

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2022

February Regular Meeting

February 17th 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

Upcoming Classes and CGC Testing

- A new session of classes starts this month. For club members who are teaching and assisting classes, there will be open practice time available after classes.
- Volunteers for CGC Testing will be needed on March 25th at 5:30PM. Please email Richard at richbriz@gmail.com if you can help.

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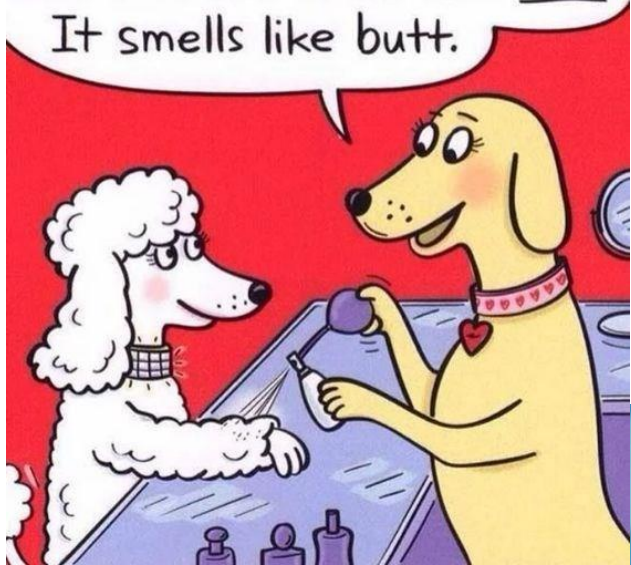
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Fun Facts and Comics Corner

This one will drive him wild.
It smells like butt.



Researchers lay groundwork for potential dog-allergy vaccine

Date: December 22, 2021

Source: Osaka Prefecture University

Summary: Scientists have identified a series of molecular candidates for those parts of dog allergens that cause immune reactions in people--the first step in developing a vaccine against most causes of dog allergies.

There have been many research efforts describing the nature and progression of dog allergies, but there have been very few applied studies that use this information to try to cure people of dog allergies entirely by artificially inducing immune tolerance. But researchers have now for the first time identified candidates for those parts of the molecules that make up dog allergens that could give us precisely that: a "dog allergy vaccine."

Their findings were published in the *Federation of European Biochemical Societies journal* on October 26.

Being allergic to dogs is a common malady and one that is growing worldwide. Over the years, scientists have been able to identify seven different dog allergens -- molecules or molecular structures that bind to an antibody and produce an unusually strong immune response that would normally be harmless.

These seven are named *Canis familiaris* allergens 1 to 7 (Can f 1-7). But while there are seven, just one, Can f 1, is responsible for the majority (50-75 percent) of reactions in people allergic to dogs. It is found in dogs' tongue tissue, salivary glands, and their skin.

Researchers have yet to identify Can f 1's IgE *epitopes* -- those specific parts of the antigens that are recognized by the immune system and stimulate or 'determine' an immune response (which is why epitopes are also called *antigen determinants*). More specifically, epitopes are short amino acid sequences making up part of a protein that induces the immune response.

Epitopes bind to a specific antigen receptor on the surface of immune system antibodies, B cells, or T Cells, much like how the shape of a jigsaw puzzle piece fits the specific shape of another puzzle piece. (The part of the receptor that binds to the epitope is in turn called a *paratope*). Antibodies, also known as immunoglobulin, come in five different classes or isotypes: IgA (for immunoglobulin A), IgD, IgE, IgG, or IgM. The IgE *isotype* (only found in mammals) plays a key role in allergies and allergic diseases. There is also an IgE *epitope* that is the puzzle piece that fits the IgE isotype's *paratope*.

In recent years, there has been extensive effort at developing epitope-focused vaccines -- in this case, a vaccine against dog allergies.

"We want to be able to present small doses of these epitopes to the immune system to train it to deal with them, similar to the principle behind any vaccine," said Takashi Inui, a specialist in allergy research, professor at Osaka Prefecture University and a lead author of the study. "But we can't do this without first identifying the Can f 1's IgE epitope."

So the researchers used X-ray crystallography (in which the diffraction of x-rays through a material is analyzed to identify its 'crystal' structure) to determine the structure of the Can f 1 protein as a whole -- the first time this had ever been done.

They found that the protein's folding pattern is at first glance extremely similar to three other Can f allergens. However, the locations of surface electrical charges were quite different, which in turn suggest a series of 'residues' that are good candidates for the IgE epitope.

Using this basic data, further experimental work needs to be performed to narrow the candidates down, but the findings suggest the development of a hypoallergenic vaccine against Can f 1 -- a dog-allergy vaccine -- is within our grasp.

The production of a 'hypoallergenic vaccine' by use of such epitopes would not just be a world-first with respect to dog allergies but is rare with respect to any allergic reaction. If the researchers' work is indeed used to develop a dog allergy vaccine, the principles behind it could be used much more widely against various allergies.

Journal Reference:

1. Masatoshi Nakatsuji, Keisuke Sugiura, Keisuke Suda, Michiko Sakurai, Miki Ubatani, Haruka Muroya, Rina Okubo, Ryo Noguchi, Yoichi Kamata, Yuma Fukutomi, Osamu Ishibashi, Shigenori Nishimura, Takashi Inui. **Structure-based prediction of the IgE epitopes of the major dog allergen Can f 1.** *The FEBS Journal*, 2021; DOI: [10.1111/febs.16252](https://doi.org/10.1111/febs.16252)
2. Osaka Prefecture University. "Researchers lay groundwork for potential dog-allergy vaccine." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 22 December 2021. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/12/211222153207.htm>.

What's in Your Puppy Contract?



By [Hilarie Erb](#) Dec 15, 2021 |

Many breeders require anyone who purchases one of their dogs to sign a contract. To some buyers, especially first timers, a contract may feel invasive; they might think that for the money they spend, they should have total control over what they do with their puppy.

Explain to buyers that your contract is meant to ensure the dog's well-being and preserve your reputation as a conscientious breeder. Signing it reinforces the responsibility they are undertaking and reminds them of the things they were told by you during visits and phone calls. Spending time getting to know buyers may be the best way to know what kind of dog owners they will be and will go a long way toward giving you peace of mind, no matter what is in your contract.

The requirement to sign a legal document should not be a last-minute surprise to buyers – it should be clear from the very beginning that there will be one. The contract should be available to review before the buyer decides whether or not to purchase a puppy from you. This act in itself can be a tool that will help you and a puppy seeker to decide if this will be a good fit.

This article does not offer any legal advice, but it does share insights and tips from some breeders about what they put in their contracts or whether they even use them at all.

Bobby Lewis, an attorney and long-time AKC Breeder of Merit of Sussex Spaniels, gave up written puppy contracts about 40 years ago. “My philosophy is to get a good feel for your puppy buyers up front and contracts are unnecessary. I also feel that many breeders’ contracts are too burdensome and draconian,” Lewis said. “I certainly would not buy a dog with some of the contract provisions I have heard about. While contract provisions are generally enforceable, the cost of litigation is prohibitive from a breeder’s perspective.”

Contracts vary greatly among breeders, but they should all contain the basics:

- the puppy's AKC registration number
- name and registration numbers of the sire and dam
- purchase price

Pet Puppies

Puppies that are not show quality are usually sold with a [limited registration](#) and/or a spay/neuter requirement, and this should be addressed in the contract. Explain to buyers that dogs with limited registration are eligible to participate in all AKC events with the exception of conformation, and no progeny of these dogs is eligible for registration. A spay/neuter requirement is also common. There has been extensive research about when this should take place, and you should provide your buyers with information about how this applies to your breed. Read [What Is the Best Age to Neuter or Spay Your Dog?](#) for more information on spaying and neutering.

Show Prospects

If you are selling a show prospect, chances are you'll be doing some mentoring too. If the buyer does not want to show the dog, you might stipulate that you want to evaluate the puppy at a certain age and then show it yourself. Some breeders require owners to hire a professional handler to show their dog. Others will only sell show-quality puppies on a co-ownership. It might be changed to total ownership by the buyer upon completion of a championship title.

Since a show dog might be bred at some point, the contract should list all the breed-appropriate health screenings that must be performed (with acceptable results) before this dog is bred. It might also address who decides on a breeding match, who will whelp and place the puppies. Other details may include a puppy-back arrangement or financial details.

Return-to-Breeder Clause

All good breeders want their puppies to have wonderful homes for life. But circumstances beyond the control of the best-intentioned buyers can change things. Health problems, finances, family issues, and more can make providing a dog with the best home impossible.

AKC Breeder of Merit Betsy Kirkpatrick, of Bendywood Border Terriers, said "our main concern selling puppies is their safety. We have a buy back agreement and ask for first refusal if a family can't keep a puppy. We offer to help place them as we want to know where they are and that they do not go to shelters to be resold."

Health Guarantees & Veterinary Care

As a reputable breeder, you know that you cannot make a 100% guarantee that no health issues will ever come up; you can only do your very best by breeding only dogs that have the proper health clearances.

Some contracts include a guarantee against all genetic defects (usually up to a certain age), while others guarantee against specific ailments, such as heart problems, sometimes under certain conditions that may affect a breed.

Hip dysplasia is a common concern in many breeds and often breeders will guarantee against it in some way. Since it is thought to have environmental as well as hereditary

causes, this guarantee usually requires the owner to limit strenuous exercise such as running on hard surfaces and jumping until the puppy is a year old or more, depending on the breed.

Requiring buyers to take the puppy to their own veterinarian within a few days of purchase is normal, as is providing a time frame during which the puppy can be returned to you for a refund if the vet finds any issues.

Saying that up-to-date health records will be provided is common too. “We give a schedule of when shots need to be given and shots and meds they have been given,” Kirkpatrick said.

Puppy Naming

Buyers might not understand why they don't have complete freedom in the naming of their puppy, so you'll need to explain why it's important to you. You might require that your kennel name be part of the puppy's name, allowing the new owners to choose part of name. Some breeders have themes for litters, and it can be fun for buyers to come up with a name that fits. Others provide a list of names and allow the buyer to choose one.

Some breeders send buyers home with the necessary form to register their new puppy, and some take care of it themselves. If you are an AKC Breeder of Merit, ensuring that your puppies get registered is one of the requirements, and you might let buyers know that you will be registering the puppy together online when they come to pick it up. Whatever your naming practices are, give the buyer time to choose their puppy's registered name according to your agreement.

Other Contract Considerations

In Bendywood contracts, Kirkpatrick said that “fenced yards are a requirement but there are exceptions, and we are careful selling to homes with young children that may accidentally open a door. We explain about changing food from puppy to adult, and that the dogs are unaware of heights and to protect them from falling off decks and step railings.

“We have a 20-page packet we give with every puppy and a three-page list of instructions with every litter. Show puppies have different guidelines and breeding agreements, especially health clearances recommended by the Border Terrier Club of America.”

Kirkpatrick also goes into great depth with articles that are attached to the packet that goes with each puppy.

Cindy Stansell, AKC Breeder of Merit of Bulldogs, Finnish Spitz, and Siberian Huskies, feels that it's "not good for the sport to have crippling contracts." She uses contracts and tailors them to the expertise level of particular buyers. A first-time buyer's contract may have more clauses.

As a breeder you want to ensure as much as possible that buyers will take care of their new family member to the best of their ability for a lifetime. Does your contract seem so restrictive or punitive that it intimidates buyers? If your contracts protect your puppies and your integrity, and offer the buyers support, you might even attract newcomers to the sport of dogs!

What Is the Best Age to Neuter or Spay Your Dog?

By [Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO](#) Dec 14, 2021 |



In the United States, it is now common to have all dogs and cats not meant for breeding purposes spayed (ovariohysterectomy) or neutered (castration). In fact, 78% of dog-owning households have spayed or neutered their canine companions according to the American Pet Products Association's 2019-2020 National Pet Owners survey.

This near-routine practice was a result of veterinarians and the animal shelter community working together to reduce the number of unwanted animals that would be euthanized. Currently, Statista estimates that 6.5 million animals enter U.S. animal shelters each year. Of that number, it's estimated that 1.5 million are euthanized. Although [euthanasia](#) has decreased over the last decade or so, there remains a very strong case for routine spay/neuter of pet cats and dogs.

Understanding the Basics

Often, the spay and neuter take place at a very young age for pets, at four to six months. However, studies have shown that this may not be the best age to spay or neuter your dog. The relationship between sex hormones and canine health was not well-considered and understood decades ago when the early spay/neuter campaigns were started. Today, we are discovering that possibly some of those decisions may have affected the health of some dogs.

Research conducted by the University of California – Davis reveals that for some dog breeds, neutering and spaying may be associated with the increased risks of certain health conditions such as joint disorders including hip or elbow dysplasia, cranial cruciate rupture or tear, and some cancers, such as lymphoma, mast cell tumor, hemangiosarcoma, and osteosarcoma. The research conclusions are not surprising. Sex hormones are important in the development of any animal. We know they affect psychological development as well as the musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, and the immune system.

Interestingly though, different breeds and different sized dogs [mature at different ages](#), which means that early spay/neuter may not be bad for all dogs. The wide margin of maturation of dogs varies considerably, as toy breed dogs mature sexually as early as six to nine months of age whereas large and giant breeds may mature as late as 16-18 months of age. The end conclusion is that generally, the larger breeds had possibly more to risk in future health conditions in than small or toy breeds of dogs due to early spaying or neutering since they mature at a later age.

Your Role as an Owner

The American Veterinary Medical Association “promotes the professional judgment of the veterinarian in developing an informed, case by case assessment of each individual patient, taking into account all the potential risks and benefits of spay/neuter.”

My opinion on the topic is that the best age to spay or neuter should no longer be the standard “six months of age” response that many veterinarians have used as a guideline over the years, but rather tailored to each individual dog, especially if the dog is a [large or giant breed](#). If you have a purebred dog, you should also speak with your breeder, who may be able to provide valuable insight. Then, a discussion with your veterinarian based on your dog’s breed or breed type, sex, and potential future medical concerns must be had.

An age of six to nine months of age may be appropriate for neutering or spaying a [toy breed puppy](#) or small breed puppy but a larger or giant breed may need to wait until they are near or over 12-18 months of age. It is also important to understand that often, the earlier these procedures are done, the easier the surgeries usually are for the veterinarian and [recovery for the patient](#). The one rule I recommend is to not knowingly spay a female dog while they are going through their [heat cycle](#) as that may exacerbate excessive bleeding.

In Conclusion

Spaying and neutering pets remains an important part of the effort to reduce the number of unwanted animals and unnecessary euthanasia in this country. When considering whether to spay or neuter your dog, with today's information about the possible effects of age at the time of surgery on their future health, it is ideal to have a detailed discussion with your veterinarian to determine what is best for your dog.

USRVDTC Budget

	2019	2020	2021	2022
President	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Vice President	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,500
Secretary	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Treasurer	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Agility Trials	\$17,255	\$17,255	\$17,255	\$17,255
Agility Training	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
Agility Equipment	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
CGC	\$75	\$75	\$100	\$100
Club	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600
Delegate	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Fun Match				\$200
Historian	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Hospitality	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Video/Book	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Newsletter	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$50
Obedience/Rally Trial	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400
Obedience Training	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Obedience Equipment	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000

Publicity	\$500	\$500	\$100	\$500
Tracking Test	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200
Tracking Training	\$800	\$800	\$100	\$100
Trailer	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Seminar	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$7,500
Scent Work Trial	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Scent Work Training	\$500	\$500	\$250	\$250

USRVDTC 2022 Volunteer Positions

Agility & Obedience Equipment Manager	Carl Frederich & Apprentice Needed
Agility Training Director	Alicia Thompson
Agility Trial Chairperson	LaDawn Moad
AKC Delegate	Barbara Norton
AKC Delegate Liaison	Nicki Bowden
Canine Cood Citizen Chairperson	Richard Brizzee
Financial Audit Committee	Rosah Adams, Desi Chase, Nichole Nead Crossley
Fun Match Coordinator	Leslie Hill
Historian	Rosha Adams
Librarian	Marilynne Manguba
Newsletter	Desi Chase
Obedience Training Director	Heike Vitacolonna
Obedience Trial Chairperson	Desi Chase
Public Education, Publicity & Demonstrations	Marilynne Manguba
Scent Work Training Director	Brian Meyers
Scent Work Trial Chairperson	Nicki Bowden
Tracking Training Director	Brian Meyers
Tracking Test Chairperson	Nichole Nead Crossley
Tracking Test Secretary	Cheryl Loomis
Trailer	Marilynne Manguba
Trophy Coordinator	Sarah Hatcher
Webmaster	Brian Meyers

USRVDTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date 1/20/22

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7:08pm at Mackenzie River.

Previous Board Minutes Read/Dispensed: Nicki Bowden read the minutes from November and Nichole Crossley made a motion that we accept the minutes as read. It was seconded and passed.

Board Members Present:

Nicki Bowden Lacey Moon Suzanne Belger Richard Brizzee Nichole Crossley
Cheryl Loomis Marilynne Manguba

Report of President: None

Report of Vice President: None

Report of Secretary: Lacey received a couple emails from the AKC. One was about how to increase the youth in our club and the other was about the postponement of the Meet the Breed Tour. Lacey also stated that she will be turning in the 2022 membership roll and the club board members to the AKC February 1st. She will also be emailing the updated Membership List to the club members.

Report of Treasurer: Suzanne stated that 2021 books were audited by the auditing committee on 1/5/22. The financial report will be filed with minutes.

Report of Committees:

CGC – Richard reported that the next CGC will be in March.

Obedience – Suzanne brought up that it has been requested that we purchase ring gating rather than continuing to use the baby gates that we currently use. She looked into the price, and it will cost about \$300 to purchase these. Suzanne made a motion that we buy these gates and Nicki seconded. It was voted on and passed.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

New classes begin 2/2/22: Puppy and Trick Dog at 5:15, 2 basic classes at 6:15, club practice 7-9pm. This brought up the question, “what constitutes ‘volunteering?’” As stated in the last club meeting, we are going to have a club practice after open/community classes for club members that assist with the open/community classes. It was questioned what happens when someone shows up to practice but they haven’t helped with any class. It was suggested that club members who would like to do club practice from 7-9 may come and practice by paying a \$5.00 drop-in fee. It is still STRONGLY suggested that club members help with the classes. The motion was made by Nicole to have a drop-in fee for non-volunteer club members. It was seconded by Marilynne and passed.

Nicki stated that it would be beneficial for the club to have a sign up on the website where club members can put in their own information for their plaques and hangers for the titling accomplishments. It will be easier for the volunteer who will be ordering the plaques and hangers with the form online. The motion was made by Suzanne to put the form online. It was seconded by Nichole and passed.

The 2022 Budget was reviewed and adjusted as needed. The new budget is attached and filed with minutes.

The 2022 Committee Chairs were reviewed. Every chair was filled except for an apprentice for Carl Friedrich (Equipment Manager). This needs to be filled ASAP. The new chairs are attached and filed with minutes.

Leslie Hill would like to continue Fun Matches this year. She wrote an email which Nicki read which states the information for the Fun Matches. Nicki will clarify some of the items on the email and get a schedule put together with Leslie to start the matches.

Desert Mountain Promotions sent contracts to the club to be the trial secretary for the obedience, rally and agility trials. They were read and signed.

Motion for Adjournment: Suzanne

Seconded by: Cheryl

Time Adjourned: 8:58