



UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2022

January Board Meeting

January 20th 7:00 PM

McKenzie River Pizza

Upcoming Seminar

"Odor Pays" Seminar with Cameron Ford

March 4th, 5th, and 6th at the 4-H building

Visit USRVDTC.org for more information

Membership Dues

2022 Club Membership Fees are due Jan. 31st. A lapse in membership will result in reapplication into the club.

To continue being a member, and to receive future newsletters, please pay online at USRVDTC.org

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Fun Facts and
Comics Corner



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CLUB

Christmas Party Awards





Scent work trial and Sunday practices



12 Pet-Positive New Year's Resolutions for 2022

POSTED ON [DECEMBER 22, 2021](#) BY [TEAM HOMEOPET](#)



A New Year is upon us – a year with 365 blank pages for you to fill. Out with the old, in with the new ... as the saying goes!

The New Year is the perfect time for setting goals and starting afresh. And while setting goals for ourselves such as losing weight, getting more exercise or eating less processed food are all worthy ambitions, our pets are often overlooked in our New Year resolutions. And with the love and joy that they bring us every day, we believe that the health and happiness of our furry friends should be among our top priorities for the New Year ahead.

There are many ways that we can improve the lives of our cats and dogs and the New Year is a great time to get started. Here are just some ideas from the HomeoPet team... Which of these resolutions will you be making for the sake of your pet? Let us know in the comments below

Resolution #1 Measure your pet's food... every time!



As with us humans, it's all too easy for a pet's weight to gradually creep up over time. An estimated 59% of Cats and 54% of Dogs in the US are classified as overweight or obese and over

60% of UK vets say obesity is the biggest pet health and welfare concern. Consequently, [tackling your pet's bulging waistline](#) should be a number one goal for the New Year ahead, according to Tom Farrington MVB MRCVS VetMFHom – Chief Veterinary Medical Advisor for [HomeoPet](#). Measuring your pet's food accurately is the first step to take to prevent overfeeding. Make sure you read

the instructions on your pet food carefully and accurately measure your pet's daily allowance.

Resolution #2 Improve your knowledge of pet first

aid Veterinarians are the experts, but most of us are not lucky enough to have a vet-in-residence 24/7. Even if you live in a house with other people, odds are that when your dog eats something he shouldn't or your kitty cuts a paw, you will be home alone and it will be after veterinary hours. That's why it's so important as a pet parent that you know how to jump to the task to rescue Rex or help Kitty feel better before professional medical help is available. To kick start your first aid journey, you can find out [how to treat wounds in pets](#) in the HomeoPet Natural Pet Care Center.



Resolution #3 Get more exercise

When it comes to health and weight control, diet is only part of this equation and in order to maintain (or lose) weight, an increase in activity is also necessary in order to meet these goals.

Resolution #4 Improve your dog's training

[Having a dog that is well trained](#), obedient, happy, relaxed and responsive means that not only will your dog be easier to manage and be safer in potentially dangerous situations, but you will also get more pleasure from dog ownership and as a result, will be more likely to be closer with your dog.



Resolution #5 Try a new

activity They say that one of the most important factors in successfully achieving a goal of getting more exercise is to find something you love doing. And this is also true of our pets! So why not try a new activity with your dog? From doga to hiking, bikejoring to kayaking, it's easier than ever for you to incorporate your dog into a new exercise routine. You'll both have great fun and achieve your goal of getting more exercise too!

Resolution #6 Incorporate more playtime

While taking your cat hiking isn't a practical approach to upping the step count of our feline friends, incorporating more playtime definitely is! Cats love the thrill of chasing a laser toy and toys that trigger a cat's predatory instinct are a great way to get them off the couch and engaged in a little aerobic activity. It's great fun watching our kitties play and pounce and if you're a dab hand with a smart phone, you could end up videoing the next YouTube sensation!



Resolution #7 Schedule a check-up with your vet

Have your veterinarian examine your pet at least once a year to make sure he or she is healthy and to help detect any potential problems early.

Resolution #8 Update your pet's ID info Maybe you've recently moved to a new house, changed your phone number or maybe your pet has lost their ID tag? Now is the time to ensure that your pet has an up to date tag and microchip information. It's the best way to ensure a lost pet makes their way safely home.



Resolution #9 Clear out old toys

Just as we need to clear out our clutter from time to time, we sometimes need to do the exact same thing for our pets. Take a fresh look at your pet's toy collection and stop holding on to old, tatty, and often germ-infested pet toys. Now's the perfect time to do a good clear out and to give your pet something fun and new to play with. Out with the old, in with the new!

Resolution #10 Grooming time

Not only does grooming your pet remove excess fur from the coat and so reduce the amount you find on your clothes and furniture, it also helps to distribute oils from the skin to the fur, keeping the coat shiny and healthy. But that's not all... the vast majority of pets love to be groomed and it's a bonding activity that

demonstrates to your pet how much you love them by taking care of them in a very soothing manner. Go on... schedule in some daily grooming time for the New Year ahead.



Resolution #11 Create a Safe, Happy Home and Garden for Your Dog

Since our pets spend most time at home or in the garden, we should do our best to build them safe, entertaining places to rest and play. Make sure all potentially harmful substances (such as cleaning products and medications) are kept in cabinets that your pet cannot easily reach and access. And why not consider introducing some pet-friendly home creations to help keep your home clean and tidy as well as introducing some fabulous hidey places and vertical territory for your pets to enjoy and explore?

Resolution #12 Seek more natural ways to support your pet's health.

Just as is the case for us humans, a more holistic and natural approach to caring for your pets is becoming ever more beneficial in today's modern society.

'Integrated' health care for pets can combine the best of conventional Veterinary medicine – including diagnostics like blood tests and x-rays, pharmaceuticals and surgery – alongside diet and nutrition, supplements, herbal and homeopathic formulas, physiotherapy and acupressure and acupuncture. All of which can contribute to us achieving our ultimate goal of improving our loyal companions' quality of life. Why not schedule a chat with a natural health care practitioner to see how a more natural approach to your pet's health care could benefit them this year... and for every year in the future?

Study suggests inbreeding contributes to increase in disease and health care costs

Date: December 2, 2021

Source: University of California - Davis

Summary: The majority of dog breeds are highly inbred, contributing to an increase in disease and health care costs throughout their lifespan, according to new research.

Dog breeds are often recognized for distinctive traits -- the short legs of a dachshund, wrinkled face of a pug, spotted coat of a Dalmatian. Unfortunately, the genetics that give various breeds their particular attributes are often the result of inbreeding.

In a recent study published in *Canine Medicine and Genetics*, an international team of researchers led by University of California, Davis, veterinary geneticist Danika Bannasch show that the majority of canine breeds are highly inbred, contributing to an increase in disease and health care costs throughout their lifespan.

"It's amazing how inbreeding seems to matter to health," Bannasch said. "While previous studies have shown that small dogs live longer than large dogs, no one had previously reported on morbidity, or the presence of disease. This study revealed that if dogs are of smaller size and not inbred, they are much healthier than larger dogs with high inbreeding."

Inbreeding affects health

The average inbreeding based on genetic analysis across 227 breeds was close to 25%, or the equivalent of sharing the same genetic material with a full sibling. These are levels considered well above what would be safe for either humans or wild animal populations. In humans, high levels of inbreeding (3-6%) have been associated with increased prevalence of complex diseases as well as other conditions.

"Data from other species, combined with strong breed predispositions to complex diseases like cancer and autoimmune diseases, highlight the relevance of high inbreeding in dogs to their health," said Bannasch, who also serves as the Maxine Adler Endowed Chair in Genetics at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

The researchers partnered with Wisdom Health Genetics, a world leader in pet genetics, to obtain the largest sample size possible for analysis.

Wisdom Health's database is the largest dog DNA database in the world, helping researchers collect data from 49,378 dogs across 227 breeds -- primarily from European sources.

Some breeds more inbred

So, what makes a dog breed more inbred than others? Bannasch explained that it's often a combination of a small founding population followed by strong selection for particular traits in a breed -- often based on looks rather than purpose. While she has always had an interest in the population structure of some of these breeds, she became particularly interested in the Danish-Swedish farmdog several years ago. She fell in love with their compact size, disposition and intelligence, and ended up importing one from Sweden.

Bannasch discovered that Danish-Swedish farmdogs have a low level of inbreeding based on their history of a relatively large founding population of 200, and being bred for function, rather than a strong artificial selection for looks. And according to the insurance health data on breeds collected from Agria Insurance Sweden and hosted online by the International Partnership for Dogs, the farmdog is one of the healthiest breeds.

The study also revealed a significant difference in morbidity between brachycephalic (short skull and snout) and non-brachycephalic breeds. While that finding wasn't unexpected, the researchers removed brachycephalic breeds from the final analysis on effects of inbreeding on health.

Preserving genetic diversity

In the end, Bannasch said she isn't sure there is a way out of inbred breeds. People have recognized that creating matches based solely on pedigrees is misleading. The inbreeding calculators don't go back far enough in a dog's genetic line, and that method doesn't improve overall high levels of population inbreeding.

There are other measures that can be taken to preserve the genetic diversity and health of a breed, she said. They include careful management of breeding populations to avoid additional loss of existing genetic diversity, through breeder education and monitoring of inbreeding levels enabled by direct genotyping technologies.

Outcrosses are being proposed or have already been carried out for some breeds and conditions as a measure to increase genetic diversity, but care

must be taken to consider if these will effectively increase overall breed diversity and therefore reduce inbreeding, Bannasch said. In particular, in the few breeds with low inbreeding levels, every effort should be made to maintain the genetic diversity that is present.

Other UC Davis authors include Thomas Famula, Kevin Batcher, Noa Safra, Sara Thomasy and Robert Rebhun. Contributors from Wisdom Health Genetics include Jonas Donner, Heidi Anderson and Leena Honkanen.

This work was supported by the International Canine Health Award and the Maxine Adler Endowed Chair Fund.

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