



# UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



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

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

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

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

## **Board Members**

Christina Krieger (3 Years)  
christinaekrieger@gmail.com

John Baughman (2 Years)  
jmbaughman170@gmail.com

Mira Johnson (1 Year)  
Goby182@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor**  
Shelby Tornblom  
shelbyrmoad@gmail.com

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

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## **APRIL NEWSLETTER 2025**

### **April Regular Meeting**

April 17, 2025, at 7PM

At Smitty's

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Our Agility Trial is April 11-13, 2025,  
at Wind River Arena

Setup is Thursday, April 10 at 6:45PM

We will need lots of volunteers for setup and all  
three days of the trial! Come on out and have  
some fun!

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Obedience and Rally Classes begin April 16, 2025, with  
CGC on June 4, 2025.

Agility Classes begin May 14, 2025.

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## Member Accomplishments

# The American Kennel Club

*is pleased to invite*

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Belgian Malinois ~ (DN55556801)

Suzanne J Belger/Lisa Dillman

*to enter the Advanced class of the*

12<sup>th</sup> AKC Rally® National Championship

July 3, 4 & 5, 2025

Purina Event Center  
Gray Summit, MO



## **Easter Gifts for Dogs**

One of the more joyous presents to give your dog during this season is an Easter themed doggy gift basket. You might be wondering, what are some great Easter gifts I can give my dog? Thankfully, there are a lot of cute Easter present ideas which are safe options for your buddy. Here are a few examples of these ideas below:

### **Easter themed dog toys.**

- Easter themed dog bed and blanket.
- Dog treats formulated specifically for dogs. Some bakeries even make Easter themed dog treats that you can give your loved one. Just make sure not to give them more than 10% of their daily calorie intake.
- Easter themed hats, clothes, collars, leashes, or bandanas that are comfortable and breathable for your pup. Make sure the bandanas and collars don't get caught on anything or choke them in any way while they are wearing them. We also recommend supervising your dog if they are wearing a costume of any kind.
- You can also combine many of the options above in your Easter themed doggy gift basket to create a more enriching present for your loved one.

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Whatever you choose to give your dog, they will love you just for remembering them during this season.

## Easter “Egg” Hunt for Dogs

One of the best Easter activities one can set up is a dog-friendly Easter “egg” hunt. There are many fun ways to create this, while ensuring that your pup stays safe during their “egg” hunting adventures. Below are some tips on how you can set this up for your buddy and their friends:

1. Find the right dog-safe Easter “eggs”. Since plastic eggs tend to present many safety risks, especially if a dog tries to chew on them or eat them, it’s probably better to opt in for KONG toys or other dog toys you can hide treats in. You can also choose not to place goodies in anything at all and hide them as is. One recommendation is creating a scent trail by dragging the treats along the ground on the way to their hiding places.
2. Choose dog-appropriate treats. When it comes to figuring out what treats to use, it’s best to make sure they are safe for dogs and small sized snacks. This way they don’t eat too many goodies in a tiny amount of time. It’s also good to make sure they are treats that are easy for dogs to smell.
3. Pick a dog-friendly location. Make sure that whatever space you use, whether it is indoors or outdoors, is big enough to host all the contesting canines. If you have a fenced-in backyard, then this would be a great space for a dog-friendly Easter party and “egg” hunt. If there is a risk of resource guarding, then this

activity might be best performed either solo or with dogs that are used to eating together.

4. Hide the treats. Remember that dogs are not like humans and aren't able to see the vast number of colors that we can. They mostly rely on their sense of smell to find things, so by keeping the treats low to the ground this will help them find these hidden treasures more easily. It's also important to make sure that you are hiding them in places which are safe for dogs, such as away from thorn bushes, poisonous plants, and other such spaces. Fun tip: You can try helping your pup find the first couple of treats, then let them smell these treats and see if they can get the hang of it on their own.
5. Referee and monitor all doggy participants. It's best for the owner of each dog to either keep them on a leash or to stay near them to keep an eye on their pup. Prioritize safety and make sure everyone has enough space to move around. If there is a mixture of puppies, small dogs, and larger dogs, it might be best to arrange separate Easter "egg" hunts for each group.
6. Clean up! The dogs will most likely clean up all the treats and tasty goodies. However, make sure you pick up any trash or other items that could be harmful to your pup and other animals. It's best to keep the environment clean and to make sure all items are accounted for.

## **USRVDC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date 3/20/2025

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 7:08pm at the Papa Kelsey's in Idaho Falls.

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

Motion by: Richard Brizzee

Board Members Present:

Lacey Moon Nicki Bowden Cheryl Loomis Richard Brizzee Mira Johnson Suzanne Belger John Baughman

Visitors/Members Present:

Phil Moon Bryce Hammond Christina Krieger

**Report of President:** None

**Report of Vice President:** None

**Report of Secretary:** The approval emails came for the Scent Trial 6/14/25 and the Rally Trial 8/16/25

**Report of Treasurer:** YTD income: -\$1680.45 Total Equity: \$106,117.30 Balance Sheets are filed with secretary notes and available upon request. Taxes are finished (Cost \$600) and filed with Suzanne.

**Report of Committees:**

Suzanne – Scent Work Seminar –Feb seminar was really good. We lost \$300 --mainly renting the building. Next Scent Work Seminar will be July or August. Thinking about an agility seminar later this year. Any club interest in other seminars? Cheryl suggests maybe doing a certification match for tracking after Lois finishes the tracking class.

Suzanne – Classes—

Lois -Tracking - April 5<sup>th</sup> welcome with no dogs. Class starts with dogs April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Cheryl – We still need teachers for rally and obedience for the next classes coming up.

Suzanne – Agility will start sometime in May.

We are ordering teacher supplies (vests, clipboards, boxes)

Nicki –Scentwork - We'll still be doing the cluster in June. Premium will be going out soon. We're also having a scent work trial on 10/11-10/12 if we can find a place we can do it.

Bryce -- April 11-13 agility trial. He has everything ready. It should be great! We will need help.

Suzanne – Owner for the Cowboy Warrier Arena really wants to host our agility trial but there are a few things he'll need to do to get it acceptable for a trial (the dirt/sand, muddy parking lot). We are still in contract with Wind River for this year.

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

Cheryl – Emailed Heike about leashes and collars that we used to sell and she suggested that we use them for prizes at our trials after stamped/engraved with USRV/DTC. And anything that isn't appropriate we donate to the shelter. Suzanne moved that we support this. It was seconded and passed.

Motion for Adjournment: Lacey Moon

Seconded by: Suzanne Belger

Time Adjourned: 7:45