



## UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



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[www.USRVDTC.org](http://www.USRVDTC.org)

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## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2023

### March Board Meeting

TBD

Please contact a board member with any questions.  
Regular club meeting will be April 20, 2023

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### Instructors Needed

We are planning on having Obedience classes on Wednesdays beginning in May. We would like to have a STAR Puppy class at 5:30pm, One Basic Obedience class at 5:30pm, Two Basic Obedience Classes at 6:30pm, and One Rally Class at either 6:30pm or 7:30pm

Please let Heike know if you are interested in teaching a class.

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## Comics Corner



# Using Educational Harnesses: Orthopedic Implications



Arnés de sujeción en el hocico

Educational harnesses are those whose goal is to teach the animal not to pull during walks. The earliest harnesses would tie to the animal's snout, so that each time it pulled the harness would force the head to turn. Although it was uncomfortable, it prevented the dog from pulling. This method has many critics who consider it to be too disturbing and aggressive for the animal's normal gait.

Currently harnesses with a frontal loop for the leash (chest area) are used for this purpose, so that each time the dog pulls the animal's forequarters are forced to one side causing slight discomfort and changing the direction of their gait to the side. Although the latter method is considered much less disturbing for the dog, there's an open debate on whether the tensions that it produces in the dog may have effects on their musculo-skeletal health (for now we will put aside the educational implications and the animal's wellbeing).



In a limited gait analytical study, Dr. Zink observed that dogs that wear front clip harnesses bore less weight on their front legs than they normally would, even when the harness wasn't attached to a leash. Furthermore, the dogs bore less weight on the leg that was on the far side of where the person walked. This suggests that the dog was reacting to the presence of the harness against the leg by pushing harder against it. In all cases, the gait of the front limbs was

**altered whenever the harness was used.**

On the other hand, the stance of many trainers and behaviorists is that these types of harnesses help save lives because they consider them a useful tool for the owner

who, for different reasons, hasn't been able to properly educate their dog during walks.

Under normal conditions, the burden of the dog's weight is distributed 60% in the frontal region and 40% in the back, thus using these harness alters these proportions. In addition, the kinematic chains (the 4 limbs and the spine) are unbalanced because by exerting opposite traction, the spine tries to compensate by overburdening the musculature of the forequarters. This overburdening occurs mainly in the biceps and supraspinatus tendon. This happens especially in athletic or large-sized dogs.

# USRVDTTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 7:07 p.m., on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Papa Tom's in Idaho Falls, ID.

## **Board Members Present:**

Lacey Moon Richard Brizzee Suzanne Belger Nicki Bowden Cheryl Loomis McKayla Summers

## **Members Present:**

Phil Moon John Baughman LaDawn Moad Alicia Thompson Carl Friedrich Jordan French Steven Olson Lois Olson Dwayne Loomis Anelyse Swenson Rosha Adams Heike Vitacolonna Amy Hall Tim Hall Austin Messick Cait Messick

## **Guests**

Eve Dredge Terry Dredge Pat Johnson Sharon Tracy Dan Alan Melissa McCartney

## **Minutes of Previous Regular Meeting Read/Dispensed:** Printed in Newsletter

Motion by LaDawn Moad to accept minutes as printed in newsletter

Seconded by: Anelyse Swenson

**Report of the President:** CGC has changed rules so we don't need a witness to sign off on test. Next CGC test will be on 4/11/23.

**Report of the Vice President:** None

**Report of the Secretary:** Lacey is working on finishing up the edits to the Membership List and will re-email it out by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Report of the Treasurer:** Suzanne Belger - YTD balance of \$110,345.01 and YTD net profit of \$826.99. Reports filed with minutes and available via email if interested in viewing.

Taxes have been turned into CPA and will be filed when they're finished.

## **Report of Committees:**

**Agility-LaDawn** -April Agility trial 4/14-4/16. Trial is at Wind River Arena in Ririe. Setup is Thursday, 4/13 at 7pm. Trial begins 8am Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Everything is ready to go, but as always, we need plenty of volunteers. Premium is out.

**Scent Work** - Nicki working on getting June trial set up. Probably moving to different location at Blackfoot fairgrounds. She wants to add in exterior and drop a different class. Once our location is determined she'll get it registered with AKC and get the premium out.

## **Classes-**

Obedience - Heike--classes start next week because of a weather delay this week. She'd like to start next session in mid-May finish Mid- July. We can't post new classes until we have teachers so Heike will send out an email to ask for teachers and we'll get it posted to the website when we know how many classes we have teachers for.

Agility – Alicia - Basic and then practice for club members like we've been doing. Start classes after days lengthen and snow is gone-probably later in May.

Tracking – Cheryl- 4/22 start date depending on snow conditions. Class will start at Sandy Downs and we'll see if we can move locations.

**Unfinished Business:**

Richard - Tracking Trial will be 9/23-24 – Kristy Rasmussen and Jill Jones will be judging. Richard will still need help with laying track.

**New Business:**

Suzanne –Board would like to designate Diana Robinson as an honorary member–Suzanne moved that Diana be an honorary member. LaDawn seconded. Passed

Suzanne – The board would like to do some things to honor Marilynne Manguba. We're making a \$500 donation in Marilynne's honor to the Snake River Animal Shelter. Nicki will see about getting a plaque made that we can gift the shelter along with the money. We're going to make an instructor award to present at the Christmas Party and also commemorate the obedience trial in her memory.

Nicki is working to get the Instructor Class finished up so that by the May classes the instructors will all have gone through it and are ready to teach.

**Membership Applications Read/Approved:**

Voting of new members –Melissa McCarthy – Passed – Welcome to the club!

**Read:** Theresa Mathis & Dan Alan, Candace Christensen& Jim Fitch, Arynne Kunsaitis

**Motion for Adjournment:** Carl Friedrich

**Seconded by:** Lois Olson

**Time Adjourned:** 7:34 pm