higher your rate of reinforcement, the more willing your dog will be to work with you, the more you will both enjoy the training process and the less important the actual food treats will end up becoming. Yes, we will always use them, but the entire process will become so reinforcing that your dog will actually choose to work for food rather than get it for free!

# **USRVDTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**September 19, 2019**

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Marilynne Manguba, at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at The Zone, in Idaho Falls ID.

Nicki Bowden moved to approve the previous Board meeting 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 adjournment. Lucien Frederick seconded. Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

## **USRVDTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**September 19, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Marilynne Manguba, at 7:03 p.m., on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at The Zone, in Idaho Falls ID.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors: Holly Fisher

Members present:

Suzanne Belger	Marilynne Manguba	LaDawn Moad
Nicki Bowden	Elise Desautel	Shel Williams
Rose Durfee	Steven Durfee	John Baughman
LeeAnn Chaffin	Duane Loomis	Cheryl Loomis
Glenda Haller	George Haller	Rosha Adams
Carl Friedrich	Steven Olson	Lois Olson
Lucien Frederick	Melissa Meyers	Brian Meyers
Layla Johnson	Matt Johnson	Richard Brizzee
Heike Vitacolonna	Ed Vitacolonna	Kristina Colby

Frank Mason

Glenda Haller moved to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter. Lois Olson seconded. Passed.

Report from the Board Meeting was not read because there was no business conducted.

Report of the President: None

Report of the Vice President: Frank Mason ask that the Club Member of the Year nominations be sent to him by September 30, 2019, so they can be published in the October newsletter.

Report of the Secretary: None

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

Suzanne Belger reported the Obedience and Rally trial lost about \$705.00, there are a few outstanding trophy donations to still be collected.

Report of Committees:

Marilynne Manguba has been looking into mats for the new 4-H building, Carl Friedrich will check into purchasing mats and report at the October meeting.

Heiki Vitacolonna reported the obedience classes are in progress.

The 2020 obedience schedule was presented:

Winter classes: February 5 – March 25, 2020 at the 4H Building.

Spring classes: April 8 – May 27, 2020 at Tautphaus Park.



Summer classes: June 17 – August 5, 2020 at Tautphaus Park.

Fall classes: August 19 – October 7, 2020 at Tautphaus Park.

Lois Olson reported the scent work classes will begin October 7, 2019, foundation class will be at 6:00 p.m. and the advance class will be at 7:30 p.m.

Marilynne Manguba reported Search and Rescue will be having a “Qualiting Hide” on October 4, 2019, they will be needing volunteers to hide.

Suzanne Belger reported the Scent Work Trial will be held December 7 & 8, 2019 at the 4 H building. John Baughman is getting the new equipment AKC is requiring.

Melissa Meyer reported the Tracking Trial for September 22, 2019 received 2 entries, LeeAnn Chaffin and Diana Robinson. Good Luck to our teams!

Suzanne Belger reported the Nominating Committee has met and nominate the following for 2020 officers and board members:

President - Nicki Bowden

Vice President - Layla Johnson

Secretary - Shel Williams

Treasure – Suzanne Belger

Three Year Board Member - Melissa Meyers

Two Year Board Member - Marilynne Manguba

One Year Board Member - Lucien Frederick

Unfinished Business: Marilynne Manguba reported Steven Olson’s idea to take a photo at Tautphaus Park of the agility practice set up and use the photo as the trailer wrap. The photo will be taken at practice Monday, September 23, 2019.

Semi-Annual Self Certification for Membership form discussion held.

Carl Friedrich moved to accept the Semi-Annual Self Certification for Membership form on a trials base. Layla Johnson seconded. Passed.

New Business: Nicki Bowden asked if there is an interest in having a practice scent work trial in November to try out the new equipment. The members present showed an interest, Nicki will get the practice set up.

Membership applications approved: Lacy Moon and Kira Brookover.

Membership application read in: Bert and Darlene Cape.

Discussion held regards to the process of new membership applications and the voting process.

Ed Vitacolonna moved to adjourn. Shel Williams seconded. Passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Location of next club meeting will be announced.