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UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

July Picnic

When: June 24th 6:00PM-8:00PM

Where: Freeman Park

Upcoming Trials

USRVDTC Obedience and Rally

August 20th, 21st, and 22nd

https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/eventplans/eventsearch/blocks/dsp_generate_pdf.cfm?KEY_BINARY_CONTENT=55492&_ga=2.146206068.1128919294.1625081852-1691149046.1574026365

Jackson Hole Fun Run

Date: July 31st Check in: 7:30 am to 8:30 am

Fee: \$4.00 per run

Runs offered: Standard and Jumpers

Runs per class: 3 AKC approved judge

This is a great opportunity for people to get some ring experience for a great price!!!!

***Self certification for *active* membership is available to fill out online at USRVDTC.org

IMPORTANT MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGES

As approved by the board, here is the schedule for meetings moving forward.

Board Meetings	General Board Meetings
January	February
March	April
May	June
July	August
September	October
November	November

July's Board meeting at Marilynne's office
(next door to Marcellars) July 15th at 7:00 p.m.



A Note from our President

I wanted to take a moment and thank everyone that pitched in to help make our recent Scent Work Trial such a success and a great time for all our participants. LeeAnn Chaffin, Leslie Hill, Desi Chase, thank you for pitching in to set things up and clean the building for our participants. Also, a special thanks to the “Cleanup Crew” that pitched in when we all just wanted to go home, Suzanne Belger, Desi Chase, Leslie Hill, Arynne Belger and Nicole Crossley and her son Will who did our heavy lifting, you all made that last task so much easier!

Thanks to our judges, Hallie McMullen and especially Laurie Schlossnagle for stepping up when we lost our day 3 and 4 judge to a family emergency.

During the four-day trial, we could not have done it without the help of Cheryl and Duane Loomis, Nicole Crossley and Suzanne Belger. A heartfelt thanks to Marti Kincaid, Michelle Sullivan, Deb Killpack and her husband, McKenzie Shaner, Erica Crowe and Andee Zweigart all non-club members that worked hard all day, every day to make our Trial a success.

You all gave up many hours to make it happen, and I just want you all to know how much I appreciate your creative talents and energy. Your contributions made a difference, and we were able to provide an awesome experience because of your efforts!

To anyone I may have left out, it is not on purpose! Thank you EVERYONE who helped where they could!

Thanks again. We crushed it! – Nicki



Thank
you

Christmas in July

When: July 24th 6:00PM- 8:00PM

Where: Freeman Park Band Shelter

Cost: \$15 dollars per person due July 12th sign up at USRVDTC.org

*Catering by Grandpa's Southern BBQ *Dog talent Show

*Secret Santa Gift Exchange *Yard Games

Bring your family and pups for a great time

-Also, please bring a crate, lawn chairs, and any yard games you enjoy

Talent Show

All dogs have a special talent whether it is an impressive trick, a super nose for scent work, awesome obedience skills, or lightning speed on an agility course. We want to see those talents! Please email Layla at mattpaulj@gmail.com if you are interested in entering the talent show. Awesome prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Secret Santa Gift Exchange

Do you want to get to know more people in the club? Do you love gift giving and picking out that perfect present? Then this Secret Santa exchange is for you! The cost is \$20 minimum a dog family. I have created a simple Google form to fill out that will be shared with your Secret Santa in order pick the perfect gift for your pup and you!

If this sounds like something you'd like to do, here is the link to the form, which includes more details. **FORMS DUE JULY 5th**

<https://forms.gle/5ub6orEwi7R4q8pe7>

Braggs

Cheryl Loomis Belle and Hope: Belle's nose was on track at our scent work trial in Blackfoot. She earned her novice interior and novice container title. She also earned two legs in buried and 1 leg in exterior.

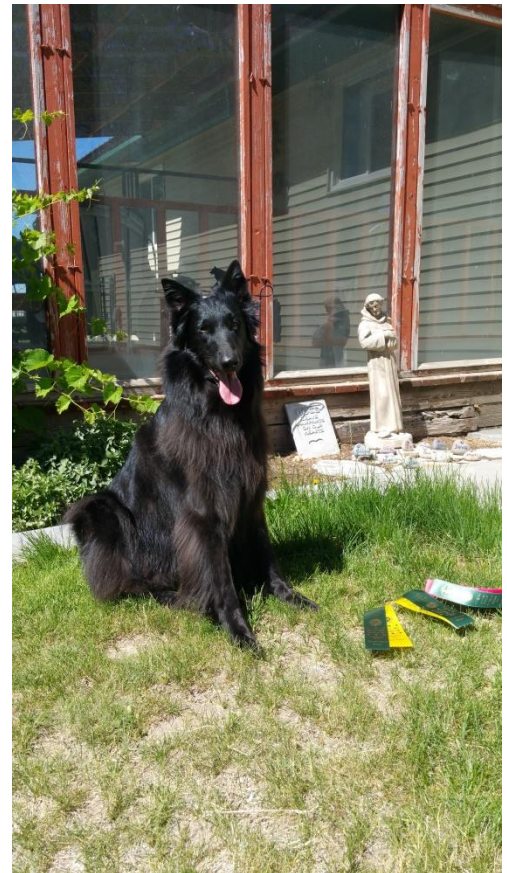
Hope earned her novice exterior title at the scent work trial. She also competed in Obedience, earning 2 legs in Open A.

Nicki Bowden and Epic: Epic earned her Novice Exterior Element Title at the Blackfoot trial.

Suzanne Belger, Fyre, and Gaia: Fyre and Gaia finished their Scent Work Advanced Titles at the Blackfoot trial.

Desirae Chase and Kato: Kato earned his Excellent Jumpers and Weaves Title at the Blackfoot trial.

Steven Olson and Solo: Solo earned his Novice Obedience title at the Blackfoot trial.



Fun Facts and Comics Corner



5 HOMEMADE SUMMER TREATS FOR YOUR DOG

Its hot hot hot out there! Everyone loves an ice cold treat on a hot summer day, even our furry friends! Here are some ideas for cool, easy and tasty treats to give your dog on a hot sunny day.

1. Frozen Blueberries

As easy as it sounds! Place blueberries in the freezer until they are frozen in to a popsicle-like treat! “Blueberries are not only tasty, but they're also a superfood for people and pets. As anti-oxidants, this summer fruit protects the body from cell-damaging free radicals.” (1)

2. BBQ Ice Cubes

We all know pups love meaty juices and flavors. Having a Barbecue? Put your leftover hamburger juice or chicken broth to use! “Fill an ice cube tray with the liquid and stick it in the freezer. Drop a few cubes in an empty dog dish on hot day for your furry friend” (1)

3. Watermelon Balls

Use a scoop or melon baller to transform watermelon pieces into small balls. Place in the freezer to create a fun cool-down snack- You can use the melon balls to play fetch with your dog! (1)

4. Strawberry filled yogurt surprise

Yogurt covered strawberries are tasty for dogs as well as humans! First, dip some fresh strawberries into plain Greek yogurt and place on a wire rack. Freeze the yogurt covered strawberries, remove from freezer and repeat these steps to thicken the coating. Once frozen, cut off the tops to serve! (2)

5. Frozen Kong

Fill your dog's Kong with peanut butter, PB + Banana mixture, or a PB + cottage cheese + Honey mixture and place in the freezer until the mixture is frozen. The frozen treat inside can offer hours of entertainment for our dogs! (2)

Why Fireworks Scare Some Dogs but Not Others

Canine scientists investigate why loud sounds cause some dogs to lose their cool and offer insight on effective treatment



This Border Collie doesn't look thrilled to be participating in firework festivities. (Photo by Hillary Kladke / Getty Images)

By [Courtney Sexton](#)

SMITHSONIAN
MAG.COM
JUNE 26, 2020

Ears back. Body trembling. Hiding in the bathtub or crawling under the bed. The telltale signs of a scared pup are familiar to dog owners, and they're especially common in summer, when fireworks and thunderstorms can heighten dogs' anxiety levels. But while the sight of a sparkler sends some dogs tail-tucked and running, others remain unfazed by booms and bangs.

To sort out this canine confusion, dog researchers around the world are investigating what makes dogs react to sounds with fear. Better understanding canine

fear behaviors could improve dogs' quality of life and even help to explain human fear responses.

The sound of fear

Dogs are known for their olfactory prowess, but sound also dictates their experience of the world. Dogs hear more than twice as many frequencies as humans, and they can also hear sounds roughly four times further away. Reacting to every sound would demand too much energy, and so dog brains must determine which sounds are significant and which can be tuned out. This “auditory flexibility” is especially important for working dogs; for example, lives depend on the ability of military dogs and detection dogs to remain calm despite the loud sounds and explosions they may encounter.

On the other hand, evolution has trained most animals, including dogs, that avoiding a perceived threat is worth it for overall survival, even if, as in the case of fireworks, the threat doesn't end up being real.

“From a biological perspective, it pays to err on the side of running away even when it's not necessary. So why does my dog have a tendency to be anxious? Well that's a normal trait,” says Daniel Mills, a professor of veterinary behavioral medicine at The University of Lincoln in England.

For some dogs, early life conditioning can make the difference in their sensitivity to sound. Like human infants, puppies undergo critical stages of development when their brains form associations that can influence behavior for the rest of their lives. If, for example, a construction worker was hammering the wall in a neighboring apartment while a puppy was left home alone, that puppy might associate banging with abandonment—without her owner even knowing it had happened. That association could trigger a fear response in the dog every time she heard a bang.

“Puppies have this period where their brain learns what is normal in the world, what is okay and what should I not be afraid of. And then after 12 weeks of age [about when most dogs are adopted], they start to develop their fear response. So, if they encounter something new after three months of age and it frightens them, they can learn to be afraid of that going forward,” says Naomi Harvey, Research Manager in Canine Behavior at Dogs Trust.

Stress genetics

Dogs that have little to no negative associations with loud sounds can still be found cowering during a storm, while others who had a scary early experience can learn, often through counterconditioning and desensitization, to overcome the fright. One explanation for this can be found in temperament. Unlike personality and mood, which are more fluid emotional states, temperament is a deeper, more hardwired system affected by genetics and early development. Temperament is shaped by epigenetics, or the way an animal's genes are influenced by external factors, and this can play a significant role in the dogs' inherent predisposition to stress, anxiety and fear.

For example, studies in [humans](#) and [animals](#) show that mothers who experience high levels of stress during pregnancy can pass on a propensity for anxiety to their young via the stress hormone cortisol. When signaled by a stress-inducing event, the brain's hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis (HPA) becomes active and produces cortisol, which then travels throughout the body keeping an individual on "high alert." High cortisol levels in the mother's bloodstream have subsequent negative effects on the developing baby, or in this case, puppy.

Scientists have measured cortisol levels in dog hair to study the relationship between the dogs' internal stress response and their behaviors in response to loud noises, such as hiding or shaking. [One study](#) found that cortisol levels from dogs who had listened to the recording of a thunderstorm were higher than those who listened to regular dog sounds and barks. The dogs with higher cortisol levels in their hair also showed high rates of hiding, running away and seeking attention from humans when exposed to the storm sounds.

In a more [recent experiment](#) with a group of border collies, dogs who showed greater signs of fear and anxiety toward loud noises actually had *lower* concentrations of cortisol in their hair. This sounds contradictory. To explain the finding, the team hypothesized that that "these dogs may have become dysregulated following chronic exposure, leading to a state of HPA hypoactivity, or 'vital exhaustion'." In other words, the dogs felt such constant anxiety that their internal mechanisms no longer responded, not dissimilar to chronically stressed humans who feel they can no longer cope.

Still, a dog does not have to be temperamentally fearful to suffer from a noise fear. In [several studies](#) of fear responses to noises, researchers find that factors such as breed, age, sex, reproductive status, length of time with owner, and early exposure to certain loud noises all impacted how dogs reacted to sounds like fireworks. Dogs living with an owner who bred them had reduced risk of fear compared to those with a second owner, for instance, and certain breeds compared to mixed-breed dogs were more prone to display fearful behavior.

Fear risk increases with age in dogs, which can be connected to pain, but also to how they perceive sound. Older dogs first lose the ability to detect higher frequency sounds, which give important location cues. The inability to locate sounds can increase the severity of stress for a dog. “Hearing the noise and not knowing where it’s coming from is probably much scarier for a dog, and this is why fireworks are much scarier for a dog,” Mills says. “You can watch a fireworks display and know that it’s not going to hit your balcony. But if you’re a dog, all you know is there’s a bang there, a bang there, and I don’t know the next bang isn’t going to happen here.”

The best defense

According to a [new study](#) in the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior*, one tactic is the clear frontrunner for dealing with firework fear: preventing fear from developing in the first place.

Stefanie Riemer, who studies dogs and their emotions with the University of Bern’s Companion Animal Behavior Group in Switzerland, analyzed the management and treatment methods used by 1,225 dog owners who responded to a survey and correlated those methods with an increasing or decreasing fear score. Riemer asked the owners of dogs with a known fear of fireworks to select from a number of interventions and treatments and report on how the pups fared during New Year’s fireworks displays. The methods included noise CDs to drown out the sound, pheromone diffusers, herbal products, homeopathic products, essential oils, prescription medications, relaxation training, counterconditioning (trying to train the dogs not to be afraid) and the use of wearable pressure vests that can have a calming effect.

Riemer found that at-home counterconditioning was one of the most effective ways to alleviate the dog’s stress. When the fireworks started, owners played with the

dog, gave treats and expressed positive emotions. Dogs who received this counterconditioning were 70 percent less scared during fireworks, on average, than dogs who did not. “Counterconditioning—I think that would be probably the most important advice to any owner especially with a new puppy or a new dog,” she says. “Even if they do not yet show any fear of noises, keep it that way.”

“There’s a myth that by reacting positively you’re reinforcing fear, which you can’t do because fear is an emotion not a behavior,” adds Harvey, who was not involved in the study.

However, because not all dogs can receive this kind of training or will be receptive to it, Mills and his colleagues have developed the [Lincoln Sound Sensitivity Scale](#) (LSSS) for owners to assess where on the fear spectrum their dog’s anxiety falls. “When an animal has a fear of fireworks, what we mean is [that animal] shows a large reaction to firework noises. What we’re interested in is how big is that response,” says Mills.

Once owners are able to accurately determine their individual dog’s fear level, they can then work with a veterinarian to choose the most effective method for treatment, which may include medication and additional [coping mechanisms](#). The LSSS will soon be available as a phone app, and the developers hope it will be ready in time for this year’s Fourth of July and summer celebrations.

Location-specific reward markers: What they are and how (+ why!) to use them

[Nicole Wiebusch](#)

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

Most of us use reward markers to tell our dogs when they are right. Some people use clickers, others use verbal markers. When the dog is rewarded for something, he will be more likely to repeat that behavior. Location-specific reward markers take that a step farther by affecting how the dog might perform the behavior in future repetitions.

A location-specific reward marker is much like it sounds — it’s a marker that tells the dog not only that he or she is right, but also provides information on where the reward will be delivered. By being strategic about reward placement, we can affect the tendencies of the dog over time.

Dogs are very efficient creatures, and they will quickly figure out how to most effectively get the treat. Therefore, they tend to gravitate towards where the treat comes from. Because of this, where you give the treat is important!

Here's an example. Your dog loves to pop up on the down. No matter what you do, your dog is still getting up! Because the treat is being delivered from above the dog's head, he's just trying to be smart by going where the treat is coming from.

To change this tendency, try rewarding on the ground. Even if your dog gets up after you've marked, put that treat on the ground. The dog will want to be close to where the treat is going to appear, so it won't take long for the dog to remain in a down because it will be easier to get the treat. Over a period of time, the tendency of the dog will change.

How we use (and teach!) location-specific reward markers

We can take this a step farther by introducing cues to the dog that explain where we will deliver the treat.

I like to look at what happens the moment after I say a reward marker to the dog. Does the dog move toward me? Does he back away? Sometimes moving toward me is not what I want, so if I can explain to the dog that the reward will be out there, he will be more likely to stay out there. Rewarding in this way

Location-Specific Reward Markers

Reward Marker	Where Reward is Delivered	Action of Dog
Yes	Come to hand to get treat	Dog comes towards handler
Good	Treat delivered to mouth	Dog stays in position
Get it	Chase thrown treat	Dog focuses on hand, generally comes forward to hand
Ground	Treat delivered on ground between front feet	Dog stays in position, thinks down thoughts
Bee	Pre-placed treat behind dog	Reduces tendency to come forward, dog thinks backward
Dish	Take food from dish	Focuses on dish not handler
Bounce	Treat delivered between arm and body near armpit	Dog comes straight up, focal point around elbow
Tush	Right side	Dog spins away and comes to right side in heeling
Through	Treat thrown between legs	Dog wants to be closer in front



can strengthen the behavior that you're working on.

Let's look at some common location-specific reward markers. The words listed are ones I use, but you can name these anything that you'd like.

Getting started with location-specific markers

These are the location-specific markers that I use for food. Many trainers, including myself, use different ones for toys. By doing this, we are able to communicate to the dog not only that he or she was right and where the reward will be delivered, but also what kind of reward the dog will get. Being very clear about the reward sequence can help reduce frustration in training and the dog can actually learn faster due to the clear communication.

Teaching location-specific reward markers is pretty easy, because the dog gets rewarded every time. Simply say the word and make the treat appear in the location that you want to associate with that marker word. The most important thing to consider is that you are consistent in the words you use and where the treat is placed. It won't take your dog long to figure out the game!

If this list of location-specific reward markers looks overwhelming, start with just one or two! I like to start with one that means come to my hand and get the treat, and one to tell the dog that you will deliver the treat to the dog. From there, I add a marker for a tossed treat. The next one I teach is a marker that means the treat will be delivered on the floor. Once the dog understands those and you are able to handle those four, you can start adding on other ones that you think will be beneficial for your dog.

If you aren't already using location-specific reward makers, what are you waiting for? Try them out and see how much they can improve your training!

USRVDTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date 6/24/2021

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, on Thursday, June 24th, 2021 at 7:08pm at Tautphaus Park.

Previous Board Minutes Read/Dispensed: Motion to accept board minutes as they were printed in the newsletter.

Motion by: Lucien Frederick

Seconded by: Layla Johnson

Board Members Present:

Layla Johnson Melissa Meyers Nicki Bowden Lacey Moon Lucien Frederick

Report of President: None

Report of Vice President: None

Report of Secretary: None

Report of Treasurer: Report held for regular meeting

Report of Committees: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Lucien is moving to Louisiana and he'll be turning his duties as chair of agility and rally trials to Desirae Chase. We still need someone to handle purchasing awards, hospitality and tracking test. Please let Lucien or Nicki know if you're interested.

Motion for Adjournment: Lucien Frederick

Seconded by: Melissa Meyers

Time Adjourned: 7:15

USRVDTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date June 24th, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 7:18 p.m., on Thursday, June 24th, 2021, at Tautphaus Park in Idaho Falls ID.

Members present (for Board meeting and regular meeting)

<i>Lacey Moon</i>	<i>Nicki Bowden</i>	<i>Lois Olson</i>	<i>Steve Olson</i>
<i>Cheryl Loomis</i>	<i>Duane Loomis</i>	<i>Richard Brizzee</i>	<i>John Baughman</i>
<i>Layla Johnson</i>	<i>Desirae Chase</i>	<i>Melissa Meyers</i>	<i>Brian Meyers</i>
<i>Lucien Frederick</i>	<i>Shel Williams</i>		

Introduction of Guests/Visitors: KLyne Saul and Aaron Johnson

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

Motion by: Lucien Frederick to accept minutes as printed in newsletter

Seconded by: Lois Olson - Lacey Moon mentioned that Brian and Melissa Meyers were left out of the attendance for the May meeting and would note their presence. Nicki moved that the minutes would be accepted as amended. Passed.

Report from the Board Meeting: Nicki Bowden suggested forgoing the reading of the minutes since everyone was present for both meetings.

Report of the President: Nicki - Because we have had very little business and few attendees, the board decided via email meeting that we would change the meeting schedule to as follows:

January - Board Meeting
February - Club Meeting
March - Board Meeting
April - Club Meeting
May - Board Meeting
June - Club Meeting
July - Board Meeting
August - Club Meeting
September - Board Meeting
October - Club Meeting
November - **Both Board and Club Meeting**
December - no meeting - Christmas Celebration

This schedule does follow the rules set out in our Constitution - Article III Section 2 and 3 - which states we must hold 6 board and 6 club meetings per year. Everyone is more than welcome to attend the board meetings as well.

Report of the Vice President: Layla Johnson -Christmas July party Saturday July 24th at Freeman Park Pavilion. RSVP by 7/12 on our website. Dog Talent Show, agility equipment and gift exchange. Grandpa Southern BBQ catering - \$15 per person.

Report of the Secretary: None

Report of the Treasurer: (Lacey Moon and Nicki Bowden reported) YTD balance of \$114,690.77 and YTD profit of \$13,855.92. Filed with minutes and available via email if interested in viewing.

Report of Committees:

Obedience /Rally– Lucien Frederick – August trial judges picked (Bonnie Lee and Linda Hause). Also, 2 other women (Stella Rowlett and Francis Keays) working on certifying as judges will be stewarding and judging non-regular classes (Brace, Wildcard Novice, Open and Utility). Gift cards are also purchased for the August trial. If you haven't turned in your donation money, please do.

CGC –Richard Brizzee – CGCA and CGCU will be offered July 17th 10am. Meet downtown at Marilynne Manguba's store. We need volunteers and friendly dogs.

Agility -

Scent Work –Nicki Bowden – Trial at Blackfoot last weekend was mostly good (one of the judges had to leave, but luckily there was another woman that was competing that is also a judge so she stepped up and judged) but there are a couple of changes that could be made. Nicki suggests that we not do exterior next year during this trial and that beginning in 2022 we do our December scent trial in the fall so exterior can be tested better. Everyone agreed that Nicki and Suzanne worked extremely hard during this trial and they did a stellar job.

Tracking – Nicki – The tracking trial is coming together. Melissa Meyers reported that they just finished the tracking class and it was well attended, however most of the class is not planning on being in the tracking trial. Sandy Downs was hit-and-miss with the class but they made adjustments and still had a good, productive class.

Unfinished Business: Agility on Tuesday at Sandy Downs. Rally and Obedience on Wednesday.

New Business:

Membership Applications Read/Approved: KLyne Saul and Aaron Johnson (pup “Fancy”). Vote on membership next meeting.

Motion for Adjournment: Lois Olson

Seconded by: Desirae Chase

Time Adjourned: 7:47 pm

Location of Next Club Meeting: **July 24th Christmas In July Party at Tautphaus Park 5:30pm**