

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



NEWSLETTER October 2021

October Regular Meeting October 21st at 7:00PM at Dixie's Diner

Upcoming Trials

USRVDTC Agility Trial- Oct. 29th-31st
Agility Trial Set Up: Oct. 28th 7:00 PM
Where: Wind River Arena (Ririe)

CGC Testing

Oct. 13th at 5:00 PM at Sandy Downs
Please come volunteer!

**Please submit your club member of the year
nominations for the November newsletter**

Sunday Practices

Sunday self-guided practice sign-ups for
November, December, and January are on the website.
Visit USRVDT.org for more information

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Fun Facts and Comics
Corner



USR V D T C



Sandpiper Restaurant

December 4th 6 p.m.

Here is the menu for the Christmas party- sign ups are online at USRVDTC.org

\$28

Prime Rib: A 10 ounce portion slow roasted to perfection with our special seasonings, served with creamy horseradish sauce.

Salmon: A delicious char-broiled Pacific Coast Wild Sockeye Salmon filet, served with a side of lemon-dill sauce.

\$20

Chicken Baja: A boneless breast of chicken marinated in teriyaki and topped with char-broiled pineapple rings.

Blackened Chicken Fettuccine: Fettuccine noodles tossed in a creamy Alfredo sauce and topped with oven roasted tomatoes, snow peas and served with a blackened chicken breast.

Entrees are served with an Idaho baked potato and our signature house salad that has shrimp, cashews, scallions, and a creamy garlic dressing over romaine lettuce. Soft drink included. Cash bar.

Top 5 Training Tips to Keep Your Dog Safe on Halloween

Author: [Cathy Madson, MA, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA](#)

Published: September 27, 2019



Halloween can be a trick or a treat for your dog, depending on how much they enjoy the constant buzz of activity at the front door or dressing up to join in the festivities. If you're wanting to include your dog in any trick-or-treating, costume contests, or have them help you greet the gremlins, princesses, and superheroes who ring the doorbell, there are a few things to consider to keep everyone safe and happy. We've got 5 dog training and behavior tips to help you and your pup enjoy All Hallow's Eve.

Know Your Dog's Preferences and Respect Their Limits

Your dog's only advocate is you. Make sure you're aware of their tolerance for things like wearing a costume or being out with the neighborhood kids on the trick-or-treat route. Many things on Halloween night are different than a regular walk around the block. Lots of people get into the holiday spirit and put up spooky decorations, children are running around having fun and making noise, and people are wearing costumes or masks that make them look different (and more scary) from a dog's point of view.

Common signs of canine stress include:

- Yawning
- Licking their lips and nose
- Avoidance (e.g., turning their head away)
 - Sudden and excessive shedding
 - Drooling
- Panting (outside of normal exercise)
 - Hyperactive behavior
 - Unable to focus

My personal preference is to keep Fido at home rather than bring them along for trick-or-treating, but some dogs do enjoy being a part of the fun, have been properly socialized, and have great manners that means they can tag along. However, even these dogs have their limits! Pay attention to any stress signals that your dog might start doing to indicate they've had enough or are getting tired. If possible, take them back home well before they begin to get tuckered out.

For the dogs that stay home, consider whether they will do better in their safe space for the evening or need a gate to separate them from the front door when it opens to reveal costumed kids. [Setting up a safe space](#) for your dog where they can relax with a chew or other interactive toy (like a stuffed Kong) and [listen to calming music](#) is a great way to prevent them from getting stressed by the constant doorbell ringing and knocking. Setting up a gate to keep your dog away from the door also prevents any impolite greetings like [jumping](#), and prevents door dashing.



Get Your Dog Used to Their Costume Ahead of Time

If you're like me, your dog's Halloween costume is planned out months in advance. Starting early is key in making sure your dog feels comfortable and can tolerate wearing an outfit. Before purchasing or making your dog's costume, check to make sure that the costume or fur dye you're using doesn't put your dog at risk by following the tips in "[Dog Halloween Costumes: Is It Safe to Dye My Pet's Fur.](#)"

You want to use what's called "desensitization" to help your dog get used to wearing their costume and build a positive association with it. Put it on one piece at a time for a short duration of time. Reward your dog with a yummy high value treat (like these [Vital Essentials Freeze Dried Minnows](#)) and then take the costume piece off. Do this a few times every day, slowly adding more parts of the costume as long as your dog is not showing signs of stress. Once your dog is wearing the whole costume, begin to increase the amount of time they're wearing it in small increments. Pair wearing the costume with things your pup loves, like their regular meals, dog treats, [fun toys or interactive puzzles](#).

And don't forget — always supervise your dog when they are wearing their costume for safety's sake!

Teach Leave It and Drop It

With Halloween comes lots of candy, which means more chances for your dog to consume toxic items like [chocolate](#), [raisins](#), and [xylitol](#). Make sure you keep any candy out of your dog's reach (and [teach your dog not to counter surf](#)) and keep an eye on them while out on your walk. You don't want your pup getting into any candy that a trick-or-treater might have dropped. Dogs are natural foragers and will follow their nose straight to any possible food. The training cues of Leave It and Drop It are essential behaviors to keep your dog safe, especially around Halloween.

The Leave It cue is used *before* your dog has something in their mouth. Use this cue if you notice your dog approaching something that you'd prefer they ignore. Click here for [step-by-step instructions on how to teach your dog Leave It](#).

If you say Drop It, that means that you're asking your dog to drop something they *already* have in their mouth. Click here for [how to teach your dog Drop It](#) using toys, play, or food treats. I love training this cue because there are so many options to keep it fun and positive for both dog and human!

Prevent Door Dashing

Halloween presents lots of opportunities for your dog (or cat) to run out the open front door. Keep your dog safe by keeping them in another room behind a closed door or sturdy gate, or have them on leash and under your control whenever the door is open.

Door dashing doesn't just happen at Halloween. Any time lots of guests are coming and going, or if you have children that have friends over frequently, your dog could sneak out a door that is left open. And who can blame them when the big wide world with all its smells is just beckoning them to have an outdoor adventure! You can [train a dog to not dash out the door with these simple techniques](#) and consistency.

If your dog does happen to get out and becomes lost, follow these [6 Tips for Finding Your Lost Dog](#).



Practice Leash Safety

If your dog is joining you and your family for trick-or-treating, follow these Halloween leash safety tips:

- Have your dog wear reflective gear or a LED light-up collar or harness to make them visible to motorists and other trick-or-treaters while walking the neighborhood. (You might want to add these things to any kids costumes as well!) Read more tips and product recommendations for walking your dog safely at night in "[Lights for Dogs at Night and How to Safely Walk Your Dog in the Dark.](#)"
- Avoid retractable leashes. Hopefully you don't use a retractable leash for your regular leashed walks with your dog (if you do, read [why you should ditch the retractable leash](#) here), but you definitely want to avoid this type of leash on a night like Halloween. Not only is it dark out, making it hard for others to see the leash, but you don't want your dog getting startled or spooked and taking off while on a retractable. These leashes can easily snap when under sudden pressure and have caused injuries to both dogs and humans.

- Practice polite loose leash walking. Having a dog that isn't dragging you down the street will make your Halloween night much more fun and save you from a sore shoulder. Plus it keeps everyone safe if your dog is hanging out close by your side. If you need tips on how to practice leash manners, read more about [Loose Leash Walking](#) here.
- Don't bring your dog up to front doors. Not only can this be stressful for your dog if they have to walk past spooky Halloween decor, but the person who answers the front door might be scared of dogs. Or they might have a dog of their own inside that wouldn't appreciate another pup on the front step. Either way, it's polite and much safer to hang back with your dog.

I hope you and your dog enjoy all the Halloween fun, whether you're out trick-or-treating together or hunkered down at home with the front porch light turned off. By following the behavior and training tips above, you can keep your dog safe and make sure they have a good time, no matter what you're doing for Halloween.

7 tips for keeping your agility dog healthy

DOG HEALTH AND WELLNESS

ONE MIND DOGS

JANUARY 19, 2021

To be able to enjoy doing agility with your dog for as long as possible, it's important that you take care of your team mate's physical well-being every day — training days, competition days and rest days!

We heard from OneMind Dogs Coach and Veterinarian, Minna Martimo, about what habits you can build to keep your agility dog healthy and happy throughout their agility career, and in general life too.

Vet Minna's tips for taking care of an agility dog's physique

Warm ups and cool downs are essential

Make sure you follow appropriate **warm up, cool down and hydration** procedures for your agility dog depending on the weather. Warming up is particularly important in cold weather climate like ours here in Finland! (If you're a Premium member, check out [this new article](#) on warmups!)

Know your dog

Keep track of **how your dog behaves and moves** (trots, canters, gallops, sits down, lies down, gets up from lying down, jumps or turns). Examine your dog thoroughly with your hands on a regular basis. This way you can notice problems early on. Trust yourself if you feel something is "off" and seek professional help if necessary.

Healthy weight, healthy dog

Your agility dog needs to be in **good physical condition** and **not obese**. Dogs' primary moving muscles and stabilizer muscles both need to be strong and flexible.

Seek professional help proactively

Take care of your dog's physical health regularly with **treatments** such as physiotherapy, osteopathy, acupuncture and/or massage. It is better to **prevent problems** from arising by being proactive than letting them pile on and treating them as they become problematic.

Grooming isn't just for show dogs

Trim your dog's **nails** regularly and have his anal glands checked if necessary. Nail length has an impact on the foot conformation and gait of the dog — so keeping them trimmed is important.

Be reasonable with how much you train

Learning shouldn't involve many repetitions when correct methods are used. The handler can also learn a lot without involving the dog — that's when our 'virtual dog' comes in handy!

Remember that just like us humans, dogs also need **days off** from 'work' (hobbies and intense exercise)!

Making small changes to your routines with your agility dog can have positive benefits that will compound throughout their life — keeping them happier, healthier, and able to play agility until their senior years!

Minna Martimo is an agility enthusiast and OneMind Dogs coach from Northern Finland, where she also works as a regional vet. Minna started with agility in 2000 and has been working as a vet since 2003 with both companion and farm animals. She trains consistently with OneMind Dogs Leading Coaches Janita & Jaakko with her dogs, Bang, Colt, Shotti and Pow.

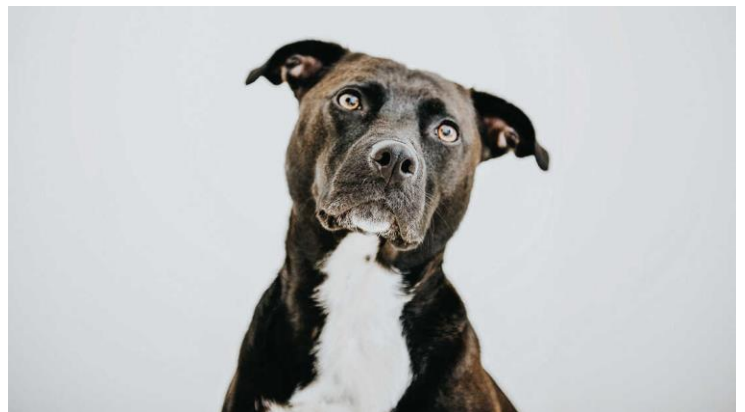
Family Trees For Dogs? DNA Tests For Pets Take Off, Ahead Of The Science

December 9, 2019 4:54 PM ET

[PATTI NEIGHMOND](#)

For owners of rescue dogs of mixed breed heritage, it can be tempting to buy a DNA kit to get intel on your pup's ancestry.

When Los Angeles resident Marie Kordus takes her rescue dog Anya out walking, some people say she looks like a wolf or a fox. Once a little boy even said, " 'Mommy, look at that lady, she's walking a coyote!' " Kordus recalls.



But when she adopted her slender, cream-colored rescue pup, she was told she was a German shepherd mix.

Still, Kordus decided to try to find out more about Anya's ancestry. She went online, ordered a DNA kit, swabbed Anya's mouth for saliva, put it in a tube, and mailed it off. One week later she had results.

"What came back was that 88% of her is German shepherd," she says. "So that tells you that one parent was probably a purebred and the other parent was a mix; and they identified it as the hound family, like a greyhound, bloodhound, or whippet."

So now when people say "coyote," Kordus says a firm "no, not a coyote."

If you're one of the millions of Americans who owns a rescue dog, you may be curious about what breed your best friend is. Increasingly, pet owners are [buying DNA testing kits](#) to try to figure out their dog's ancestry. But the promise of these kits may be getting ahead of the science, according to some geneticists and animal researchers.

Article continues after sponsor message

For dog owners, the appeal of such tests is that knowing more about the breed could give them insights into how to handle their dog's quirks. [Angela Hughes](#), a veterinary geneticist with Mars Petcare which makes one of the dozen or so DNA testing kits on the market, says it's about understanding your dog's behavior: "What makes them tick? Why do they look the way they do? Why do they act the way they do?"



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

[Dog People Live Longer. But Why?](#)

It helped Hughes with her own dog who turned out to be part Jack Russell terrier and part Australian cattle dog. She says it gave her an understanding that her pup needs a lot of exercise, and that "she needs certain things that terriers need like a quiet dark place to den so she can get away and not feel like she has to be on patrol all the time." This, plus recognizing that "she's going to go ballistic at the sight of any squirrel."

These kinds of insights can help us humans understand that "our dogs aren't trying to irritate us, it's just how they work," Hughes says.

The Wisdom Panel, the DNA test made by Mars Petcare, tests for over 350 breeds going back to the "great-grandparent level," explains Hughes. It examines the DNA from the dog's cells for thousands of genetic markers and compares it to the company's large breed database to calculate the "best match" in terms of breed.

The test can analyze over 20 genetic traits, and Hughes cites as evidence of its accuracy that it can often precisely predict coat color patterns and body traits like ear erectness, leg length and weight. In the case of Anya, the shepherd mix, Kordus says the test results were "right on" in guessing Anya's coloring and her weight accurately, based on genetic trait analysis. "They didn't even see a picture of Anya," she says.

Though it certainly makes a fun conversation-starter in the dog park, some experts warn these tests should be taken with a grain of salt. "It's hard to know how accurate they are," says [Lisa Moses](#), a veterinarian and a researcher with Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics. "Different test companies use different methodologies as far as we know."

ANIMALS

[A New Way To Calculate Your Dog's Age](#)



And without peer-reviewed publications describing the methods and assessing their accuracy, it's basically a "black box/trust-what-the-company says situation," says [Elinor K. Karlsson](#), a genetics researcher with the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

Hughes says Mars Petcare does not publish its testing methodology for proprietary reasons. However, she says the company has conducted its own internal studies and finds that breed identification in mixed breed animals is 93% accurate.

From a practical point of view, bioethicist Moses worries there are risks to potentially inaccurate breed determination, especially if the breed comes back as a potentially problematic dog, like a pit bull.

"Once you have given away your dog's DNA and some company has the results, you may not have control over what happens to that information," she says. There could be issues with prejudices and actual discrimination against certain breeds of dogs that might impact things like people's housing and their ability to get insurance, says Moses. "So you may want to think twice about doing a test for that reason."

Many of the DNA tests also offer to provide information about genetic risks for [potential health problems](#). This could be helpful for dog owners because some breeds are more susceptible to certain conditions, says Hughes. They might have an increased risk of a bleeding disorder or of a heart condition or cancer, she says. And knowing that can impact how the veterinarian cares for your pet. But Moses says DNA testing for potential health conditions can be highly problematic, as she argued in a [recent article in the journal Nature](#). She says the tests just aren't that accurate and the FDA doesn't regulate them. "I want pet owners and veterinarians to understand that they should not be using direct-to-consumer dog DNA testing to make medical decisions about individual animals," she says. There are no industry-wide standards for testing either breed or health status she notes. "Manufacturers are not obligated to tell us what methodologies they use — what quality control they use," she says.

And inaccurate information on health risks could create more problems than they solve, she says. If a DNA test suggests a vulnerability to a disease, Moses says that doesn't mean the dog will actually get it. In fact, most dogs don't, she says.

"It's quite possible that you would end up doing a lot of unnecessary testing to look for signs of disease if you have a dog who seemed perfectly healthy and not only could that be costly but it could also be invasive and potentially even harmful to your dog," she says.

Making treatment decisions based on misleading DNA results can be even more harmful, she says: "What could possibly happen that would be really bad is if people choose to do treatments based on a wrong diagnosis."

If you're concerned about a health problem, [John Howe](#), a veterinarian and president of the American Veterinary Medical Association says your best bet is to talk with your vet. "Because veterinarians are really adept at using all of our education, experiences, senses and knowledge to diagnose and treat the patients that we have as well as incorporating any external information from our clients or from literature or from other veterinarians," he says.

Howe says if you just want to find out more about your dog's ancestry a DNA test could be a fun thing to do. Just understand, he says, that it may not be accurate. DNA testing runs between \$80 and \$150.

USRVDTC Board Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 7:08 pm, on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at Culver's, in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Previous Board Minutes had already been accepted.

Board Members Present:

Nicki Bowden	Suzanne Belger	Lacey Moon	Melissa Meyers
Marilyn Manguba			

Club Members Present:

Steven Olson	Lois Olson	Cheryl Loomis	Alicia Thompson
Robert Bonagofski			

Report of the President:

Report of the Vice President:

Report of the Secretary: Lacey received a magazine in the mail to order ribbons for trials. She gave it to Nicki. Also, she received the emails about the club elections, the Event Application/Judge Panel for the 4/22 agility trial being received and the Closeout Notice for the August 2021 trial.

Report of the Treasurer: Suzanne reported that the club has a net worth of \$114,497.06 and that we've had a net income this year of \$13,662.21. We still have three more trials this year in which we'll be losing some money. The spreadsheets are filed in the secretary box and are available upon request.

Reports of Committees:

Scent Work : Nicki would like to propose the club buys a small trailer for scent work. She will get estimates for a 5'x8' trailer and present them at the next club meeting. We will need somewhere to store it so she'll put together options for that as well.

December scent work trial is ready to go. We have the judge and the building reserved.

Tracking: Nicki reported that we have the tracking trial this weekend. We have 4 entries and track layers and help. We're set to go.

Obedience/Rally: Fall classes are running and we will have no more classes until spring. Agility is Tuesday night, Obedience/Rally are Wednesday night at Sandy Downs.

Seminar: The last seminar with Lorraine Paglini went very well with lots of positive feedback. Suzanne suggested we have a scent work seminar with Glenn Ford in February. Nicki made a motion to schedule the seminar for February 4,5,6. It was passed and Suzanne will put the seminar together.

Awards: Melissa will head the awards committee. All tag information needs to be given to Melissa Meyers by November 1st to get them made and ready for the Christmas Party on December 4th.

Club Member of the Year reminder needs to be put into the newsletter and members need to start submitting names.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Lois Olson was given a club quilt from the 1980s that she wants to donate to the club. It was suggested that we display it at our trials and events. It was also suggested that it be given with the award to the Club Member of the Year. Finally, it was suggested that we use it along with some other club paraphernalia to put up a library display in order to draw attention to the club. It will be used for this purpose and for club events.

Alicia Thompson suggested changing the way agility classes are offered. She mentioned member/instructor burn-out and lack of commitment and advancement with non-members. She pointed out that agility is not feeding new members into the club or into the trials. She, as agility chair, will only be offering beginning agility classes. If attendees would like to continue with agility they are required to be members. After beginning agility, the club will be having open club member practices in which we all work together to improve and practice but not have a designated instructor so everyone can have equal opportunity to run their dogs. It was also suggested that the price for agility classes be raised to cover the cost of the equipment (damages) and to make sure that people are making a commitment to the class. The cost increase will be brought forward at the next club meeting and voted on.

A lengthy discussion was had about the benefits of being a club member and it was all agreed that we need to have more benefits for the members. At present, the benefits are free classes but those don't do the members any good when they are teaching all the classes and they don't have an opportunity to take any of them. This will probably be addressed at the regular club meeting as well.

Alicia and Cheryl expressed concern over the practice teeter being unsafe because it's old and broken. A motion was made by Melissa that the club buy a new practice teeter. Alicia

seconded it and she will get ahold of Carl Friedrich (agility equipment manager) to purchase a new practice teeter.

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