

Wagging Tails

The Newsletter of Vegas Valley Dog Obedience Club

PAGE 1

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2024



- Volunteers needed to conduct a Fall Fetch Test.
- Volunteers needed for Fall Training Classes. Contact Laura Alton
- VVDOC Obedience Trial December 15, 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Travel With Pets	1
Officers & Directors	2
Contact	2
Upcoming Meetings	2
Events Calendar	2
Pet-Friendly	3
Travel Gear 4	3
Pet 1st Aid Kits	3
Breed of the Month	4
Dog Parks	5
Dog Bites	5
Travel Site Links	6
AKC News	7
Can Dogs Eat Peanut Butter	7
Member Profile	8
Scent Detection	9
AKC CHF Sports Medicine News	9
From the Editor	10
Here Comes the Judge	10
Brag & Photos	10
Tidbits	11
About Us	11

Traveling With Pets

Tips for RVing With Pets



1. Be sure immunizations are up to date. Bring copies of all documents.
2. Print multiple copies of your pet's records. Some RV Parks require a copy.
3. Not all dogs are welcome at every RV park. Some have breed restrictions.
4. Some parks have dog weight limits. Most common are restrictions over 35 pounds.
5. Store pet food in air tight containers.
6. Preplan food delivery; check delivery options.
7. Keeping pets safe: Pet Monitoring while you are away from the RV. Cameras and remote devices that notify you if temperatures rise or fall in the RV, and remote access devices in that event.

<https://tinyurl.com/RVing-with-pets>

See more tips and videos at **GORVING.com**.

5 Fun Dog Facts from the AKC

1. The Labrador Retriever is originally from Newfoundland.
2. Human blood pressure goes down when petting a dog. And so does the dog's.
3. There are over 75 million pet dogs in the U.S. — more than in any other country.
4. A person who hunts with a Beagle is known as a "Beagler."
5. 20. Dogs are not color-blind. They can see blue and yellow.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Marina Pavlovsky
Vice President	Susie Osburn
Treasurer	Nancy Swords
Corresponding Secretary	Kathy Mondragon
Recording Secretary	Kristina Klingler
Director	Marti Siska
Director	Geri Hunt

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MONTH	DATE
SEPTEMBER	3
OCTOBER	1
NOVEMBER	5
DECEMBER	3
JANUARY	7
FEBRUARY	4
MARCH	4

Board Meeting begins 6:30pm

General Meeting begins 7:00pm

Attendance via Zoom is also available.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 1600 E. Desert Inn Rd. Suite 240 , Las Vegas NV

Contact Us

Vegas Valley Dog Obedience Club
P.O. Box 80695
Las Vegas NV 89180-0695
Phone: 702 395-
Fax: 555-555-5555
Email:



We are on the Web!



Upcoming Events Calendar

September 6-8, 2024 Red Canyons Kennel Club Show and Trials, Utah

September 12, 2024 VVDOC Fall Training Class Registration

September 13-15, 2024 Great Salt Lake Kennel Club Show & Trials, Utah

September 19, 2024 VVDOC Fall Training Classes Begin

September 21-22, 2024 Prescott AZ Kennel Club Show and Trials

October 5-6, 2024 Chino Valley Canine Training Club of AZ Trials

October 12-13, 2024 Bakersfield Obedience Training Club Trials, California

October 25-27, 2024 Pahrump Valley Obedience Club Trials

November 16-17, 2024 Poodle Club of Las Vegas Show & Trials

December 15, 2024 VVDOC Obedience Trial

January 2-5, 2025 Palm Springs Kennel Club Show & Trials, California

January 9, 2025 VVDOC Winter Class Registration

January 11, 2025 VVDOC Annual Awards Dinner

January 16, 2025 VVDOC Winter Class session begins

January 18-19, 2025 Phoenix Field & Obedience Club Trials, Arizona

Jan. 29-Feb. 2, 2025 Heart of the Desert Classic Show & Trials, Arizona

February 7-9, 2025 VVDOC Trials

February 28-March 2, 2025 Superstition Kennel Club Trials, Arizona

March 21, 2025 VVDOC Trials

March 22-23, 2025 Silver State Kennel Club Show & Trials

April 4, 2025 VVDOC Spring Class Registration

April 11, 2025 VVDOC Spring Class session begins

April 25-27, 2025 Apple Valley Kennel Club Show & Trials, California

May 2-4, 2025 Beehive Cluster Shows & Trials, Utah

June 12-15, 2025 Nut Farm Classic Show & Trials, California

July 12-14, 2025 Truckee Meadows Dog Training Club Trials, Nevada

July 17-18, 2025 AKC Rally National Championship, Ohio

July 19-20, 2025 AKC Obedience National Championship, Ohio

July 26-27, 2025 Flagstaff Kennel Club Show & Trials, Arizona



Pet-Friendly Hotel Chains

Below you'll find a list of hotel chains (in alphabetical order) where dogs are welcome. But make sure to call ahead and check for the availability of a pet-friendly room before you arrive.

Red Roof: All Red Roof locations are pet-friendly and most allow one dog or cat to stay free per guestroom. At management discretion, additional pets may be allowed to stay free of charge. At Red Roof Inn and Red Roof PLUS+ locations, the pet weight limit

is 80 pounds. At The Red Collection locations, the pet weight limit is 40 pounds.

Motel 6: All Motel 6 locations are pet-friendly. There is no pet fee and Motel 6 does not have weight limits on Pets. Motel 6 allows 2 pets per room.

Best Western: More than 1,600 Best Western properties across the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean accommodate dogs. Pet-friendly locations allow up to two dogs, with a maximum size of 80 pounds per dog, in each room. Some properties charge \$30 per day (maximum \$150 per week) for each room with a pet. Additionally, there may be a refundable damage deposit of up to \$150 per stay.

Choice Hotels: More than 2,500 Choice Hotels (Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Sleep Inn, Quality Inn, Clarion, MainStay Suites, Suburban, EconoLodge, and Rodeway Inn) are pet-friendly. Choice boasts a number of dog-friendly hotels in some of the most "dog-friendly cities" across the country.

DoubleTree by Hilton: More than 120 DoubleTree properties allow dogs, with a maximum non-refundable fee of \$75 per room. The chain recommends calling ahead to make sure a pet-friendly room is

available.

Extended Stay America: Dogs are welcome at Extended Stay America properties. However, pets can be no longer than 36 inches and no taller than 36 inches (larger dogs require the property manager's approval). Two pets are allowed per suite with a \$25 (+ tax) per day, per pet non-refundable cleaning fee for the first month (not to exceed \$150 + tax per pet), payable the first night of your stay and charged at check-in. Each month thereafter is a \$10 non-refundable fee (+ tax) per day for the first five days of each month (not to exceed \$50 + tax per month, per pet). Bringing more than two pets also requires the property manager's approval.

Four Seasons: Many Four Seasons properties offer accommodations for dogs at no extra charge. For example, Four Seasons Los Angeles at Beverly Hills provides in-room amenities including pet treats, bowls filled with Evian water, and a luxurious pet bed. The Four Seasons Chicago also provides these amenities free of charge, but only for pets under 30 pounds. Many properties have a special

(See **HOTELS** Page 4)

Gear For Your Dog

A pet-friendly travel kit should include:

- a dog's collar and leash
- food and water bowl
- poop bags
- a crate or carrier for the trip and/or hotel,
- enough food to feed your dog until you can purchase that brand at your travel location
- baby wipes
- paper towels
- your dog's medications along with a photograph of their vaccine record and a list of your dog's medications in case you need to purchase more

DID YOU KNOW?

September is
National Service Dog Month

Pet First Aid Kits

Pet 1st Aid Kits may be purchased from reputable sources like the AKC Shop and others. Or you may prefer to make your own. Here are some items to consider for your kit:

- Gauze (rolled & square)
- Non-stick Bandages
- Vet Wrap
- Adhesive Tape
- Cottonballs
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Antibiotic Spray
- Digital Thermometer
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Plastic Syringes
- Flashlight
- Soft Muzzle
- Benadryl
- Travel Bowls
- Leash & Collar
- Milk of Magnesia or Activated Charcoal

(HOTELS Page 3)

dining menu for dogs, along with grooming and walking services available for an additional fee through the concierge. Check with each individual hotel to find out if they accept pets and what services are offered.

Hampton Inn: Most Hampton Inn properties do allow dogs. Number of pets, size of pets allowed, and fees may vary and are at the discretion of each hotel.

However, even when pets are not allowed at a particular hotel, service animals are always permitted. Although some properties have many pet-friendly rooms, pets cannot be left unattended in them, and hotels are allowed to charge for any damage caused by an animal being kept on the property (this is for damage only — it is not a “pet fee”).

Home2Suites by Hilton: Hilton’s Home2Suites is overall pet-friendly and limits pets to two per suite with a maximum weight limit that varies by hotel. Check your particular hotel’s website for pet fee and size limits. Dogs must be kept on a leash or in a carrier when in public areas of the hotel.

Kimpton Hotels: Kimpton boutique hotels offer pets of all sorts and sizes to stay in their rooms. Not only is their check-in no-fuss, but they have pet goodies including plush pet-bed loaners in your guest room, food, water bowls, and mats. Plus, there may even be a Director of Pet Relations there to greet you

and help you with all your pet’s needs.

Marriott: Marriott offers more than 1,500 dog-friendly locations across the United States through a number of hotel brands (Autograph Collection, Renaissance Hotels, Delta Hotels and Resorts, Gaylord Hotels, Courtyard, Residence Inn, SpringHill Suites, Fairfield Inn & Suites, TownePlace Suites and [more](#)). Check directly with the individual properties to find out the pet fee, weight and breed restrictions. Each pet-friendly hotel offers a range of amenities designed to accommodate pet owners.

The Peninsula Hotels: A number of Peninsula properties allow travelers to bring their dogs. Some properties allow a maximum of two pets for a fee of \$35–75 per pet. In addition, some hotels will provide food and water bowls and a luxurious dog bed. Each property has its own policies — check with the individual hotel first when you book.

The Ritz-Carlton: Many Ritz-Carlton properties are dog-friendly, but size requirements, fees, and amenities vary. For example, the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel offers a dog-friendly menu to its canine guests and charges only a \$50 per night boarding fee. Pets must be leashed or held in arms in all common areas of the resort, and are not allowed in the hotel’s restaurants, bars, fitness center and spa, pool areas, or the Club Level Lounge. The Ritz-Carlton, Washington D.C. pro-

vides plush dog beds, dog bowls, and healthy, all-natural dog treats and charges a \$125 non-refundable dog cleaning fee per stay, in addition to a \$50 nightly dog boarding fee. Dogs must weigh 40 pounds or less or be leashed or held in arms at all times.

Staypineapple: All Staypineapple properties are dog-friendly and feature perks such as a treat tin, water bowl, walk-friendly waste bags, and a dog bed for use during the guests’ stay. There are no height or weight restrictions on pets, but the hotels charge a \$25 nightly fee. Dogs may be kept in the room while owners are out exploring, provided they do not disturb other guests with barking or howling, in which case additional charges may be incurred.

Westin: There are 165 dog-friendly properties within the Westin brand, although terms may vary from one hotel to another, including weight restrictions and whether a nightly fee is charged. Guests receive a welcome kit including food and water bowls, an in-room sign, and the canine version of the Heavenly Bed. Owners must sign a waiver at check-in and will be held responsible for excessive damage or cleaning.

All hotel information is up-to-date as of February 2022. Please call each individual hotel when planning your trip as pet-friendly rooms may not always be available. (from AKC.org)

Height

25.5-27.5 inches (male)
23.5-25.5 inches (female)

Weight

60-85 pounds (male)
55-75 (female)

Life Expectancy

12-15 years

AKC Working Group



Breed of the Month

About the Breed from the AKC

The Giant Schnauzer is a larger and more powerful version of the Standard Schnauzer, and he should, as the breed standard says, “be a bold and valiant figure of a dog.” Great intelligence and loyalty make him a stellar worker and companion.

A well-bred Giant Schnauzer closely resembles the Standard Schnauzer, only bigger. As their name suggests, Giants are imposing. A male might stand as high as 27.5 inches at the shoulder and weigh 95 pounds. The muscular, substantial body is, as the breed’s fanciers put it, a “bold and valiant figure of a dog.” The double coat is either solid black or “pepper

GIANT SCHNAUZER



and salt.”

Extremely intelligent and strongly territorial, the Giant Schnauzer loves his owners and feels great responsibility to protect them. Giants want to be with their owners and cannot abide being ignored or left in the yard. The Giant is a ‘high-energy, protective, territorial guard dog,’ says one prominent breed fancier. ‘The breed is not for the casual owner.’ They enjoy and excel in dog sports such as carting, herding, agility, coursing ability tests, and obedience. Early socialization and puppy training classes are a must with this strong, protective breed.

Is Your Dog Ready for a Dog Park?

By [Harriet Meyers](#)

Updated: Mar 14, 2024

Some dogs may not be ready to visit a dog park. Following are characteristics of dogs who are not yet ready to go to a dog park:

- Puppies younger than 4 months old who have not had all of their vaccinations should never be around dogs

you don't know.

- Dogs that aren't up-to-date on their vaccinations should stay home. Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinary Office for the AKC, recommends that dogs spending time in dog parks be vaccinated for bordetella, leptospirosis, and canine influenza. They should also be treated with flea, tick, and heartworm prevention methods.

- If your dog is in [heat](#) or coming into season, keep them at home to avoid unplanned puppies or stirring up an aggressive interest in male dogs.
- Any dog showing signs of illness should stay home. It may be something contagious and also cause the dog to feel unsociable.
- A dog should learn to obey [basic obedience commands](#) – such as come, (See [DOG PARK](#) Page 6)

When a dog bites, it's probably because you weren't paying attention

Bites are sending record numbers of Californians to the ER. But these incidents can be prevented.

Dogs send signals that humans should learn. (Francine Orr Los Angeles Times)

By Melonie San Pietro

Dog bites are sending record numbers of Californians to the emergency room. A recent study from the Department of Health Care Access and Information found that in 2022, the state saw an all-time high of 48,596 emergency visits for dog bites, a 12% increase from the year before.



Nearly half of American households — about 45% — have at least one dog. Many puppies were adopted hastily during the pandemic, then improperly trained and socialized, so now they aren't functioning well. While these factors may be driving the increase in bites, most of these incidents can be prevented. Understanding dogs' body language, properly training your animals and not rushing to pet other people's dogs could go a long way toward reducing the likelihood of violent canine encounters.

Vicious attacks by aggressive dogs are outliers. Most bites result from animals being put under stress and humans not understanding their signals. Although dogs generally aren't dangerous, all of them — whether \$1,000-dollar labradoodles or shelter mutts — might bite if they are stressed enough. Of the 4.5 million dog bites reported in the U.S. each year, an estimated 80% happen at home, typically involving a dog and a human who have met before.

The human's story is often the same: The bite came out of nowhere. But there are almost always signs. We are just bad at reading them.

Everyone knows to back away from a growl, but dogs usually communicate their discomfort long before reaching that point.

Dog aggression occurs on a ladder. Initial signs of discomfort might include lip-licking, looking away or yawning. Then dogs will escalate a step to behaviors such as stiffening up, staring or crouching with a tucked tail. When even the most consci-

entious dog owners don't recognize the signs, then, seemingly out of nowhere, the dog reaches the top of the ladder, feeling left with no choice but to bite that handsy toddler or overzealous house guest. A dog that is poorly socialized or in pain will escalate far faster than a well-adjusted, healthy one.

Sometimes, though, there are no signs before a dog begins lunging and biting. That happens when the animal's attempts to communicate are repeatedly punished — common in aversive training, which penalizes bad behavior with physical tools such as collars that deliver electronic stimulation, prong collars that dig into the skin and choke chains that constrict the neck. While not backed by science, this approach is still used in the unregulated dog-training industry.

Aversive techniques seem to work, but that's deceptive. Fear-based learning can push dogs to stop engaging in any behavior, good or bad, because they are afraid to make a mistake and risk pain. This shutting down happens quickly and is easily mistaken for good behavior. But no growth has taken place, only intimidation (See [DOG BITES](#) Page 6)

(DOG PARK Page 5)

down, and stay – in **distracting environments** prior to going to a dog park. If your dog is tuning you out when they're having fun, you won't get his attention at the dog park.

- **Socialize your dog** with other dogs before you go. If your dog is shy or nervous, the dog park may be a nightmare for them.
- **Reactive or aggressive** dogs may not welcome an onrush of strange dogs anywhere, including a dog park.
- **Resource guarders**, depending on what they guard, may not do well in a dog park. Dogs that guard their owners, their water dish, or even a ball or stick may not interact well with other dogs.



Pet Friendly Travel Sites to Help You Plan Your Trip

- <https://www.bringfido.com/>
- <https://www.petswelcome.com/>
- <https://www.k9ofmine.com/dog-friendly-vacation-destinations/>
- <https://www.thewildest.com/dog-lifestyle/51-dog-friendly-ideas-summer-fun-travel>
- <https://www.tripswithpets.com/>

(DOG BITES Page 5)

and loss of trust, leaving a dog in the corner with no voice.

The consequences often surface through aggression, fear, anxiety and biting that seems to come out of nowhere if you've missed the signs. Fortunately, it is easy to recognize shut-down dogs: They are avoidant and disengaged, and appear stiff or cautious.

Effective techniques do not lean on physical punishment. Positive reinforcement training, the method backed by the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior, rewards dogs for what they do right, motivating good behavior via treats, toys, verbal praise and other options.

While you can teach basic commands like "sit" and "stay" in a day, solving more complex behavioral issues is a lifetime

endeavor. The improvements may be too subtle to notice, unlike the seeming quick fixes of aversive training. But puppies that have proper training are better-adjusted throughout their lives.

And even good training is still only one-way communication through which dogs learn to listen to us. We also need to listen to them. On top of understanding the signals that lead to bites, it's wise to remove a dog from a situation where it is displaying signs of distress. Dogs need a safe space at home to escape to when overwhelmed, especially in households with young children.

Finally, we should set and observe boundaries around petting. Don't feel obligated to let other people pet your dog. Let's also stop obsessing over petting other people's dogs as soon as we meet them — and teach our children the same. Despite social media trends advising us to

"pet all the dogs," many are barely tolerant of strangers' hands on them. Dogs that want your attention make it known, approaching with a wagging tail, soft eyes and a loose, wiggly body. If you're the one who has to initiate the interaction, a good rule of thumb is: Don't.

We love our dogs. We're also responsible for them. We should respect all dogs as individuals with their own history, personality and triggers. Get to know their limits, meet them where they are, and you won't give them a reason to send you to the ER.

Melonie San Pietro has a master's degree in canine science and owns a small dog-walking business in Washington, D.C.

https://enewspaper.latimes.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=83775da9-b7c8-49d3-b8b0-f12a0a680682

July 26, 2024

https://www.akcgr.org/blogpost_CDCsampleletter/

On August 1, 2024, [new regulations from the Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) will go into effect regarding the importation of dogs and cats into the United States.

The new rules have been received with great concern about the impacts they will have on low-risk importations, particularly on fanciers and breeders who regularly cross the U.S.-Canadian border. While the CDC did announce this week [some revisions regarding bringing dogs over 6 months of age into the U.S. from low-risk countries](#), AKC continues to be concerned with the disproportionate impacts the new rule will have on low-risk importations for dogs between 4 and 6 months of age. AKC has been working with numerous groups and communicating with the CDC to address concerns. **However, the most important thing that fanciers and breeders can be doing is to contact the CDC and members of Congress to respectfully share your concerns.**

To assist with this, AKC is offering a [new sample letter](#) that can be personalized and sent to help you communicate on this issue. We encourage you to use this letter, and share it with your fellow club members and breeders, to ask the CDC and Congress to consider the implications of the regulation on responsible dog owners and personally-owned dogs.

Where to send your letter:

CDC: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov.

Members of Congress: [Use the tool in the AKC Legislative Action Center](#) to type in your address and get the names and contact information for your Senators and Member of Congress.

AKC Government Relations will continue to provide updates as they are available. For questions and more information on the regulation, contact CDC directly at (404) 498-1600 or cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov.



Can Dogs Eat Peanut Butter?

By [Anna Burke](#) Updated Jul 05, 2024

Does your dog magically appear in the kitchen every time you open up the peanut butter jar? You are not alone. Many dog owners give their dogs peanut butter from time to time, and this nutty treat does indeed drive dogs nuts. It can be spread inside hollow bones and treat toys for a long-lasting treat, or just licked from a spoon or finger as a quick reward. From a health perspective, however, there are a few peanut butter facts you need to be aware of before you let your pup clean out that empty peanut butter jar.

Most peanut butter is safe for dogs to eat, and in moderation peanut butter can be an excellent source of protein and healthy fats, vitamins B and E, and niacin. The healthiest option is unsalted peanut butter, dog-specific peanut butter, or homemade peanut butter. High sodium

levels can be problematic for dogs, so as an added bonus, homemade peanut butters do not contain extra sugar and other additives.

How Much Peanut Butter Can Dogs Eat?

Peanut butter is rich in natural fats and protein, but too much of a good thing can lead to obesity and other health complications like pancreatitis. There are two things you can do to figure out how much peanut butter to feed your dog on a regular basis. The first and most reliable option is to call your veterinarian and ask his or her advice. This is especially important for owners of dogs with conditions such as diabetes or with food sensitivity issues.

The second option is the 10 percent rule. In general, treats should not make up more than 10 percent of your dog's diet. Simply measure how much food your dog gets daily, and remember that it might be a good idea to alternate between peanut butter and healthier treats, such as dog friendly fruits or vegetables.

Health Alert: Xylitol

Most peanut butter is safe for dogs, but some can be deadly. Recently, some peanut butter manufacturers switched to using the sweetener xylitol. Xylitol is a sugar substitute often found in sugar-free products like chewing gum, toothpaste, breath mints, chewable vitamins and baked goods. It is safe for people, but toxic to dogs.

Xylitol consumption causes a rapid release of insulin in dogs, which results in an equally rapid and profound decrease in blood sugar levels. and can be life threatening if left untreated. This condition, scientifically known as hypoglycemia, can occur as quickly as 10-to-60 minutes after eating xylitol.

Xylitol poisoning is easy to avoid. All owners need to do is check the label of the peanut butter and any other product they (See **PEANUT BUTTER** Page 8)



Alden Frank/Red/Getty Images, Plus via Getty Images

(PEANUT BUTTER Page 7)

plan on feeding to their dogs for xylitol, and keep xylitol products out of their dogs' reach. If you think your dog has eaten xylitol, contact your veterinarian immediately, and keep an eye out for symptoms of xylitol poisoning, such as weakness, collapse, staggering, lack of coordination, and seizures.

Don't keep your pup in suspense any long-

er. Yes, dogs can eat peanut butter as long as it is fed in moderation and does not contain xylitol, so get out that pet-safe peanut butter jar and share the good news.

Member Profile

I have been in Belgians all my life. My first Belgian Tervuren in the U.S. was Pine Acres Meska de Marly CDX . My mentor was Peggy Falcone. My first Trial was in California. I have a lot of years in the breed. I enjoy being a member in the clubs and also being an [AKC] Judge. A little about me: I have almost 72 yrs. in Belgians. I was born in France and raised in Switzerland. Got Married in Las Vegas. My kids showed and handled, and put a lot of Championship on all breeds. I just did performance; started in 79. I joined actually in 82 SSKC and 84 VVDOC. I have been a AKC judge for almost 27 yrs. I have had a lot of champions, groups, and performance title holders. Laval was my first one that I finished his Championship and won at a Specialty. Laval was also a triple AKC, INT, French CH and Performance titles. I sent Laval Siemen to Australia and received Mahlu at 3 months old. A week later we started his Service work. The breeder in Australia said Mahlu has BIG shoes to fill but he has done it even more. Laval would be proud. Mahlu is now 3 and in a half old and this is what we have done together: (I am the only one who handles him) TRIPLE CHAMPION AKC, INT, Swiss Tourjour Waya Mahlu de Marly BN,RE,FDC,CGCU,NTD,THDN, Certified International Service Dog also just became a Courtroom Critter has been certified. At 7 months at the ABTC National won Best of Opp in sweeps then at 11 months took a group 4 at Red Canyon

DANIELE LEDOUX-STARZYK



Daniele 1984



9/2021 Red Canyons



5/2021 Belgian Tervuren National Specialty



Daniele & Mahlu 2023 Switzerland



Daniele & Mahlu 2023 Red Canyons

Scent detection dogs discern odour better than previously thought

May 29, 2024

University of Helsinki

According to a recent study, dogs trained to detect scent may be able to identify significantly lower concentrations of odour molecules than has previously been documented.

A study carried out by the University of Helsinki's DogRisk research group, the University of Eastern Finland and Wise Nose -- Scent Discrimination Association in Finland investigated the threshold for scent detection in dogs.

The study revealed that dogs can learn to identify concentrations of eucalyptus hydrolate that are clearly below the detection threshold of sophisticated analytical instruments used today. The concentrations were also far below previously reported levels. Dogs' extraordinary sense of smell can be exploited, for example, in search and rescue operations and in medical detection.

The 15 dogs that participated in the study had different training backgrounds. Some dogs had experience of nose work, which is a hobby and competitive dog sport,

while some had been trained to identify diseases, mould or pests.

In the study, the dogs were to differentiate samples containing low concentrations of eucalyptus hydrolate from samples containing only water. The focus was on determining the lowest concentration that the dogs could detect for certain. The study included three different tests where the concentrations of the hydrolate were diluted gradually until the dogs could no longer identify the scent. This determined the threshold for their scent detection ability.

"The dogs' scent detection threshold initially varied from $1:10^4$ - $1:10^{23}$ but narrowed down to $1:10^{17}$ - $1:10^{21}$ after a training period. In other words, the dogs needed 1 to 10 molecules per millilitre of water to detect the right sample. For perspective, a single yeast cell contains 42 million molecules," describes the principal investigator of the study, Anna Hielm-Björkman from the University of Helsinki. In addition, the researchers found that

there was great variation between the eucalyptus hydrolate products commonly used in nose work. They analysed ten commercial products and detected, for instance, different concentrations of eucalyptol and lower alcohols.

"This explains why many dogs used to commercial eucalyptus hydrolates showed unexpectedly poor results in the study. Their sense of smell is so precise that they did not identify the eucalyptus hydrolate used in the study to be same substance that they were familiar with. This demonstrates the importance of using standardised nose work products in both training and sports competitions," concludes Visiting Researcher Soile Turunen from the University of Eastern Finland.

University of Helsinki. "Scent detection dogs discern odour molecules better than previously thought." *ScienceDaily*.

ScienceDaily, 29 May 2024.

<www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2024/05/240529144020.htm>.



AKC Canine Health Foundation Sports Medicine News



From the AKC Gazette's President Dennis B. Sprung

AKC GAZETTE AUGUST 2024

The AKC Canine Health Foundation has donated more than \$73 million to canine health research and projects that further discoveries that help prevent, treat, and cure canine diseases.

Most recently, in conjunction with AKC, they announced Colorado State University and Penn Vet (University of Pennsylvania) as the first recipients of AKC/CHF Canine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Residency Program Awards.

This program was launched in February of 2024 to increase the number of specialists trained to meet the unique needs of athletic and working dogs, as well as dogs in need of rehabilitation.

Through a competitive process, approved sports medicine and rehabilitation programs submitted proposals that were reviewed by a panel of AKC/CHF leadership and subject matter experts.

Generous support from the Golden Retriever Foundation (GRF) has provided a jump start to the AKC/CHF Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Program, allowing funding for two residency programs in the first year. Each school will receive \$100,000 annually to support a three-year residency. Program goals include growth to support new residency programs every year. For more information about this program and the important work that is happening at AKC/CHF, visit <https://www.akcCHF.org/>.



**Do you have a brag? Did you get a new puppy?
Do you have other dog-related news, photos, articles, humor, or upcoming events to share?
Do you have a canine product or service you'd like to promote?**

**Send your information to
Pam Chadwick at
Goldenz1@centurylink.net
Submission deadline is the 10th of each month**

UPDATE: Here is an update from Ken Kincaid about a link provided in the August 2024 issue. "I have redone the **Novice Stewarding video**, you can share it thru this URL https://youtu.be/Po8kbCUv_OQ? "

Here Comes the Judge...

Q: Question for the Judge: *Can you explain Principal and Non-Principal parts of an exercise with regard to scoring? Examples?*

A: From Marina Pavlovsky— Principal parts of exercises are the most important to complete for qualifying performance.

Any principal feature done incorrectly by the dog or any additional command or signal (not allowed) by handler will constitute a non-qualifying score for that particular exercise.

Perfect example of non-principal part is Finish. If dog failed I to finish or handler gave second command or signal to Finish, team still can have qualifying score pro-

vided all principal parts were done correctly. Though it will be penalized substantially.

Perfect example of non-principal part is Finish. If dog failed I) to finish or handler gave second command or signal to Finish, team still can have qualifying score provided all principal parts were done correctly. Though it will be penalized substantially. You can use invaluable information of recently passed AKC Judge John Cox.

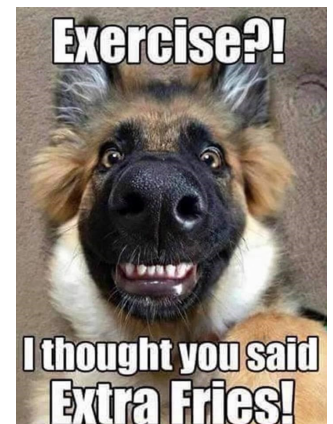
<https://saintbernardarchive.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Random-Little-Tidbits-27.pdf>

Random Little Tidbits #27
<https://saintbernardarchive.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/chartsandtables-5.pdf>

Do you have a question you'd like to ask an AKC judge? Each month, one of our members who is an AKC judge will answer your questions. Please send your questions to Pam Chadwick, goldenz1@centurylink.net. Take this opportunity to communicate with an expert. We are waiting for your questions!



Braggs and Member Photos



Many of you will remember the pleasure of showing or stewarding under AKC Judge John Cox. He left us recently, but his "tidbits" deserve repeating. Below are some of his valuable and timeless tips. Regarding the Scent Discrimination Exercise from UTILITY CLASS:

A tidbit of advice for what it is worth.

LEARN the words in the Regulations on what you are going to tell the judge when asked "What method will you be using to send your dog?" The handlers should respond with either--"**After a sit**" or "**Send directly**". It does NOT say Turn and send, Turn and sit, Flying send. **USE the words in the quotes.**

No, there is NO scoring if you choose the wrong word(s).

So, why be soooooo fussy on words? You as a handler want to MAKE SURE the judge is understanding the method you ARE choosing to use. If we all use the same words (maybe that is why they are in quotes, don't you think?), we all understand each other with nothing left in doubt. This is the only place in the Regulations a handler's response is in quotes!

Remember, the Judge's order, "Take an article" is the first order and the exercise has begun (Chapter 2, Section 4).

The question, "Are you ready?" is merely that, a question. It is not the start of the exercise. If you are NOT ready, when asked, say "No." That is why we ask the question.

SAVE THE DATE!

VVDOC Obedience Trial
 Sunday December 15, 2024
 P.C.Dog Training, 644 E. Horizon Dr.,
 Henderson NV 89015

SAVE THE DATE!

VVDOC Annual Awards Dinner
 Saturday January 11, 2025
 Bonefish Grill Las Vegas, 6527 S. Las Vegas
 Blvd.

ABOUT US



PO Box 80695
 Las Vegas NV 89180-0695
 Phone: (702) 368-0656
 E-mail: info@vvdog.org
info@vvdog.org

Vegas Valley Dog Obedience Club was founded in 1962. We are licensed by the American Kennel Club. Our purpose is to promote responsible dog ownership, humane training methods, and to further the sport of canine Obedience through AKC Obedience & Rally Trials. We offer Training Classes to the public and our members three times each year. Please contact info@vvdog.org for more information about our organization.