

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB **NEWSLETTER** **FEBRUARY 2020**

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February Meeting

Thursday the 20th at 7:00 P.M.

Obedience, Agility Foundation, & Scent Work Classes begin this month.

If you are looking to fulfill your active membership,
consider being an assistant teacher.

Scentwork Seminar

This seminar will be hosted by Mary Lehman of Essentially
Fit K-9s. Please visit this link to learn more

<https://www.usrvdte.org/site/2020/01/15/scentwork-seminar-by-mary-lehman-of-essentially-fit-k-9s/>

Sunday Practices

Self-guided Sunday practices will begin on **February 2nd**
from 11:00 A.M to 2:00 P.M

Please sign-up on our website.

*if you would like to drop in for practices, the cost will be \$15 per
drop-in

Does My Dog Love Me?

If there's any day where it's okay to talk about dog love, today is that day. Do dogs love us? How would we know?

By [Julie Hecht](#) on February 14, 2016



At the beginning of the year, I asked the undergrads in my Animal Behavior class what they hoped to learn this semester. We discussed that Animal Behavior would cover the hows and whys of the entire animal kingdom, but they returned to their real question: "Sure, the bee waggle dance sounds cool, but does my dog love me?"

I'm no stranger to this question, and probably neither are you. When it comes to dog love, two camps emerge: those who pose the question, and those wondering why anyone would bother asking the most obvious question on the planet. "Of course dogs love us!" scream the commenters in any article discussing dog love.

Today is Valentine's Day. Hallmark holiday or no, today is the day we exchange heart-shaped objects at an excessive rate and discuss matters of the heart. If there's any day where it's okay to talk about dog love, today is that day. Do dogs love us, and how would we know?

Looking at you

Dog love is all the rage nowadays, and oxytocin (the supposed "love hormone") is a big

part of the conversation. Studies find that touch and physical interaction between dogs and people can increase levels in both parties, as does gaze between dogs and their owners (but don't go staring down random dogs, please. It's about gaze with a known dog).

But oxytocin is not straightforward. For example, administering oxytocin to female dogs led to an increase in gaze toward their owner, but not so in male dogs. Another study found that variations in the oxytocin receptor gene were associated with differences in dog behavior toward people, but not always in the same direction: the same allele was associated with higher friendliness scores in one breed but lower friendliness scores in another. While oxytocin could be part of the discussion, it's definitely not the only answer. Instead, I put my money on behavior.

Dogs are attached

Not by way of a leash or super duper Velcro. Since 1998, we've known that dogs show attachment behaviors towards their owners in a way that's similar to what's observed between infants and their mothers.

Infants do not treat all people the same (unless you're this child confusing his father with the father's identical twin). Attachment bonds describe an enduring close relationship between two individuals, offering a sense of safety and security. It's particularly relevant for individuals who rely on others for survival.

The Strange Situation Test developed by Mary Ainsworth in the 1970s identified behavioral underpinnings of attachment relationships (here's a video of her test in action). In the test, an infant is brought into a new place and experiences mild distress when separated from the mother. Attachment theory suggests that under these conditions, infants will respond preferentially toward mothers but not strangers, indicating their affectional bond.

When brought to a new place and separated from their mothers, infants seek more contact with their mother than a stranger when reunited, and they show signs of safety and security when in their mother's presence as opposed to that of a stranger. Infants are also more likely to investigate new objects when with their mother is present, suggesting that the mother provides a base of security from which the infant can explore the world beyond.

Numerous studies have since put companion dogs and their owners through a modified version of the Strange Situation Test. Time and again dogs turn out to be right on par with human infants, seeking more contact with owners than strangers, being more anxious when their owner is gone, and settling more when the owner returns than a stranger. Like infants, dogs are more likely to investigate novelty when their owner is present (an interesting phenomenon I cover here).

Give your dog the choice of you and someone else, and you're going to win.

Dogs at a shelter also show attachment behavior toward a newly assigned "owner" compared with a stranger. So did guide dogs who, before settling in with their blind owner, lived with a puppy walker and trainer. The study of attachment behavior in guide dogs concludes, "that repeated bond breaking is not detrimental to forming attachment later in life." Adopt an older dog, and she will love the heck out of you.

What does this all add up to?

How do we even define 'Love'? Of Merriam Webster's nine, yes nine, full definitions of love, I'm drawn to 1a. "strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties." While dogs don't use so many words, there's ample indication that they could fit the bill on this one. And for those who I claim to love, I'd probably smack on a similar definition.

My little dog Brandy never participated in a modified version of the Strange Situation Test, and I know nothing about her oxytocin levels after we gazed into each others' eyes before bed. She passed long before I ever heard of such studies. But do I think she loved me? Isn't it obvious there's only one answer?

References

Ainsworth & Bell (1970) Attachment, Exploration, and Separation: Illustrated by the Behavior of One-Year-Olds in a Strange Situation. Child Development.

Gàcsi et al. (2001) Attachment behavior of adult dogs (*Canis familiaris*) living at rescue centers: Forming new bonds. Journal of Comparative Psychology.

Kis et al. (2004) Oxytocin Receptor Gene Polymorphisms Are Associated with Human Directed Social Behavior in Dogs (*Canis familiaris*). PLOS One.




Nagasawa et al. (2015) Oxytocin-gaze positive loop and the coevolution of human-dog bonds. Science.

Palmer & Custance (2008) A counterbalanced version of Ainsworth's Strange Situation Procedure reveals secure-base effects in dog-human relationships. Applied Animal Behaviour Science.

Topál et al. (1998) Attachment behavior in dogs (*Canis familiaris*): A new application of Ainsworth's (1969) Strange Situation Test. Journal of Comparative Psychology. Valsecchi et al. (2001) Development of the attachment bond in guide dogs. Applied Animal Behaviour Science.

Image: Happy lil' Luke! via m01229, Flickr creative commons.

When Is It TOO **COLD** & TOO **HOT**?

					
		Small	Medium	Large	
F	C				
95°	35°	5	5	5	+1 if obese.
90°	32°	5	5	5	+1 brachycephalic.
85°	29°	4	4	5	+1 if under 6 months or senior.
80°	24°	3	3	4	-1 if shade available.
75°	23°	3	3	3	-1 if readily available water.
70°	21°	2	2	3	
65°	18°	1	1	2	
60°	16°	1	1	1	1 No evidence of risk: have fun outside!
55°	13°	1	1	1	
50°	10°	2	1	1	2 Risk is unlikely: have fun outside, but be careful.
45°	7°	2	2	1	
40°	4°	3	3	2	3 Unsafe potential for certain breeds when outside.
35°	2°	3	3	3	
30°	-1°	3	3	3	4 Dangerous weather: use caution.
25°	-4°	4	4	3	
20°	-7°	5	4	3	5 Life-threatening: avoid prolonged outdoor activity.
15°	-9°	5	4	4	
10°	-12°	5	5	5	
5°	-15°	5	5	5	+2 if wet weather is present.
0°	-18°	5	5	5	-1 if northern breed or heavy coat.
					-1 if dog is acclimated to cold.

Source: www.gopetplan.com

How to Make a PVC Treat Dispensing Toy

Paris Permenter & John Bigley Last updated on December 21, 2019

Materials You'll Need

- a 3-foot length of 1-1/4-inch PVC pipe
- 8 1-1/4-inch PVC caps
- PVC cement (optional)

Our interactive dog feeder was constructed using tools that many homes already have:

- a drill
- a 1/2-inch drill bit
- sandpaper
- a rat-tail file (or you could wrap sandpaper around a screwdriver)
- a vise (optional)

With our 3-foot length of PVC, we made four feeders: two one-foot lengths and two six-inch lengths for small dogs and cats.

Measuring and Marking

Putting the PVC pipe in the vise, John first measured and marked the pipe.

NOTE: It's easier to do all the measuring, marking and drilling BEFORE cutting the pipe into smaller lengths.



Since we wanted both cat and dog feeders, we made 6-inch and 12-inch feeders, marking with a Sharpie pen directly on the PVC where the cuts would be made, as well as where the holes would be drilled.

Drilling

To make the drilling easier, John first drilled pilot holes in the PVC using a small standard bit then used a 1/2-inch paddle bit to drill holes.

In case the shelter was using larger sized kibble, he made one feeder with 3/4-inch holes.



Cutting

The next step was to cut the PVC into lengths.

Sanding and Deburring

Drilling into the PVC can produce ragged edges so the next step was sanding and deburring or removing the jagged bits around each hole.



John used a grinding bit on his drill to knock off the larger pieces and then followed with sandpaper; you could also just use sandpaper.

To smooth inside the holes, John used a rat-tail file; if you don't have one, just wrap a piece of sandpaper around a screwdriver and sand inside the holes.

Cleaning

Once all the parts are cut and sanded, put the PVC lengths and caps into the dishwasher for cleaning (or wash in hot, soapy water by hand). Use a baby bottle brush to clean inside the PVC tube. Allow all pieces to dry completely.

Capping

Next, John used the PVC caps to seal the ends of each feeder. These caps fit tightly; we didn't have to use the PVC cement we had purchased. If the caps don't fit tightly, you'll need to cement one end of the pipe, leaving the other end unglued for filling and cleaning.



An alternative is to drill directly through the cap and PVC and thread sisal twine through the hole, tying it off to keep the cap in place.

Using the Feeder

Next it was time to put the interactive dog toy feeders to the test! We put small kibble in one of the short feeders and in one of the long feeders.

We put small jingle bells in the other short feeder to create a fun cat toy that keeps the bells safely out of reach of the cat. (And it's great for dog-cat households!)

Our testers gave these dispensers two paws up!

USRVTDC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2020

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President Nicki Bowden at 7:15 p.m. at The Zone Sports Grille, 1505 W Broadway Street in Idaho Falls.

Previous Board Minutes Read: Shel Williams read the minutes into the record. Suzanne Belger made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Lucien Frederick Jr seconded. Motion passed.

Board members present:

Suzanne Belger	Lucien Frederick Jr.	Nicki Bowden
Shel Williams	Marilynne Manguba	Layla Johnson

Report of the President: None

Report of the Vice President: None

Report of the Secretary: None

Report of the Treasurer: Report held for regular meeting

Report of Committees: Report of the Agility Trial committee. LaDawn presented the agility trials budget for the April 2020 and October 2020 trials. Lucien made a motion to approve the budget. Marilynne Manguba seconded. Motion passed.

Unfinished business: None

New business: It was reported that the Web site is working. Suzanne Belger proposed implementing a cancellation fee for classes because it appears that people are paying to hold a place in the class and then receiving a full refund when they later change their minds and cancel. Other people who are interested in paying to take the class have since been turned away and by the start date, the classes are no longer full. The suggested fees are: \$10 cancellation fee two weeks prior to class; \$25 cancellation fee one week prior to class; full fee is forfeited if cancelled within three days of the class start date. Lucien Frederick Jr seconded. Motion passed.

Motion for Adjournment: Suzanne Belger

Seconded by: Lucien Frederick, Jr.

Time adjourned: 7:44 p.m.

USRVTD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President Nicki Bowden at 7:44 p.m. at The Zone Sports Grille, 1505 W Broadway Street in Idaho Falls.

Members present:

Shel Williams	Elise Desautel	Alicia Thompson	Duane Loomis
Cheryl Loomis	George Haller	Glenda Haller	Steve Olson
Lois Olson	Stephanie Nielsen	Suzanne Belger	LaDawn Moad
Nicki Bowden	Layla Johnson	Marilynne Manguba	Kelly P'pool
David P'pool	Heike Vitacolonna	Bert Cape	Richard Brizzee
Lacey Moon	Phil Moon	Melissa Meyers	Brian Meyers
Carl Friedrich	Rosha Adams	Leslie Hill	

Introduction of Guests/Visitors: Former member Jennifer Evans attended along with two of her friends, Kate and Tony Urquidi.

Meetings of the previous regular board meeting read/dispensed: Suzanne Belger made a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the regular meeting minutes as they were printed in the newsletter. Lucien Frederick Jr. seconded. Motion passed.

Report from the board meeting: Suzanne Belger made a motion to waive the reading of the board meeting minutes as everyone was present. Lucien Frederick Jr seconded. Motion passed.

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. There was a net loss in January.

Report of Committees: The 2019 Audit Committee met on January 15, 2020 and reviewed the Treasurer's records for the Club's financial activity for 2019. No material errors or omission were found. The committee recommended that the Board and Club members accept the financial records as submitted by the treasurer. Lucien made a motion to accept the audit committee's recommendation. Elise Desautel seconded. Motion passed.

Suzanne Belger reported on the December scent work trials. Mary Ann Igoe thanks the volunteers who helped at the trial, stating that lots of hands made light work. The club lost money on the scent work trial because new burial containers were purchased. This was a one-time purchase that was required by a scent work trial rule change.

Membership application Read/Approved: The membership application for Sean Hernandez was read in for the first time.

Unfinished business: Trailer wrap: Marilynne is still waiting for photos to create the wrap.

New business: Glenda Haller suggested that members in good standing have their club Christmas party dinners paid for by the club. Melissa Meyers asked about a thank-you gift, such as a water bottle with the club logo printed on it, for teachers who step up to teach classes to encourage participation. A discussion was held regarding the Christmas party, and Suzanne Belger made a motion to table the discussion until later in the year when the Christmas party was closer. Elise Desautel seconded. Motion passed.

Leslie Hill proposed holding fun matches several times a year before various trials, such as agility obedience and rally. Leslie is willing to chair a committee. Elise Desautel made a motion to create a fun match committee with Leslie Hill as chairperson. Lucien Frederick Jr seconded. Motion passed.

Suzanne Belger stated that there is still one working spot left in the upcoming scent work seminar February 7 – February 9.

Motion for Adjournment: Glenda Haller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carl Friedrich seconded. Motion passed. Time adjourned: 8:27 p.m.

Location of Next Club Meeting: The Zone Sports Grille, 1505 W Broadway Street in Idaho Falls.