

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



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MAY NEWSLETTER 2025

May Board Meeting
May 15, 2025, at 7PM
At Papa Kelsey's

We will have another set of classes starting June 18th. We will need an instructor or two for basic obedience and a couple of instructors for rally.

Member Accomplishments

Richard and Molly titled in Novice FAST at our Agility Trial

London and Quincy competed at the ASSA National. London 2nd Master FAST preferred, 2nd Choice, 4th Master, qualified in Excellent and Advanced



Quincy 2nd Intermediate Rally, qualified in Novice



Congratulations to Molly, Richard, and the Guidinger girls!

Preparing Your Dog for Spring

By [Harriet Meyers](#)

When the flowers start to bloom and spring fever strikes, you'll want to make sure you and your dog are ready. Luckily, there are steps you can take to ensure that this lovely season is an enjoyable and safe one.

Spring Health Preventatives for Dogs

Spring checkups are a great time to check to see if your dog's weight changed over the winter months. Be sure to discuss any medical or behavioral changes you've noticed in your dog with your veterinarian. Knowing your dog has a clean bill of health can allow you and your dog to better enjoy any outdoor activities.

Heartworm in Dogs

[Heartworm](#) is a threat to dogs when mosquitoes breed in warm weather. When infected mosquitoes bite, the worms embed into the dog, eventually damaging the dog's heart, lungs, and arteries. To prevent heartworm, veterinarians recommend having your dog tested annually and dosing them with a [heartworm prevention medication](#) year-round.

Dog Flea and Tick Prevention

[Fleas and ticks](#) are also more prevalent when outdoor temperatures rise. [Fleas](#) are irritating to a dog's skin and difficult to get rid of. Certain types of ticks can carry dangerous conditions, such as [Lyme disease](#) and [Rocky Mountain spotted fever](#). To protect your pet, ask your veterinarian for [preventatives](#) such as a [prescription pill](#), [topical ointment](#), or a [flea collar](#). Be sure to [check your dog](#) when coming back from wooded or grassy areas, too.



Spring Allergies in Dogs

Spring [allergies](#) sometimes cause uncomfortable reactions to pollen in dogs, as well as humans. However, instead of a runny nose, dogs typically get very itchy, especially on their feet, front legs, ears, and face, causing them to scratch, lick, or bite. While some breeds are more susceptible, any dog can suffer from allergies. Allergy shots, special shampoos, [washing their bedding](#), and wiping off their feet and legs after they're outside may help relieve these reactions.

Bee Stings in Dogs

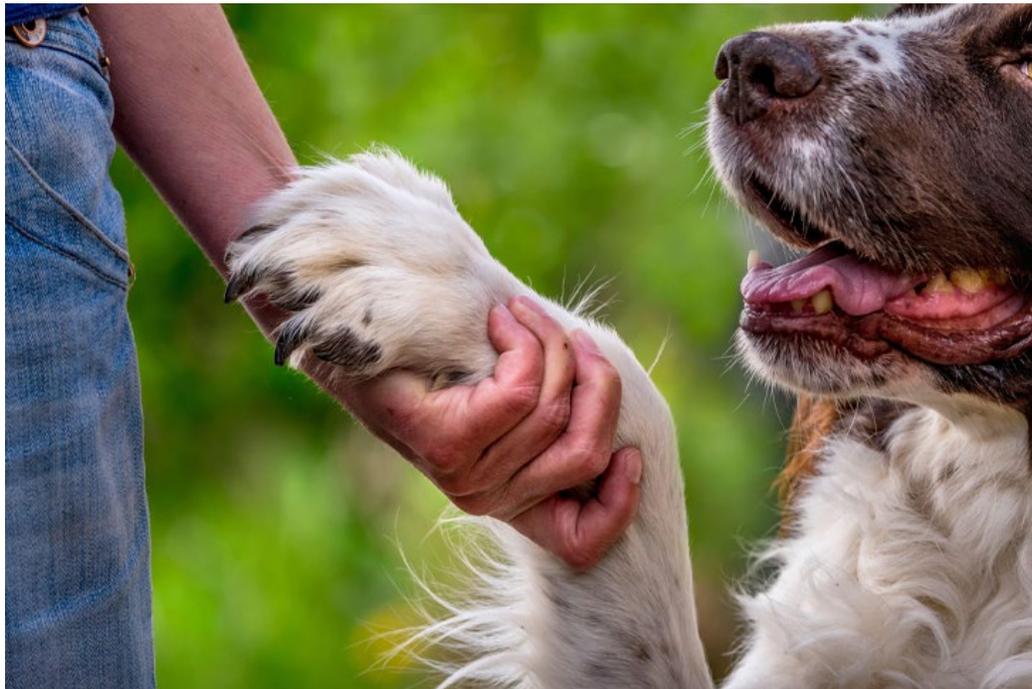
[Bee sting allergies](#) are rare in dogs, but they're serious and potentially deadly. If your dog is allergic to bee stings or has a history of [anaphylaxis](#), your veterinarian may prescribe an EpiPen, and you'll need to keep it readily available when your dog is outdoors.

Spring Home Care for Dogs

As the weather warms up, it's important to make a few adjustments to ensure your dog can be comfortable and safe at home.

Spring Grooming for Dogs

[Spring grooming](#) for dogs comes to mind when temperatures rise and shedding increases. Brushing your dog can remove dead hairs. [Shaving the coat](#) of [double-coated breeds](#), such as [Labrador Retrievers](#) and [Australian Shepherds](#), however, is a bad idea. Losing the protection of their coat can make dogs hotter. Leave at least one inch of hair to protect your dog from [sunburn](#), [skin cancer](#), and bug bites.



Keeping Your Dog Inside

Screens on windows and doors keep insects outside and your dog inside. Dogs love to look out the window and may not hesitate to jump out to chase a squirrel, even from a second floor. Check your screens to make sure they're strong and secure.

Keeping Your Home Cool

[Cooling down your home](#) is important for your comfort and critical to your dog. Air conditioning and fans are great, but it's also important to be prepared in case you lose power. Cooling cloths, [pads](#), and [vests](#) can help keep your dog's body temperature regulated. [Rubbing alcohol](#) and [spray bottles](#) of water will also cool down your dog.

Outdoor Protection for Dogs

While it's fun to spend time outside with your dog, warm weather and certain outdoor activities come with some risks. Here's some precautions you can take while enjoying the outdoors.

Garden Hazards for Dogs

[Garden hazards](#) become an issue when the weather is nice, and your dog will spend more time in your yard. You'll need to ensure that your [yard is secure](#), and check if your plants, fertilizers, and mulch are poisonous to dogs. Be sure to review which [plants are poisonous to dogs](#) before purchasing any new bulbs or plants for your yard. It's also a good idea to clean up the ground under [bird feeders](#) because dogs can develop gastritis from eating moldy seeds or bird droppings.



Sunscreen for Dogs

Sunscreen can help protect dogs who are susceptible to sunburn. If your dog has a thin or white coat or is a [hairless breed](#), you need to provide your dog with plenty of shade and apply only a [sunscreen made especially for dogs](#) or babies.

Heatstroke in Dogs

[Heatstroke](#) becomes a bigger threat as your dog spends more time outside. Be sure to keep plenty of fresh water available, and, as the temperature rises, monitor [your dog's exercise routine](#). While they might be delighted to spend all day retrieving a tennis ball, be sure to keep track of when it's time to call it quits. Never leave a dog unattended in a car with closed windows any time temperatures are greater than 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Outdoor Events with Dogs

[Barbeques and backyard parties](#) are occasions for tasty food and fun, but they can also come with some hazards for dogs. Make sure your yard is secure when you and your guests are coming and going, keep your dog away from hot grills and fire, and remember that [some foods and drinks](#), such as grilled hot dogs, chicken bones, corn cobs, ice cream, or beer, can upset your dog's stomach and may even be toxic.

Spring Outings with Your Dog

Whether your seasonal plans include [hiking, road-tripping](#), or just a day at the park, a little preparation goes a long way in keeping your dog safe and happy during outings.

First Aid for Dogs

Planning and packing for emergencies will help keep your dog safe when you travel. Up-to-date [microchip information](#) and collar tags allow someone to contact you if you and your dog are separated. A [first-aid kit](#) for your dog is essential in emergencies.

Importance of Car Safety

[Never leave your dog alone in your vehicle](#). Although the weather may seem pleasant to you, a car will heat up quickly, even with the windows cracked open. Many states have laws that prevent people from leaving dogs unattended in vehicles.



Refresh Obedience Training

[Reinforce your dog's obedience training](#) before you head into the woods. With distractions like rabbits and other wildlife, your dog may be tempted to run off. Teach your dog to [come when called](#), even when they'd like to ignore you.

Grass-Awn Disease in Dogs

[Grass-awn disease](#) can occur after a dog runs through a field containing foxtails or other barbed grasses. Foxtails enter a dog through the toes, ears, eyes, mouth, or nose. They're painful, cause swelling, and can travel into the lungs and result in [pneumonia](#). The best prevention is to keep your dog away from areas with foxtails or fields of tall grasses.

Water Safety for Dogs

Not all dogs are natural swimmers, and keeping your dog safe around water is essential. Whether you're heading to the pool, the beach, or a lake, here's some safety tips to keep in mind.

Dog Pool Safety

[Pool safety](#) is important. Dogs should never have access to a swimming pool when you're not there to watch them. Consider fencing your pool to avoid your dog accessing it when you're not around. Teach your dog where to enter and exit a pool. Don't allow your dog to swim while wearing a dangling tag that can get caught in a drain. Purchase a [life jacket for your dog](#), especially if you take them [boating](#) or swimming in open water.



Going to the Beach with Your Dog

[Beach trips](#) can be fun outings for you and your dog, but make sure to protect them from [swallowing lots of salt water](#), sand, or seaweed. Keep them in the shade and apply sunscreen specifically formulated for dogs. Prevent your dog from [eating sand](#) and remember that hot sand [can hurt your dog's paws](#). If temperatures soar, leave your dog home.

Blue-Green Algae and Dogs

[Blue-green algae](#), potentially deadly to dogs, is found in some lakes and ponds during warm-weather seasons. Keep your dog on a [leash](#) around bodies of water, don't allow them to drink from a pond or lake, and look out for signs posted that warn of algae.

USRVDTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date April 17, 2025

The regular monthly club meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 7:09 p.m., on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at Smitty's in Idaho Falls, ID.

Board Members Present:

Richard Brizzee Nicki Bowden Suzanne Belger Lacey Moon John Baughman

Members Present:

Cheryl Loomis Duane Loomis Alicia Thompson Steven Olson Lois Olson
Nichole Nead-Crossley Lindy Thompson Phil Moon Bryce Hammond Candace
Christensen
Robert Bonagofski Eric Ward

Guests

Jason Macklin Stephanie Geraughty Ariel Hammond

Introductions of Guests

Guest Speaker

Stephanie Geraughty did a demonstration on non-surgical treatments for pet injury or pain (PEMF, red light therapy, body work). If you'd like more information her email is back2basicstherapyllc@gmail.com and her facebook is [facebook.com/back2basicstherapy](https://www.facebook.com/back2basicstherapy).

Minutes of Previous Regular Meeting Read/Dispensed: Printed in March newsletter.

Motion by Lois Olson to accept minutes as printed in March newsletter.

Seconded by: Richard Brizzee

Report of the President:

Thanks to everyone who helped at the agility trial last weekend. We had a lot of comments on how great the trial ran.

Report of the Vice President:

Any ideas for things to do at the meetings or places to have the meeting please let Richard know.

Report of the Secretary:

Report of the Treasurer:

YTD balance of \$109,603.51 and YTD net profit of \$1805.76

Reports filed with minutes and available via email if interested in viewing.

Report of Committees:

Classes:

Obedience. Classes have started. David P'Poole is doing an obedience at 6:45 and the club is doing obedience and rally practice at 5:30.

Agility: Planning to start in May but no solid plans are in place. Probably starting 5:30-6:30. Practice is starting April 30 at 5:45 for club members and when classes start, we'll bump the practice to 6:30. It will be run like the winter practices with a Jumpers With Weaves/Time2Beat in a full course and also two mini agility sequences.

Scent: Blackfoot Cluster - Premium is open now. It will fill up so if you want to get in, do it quickly.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Membership Applications Read/Approved:

Paula Morrell - was a member in 2024 but didn't pay her dues 2025 so she's reapplying. She has the Corgi - Scout.

Motion for Adjournment: Steven Olson

Seconded by: Richard Brizzee

Closed at 8:16 pm