

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



NEWSLETTER **OCTOBER** 2020

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October 15th Meeting

Location: 4-H Building Conference Room

Time: 7:00PM

USRVDTC Agility Trial

When: Friday October 23rd -Sunday, October 25th

Where: Wind River Arena (Ririe)

****Please consider volunteering to meet your active membership status

Scent Work Seminar

With Hallie McMullen

When: November 6th and 7th

Where: 4-H building

****Check out the USRVDTC Website for more information

* 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)

Stay
SAFE

HALLOWEEN

PET SAFETY TIPS

LEAVE THEM HOME

There are children running, screaming, dressed oddly, crying, candy falling and general chaos. While it seems ideal to get Max out to stretch his legs, leaving him at home is the better option

DON'T FORCE A COSTUME

Some pets do enjoy the extra additions of a costume but many do not. No need to add any extra stress on such a crazy day



KEEP THEM SECURE

Make certain he and his kitty companion are secure in the house and have on their ID tags. Doggie doors are best left shut with your furred friends inside. Watch out for trick-or-treater greeters or cat dashers

NO CANDY!!!

Whether it's to give out to the costumed crusaders or the stash the kids brought home, there are so many hidden dangers

**TRICK
OR
TREAT**

SAFE SPOT FOR SPOT

BOO!

Give your dog something to chew on in a safe private room in the house and if your cat really loves something like that ball of tinfoil or that special spring toy, let them have it in their own safe spot in the house

LEARN TO SAVE

Be prepared for something to happen, know how to recognize signs of candy toxicity from chocolate, obstructions or even xylitol. Take the pet first aid and CPR class now, so you know what to do then



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Fun Facts and Comic Corner



**"It's for your
own good.
You've got to
stop touching
your face."**



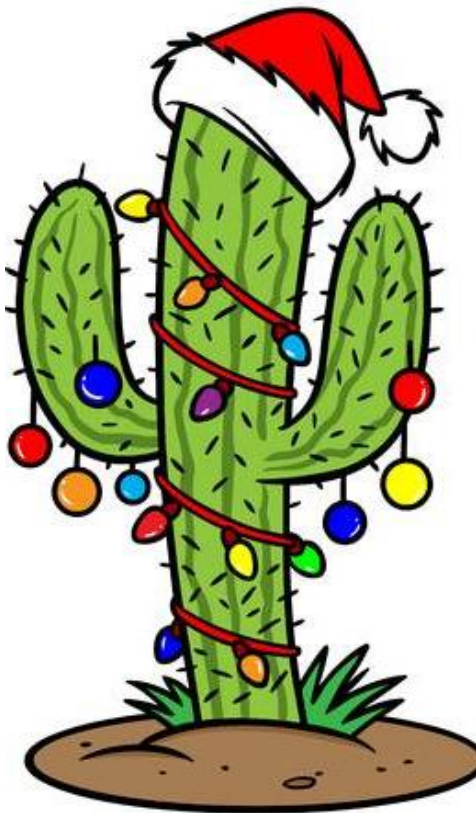
Have you found a fun fact or a fun comic/meme you'd like me to share? Feel free to send it to me!

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Indoor parties not for you? Got COVID on your mind? Social distance to your heart's content at this year's USRVDTC Christmas party.

We are ready to make this party fun for all!



When: Friday, Dec. 4th at 6pm

Where: The Westbank on the Greenbelt-catered by Diabla's Kitchen

Join us for a Christmas fiesta where you will be tantalized by Mole Chicken, Pork Verde or Carne Asada topped with your choice of fresh toppings wrapped in corn tortillas. Enjoy gourmet black beans and Spanish rice on the side. Green salad featuring all sorts of rare treasures can easily justify Tres Leches Cake.

For a mere \$20 you will get to enjoy this very merry served buffet. \$4 cash beer and wine will be available.

Pay Suzanne by Thanksgiving to reserve your spot!

Three Things You Must Know to Have a Reliably Trained Dog



by Robin MacFarlane

My dog knows Sit, now what?

It is a typical day when I have dog owners tell me "He already knows all that" in reference to the obedience I am demonstrating to them with my dog sitting, lying down, heeling or coming when called.

The next statement is usually something akin to "But I need him to stop chasing the neighbor's cat" To which I then respond "Tell him to Sit or come back to you when he starts to chase."

And therein lies the problem. The dog really doesn't know "all that", at least not when there are other interests competing for his attention.

Understanding how to create strong reliability is the key to having a really well trained dog. So it is important that you move into the proofing phase of training as soon as Fido understands the basic mechanics of a behavior.

Proofing the training means to expose the behavior to variables that include the concepts of Duration, Distraction and Distance. By working through these variables a dog learns to perform regardless of distractions. As you practice that Sit is sit and Come is come "no matter what", you build a relationship with your dog that becomes pretty bomb-proof.

It is a bit of work, so let me break it down and clarify each step.

Duration: is a measure of how long your dog will continue to hold true to a command.

For instance, if you ask your dog to Sit, how long will he remain in that position? Does he sit for a brief second, until you turn your attention away from him, or until you give him an indication he is finished?

My preference is to teach a dog to remain in position until you indicate with a permission cue (Ok, Free, Take a break) that he is finished with the task. The simple addition of permission cues for release defines the exercise and adds clarity to the dogs understanding. Now the dog understands there is a definitive ending to an exercise, and you will determine it rather than him having the burden of making that decision and perhaps making a wrong choice. This is how you create the concept of 'Stay' in the dog's mind.

Duration is the first concept I focus on with the vast majority of dogs I train (there are always exceptions to a rule, but for most dogs, duration is the place to start in building reliability). I believe duration helps the information sink in, and there is no logical reason I can come up with that a dog can't learn to hold simple stationary positions (with limited distraction present) right from the start. By the end of a week, I typically have dogs holding 15 - 30 minute Down or Place commands.

Distraction: is a measure of the dog holding true to a command while there are other things competing for his attention.

For instance, will the dog remain sitting when someone walks up to chat with you? Will he remaining sitting when another dog walks by or when someone rings your doorbell?

Issues with reliability around distractions are the most common. It is easy to get a dog to sit or lie down when there is nothing else interesting going on. It is another thing to have them follow through when other excitement is in the area.

The key with adding distraction proofing to your dog's repertoire is about starting slow and building on success. We can't expect a reactive dog to remaining sitting when another dog charges the fence if he can't even sit when we bounce a ball in front of him. Start with small distractions and build up in intensity as the dog gets the hang of it.

Distance: is a measure of how far away things are (you or the distractions) from your dog, and he will hold true to a command.

This is by far the most challenging piece of the puzzle for most people and often times the overlooked key in building to higher levels of success.

When you add distractions to a dog's proofing work, keep them at a tolerable distance in the beginning. Tolerable means finding a distance where it challenges your dog, but is not so over-stimulating that it makes it impossible for you to get things back on track.

The biggest key to success in the proofing process is learning to layer these 3 pieces appropriately. If you keep the distraction low when you start building your distance from the dog, it is easier for the dog to learn the proper response. If you want to work on higher levels of distraction, stay nearby in the beginning, so you can quickly intervene and fix mistakes if needed. If you want to work a long duration exercise, don't immediately add the second variable of going out of sight from the dog. Add variables in a way that allows you and the dog to succeed.

It is important to remember that practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect. If you are repeatedly setting the dog up to fail, failure is what you end up teaching.

Train smart.

-- Robin

The 3 Rules that Make or Break Your Agility Foundation

Agility By: Julie Daniels

Monday, 18 February 2019

Saving time, teaching your dog to love the sport, and building agility skills that are solid anywhere you go — these are just some of the benefits of a strong agility foundation.

But you likely have questions, like...

What goes *into* a strong agility foundation? Are there games you can play to help you get there? How early in your new agility partner's life can you get started?

Here's the good news: In this post, we'll share the answers to those questions.

And the best part?

They're all things you can start working on today.

1) Happy Place is Real - All learning is contextual.

The story of what is to come is told while you are on your way to the ring. Your dog's Conditioned Emotional Response (CER) to the fears or joys he expects will be told clearly by his body language as you walk into the area.

How do you condition your dog to enjoy the competition ring space? It might be easy to do this at home, but it takes effort to ensure it carries over as you move from place to place.

Make each training space first and foremost a Happy Place. It's not about the skills until after you have a puppy or dog who expects to enjoy himself in the space where you want him to work.

You want to see a clear indication that your dog wants to go to the training spaces. He wants to be there.

Why? Because he feels happy and confident there.

That positive CER must transfer to other places away from home if you want your dog to do well away from home. If you make Happy Place your first priority everywhere you go, that will make generalization of your agility skills much easier.

As with our own learning, the expectation to enjoy and to do well is a major factor in the outcome of enjoyment and doing well.

2) Relationship First - How Does It Feel to be Trained By You?

Agility embraces action plus precision. It requires a higher state of arousal than many other dog sports. Relationships are complex even when you can control most of the variables. In agility, you and your dog will both need to embrace complexity on the run!

What is the best foundation game for building a good agility relationship? There are so many good choices. I will choose one that you might not have thought about: Teach your dog to put his own collar on.

It's a game of cooperation that can be taught at any age, even to very young puppies. The game is useful in daily life and will be very useful for your agility ring exit. How you and your dog play the game of "Collar On" says a great deal about your relationship!

Here is how I play this game with my agility boy, Sport. You can see that we enjoy Collar On as a win-win game. He doesn't tolerate his collar; he demands it. We play this game in the ring. It sets up a spirit of fun and teamwork as we begin and end each agility run together.

Teach it the way I am doing here, with cookies for on and for off. You won't need the cookies for long, because it's just fun!

Sport Collar On and Off Game

How does Sport feel about his training in this video? Design your early training games to build this kind of teamwork into your foundation.

How does your dog feel about training with you? That feeling will carry forward into training for agility skills.

3) Confidence and Trust - More Important Than Skills!

Confidence: Create Value for Novelty. Play a daily game of "What is That?" in your house. Like all these other games, it's perfect for young puppies as well as older dogs.

Put one familiar ordinary item in an unexpected place. In my Empowerment class I use a video of puppy Koolaid being surprised by the family's teakettle sitting on the kitchen rug. I'll describe the game and then show you how I played this sort of game with baby Koolaid. A different surprise every day. Soon you'll be doing it more often just because it's fun for both of you. Soon your dog will love surprises!

Koolaid Teakettle 'What is That' Game

I obstruct little Koolaid's view of the teakettle as we walk into the room together. Then I front cross to show it to her and I say "What is that?"

It is the only thing on the floor in the small space, and I have pre-placed kibble around it.

That ensures it quickly becomes a 'good surprise.'

This is the key: the dog feels surprise, and then immediately becomes attracted to the novel item. The novel thing is a good deal for your dog. That is the feeling you want to condition over time. Soon they think of good things when they see unexpected things.

It's easy to set up such a session with one familiar non-scary item out of place in your home each day. That is hundreds of good surprises per year. That's how to condition your dog that unexpected things are good things!

Trust: Teach LAT. My favorite game for building trust away from home is Leslie McDevitt's "Look at That." It's a perfect foundation game for puppies and older dogs alike.

In a busy environment like agility areas, this is a useful game for worried dogs, reactive dogs, excited dogs. The most beloved game from the Control Unleashed program, this famous game, now called simply LAT, is the best way to teach your dog that you have his back in a busy environment. Like Happy Place and Collar On, teach the game at home and then take it on the road.

To teach LAT away from home, begin with a clicker and mild distraction, first in the car and then outdoors in the parking lot. Click when your dog notices something in the environment. Treat when he looks back to you.

If he can't look back at you, then your distraction was not mild enough!

Don't go into the building or onto the agility field until the outdoor environment is easy. It's important to preserve the agility space as a Happy Place where you and your dog can function well together. LAT is foundation homework that helps you do that. (Leslie McDevitt's newest book is called Control Unleashed: Reactive to Relaxed.)

One reason I love the LAT game for building your dog's trust is that it is not possible for you to ignore your dog or take his feelings for granted if you are practicing LAT. You will indeed have your dog's back if you teach this game and play it in new environments. It gives your dog a coping skill, and it trains you to observe your dog when you are out and about.

Using Motion to Connect the Rules Together. For agility dogs, we'll need to put our games of trust and confidence into motion.

Physical teamwork joins mental teamwork when you put these games into motion.

Can you walk with your dog beside you and feed him a cookie while you're walking together? Learn to play LAT while you are walking in parallel path. Collar On is a fun teamwork game while walking in parallel path. It's challenging! Can you play tug with your dog in parallel path?

Those are all useful agility foundation games. They will test your teamwork and also help you raise and lower your dog's state of arousal on cue, which will be very useful in agility training! Playing these motion games in agility spaces before you ask for work speaks to the level of readiness you bring as a team to the busy world of agility.

Three Little Rules

Happy Place is Real, Relationship First, and Confidence and Trust Before Skills

It's fun to build these cornerstones of agility training. Any dog or puppy can play, and you don't need a big space or special equipment. They will make life with your dog more fun and they will keep your agility skills grounded as you go.

Keep those three rules at the forefront of your training and you'll have the foundation you need to teach even the most complicated agility skills you'll ever want.

USRVDTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date 9/17/2020

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden , at 6:24p.m., on Thursday, September 17th 2020, at Tautphaus Park, in Idaho Falls ID.

Previous Board Minutes Read/Dispensed: Last board meeting posted in the newsletter

Motion by: Suzanne Belger

Seconded by: Lucian Fredericks

Board Members Present:

Suzanne Belger

Melissa Meyers

Nicki Bowden

Lacey Moon

Marilynne Manguba

Lucian 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

Motion for Adjournment: Melissa Meyer

Seconded by: Lucian Frederick

Time Adjourned: 6:25pm

USRV DTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date September 17th, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden , at 6:36 p.m., on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at Tautphaus Park, in Idaho Falls ID.

Members present (for Board meeting and regular meeting)(*Not at board meeting)

*Lacey Moon Nicki Bowden Suzanne Belger Rosha Adams**
Lois Olson Steve Olson Duane Loomis Cheryl Loomis
Desirae Chase Alicia Thompson Marilyn Manuba Lucien Frederick Janet Frederick
Shel Williams Brian Meyers LaDawn Moad Layla Johnson* Matthew Johnson**
Melissa Meyers Marilynne Manguba Richard Brizzee Heike Vitacolonna**
George Haller Glenda Haller**

Introduction of Guests/Visitors: Mira Johnson and Jim Bell (Bella too)

Minutes of Previous Regular Meeting Read/Dispensed: Printed in Newsletter

Motion by: Lucian Frederick moved to accept

Seconded by: Desirae Chase

Lois Olson suggest we accept with the following corrections: Meeting Date incorrect as June rather than August 13, 2020, Multiple name spelling errors, July as next meeting should be September 17, 2020. *Corrected meeting notes will be included in newsletter.

Report from the Board Meeting: Motion to suspend since everyone was here by Suzanne Belger.

Report of the President: None

Report of the Vice President: Layla is doing very well. She's getting stronger all the time. We have reserved the conference room at the 4H conference room starting in October at 7pm.

Report of the Secretary: none

Report of the Treasurer: Suzanne Belger read the monthly and year-to-date financial reports. Copy included in file. Obedience trial had a profit! Total Club Equity \$107,432.19.

Report of Committees:

Obedience –(Lucien) Trial in July: Made over \$1600. Great reviews from everyone.
Agility –(LaDawn) – 10/23-25/2020. At Wind River in Ririe. Set up Thursday 7pm. Registration Opened. Going to get an extension for entries.
Rally -
Tracking – (Marilynne) – August 19-20 –26W/97N and Freeman Park. 3 TDUs Drawing on Saturday. Sheryl alternate for 2nd time. University place for TDUs. Need 1 more track layer. Need a few people to shuttle people around.
Scent –(Nicki) Dec 12-13 we have judge and venue secured. She'll finish up getting ready for it.
Nominations Committee – (Nicki) Met and agreed on nominations. Desirae will print in newsletter.

Unfinished Business: (Desirae) – Agility Trailer wrap. Everyone had a chance to see ideas and vote? She'll send the voted for ideas to the wrap company and have them make a proof.

New Business:

(Shel) – Revisit idea about obedience/rally trial in spring. Limited entries; maybe a 1 or 2 day trial. We have a place to do it inside (4H Building). We wouldn't necessarily make a profit but would be something after a long winter. Lucien: are we in competition with other clubs? Getting the judges is very difficult. It probably won't be this next spring. Suzanne: it's hard to plan and run a trial. The mats are a big concern (cost, storage, moving). We don't have much help to run the trials. We also want to support other clubs so that they will support us. Nikki - In order to make this go, a plan needs to be proposed.

(Cheryl)- Spring maybe May - Track TDU, DTX, VST, Marilynne: get a plan together and submit your proposal

(Nicki) – You both (Obedience/rally & Tracking) need to put together a committee and a proposal and then bring it to the club to vote on.

(Desirae) Winter open practice. Jan 10 for 8 weeks, 3 hours per day on Sundays. 4H building \$960 total. We each paid \$80 for all 8 week sessions last winter. Rather than 11-2pm do 2-5pm. We can store limited supplies there but whoever brings the items needs to take them back to the storage shed. The more people that sign up, the less it costs. Desirae will call the 4H building and get it set up again. She'll email it out and see how many people want to sign up.

(Layla) Christmas party? What are people's ideas on restrictions? (Richard) liked the CEI where it's catered and exclusive to the club on that evening.(Marilynne) –Diablos Kitchen at the Westbank? (Lucien) – we'll have to be flexible because who knows what will happen by December. The majority of people at the meeting said they'd commit to attending a party.

(Marilynne) – CGCU - We need to plan on scheduling. Marilynne will set up for October 10th. Mid-morning. It will be in the newsletter.

Membership Applications Read/Approved: Jim Bell and Mira Johnson

Motion for Adjournment: Lucien Fredrickson

Seconded by: Shel Williams

Time Adjourned: 7:32pm

Location of Next Club Meeting: October 15th 4H Education building 7pm.

