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UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



NEWSLETTER **MAY** 2021

May Meeting

When: May 20th at 7:00PM

Where: Bonneville County 4-H building

Upcoming Trials

PKC Agility Trial

May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd in Pocatello

Blackfoot Cluster

Agility, Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, and
Conformation

June 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th

Thank you

To all of the club members who came and volunteered
at the agility trial. We couldn't have done it without
you!

congrats!

To Kato for earning his Open Jumpers Preferred and Open Standard Preferred Titles at the USRVDTA Agility Trial!

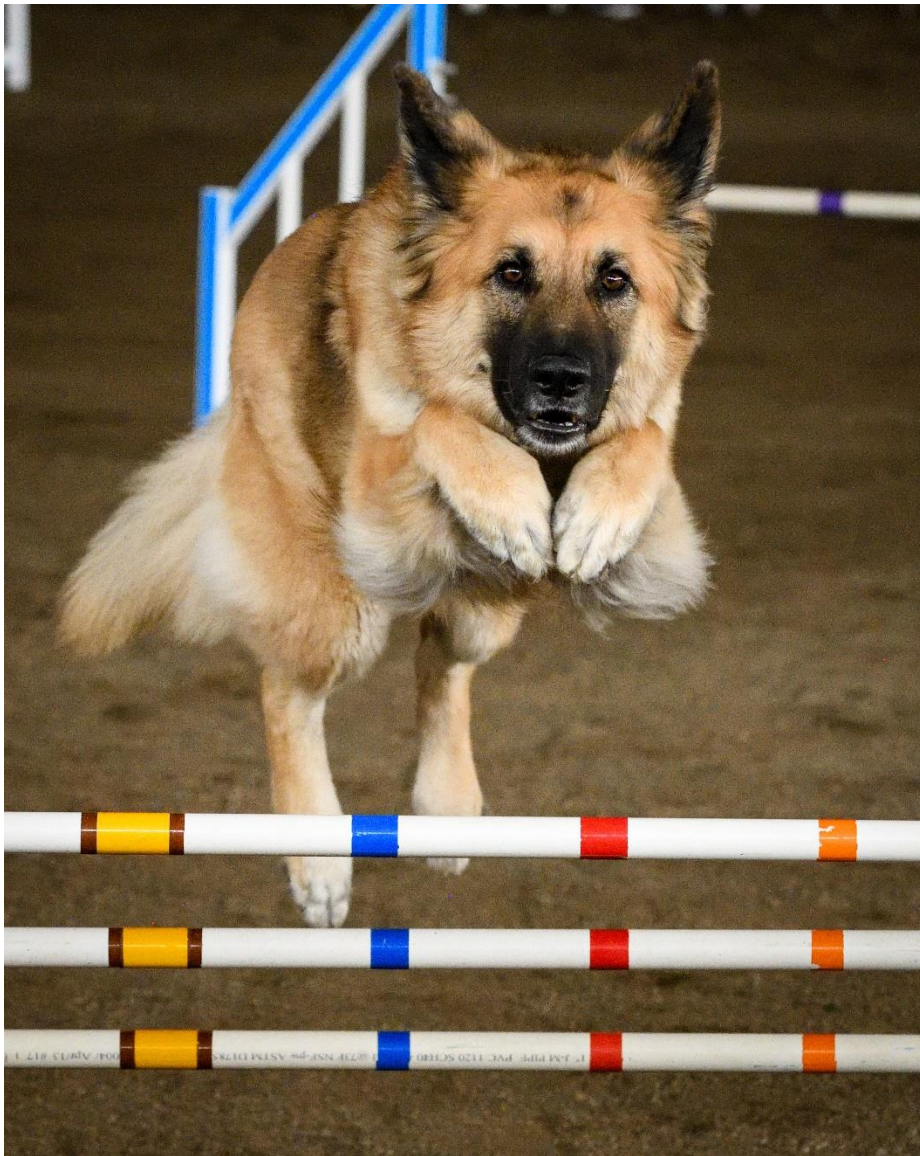
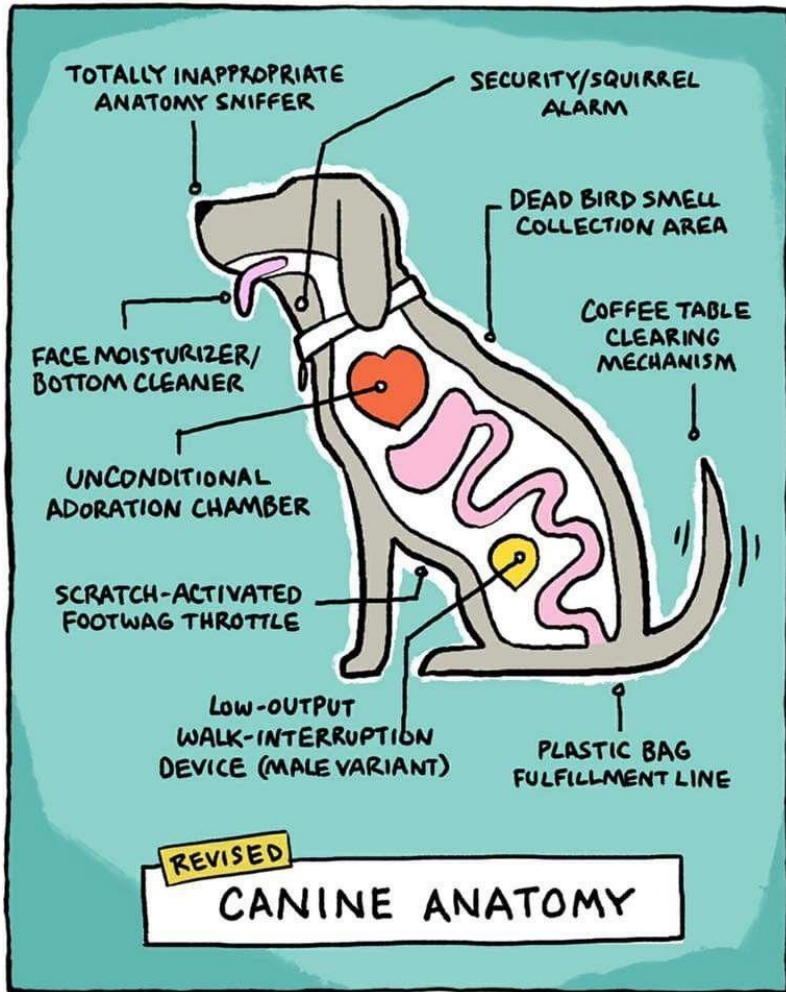


Photo Credit: Randy Gaines Photography

Fun Facts and Comics Corner



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



Playtime After Training Improves a Dog's Memory

- [November 30, 2016](#)

By Zazie Todd, PhD

New research by [Nadja Affenzeller](#) (University of Lincoln) et al investigates whether play following learning leads to better performance the next day. The scientists wanted to know whether this effect, previously found in humans, would also apply to [dogs](#).



In people, it is thought that the hormonal response during positive arousal acts on parts of the brain called the hippocampus and amygdala and leads to better memory. The effect applies to a type of memory called declarative memory, which is our memory for facts and events (for example, the President of the United States, or the capital of Denmark).

Now we can't expect dogs to tell us who is the President of the United States, but it is possible to get them to do a task very similar to one used in some of the human memory research: learning to tell the difference between two objects.

The results show that the dogs who got to play immediately after learning needed fewer trials in the task the next day, compared to the dogs who had rested instead.

First of all, each dog had a pre-training session, in which the dog was taught to approach an object. In the very early stages, food was placed on the object, and when the dog approached, s/he was allowed to eat it.

For those interested in [the food canine scientists use as rewards](#), it was either a piece of pork or chicken sausage, depending on the dog's dietary preferences.

In the training session, the dogs were taught to distinguish between two objects and choose the right one by putting their two front paws on a cardboard square on which the object was placed. If they went to the correct object, the researcher clicked and then gave them a reward. If they picked the wrong object, the researcher used a no-reward marker ("wrong" said in a neutral tone of voice).

The objects were not things the dogs were used to. There was a blue basket with white dots which contained a layer of woodchips, and a green box with black stripes on that had a layer of cat litter at the bottom.

The dogs were trained in sessions of 10 trials, until they had got 80% right in two sessions in a row.

Immediately after doing this, dogs either had a play session or a rest session, depending which group they were in.

The 8 dogs in the play session had a 10 minute walk to an enclosed area where they had a 10 minute play session, followed by the walk back. Dogs had a choice between fetching a ball or Frisbee, or playing tug.

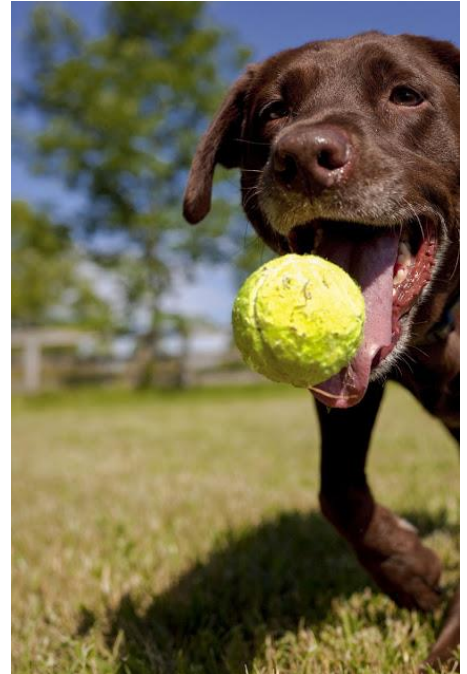
The 8 dogs in the rest session were given a bed to lie on while the owner and researcher engaged in a 30 minute conversation. The researcher kept an eye on the dog and said their name or distracted them to prevent them from going to sleep.

The next day, the dogs came back to learn the same task again.

Dogs that had taken part in the play session re-learned the object discrimination much more quickly, taking 26 trials on average (plus or minus 6), compared to 43 trials (plus or minus 19) for the dogs who had rested.

The researchers took measures of heart rate, which differed between play/rest sessions as you would expect, but otherwise was the same for both groups of dogs. They also found that salivary cortisol was lower after the play sessions, which they found surprising (if you're interested in salivary cortisol research, see [this post by Julie Hecht](#)).

19 Labrador Retrievers, aged between 1 and 9 years old, took part. The study focused only on [purebred Labrador Retrievers](#) so that breed could not affect the results. Their prior training levels were also taken into account and evenly distributed across the two groups.



This turned out to be important, because the ‘experienced’ dogs who had previously taken part in cognitive tasks like this learned the task much more quickly. The gundogs need more trials, perhaps because they had previous experience of following human cues in the field, which didn’t happen in the lab. Some of the dogs were ‘naïve’ and had only basic obedience, did not work or participate in trials, and had never taken part in similar research before.

This shows it is important to take prior training experience into account when [designing canine research studies](#).

Three of the dogs had to be excluded (two because of motivation issues, and one because of a preference for one of the objects), so only 16 took part in the full study.

The study does not show the mechanism by which memory is improved, but it is thought to relate to the hormones produced during the play session. However, the play also included exercise, and further research is needed to confirm whether it is play per se or exercise that caused the effect.

The scientists write,

“The results show that engaging in playful activity for 30 min after successfully learning the task improved re-training performance, evidenced by fewer trials needed to meet task criteria 24 h after initial acquisition. This significant difference between the two groups not only suggests that the intervention is affecting long-term memory rather than an improved short-term memory, but also that pleasant arousal post-learning has similar effects on enhancing memory in dogs as it does in humans.”

This study asked dogs to discriminate between two objects that looked and smelled different. A similar real-life training task is scent detection. Further research to investigate the best ways to improve performance in the training of scent dogs for drug or explosives detection, or in medical testing, could be very exciting.

It's nice to know another way in which dogs are like people. And next time someone says they'd like to end a [dog training](#) session on a positive note, perhaps a game of tug or fetch is in order.

The Most Popular Dog Breeds of 2020

By [Jan Reisen](#) Mar 16, 2021 |

Is your dog's breed winning popularity contests this year? Now you can find out! The most popular dog breeds of 2020 were released on March 16, 2021, based on American Kennel Club registration statistics.

America continues its love affair with the [Labrador Retriever](#) which tops the list for the 30th year in a row. Just below the Lab, the Frenchie takes the #2 spot, ranking above the German Shepherd Dog and Golden Retriever for the first time. And the Dachshund makes its way into the top 10 this year, knocking the Pembroke Welsh Corgi down to #11



Some breeds rose in popularity, including the [Belgian Malinois](#), which jumped from 60th in 2014 to 37th this year. Some breeds declined in popularity, even the adorable [Coton de Tulear](#), which dropped 50 spots from 31 to 81, and the [Boerbel](#), which declined almost 60 spots.

Like clothing styles and baby names, dog breeds go in and out of style. It's likely that pop culture plays a large role in preferences. In fact, a study from the University of Bristol, City University of New York, and Western Carolina University found that movies, specifically durably popular ones, play a large role in breed popularity. For most of the twentieth century, even the breed's temperament, health, and longevity played less of a role in selecting a dog than did association with a popular film.

The study used registration statistics from the AKC to compile and analyze the data. But there are more substantial reasons that [dog registration is important](#). The AKC is the only purebred dog registry in the United States, maintaining systematic investigations and inspections. The AKC conducts thousands of inspections each year to ensure compliance with standards that support the safety, welfare, and health of dogs throughout the country. Additionally, the American Kennel Club and its affiliates have donated over \$38 million to canine health research and \$7 million to pet disaster relief.

2020 Most Popular Dog Breeds

Rankings Top 25

Breed	2020 Rank
Retrievers (Labrador)	1
French Bulldogs	2
German Shepherd Dogs	3
Retrievers (Golden)	4
Bulldogs	5
Poodles	6
Beagles	7
Rottweilers	8

Pointers (German Shorthaired)	9
Dachshunds	10
Pembroke Welsh Corgis	11
Australian Shepherds	12
Yorkshire Terriers	13
Boxers	14
Great Danes	15
Siberian Huskies	16
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels	17
Doberman Pinschers	18
Miniature Schnauzers	19
Shih Tzu	20
Boston Terriers	21
Bernese Mountain Dogs	22
Pomeranians	23
Havanese	24
Cane Corso	25

HOW TO FIND A RESPONSIBLE DOG BREEDER

April 07, 2021

When I (Steph) graduated from college and moved to New York City, all I wanted in the world was a dog.

Unfortunately, my first job in financial sales didn't leave any room for a puppy. Each morning I would leave my studio



apartment at 6:30am. Every evening I'd get off the subway and roll into my apartment building just after 7pm. I had no time to properly care for a dog.

You can imagine my excitement when I finally left my grueling job. With more time on my hands than before, I finally had the opportunity to welcome a beautiful four-legged friend into my life. The only problem? Finding a reputable dog breeder with available puppies *and* within driving distance of NYC seemed an impossible feat.

The decision to get a new puppy is incredibly exciting. Unfortunately, finding a healthy puppy from a reputable source is not as easy as it should be. Puppy mills, online and offline pet stores, and backyard breeders churn out puppies for quick cash and accept anybody with a check or credit card.

On the other hand, responsible breeders screen new homes, provide guidance after you take your puppy home, and are willing to take back any dog they have produced. In other words, responsible breeders deeply care. But how do you find a responsible breeder, and how do you know that they are honest?

In this [DJANGO Dog Blog](#) article, we share how to find a responsible dog breeder and the most important questions you should ask them.

WHERE TO FIND A RESPONSIBLE BREEDER

Here are four great ways to find a responsible dog breeder.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a fantastic way to connect with dog breeders, their network, and their customers. I found [Django's](#) breeder on Facebook and saw that she was friends with other well-known dachshund breeders throughout the New York City metro and broader U.S. The breeder regularly posted photos of her adult dachshunds and past litters, and other dachshund breeders commented amicably on them. The breeder also uploaded pictures of her and her son at dog shows with her dachshunds and provided information on the shows. I was able to quickly verify (1) the breeder is legitimate and well-known in the dachshund community (2) the breeder is small, i.e. she does not overbreed and has no more than 1-2 litters per year (3) the breeder seems have a loving family who, based on the Facebook photos, clearly love and care for their dogs.

In addition to verifying my breeder via Facebook, I also spoke to several breeders who bred their dachshunds with hers. This final step helped me again confirm her standing in the dachshund community and become comfortable with the breeder.

BREED SHOWS AND CLUBS

The AKC has more than 500 member [breed clubs](#) and nearly 5000 affiliated breed clubs. Are you looking for a Chow Chow in Washington state? Search the AKC's [National Club directly](#) for "Chow Chow", and go directly to the breed-specific National Club website. The National Club may list dog breeders throughout the U.S. as well as their contact information. If no breeders are located within your state, contact the National Club directly and see if they happen to know anyone within 4-6 hours drive of you.

Breed shows like the Eukanuba National Championship, the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, and The National Dog Show have "Meet the Breeds" booths. Reputable breeders present 198 dog breeds that are either currently recognized by the AKC or part of its [miscellaneous class](#).

I went to the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in early 2020 (right before COVID) and was amazed by the access to reputable dog breeders. Although I was not looking for a dog at the time, I met and spoke to so many breeders and professional handlers who were

happy to tell me about their beautiful dogs. If I had been looking for a hard-to-find dog breed, this would have been a wonderful place to start.

WORD OF MOUTH

Do you have co-workers, family, or friends who have used a dog breeder in the past? If yes, what was their experience with the breeder? Did they visit the breeder's home and see the environment the puppies were cared for in? Do they still have contact with the breeder today? Based on their experiences, ask them if they would recommend their breeder. If the dog breed you are looking into is not common, ask friends and family if they know of anyone else with this type of dog. There is a chance they can refer you to another friend who worked with a reputable breeder.

DOG TRAINERS AND VETERINARIANS.

Dog trainers and veterinarians work with all types of dog breeds and may be able to recommend responsible dog breeders in your area. Are you looking for a more unique dog breed, i.e. a [Chinese Crested](#)? A popular dog trainer in your town may have worked with a Chinese Crested before and can put you in touch with the owner. Although veterinarians may be unable to share customer/patient information without prior approval, they may still know of the breeders used by their customers—especially if the breeder is local. Remember that veterinarians usually visit reputable dog breeders' homes to check on new litters, perform parent health screenings, and give initial vaccinations.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK A DOG BREEDER

Here are the most important questions that you should ask the dog breeder before you agree to purchase a puppy.

1. What dog breeds do you specialize in? How long have you been breeding?

Responsible breeders only work with one or two breeds. They have extensive knowledge and years of experience with their specific breeds. They are able to talk about the breed's history, temperament, and genetic diseases. You may also want to ask if they are involved in any canine sports or [purebred clubs](#).

2. Do you have any references?

Ask the breeder for the names, phone numbers, and/or email addresses of people they have sold to within the past year. Contact their clients and find out how long they have known the breeder, if they are happy with their puppy, and how any problems were handled.

3. Can I meet the puppy's parents?

If the breeder co-breeds with other breeders or uses [artificial insemination](#) or stud service, you will not be able to meet your puppy's father. That is why it is critical that you meet his mother. How big is she, and is that the dog size that you want? What does she look like, and is she well groomed? Is she aggressive, shy, or friendly? Has she had any serious health conditions or genetic disorders?

4. How old are the puppy's parents? How many litters has the female dog had?

Male dogs should be bred between 1-2 years old. Female dogs should be bred after 18 months of age and can produce 3 to 4 litters in their lifetime. After 5 years of age, female dogs have abnormal heats and are less capable of handling the physical demands of pregnancy. They are more likely to have stillborn puppies and premature labor.

5. What health tests have been performed on the puppy's parents?

Responsible and ethical breeders will have the parents tested for genetic diseases that are common to the breed. They may even put the scores and x-rays for each dog on their website.

6. Can I meet and handle the full litter?

Toy and [small dog breeds](#) have three to four puppies in each litter. Large and giant breeds average eight puppies per litter (although [the largest litter ever recorded](#) was 24 puppies!). By meeting and/or handling the entire litter, you will be able to see whether the puppies are similar in health, temperament, and size.

7. Are the puppies fully weaned?

Puppies are typically fully weaned between 7-12 weeks of age. According to the [Journal of the South African Veterinary Association](#), later weaning improves weight gain and growth, decreases illness and mortality, and [improves dog coat health](#). Additionally, very early

weaning (i.e. at 6 weeks of age) can have a negative affect on the health and wellbeing of puppies.

8. How many veterinarian visits have the puppies had?

Were the puppies examined and declared healthy? If not, what health problems have they had? Have they been on any medications, and did they experience any side effects?

9. Have the puppies been socialized?

Responsible breeders start [socializing their puppies](#) at 3 weeks of age. They will introduce them to different people, objects, sounds, surfaces, and smells. They will also handle the puppies in different positions. However, they will only let them play with well-mannered, completely vaccinated dogs. They also will not take their puppies for walks outside without a [dog carrier bag](#) or stroller.

10. Are the puppies vaccinated?

By 8 weeks old, puppies should have their shots for [distemper](#) and parvovirus. Between 10-12 weeks, they should have a DHPP vaccination. It is a combination vaccine that prevents four different canine viruses: distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus. Vaccinations for influenza, leptospirosis, bordetella, and [Lyme disease](#) are also given depending on the puppy's lifestyle.

11. Have the puppies been dewormed?

Most puppies are born with roundworms or hookworms. They are passed in the womb or through the mother's milk. [Puppies](#) should be dewormed for the first time when they are 2-3 weeks old.

12. Do you want the puppies to be spayed/neutered by a certain age?

Many reputable dog breeders are protective of their canine lineage and require via contract that your dog will be spayed or neutered. If you are trying to breed your dog in the future, this will likely be an issue.

Your breeder should also not tell you to spay/neuter your puppy at too young an age. Some dog breeds have an increased risk of bone and blood vessel cancers if spayed/neutered within their first year of life. According to [AVMA](#), it triples the risk of hypothyroidism,

diabetes, and obesity. It also causes urinary incontinence in 20% of female dogs and increases their risk of a [recessed vulva](#), vaginal dermatitis, and vaginitis.

13. What are you feeding the puppies?

Whether the breeder is feeding your puppy dry [dog kibble](#) or [fresh dog food](#), keep him or her on the same diet for the first few days. Responsible breeders usually provide a 7-day supply of your puppy's current food, a foldable food and water bowl, samples of [healthy dog treats](#), and a breed-specific diet sheet.

14. When can I take the puppy home?

Responsible breeders will not let you take your puppy home until he is 8-12 weeks old. Puppies that are separated from their mothers and siblings too early are more likely to bite and bark. According to the [Handbook of Applied Dog Behavior and Training](#), they may also develop separation anxiety, high reactivity, and inter-dog aggression.

15. Can I buy a pair of puppies?

Many breeders will not let you buy two puppies from the same litter. That is because they are at risk for "littermate syndrome". The siblings may fight constantly or become extremely codependent and terrified of being apart, even briefly. They might also become anxious around unfamiliar dogs, people, or objects.

16. Are your dogs hypoallergenic?

Bad breeders promise their puppies won't trigger your allergies. Hypoallergenic breeds do not exist. Though dogs with low-shed, hair-like single coats produce less dander.

Affenpinschers, bichons frises, Chinese crested dogs, [miniature schnauzers](#), poodles, and Yorkshire terriers are best for allergy sufferers.

17. Do you have a waiting list? Do you require a deposit?

Many well known dog breeders have a waiting list and require a non-refundable deposit. That is because breeding a litter of puppies can cost thousands (and thousands) of dollars. The total price tag includes health screenings for the female dog, stud services/artificial insemination, [high quality dog food](#) and prenatal vitamins, pre-and post-natal veterinary care, [AKC registration](#) for the new litter, and puppy veterinarian checks and

vaccinations. Boston terriers, [Clumber spaniels](#), [French bulldogs](#), German wirehaired pointers, and Pekingese are usually delivered via c-section. C-sections cost \$500 to \$2,000.

18. Do I have to sign a breeder's contract?

Most responsible breeders will ask you to sign a contract before you bring your puppy home. Read it carefully. Is your puppy pet-quality or show-quality? Does it promise he will not have [congenital defects](#) until a certain age? Does it guarantee that he will not develop hip dysplasia? Do you need to fill out the AKC registration papers? Do you have to provide the breeder with yearly updates? Can you return your puppy if he has health problems?

19. Do you provide a bill of sale?

A bill of sale lists the names, addresses, and signatures of the buyer and seller. It also includes the price you paid for your puppy and his description (e.g., breed, color, markings, sex, and age). Some states (e.g., Arizona, California, Florida, New York, South Carolina, and Virginia) have "puppy lemon laws". They require your breeder to take back your puppy and refund your money if he gets sick within 1 to 2 weeks of sale.

20. Will you keep in touch after I take the puppy home?

Good dog breeders will give you their phone number and/or email address. They care deeply about their dogs and will ask you to contact them if you have any concerns or questions. They will also use what you tell them about your puppy's personality and health to make future breeding decisions.

21. Will you ship my puppy?

Responsible dog breeders will not ship puppies as [cargo](#). Some do not allow them to fly in the cabin either. Because puppies younger than 12 weeks cannot hold their pee for more than an hour, the breeder may prefer you to drive the puppy home.

22. Do you have any questions for me?

Good breeders want to know their dogs will be well cared for and safe. They may ask you questions like: Why did you choose this breed? Are you a new dog owner? Do you have any children under age 10? Do you have any other pets? Do you work from home or in an office? What is your activity level? Do you live in an apartment, condo, mobile home, or

house? Responsible breeders will ask you A LOT of questions by email, over the phone, or during a face-to-face visit. They may also ask for references, run a background check on you, or look into your past or current dog's medical history.

USRVDTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES ---No Board Meeting –No Quorum

Meeting Date 4/8/2021

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, _____, on Thursday, _____.

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

Motion by:

Seconded by:

Board Members Present:

Suzanne Belger

Nicki Bowden

Lacey Moon

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:

Seconded by:

Time Adjourned:

USRVDTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date April 8, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 7:13 p.m., on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at the 4H Building, in Idaho Falls ID.

Members Present

Lacey Moon	Nicki Bowden	Suzanne Belger	Rosha Adams
Lois Olson	Steve Olson	Alicia Thompson	LaDawn Moad
Heike Vitacolonna	Cheryl Loomis	Duane Loomis	Linda Newby Reimann
Jennifer Evans	Richard Brizzee	Nicole Crossley	Holly Jossi

Introduction of Guests/Visitors:

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

Motion by: LaDawn Moad to accept minutes as printed in newsletter

Seconded by: Lois Olson

Report from the Board Meeting: Nicki –no board meeting

Report of the President: None

Report of the Vice President: None

Report of the Secretary: None

Report of the Treasurer: Income YTD \$5,693.08 - mostly due to classes. \$106,527.93 Total . Treasurer's report was sent around room and filed with minutes.

Report of Committees:

Obedience –Heike- Begin on April 21st. Obedience on Wednesday. Puppy Class (7 In Class), 2 Basic Obedience (12,13,12 in classes), Advanced Basic Obedience (14 In Class), and Intermediate. **(Trial has been approved 8/20-8/22)**

Agility – Our April trial is April 16th,17th and 18th.. LaDawn—Sign-up sheet for helping for trial. Set up Thursday 7. Trial is Friday, Saturday, Sunday starting at 8. Clean up Sunday at 2:30ish.

Agility Classes starting April 20th- Basic Agility-- 12 people, Level II – 3 people, Level III/IV

Scent Work –Nicki- Our scent trial on for June at the Blackfoot Cluster at Blackfoot Fairgrounds finally approved by AKC. Judging panels have been submitted. Premiums are out. Trial is -6/17-6/20.

Tracking - Trial Approved

Unfinished Business:

How did Carl do at Nationals? No report.

New Business:

Nicole Crossley- **Seminar** – Lorraine Pagillini-- Agility with an Obedience Focus. Nicole will get details put together. How many working spots, dates, structure? Weekend clinic/seminar. Lorraine is asking \$60 per dog, \$100 for gas, somewhere to park RV.

Membership Applications Read/Approved: Amy Kaiser – Akita – vote next meeting

Motion for Adjournment: Lois Olson

Seconded by: Rosha Adams

Time Adjourned: 7:35pm

Location of Next Club Meeting: May 20th. Location TBA