



UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2026

Board Meeting

September 17, 2026 at 7PM
At Papa Kelsey's

We had a great turn out of volunteers from the club which helped set-up, take-down, and each day run smoothly. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

Member Accomplishments

Belle was a busy girl at our obedience and rally trials. She competed in four different events on Friday and Saturday and three different events on Sunday, doing her exuberant best by earning a leg in Grad Open, a leg in Open B, a title in Excellent B Rally and put up with Hope in Pairs Rally earning two very nice scores. We all had a great time.

Recon completed Bronze, Silver, and Gold AKC FIT titles.



Zip completed her Rally Intermediate Title and Tinsel completed her Beginner Novice Obedience Title.



Suzanne/Jovi, Tiffany/Zip, Alicia/Buddy, and Richard/Daisy competed in Rally Teams Novice and took 2nd place. Team name 'The Cool Kids' entered the ring to 'Bad to the Bone'.



Help Prepare Your Dog for Autumn

Essentials to keep your four-legged friends happy and healthy during the fall season

August 21, 2026 8/21/2026

As you head out on your usual walks with your dog, you might start to notice the slight chill in the air, the crunching beneath your feet and the daylight fading earlier each evening. Autumn is settling in – and like every seasonal shift, the fall brings its own changes to keep your four-legged friend safe and healthy.

But remember it's not only about muddy paw prints all over the carpet and that lingering wet dog smell – as autumn also means more cozy evenings curled up together, warm blankets and maybe even a pumpkin-flavored treat or two. Explore our advice on how to best adjust to the changing season.

Keeping warm

Older dogs and those with less undercoat are especially vulnerable to the cold and damp. It affects their joints and takes some of the fun out of an autumnal walk. In such cases, suitable clothing to protect against colder temperatures is recommended. This clothing should fit well and keep your pet warm, without hindering movement. The length of the walks you take will depend on your dog. For older four-legged friends, several short walks through the autumn woods may be better than one long walk. When you are out, your dog should keep moving and not sit or lie down for a long time.

Dark nights

As summer draws to a close, the days start to get darker earlier. If you take your dog out for a walk later in the afternoon, make sure that your four-legged friend is visible in the dark. Reflective collars, harnesses and leashes

are great for this and can help to prevent accidents (e.g. involving cyclists). Long-haired dogs may be better off with reflective vests – unlike collars and harnesses with reflective strips, they won't be covered up by long hair. And it's always worth thinking about your own clothing when you're getting ready for an evening walk – you need to be visible in the dark too!

Pesky parasites

Ticks are mostly active from March to June and later in August to November but milder temperatures extend the tick activity. Dogs that live in areas prone to ticks – such as around woods, water, and meadows – must be protected against these parasites. Tick preventatives are an effective way to protect your dog. However, if you prefer not to use these, you should thoroughly examine your dog after each walk and correctly remove any ticks.

The harmful effects of harvest mites on dogs should also not be underestimated. The larvae of these tiny pests can infect a dog, puncturing its skin and injecting enzymes. This leads to an allergic reaction that causes itchiness, meaning your dog will constantly scratch and lick the affected area, which often includes the paws (between the toes), armpits, legs, ears or belly. The constant biting and licking can cause wounds, skin irritation and inflammation. To avoid this, dog walkers should keep away from environments favored by harvest mites, which include meadows, gardens, forest edges and fields. However, if you don't want to be restricted during the autumn season, you should ask your vet about gentle but effective preventative measures for your dog.

Wild mushrooms

Fungi flourish in the moist soils of early autumn, and eating mushrooms can be lethal for our four-legged friends. To be on the safe side, don't let your dog eat any mushrooms at all – not even those that are safe for humans. Take special care when playing fetch: if you throw a stick and it lands on the forest floor or in a pile of leaves, your dog could accidentally

pick up a mushroom in its mouth. Always check what your dog is eating if it has picked up something while out on a walk.

Holiday decorations

As the days grow shorter, many of us start decorating our homes with autumnal touches. While these seasonal accents bring cozy autumnal charm, they can also pose hidden risks to curious dogs. Candles and tealights add a lovely glow on colder evenings, but they should always be placed well out of reach of wagging tails or inquisitive noses. Consider switching to flameless LED candles for a safer alternative. Twinkling fairy lights and trailing cords can also be tempting chew toys, so secure them carefully and check for any signs of nibbling.

Small decorations such as pinecones, acorns, or small pumpkins might look like toys to your dog, but they can be choking hazards or cause digestive issues if swallowed, so keep them off low surfaces and out of reach. If you're bringing in seasonal plants or wreaths, double-check that they're pet-safe as some dried botanicals may be toxic to your pet.

Protecting your dog in the rain

With the onset of the cold and wet season, a raincoat or rain jacket for your dog can be much more than a fashion statement. Both provide valuable protection against unpleasant and challenging weather conditions and are essential items of clothing for puppies, senior dogs, sick four-legged friends, dogs without an undercoat, and short-legged (ground-level) dogs, for example.

USRVDTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date August 13, 2026

The regular bi-monthly club meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 6:42 p.m., on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at Tautphaus Park in Idaho Falls, ID.

Board Members Present:

Nicki Bowden Lacey Moon Christina Krieger Richard Brizzee

Members Present:

Tiffany Stolworthy Elise Stolworthy Candace Christensen Shelly Bradford Amy Hall Alicia Thompson Lonnie Lewis Ana Wetsel Caryn Elliott Jennifer Evans Emily Jossi Holly Jossi AJ Morin

Introduction of Guests

Catherine Cloward Casey Cloward Emily Howard Richard Kuehnle Vanessa Remi Stolworthy

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

Motion by Kristina Krieger to accept minutes as printed in July newsletter. Seconded by Jennifer Evans

Report of the President: none

Report of the Vice President: none

Report of the Secretary: AKC sent books and regulation papers. They were given to Nicki

Report of the Treasurer:

YTD balance of \$112,928.10 and YTD net profit of \$10,025.47

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

Report of Committees:

Scent-- 8/15/26 premium opens online. We're offering all 4 elements. 10/10-10/11. Lewisville

Classes- Obedience and rally classes started last week. Going well.

Seminar -

Obedience Trial- Trial begins tomorrow morning! We still need a lot of help.

Agility Practices- We'll start having agility practices next week until the weather changes. We'll meet at Tautphaus park at 6pm on Wednesdays. (During the rally and obedience classes)

Agility Trial-

Nomination Committee - Nicki will be board member for the committee, Candace Christensen, Alicia Thompson - meeting this weekend to review board positions.

Membership Applications Read/Approved:

Voted In:

Adreana Versey -Chihuahua -Prada

Emmaly Kuehnle - Portuguese Water Dog -Fen

Richard Piroschak -Belgian Malinois -Sophie

Katherine Cloward/Kasey Cloward -West Highland White Terrier -Mabel

Read In:

Emmabelle Kirkpatrick - Standard Poodle - Yeager, Dawn

Christopher Stockwell/Crystal Stockwell - Standard Poodle - Lincoln, Zeus

Welcome to the club!

Unfinished Business:none

New Business:

Christina was wondering if we can rent the arena for agility prior to the agility trial. Nicki will look into cost and interest of renting the arena.

Jennifer Evans wants to have an obedience trial class or practice. Nicki is going to look into locations.

The idea was tossed about about getting vouchers for runs for the next trial if someone volunteers. Nicki said to think about it and we'll bring it forward when Agility Chair (Bryce) is here.

Motion for Adjournment: Emily Jossi

Seconded by: Pretty much everyone

Closed at 7:06pm