



# UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB

**President**  
Nicki Bowden  
Nedwob88@gmail.com

**Vice President**  
Richard Brizzee  
richbriz@gmail.com

**Treasurer**  
Suzanne Belger  
desertmtmalinois@gmail.com

**Secretary**  
Lacey Moon  
Philandlaceymoon@hotmail.com

**Board Members**  
Mira Johnson (3 Years)  
Goby182@gmail.com

Makayla Summers (2 Years)  
kayla.cortill.summers@gmail.com

Cheryl Loomis (1 Year)  
setnsundogs@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor**  
Shelby Moad  
shelbymoad@gmail.com

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



---

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

---

### Scent Trial

December 2 & 3, 2023  
At the 4H Building

This is a great opportunity to volunteer!

---

### Christmas Party

December 16, 2023

4PM

At Valerie Hall

\$25 per Person

Please sign up to attend on the website by December 8

There will be water and lemonade – BYOB or Soda  
Bring a gift for the White Elephant Gift Exchange  
Ugly Sweater Contest

---

## Member Accomplishments

Bo and I drove to Oregon on our first LONG distance solo trip to run in the GRCA Golden Specialty!

Bo passed their WC (Working Certificate) and WCX (Working Certificate Excellent). He was one of the youngest to pass the WCX!!

SHR Rio's Marvelous Bo of Bear Island JH, CGC, WC, WCX



We had a great time at the Border Collie national. Hope earned a PT leg in herding, also earned a Master Standard leg the first day of agility, on the second day she earned her first triple Q, qualifying in Master Fast, Master Jumpers and Master Standard. In Rally she earned a Master leg, a triple Q leg also a RAE leg in the morning. In the afternoon she repeated earning another Master leg, a triple Q leg and a RAE leg. In Obedience, she earned her first Preferred Open leg. She also won best dog costume.

Belle had a great week also. She earned her first Excellent Interior leg in scent work. In agility she earned her first Excellent Jumpers leg and a leg in Excellent Fast. In rally she earned two Intermediate legs. Belle and I won the best duo costume. The following weekend, she managed to earn her advance containers title to finish her advance level title.





## **A mysterious respiratory illness is spreading among dogs and baffling veterinarians. Here's what owners can do**

From New Hampshire to Oregon, researchers are trying to figure out what's causing an infectious respiratory disease among dogs that has turned deadly in rare cases.

The mysterious illness is described as an "atypical canine infectious respiratory disease," the Oregon Department of Agriculture said in a November 9 news release. Symptoms include coughing, sneezing, eye or nose discharge and lethargy.

Veterinarians in Oregon have reported more than 200 cases of the disease since mid-August. Other cases have been reported in Colorado, Illinois and New Hampshire.

"Based on the epidemiology of the cases reported at this point, the cases appear to share a viral etiology, but common respiratory diagnostic testing has been largely negative," Oregon State Veterinarian Dr. Ryan Scholz told the American Veterinary Medical Association.

In other words, dogs with the unidentified illness show similar signs of an upper respiratory disease but generally don't test positive for common respiratory diseases. And the disease is generally resistant to standard treatments, said Dr. David B. Needle, a pathologist at the New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and clinical associate professor at the University of New Hampshire.

"Fatalities do not seem to be a large part of the syndrome we are investigating, with rare animals developing an acute and sometimes fatal pneumonia after the longer chronic disease," Needle said. "We think these may represent secondary infections."

Where did the disease come from?

Needle said he's part of a team trying to identify the disease and find common DNA segments by collecting samples from local veterinary clinics and comparing the results.

“If what we have identified is a pathogen, it is likely that the bacteria is host-adapted bacteria with long histories of colonizing dogs,” Needle said. An “evolutionary event” like spontaneous mutation or getting a gene from a different source could then have led the bacteria to become virulent, he said.

He said researchers have received samples from Oregon and expect to receive samples from Colorado, Illinois and other states for testing.

The Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory has also reported cases of a mysterious canine disease, the lab’s director told CNN in an email.

“There has been an uptick in the numbers of dogs with respiratory disease, (coughing, lethargy, fever) and the signs have been persisting longer than a few days,” said Kevin Snekvik, the laboratory’s executive director and a professor at the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Snekvik said his Washington lab has not reported any canine deaths from the mystifying disease, but said labs in other states have reported a few deaths.

What can dog owners do?

While the news may be concerning, “We suggest caution rather than worry,” the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association’s website says.

While this particular disease is unusual, “Periodic outbreaks of Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (CIRDC) can occur in a dog population. At least nine different bacteria and viruses have been linked as causes of CIRDC, which is transmitted by respiratory droplets,” the association said.

“Infection with more than one bacterial or viral agent is common. Symptoms include coughing, sneezing, nasal and/or eye discharge, and lethargy. If your dog shows these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.”

Dog owners should help keep their pets healthy by making sure they’re up-to-date on all vaccines, such as those for canine influenza, Bordetella and parainfluenza, the association said. Other tips include:

- Reducing contact with large numbers of unknown dogs. Just like with other respiratory pathogens, the more contacts your dog has, the greater the risk of encountering a dog that’s infectious.
- Reducing contact with sick dogs. This can be harder to determine but if a dog looks sick (coughing, runny nose, runny eyes), keep your dog away from it.
- Keep sick dogs at home and seek veterinary care.
- Avoid communal water bowls shared by multiple dogs.

## **USRVDTC REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 7:01 p.m., on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Papa Tom's in Idaho Falls, ID.

### **Board Members Present:**

Lacey Moon Richard Brizzee Nicki Bowden Suzanne Belger Mira Johnson

### **Members Present:**

Phil Moon John Baughman Steven Olson Lois Olson Jimmy Bell Arynne Kunsaitis  
Shelly Bradshaw

### **Guests**

Tiffany Stolworthy Lori Keele Kelly Keele Christina Krieger Claire Bourbigot Keanu Kunsaitis

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

Motion by Suzanne Belger to accept minutes as printed in September newsletter

Seconded by: Richard

### **Report of the President (Nicki Bowden):**

None

### **Report of the Vice President (Richard Brizzee):**

Christmas Party is December 16<sup>th</sup>. Dinner is \$25 per person for dinner. There is also \$100 catering fee and \$200 event space fee (same fees as last year). We had about 30 people last year. We'll plan on about the same amount. Members can sign up on the website by 12/8/23 and then Richard will get the final head count to North Hiway. Richard will get all the information to Shelby to put in the newsletter.

### **Report of the Secretary (Lacey Moon):**

None

### **Report of the Treasurer (Suzanne Belger):**

One of our CDs is reaching maturity. What should we do with the funds? Jimmy Bell will look to find the best interest rates. We'll probably put it into a high yield savings account rather than rolling it into another CD. Suzanne received a letter asking the club if we want to advertise in the newspaper. Board voted no.

### **Report of Committees:**

**Scent Work** —Nicki —We have a scent work trial 12/3-12/4. With the number of entries we have we'll lose \$1900 if we hold the trial. If we cancel now we'll lose \$1200. Do we continue to hold the trial? A discussion was had discussing the pros and cons of holding the trial. **Pros** to holding: Several members of the club have signed up to participate, the participants are really good about helping out so there isn't a lack in volunteers, other members may find a new sport. **Cons** to holding: We will lose more money if we hold the trial because of trial costs, its interior only. A vote was held and it was decided to hold the trial. Nicki said we probably won't do a December trial again since interest is low.

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **New Business:**

Motion to adjourn Suzanne. Seconded by Mira.

Meeting Closed at 7:11pm

## **USRVDTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date November 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 7:12 p.m., on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Papa Tom's in Idaho Falls, ID.

### **Board Members Present:**

Lacey Moon Richard Brizzee Nicki Bowden Suzanne Belger Mira Johnson

### **Members Present:**

Phil Moon John Baughman Steven Olson Lois Olson Jimmy Bell Arynne Kunsaitis  
Shelly Bradshaw

### **Guests**

Tiffany Stolworthy Lori Keele Kelly Keele Christina Krieger Claire Bourbigot Keanu Kunsaitis

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

Motion by Arynne Kunsaitis to accept minutes as printed in November newsletter

Seconded by: Lois Olson

### **Report of the President:**

None

### **Report of the Vice President:**

None

### **Report of the Secretary:**

Member dues are due 12/31/2023

### **Report of the Treasurer:**

YTD balance of \$104,480.13 and YTD net loss of -\$4334.59. Reports filed with minutes and available via email if interested in viewing.

### **Report of Committees:**

**Agility-** Suzanne –Agility trial October 27-29. We had a profit of \$2042.37. Thank you to everyone for helping with the trial. The new equipment worked great and we were also able to sell all our old equipment.

**Classes:** Suzanne- We have 3 people willing to teach obedience classes when we begin next year. We still need a rally teacher. If you'd like to teach or help, contact Heike. The classes will be posted to the website in January. We're offering 3 basic obedience (2 at 6pm, 1 at 7pm) and 1 rally at 7pm. We'll also have an agility handling at 8pm.

**Auditing Committee:** Suzanne – We need an auditing committee to go over the books. Kelly Keele, Richard Brizzee and Arynne Kunsaitis volunteered to work with Suzanne to go over the books.

**Scent Work Trial:** Nicki – Scent work trial is 12/2-12/3 at the 4H building sign up by Saturday if you'd like to trial. Come help if you'd like to learn more about it.

**Winter Practice:** Nicki – Sundays noon to 2pm. You can sign up on the website if you'd like to come. Its \$100 for 11 sessions or \$15 per dog to drop in. This is a self-guided practice time but members will be there to help with questions.



**Winter Agility:** Suzanne – January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at the Cowboy Warrior Arena (used to be Broken Bit Arena). Sign up on the website if you'd like to work your agility dog this winter.

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

**Board Elections:**

Voting of the 2024 Board:

Nicki Bowden – President

Richard Brizzee – Vice President

Suzanne Belger – Treasurer

Lacey Moon – Secretary

John Baughman – 3 Year Board Member

**Membership Applications Read/Approved:**

Voting of new members — Tiffany Stolworthy, Jill Walsh, Christina Krieger, Kelly Kelle, Lori Keele - Voted into the Club  
WELCOME!!

**Motion for Adjournment:** Lois Olson

**Seconded by:** Phil Moon

**Time Adjourned:** 7:31pm