



UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



JUNE NEWSLETTER 2022

June General Meeting

June 23rd 7:00PM

The Zone

*4th Thursday due to the Blackfoot trials

July Club Picnic

July 21st at Tautphaus Park Shelter #3

5:30 PM

Potluck style

*more details coming soon

Last Call for Sponsorships

The last sponsorship needed for our August obedience and rally trial is the team sponsorship for \$40. Please consider sponsoring this class, or a portion of it. Thanks!

CGC Testing and Fun Matches

CGC testing will be held Wed. June 8th at 5:30 PM with trick dog testing to follow

*Details and dates for fun matches will be out soon
Check your email!

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Fun Facts and Comics Corner



Apology Letter
from
the Dog

vs.

Apology Letter
from
the Cat @iizCat



To my beloved human,
I am so sorry I broke your
flower pot. I feel like
such a bad dog. I will
spend the rest of my life
trying to make it up to
you. I love you.

Please forgive me,
-Your loyal companion

To whom it may concern:

I regret nothing.

-Queen Supreme Kitty



Braggs

During the Pocatello trials, Cheryl and Belle earned their Novice Jumpers Preferred title and Cheryl and Hope earned their first Double Q, with a leg in Master Preferred Standard and Jumpers. Way to go Cheryl, Belle, and Hope!

NEW

TRAINING CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

This month's training challenge is a "reliable" recall!
Once you've trained a recall you can use in the house, yard, or on an adventure; we want to see it!
Send your picture(s) to desiraechase25@gmail.com to be featured in our July newsletter.

Come! Tips For Training A Reliable Recall

By [Sassafras Lowrey, CTDI](#) Oct 28, 2019

- "Reliable recall" refers to the act of calling your dog to come and always expecting them to respond.
- Training games like "find me" or "hot potato" are fun, effective ways of teaching your dog to recall.

- Patience, practice, and positivity are all important aspects when working on reliable recall training.



Learning to [come when called](#), or recall to you, is one of the most important skills your dog can learn. But teaching a recall can be challenging, as dogs find so much of the world so interesting. Each time we ask our dog to come to us, we're asking them to stop what they're doing.

That means turning away from other interesting smells, dogs, and food, to come to us. As a result, to build a reliable recall, we

must teach our dogs that being near us is the most fun thing they can do, not to mention, the thing that brings them the most rewards.

What Is A Reliable Recall?

[Trainers](#) will often throw around the phrase "reliable recall," but what does that mean? Reliable recall means when you call your dog to come, you want to be 99.99% sure they are going to enthusiastically respond. Dogs are not robots, so there is never any guarantee that they will listen to your cue. But with a [lifesaving skill](#) like recall, we are working towards them being as consistent as possible.

Having a reliable recall is especially important if you want to allow your dog to run off-leash outside of a fenced yard or dog park. Even if your dog doesn't go off-leash, reliable recall is an important skill for any dog in the event of an emergency.

Alternatives To Off-Leash Play

There's no shame in keeping your dog on-leash if you aren't confident in their recall. Some dogs will never have a recall that is safe or reliable in all situations, but they can still have fun. Instead, let them play in fenced areas or consider using a [long leash](#). These may give your dog more opportunity to explore while keeping them safely leashed.

Leash Laws

Regardless of how strong your dog's recall is, it's important to respect all local leash laws. This includes your front yard and anywhere else on your property that isn't fenced. Laws are usually also in effect in local, state, and national parks. Respecting leash laws is an important part of helping your dog be a respectful member of your community.

Training Recalls

An important part of teaching recall is to [make training a game](#) for your dog. You want your dog to think that coming and being near you is the best thing imaginable, full of fantastic treats and rewards.

Start your training in a slow, low-distraction environment, like inside your house. First, show your dog a toy or a treat, praise them as they are coming to you, then reward them. After a few repetitions, whenever your dog looks at you and starts to move towards you, add in your chosen verbal cue (come, here, etc.). Make sure to only add in the cue when you are confident your dog is moving towards you.

You can slowly up the ante by asking your dog to come before showing them the treat. But, be sure to reward with a high-value treat like chicken, cheese, or [beef liver](#), when they get to you. Also, try slowly adding distance within your low-distraction environment.

Recall Games

Catch Me: While walking your dog on-leash, get their attention, then turn around and run a few steps. As your pup moves with you, say "come!" or whichever verbal recall cue you're using. After a few steps, stop and [reward](#) with a treat or a toy. Make sure your dog is paying attention before you run, to ensure they don't get yanked by the leash.

Find Me: Once your dog has gotten the hang of recall, a fun game to play to build speed is to call them from another room. When your dog finds you, offer lots of praise and rewards. This hide-and-seek-like game is a lot of fun for both pups and people!

Hot Potato: Take two or more family members or friends and give them high-value treats. Next, stand apart and take turns calling your dog between you. Reward your dog each time they come to the person who called them.

A [common training mistake](#) is to recall the dog, put the leash on, and go home. Dogs will likely learn to view recall as a sign that the fun is over. Understandably, this may make them less likely to come in the future. One good method of practice is to recall, praise, and treat, then release your dog to return to whatever fun thing they were doing before.

Poisoning The Cue

"Come! COME!!! Come! Come! Come! Please come!"

If this sounds like your dog's current recall, you may have a "poisoned cue." This generally happens unintentionally and occurs when the cue either has an unclear meaning or takes on a negative association for the dog, so they ignore it. The easiest way to poison a cue is to overuse it by repeating the word over and over without your dog responding.

In this case, the best thing to do is to change your verbal cue to something new. For example, if you had previously used "come," you could shift to something like "here" or "close." It's best to go back to basics and start at the beginning when introducing the new recall cue.



Recall Training Tips

- - Don't repeat yourself. If you have to repeat your recall cue, the environment may be too distracting. Or, your dog doesn't understand the skill well enough for the level you are trying to train.

- - Reward eye contact. When you notice your dog is looking at you or has self-selected to be close to you, verbally praise and treat. You may use a lot of treats at first, but you are reinforcing an important lesson to your dog. Being near you and paying attention to you makes good things happen.

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- Never punish your dog for coming to you. Even if you're frustrated because your pup took their time before coming, you still should always praise a recall.
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- Reward! When training recalls, use high-value treats and toys for your dog. This is especially true when your dog is learning. Always reward the recall, because you want them to associate coming with getting something great.
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- Practice recalls daily. Slowly increase the difficulty and level of distraction. Moving too quickly is likely to confuse your dog, and may lead to less reliability.
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- If you require recall in an emergency like if a gate was left open, don't chase your dog. That's likely to make them continue the "game" you don't want to play by moving away from you. Instead, try running away from your dog to inspire them to chase after you.

Your dog's breed doesn't determine its personality, study suggests

Work challenges popular idea that breeds have specific, reliable behaviors

28 APR 2022 [DAVID GRIMM](#)

When Kathleen Morrill was 12, she decided she needed a puppy. Not just any puppy—a pint-size papillon with a black button nose and bushy, perky ears. When her parents resisted, "I turned on the waterworks," laughs Morrill, now a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts, Worcester. And so, the family ended up with its first dog—a 2-month-old pup she named Tod.

Tod was registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC), whose website describes his breed as "curious" and "friendly" with a "hardy constitution." But the puppy was shy and scared of strangers, and he developed separation anxiety as he aged. When Morrill's family got another papillon, Rosie, a year later, she was entirely different: bold, outgoing, and adoring of all people. "Breed can be important," Morrill says, "but it's not the full picture of a dog's behavior."

Now, she has the science to back that up. In a new study, Morrill and her colleagues show that almost none of the behaviors we associate with dog breeds—from lovable Labradors to pugnacious pit bulls—are hard-wired. Aside from a few ancient traits, environment seems to play a much larger role than pedigree.

“It’s a major advance in how we think about dog behavior,” says Elaine Ostrander, an expert in canine genetics at the U.S. National Human Genome Research Institute who was not involved with the work. “No breed owns any particular trait.”

Morrill wanted to better understand whether behavioral issues such as aggression and obsessive compulsive disorder in dogs are genetic or environmental. “If they are more prominent in particular breeds,” she says, “that hints they may be genetic.”

Previous work had found [some genetic relationships between breed and behavior](#), but it looked at averages across breeds rather than comparing individual dogs. So Morrill and her colleagues harnessed her lab’s own database, [Darwin’s Ark](#), which has collected survey and genetic data on thousands of dogs across the United States since 2015. Owners answer more than 100 questions—ranging from how friendly their pups are with strangers to whether they like to chase squirrels—and then send in a cheek swab for DNA sequencing.

In the largest study of its kind, the team compared the genetic and survey data of nearly 2000 dogs—most of which had their entire genomes sequenced—and survey results from an additional 16,000 pooches. The pups included mixes and purebreds, with 128 breeds represented.

When it came to physical traits, such as size and floppy ears, genes ruled. At least 80% of a dog’s appearance can be tied to its DNA, the team found.

Behavior was another story. Less than one-quarter of the differences in personality from dog to dog could be explained by genetics. Some behaviors, like retrieving objects and human sociability, were more heritable. The researchers speculate that retrieving may have helped dogs’ wolf ancestors hunt, and that humans likely selected for friendly pooches in the early days of dog domestication.

But most behaviors did not have a strong genetic component, including playfulness around other dogs and (yes, it was in the survey) whether a dog circles before it defecates. “That probably has a lot more to do with where you take your dog to poop,” says Elinor Karlsson, director of vertebrate genomics at the Broad Institute, who oversaw the study.

And when it came to dog breeds, personality varied widely within the same pedigree. Labradors could be loving or standoffish. German shepherds, easy to train—or impossibly headstrong. [Just 9%, on average, of the personality differences between pups were related to their breed](#), the team reports today in *Science*.

Some breeds even defied their stereotypes. Pit bulls, for example, (though not an official AKC breed) were not more aggressive than other dogs, despite their reputation in some quarters as dangerous. The results, Karlsson says, “match what the dog world

has told us”—that the behavior of these animals is shaped by their environment, not their breed.

The bottom line, she says: If you're looking for a dog with a specific personality, “you shouldn't shop out of a catalog. Each dog is an individual.” (A [website](#) the team set up shows just how hard it is to know what you might get.)

Personalities aside, most breeds *do* have a distinct look—probably because breeding for appearance is much easier than breeding for behavior, says Adam Boyko, an expert on canine genetics at Cornell University who was not involved with the work. Breeding for behavior could also have drawbacks, he says. “Anything that changes a brain pattern that much is probably going to have negative effects in other areas.”

Still, after decades of treating, showing, and judging countless breeds, AKC's chief veterinary officer, Jerry Klein, disputes the study's conclusions. “I think most dogs conform to the personality standard of their breed,” he says. Purportedly older breeds, he says, such as Tibetan mastiffs and basenjis—few of which were enrolled in the study—may have more hardwired personalities because they've been around longer.

Klein also contends that if the researchers look beyond breed to classes of dogs—such as sporting dogs (which include a variety of spaniels) and scent hounds (such as basset hounds and beagles)—they would find their behaviors are more similar to each other than they are to other dogs. “It's not as simple as just the breeds.”

If nothing else, Morrill hopes the work will unlock fresh insights into doggo personality. The team found 11 new DNA regions tied to behavior, including one for howling and another for sociability; in humans, these regions are related to language and long-term memory, respectively. Those might one day help scientists treat neurological conditions in both pups and people, she says.

Tod died a few months ago, just shy of his 15th birthday. He became more confident as he got older, something Morrill credits to Rosie's reassuring presence. His personality wasn't tied to his breed—and it also wasn't fixed, she says. “Dogs, like people, can change over time.”

Hiking With Dogs: Tips For Hitting the Trail

By [Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT](#)

Sep 29, 2019



Hiking is fantastic exercise and a perfect way to enjoy nature. So, it's understandable that you would want your dog to join you on the trail. Dogs make great companions and watching them revel in the sights, sounds, and smells of nature is invigorating.

However, just as you wouldn't head out for a hike in dress shoes, there are considerations to be made for your dog. Do you have all the necessary equipment your dog will need? Have you learned hiking etiquette? You might also want to brush up on some [dog training](#) skills. Before you hit the trail with your dog, make sure you're well equipped to ensure a wonderful experience in the outdoors for both you and your pup.

Hiking Etiquette

First, don't always assume your dog is welcome to hike everywhere you are. For example, you might wonder, "[are dogs allowed in National Parks?](#)" Thankfully, many National Parks do welcome dogs, but many have restrictions about dogs on the trails. Always check if your dog is allowed to accompany you before you set out on a hike. If not, you might find yourself encountering a stiff fine, not to mention the ire of fellow hikers. Banning dogs from parks may seem arbitrary, but keep in mind that your dog can have an impact on the environment by putting wild animals at risk and invading delicate ecosystems.

It's your responsibility to learn about the rules of each place you take your dog before you hit the trail. When it comes to National Parks, there are general [pet rules](#), but each

park may have its own additional rules as well. Other wilderness areas, like State Parks and local forests, will also have their own regulations.



It pays to practice the [National Parks B.A.R.K. rule](#) wherever you hike with your dog. B.A.R.K. stands for:

- **B**ag your pet's waste
- **A**lways leash your pet
- **R**espect wildlife
- **K**now where you can go

The first B.A.R.K. rule – pick up after your dog – is important

hiking etiquette. You might think your dog's waste is a natural part of the cycle of life, especially in more remote locations. However, it can cause problems for local creatures and can even impact the water supply.

The second B.A.R.K. rule should apply in almost every hiking situation. Keeping your dog on a short leash is important for safety, courtesy, and control. Not every fellow hiker is comfortable with dogs, and there may be other dogs on the trail who aren't as friendly as yours. Finally, an off-leash dog can disappear out of sight, and if you can't see what your dog is doing, you can't prevent them from getting into trouble, like encountering a skunk or eating something dangerous. If there are off-leash areas where you are hiking, only let your dog run free if you have verbal control of your dog, you can see your dog at all times, and you've worked on a [reliable recall](#).

To protect plant and animal life, always keep your dog on the trail, except when encountering others. Then, step off the trail with your dog at your side to let people pass safely. Lastly, don't forget to greet others on the trail, as a cheery hello may signal that your dog is friendly, and informs your dog that there is no need for concern.

Hiking Safety

Keeping your dog safe during a hike should always be a top priority, and the first step is making sure your dog is fit enough for the task. Check with your vet to learn what your dog can handle, as some [dog breeds](#) make better hiking partners than others. Be

particularly cautious with young and old dogs, as they might not be able to keep up with you on long, challenging hikes, and the burden on growing bones may be too much for puppies. Hiking in overly hot weather should be avoided, as dogs are much more susceptible than humans to the dangers of excessive heat.

It's also essential that you take water for your dog. [Dogs don't sweat](#) the way humans do. Panting is their main method for keeping cool, putting them at a higher risk of overheating than you when on the trail. Plus, if you don't bring water for your dog to drink, you risk your dog drinking from ponds, streams, or standing pools of water, which can carry a high risk. Unknown water could be contaminated with parasites, bacteria like [Leptospirosis](#), or other pathogens that can make your dog very ill.

You and your dog may be venturing into [flea and tick](#) territory on your hikes. Consider using a vet-approved preventative and be sure to examine your entire dog carefully when you get off the trail. It also helpful to know [how to remove a tick from your dog](#), as early removal helps reduce the chance of a secondary illness. A bath or grooming



session post-hike will allow you to check for invaders as well as burrs, foxtails, and other debris caught in your dog's fur.

Training Tips for Hiking

An important part of hiking safety and etiquette is having a well-behaved and properly socialized dog. Be sure your dog at least

knows the [basic obedience skills](#) like "come", "sit", and "stay." [Walking politely on a leash](#) is another key behavior. Your dog doesn't need to heel along the trail, but the point of hiking isn't to be dragged through the woods. In case you accidentally drop the leash or your dog's collar breaks, you should be prepared with a reliable verbal recall. You can't keep your dog safe if you can't keep your dog in sight.

Some additional behaviors to work on include [leave it](#) and a "quiet" cue to [curb barking](#). From poison ivy, to animal waste, to other hiker's trash, there are many dangers on the trail that could seriously harm your dog. A strong "leave it" cue will ensure your dog

doesn't eat or mess with anything hazardous. And, stopping any excessive barking will help keep your patch of nature as peaceful as possible.

Hiking Equipment

Finally, for a truly enjoyable hike, you should come prepared with appropriate [dog hiking gear](#). Some suggested items to bring with you include:

- Poop bags
- A collar with [ID tags](#) and a sturdy 6-foot leash
- A water supply and a portable water bowl
- Dog food and/or snacks
- A pet first aid kit.
- Pet-safe insect repellent
- Dog booties for hiking in rough terrain

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

USRVDTTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date 5/19/22

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, on Thursday, May 19th, 2022 at 7:12pm at Mackenzie River Pizza.

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

Motion by: Suzanne Belger

Seconded by: Richard Brizzee

Board Members Present:

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

Visitors/Members Present:

Phil Moon Rosha Adams Loganne Peters

Report of President: None

Report of Vice President: Everything good for Picnic. Dezzie will need to put something in the newsletter so people can come to the next meeting with suggestions and ideas. We're going to do pulled pork and brisket and potluck. We'll make a sign up for food and games at the next meeting.

Report of Secretary: None

Report of Treasurer: Suzanne reported: \$113,453.08 Total Equity. \$1368.13 Year to Date Net Income. Treasurer reports filed with the secretary box. Suzanne needs a 3 day turn around when checks are requested. She needs a second signer and doesn't always have the checkbook with her.

Report of Committees:

Scent work-Nicki – Scent Work trial in Blackfoot is in 3 weeks. The judges are in place, entries full, we still need volunteers for Wednesday night setup. We're going to work to get a scent work practice put together June 4th or 5th.

Obedience – Suzanne – We have one teacher volunteer for Tuesday night. Since there won't be any other people out there with her, for safety reasons, Lacey moved that we not offer public obedience classes this summer. Seconded by Cheryl. Voted on and passed. We will still have club practices this summer.

Tracking – Cheryl- Trial is Sept 25th. Judges are scheduled. Entries will open July 1st.

Unfinished Business:

Storage units. Because of the ownership changes at the current storage units, we need to decide what we should do. Do we consolidate into one unit? Do we look for other storage? Do we just buy another trailer and put everything in it and then store them in trailer storage somewhere else? Cheryl will take charge of looking into options and costs.

Anniversary: Rosha brought the digital picture frame that she loaded club pictures onto. Once the construction is finished by Marilynne's store, we'll start getting things set up there.

New Business:

Richard has been looking into getting a new practice teeter. He suggests something that will work for practice for all levels and can be raised and lowered safely. Clip-n-Go See Saw is the favorite option it is \$1725 with shipping. Suzanne suggested that Richard contact Carl (because he is the agility equipment manager) to look into the teeters available and also whether the current teeter is fixable. Richard moved that we increase the agility budget to \$2000. Cheryl seconded. Passed.

Motion for Adjournment: Richard Brizzee

Seconded by: Lacey Moon

Time Adjourned: 7:48