



UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020



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August 13th Meeting

Location: Tautphaus Park (Lilac Circle)

Time: 6:00PM be prepared to help set-up for the
obedience trial

Bring your own chair and food!

Obedience and Rally Trial

August 14th, 15th, and 16th

Tautphaus Park (Lilac Circle)

Please consider volunteering to meet your active
membership status

Are you no longer using your old obedience or agility equipment?

Club members are looking to buy used equipment-
please email me if you are interested in selling your used
equipment-(scent articles, high jumps, broad jumps, ring
gates, teeters, dog walks, etc.).

*** If you have brags or any other ideas or
information you'd like to see in the newsletter –
please send them to me [_dezz1025@yahoo.com](mailto:dezz1025@yahoo.com)**

What is happening?
Humans are all wearing muzzles.



Fun Facts and Comic Corner

SUMMER 

PET SAFETY TIPS

FROM THE DOGS OF GILDAY CREATIVE



NO HOT CARS

- NEVER leave a pet in a car during warm weather, not even with the window cracked.
- Leaving a pet in a car during warm weather can lead to **HEAT STROKE** and possibly **DEATH**.



IF YOU MUST TRAVEL
KEEP US COMFORTABLE IN
THE AIR CONDITIONING!

SHADE & WATER

Protect your pets from the sun's rays and keep them hydrated.



NO HOT SURFACES

- IF IT'S TOO HOT FOR BARE FEET, IT'S TOO HOT FOR BARE PAWS.
- ASPHALT and SAND can cause a second degree burn within **35 seconds** to your pet's paws.



LIMIT EXERCISE

DON'T let playful pets overexert themselves in the heat. Exercise in the early mornings or late evenings when it's cooler.



HIGH RISK FOR HEAT STROKE



Short Nose Long-Haired Young Elderly

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SIGNS OF A HEATSTROKE

- Heavy Panting
- Excessive Thirst
- Bright Red Tongue
- Drooling
- Vomiting
- Mobility Problems

SEEK VETERINARY ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY!




Have you found a fun fact or a fun comic/meme you'd like me to share? Feel free to send it to me!

Step-by-Step Training for Your Dog's Next Vet Visit

You can (and should) teach your dog to love those trips to the veterinary clinic!

By **Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA**



There is a gentle breeze of change wafting through the veterinary community, led by noted veterinary behaviorists Dr. Karen Overall and the late Dr. Sophia Yin, and veterinarian Dr. Marty Becker. All three of these veterinarians have long been outspoken advocates for a kinder, gentler approach to handling animals at veterinary clinics, to combat the widespread challenge of dogs (and other animal companions) who become increasingly fearful, difficult to handle, and even seriously aggressive with repeated visits to the animal doctor.

Your dog may be one of the many thousands who went to his first puppy checkup with his tail wagging, happily kissing the face of the tech who lifted him to the table, but has since morphed into a demon-possessed candidate for a remake of the Exorcist. Or perhaps he started out a little fearful and somewhat resistant, and his behavior has deteriorated to the point that you need to take a sedative before making that dreaded trip with him to the vet hospital. Either way, you know things are only going to get worse. There are many vet visits in your dog's future, even if he stays perfectly healthy and only needs to go in for his annual well-pet checkup.

Do I have some good news for you! Not only is it possible for you to give your dog a happier opinion of all the various veterinary procedures he is likely to face in the coming years, but the aforementioned winds of change make it easier and easier to find a veterinarian whose handling procedures won't terrify your dog. Plus, the now readily-available materials on modern, gentle veterinary handling techniques, combined with your own strong advocacy for your dog, give you tons of powerful ammunition with which to



convince your current veterinarian to join the low-stress handling revolution. That's a huge plus for all the other dogs she sees, as well as your own dog.

Advocacy

Let's start with the advocacy piece. That's easier, because all you need is the fortitude to be willing to stand up for your dog when he needs you the most. Here are some examples of situations where and how you can, and have every right to, intervene on your dog's behalf:

1. Stay in the Room

Some vets insist that their clients' difficult dogs are better behaved when the owner isn't present. They have the tech whisk the dog to a back room where the vet does whatever needs to be done, then return the dog to the owner, claiming the dog was "fine." While it's possible that some dogs are calmer when not in the presence of a stressed owner, there are several other explanations for this, none of them acceptable:

A fearful dog may, indeed, shut down when taken away from the owner. While a shut-down dog may be easier for the vet and her staff to handle, it is likely that the dog is becoming more stressed and fearful during the procedure, and will likely be even more stressed (and harder to handle) the next time he needs to be examined, vaccinated, or treated, by the owner as well as the veterinarian.

When the owner is not there to watch, vets and clinic staff may be less inhibited about using significant force to compel the dog to accept the handling. In extreme cases, some veterinarians have even been caught on video hitting dogs and worse, throwing them against a wall in response to their resistance. If you are present, they are likely to at least moderate their use of force.

When the owner is present, not only might the clinic staff feel less free to use forcible restraint methods they "know" will work, they also may have to explain and defend what they are doing, at the risk of upsetting the owner and losing a client.

2. Ask for Sedation

For the dog, not for you – although some owners might benefit from a little medication as well! If your dog resists to the point that your veterinarian feels inclined to use forcible restraint, ask that she use drugs instead. Unless there is a medical reason preventing your dog from being sedated, this is a far easier, less stressful solution for all concerned, both human and canine. Yes, it will cost you a little more, and yes, there is a slight risk, even for a healthy dog, but well worth both, in my eyes.

Please note: Many veterinarians administer acepromazine (“Ace”) as a sedative when clients request medication. Dr. Karen Overall vehemently argues against the use of acepromazine for dogs.

“I know that the common ‘treatment’ for storm and noise phobias and veterinary office visits is acepromazine,” she says. “In truth, I wish this medication would be placed at the far back of a top shelf and used only exceptionally. Acepromazine is a dissociative anesthetic, meaning that it scrambles perceptions. Ask yourself if a scrambling of perceptions will make an anxious or uncertain dog worse or better.”

If your vet agrees to sedate your dog, ask what drug she plans to use. If she suggests “Ace” for your dog, ask her to watch [this video of Dr. Overall speaking about the drug](#). Alternatively, ask her to speak with a veterinary behaviorist to determine what might be the most appropriate drug for your dog for this situation.

3. Intervene as Needed

One of the reasons some vets prefer not to have owners present is that if the dog does continue to resist, they may opt to use restraint methods that many owners would find unacceptable. In the vets’ defense, they have a job to do, and muzzling and forcible restraint enable them to get the job done while ensuring their own safety and the safety of their staff. Unfortunately, it *also* ensures that your dog’s behavior will likely get worse and worse with each subsequent visit to the vet clinic.

However, most vet office procedures are not urgent, and if your vet explains what she needs to be able to do, you could conceivably go home and put a behavior modification protocol into practice that will, in a reasonable amount of time, enable you to bring your dog back for the next

appointment, willing and able to tolerate routine veterinary procedures. Unless your dog is bleeding badly or suffering from some other life-threatening emergency, make clear to your vet that you won't tolerate the use of force, and ask her to work with you to find alternatives. Be prepared to assertively stop clinic staff from doing anything to your dog that you are not comfortable with.

4. Choose Your Surface

Some dogs do great on the exam table – but even better if you bring a soft, familiar rug or blanket from home to put on it so it's not so shiny, slippery, or scary. Other dogs do much better on the floor of the exam room. Stress can cause aggression (see [“Understanding the Most Common Canine Behavioral Problem – Aggression!”](#) WDJ October 2010), so if you know that your dog will be less stressed on the floor than on the table, ask your vet to do the exam and procedures on the floor if possible.

5. Feed Treats

If you can keep your dog happy and distracted with super-delicious treats, there is just no good reason not to do so. And fortunately, many more veterinarians are starting to realize that “doing what works” without force just makes sense!

I recently had to take our 12-year-old Cardigan Corgi, Lucy, to our vet for an anal gland exam (excessive licking and scooting). I was a little apprehensive, as Lucy has been clear about her discomfort with vet exams in the past. I was seeing a new vet and had no idea what to expect.

Girding my advocacy loins, I walked Lucy into the exam room, and immediately started feeding treats to “prime” her (get her in a happy frame of mind) for the exam. To my delight, the doctor didn't suggest they take Lucy to a back room, so I didn't have to fight that battle. And when I advised him that she had been difficult in the past and would be happier if I fed her while he examined her, he said, “Well then, you just keep right on feeding her.”

Modifying Vet Exam Behavior

In addition to having a plan, being prepared, and staying positive (as described on pages 10-11), you can set up your dog to succeed by creating very positive associations (classically conditioning) or

changing negative associations to positive ones (counter-conditioning) with the various tools and procedures he will likely encounter during his vet visits.

To start, identify procedures and equipment your dog is already uncomfortable with. If your puppy or young dog doesn't yet have any bad associations, you can still "inoculate" him against stressful vet visits by conditioning him from the start to think all these tools and procedures are wonderful. Your lists might look like this:

Tools: Stethoscope, otoscope, thermometer, syringe, tooth scaler, nail clippers, etc.

Procedures: Examining ears, eyes, teeth, and other body parts; having temperature taken; getting a shot; restraint for blood draw; nail trimming, etc.

Tool Protocols

Since the tools your dog finds aversive are used in many of the procedures he also finds aversive, you can start with the tools. Obtain a reasonable facsimile of each tool, and begin your counter-conditioning program. Ideally you will work for 15-20 minutes per session, as many sessions per week as you can fit into your schedule. Remember to subtract calories from his meals to compensate for all the yummy treats he get

- 1. Sit on a chair with your dog in front of you – on leash if you think he will leave. Have a large container of high-value treats on a table next to you. I prefer chicken: baked, broiled, or canned/rinsed/drained. Most dogs love chicken, and it's low fat/low calorie – healthier for them than some other high-value treats. Have a handful of chicken in one hand hidden behind your back, and one of the tools (let's say the syringe) in the other, also out of sight.**
- 2. Hold up the syringe, close to your chest. As soon as he sees it, bring out the chicken and give him a nibble. Then hide both hands behind your back.**

3. Repeat Step 2 until, when you hold up the syringe, he glances at it and immediately looks toward the other hand for the chicken. This is a “conditioned emotional response” (CER) and it tells you that he is starting to happily associate the syringe with receiving chicken!

4. When he looks for the chicken each time you hold up the syringe, move the syringe a little closer to him with the next presentation. Work at each new increment until you have a consistent CER, then move it a little closer.

5. When he is comfortable with the syringe touching him, touch it to his fur in various places over his body, again establishing a CER at each new location before moving on to another.

6. Do this with each tool, until he is happy to have you touch him all over with each of the tools. Then bring in someone new – ideally someone who resembles your vet! Start over at Step 1, with the new person holding the tool and you doing the feeding, until he is delighted to have anyone touch him with the various tools.

Procedure Protocols

As you did with the Tool Protocols, you will start with tiny steps toward your goal of having your dog love all of his veterinary procedures. We will use “examining his ears” as our example.

Again, you will ideally work for 15-20 minutes per session, as many sessions per week as you can fit into your schedule. You can do this while you are working on your Tool Protocols (for example, Tool Protocol in the morning, Procedure Protocol in the evening).

1. Determine where in the procedure your dog begins to be mildly uncomfortable. If you can touch or scratch his shoulder but he gets tense if you touch his ear, start with touching his shoulder and work up from there.

- 2. Sit on a chair with your dog in front of you. Have a large container of high-value treats on a table next to you. Put both hands behind your back, one holding a handful of chicken.**
- 3. Touch him on his shoulder with your empty hand. As soon as you touch him, bring out the chicken and feed him a bit, then put both hands behind your back.**
- 4. Repeat Step 2 until, when you touch him on the shoulder, he immediately looks toward the other hand for the chicken. This is a “conditioned emotional response” (CER) and it tells you that he is starting to make the happy association: “Touch makes chicken happen!”**
- 5. When he looks for the chicken consistently, each time you touch his shoulder, start working your way up to his neck, then his ear, working at each new increment until you have a consistent CER, then moving a little higher.**
- 6. When he is comfortable with you touching his ears, be a little more invasive, touching the inside of his ear, then moving your finger (or a cotton ball) deeper into his ear canal. Remember to establish a consistent CER at each new location before moving on.**
- 7. Do this with a different procedure, until he is happy to have you replicate each of the identified procedures. If the procedure involves a tool, repeat the process with the tool in your hand, after he has been conditioned to love the tool, and after he’s comfortable with you going through the motions of the procedure without the tool in your hand.**
- 8. Finally, bring in someone new, and start over at Step 1, with the new person mimicking the procedure and you doing the feeding, until he is delighted to have anyone performing the various procedures.**

(Note: For details on modifying your dog’s response to nail-trimming procedures, see [“Force-Free Nail Trimming Techniques for Your Dog,”](#) August 2012.)

A Lot of Work

This may sound like a lot of work. The good news is that dogs can generalize these conditioning protocols, so as you move from one tool to the next, or one procedure to the next, your dog is likely to catch on more quickly with each subsequent one. In the meantime, you can also give your dog a positive classical association with your vet clinic by dropping in whenever you get the chance, and sitting with him in the waiting room or the exam room, feeding him some chicken, and then leaving, without having anything “bad” happen. It may take some work, but it will be well worth it when you walk into your vet clinic with your relaxed dog happily trotting by your side, eager to see the nice veterinarian and be poked and prodded, yummy treats happening all the while.

Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA, is WDJ's Training Editor. She lives in Fairplay, Maryland, site of her Peaceable Paws training center, where she offers dog-training classes and courses for trainers.

Tips for Successfully Showing in Obedience

Author: Cynde Leshin

Over the last 10 years I have worked with a few individuals who have been very successful showing their dogs in obedience. Each of them have multiple OTCHs on different dogs and sometimes different breeds; each of these individuals



consistently get scores 197 to 200. Not only have I learned a great deal from taking lessons from these individuals but also some very important tips for showing and helping your dog to be the best he can be in the ring after your time and preparation.

After watching so many dogs have difficulty earning just one qualifying score or just being successful in the ring, I thought it might be of value to share some of the tips I have learned to

helping you and your dog be successful in your obedience class.

TIP 1: Familiarizing your dog with the show ring and show site: Some people like to get to a show site the day before so they can see what the ring fence and stantions look like for the GO OUTs. Sometimes it is possible to practice the GO OUT, on a leash outside the ring, the day before or very early the day of the show before the show begins. The more you know about the ring set-up and show site, the better prepared you are. Sometimes this is not possible if you are not staying overnight and the drive is long to the show. If you are at the show site the afternoon before, this is the time to do a practice warm-up with heel work, scent articles, glove retrieve or whatever you feel would help you and your dog to be comfortable knowing the site and ring set-up.

PLEASE NOTE, you are never allowed to go into the show ring to practice. Sometimes a show will offer a match the evening before which offers you an excellent opportunity to get in the ring you will be showing in the following day.

TIP 2: Warming up your dog: For most dogs it is not advantageous to spend a long time warming them up and practicing. You and your dog should have done all your training before the show and now the day of the show, warm-up practice should be minimal. For example, in Utility, when the show begins, the judge posts the Utility exercise that you will perform as well as the glove number. Usually I like to do a small amount of heel work for focus; I especially like using heeling around cones to help engage the dog. Then I set up my practice scent articles so the dog is familiar with the new smells of this show site; then I practice retrieve of the glove that we will be asked to retrieve in the ring. I also like to bring a practice jump to help my dog warm up over the jump to help prevent a touch of the jump or injury from not being warmed up.

PLEASE NOTE; You dog must be on a leash at the show site when practicing. A flexi is allowed. Sometimes it is possible to find an area away from the show grounds to do some warm-up like a practice jump.

TIP 3: The day of the show, after you have done your warm-up with your dog, put them back in their crate to rest and relax. Sometimes covering the crate so the dog does not have to see what is going on around him, helps them to better relax. I usually like to take them out of their crate to potty them 3 or 4 dogs before they are scheduled to go into the ring.

TIP 4: Be familiar with the exercise you are going to be asked to do. If you are in Open B or Utility B, the exercises will vary in their order. The judge posts which

exercise you are doing at the ring before you class begins. Be sure to be present for before the first dog so you can see the heeling pattern. It is very hard to do good heel work if you do not know what is coming in the heel pattern. It is sometimes helpful to sit by the ring and watch the other dogs. It may be helpful for your to practice the heeling pattern away from the ring without the dog so you are familiar and comfortable with the pattern and transitions you will be asked to do. Reflect on how you plan to indicate to your dog the upcoming transition: from walk to halt; left turn, right turn, stand.

FOR UTILITY:

- Watch the heel pattern
- Where will the heel pattern start?
- Watch the glove retrieve
- Where will the moving stand be performed?
- Where is the judge placing the scent article in the pile?
- Are there uneven areas in the ring that you need to be aware of when heeling? Are dogs having a particular problem with one exercise? Why?

FOR OPEN:

- Again watch the heel pattern before the class begins.
- Where will you be standing for the retrieve on the flat?
- Where will you be standing for the drop on recall?
- Where will the figure 8 be performed.

All of this information is very important since you will want to stay connected with your dog between exercises and not be ideal and not sure of where to go or what comes next. *STAY ENGAGED WITH YOUR DOG.*

TIP 5: Keep your dog cool. First and foremost it is very important to keep your dog fresh, rested and COOL. So many people have their dogs on a leash, walking around and visiting others at a show. Or perhaps they have not brought a crate or housing for their dog and their dog has to be on a leash at their side with no place to really relax. I learned this from a gentlemen many years ago who told me to stand in the shade with your dog when you are preparing to be the next dog in the ring.

TIP 6: Building on Tip #5, choose a cool, shaded place to stand and interact with your dog while the dog in the ring before you is performing. Do not stand ringside, or in the sun or be chatting with friends. Use this time to connect with your dog, helping to relax and focus them on the work they are about to do. I usually tell the ring steward where I am and she will let me know when the judge is ready for us to enter the ring.

After the competitor before you finishes, the judge usually has to take a few minutes to complete her notes. DO NOT just be standing ideally waiting. Again, stand away from the ring, in the shade and interact with your dog. When it is time to enter the ring, you want your dog calm and focused.

Tip 7: Before you go into the ring, tell yourself how grateful you are that you have such a wonderful dog who can be your partner for the coming exercise. HAVE NO EXPECTATIONS! Just do your best.

Tip 8: Entering the ring: When it is your turn to enter the ring, try to heel in or have your dog connected and at your side from the close distance you were at in the shade. STAY ENGAGED even when you are taking the dogs leash off for the ring steward. The judge may want to chat with you but your job is to stay connected and focused on YOUR DOG. If the judge asks you to move to a different location look at your dog, and move together connected and ready for work. DO NOT BECOME DISTRACTED. This is a very important time to help your dog relax and feel connected with you and ready to work.

Tip 9: Between exercises. When you are moving to the place an exercise is to begin, you can and should interact with your dog and STAY CONNECTED. Don't just ideally walk to the location and hope your dog will follow. When an exercise is over, you can talk with your dog, praise him or even do something like a hand touch to let them know how good they are. When you are set up for an exercise and the judge begins to talk to you about the exercise, she will ask you if you are ready. When you reply you are ready, the judging begins and you can no longer interact with or talk with your dog. Be sure to check the rule book to see when this occurs and what you can or cannot do. For example for scent articles, the judge will tell you when to go and pick up your article to scent from a chair. You will be allowed to tell you dog to stay but not further praise or interaction.

Tip 10: When you are finished, praise your dog and tell them they did a good job. I always feel so sad when people finish their work with their dog, put on the leash and just go out of the ring, sometimes dragging the dog along. They may stop and

chat with people, or clearly express how bad their dog was. Remember, that it is seldom the dogs fault when things fall apart in the ring. Ask yourself why they did not qualify or why their performance was not up to your standard. What did you do that could have better helped them? Were they fearful and picked up on your nervousness? What did you do that contributed? Were you both adequately prepared which includes preparation at the show site and proofing your dog on all the exercises in new places? Dogs pick up on your disappointment so easily and perhaps will displace their lack of confidence at a later time not wanting to disappoint you again.

Most of all it is important to be grateful that you have such a wonderful dog to share this experience with. **SMILE AND BE HAPPY** no matter what the outcome. There will always be another day.

Want To Do Better in Rally? 5 Tips to Improve Your Score!

Fenzi Dog Sports Academy

[Nicole Wiebusch](#)

Everyone would like to get better scores in the ring! It might be surprising to learn that many points are lost to preventable things, like completing the sign incorrectly. Handler errors are by far the most common reason for deductions in rally. Read on to learn five of the most common handler errors that I see in AKC Rally.



1. Walk around PAUSE

This is one of the most common errors that I see handlers make. They are nervous and get flustered as they walk around the dog, and they forget to pause. Forgetting to pause is a 10 point deduction for an incorrectly performed sign! Remember that every time you walk around your dog, you **MUST** pause in heel position!

2. Cone Signs

There are so many signs with cones, that it's no wonder people get confused! I see a lot of mistakes with

the different cone exercises, which include spirals, figure 8's, weaves, etc. Some of the more common errors that I see are not crossing the center line three times during the Figure 8 and doing the spirals incorrectly. On the spirals, it's always 3-2-1. Circle all three cones, then the first two cones, then the first cone. Pay attention to which way you enter on the Straight Figure 8 and Serpentine Weave Twice. The

cone needs to be to your and your dog's left. Be sure to review the various rules for the cone exercises before you go into the ring.

3.1-2-3 Steps

For the Halt 1, 2, and 3 steps sign, you halt and your dog sits. THEN you take one step, halt, and dog sits. Then you take 2 steps, halt, and the dog sits. Finally you take three steps, halt, and the dog sits. You then continue forward.

There are a couple of reasons handlers struggle with this sign. First, they forget to count the steps. When I'm doing this sign I am saying in my head, heel, 1 sit. Heel 1...2...sit. Heel 1...2...3...sit. Judges will also deduct points if you take varying size steps. Be sure all of your steps are about the same size.

For the Call Front, 1, 2, 3, steps back, deductions are taken for similar reasons. While you're heeling, you cue front and step back 1-2 steps, and the dog sits. At that point, you start your 1 step back, your dog sits in front. Then you do 2 steps, dog sits, and finally 3 steps, and your dog sits. At that point you signal your dog to go to heel position and as the dog clears your path, you heel forward. Be sure your steps are about the same size and that you count as you do it.

4. Pivots Versus Turns

As you work your way through the levels, you'll need to know the difference between pivots and turns. With a turn, you step out as you heel away. Your feet should not stay together. With a pivot, your feet stay together through the turn. Pretend that you're turning on a dinner plate. Complete your turn before you step out.

5. Sit or No Sit?

This is tough because there are SO many signs that include going to heel, and you need to know whether or not a sit at heel is required. In the Novice class, the signs are Call Front Finish (either Right or Left) Halt OR Forward.

If the sign has a stop sign and says halt, the dog sits at heel. If the sign does not have a stop sign and says forward, you heel forward before the dog sits, as the dog clears your path. For the call fronts in advanced, you stop and your dog sits at heel. You call to front (without moving your feet!) and the dog sits in front. You cue heel and the dog moves to heel position and sits.

Most of the time, the sign will say "Forward" if the dog should not sit, like with sign number 121: Halt Step in Front Finish Right Forward. You halt and the dog sits, you step in front, then the dog finishes. Because it says forward, you heel forward as the dog clears your path and before he or she sits. On the Excellent Stand Leave Your Dog signs, each sign ends with the word sit, so your dog would sit at heel. For the Master Recall Over Jumps signs, the dog moves to heel but does not sit. For the Master Call Front signs, which end with forward, the dog is cued to finish and the handler moves forward as the dog clears the handler's path. The Halt Leave Recall Finish signs in Master require the dog finish the correct way and sit in heel position before the handler moves forward.

When in doubt...

I've been showing in Rally for many years, having earned several RAE's on different dogs and am currently working on a Master title, and I still refer back to the sign descriptions when I'm looking at a course.

I have the K9 Rally app on my phone, and I also have the Rally Regulations book in my training bag. Once I look at the course, if I have any questions about the signs, I refer to either the app or my book. Sometimes I'll even write on the course maps if a sit is required or not, or any other special instructions. My goal is to never lose handler points for performing a sign incorrectly.

So far, I've only failed my goal once when I accidentally turned the wrong way on the 360, realized my mistake, and redid it. The judge hadn't even noticed I did it incorrectly!

There are other ways you can help improve your score, like polishing heel, halts, and fronts. Sometimes a little bit of work on a skill can add up to a lot of points not lost over the long term. Occasionally simple things, like walking faster or staying connected to your dog, can do a lot to improve your score!

If your rally scores need a boost, I am running RA310 From Good to GREAT! Improving Your Rally Score at Fenzi Dog Sports Academy for the June session. We're going to cover everything I mentioned in this blog plus a whole lot more. In addition, we'll be looking at and talking about the 5 AKC Rally Novice courses. I'll be talking about the tricky parts of those courses and giving tips for getting the best score possible! Join me for this super fun class and watch those scores go up!

Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Date: August 14, 2020

The regular board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 7:04 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2020 at Tautphaus Park in Idaho Falls, ID.

Members Present: Suzanne Belger, Nicki Bowden, Lucien Frederick, LayLa Johnson, Marilynne Manguba, Melissa Meyers

Suzanne Belger made a motion to dispense with the reading of the board minutes since they were published in the newsletter, seconded by Marilynne Manguba. Motion passed.

President's report: None

Vice President's report: None

Treasurer's report: To be presented at the regular meeting

Secretary was not present: No report.

Motion to adjourn was made by Marilynne Manguba; seconded by Suzanne Belger. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club Membership Meeting

Meeting Date: July 14, 2020

Members Present:

Suzanne Belger	Richard Brizzee
Aubrey Parry	Marilynne Manguba
Steve Olson	Matt Johnson
Lois Olson	LayLa Johnson
Cheryl Loomis	LaDawn Moad
Duane Loomis	Lucien Frederick
Melissa Meyers	Arynne Belger
Brian Meyers	Shel Williams
Nicki Bowden	Don Williams
Desirae Chase	Bert Cape
Rosha Adams	

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2020 at Tautphaus Park in Idaho Falls, ID.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors: None. Everyone welcomed LayLa Johnson back.

Lois Olson made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes since they were included in the newsletter. Steve Olson seconded. Motion passed.

LaDawn Moad made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Board minutes since everyone was present. Seconded by Lois Olson. Passed.

Report of President: None

Report of Vice President: None

Report of Treasurer: The accountant who has been filing our taxes was under the mistaken impression that we are classified as a 501(c) 3 which we are not. The question has been clarified and taxes have been filed. Suzanne reported on our monthly and year to date finances and passed around a report.

Report of Committees

Agility Trial – The application for our October Agility Trial has been submitted.

Obedience and Rally Trial – Plans are moving forward for the trial, including incorporating sanitation and social distancing protocols to protect judges, stewards, and entrants. The deadline for entries was extended one week. Judges are Robert Bergen (Iowa) and Marina Pavlovski (Nevada). Obedience entries are similar to last year, but Rally entries are down (at this point). Our club meeting in August will be one week earlier than usual on August 13th at 6 p.m. Members will assist in setting up tents and any other items needed for the trial starting on Friday.

Obedience and Agility Classes – Classes have started. Obedience classes are mostly filled. Agility 4 (practice) has moved to Mondays at 6 p.m.

Timing and location for the September class was discussed, with either September 9 or 16 as the start date and looking at the 4H building for the entire class or at least the last half since it will start to get dark in the evenings before class is over.

Trailer – Steve asked about agility trailer repaint/wrap and has a contact that he will be asking about how to do that. Everyone agreed that the trailer should have information on all of the sports that the club participates in, although the emphasis will be on agility. The possibility of a contest or other way to figure out what dog(s) might be included was discussed.

CGC – Richard asked about conducting a Canine Good Citizen Advanced and/or Urban test and it was decided to look at doing that after the August trial. Marilynne will look at doing that downtown Idaho Falls and using the Willard Arts Center as we did last year.

Steve Olson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, LaDawn Moad seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.