

## UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



### NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

---

#### Regular Meeting

November 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM at Dixie's Diner

---

#### Upcoming Trials

USRVDTC Scent Work Trial

December 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

Visit [USRVDTC.org](http://USRVDTC.org) for more information

---

#### Sunday Practices

Sunday, self-guided practice sign-ups for November, December, and January are on the website.

---

#### Scent Work Seminar

“Odor Pays” with Cameron Ford

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Bonneville county 4-H building

For more information visit [USRVDTC.org](http://USRVDTC.org)

#### President

Nicki Bowden

208.709.7914

[Nedwob88@gmail.com](mailto:Nedwob88@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

Layla Johnson

262.247.5151

[mattpaulj@gmail.com](mailto:mattpaulj@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

Suzanne Belger

208.521.8872

[desertmtmalinois@gmail.com](mailto:desertmtmalinois@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Lacey Moon

208.520.6500

[Philandlaceymoon@hotmail.com](mailto:Philandlaceymoon@hotmail.com)

#### Board Members

Nichole Crossley (1 year)

208.315.7355

[homedawgeducation@gmail.com](mailto:homedawgeducation@gmail.com)

Marilynne Manguba (2 years)

208.221.5142

[marilynnem@gmail.com](mailto:marilynnem@gmail.com)

Melissa Meyers (3 years)

208.520.8481

[melissameyers@cablone.net](mailto:melissameyers@cablone.net)

#### Newsletter Editor

Desirae Chase

[Desiraechase25@gmail.com](mailto:Desiraechase25@gmail.com)

[www.USRVDTC.org](http://www.USRVDTC.org)

USR VDTTC

Sandpiper

Restaurant



December 4<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m.

Here is the menu for the Christmas party- sign ups are online at [USRVDTC.org](http://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.

Come with a fabulous gift for the gift exchange that *everyone* will want to steal and wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater!

# CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

I would like to nominate Nicki Bowen as club member of the year.

Nicki has not only volunteered at every club trial we have hosted this year, but she has gone above and beyond to ensure that our trials run smoothly. She has also taught or assisted many classes, and as our club president, she has worked tirelessly this year to find ways in which our club can grow and stay strong during the pandemic. -anonymous and Nichole Crossley



I would like to nominate Marilynne Manguba as club member of the year.

She always helps out no matter what and willingly fills in when there are no other instructors available to teach our classes. After all, it's our classes that generate most of the income for our Club. -anonymous



I would like to nominate Desi Chase as the club member of the year.

Desi has taught several classes and is always willing to help students and other members with training issues. She is always at our trials helping wherever she is needed. Desi publishes a great newsletter each month. The newsletter is filled with great articles and helpful information for all dog owners. The newsletter is a great asset to our club members. Her biggest contribution was stepping up at the last minute as the 2021 Obedience/Rally Trial Chairperson. Desi ensured that our trials were successful and maintained the caliber that our exhibitors have come to expect from USRVDTTC. She is an asset to our club. -anonymous



I would like to nominate Brian Meyers as club member of the year.

Brian is the training director and instructor for tracking and scentwork. His biggest contribution is behind the scenes. Because of his dedication developing and maintaining USRVDTTC has a professional quality website that has streamlined our class registration process as well as other club functions. His expertise and dedication is priceless. -anonymous



I would like to nominate Heike Vitacolonna as club member of the year.

Heike has served as our obedience/rally training director for several years. She organizes and provides a point of contact for students. She orders, inventories and sells obedience training equipment each training session. Heike emails class homework to all students on a weekly basis as well as prepares graduation certificates for all students. This position demands a large time commitment, most of which few of us see. -anonymous



I would like to nominate David & Kelly P'Pool as club member(s) of the year. They have helped as instructors with our Basic classes for many many years (if not decades), and not just for a session far and in between, but they are a stable and reliable help we can count on session after session. -anonymous



I would like to nominate Suzanne Belger as club member of the year. Really, she should be Club Member of the Decade. Suzanne is tirelessly working for the betterment of the club. She teaches, evaluates, and volunteers her time for ensuring all club activities run smoothly. She always has good advice and is knowledgeable about all aspects of the club. She ensures that the club is financially sound and is always available for answering club questions and membership needs. She will always fill in anywhere the club needs and is looked up to for her canine skills and advice. -anonymous



I would like to nominate Cheryl Loomis as club member of the year. Cheryl is a solid, all around club member who you see at various events and is always volunteering whether it be obedience, agility, scentwork, or rally. She also is an awesome teacher and has so much knowledge about whatever class she is teaching. She spends time watching and giving out specific advice to club members when they are participating in trials. She spends a lot of her time volunteering at all the trials. She can be trusted with her advice and skills. She is always reaching out to new club members who may need extra advice and education to make their experience in the club rewarding and successful. She always makes it to club meetings and has good insight into club functioning. She is supportive in club members success and also the success of the club in general. -anonymous

# Plaque and Hanger Information

## 2021 Title information

A plaque/hanger is prepared for individual dogs. These record the dogs **TITLE** accomplishments during the year. They are presented at the annual Christmas party. Because of this year's Christmas Party date, we need to set up a cut off prior to the South Jordan Thanksgiving event to allow the trophy supplier time to fill the order; the remainder of this year is covered in the subsequent year.

Please have the information submitted by 11/20/20 to [melissameyers@cableone.net](mailto:melissameyers@cableone.net)

Each dog/handler will receive either a plaque or hanger as defined here:

For those joining the club, or commencing competition with a new dog, this past year between 12/02/20 and 11/14/21, a plaque will be awarded that list the dog's full name (includes preceding and following titles) at the date of club entry or start of competition and separately listing those title(s) subsequently earned following the start date.

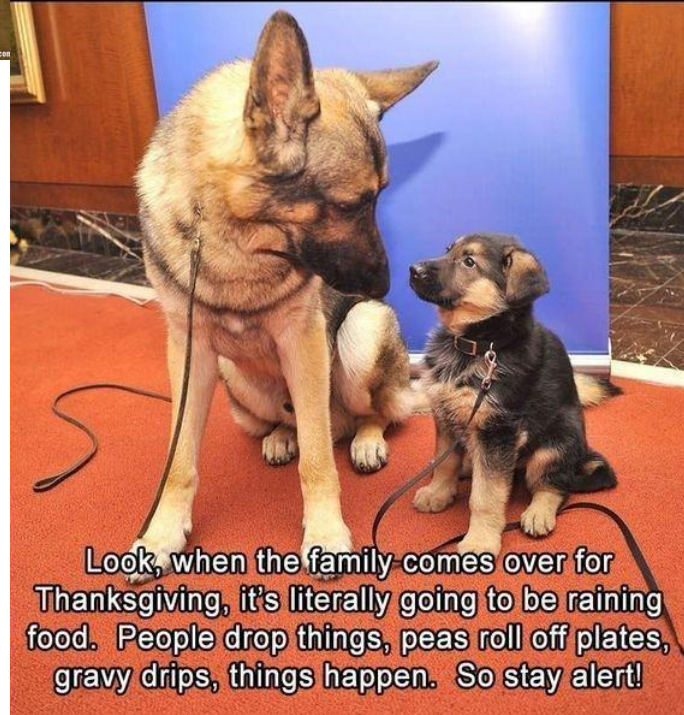
A hanger, which is hung from a prior received plaque, is presented to the handler noting subsequent title(s) earned in this past year.

1. Identify if you are to receive, by dog's call name, a plaque and/or a hanger (i.e. Rascal – plaque or Rascal – hanger).
2. List the handler(s)'s name as it will appear on the **PLAQUE** (i.e. Lucien E Frederick Jr)
3. List the dog's full registered name as it will appear on the **PLAQUE** (i.e. CH Rascal of Sherwood Forest CGC BN). This example indicates that the dog already had 3 prior earned titles at the inception of this process.
4. List the letter designation for each title earned this year (i.e. the Obedience Novice title is recorded as CD). I do not have all the titles memorized, especially those pertaining to Breed Specialties, so please list both the title and its acronym.
5. Do not submit tests or certifications, such as "Achiever Dog" or "Rat Instinct; only titles.
6. Send info, also any questions, to [melissameyers@cableone.net](mailto:melissameyers@cableone.net)

# Fun Facts and Comic Corner



## The "Pre-Thanksgiving" Talk...



Look, when the family comes over for Thanksgiving, it's literally going to be raining food. People drop things, peas roll off plates, gravy drips, things happen. So stay alert!



Ooh my favorit show is on!

# HOW TO WALK A HUMAN A Dogs Guide

Humans need exercise. If they don't get it they become "chubby". It's up to you to save them.

1. Allow your human to tether themselves to you. This keeps them from wondering off or running away.
2. Your human will probably need breaks. Be considerate and stop and sniff often.
3. Bark frequently. Humans have short attention spans.
4. When you go to the bathroom, walk away. If you have trained your human correctly, they will pick it up. Good aerobics.
5. Periodically drag your human as fast as you can. This is called interval training.
6. Do not allow your human to shorten the walk. They are being lazy. Sit in protest if you must.
7. Once you return home, allow your human to remove their tether, then lick their face many times. This is positive reinforcement for a job well done.



by George



# Canine Athletic Competition and Sports Psychology

Sports psychologists have lots to offer canine athletic competitors.

By [Lorie Long](#)

Published: December 12, 2003 Updated: March 21, 2019

Whether you and your dog are road-seasoned competitors in canine sports, just “playing around” in novice dog shows, or simply striving to train your dog to stop embarrassing you in public, you can improve your mutual performance and your relationship by learning and practicing basic sports psychology techniques.

When we work with our dogs, we communicate our wishes to them largely through our body language, posture, facial expressions, and tone of voice.



Stress can vastly alter how our “messages” come across to our dogs. When we are nervous about going into the show ring or anxious about passing another leashed dog on the sidewalk, we are likely to inadvertently “tell” our dogs all sorts of things that we really don’t mean to or want to, such as, “Oh my God this is scary!” or “I feel like I’m going to be sick!”

Sports psychology techniques teach us how to get our brains and bodies under control, so our physical language exudes a relaxed confidence – which is enormously relaxing and confidence-boosting to our

dogs, who operate best when they know they can trust a competent leader.

If I do say so myself, I’m sort of a “poster child” for the benefits of sports psychology, since I was absolutely stuck at a certain level of competence at agility with my two Border Terriers.

## Sport Psychology for Dogs: What Brought Me Here

For me, it's hard to imagine anything more fun than a weekend of dog agility competition with my agility partner, Dash. And, from watching the enthusiastic competitors at herding trials, obedience trials, flyball events, tracking exercises, freestyle performances, and other types of dog sports, I think most participants would agree with me about their chosen sports.

It's also difficult to imagine an undertaking more holistic than dog sports such as agility. The effective combination of mind, body, and emotion, in the dog and handler individually and as a member of the team, holds the key to success. All elements are connected and interrelated to achieve peak performance.

Dash, my five-year-old Border Terrier and three-year agility competitor, and I earned the novice and intermediate qualifications necessary to propel us into competition at the highest levels of difficulty. Remember that line about being careful what you wish for?

Joking aside, as an aware and responsible handler, I created a regimen of training and healthcare to support the demands of high-level competition. I feed Dash a homemade, fresh food diet and augment her food with nutritional and herbal supplements that promote joint health, heart health, and strengthen her immune system.

Dash also receives regular chiropractic adjustments to prevent injury, and enjoys a superficial massage from me after competitions. These modalities increase the flow of blood and energy throughout her system after taxing it by jumping, turning, and racing through the agility courses. I combine training, resting, and fun in a mix that keeps her motivated but not tired.

Personally, I focus on eating and resting well, and shed a few pounds to make running the courses easier. In essence, I put together a well-thought-out plan to support our athletic endeavors.

## When Progress Stops, Seek Outside Assistance

As new entrants into advanced levels of competition, we struggled with the issues of courses more difficult to navigate and faster time requirements, and our progress stalled. I made embarrassing mistakes at trials and Dash became frustrated with our clumsy runs. We qualified occasionally, but disappointment and frustration were settling in.

I wasn't sure what piece of the holistic puzzle we were suddenly missing, so I began to carefully watch the top competitors at each trial and try to figure it out. Advanced agility competition presents only the slightest chance of redeeming a run after making even a

small mistake of any kind. So I knew that competitors who qualified consistently were not just good at making up for errors made during a run. They were just plain good.

One of the first things I noticed about these top competitors was that their dogs were not faster than Dash at her best and the handlers themselves were not quicker than me when I ran in good form.

As I got to know some of my fellow competitors, I discovered that many had limited access to agility practice equipment and did not receive regular lessons from national level instructors. They had to juggle work, family, and travel, and some wore knee braces, had bad backs, or suffered from weak ankles or sore hips. Several were significantly older than me, and I have to look backward to see 50. Some of their dogs were rescued from abusive homes, so their intense agility preparation program as puppies was nonexistent.

My hopes of identifying any sort of "disadvantaged circumstances" as the root cause of our slow progress quickly vanished!

## The Key to Dog Sport Success

The next thing I noticed was that these highly successful competitors were more poised, more focused, and more relaxed than most competitors. They rarely complained about the course, the weather, the footing, the judge, or whether Mercury was retrograde. And they spent more time interacting with their dogs than socializing with the other competitors at the trials.

I began to suspect that they had mastered the art of sports psychology, or tapping into the power of programming their minds to reach their highest potential of performance and to capture that level of performance from their dogs. By observing and talking with these competitors, and reading about the new concepts of sports psychology, a missing piece of the holistic puzzle for Dash and me has gradually taken shape.

## Programming Dogs for Success

Agility enthusiasts are embracing the sport psychology techniques presented in books like the one written by Jane Savoie, an award-winning equestrian competitor. In *That Winning Feeling*, Savoie explains how the subconscious mind cannot distinguish between the real and the imagined. The subconscious mind reacts to information provided by the conscious mind and attempts to accommodate what the conscious mind sets forth as a goal or as reality, whether positive or negative.

For instance, my unconsciously controlled fear responses, like tight muscles and dilated pupils, kick in when I watch a horror movie, even though my conscious mind knows it's not real. But the biochemical responses my body produces, as a reaction to my feelings of fear, are very real, and they cascade into a corresponding physical response that can impact my behavior and performance.

After viewing the movie, I probably will be much more hesitant to enter a dark room alone for a couple of days. And, if entering dark rooms alone is required in my life, I have just degraded my performance by indulging in the negative imaging in the movie.

Savoie suggests that when we carry negative images of a particular activity (like a poor agility run) in our conscious mind, our unconscious mind believes those images to be reality, or a real goal of the conscious mind. The belief of the unconscious mind can provide desired or undesired cascades into conscious behavior.

Savoie also states that achieving peak performance results from mastering acquired skills, not from relying on genetic gifts. She believes that persistence, not talent, lies at the root of competitive athletic success.

Top competitors have learned to use the power of positive imaging and other precepts of sports psychology to their advantage in the agility ring and in many other competitive dog sports. Let's take a look at some of their proven techniques:

- **Banish negative visual images.** One fellow agility competitor refuses to wear any of the popular, humorous agility T-shirts that read "Double Q Challenged" (Double Q refers to qualifying in both a regular and a jumpers-with-weaves run on the same day in an American Kennel Club agility trial) or "My Dog Needs a Faster Handler." Her T-shirts read "Agility: an Army of Two" or "Agility: Fun on the Run" or, my favorite, "Agility Forever, Housework Whenever." Don't you get different feelings about agility just by reading each of these phrases?

- **Banish negative verbal input.** A national level agility competitor often walks the course carrying a CD player and wearing headphones. I asked him if he was listening to motivational messages. He replied that the CD player was empty. He uses the headphones to block out all of the negative conversation that takes place among competitors while they are walking the course. He doesn't want to overhear folks talking about it being a course that favors big dogs, or requires unfair maneuvers, or has a particular "crash and burn" zone. He wants to focus on the challenges of the course and prepare his handling strategy.

This competitor also eliminates all negative words and phrases from his agility vocabulary. He replaces words like "try" and "hope" and "if" with "when" and "will." He no longer "hopes to win if he's lucky" but instead "he and his dog will do their best and put winning well within reach." His agility "challenges" are defined by others as agility "problems."

I have come to think of my course handling challenges as agility "obstacles" that I need to negotiate just like the A-frame and the weave poles are agility obstacles that Dash has to negotiate. And I remind myself to do so with the enthusiasm and confidence that Dash demonstrates when faced with her course (I discovered that my dog is a great role model, too).

- **Learn relaxation and positive imaging skills.** Practice deep-breathing exercises and muscle relaxation techniques to clear your head. Then paint mental images of successful agility runs, tracking tests, or obedience work on that blank canvas. Never paint mistakes or apprehensions. Mentally rehearse a successful performance several times, and then rehearse the especially critical parts again and again. Even visualize stepping up to receive your ribbon. Show your unconscious mind your conscious goals.

- **Be prepared.** There's no substitute for training and practice, which provides the foundation for your positive images and confidence. Meet the basic needs of both you and your dog: rest, eat right, and find moments of mental and emotional serenity.

- **Set training and competition goals.** Make them realistic, but a stretch. Currently, my competition goal is consistency, not winning. But we're almost ready to set our sights on regularly qualifying, the next step up for us from consistent performances with minimal mistakes.

I have also experimented with using a mantra, or a word or phrase repeated over and over to program my thoughts. When I notice that I'm over-managing Dash on the course I repeat the word "effortless" or "dancing" again and again before I enter the ring. I want the run to appear "effortless" to an observer, like Dash and I are dancing, and not like I have to work so hard. Somehow, the mantra settles me down and our runs become much smoother.

Dash and I submit to the natural cycle of agility to reduce stress and provide temporary relief from goal-driven thinking. The trials occur predominantly in the spring and fall. I keep Dash tuned up during our competitive seasons, train and practice skills during the winter, and work very little agility in the summer. Late in the spring I look forward to our coming rest, and, by the end of the summer, we're both ready to go again.

- **Learn to fake it.** Even if you feel out-of-sorts, apprehensive, or worried, behave as though you feel rested, prepared, relaxed, and confident. The behavior alone triggers the unconsciously supportive responses that the actual feelings trigger. When you're upset, direct your facial muscles to smile and see how long it takes your mood to change.

At our last trial the weave pole entries were very difficult to accomplish, but it was too late to go home and practice more tough entries. In our first run I panicked and "micro-managed" Dash's weave pole entry, which she promptly fumbled. Before our second run I told myself repeatedly that her weave poles entries were always impeccable. During the run I directed her to the weave poles, let her find her own way in, and she aced it.

- **Stay flexible and use rituals sparingly.** Some competitors rely on a series of rituals, or repetitive behaviors, to calm their nerves and focus their thoughts before a competition. They might play with a specific toy with their dog, offer a particularly tasty treat, approach and enter the ring, ask for a down, then turn to run the course.

However, I have witnessed their panic when they discover they have left the tasty treat back in the tent. Keep your options open. A top competitor I know "doodles" before she enters the ring. She asks her dog for a series of random "tricks" to focus their attention, but never relies on an established sequence of behaviors or rewards.

- **Get the most out of every competition.** Besides running your event, observe and study the best competitors. It's a real education. Pick a couple of role models and talk with them about training and handling techniques. Solicit feedback on your performances from trusted competitors.

Don't forget to look for ways to enhance the bond with your dog while you're spending the day together, fully focused on each other. The measure of the day's success does not hinge on the ribbons. If you enjoyed yourself, and your dog is happy, it was a good day.

- **Don't totally disconnect from negative feelings.** Suppressing negative feelings does not resolve them. Just deal with them after the competition, not during the performance. Need some worry time? Schedule it into your day, worry for about 20 minutes well before the competition, and then forget it until the next scheduled worry session.

Negative thoughts disrupt the smoothness of physical actions you have practiced and that have become familiar to you and your dog. Practiced actions are the most efficient actions and are your finely tuned route to success in competition. Don't undermine your long hours of practice with negative thoughts right before the event.

- **Bounce back.** Developing the ability to rebound from setbacks is much more useful than working to eradicate failure, an impossible mission.

My friend's Corgi unexpectedly runs off course in a trial and refuses to be caught. He loves agility but occasionally gets "the zoomies," which my friend finds very discouraging (and expensive). Once close to leaving the sport, she sought out training options and worked them hard. The zoomies have dramatically decreased and she has become a testament to the power of persistence and creative training. And she has many more alternatives in her training tool bag than most, because she had to work through a lot of them to succeed.

Don't turn against yourself or your dog. You are the only two beings who can secure your success!

- **Find the humor.** At a recent trial a competitor, who works with a breed that does not traditionally excel in agility, had a terrible run. Not only did he and the dog make several serious mistakes, but the competitor tripped over a large panel jump, sent it sprawling in all directions, and landed on top of the pieces. He got up and completed the run. We all had a chuckle from the sidelines. When he exited the ring I heard him say to another competitor, "Even THAT was better than sitting at home!"

## Evaluating Your Dog Sport Performance

If improved performance does not follow your mastery of the skills taught by sports psychologists, examine your motivations. If you don't love the game more than the win, you may have established a pattern that undermines your enjoyment of the sport and your overall performance.

A competitor I know recently left agility. The sport did not appear to energize either her or her dog, but she was determined to own the first dog of that breed to achieve an advanced agility title. Her motivation impeded her success, rather than contributed to it, and she finally agreed that she should find another method of bonding with and enjoying her dog.

An agility instructor recently told participants in a seminar I attended that just stepping up to the agility start line with our dogs puts us in the top one percent of dog owners, win or lose, for we had cultivated a relationship few people experience with their dogs. And we were willing and happy to play our game together and in public!

I treasure that thought and use it to help me focus my thoughts and keep a smile on my face at a trial. His words always run quickly through my mind in that split second, right on the start line, just before I turn to Dash, catch her eye, and say "Ready? Let's GO!"

## Sports Psychology Techniques for Training “Ordinary” Dogs

One of the most ubiquitous sports psychology techniques used by human athletes is visualizing – mentally practicing – an ideal performance of some kind. While you don’t need to have competitive goals of any kind, you must have a behavioral goal for your dog to reap the benefits of this powerful tool.

Say your dog is a strong puller on leash, and it’s often a real struggle to walk him without getting dragged down the sidewalk. You should, of course, consult a professional positive trainer to help you develop a step-by-step program to help your dog learn more appropriate on-leash skills. But it will also help if you frequently mentally rehearse taking a calm, quiet, controlled walk with your dog. Imagine the picture down to the smallest details: Your erect but relaxed posture, your hands closed gently yet securely on the leash, your comfortable and purposeful stride, a smile on your face as you greet passersby and they murmur words of admiration for your dog. And the dog! Trotting on a loose leash by your side; glancing up to you every few feet for direction and affirmation; and his eyes, ears, and tail all expressing a contented trust in you and your leadership.

Once you have thoroughly visualized a picture of you and your dog at your mutual best, walk yourself through this vision for at least a full minute at least a couple times a day. Then, silly as it might seem, practice acting out your part of the picture – in the privacy of your own bedroom, at least at first! It helps if you have a full-length mirror you can use to assess your current posture and expression, and make adjustments so you start to resemble the person in your idealized picture!

Once you feel that you can inhabit the picture fairly accurately, practice this posture and movement around your dog. Try to adopt the same at-ease and self-assured stance and manner with your dog at all times.

If you go through with this, you’ll notice two important things. First, your dog’s behavior will start to improve. Whether or not we notice it, dogs look to us for clues about how they should act, and the cooler you look and sound, the cooler they’ll become. Really. Second, you’ll start to become more conscious of the moments when you aren’t acting “right” – when your responses to your dog become frantic or your voice becomes shrill. And noticing this is the first step toward stopping it.

## SPORT PSYCHOLOGY FOR DOGS: OVERVIEW

**1. Set and then visualize specific goals for your dog’s behavior. Wanting him to “be good” is too vague. For example: “I want my dog to be calm and friendly when**



**greeting people, without jumping on them.” Or, “I want my dog to be able to walk by other dogs on leash as if he doesn’t even see them.”**

**2. Practice brushing off your dog’s (and your own) mistakes cheerfully. Don’t fixate on them.**

*Lorie Long is a freelance writer living in Oriental, North Carolina, with two Border Terriers, Dash and Chase. All three are addicted to agility.*

## Competition Dog Sport Trial Prep: Does Generalization Really Matter?

Ann D Smorado

Monday, 13 September 2021

I have been spending the last two years playing with and training my young Labrador Retriever, Dare. He just turned 2 in July and he is a lot of fun!

We are just getting started dipping our toes into the competition world and trial prep is at the front of my mind. The inability to get the same performance in the trial ring that we have in class or at home is a source of frustration for many a handler. That feeling of complete helplessness in a trial ring when you and your dog are disconnected, your dog is struggling, you feel eyes (real or imaginary) burning holes of judgement in your back, and you can't understand why your dog is behaving the way he is, is not a fun place to be. I have been there. If you don't believe me, here is proof. Me with my Novice A dog in the obedience ring.

I never want to be there again.

Here is the good news. Things got better. I remember looking around at the trial and seeing dogs staying in the game with their handlers. Why is their dog staying in it and mine is not? I didn't know, but one thing I *did* know was that if they could do it, so could I. This isn't Olympic level gymnastics after all. I just had to figure out what I was missing. That didn't happen overnight and it there wasn't just one thing that I changed that, "WHALA!!" created a fully engaged dog. And I do owe that novice A dog a massive debt of gratitude for being a willing and generous teacher.

Most of us are really good at training our dogs the skills that will be judged at a trial. Heeling, fronts, and finishes, weaves and contacts get lots of our time. Most of us new to dog sport training attend a group class and rely heavily on that to prepare us for a trial. A good group class is great for teaching skills necessary for a trial and creating distractions... but there is so much more to it that tends to get lost in the shuffle.

For today, I will talk about one of my favorite topics that doesn't always lend itself easily to group classes. That is generalization.

### **Taking the Show on the Road: Generalize Before the Show**

I was taught a long time ago that dogs don't generalize the things we teach them very well. That means that just because your dog knows how to sit when you say "sit" in your kitchen, that doesn't mean he knows it anywhere else.

You must go to other rooms and teach it. Then outside. Then other places.

The same holds true for other skills we teach. Dogs are incredibly observant and they are picking up signals from us and our surroundings that we aren't even aware of. I was reminded of this recently by a friend of mine who has been taking her dog to a beginner's nosework class. As beginners, the classes were foundational and they were working in the same familiar area week after week. This week, her instructor decided the dogs were ready to go a park to work on exterior hides. She said her dog was so confused at first because they were at a park and she expected to go for a walk. She did not expect to search for odor. The visual or environmental cue that told her she was going for a walk was stronger than the search cue that was still relatively new to her. She figured it out, but if this were a trial she might not have had enough time to figure it out and it might have flustered the handler. Why isn't she searching? She knows this!

This....happens....all....the....time.

If you plan to enter trials, you must "take the show on the road" as we like to say in dog training and get your dog used to performing in different places and environments...at least if you want to do well.

I know it sounds overwhelming to think about all the skills you must teach your dog for even one sport. What about if you do multiple sports like I do? Must we take every single skill on the road to a zillion different places? Must I load up an entire ring set up and haul it around town?

OMG! Agility is my primary sport, can you imagine?

Taking it to that level is not necessary. It doesn't have to be super hard or time consuming. What I have learned over the years is that once my dog learns that he can focus and respond correctly to a handful of cues and can perform exercises that are easily portable in a multitude of places, that knowledge transfers to skills I haven't taken on the road.

### **Fitting Generalization into a Busy Schedule**

How do we fit this in to a busy schedule?

Do you run errands? Go shopping? Yes? Bring your dog! Do a little training outside the store or stop at a park. Even a few minutes of something somewhere has value.

Here are a few short clips of me with my young dog, Dare. He was 8 mos. old in the first few clips. I had to pick some things up at the drug store and decided to add 5 minutes to my trip to give him some experience. It was so worthwhile. See how he is with people? He LOVES people...a little too much in fact. All I did there was reward him for focusing on me..in a new place with a stranger. By taking him on these little field trips, he learned that he can ignore them and that I will make it worth it. You can see how that transferred to the ring. He has never visited a bar setter or judge in a trial.

As we progress, the skills we practice on the road start looking more and more like what we do in the ring.

Obviously, Obedience and NW are more portable than Agility. I am convinced that my dog's ability to focus on so many different places translates to ability to focus at busy agility trials. If I didn't do obedience, I would still take my dog to various places to work on engaged loose leash walking, focus on me as people move about, perform tricks and rear end awareness exercises like pivoting on a bucket, backing up. In the links below you can see how focus work in public transfers to a focused agility run.

### **From Generalization to Success**

The more you work with your dog in new places, the better your dog will understand that a cue from you has the same meaning every time you give it and this builds your dog's confidence.

Here's a bonus to all this generalization work and it is a big one. Doing this builds YOUR confidence which will really boost your mental game on trial day. Plus it is fun, it really is!

We cover this topic in depth and a host of other trial preparation topics in my upcoming 6 week online class at Fenzi Dog Sports Academy: FE315 "Are You Ready? Trial Preparation for Competition. If you are new to dog sports or not so new and want some help setting up sessions or some structure and accountability in your trial prep, join us! We will have lots of fun!

## **IMPORTANT MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGES**

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

<b>Board Meetings</b>	<b>General Board Meetings</b>
January	February
March	April
May	June
July	August
September	October
November	November

# 2022 USRVDTTC Board Nominations

<b>President</b>	Nicki Bowden
<b>Vice President</b>	Richard Brizzee
<b>Secretary</b>	Lacey Moon
<b>Treasurer</b>	Suzanne Belger

## Board Members

<b>1 year</b>	Marilynne Manguba
<b>2 year</b>	Cheryl Loomis
<b>3 year</b>	Nichole Crossley

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

# USRVDTTC Meeting Minutes

October 21,2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 7:06 pm, on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at Dixie's Diner, in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Previous Minutes were posted in the newsletter. Desirae Chase moved to accept minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion was seconded and passed.

Board Members Present:

Nicki Bowden	Suzanne Belger	Lacey Moon
Layla Johnson	Marilyn Manguba	Nichole Crossley

## Club Members Present:

Cheryl Loomis                      Duane Loomis                      Alicia Thompson John  
Baughman  
Diana Robinson   Sara Hatcher                      Rochelle Adams   Phil Moon  
                    Desirae Chase    LaDawn Moad                      Richard Barzee    Heike  
Vitacolonna

Guests: Tamara Burnett and Robert Burnett

Report of the President: None

Report of the Vice President: Layla --Christmas Party will be Dec 4th at the Sandpiper. Info in newsletter. You can also pay on our website. We will do the "doggy" gift exchange, ugly sweater, and pass out awards (Club Member of the Year and title awards).

Report of the Secretary: Lacey received an email about COVID Provisions for the AKC that are due to expire at the year end. She will forward the email to Desirae to print in the newsletter. She also got a letter from the AKC Humane Fund about donations. If you'd like to donate online go to [www.akchumanefund.org/donate/one-time-donation](http://www.akchumanefund.org/donate/one-time-donation).

Report of the Treasurer: Suzanne reported that the club has a current net income of \$7,563.58 and a net worth of \$108,398.43. The spreadsheets are filed in the secretary box and are available upon request. The tracking test lost \$1025.83 but we have over \$11000 in agility trial entry fees.

## Reports of Committees:

Scent Work : (Nicki Bowden) December scent work trial is ready to go. We have the judge and the building reserved. Premium open 11/1.

### Tracking:

Agility: (Suzanne Belger) Agility trial next weekend. The judge VMO, if you need measured. The club will set up the course Thursday 7pm at Wind River Riding Arena in Ririe. We need helpers to set up, take down and help during the trial each day.

Nominating Committee: (Nickie Bowden) The committee met and put names together for next year's board. She asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none. The names for nomination will be printed in the newsletter and voted on at the next meeting.

Newsletter: (Desirae Chase) - She stated that newsletters being sent to Cableone addresses won't go through. She asks everyone who has a cableone.net email address to please give her a different email address (perhaps a free gmail account) that she can send correspondence to.

Obedience/Rally:

Seminar: (Suzanne Belger) set up a scent work seminar with Cameron Ford in March. Check out the auditing spot on the website. Working spots will be listed on the website this week. If you have suggestions for other seminars, please let Suzanne know.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Sara Hatcher is the new 4H Dog chair. She is raising money with a bake sale to provide supplies and equipment for the 4H Dog club. She would like the club to donate a free obedience class to raffle off. Suzanne said we can donate some extra equipment to the 4H club because it will be more useful for them and we have extra things. Sara will make a list of things that she could use for the club.

Classes: (Nicki Bowden) -Our next classes start 2/4. The board and the heads of the class committees have decided that we will offer classes at 5:15pm & 6:15pm. After that we have an "open gym" for club members after classes are finished at 7:30 until about 9pm for those who were teaching the beginning classes and want to work their dogs. When agility begins, it will be the same way. (Alisha Thompson) Starting this spring, we will only offer beginning classes in agility. If people want to continue to do agility they'll need to join the club. They will then have the opportunity to work with other club members to advance in whatever discipline they are working on. One of the best parts about being in the club is having the

opportunity to work together to become better and the camaraderie that goes along with this type of training.

The question was raised about whether or not club members can still sign up to attend a beginning class if that's where the club is raising money. It was agreed that members can take any class for free as long as they actually attend the class and not take a spot and then not attend. Rosha Adams asked if offering up fewer classes will hurt the club's income. Suzanne said that we will try it this year and if we lose too much money we can reconsider how we teach classes.

That brought up the next topic--raising the prices of classes. It was discussed and decided that we will be raising the cost of classes from \$75 per class to \$100. Agility will raise from \$100 to \$125. All other discounted rates will increase by \$25 as well. We will also increase the cancelation fee and decrease the time frame for which people can cancel their class without incurring a fee. Standing rules have been changed according to the rate change.

Heike Vitacolonna asked that we consider not accepting checks for training classes but that everyone must pay online via paypal before classes begin. Desirae Chase moved to stop accepting checks for training classes - Nicole Crossley seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Awards: Melissa Meyers is in charge of the awards for the Christmas party. Please submit your nomination for Member of the Year and any title information to her by 13th of November. Desirae will put a reminder in the newsletter along with Melissa's email address.

Hospitality: Ladawn Moad will take over hospitality for the trial judge.

Scent Work : Nicki would like to propose the club buy a small trailer for scent work. She estimates for a 5'x8' trailer, it will cost between \$4000 and \$5000. We will also need somewhere to store it so she proposed we get a storage space large enough that we can store this trailer as well as the agility practice trailer. It will cost about \$1000 per year for a storage unit of this size. Ladawn moved that we purchase a trailer and rent a storage unit. Desirae seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Nicki brought up the fact that Desert Mountain Malinois (Suzanne Belger) has been doing the secretary duties for the obedience/rally and 2



scent work trials for free. The club Standing Rules state that the secretary for trials must be a volunteer. If we don't get a volunteer to assume the duties, bids for the job can be taken. The secretary job for the trials is a huge responsibility with AKC regulations that MUST be followed and responsibilities followed through with, in order for our club to continue to hold trials. Does anyone volunteer to be the secretary for the scent and obedience trials? If you volunteer, you must do the entire secretary job as outlined in the AKC regulations. Rosha asked, Don't we have to have the secretary insured? Nicki stated, No. We didn't vote it in.

Nicki read the standing rules and also the following proposed changes to the rules:

2.1d. Obedience/Rally Trial Secretary – this position need not be filled by a Club Member. The position of Obedience/Rally Trial Secretary shall be chosen by the Board based upon a comparison among licensed trial secretaries. Obedience/Rally Trial Secretary shall enter into a written contract for the period of two years at which time it may be reevaluated by the Board. Obedience Rally Trial Secretary shall provide a detailed invoice at the completion of each trial. The Obedience/Rally Trial Secretary shall perform all duties as prescribed in the AKC Red Book, Show/Trial Manual, A Guide for Planning AKC Dog Shows and Obedience Trials.

2.1h. Agility Trial Secretary – this position need not be filled by a Club Member. The position of Agility Trial Secretary shall be chosen by the Board based upon a comparison among licensed trial secretaries. Agility Trial Secretary shall enter into a written contract for the period of two years at which time it may be reevaluated by the Board. Agility Trial Secretary shall provide a detailed invoice at the completion of each trial. The Agility Trial Secretary shall perform all duties as prescribed in the AKC Agility Trial Manual

2.1v. Scent Work Trial Secretary –this position need not be filled by a Club Member. The position of Scent Work Trial Secretary shall be chosen by the Board based upon a comparison among licensed trial secretaries. Scent Work Trial Secretary shall enter into a written contract for the period of two years at which time it may be reevaluated by the Board. Scent Work Trial Secretary shall provide a detailed invoice at the

completion of each trial. The Scent Work Trial Secretary shall perform all duties as prescribed in the AKC Red Book, Show/Trial Manual, A Guide for Planning AKC Dog Shows and Scent Work Trial Manual.

Sara Hatcher motion to accept the changes to the standing rules and that because we do not have a volunteer to be secretary, we would take bids for a licensed secretary to be the secretary for the obedience/rally and scent work trials. Desirae seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Membership Application Read/Approved: Applications for Carol Kachelmeyer and Jordan French were voted on and approved. The application for Tamara and Robert Burnett was read and will be voted on at the next meeting.

The meeting was closed with a motion by Desirae Chase at 8:12pm

Next meeting will be the board and club meeting. November 18th @ 7pm @ Dixie's Diner