

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



MAY NEWSLETTER 2022

May Board Meeting

May 19th 7:00PM

McKenzie River

Upcoming Classes

Instructors are needed for the summer obedience sessions. Please contact Nicki Bowden (nedwob88@gmail.com) if you can teach or assist.

Fun Matches

We want to hear from you!
We are thinking about offering future Fun Matches on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings beginning mid-Juneish.
Please email Leslie Hill (lehill54@yahoo.com) with what day you prefer.

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2022 Obedience/Rally Trials Gift Card List

Here is the needed sponsors list for gift cards at the USRVDTC August Obedience and Rally Trial. Remember you do not buy any cards. You will pay your obligation to Suzanne Belger, our club treasurer.

The available classes to sponsor are **blank**.

Please email me at desiraechase25@gmail.com indicating the DAY and CLASS you are sponsoring instead of adding directly to this list.
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THIS LIST!

***If the class is filled by someone before your input is received, I will try to place your input in another similar available class.

*****FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022*****

Class Name	Cost	Sponsor Name
Obedience Classes		
High Combined (Open B & Utility)	\$25	Kristie Rasmussen
Highest Scoring Dog in Regular Class	\$25	Carl Friedrich
High Combined Preferred	\$25	ODMAD Dog Training Jane Guidinger
Highest Scoring Dog in Preferred Class	\$25	MaryLee Moore
Novice A	\$10	MaryLee Moore
Novice B	\$10	Dawn Baughman
Open A	\$10	Guardyan's Kosmo
Open B	\$10	Guardyan's Kosmo
Utility A	\$10	Jennifer Evans
Utility B	\$10	Jeanette Johnson
Beginning Novice A	\$10	In memory of JJ Baughman

Beginning Novice B	\$10	ODMAD Dog Training Jane Guidinger
Preferred Novice	\$10	Jim and Sun Norrell
Graduate Novice	\$10	Jim and Sun Norrell
Preferred Open	\$10	Redcoat Kennel MD and Jane Guidinger
Graduate Open	\$10	Suzanne Belger
Preferred Utility	\$10	Petsmart Store of Idaho Falls
Versatility	\$10	Lucien and Rascal Frederick
Rally Classes		
High Combined (Advanced B & Excellent B)	\$25	Redcoat Kennel, M.D. and Jane Guidinger in memory of "Tennille"
High Combined Triple (Advanced B, Excellent B, & Masters)	\$25	MaryLee Moore
Rally Novice A	\$10	MaryLee Moore
Rally Novice B	\$10	Sawtooth Pyrenean Shepherds
Rally Intermediate	\$10	Aaron and Lynne Johnson
Rally Advanced A	\$10	Leslie Hill
Rally Advanced B	\$10	in memory of Teddy Vitacolonna
Rally Excellent A	\$10	Cal-Ranch store of Blackfoot
Rally Excellent B	\$10	ODMAD Dog Training, Jane Guidinger
Rally Master	\$10	Nichole Nead Crossley

*****SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022*****

Class Name	Cost	Sponsor Name
Obedience Classes		

High Combined (Open B & Utility)	\$25	Kristie Rasmussen
Highest Scoring Dog in Regular Class	\$25	Carl Friedrich
High Combined Preferred	\$25	Kristie Rasmussen and Seti
Highest Scoring Dog in Preferred Class	\$25	MaryLee Moore
Novice A	\$10	Kato and Desirae Chase
Novice B	\$10	Redcoat Kennel, M.D., and Jane Guidinger
Open A	\$10	Leslie Hill
Open B	\$10	Jennifer Evans
Utility A	\$10	Rascal and Lucien Frederick
Utility B	\$10	Jeanette Johnson
Beginning Novice A	\$10	Jeanette Johnson
Beginning Novice B	\$10	Birdy Baughman
Preferred Novice	\$10	Nicki Bowden
Graduate Novice	\$10	Cal-Ranch of Blackfoot
Preferred Open	\$10	Nicki Bowden
Graduate Open	\$10	Lacey Moon
Preferred Utility	\$10	in memory of Teddy Vitacolonna
Versatility	\$10	Michael Moore
TEAM Class Prizes (4 x \$10)	\$40	
Rally Classes		
High Combined (Advanced B & Excellent B)	\$25	Suzanne Belger
High Combined Triple (Advanced B, Excellent B, & Masters)	\$25	MaryLee Moore
Rally Novice A	\$10	Mark and Donna Whitham

Rally Novice B	\$10	Rosha Adams
Rally Intermediate	\$10	ODMAD Dog Training, Jane Guidinger
Rally Advanced A	\$10	Sawtooth Pyrenean Shepherds
Rally Advanced B	\$10	Aaron and Lynne Johnson
Rally Excellent A	\$10	Jonna Young
Rally Excellent B	\$10	Sawtooth Pyrenean Shepherds
Rally Master	\$10	Vandal Kennel- Nichole Nead Crossley

*****SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2022*****

Class Name	Cost	Sponsor Name
Obedience Classes		
High Combined (Open B & Utility)	\$25	Kristie Rasmussen
Highest Scoring Dog in Regular Class	\$25	Carl Friedrich
High Combined Preferred	\$25	Petsmart of Idaho Falls
Highest Scoring Dog in Preferred Class	\$25	Suzanne Belger
Novice A	\$10	Charlie and Desirae Chase
Novice B	\$10	Willie Baughman
Open A	\$10	Redcoat Kennel, M.D., and Jane Guidinger
Open B	\$10	
Utility A	\$10	Rascal and Lucien Frederick
Utility B	\$10	Jennifer Evans
Beginning Novice A	\$10	Diana Robinson

Beginning Novice B	\$10	Linda Newby
Preferred Novice	\$10	ODMAD Dog Training, Jane Guidinger
Graduate Novice	\$10	Carolyn, Wales, and Delilah Jenkins
Preferred Open	\$10	Lee Ann Chaffin
Graduate Open	\$10	MaryLee Moore
Preferred Utility	\$10	Petsmart of Idaho Falls
Versatility	\$10	Diana Robinson
Rally Classes		
High Combined (Advanced B & Excellent B)	\$25	MaryLee Moore
High Combined Triple (Advanced B, Excellent B, & Masters)	\$25	
Rally Novice A	\$10	Mark and Donna Whitham
Rally Novice B	\$10	Rosha Adams
Rally Intermediate	\$10	Leslie Hill
Rally Advanced A	\$10	Diana Robinson
Rally Advanced B	\$10	Aaron and Lynne Johnson
Rally Excellent A	\$10	Diana Robinson
Rally Excellent B	\$10	ODMAD Dog Training, Jane Guidinger
Rally Master	\$10	Nichole Nead Crossley

Specialty Sponsorships

***The criteria for these sponsorships are set and sponsored by club members outside of our regular sponsorships.

Highest Scoring Junior Handler in a Regular Obedience Class (Friday)	\$25	The Jossi Family
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Highest Scoring Junior Handler in a Regular Obedience Class (Saturday)	\$25	The Jossi Family
Highest Scoring Junior Handler in a Regular Obedience Class (Sunday)	\$25	The Jossi Family
Highest Scoring Junior Handler in any Rally Class (Friday)	\$25	The Jossi Family
Highest Scoring Junior Handler in any Rally Class (Saturday)	\$25	The Jossi Family
Highest Scoring Junior Handler in any Rally Class (Sunday)	\$25	The Jossi Family

Membership Spotlight



Stephanie Nielsen, an honorary club member, has volunteered 29 years and 16,181 hours at EIRMC. What an amazing example to us all!

Congratulations Steph!!!! We should all strive to be more like you.

Braggs

Congrats to Vyktori and LaDawn! Vyki “Q” ed 5 out of the 8 runs at our agility trial, and earned her Excellent Standard Title.



Congrats to Epic and Nicki! Epic earned her Novice (CD) obedience title in Red Lodge this month.

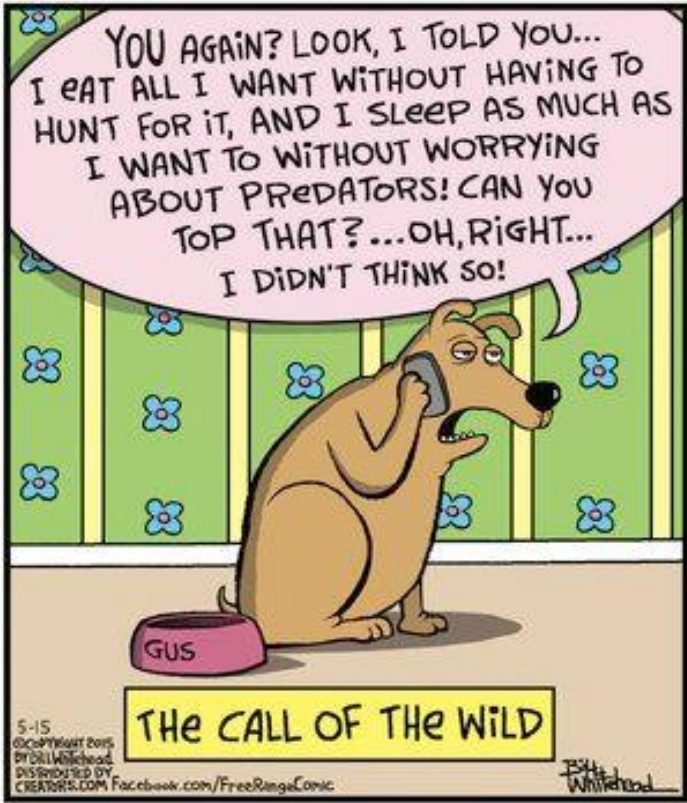
Congrats to Richard and Molly on their Q and a 1st place in FAST!



Congrats to Harley and Alicia who qualified 3 times in Masters, including their first double Q!

We want to celebrate with you! Please send in any brags you have big or small!!

Fun Facts and Comics Corner



NEW TRAINING CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

This month's training challenge is a "tuck" sit.

Once you've trained a nice tuck sit, we want to see it! Send your picture(s) to desiraechase25@gmail.com to be featured in our June newsletter.

Why should we teach a tuck sit? What is it? How can we teach it?

How Should We Teach Sit?

When we teach sit by luring the dog's head up and have them move into us, we can help create a nice tucked sit with knees and feet pointing forward and close to the dog's body. Our dogs sit with good posture and engage more of their core muscles. For the performance/show dog this means better posture when he stacks in the ring. The agility dog has more strength for jumping and turning. And the obedience dog has a nice, tucked sit position for halts and potentially straighter fronts. <https://www.micadogtraining.com/teach-sit-can-make-big-difference/>



Who knew how we teach sit could influence all this?

Competition Dog Sports Etiquette

by [Denise Fenzi](#) | Sep 21, 2015 |

Sometimes novice exhibitors aren't sure what is expected in terms of etiquette at competition dog events and indeed, there are a few unwritten courtesies that make it much easier to manage a lot of dogs in a small space. This blog will address the topic of "dog show etiquette."

It is absolutely possible that your dog loves everyone, doesn't notice being stared at, and has no objections to being approached by rambunctious dogs. It is also possible that your dog does even better in the ring when there is a dog thrashing his toy next to the entrance, but for others, any of the above scenarios can literally ruin their chances of qualifying.

It's helpful if we manage our dogs and our behavior so that everyone can have the best possible chances of success. We all make mistakes, so if you realize that you were playing too close to a ring and now the dog in the ring is staring at you...hey, it happens. Apologize to the owner when the time is right, and be a little more mindful next time.

While some of you might consider this a training issue, keep in mind that a person at the dog show may already be quite nervous, so why make it harder for them than it needs to be? Yes, dogs should be trained to tolerate *normal* levels of distraction, but good manners and basic sportsmanship suggests that it's not your place to create them.

It's not that there are things you *cannot* do, it's just that we're all in this together, so take a moment to be aware that other people may have different needs than you. Try and take their perspective.

I have owned friendly dogs, unfriendly dogs, crate guarders, worriers, rambunctious dogs, etc, and all of them took forms of management. I do not 'relax' at the dog show when my dogs are out; I pay attention, manage behavior as required and put them away when I need a rest. I am responsible for my dog's well being, both physical and mental, and I am also responsible for not causing harm to you or your dog's physical or mental well being.

As you read through the rest of this article, one thing should begin to stand out for you....*you must pay attention*. Always. If your dog is out of his crate, then pay attention to what he is doing and where he is looking. That's your number one responsibility when you are in public with your dog. So if you take nothing else from this blog, hold onto that one thought. Pay attention.

1. Keep your dog under control at all times.

Your dog should not be staring at other dogs or lunging (whether friendly or threatening) anywhere at a dog show. This includes the parking lot, walking in to the building, where you set up your crate and when you move through the common spaces. That means a short leash – 4 feet is pushing it. Your dog should be walking nicely with you or held close if you don't have LLW. There is no reason why your dog should be scampering around 15 or more feet away from you on a Flexi. If you are pulling a dolly and walking three dogs all at the same time, give some thought to whether or not you are in control. If not, you'll need to make more than one trip to your car or take fewer dogs to the show.

Your dog might be social but not all dogs want to visit with your dog and most handlers do not want their dogs visiting, regardless of how friendly they might be. If you really really really want your dog to meet another dog then ask first! If I want to talk to another person and we both have our dogs, then I put my dog on a reliable down stay a few feet away so that I can approach. Most people take the hint nicely and keep their dog with them.

2. Be aware of where you are standing

When entering or leaving a ring, give as much room to the next dog as possible. The last thing the next exhibitor wants is a dog to dog interaction as they enter the ring. You should not be “on deck” until it is your turn to be there, nor should you be standing in such a way that others have to get around you when it is their turn. Move!

3. Manage your dog’s crate behavior.

If your dog whines or barks in the crate, cover it! If that doesn’t do the trick, then learn how to keep your dog quiet in the crate. That might mean sitting with your dog, dropping treats in the top at random intervals, or relocating your crate to a quieter (and possibly less convenient) location. Better yet, train your dog to accept periods of crating, but while you work on that, you are responsible for managing your dog’s behavior.

Not only is it hard on the other exhibitors to have a dog nearby that is incessantly barking or whining, it’s also quite hard on your own dog. Keep in mind that poor crate behavior is a sign of distress – if your dog is worked up and agitated at the show then it’s not likely that you’ll do very well in the ring. Solve the problem! It will make your own dog more successful and comfortable, and it will be much appreciated by your fellow exhibitors. A bark here and there is no big deal – it’s a dog and dogs do vocalize. But non-stop whining,

barking, or even occasional lunging is a problem and you are responsible for controlling it.

If your dog crate guards, cover your crate, or isolate your dog so that others aren't being lunged at every time they walk by. If space is at a premium, place your chair immediately in front of your crate and then sit there, effectively blocking your dog's view of other dogs and making guarding behavior much less likely. If that is not sufficient to do the trick, then ask yourself if you're really ready to be at the show. Maybe you should be working on this issue in training instead of focusing on the actual behaviors required in the ring.

Along those same lines, do not assume that just because your dog doesn't mind other dogs looking in his crate that this is universally the case. Most dogs do not appreciate another dog looking in their crate when they are resting. That is their home! It would be like someone looking in your house windows when you are inside! Give as much room as possible to other people's occupied crates when you and your dog walk by.

4. Consider Where and How you Play with your dog.

There is no problem with playing with your dog at a show, but be aware of the intensity of your play when you are near the rings. That doesn't mean you need to tiptoe and whisper, but take a moment to look around and see where you are before you start throwing food or playing a crazy game of tug in a small space. Agility trials are more relaxed, but even there you should restrict the intensity of your play where the dog in the ring can see you. Not only is this more fair for the person in the ring, it also prevents your dog from becoming a target – don't ask for trouble! Check with your instructor to get a sense of what is reasonable and what will be considered obnoxious by your fellow competitors.

5. Is this a good time to Chat?

Some times are better to talk to people than others, so give some thought to when you approach someone to start up a conversation. Remember, the other exhibitors may be nervous or very focused on their dog at a given moment. If you wait until they are relaxed and not interacting with their dog, and definitely not when they are about to enter or leave a ring, you'll find that most people are very happy to chat.

6. Handling Other People's Ignorance

Realistically, you are going to encounter people who aren't paying close attention, and as a result their behavior will cause problems for others. Here are some phrases that might be helpful:

"Your dog seems really agitated in the crate. Have you considered moving a bit further away from the other dogs to help him calm down? I'm also concerned that he appears to be upsetting some of the dogs that are going in the ring"

"My dog doesn't like other dogs looking at him in his crate. Could you tighten up your leash a bit? Thanks; I really appreciate that"

"I need to get by you but your dog is on a long leash and my dog won't be comfortable if they interact. Thank you."

You get the idea. Tell the person what the problem is, offer gentle advice if they appear receptive, and be kind and appreciative if they make appropriate changes.

Do not EVER discipline or feed someone else's dog without explicit permission, no matter how obnoxious their dog's behavior is. Talk to the trial secretary if you have a serious complaint, or speak with the exhibitor in a gentle fashion. Screaming at them may make you feel better but it sure won't do anything to help the reputation of our sport. And anyway, it's mean and it makes you look ugly. Let's aim a little higher.

New competitors aren't bad, stupid or deserving of humiliation; they simply don't know better yet. We all did things when we were first

starting out – we had to learn. Help them! And if you are an instructor, take a few moments with your new exhibitor and review these basic rules. Better yet, practice and model them in your classes so that they become second nature. We'll all benefit and with time, maybe we can see more growth in our dog sports.

Who Participates in Dog-sporting Events and Why?



Research shows that winning is not everything when it comes to dog-sports.

Posted March 26, 2015 Stanley Coren PhD., DSc, FRSC

It was not so long ago when I went to a dog obedience trial and found I was rather early since my own dog was not going to be in the ring for a couple of hours. With time on my hands I wandered over to where the Rally Obedience competition was going on. As I stood and watched I suddenly felt an arm go around my waist and when I looked to my side I saw a longtime friend who had just celebrated her 71st birthday. She smiled, and asked "So you decided to come out here and hang out with us old girls?"

I laughed and returned her embrace. However, a moment later, I glanced around the room and noticed that her description of the people attending the meet was not really all that inaccurate. It seemed to me that the vast majority of competitors in the hall were in fact women, and most were middle-aged or older. Although this was just a casual observation on my part, this incident came back into my mind when I came across a recent scientific report in the journal *Anthrozoos**. This report looked at who competes in dog-sporting events, and what motivates them to do so.

The study was conducted by a Canadian team of researchers headed by Jocelyn Farrell from the School of Kinesiology at Lakehead University. Data was collected by setting up tables at various dog-sport competitions in the vicinity of Thunder Bay, which is a city in Northern Ontario. Eventually the team collected data from 85 individuals who were willing to fill out the rather extensive set of questionnaires and surveys that were required. Because the researchers were interested in the broad spectrum of dog-sports, each of the events where they gathered data included more than one of the following activities: conformation, obedience, rally, agility, and/or field trials.

The results were rather interesting, and in some respects confirmed my friend's observation. The sample of dog-sport competitors was predominantly female (80 percent). In addition, the majority of participants (78 percent) fell into the age category of 45 to 74 years. There were very few participants between ages 18 and 24, or 75 years of age or above. In addition the majority of the sample was married or living with another individual (73 percent).

One surprise to me was the fact that the education level of the participants was skewed toward a higher level of schooling. Approximately 83 percent of the sample had obtained at least some college or university education and of these 32 percent had some postgraduate education. The researchers suggest that the relative lack of younger participants, and the bias toward people with higher education, may have to do with the cost of competing in dog-sports. Not only are there entry fees, which can be substantial, but also, if the competition is at some distance from a person's home, the cost of travel, and then food and lodging during the contest can be significant. Younger people who are still attempting to establish their careers and families might have less available funding, and more educated people tend to occupy positions that pay better, thus making dog-sports more affordable for them.

There is a myth among dog people that suggests that individuals who engage in dog-sports mostly come from rural areas or small towns. This was not confirmed in this sample since area of residence was fairly evenly distributed. Big cities, with a population greater than 500,000, accounted for 21 percent of the competitors; another 27 percent of participants lived in medium-sized cities with populations of 100,000 to 500,000; an additional 21 percent lived in small cities with populations less than 100,000, and the remaining 28 percent lived in rural areas.

The most popular dog-sport activities were obedience (85 percent), conformation (69 percent), agility (64 percent), rally obedience (60 percent),

and field trials (58 percent). The vast majority of these competitors (80 percent) were active in two to five different dog-sport events with their dogs, and these individuals appear to be quite devoted to dog-sport activities since approximately 77 percent of the sample competed in 12 or more events each year.

The researchers also looked at what motivates people to participate in dog-sports. They broke up motivation into two types which they call "external motivation" versus "internal motivation". External motivation is really based on potential rewards from winning a competition. Externally motivated individuals would agree that they were competing to show others how good they are at the sport or how proficient their dog was, or primarily to win titles and trophies. In contrast, internally motivated competitors would agree with statements like, "I compete for the pleasure of discovering new training techniques," or "for the satisfaction I experience while I am perfecting my abilities," or "because I like the feeling of being totally immersed in the activity."

The researchers report that it was primarily the internal motivation, not the winning of prizes and coming out high in trial, that were the most important motivators for the vast majority of competitors. This is confirmed in by the responses participants gave to a set of open-ended questions. Analysis showed that while there were many different reasons why people engaged in dog-sports, most of these involved internal good feelings or personal rather than external rewards. These reasons the participants gave included improving their connection to dogs (36 percent), the social aspects of participation (40 percent), enjoyment (31 percent), the opportunity for physical activity for both dogs (40 percent) and humans (52 percent), or that people simply got pleasure from the time spent with their dogs and satisfaction from the team aspect of participation (34 percent). In comparison, only 13 percent of the people surveyed highlighted that it was the competition and accomplishment which served as the reason why they participate.

The social aspect of competing in dog-sports should not be underestimated. Individuals who say that the reason they participate is because "it is one of the best ways to meet people," are much more likely to be in the group that competes 12 or more times each year. One person surveyed expressed the essence of the internal and social gains of participation when she said, "I enjoy the time I spend with my dogs and the friends that I have made over the years because of the dogs."

So in dog-sports, winning is not everything. It appears that the majority of people compete in dog-sports simply because they get gratification from the activities associated with the training and achieving their ultimate level of performance, while their social interactions with like minded souls makes them feel good. That is not to say that people in dog-sports don't want to win. One participant gave a set of comments which seem to sum up the results of this study when she said, "I love to train, love to work with my dog and I like to prove to myself that I can keep things together when the pressure's on. The ribbons are nice, too!"

Why Is My Dog Limping?

By [AKC Staff](#) Apr 18, 2022 | 5 Minutes

Like us, dogs limp for a variety of reasons. Unlike us, dogs can't tell us what happened or where it hurts using words, leaving us struggling to figure it out for ourselves.



Your most valuable resource for determining the cause of your dog's limp is your veterinarian. Before calling to make an appointment, however, most of us want to know a little bit about the common causes of limping in dogs, what to expect from a veterinary visit, and when limping is a veterinary emergency.

Gradual Onset vs. Sudden Limping

There are two types of limps: gradual onset and sudden onset. Gradual onset limps happen slowly over time. Sudden limps happen quickly, like their name implies, usually after an injury or trauma. Knowing whether or not your dog's limp is sudden or gradual can help your veterinarian narrow down the possible causes of your dog's limp, and can help you determine if your dog's limp is a veterinary emergency.

In general, gradual onset limps are caused by an underlying, chronic or degenerative condition, such as [osteoarthritis](#) or [dysplasia](#). Sudden onset limps, on the other hand, are usually caused by an injury or trauma.

Just because your dog has a gradual limp does not mean you should put off making an appointment. Some causes of gradual limping, such as bone cancer or [hip dysplasia](#), can be treated more effectively if they are caught sooner rather than later.

When to Call the Vet

In general, it is usually better to play it safe and schedule an appointment with a veterinarian for a limp that lasts more than a few minutes, but as with people, dogs seem to have a knack for getting hurt outside of normal office hours. So how do you know when you can wait until the next morning and when you should rush to the emergency room?

Gradual onset limps or sudden onset limps that don't seem to be bothering your dog too much can usually wait a few hours, and in some cases, may even resolve on their own during the waiting period. In other cases, however, your dog can't wait.

Broken bones or dislocated joints require immediate care, and nerve damage can be a sign of a more serious neurological condition or spinal injury. You need to get your dog into the veterinarian or veterinary emergency room if your dog shows any of the following signs of an emergency:

- Dangling limb (dislocation)
- Swelling
- Hot limb
- Obvious break or unnatural angle

Common Causes of Limping in Dogs

Lameness in dogs is a frequent veterinary complaint, and there is a huge range of possible causes, from chronic conditions to trauma. This may seem overwhelming, but these causes can be broken down into a few categories.

Paw Injury

If you've ever stepped on a piece of glass, then you know how it feels to have something sharp lodged in your foot. Foreign bodies, like glass, nails, sticks, thorns, plant matter, or anything else that should not be in your dog's paw, hurt. They make it uncomfortable to walk and can lead to infection. Insect and animal stings or bites can also cause tenderness and limping, as can lacerations, broken toenails, burns, frostbite, and bruising. A sign that your dog may have something stuck in his paw is that he will lick his paw incessantly.

Joint Disease

Some conditions cause gradual wear and tear on joints and the musculoskeletal system. This leads to limping. [Osteoarthritis](#), [hip dysplasia](#), elbow dysplasia, patellar luxation, ligament disease, [intervertebral disk disease](#), and [osteochondritis dissecans \(OCD\)](#) all can cause limping on any of the affected limbs. Infections like [Lyme disease](#) can also cause joint pain and limping, which is just one more reason why it is important to have your dog on an effective tick preventative.

If your dog is diagnosed with arthritis or suffers from dysplasia, your vet will most likely recommend a veterinarian-grade joint supplement of [glucosamine](#) and chondroitin. Joint supplements are often used as an early intervention and throughout the progression of osteoarthritis because they are safe for long-term use in most patients. While research is still limited, [joint supplements](#) can help reduce symptoms of osteoarthritis and hip dysplasia.

Bone Disease

Some diseases affect the bones in your dog's legs. Younger dogs, especially [large-breed puppies](#), can develop conditions such as hypertrophic osteodystrophy and panosteitis, which make walking painful. [Certain cancers, such as osteosarcoma](#), also affect bones and require prompt diagnosis for the best prognosis.

Injury or Trauma

Injuries and trauma are the most obvious causes of limping in dogs. From car accidents to sports injuries, our dogs are exposed to almost as many types of injuries as we are. Broken bones, fractures, sprains, dislocations, ligament tears, [joint trauma](#), and spinal injuries can all cause moderate to severe limping, and in some cases the dog may not be able to put weight on the affected leg at all. Proper conditioning can help reduce the risk of some sports injuries, but a limping canine athlete should be given plenty of rest until the cause of the limp is identified and treated.

If your dog becomes acutely lame (especially if he's a puppy), wait for about 15 minutes and try to keep your pup quiet and still. They are like children and will likely yelp and cry for about five minutes. You may find them acting perfectly normal after that time and save yourself a trip to the emergency room.

If, however, they are still lame or non-weight bearing after 15 minutes, you should have them be seen by their veterinarian.

Diagnosing a Limping Dog

Sometimes the cause of your dog's limp is clear, like a broken bone or a piece of glass in a paw pad. Other times, the cause is a little more elusive.

Your veterinarian may have to run some tests to determine the cause of your dog's limp. Radiographs can help identify a broken bone, joint disease, and other skeletal abnormalities. Biopsies and joint fluid collection can help identify cancer and other possible causes, and blood testing for infectious diseases like [Lyme](#) or immune-related diseases may also be necessary.

Prior to testing, your veterinarian will perform a physical examination of your dog to test for tenderness, pain, and range of motion in his limbs. You can also do your own examination at home before you call the veterinarian. However, without proper training, testing the range of motion and manipulating your dog's leg is a bad idea and could injure your dog further. You can gently run your hand down your dog's leg and paw to check for swelling, heat, and to determine where your dog is tender. This information can help your veterinarian determine whether or not your dog can wait for an opening or if he needs to come in on an emergency basis.

Treating a Limping Dog

The treatment for your dog's lameness will vary depending on the cause. Your dog's treatment plan could be as simple as a few days of rest, or it could entail surgery, further testing, and a prolonged recovery. While this may sound intimidating, in most cases the sooner you get your dog in to see the veterinarian, the better the prognosis.

While you are waiting for your appointment, try to keep your dog as calm as possible and abstain from exercise or play to avoid making the limp worse, and if necessary, crate your dog in the car to prevent further injury.

For further questions about your dog's limp, contact your veterinarian and schedule an appointment.

Note: Never give any over-the-counter or prescription human pain medication—including ibuprofen or acetaminophen—to dogs as this can be toxic or fatal. Always consult your veterinarian.

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 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date 4/21/2022

The regular bi-monthly regular meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, on Thursday, April 21st, 2022 at 7:06pm at Papa Tom's Pizza.

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

Motion by: LaDawn Moad

Seconded by: Heike Vitacolonna

Members Present:

Lacey Moon

Cheryl Loomis

Suzanne Belger

Nicki Bowden

Richard Brizzee

Phil Moon

Duane Loomis Rosha Adams John Baughman LaDawn Moad Steve
Olson Lois Olson

Alicia Thompson Heike Vitacolonna Jennifer Evans Mira Johnson Jordan
French

Guests Present:

Fred Adams Robert Bonagofski Sharon Tracy Ashley Nielsen Shelby Moad
Makayla Summers

Christina Peters Lauren Tubbs Dean Tubbs

Report of President: Nicki got an email from Marilyn Manguba and she won't be back in action for a while but she misses us all. She wants to do the 70th anniversary at her store still—maybe in June.

Because of the Blackfoot trials we need to move the June club meeting. After discussion it was decided to move it to 6/23/22. Location will be announced in the June newsletter.

Report of Vice President: Summer Party will Thursday, July 21th 2022 at Shelter #3 at Tautphaus Park. There will be more information to come.

Report of Secretary: Email from AKC about American Kennel Club Outstanding Sportsmanship Award Program. If you would like the information sent to you, please email Lacey.

Report of Treasurer: YTD Net Income \$722.96 Total Net Worth \$112,807.91 The treasurer's reports are filed in the secretary box and available upon request.

Report of Committees:

Agility Trial - LaDawn Moad –The agility trial was last weekend at Wind River Arena. Thank you for the volunteers! LaDawn read the email from the judge. She said it was a very well organized and smooth running trial. We had \$9535 in entries and after expenses we profited \$130.81.

Agility Class – Alicia Thompson - We began agility classes 4/19/22. We are offering one class at 5:30pm on Tuesdays. After the class, members can stay after and

practice until dark. If you come to help with setup and class, you can stay and work together after. We also need a back-up trailer puller. If you'd be willing to be on-call to pull the trailer if needed, please contact Alicia Thompson or Nicki Bowden.

Scent Work –Nicki Bowden - The June scent work trial in Blackfoot is open and full. We're doing 175 runs each day because we have 2 judges. A provisional judge (novice and advanced) and a licensed judge (higher levels).

Seminar Committee –Suzanne Belger - Ford K9 will be doing part 2 of the series from the last seminar. It will be held 11/18 through 11/20 at the 4H building. Registration will be on the website soon.

Classes –Nicki Bowden - We will not be doing a puppy class in June. However we need volunteers for obedience classes because our regular teachers are not going to be teaching. If you're interested let Heike and/or Nicki know. We will open classes as we have teachers, but if we don't have classes for the public, we will still have club practices.

Voting in New Members:

The club voted on the applications for membership and would like to welcome: Shelby Moad, Leah Otto, Christina Peters and Lauren Tubbs to the club. Lauren is our only Jr member.

Reading New Member Application:

Mikayla Summers -2 Mini Schnauzers (Riolo and Shinx) and 1 Giant Schnauzer (Espie)

Kim Mitchell- 2 Standard Poodles (Gabby and Sophie)

We will be voting on their memberships in June.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Richard Brizzee – where should we have meetings? The Zone and Papa Tom’s were both suggested because people like to eat and have a drink if they want.

Motion for Adjournment: Steve Olson

Seconded by: Shelby Moad

Time Adjourned: 7:47pm