



UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



NEWSLETTER **September 2021**

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September Board Meeting

Sept. 16th at Marilynne's office downtown (Park Ave.)

Upcoming Trials

USRVDTC Tracking - Sept. 26th

USRVDTC Agility- Oct. 29th-31st

For more information and premiums for these events please visit <https://www.usrvdte.org/site/trials-certification/>

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



Fun Facts and Comics
Corner



Obedience Trial Fun









30 Fun and Fascinating Dog Facts

By [AKC Staff](#)

Apr 19, 2021

We realize we may be biased, but here at the AKC we never get tired of learning more about dogs, whether it's a new study on canine behavior, a statistic from the AKC's database, or even just cool facts about a dog's impressive physical and mental abilities. You may know some of these already, and others may be more of a "wait, really?" situation, but we think you'll find all of them entertaining. Check out these 30 fun dog facts.

1. The [Labrador Retriever](#) has been on the [AKC's top 10 most popular breeds list](#) for 30 consecutive years—longer than any other breed.
2. A dog's nose print is unique, much like a person's fingerprint.
3. Forty-five percent of U.S. dogs [sleep in their owner's bed](#).
4. Speaking of sleeping ... all [dogs dream](#), but puppies and senior dogs dream more frequently than adult dogs.
5. Seventy percent of people sign their dog's name on their holiday cards.
6. A [dog's sense of smell](#) is legendary, but did you know that his nose has as many as 300 million receptors? In comparison, a human nose has about 5 million.
7. [Rin Tin Tin](#), the famous [German Shepherd](#), was nominated for an Academy Award.
8. Dogs' noses can sense heat/thermal radiation, which explains why blind or deaf dogs can still hunt.
9. Only one breed that was among the five most popular breeds in 1934—the [Beagle](#) — still remains in the top five today.



10. The name **Collie** means “black.” (Collies once tended black-faced sheep.)

11. **Yawning is contagious**—even for dogs. **Research** shows that the sound of a human yawn can trigger one from your dog. And it’s four times as likely to happen when it’s the yawn of a person he knows.

12. The **Dandie Dinmont Terrier** is the only breed named for a fictional person—a character in the novel **Guy Mannering**, by Sir Walter Scott.

13. Dogs curl up in a ball when sleeping to protect their organs—a hold over from their days in the wild, when they were vulnerable to predator attacks.

14. The **Basenji** is not technically “barkless,” as many people think. They can yodel.



15. The **Australian Shepherd** is not actually from Australia—they are an American breed.

16. ... And the **Labrador Retriever** is originally from **Newfoundland**.

17. Human blood pressure goes down when petting a dog. And so does the dog’s.

18. There are over 75 million pet dogs in the U.S.—more than in any other country.

19. A person who hunts with a **Beagle** is known as a “Beagler.”

20. Dogs are not [colorblind](#). They can see blue and yellow.

21. All puppies are born deaf.

22. [Dalmatians](#) are born completely white, and [develop their spots](#) as they get older.

23. Dogs have about 1,700 taste buds. We humans have between 2,000–10,000.



24. When dogs [kick backward](#) after they go to the bathroom it's not to cover it up, but to mark their territory, using the scent glands in their feet.

25. A [recent study](#) shows that dogs are among a small group of animals who show voluntary [unselfish kindness](#) towards others without any reward. This is one fact dog lovers have known all along.

26. The [Norwegian Lundehund](#) is the [least popular dog breed](#) and the only dog breed created for the job of puffin hunting.

27. Greyhounds can beat cheetahs in a race. While cheetahs can run twice as fast as greyhounds, they can only maintain that 70 mph speed for about thirty seconds. A [Greyhound](#) can maintain a 35 mph speed for about seven miles. So, the cheetah may start out first, but the greyhound will soon overtake him.



28. The [Bloodhound's](#) sense of smell is so accurate that the results of its tracking can be used as evidence in a court of law.

29. Some dogs are taller or heavier, but according to the Guinness World Records, a [Mastiff](#) named Zorba is the world's overall largest dog ever. Zorba weighed 343 pounds and measured over eight feet from his nose to his tail. He's been described as being about the size of a small donkey.

30. According to the [Guinness World Records](#), the smallest dog ever recorded was Miracle Milly, the [Chihuahua](#). Born in 2011, Milly was a miniscule 3.8 inches tall and weighed in at one pound.

Building Up Your Dog's Confidence

How to help your timid dog find courage.

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

- **Published:**August 22, 2011 **Updated:**January 6, 2021

FEARFUL DOGS: OVERVIEW

- 1. Select a menu of strategies from those offered in this article, and start working with your dog.**
- 2. As you try them out, determine which strategies work best for the two of you, and discard the ones that don't.**
- 3. If you don't seem to be making progress, seek the help of a qualified, positive behavior professional.**
- 4. If your dog is extremely anxious and fearful, through discussion with your behavior professional and in consultation with a veterinary behaviorist, explore the use of anti-anxiety medications to help improve your dog's quality of life.**

There are a lot of things in our world that have the potential to frighten our dogs. How is it that some dogs deal with these stimuli without batting an eye, while others cower behind their owners with little or no apparent provocation? The Cowardly Lion in the Wizard of Oz seems to say it all in one simple word: "Courage!" But it's really not so simple. Why do some dogs seem to be consistently brave, while others are timid? Even more important, absent Dorothy and a wizard, how does one go about helping their timid dog get brave?



We've written (a lot!) in the past about using counter-conditioning and desensitization to help dogs change their association with fear-causing stimuli in order to change their emotional response. (As just one example of step-by-step instruction for a counter-conditioning program, see "[Reducing Your Dog's Anxieties](#)," WDJ April 2007.) That's still good information, and I urge you to review the article to refresh your understanding of that important behavior modification protocol. This article, however, is going to introduce you to several other complementary exercises you can do in addition to counter-conditioning, to help your timid dog learn to cope with a scary world.

Some of the exercises that follow we've introduced in other training contexts. Some come in the "change behavior to change emotional response" category by doing fun stuff your dog loves; some have more to do with management; and some do both. If you've already taught some of these to your dog it will be easy to apply them in situations where he's acting fearful. If you haven't already taught them, there's no time like the present!

Note: Be vigilant and protect your dog. During the confidence-building period, you must protect your dog from becoming overwhelmed by things that scare him. If, for example, you force your timid dog to accept the attentions of bearded men while he is still fearful of them, or you stay at an event that turns out to be noisy with your noise-phobic dog, he may become sensitized to the scary stimuli, making his behavior worse, instead of better.

Basic Good Manners Training

You don't have to do a lot of fancy stuff to help your dog become more confident in his world. Simply teaching him basic good manners – to respond appropriately to your cues – will make his environment more predictable. It builds confidence to understand what you're asking of him, and to understand the consequences of his behavior. Of course it goes without saying that you will use positive reinforcement-based training with him so the consequences are happy ones. Nothing can destroy a timid dog's confidence faster than the

application of verbal or physical punishment; this will convince him he's right to think the world is a scary and unpredictable place.

Combine his positive reinforcement good manners training with structure in his routine and stability in his life and you will have taken a large step toward increasing his confidence. But of course, you want to do more to help your dog get brave. Happily, you can do that simply by doing fun stuff with him, such as:

Targeting

Targeting means teaching your dog to touch a designated body part to a designated target. (For in-depth information on teaching a dog to target, see "[Train Your Dog to Target](#)," February 2006.) That description doesn't do it justice; targeting is tons of fun! Many dogs love targeting, partly because it's easy to do, and partly because it pays off well – "push the button (the target spot), get a treat."



Since dogs naturally explore the world with their noses and paws, nose and foot targeting are the two easiest. Nose-targeting draws your dog's eye-contact and attention from a worrisome stimulus to a pleasant one, so that's the one I find most useful for timid dogs, although foot-targeting can work too.

It's an embarrassingly simple behavior to teach. Hold out your hand in front of your dog, at nose level or below. When he sniffs it (because he's curious!), click your clicker (or use a verbal marker, such as a mouth click or a word) and feed him a treat. Remove your hand, then offer it again. Each time he sniffs, click and treat. If he stops sniffing (boring – I've already sniffed that!), rub a little tasty treat on your palm, to make your hand smell intriguing, and try again.

You're looking for that wonderful "light bulb" moment – when he realizes he can make you click and treat by bumping his nose into your hand. His "touch" behavior becomes

deliberate, rather than incidental to sniffing your hand. When you see him deliberately bumping his nose into your hand, add the "Touch!" cue as you offer your hand to him. Encourage him with praise and high-value treats. Make it a game, so he thinks it's the most fun in the world. You want to see his eyes light up when you say "Touch," and you want him to "bonk" his nose into your hand, hard! Start offering your hand in different places so he has to move to touch it, climb on something to touch it, jump up to touch it.

When he loves the touch game, occasionally ask him to touch twice; tell him he's a good dog after the first one, and click and treat only the second one. Gradually decrease your rate of reinforcement, until he'll touch several times before he gets his click and treat. Then click and treat several in a row. Mix it up, so he never knows when the click will happen – but the click and treat always happen eventually!

Now try playing touch when your dog is a little bit nervous about something. Scary man with a beard and sunglasses passing by on the sidewalk? Hold out your hand and say "Touch!" so that your dog takes his eyes – and his brain – away from the scary thing and happily bonks his nose into your hand. Click and treat. He can't be afraid of the man and happy about touching your hand at the same time. He also can't look at the target and stare at the scary man at the same time.

Ask him to touch several more times, until the man has passed, and then continue on your walk. If you do this every time he sees a scary man, he'll decide that men with beards and sunglasses are good because they make the touch game happen! By changing your dog's behavior – having him do something he loves rather than acting fearful – you can manage a scary encounter, and eventually change his emotional response to and association with something previously scary to him.

Help Raise Confident Dogs With Confidence-Building Games for Dogs

"Find It"

Like targeting, "Find it" is a behavior many dogs learn to love, and another game you can play to change your dog's behavior in the presence of a fear-causing stimulus, eventually changing his emotional response. This is also another ridiculously easy and delightful game that any dog can play.

Start with your dog in front of you, and a handful of tasty treats behind your back. Say "Find it!" in a cheerful tone of voice and toss one treat a few feet to your left. When your dog gets

to the treat, click just before he eats it. When he comes back to you say "Find it!" again and toss a second treat a few feet to your right. Click – and he eats the treat. Do this back and forth, until your dog is easily moving from one "find it" treat to the other. Then toss them farther each time until your dog happily runs back and forth.

Now if a scary skateboarder appears while you're walking your dog around the block on his leash, play the find it game, keeping the tossed treats close to you. Your dog will take his eyes off the scary thing and switch into happy-treat mode. You've changed his emotions by changing his behavior.

Targeting and find it can also work to walk your timid dog past a scary, stationary object, like a manhole cover, or a noisy air-conditioning unit. Play touch and treat as you walk past, or toss find it treats on the ground ahead of you and slightly away from the scary thing, to keep him moving happily forward.

The Emergency Escape Game

An emergency escape game gives you a "run away" strategy when you know an approaching stimulus will be too much for your worried dog. However, because you've taught it to your dog as a fun game, he's not running away in panic; he's just playing one of his favorite "get brave" games that just happens to move him farther away from the scary thing.

Teach this game to your dog in a safe, comfortable environment when he's not being afraid of something. As you are walking with him on-leash, say your "Run away!" cue, then turn around and run fast, encouraging your dog to romp with you for a squeaky toy, a ball, a handful of high value treats at the end of the run, or a rousing game of tug – whatever your dog loves most. The key to success with this exercise is convincing your dog that the "run away" cue is the predictor of wonderful fun and games. Again, you're teaching him a new, fun behavior – "Run away!" – that you can use to change his emotional response in a scary moment.

Playtime

You can use any behavior your dog already loves – a trick, a toy, a game, anything that lights up his face – to convince him that good things happen in the presence of something scary. If he loves to roll over, ask him to do that. If he delights in snagging tossed treats out of the air, do that. High five? Crawl? Do those.



The key to making any of these games work to help your dog be brave is to be sure you keep him far enough away from the scary thing, at first, that his brain is able to click in to “play” mode. You will always be more successful if you start the games when you see low levels of stress, rather than waiting until he’s in full meltdown. (To learn to recognize how dogs show stress, see [“Signs That Your Dog Has Stress,”](#) June 2006.)

If he’s too stressed or fearful, he won’t be able to play. If he’ll start to play with you while the scary thing is at a distance, you’ll be able to move closer. If he stops playing and shuts down, you’ve come too close. Depending on your dog and how fearful he is, you may find some of these play-strategies work well enough to walk him past scary stimuli the first time you try, or you may have to work up to it.

“Get Behind”

“Get behind” is more of a management strategy. Timid dogs often try to hide when they’re afraid. If you teach your dog a cue that means “hide behind me,” your “body shield” can help him get through scary moments. To teach this behavior:

- 1)** Have your dog in front of you, with an ample supply of small, high-value treats in your treat pouch, or in a bowl on a nearby table.
- 2)** Say “Get behind!” and lure your dog behind you and into a sit. Click and treat.
- 3)** Repeat several times, until he lures easily into position.
- 4)** Now say the cue and pause, to give him a chance to think about it and respond. If he moves even slightly, click, lure him into position, and treat. A tentative movement is sometimes a question to you – “Is this what you want?” If you answer with a hearty “Click (Yes!!)” and treat, you can move the training forward more quickly.

5) Keep repeating the cue/pause, gradually reducing how much you lure, until he's moving into position on his own when you give the cue.

Alternatively, you can shape the "get behind" behavior by clicking and treating small movements toward your final goal. (For more information about shaping, see "[Fun Dog Training Techniques Using Shaping!](#)," March 2006.)

You can start applying this strategy in real-life situations early on in the training, even if before your dog fully grasps the concept, simply by luring him into his safe position as the scary thing passes.

"Treat and Retreat"

"Treat and retreat" is a procedure to help timid dogs get brave. Its development is attributed to two well-known trainers: Dr. Ian Dunbar, veterinary behaviorist and founder of the [Association of Professional Dog Trainers](#), of Berkeley, California; and Suzanne Clothier, who trains in St. Johnsville, New York. While Dr. Dunbar claims credit for introducing the concept, Clothier is generally credited with popularizing the procedure under the "Treat and Retreat" appellation.

To use treat and retreat, start with your dog a safe distance from a person who worries him. Have that person toss a piece of low-value kibble over your dog's head. Your dog will turn and walk away to get the kibble, then turn back to look at the scary person. When he turns back, have the person toss a high-value treat in front of the dog, in the approximate place the dog was originally. (You may want to use some kind of marker to help your tossing-person's aim.)



When the dog comes forward and eats the high-value treat, have the person toss another low-value treat behind the dog, then another high-value treat in the original spot. As your dog gets more relaxed about coming forward for the high-value treat, have the tosser

gradually decrease the distance, so the dog is going closer to the scary person to eat the treat. If you see increased signs of reluctance with the decreased distance, you've decreased the distance too quickly. Go as slowly as necessary to keep your dog happy about this game; you want him moving toward the person tossing the treats happily and voluntarily.

CAT, BAT, LAT

In addition to counter-conditioning, there are other well-developed protocols available to help timid dogs gain confidence. We've written about the Constructional Aggression Treatment (CAT) at length ("[Modifying Aggressive Dog Behavior](#)," May 2008; and "[Constructional Aggression Treatment \(CAT\) Can Improve Behavior](#)," December 2009).

CAT, developed by Kellie Snider and Dr. Jesus Rosales Ruiz at the University of North Texas, uses operant conditioning and shaping (dog does deliberate behavior to operate on his environment) to convince a dog that his old behavior, in this case acting fearful, no longer works to make a scary thing go away. In the presence of a scary stimulus, the smallest sign of relaxation or confidence now makes the scary thing go away – until the dog learns that acting confident (and becoming confident as a result) is a better behavior strategy.

BAT is similar to CAT in some ways, but focuses on having your dog move away from the scary stimulus rather than having the scary thing move away from the dog. Developed by Grisha Stewart, CPDT-KA, CTP, of Seattle, Washington, BAT uses desensitization together with a functional reward for calm behavior. You begin at a distance where your dog can see the fear-causing stimulus (scary man with beard) without reacting to it. When your dog offers any form of calm body language you move away from the bearded man as the functional reward.

BAT defines "functional reward," as "what your dog wants to happen in that moment." In the case of a fearful dog, what the dog wants is for the scary thing to be farther away. According to Stewart, a good functional reward for a dog's calm behavior can be to move away from the scary thing. Similar to CAT, if you teach your dog that calm behavior makes scary things get farther away, your dog will learn to be calm, confident, and not fearful in the presence of those things.

A newer version of BAT simply has you keep your dog on a long leash at a sub-threshold distance from the stimulus until he habituates to its presence, then gradually move closer as his behavior and body language tell you he ready to do so.

LAT stands for "Look At That" – a protocol developed by Leslie McDevitt, CPDT-KA, CDDBC, author of *Control Unleashed*, at her training center outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In

LAT, the key is to keep your dog below threshold (quiet and calm) while teaching him to look at a scary stimulus, then rewarding him for looking at it. To train LAT, click and reward your dog the second he looks at the bearded man, as long your dog doesn't react adversely. If your dog is too close to threshold with the scary stimulus at any distance, start with a neutral target and click as soon as he looks at it. When your dog is offering a quick glance toward the target, name it "Look!"

Your dog will quickly start to look at his scary triggers when you give the "Look!" cue, and turn back to you for a reward. If your dog does not turn quickly, he's probably too close to or over his threshold. Increase the distance between you and the bearded man and try again. Gradually decrease distance as your dog learns to do the "Look!" game with things that are worrisome to him.

Many of the above games and strategies are compatible with each other. CAT and BAT tend to be mutually exclusive because one moves the dog away from the scary thing, while the other moves the scary thing away from the dog. Other than that, the more of the above strategies you apply, the more tools you'll have at your disposal to help your dog cope with fear-causing stimuli in his world, and the more confident he'll become.

Coddling and Cuddling

There is an unfortunate myth floating around in some parts of the dog training world that if you give reassurance to a fearful dog you will reinforce his fearful behavior. Therefore you must ignore your dog when he's trembling at your feet in fear.

Hogwash. Think back in your own life to a time when you were very frightened or upset. Did it help (or would it have helped) you feel better to have someone you trusted come and put his or her arm around your and calmly reassure you that everything was going to be alright? Of course it did. Our dogs are no different.

One writer created [a list of "6 Things to Remember When You Have a Fearful Dog,"](#) which is a nice illustration of how kindness and patience can take your dog a long way.

At times when emotions run high, we are more concerned with helping our dogs get those emotions back under control than having him respond perfectly to our cues. In fact, when a dog is very afraid, the emotional part of the brain — the amygdala — takes over, and the thinking part of the brain — the cortex — doesn't work well. The over-threshold dog isn't even capable of connecting his behavior to reinforcement, which is why we try hard in our behavior modification protocols to keep the dog below threshold — so learning can

happen. If he is shaking in fear, your calm voice and slow, gentle petting can be hugely reassuring to him; fast rubbing and an anxious tone, however, are not.

Does My Health Impact My Dog's Health?

Have you thought about how your health affects the health of your dog? You may not care about being your fittest or thinnest but we're sure you care about your dog being their healthiest. A healthier life often means a longer and happier life! Who doesn't want their dog to be healthy and live forever!? Don't be ashamed if you think you're guilty of being an "unhealthy" dog owner. There are many ways you can easily turn daily activities into positive ones for both you and your dog!

Here's a few ways your current health may be impacting your dog with ways you can change these habits into healthy ones.

1. **Your Activity Level is Your Dog's Activity Level.**

If you're laying around all day, watching TV, browsing on your phone, eating, reading... then chances are that's what your dog is doing. If your dog is a self-entertainer, maybe you can throw fido a toy and he will chase it a bit and gnaw on it for a few minutes. While this may healthy cognitively, your dog certainly isn't physical active. There's nothing better for your dog than running around, wild and free! Get them panting for a good 5 minutes. We want that tongue hanging out, drool dripping, the whole 9 yards! That's when you know they're getting some good cardio in! Even a simple 20 minute daily walk will do the trick. We all need to move more!

Not only does this help with your dog's activity levels but it also helps with their behavior. [Well exercised dogs](#) are often calmer, more obedient dogs. Plus, they tend to bark less and have less anxiety. Who wouldn't want that for their dog?



Ever heard of the saying happy dog, happy human? Neither have we, but it's true!

2. Your Food is Your Dog's Food

Hopefully this is not the case for you, but it's true for many. We have written several blog posts and [articles](#) discouraging dog owners from feeding their dogs human food. You can view our newest blog post on [why it's not safe to feed your dog human food](#). Plus we pack in a ton of tips on changes that can be made to reduce human food consumption.

Sure, some people like to snack on carrots and zucchini, which are fine to share with your dog in moderation. But many people are snacking on "junk food" like pretzels, chips, ice cream, and pizza. Not only can this junk food pack on the pounds for the owner and the dog, it can be damaging to the dog's health! If you are constantly feeding your dog from your plate or table then please take a moment to read the blog post we shared above. The changes you can make are SO easy, we promise!

3. Your Environment is Your Dog's Environment

Do you clean your house regularly? Are you guilty of dust bunnies underneath the bed? Don't worry, most of us are too! Unfortunately we get so busy that sometimes it's hard to clean all the little nooks and crannies of our homes. But remember, just as you would like to live in a clean home, your dog does too! Sure, they may [lick their own poop](#) or roll around outside in the dirt but it's not necessarily the "cleanliness" that is important to your dog. What is important is the environmental factors that could silently cause health issues. Those dust bunnies under the bed is often where your dog sleeps at night. This alone could be causing [allergies to your dog](#).

Second Hand Smoke

Do you smoke inside your home? The air you're breathing is the air your dog is breathing. Second hand smoke is not limited to humans. Do you use chemicals to make your grass nice and green or salt to de-ice your front steps? Your dog is walking on these chemicals and then licking his/her paws! He/she has now

consumed these hazardous products. Being aware of what's going on in your environment is not only important for you, but for your dog as well.

4. Your Mood is Your Dog's Mood

Ever hear of monkey-see, monkey-do? Or a baby picking up on the emotions and anxieties of the mother? Studies have shown that this is very likely the same situation for a dog and their owner. High strung, angry, stressed out humans will often translate to the dog. Dogs are [intelligent beings](#) and they have the ability to pick up on [human energies and emotions](#).

Coincidence Or Emotionally Connected?

Ever feel like your dog knows the exact time to come and comfort you? Whether you are sad or not feeling well, Fido always knows when it's time to snuggle and make you feel better. If your dog can pick up on your sadness, then he/she can pick up on your anxiousness and depression too. We are firm believers on accountability for the energy you bring to a room. Whether you are with your family, friends, or your dog, try to be your best!

Tuning into your own health and well-being can be a huge realization of your dog's health. If we humans could tune into each other's emotions the way dogs can, we would not only be healthier, but connected!

Photo credit

Photo by Berkay Gumustekin on Unsplash

Kimberly Mattar

February 13th, 2018

Updated June 11th, 2019

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

2022 USRVDTTC Board Nominations

President Nicki Bowden
Vice President Richard Brizzee
Secretary Lacey Moon
Treasurer Suzanne Belger

Board Members
1 year Marilynne Manguba
2 year Cheryl Loomis
3 year Nichole Crossley

We will be voting on the 2022 Board at our Annual Meeting on November 18, 2021.

USRVDTC August Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

Tautphaus Park

The regular meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 6:58 p.m., on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at Tautphaus Park in Idaho Falls, ID.

Members Present:

Nicki Bowden	Suzanne Belger	Desirae Chase
Duane Loomis	Rosha Adams	Cheryl Loomis
Lynne Johnson	Aaron Johnson	Alicia Thompson
Layla Johnson	Matthew Johnson	Marilynne Manguba
LeeAnn Chaffin	Steven Olson	Lois Olson
Carl Freidrich	Richard Brizzee	

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

Motioned by: Lois Olson to accept minutes as printed in newsletter.

Seconded by: Desirae Chase. Motion passed.

Report of President: None

Report of Vice President: None

Report of Secretary: None

Report of Treasurer: Suzanne reported YTD balance and profit. Filed with minutes and available via email if interested in viewing.

Report of Committees:

Scent Work Committee: Nicki reported we have a judge for the December trial, Judith Guthrie, the venue has been reserved and we are on track to have a great trial.

Tracking Test Committee: Nicki reported that we have had to replace Judge Wendy McCleery due to illness and we will now have Kristie Rasmussen and Dorraine Clark. Everything is set to go and we have started to receive entries.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: LeAnn Chaffin asked about the possibility of our club getting into Earth Dog activities. As we do not have any members that are familiar with this sport, she was invited to gather information on training and trialing and bringing it to the club if she would like.

Membership Applications Read/Approved: Lynne Saul and Aaron Johnson were voted in as members. Welcome! Applications were read in for Jordan French (a former member) and Carol Kachelmeyer. Vote on membership will be at next regular club meeting.

Motion for Adjournment: Rosha Adams

Second by: Marilynne Manguba. Motion passed.

Location of next club meeting: TBD