

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2022

April General Meeting

April 21st 7:00 PM

At Papa Tom's

Upcoming Agility Trial

USRVDTC Agility Trial April 15th 16th & 17th

At Wind River Arena

**Please come help set up at 7:00PM Thursday evening

Fun Matches

The club is excited to offer fun matches. Enjoy these opportunities to get trial ready. See the following page for details.

President

Nicki Bowden
208.709.7914
Nedwob88@gmail.com

Vice President

Richard Brizzee
208.201.4088
richbriz@gmail.com

Treasurer

Suzanne Belger
208.521.8872
desertmtnmalinois@gmail.com

Secretary

Lacey Moon
208.520.6500
Philandlaceymoon@hotmail.com

Board Members

Nichole Crossley (3 years)
208.315.7355
homedawgeducation@gmail.com

Marilynne Manguba (1 year)

208.221.5142
marilynnem@gmail.com

Cheryl Loomis (2 years)

208.970.9492
setnsundogs@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Desirae Chase
Desiraechase25@gmail.com

FUN MATCHES

We are happy to begin Fun Matches again! The fun match is a good opportunity to get ring experience with your dog and test your growing skills in a ring. Keep in mind each entrant is expected to. We will set up the rings/items together then begin. There will be a walk thru for classes/events which normally offer them. To make good use of our time we will not hold briefings. We will have AKC printed regulations at each Fun Match and we expect each team to come prepared. To ensure we can continue Fun Matches there will be a \$5.00 per run fee. Looking forward to growing together!

We have the following events scheduled:

Rally Fun Match - Sunday, April 3rd 11am to 2pm - Bonneville County Fairgrounds-Carriage House

Obedience Fun Match - Sunday, April 24th 11am to 2pm - Location TBA based on Weather

As the weather heats up so do weekend schedules. Your input is needed to determine when would be a good time to schedule other Matches. Please email your preferences to lehill54@yahoo.com.

PLEASE LET US KNOW:

1. During the Spring and Summer months do you prefer Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays?
2. Scent Fun Match Options: Wed-May 11th Thurs-May 12^h Wed-Jun 7th Thurs-Jun 8th (choose all that work for you). The Scent Fun Match will occur 6-9pm or later as needed.

NOTE: If held Tuesday or Wednesday we would hold later to make work with Classes.

RALLY FUN MATCH

Sunday, April 3rd

11am-2pm 4H Building

Bonneville County Fairgrounds – Carriage Bldg.

1542 E 73rd St, Idaho Falls 83404 (South of Sandy Downs)



Come and work your team on a Rally course in an indoor ring environment.

We will set up all levels Novice – Masters

COST: \$5.00/run (*can run multiples as time allows*)

All Entrants will be providing ring support to ensure a great environment
Ensure your spot by emailing with name of your dog and class(es) you want to
enter to: lehill54@yahoo.com

Drop ins and multiple runs are welcome – time allowing.

We will have an indoor ring, course, and maps for each Rally Level. Arrive at 11am
to help set up rings then get your dog(s) organized. All involved will take turns
working the ring.

This Fun Match is being offered through the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training
Club. As such the club's code of conduct and rules will be followed. Each
participant is responsible for their own dog(s) and any disputes for misconduct are
to be directed to the Club's Leadership. All efforts will be made to provide a safe
environment though there may still be a risk of injury. Each participant is
responsible for any injury which may occur.

Include in your email: Your Name, Phone No., Email Address, Dog(s) name(s),
Classes desired.

All emails received by Friday, 04/01/2022 at noon will receive a return email with
tentative running order by Saturday.

Fun Facts and
Comics Corner

The Lighter Side

Great Art ... Embellished



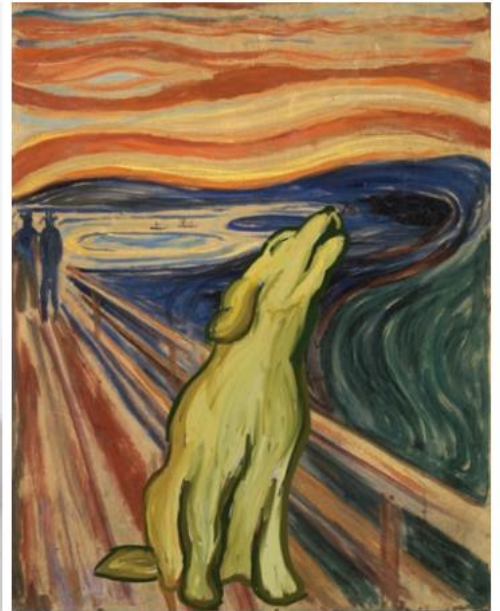
David & Friend



Mona Lisa & Friend



Venus deFido



The Howl



Self Portrait with Coned Dog



The Last Supper ~ with Guest

Poison Prevention for Pets

by [Christina Hoskin](#) | Mar 7, 2018 | [Blog](#)

Tips to keep your pet safe and help you avoid a trip to the veterinary emergency hospital



Poison Prevention Week (Mar. 18 – 24) was established to help raise awareness and prevent illness and injuries for pets. But in reality, we need to focus on poison prevention all year long as Emergency and

Critical Care Specialists treat cats and dogs year round for this condition.

Pets may become very ill after ingesting many common household foods, products, and plants; a thorough inspection of your home—outside areas included—can help reduce the risk. Instinctively, pets are curious creatures—particularly cats—and if a partially empty container with cleaner, alcohol, medications, etc. is left out, your pet may “investigate.” It’s not hard to imagine that when a spilled toxic fluid gets on a cat’s paw, she will clean herself with her tongue, ingesting something harmful. Unfortunately, with our pet’s smaller bodies and weight, just a small amount could be fatal.

Common household foods and products. There are numerous human foods which can be toxic to pets. Here are some of them:

- Alcohol
- Bones
- Caffeine
- Chocolate
- Citrus oil extracts
- Grapes and raisins
- Moldy foods
- Medicine/ supplements

The ASPCA has a complete list on their website including household cleaning products and health and beauty items, you may access it [HERE](#).

Common house plants that are known to be toxic include:

- Azalea
- Cactus
- Creeping Charlies
- Lilies
- Ivy
- Mistletoe
- Philodendron
- Poinsettia

It's important to note that spring and summer can be particularly hazardous times for pets with lawn and garden chemicals out. Be cautious, read directions carefully, and keep extra supplies out of reach and sealed tightly.

Symptoms of accidental poisoning. Some poisons will result in an immediate reaction for your pet while others may take several days to manifest symptoms. While there is not one set of exact symptoms to indicate a pet has been poisoned, there are some general symptoms to look for, including:

- Drooling, vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea
- Lethargy, weakness
- Pale or yellowish gums
- Excessive thirst or urination
- Nervousness, hyperactivity, muscle tremors, seizures, coma

If you witness your pet ingesting something he/she should not be, safely collect the materials involved. When seeking veterinary care, bring the product's container with you, this can be helpful for veterinary professionals treating your pet.

If you suspect a pet poisoning, it's important to seek emergency veterinary care. If your family veterinarian is not available, we offer 24-hour emergency care at WestVet, no appointment is necessary, bring your pet day or night for immediate help.

In addition, the ASPCA has an Animal Poison Control number, (888) 426-4435.

Please note, they do charge a consultation fee.

It is our hope that a little prevention and planning will reduce the number of pets accidentally poisoned each year.

How Much Language Do Dogs Really Understand?

By [Mary Robins](#) Mar 24, 2021 |

We've all heard a story of a whip-smart dog who learned strategic words, like "walk" or "treat." But do those dogs really understand human language, and if so, what are the limits on their language learning? A burgeoning field of scientific research is beginning to find some answers.

The Average Dog Doesn't Distinguish the Details of Human Speech

Try telling your dog to "sit" or "sid" and you'll likely get the same result: a good pup in a nice sitting posture. That's because, as recently demonstrated in [a study](#) from Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary, dogs don't access phonetic details when they're listening to human speech.

Researchers used a groundbreaking non-invasive method to observe dogs' cognitive responses to three types of word: instruction words they already knew (like [sit, stay, or down](#)), nonsense words that sound similar to those known instruction words, and nonsense words that sound nothing like the known instruction words.

They found that when it comes to distinguishing an instruction word from a totally different nonsense word, dogs' brains process speech very quickly—on a similar timescale to humans, in fact. But when a nonsense word sounds just like an instruction word, they don't distinguish at all.

This means that dogs aren't listening to or learning words in quite the same way as humans—or at least, not in the same way as *adult* humans. This kind of non-detailed phonetic recognition is also the way babies process speech up to the age of about 14 months, and goes some way toward explaining why most dogs can only learn a small handful of words, since a big vocabulary requires precision.

So what does all this mean for you and your pup? Dr. Lilla Magyari, one of the researchers on the project, notes that first and foremost, it means that dogs *are* listening to your speech. “If some owners are thinking that it doesn’t matter what I say to my dog because the dog is watching the gestures I do or finding out from context what he or she should do, it’s not entirely true. They do listen to human speech,” Dr. Magyari says. It just seems that their attention isn’t on the phonetic details—and yet even that isn’t set in stone. “There are studies that show that after some training, some dogs can differentiate similar-sounding words,” Dr. Magyari continued. “So it doesn’t mean even that they don’t hear these differences. It is just that they probably don’t think that those differences are important.”



In short: keep talking to your dog, and keep using clear commands while training them. They are listening. They just have their own way of processing the information.

Some Dogs Really Are Linguistically Gifted

Then there are the exceptions: dogs who can learn hundreds of vocabulary words. These pups are currently the subjects of another study at Eötvös Loránd University, and recently [made headlines](#) after going to head-to-head in a live [Genius Dog Challenge](#), which challenged them to learn up to 12 new words in the space of a week. All six dogs successfully learned between 10 and 12 words in one week.

Perhaps even more interestingly, the words they learned were not command words, like those tested in Dr. Magyari’s study, but names for toys—a category of word that dogs seem to have much more trouble picking up. “We know that dogs can learn commands or cues or sound stimuli or any stimulus for a behavior, which is basically a process of association,” Genius Dog researcher Dr. Claudia Fugazza says. “But there was [no existing research] about learning the names of objects. So we started investigating and we found that, irrespective of the age when you start training, most dogs do not learn the name of objects. We trained a group of dogs very intensively for three months, we included a group of puppies around three months old and a group of adult dogs, and none of them could learn any words.”

Today, we’ve gained insight into how the smartest dogs learn. Chaser, shown here with her toys, learned the names of more than one thousand objects.

Yet the six dogs that participated in the Genius Dog Challenge were able to [learn the names of objects](#) with no training. In fact, astonishingly, some dogs could learn the name of a toy after just four repetitions. Perhaps even more fascinatingly, most of the dogs that have this trait seem to be [Border Collies](#).



Dr. Fugazza and her team are now hard at work finding out how and why certain dogs have such advanced linguistic skills. “We suspect that there might be a genetic basis for this talent,” she says, “but for the moment we don’t know. Of course the fact that most of the dogs that have this capacity are Border Collies points to some genetic factors, but we need to run some studies to find out.” Dr. Fugazza adds that the ability could very well come down to a combination of genetic and environmental factors—dogs with a particular gene meeting the right conditions for their vocabularies to soar.

How Can Dog Lovers Help Foster Better Communication Between Humans and Dogs?

So where does this leave the average dog owner or dog lover? Since we now know for sure that every dog really is listening when we talk, there’s every reason to continue lavishing attention on our pups, linguistically and otherwise. And when you train, make sure to use clear command words, to make it as easy as possible for your pup to understand. After all, they’re the ones doing most of the work here: humans have not yet learned any words in Doggish.

How about if you suspect you know a linguistically gifted dog? Dr. Claudia Fugazza and her team are still looking for genius dogs to help further our understanding of dogs’ linguistic abilities. If your pup knows the names of more than 10 objects or toys, you can [apply to participate in gifted-dog studies](#), and bring humankind one step closer to our best friends.

How to Teach Your Dog to Identify Toys by Name

By [Sassafras Lowrey, CTDI](#) Mar 28, 2022

Your dog probably has a lot of toys—maybe even too many. But the good news is that you can use them to create a challenging brain puzzle.

Our dogs understand many words, from [obedience cues](#) to words about their daily life and activities like walk, park, and dinner, but they can also be taught the names of different objects, including all of their toys. [Chaser the Border Collie](#), who passed away in 2019, was considered by many to be the smartest dog in the world. Chaser rose to fame for her impressive ability to identify more than 1,000 different toys by name. She appeared on many television shows, was the feature of a book, and helped elevate the possibilities of positive reinforcement dog training. But most importantly, she shifted understanding about what dogs are cognitively capable of learning.

Mental stimulation is just as important as physical exercise for our dogs. Teaching your dog the names of their toys is one fun way to give them some mental exercise—and it's also sure to impress your friends and family. This [brain puzzle game](#) is low impact, making it good for dogs of all ages, and is the perfect activity for when time or weather prevents you from getting outside with your dog.

Naming Toys

When building your dog's vocabulary, try to be consistent with the names that you give to different toys. The names can be descriptive of the object—like calling a [tennis ball](#) “ball” or a plush bear “bear”—or you can get creative and give them more unique names. The most important thing is to be consistent with using the same name once you start teaching it to your dog. It can be helpful to have a list, or even a digital spreadsheet you can update when your [dog gets new toys](#), so you don't confuse your dog by changing the names of toys accidentally.

Teaching Your Dog Toy Names

When you are teaching your dog to identify different toys by name, it helps to start with their favorites. Those toys will likely already have a name, so your dog will already have some associations with pairing a name to the toy. Dogs who are very toy-motivated might pick up this skill more quickly, but any dog can learn and excel at this activity. Here's how to teach it.

Step 1: Pick one toy that your dog has a strong connection to and enjoys playing with. Choose a name for that toy, and then put the toy in front of your dog. Ask your dog to get the toy by name, then praise and treat them for getting the toy and bringing it to you.

Step 2: Repeat this several times making sure to use the toy's "name" when you ask your dog to get it. This will help your dog make the connection about the name of the toy.

Step 3: Now place the toy on the floor with another object that isn't a dog toy, such as a [book](#) or a [water bottle](#). The idea is that it's something that is less exciting than the toy, but still requires your dog to distinguish between the objects. Ask them to get the toy by name, and then offer them lots of praise and treats when they bring it to you.

Step 4: After several repetitions of placing the named toy near objects that are not dog toys, place the toy that your dog knows the name of next to another dog toy. Try to select a toy that isn't another favorite to make it easier for your dog not to get distracted. Ask your dog to select the toy they know by name and give treats and praise when they select the correct toy.

Step 5: Once your dog is consistently picking out the toy by name when it's next to random objects as well as other toys, it's time to teach your dog the name of the next toy. Repeat the above steps with another of your dog's toys.

Step 6: When your dog knows the names of two (or more) toys, start to use those toys next to each other in your setups and ask your dog to retrieve one toy by name and then the other(s).

If at any point your dog chooses the wrong toy, just go back to the previous step where your dog was successful for a few practice sessions and then try again with the higher level of difficulty.

Developing Your Dog's Vocabulary

Now that your dog knows the names of a few toys, it's time to start [increasing their vocabulary](#) by naming more of their toys and using the above steps. Just be sure to keep practicing the toy names that your dog has already learned. The repetition will help them not only build their vocabulary by recognizing the names of new toys, but also maintain the vocabulary they've built.

Rewards

For dogs who are very toy-motivated, you can start to phase out using treats as a reward for identifying the proper toy by name. Instead, use that toy to play fetch or tug, depending on your dog's play preference. As you are playing, you can continue to use the toy's name so that your dog will continue to make associations between the word and the toy. If your dog is not strongly toy-motivated, you'll want to continue making sure to give a treat when they identify the correct toy on cue.

Building Puzzle Skills

As you build up your dog's skills, you can make the puzzle more challenging. Ask your dog to find a toy with an increasing number of toys around it, or even from within a pile or [basket of dog toys](#). For extra enrichment, you can teach your dog to [put their toys away](#) and then find specific toys. Another way to make the game more challenging is to ask your dog to find a specific toy from another room in your home and bring it back to you. Just make sure to build up the difficulty slowly by gradually increasing the number of toys your dog must search within, and incrementally building distance from the toys when you send your dog to search.

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

USRVDTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date 3/17/2022

The regular bi-monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, on Thursday, March 17th, 2022 at 7:06pm at Papa Tom's Pizza.

Previous Board Minutes Read/Dispensed: Motion to accept board minutes as they were printed in the newsletter.

Motion by: Suzanne Belger

Seconded by: Richard Brizzee

Board Members Present:

Lacey Moon Cheryl Loomis Suzanne Belger Nicki Bowden Richard Brizzee

Guests Present:

Phil Moon Rosha Adams

Report of President: None

Report of Vice President: Summer Party will July 21th 2022 at shelter #3, Christmas Party needs to be an open space. Let's do it 12/10? Richard will look around for a venue and caterer.

Report of Secretary: Email from AKC about situation in Ukraine. Effective immediately, AKC will not approve any judges from Russia and new requests for imported dog registrations from Russia will be denied. A second email from AKC outlines the 2022 Trick Dog National Competition.

Report of Treasurer: Net YTD \$1884.52 Total \$113,969.47 Scent work seminar lost \$1834.52. It was a fantastic seminar and worth every scent (he-he). We received dividends on our CDs and Suzanne is going to check to see if we can move them to a savings account. The financial reports are on file in the secretary box and available upon request.

Report of Committees:

Match Committee—Would like to request an additional \$50 in budget. Cheryl Loomis moved that we give the match committee an additional \$50 for their budget. It was seconded by Richard and passed. It was brought forward to a vote if we should give any junior competitor/ members a discount on matches, trials and tests. It was voted on and failed.

Scent Work –For the June trial in Blackfoot, Nicki finally got ahold of Carol Chase and we'll have 2 judges –a licensed judge and a provisional judge –provisional for novice and advanced and a second, licensed judge to judge the higher levels. They will be working at the same time so we can take more dogs and not be there all day and night.

Seminar Committee –Scent Seminar was best seminar we've had. Their next seminar is called Scent and Detection. Suzanne thinks we should sign up for this. She would like to authorize another seminar. They have 11/18-20 available. Cheryl moved that we schedule with Ford K9 for 11/18-20. It was voted on and passed. We need to find someone to do agility seminars. We'd really like some ideas too.

CGC – Test is next Wednesday. Be there at 5:30 and it starts at 6. Trick Dog testing is at 5:30. All non-members and class members are free. Everyone else is \$5 (it needs to be paid for before the test begins).

As historian, Rosha Adams was wondering about the 70th anniversary of the club. What are we planning? We're going to work with Brian about putting a page together on our website. Also, Rosha was thinking about getting a digital frame and uploading pictures from the past and present to set up at our trials. Rosha wants permission to buy a frame. Cheryl moved to add \$150 to the historian budget so she can buy a picture frame. Suzanne seconded. It was voted on and passed.

Classes – Before we put the next classes online, we need to have committed teachers for all classes. We can't offer classes to public without instructors.

Unfinished Business:

Achievement Award Points - We reviewed the point system that goes with the achievement award. Suzanne and Nicki looked over the point system and decided that we need to add the higher titles to the list and assign points and they'll review the entire system. Suzanne will work on it and bring it to the next board meeting to discuss.

New Business:

Motion for Adjournment: Suzanne Belger

Seconded by: Richard Brizzee

Time Adjourned: 8:25pm