



# Wagging Tails

The Newsletter of Vegas Valley Dog Obedience Club

PAGE 1 VOLUME 49, ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER, 2024

- **VVDOC OBEDIENCE TRIAL** Dec. 15, 2024
- **AWARDS DINNER** Jan. 11, 2025

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## Holiday Safety for Dogs

By [Dr. Marty Greer](#)  
Published: Dec 09, 2019

There are many things that change in your home during the holidays. Packages and visitors come through the door, decorations adorn the house, big meals are made with special foods, and wrapped gifts surround a new tree in the main part of your home. As much fun as this can be, it can also pose some stress and risks to your dogs. Learn some important holiday safety rules, tricks, and tips that can help keep you and your pets happy during this season.



beat and be gone. Alternately, keep an exercise pen set up at the door so you can open the door, but your pets can't escape.

### Deliveries

When hosting visitors, keep a leash and collar or harness securely on your pets, with ID tags showing your cell phone number. Be sure your pets are microchipped. Dogs can slip out the door in a heart-

### Electric Cords

The skinny cords on Christmas tree lights are not well insulated and easy for a puppy to chew into. Electrocutation can result, so safety is paramount. Keep the cords covered so pets stay safe. Also, consider keeping the lower (See **SAFETY** Page 3)



## 5 Fun Dog Facts from the AKC

1. The Norwegian Lundehund is the only dog breed created for the job of puffin hunting.
2. Greyhounds can beat cheetahs in a race. While cheetahs can run twice as fast as Greyhounds, they can only maintain that 70 mph speed for about thirty seconds. A Greyhound can maintain a 35 mph speed for about seven miles. The cheetah may start out first, but the Greyhound would soon overtake them.
3. The Bloodhound's sense of smell is so accurate that the results of its tracking can be used as evidence in a court of law.
4. According to Guinness World Records, a Great Dane named Zeus is the world's tallest male dog. Zeus is 3 feet, 5.18 inches tall.
5. According to Guinness World Records, the shortest dog ever recorded was Pearl the Chihuahua. She measures 3.59 inches tall.

### 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
NOVEMBER	5
DECEMBER	3
JANUARY	7
FEBRUARY	4
MARCH	4
APRIL	1
MAY	6
JUNE	3

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

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## We are on the Web!



## Upcoming Events Calendar

- November 15-17, 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 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 11-14, 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
- September 5-7, 2025** Red Canyons Kennel Club Show and Trials, Utah
- September 11, 2025** **VVDOC** Fall Training Class Registration
- September 12-14, 2025** Great Salt Lake Kennel Club Show & Trials, Utah
- September 18, 2025** **VVDOC** Fall Training Classes Begin
- September 20-21, 2025** Prescott AZ Kennel Club Show and Trials
- October 4-5, 2025** Chino Valley Canine Training Club of AZ Trials
- October 11-12, 2025** Bakersfield Obedience Training Club Trials, California
- October 24-26, 2025** Pahrump Valley Obedience Club Trials

**(SAFETY Page 1)**

branches of the tree free from lights. If you catch your dog chewing on a cord, unplug the cord immediately and move it out of their reach.

**Christmas Trees & Decorations**

You can easily add a safety measure by tethering your tree to the ceiling with a plant hook and a thin wire. Curious climbing pups or those with enthusiastically-wagging tails will appreciate not having the tree fall over on them. Also, monitor and prevent pine needle and tree water ingestion.

Hang bells on the lower branches to help alert you to your pet's exploration of the tree. Either keep your special, breakable ornaments at the tops of the tree or in storage the years you have young dogs romping around. Another option is to surround the tree with an exercise pen to remove any temptation to much on ornaments.

Tinsel, yarn, strings, and other items with long strands can be fascinating to pets. Avoid using these products in areas where pets can get into them. Strings of popcorn and cranberries may be especially enticing, so keep these out of reach.

**Plants**

Traditional holiday plants like mistletoe and holly are toxic to dogs. Yew, the evergreen many people have in

their landscaping is extremely toxic. As a safety measure, avoid bringing clippings into your home to use as garland unless you can identify the variety. Poinsettias are not toxic, but any plant ingestions can lead to oral irritation, vomiting and/or diarrhea.

**Toxic Foods**

Several common holiday foods that humans can safely eat are unsafe for dogs. These include chocolate, raisins and grapes, Macadamia nuts, and sugarless products containing xylitol. Avoid putting food-containing gifts under the tree, wrapped or unwrapped, when your dogs will be in the room unsupervised. Alcohol innocently set on a low table or the floor can be quickly raided by a pet, leading to serious consequences.

Gifts under the tree occasionally include meats and cheeses. Too much fat from these can be dangerous. Bones and fats from ham, turkey, and other meats can cause pancreatitis or intestinal blockages. Mesh wrappers and leg holders on meats can also smell tempting but cause bowel obstructions. If you've got a dog who gets into trash cans, be sure to empty them when they're full of food.

**Sidewalk Salt**

Avoid using regular sidewalk salt and instead, use cat litter or pet-safe sidewalk salt products. Wash your pet's paws if they do track through salt that isn't pet-friendly.

**Antifreeze**

Ethylene glycol, antifreeze, is highly toxic to pets. It has a sweet taste and remains liquid when other water sources are frozen. Ingestion initially will mimic alcohol consumption, but quickly leads to irreversible and fatal kidney failure. Keep antifreeze wiped up and stored in covered containers. Suspected ingestion should require a trip to the veterinarian immediately.

Make sure pets have an unfrozen water supply available to them when they are outside. Heated water bowls are available, with a wire coil surrounding the cords to keep pets safe from chewing through a cord.

**Candles & Oils**

Dogs can easily tip candles over or venture too close to the flames. Even potpourri oils are dangerous when licked from the source or off their coats. Place these high or avoid altogether. Consider using plug-in room scent products as an alternative.

**Visitors**

Identify which home-made treats are for your pets and which are for your family and friends. You don't want to be the one who bites into a deliciously-decorated dog biscuit.

*Marty Greer, DVM, JD has run the Veterinary Village Small Animal Clinic in Wisconsin since 1982. She is an expert in canine reproduction, is author of Canine Reproduction and Neonatology and a frequent lecturer on the subject. Dr. Greer also studied law at Marquette University and is a partner in Animal Legal Resources, LLC and is a board member of the National Animal Interest Alliance. Director of Veterinary Services-Revival Animal Health President-Society of Veterinary Medical Ethics.*

## Herding – The More Relaxed Dog Sport

By Gail Chadwick

Getting up before dawn, packing a large vehicle with gear, and driving a couple hours to some remote spot, may not sound like fun to some. But those of us participating in various dog sports know the drill well. Doing so to attend a herding trial feels a little different. The atmosphere on arrival isn't the usual frenetic unpacking, finding a spot, hauling and set up. Typically, I drive slowly (keep the dust down and watch for loose dogs) onto a private property of several acres, someone's home or ranch, and park fairly close to the arenas. Most competitors work from crates out of their cars, or the facility has a few canopies set up to keep the sun off dogs and people.



*Taryn*

*Herding trials are small by design. Judges and stock can only get through a certain number of runs per day.*

Each venue sets its own limits. And generally, there are fewer competitors who take part in herding than agility, rally, obedience, scent work, dock diving, disc sports, flyball, conformation or whatever else you can do with your dog. There typically are few, if any, spectators. Everyone who



*Tessa*

is there is usually competing with one or more dogs. My "set up" is often nothing more than a chair and my stock stick.

Another difference between herding and many other dog sports is that usually about half the dogs entered in a trial are handled by professionals.

Handling a dog in herding takes time, expert instruction and regular access to stock for practice. Many owners who want their dogs to have the opportunity to use their herding instincts in sport don't have access to stock or space, so they send their dogs to experts who have the knowledge and facilities needed.

My personal choice is to work with a trainer who helps train me and my dog; and to handle my own dogs in trials. It is very rewarding for me to develop the skills and relationship with my dogs that herding requires.

My personal journey with herding began when I adopted a border collie

puppy from Arizona Border Collie Rescue in 2007. Her parents were from a large herding ranch in northern Arizona and eight puppies from an unnecessary breeding were turned in to rescue. When she was a year old, I decided to find out if she had her parents' instincts. I found a trainer near Prescott, AZ and was attempting to learn handling. Our lessons teetered on "out of control" as I tried to keep track of my enthusiastic young dog who preferred chasing sheep to listening to me. One lesson I had my 9 year old border collie, Tessa, along. She was slowing down in her agility career and she and I had travelled a long road together conquering her fears of people and dogs. I wasn't thinking of taking up another sport in her senior years, but my trainer encouraged me to give her a try.

What an unexpected difference! Given our established partnership she approached the sheep with an attitude of "Where would you like them to go, Mom?" She was even better when herding ducks, her favorite stock. We never herded cattle, because we thought at her age, she may not have the reflexes to get out of the way of cows that kick. How I loved herding (See **HERDING** Page 5)



*Sirius*

(**HERDING** Page 4)

with Tessa.

Some sponsoring clubs have developed awards specifically for “owner-handlers” precisely because competing



*Taryn*

with professionals who train dogs daily for a living and own the stock and facilities where we trial can be a daunting prospect.

Because the universe of herding is quite small it can be difficult to track down information about trials and trainers in your local area. Attending a trial and getting referrals is a good route to find trainers and herding opportunities. Trials are typically put on by local clubs and sponsored under several venues. Each venue has its own set of rules and types of courses that need to be learned. The main venues for arena herding trials are:

AKC – American Kennel Club

AHBA – American Herding Breed Association

ASCA – Australian Shepherd Club of America

For arena trials the courses are set up the same for all three levels of competition (although the levels have different names). In AKC the three levels are Started, Intermediate and Advanced. You begin in Started and can move to the next level after you achieve three “Q”s (qualifying rounds)

at the lower level. Using the same course, handling lines are designated for each level. These are lines that the handler cannot cross during specific parts of the run. Difficulty increases when the handler is required to stay further away from where the stock are directed (by the dog) to go. In ASCA and AHBA you only need two Q’s to advance to the next level.

Another type of herding, often referred to as “big field” herding is offered by the USBCHA or United States Border Collie Herding Association. These are the trials with the 300-500 yard outruns, where the dogs are often trained to respond to whistled commands because the dog can hear that at a longer distance than the usual voice commands.



*Devyn*

A newer (2016) entry in competitive herding is called a “Time and Points” type of trial. These trials are being fielded under the venue “Mountain States Stockdog Association” or MSSA.

The question, “Can my dog do herding?” is often answered by participating in a herding instinct test. A professional trainer may offer these tests in your area. Although the well-known herding breeds like Border Collies, Australian Shepherds and Aus-

tralian Cattle Dogs are often seen in herding trials, many breeds of dog can and will herd if given the opportunity. The AKC venue limits the breeds that can participate in their herding trials but it includes forty plus breeds, including Bouviers, Rottweilers, Wheatens, Vallhunds, Boxers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Pulis and many others. Other venues allow most breeds to enter trials.

As I sit in my chair at a herding trial, surrounded by rolling hills and open spaces, with my well-trained herding dog at my feet quietly alert to what is going on in the arena, I feel a serenity I don’t usually experience in other dog sports. When you are doing herding correctly, all is quietly in control. Handler, dog and all the stock are walking nicely through the designed course.

Even my dog is different. Currently I compete in herding with Taryn, a Border Collie, who also competes in agility. At agility trials she’s wild with energy, screaming and squealing her way around every course as fast as she can possibly race, on the very edge of out of control. In herding, that same dog is settled, steady and completely silent. I’m very happy to know and enjoy my dog in two very different ways.

*Gail Chadwick lives in Tempe, AZ with her husband and two Border Collies. She trains and competes in agility (since 2001) and herding (since 2009) and dabbles in anything their dogs enjoy (disc, scentwork and the new Fetch title). Their Border Collies have achieved top level titles in agility and arena herding. She has also volunteered in Border Collie rescue for over twenty years.*



*Gail and Taryn*

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.

**Breed of the Month**



**Pharaoh Hound**

**Height**

23-25 inches (male)  
21-24 inches (female)

**Weight**

45-55 pounds

**Life Expectancy**

12-14 years

**AKC Hound Group**

**About the Breed  
from the AKC**



The Pharaoh Hound, ancient "Blushing Dog" of Malta, is an elegant but rugged sprinting hound bred to course small game over punishing terrain. Quick and tenacious on scent, these friendly, affectionate hounds settle down nicely at home.

Pharaohs are sleek, aerodynamic coursing hounds bred for high-speed pursuit on rocky terrain. Among their several distinguishing traits are a tight tan coat with matching leather on the nose, ears, and eye rims; ravishing amber eyes; a white-tipped tail; the ability to smile; and a unique way of blushing when happy or excited ('His face glows like a god,' wrote an admirer some 3,000 years ago). These elegant visitors from antiquity possess the speed and graceful movement of all coursers descended from Bronze Age hounds.

The Pharaoh is quick to learn and eager to please. However, there is a problem in teaching him to come if he is off lead in an open area. It has been proven time and again that most Pharaohs, no matter how obedient or well trained, will not come when called when they find themselves suddenly in a 'free situation.' They will run off, happy to be hunting'with some

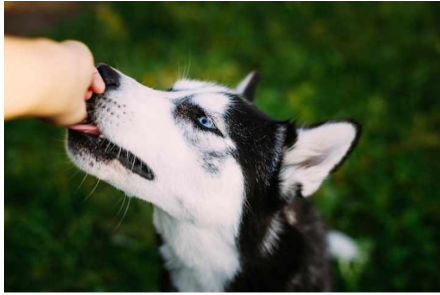
dogs finally caught after several days, but others, sadly, killed in traffic, or gone forever.

Anyone considering owning a Pharaoh must know that the breed does require a regular exercise schedule to keep happy and in good condition. If you are fortunate enough to have a 'self-runner,' just let him run 15 to 20 minutes twice a day. This requires a six-foot-high fenced-in area of about 50 feet by 50 feet, minimum. No amount of training should be trusted to overcome the Pharaoh's strong hunting instinct. He should never be allowed to exercise off-lead in an unenclosed area.

# Artificial Sweeteners: Which Ones Are Safe for Dogs?

By [Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO](#)

Updated: Dec 21, 2023



*I've read that xylitol is very dangerous for my dog, but what about other artificial sweeteners? Are they also dangerous? In what ways? – Sweet N. R.*

Dear SNR: Yes, dogs shouldn't consume xylitol in any amount. It is not only dangerous but has been proven to be fatal. Before I answer, let me say that it is healthier for dogs to have a diet free of human sweets (and especially artificial sweeteners). But of course, family pets are exposed to a wide variety of foods, and sometimes accidents may happen. But what artificial sweeteners are bad for dogs?

This list of common artificial sweeteners below will help you decipher what is dangerous and safe. Remember to always read the labels of the food in your home. Oftentimes, dangerous ingredients such as xylitol are found in products you wouldn't expect.

## Xylitol

This naturally produced sweetener, also commonly called "birch sugar," is found in many "sugar-free" items for people, such as ice cream, candies, pastries, gum, yogurts, juices, and more. Xylitol might also go by other names, including wood sugar, birch sugar, and birch bark extract. It's highly toxic and potentially fatal if consumed. Even in small doses, it can cause seizures, liver failure, and death.

## Erythritol

This non-caloric sugar alcohol is considered safe for dogs. But in large quantities, gastrointestinal symptoms may occur.

## Stevia (Green Packet)

This is a naturally produced sweetener from the stevia plant. Stevia is safe for dogs to consume, but in large quantities, it can cause diarrhea.

## Aspartame (Blue Packet)

Consuming aspartame causes no serious health effects in dogs, aside from minor gastrointestinal problems. That being said, it is in no way a healthy product for dogs to eat.

## Saccharin (Pink Packet)

Saccharin is safe for dogs, but eating it can cause gastrointestinal issues. Long-term effects on pets have not yet been examined.

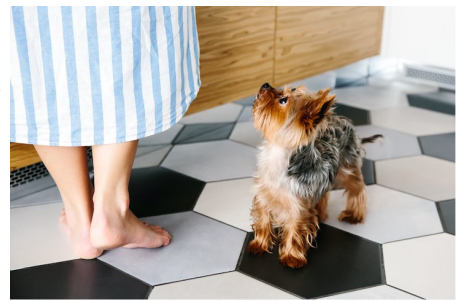
## Sucralose (Yellow Packet)

Sucralose is generally safe, but it can cause diarrhea in dogs.

## Monk Fruit

Monk fruit is a newer sweetener on the market. It is similar to stevia, and generally safe if consumed by dogs.

As an experienced veterinarian, I should remind you that dogs should not have any sweets (artificial or otherwise) in their diets. Dangerous sweeteners such as xylitol are found in many common food and



non-food items, such as mouthwash, chewing gum, and toothpaste. Always be extra careful about what goes in your dog's mouth, and have a contingency plan prepared in case of emergency.

### MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



### Water Safety:

- Never Force Your Dog Into The Water
- Swimming Can Tire A Dog Out Quickly. Don't Let Your Dog Overdo It
- Be Cautious Of Strong Tides In The Ocean
- Never Leave Your Dog Unattended In Water
- Consider Buying A Life Vest For Your Dog



## Why is Chocolate bad for dogs?

**What should you do if your pup gobbles up this treat?**



Veterinarians frown upon giving dogs any kind of "people food" but are especially adamant about keeping chocolate far away from our canine friends. During holidays such as Easter, when delicious chocolate may be more commonly found around the house, it's even more important to be vigilant about your pet gulping down this human treat.

But why is chocolate — milk or dark — so toxic for dogs?

Chocolate contains the chemicals theobromine and caffeine, and these two stimulants — which dogs can't metabolize as easily as people can — accumulate in the animal's body, where they can rev up a dog's bodily functions and cause dangerous side effects, according to VCA Animal Hospitals.

The severity of chocolate's negative impacts on a dog are determined by the levels of theobromine and caffeine in the chocolate product, how much of it the dog ate, and the dog's weight and sensitivity to chemical stimulants. Chocolate that is dark and bitter is more toxic to dogs, as it contains a higher concentration of theobromine per ounce than milk chocolate (130 to 450 milligrams per ounce, compared with milk chocolate's 45 to 58 mg per ounce). White chocolate, on the other hand, contains just 0.25 mg of theobromine per ounce, and therefore poses a much lower toxic threat to dogs, according to VCA Animal Hospitals.

### What are symptoms of chocolate toxicity in dogs?

Initial symptoms of chocolate toxicity typically appear within 6 to 12 hours, and may include excessive drooling and panting, increased thirst and urination, and an upset stomach followed by vomiting and diarrhea, according to the [American Kennel Club](#) (AKC). The dog may experience an increased heart rate and become restless, nervous and excited, much like a caffeine-sensitive person who has downed too many cups of coffee.

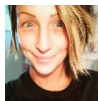
In severe cases, irregular heart rate from chocolate consumption can reduce circulation, resulting in a drop in body temperature. Extreme symptoms include lethargy, muscle spasms, seizures and coma, sometimes leading to death, according to VCA Animal Hospitals. And because theobromine has a long half-life, which means it takes longer for the body to break it down, symptoms of chocolate poisoning can persist for days.

In some cases, dogs consume chocolate but show no symptoms; that's because the dosage size of the toxins can affect an animal's response to being poisoned, according to the [Office for Science and Society](#) at McGill University in Ontario, Canada. (See **CHOCOLATE** Page 9)

## If people had hearts like dogs...

jthreeNMe

Published October 12, 2022



- We would be better humans.
- We would relax more.
- We would take up space without guilt.
- We would love "our people" unconditionally.
- We would find and fill empty spaces in rooms and hearts.
- We would offer up nonjudgmental support.
- We would lift people's spirits at every opportunity.
- We would goof off more often.
- We would would rock at silent, devoted companionship.
- We would forgive human errors immediately.
- We would be genuinely optimistic.
- We would love others, more than ourselves.
- Quite simply, if people had hearts like dogs, the world would be a much kinder and better place.



(CHOCOLATE Page 8)

**How do veterinarians treat chocolate poisoning?**

Veterinarians typically treat chocolate toxicity by inducing vomiting or administering doses of activated charcoal, which purges toxins from the dog's digestive system before they can be absorbed by the animal's bloodstream, according to the AKC. Depending on the severity of the poisoning, medication or fluids may be required to counteract the poisoning, the AKC says.

**What might affect a dog's reaction to chocolate?**

How a dog reacts to chocolate can depend on the animal's size, said veterinarian Dr. Greg Nelson, Director of Surgery and Director of Diagnostic Imaging at Central Veterinary Associates in Valley Stream, New York. A square of chocolate will therefore have a more pronounced effect on a Chihuahua, which typically weighs about 4 to 6 pounds (1.8 to 2.7 kilograms) than on a Saint Bernard, which can weigh as much as 180 pounds (81.6 kg).

"One hundred milligrams of theobromine

and caffeine per each kilogram of a dog's weight is enough to be lethal," Nelson told Live Science. (A kilogram equals 2.2 pounds.) "Different chocolate products have varying levels of theobromine and caffeine, and the worst offender is baker's chocolate. In my experience, one ounce of baker's chocolate per kilogram [of the dog's body weight] can be lethal."

Milk chocolate is less dangerous than baking chocolate because it contains less stimulants, but Nelson warns that if your dog has ingested any type or amount of chocolate, you are always better off being safe than sorry.

"I advise clients to come in instead of second-guessing and possibly creating an emergency by not having the dog looked at right away," Nelson said. "At the very least, call your veterinarian or the national Animal Poison Control center for advice." (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Animal Poison Control Center can be reached 365 days a year at 888- 426-4435.)

While chocolate poisoning may affect dogs at any time, pups are more likely to find and consume chocolate on holidays such as Christmas and Easter when plenti-

ful chocolate is available as figurines (such as bunnies and Santa Claus), as well as in bars, eggs, liqueurs, cakes and decorations, researchers wrote in a 2017 paper in the journal Vet Record. In fact, during Christmastime, dogs are four times more likely to require a vet visit for chocolate poisoning than during non-holidays; and on Easter, dogs are twice as likely to be sickened by chocolate, compared with other times of the year, Live Science previously reported.

**Additional resources**

Read more from the ASPCA on their [Toxicology and Poison Control](#) web page, to learn about toxins, medications, hazards and resources that could help you save the life of your pet in the event of a toxic exposure. The [Veterinary Emergency Group](#) provides tips for identifying symptoms of chocolate toxicity in dogs, and recommends what to do in an emergency. The ASPCA also compiled a list of [other human foods](#) that are hazardous for pets to eat, such as avocados, coconuts, citrus and alcohol, among others.

*This article is for informational purposes only, and is not meant to offer medical advice.*

*Originally published on Live Science.*

**AKC News**



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB**  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

With autumn at our doorstep, attention is turning to the critical elections scheduled for November. While the presidential race and congressional control capture headlines, it's essential for responsible dog owners to recognize the importance of local and state elections on legislation directly affecting them. The American Kennel Club (AKC) has launched a [2024 Election Center](#) to guide clubs, breeders, and exhibitors in supporting dog-friendly candidates and navigating critical issues such as ownership limits, breeding regulations, leash laws, and more.

**Member Profile... SUSAN CHANDLER BUTCHE**



I have been a member of VVDOC since 1987, although I was involved with the club and their activities for quite a bit before that.

I cannot remember a time that dogs as companions have not been a part of my life. Raised in my Grandparents home in Silver Springs, MD we had an Irish Setter, Skye terrier, plus various sized poodles of many colors.

My first personal dog was given to me 1972, a

Dalmatian bred by my Mother-in-law and he needed obedience, so I found VVDOC. All classes at that time were trained at the Dula Community Center Park on Las Vegas Blvd and Bonanza - which no longer exists as the freeway now claims that domain. There I met Karen Barthen and she became my mentor and friend. Mister Mischief earned his CD at the trials held at Clark High School and the Las Vegas Convention Center.

(See **PROFILE** Page 10)

# Member Profile... (Page 9) SUSAN CHANDLER BUTCHE

Another member of VVDOC, Maxine Yeoman, bred a litter of Dalmatians with Karen and I bought my first "real" conformation puppy. CH Shannon's Special Spice CD.

From there my canine journey led me to Italian Greyhounds and CH Giovanni's Capezio, CDX. Next came a Border Terrier Mackey's Standish Room Only CDX. Then Gail Workman bred an American Cocker Spaniel litter and my brain said yes we want one. Kelly's Legacy CDX TD SH WDX TFE-III Therapy Dog and my first flyball dog.



It was at this time my interest changed to flyball, a sport that dog's could run, jump and bark as they raced others in a team competition. This led me to Widget, a rescued Border Collie mix, then Bonzai a



rescued Border Collie, and Guido a Whippet - Wheatland Organized Crime BN was added. Last but not least is my current companion a rescued tri colored Cocker Spaniel named Tilly who is learning flyball and also learning to be a DOG.

For 14 years I was the club Treasurer for VVDOC, served on the Board and taught many Beginners classes at Nevada Dog Fanciers Park. I also represented VVDOC

when Nevada Dog Fanciers held the lease on the Park for the county. Now I serve the club as the Hotline Committee, answering our phone and emails or positions that I can. Hopefully I will continue to serve the club for many years to come.



## From the Editor

***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](mailto:Goldenz1@centurylink.net)  
Submission deadline is the 10th of each month***

**Q: Question for the Judge:** If your class begins "After Noon", how does an exhibitor estimate their class ring time? How early should you arrive to be "safe" (and prepared)?

**A: From Carol Riback** — the judge can't begin the first "After Noon" class until after noon so that's the exhibitor's starting point to figure out when to get to the trial and prepare for their class. Obviously, if their class is the first one "After Noon" the exhibitor should plan on getting there about 11:00 to set up their space and sign in with the table

steward. The exhibitor should have looked at the judging schedule to see how many entries for their class, what position they are in for the class and what classes precede their class and how many entries in those classes. That information can give the exhibitor an estimate of when they can arrive to set up, sign in and prepare. If you have already arrived at the trial, check with the table steward to see when the judge plans on taking lunch. Basically, when your class is "After Noon" you are pretty much stuck with arriving at least by Noon if you are not in the first

class. Remember that if there are large entries in Utility and/or Open those classes may run past Noon or the judge will take a lunch break before starting the "After Noon" classes. It's the dues we all pay when we are starting with a new dog that has not reached the Open or Utility class. So relax, don't over train your dog at the trial, let him rest so he won't be worn out when it's time for you to go in the ring.

**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](mailto:goldenz1@centurylink.net). Take this opportunity to communicate with an expert. We are waiting for your questions!

## Brags and Member Photos



**Red Canyons KC — from Bobbie Bunner**  
 Friday - Novice B 197 1st place HIT!  
 Rally Master 87 (I messed up)  
 Saturday - Novice B 196 1st place  
 Rally Master 100 2nd place (Francis beat us on time, again!)



*Sunday-* he was only entered in Rally, but he had fun. Offset figure 8, with toys. He spotted those toys before we ever got there and he was off. He grabbed a toy and headed for the gate as hard as he could run! Luckily someone caught him just outside the gate. Glad I didn't enter him in Novice Sunday. He did finish his CD on Saturday.

See **BRAGS** Page 12

**BRAGS** from Page 11



**Red Canyons KC —  
From Carol Riback**

At Red Canyons KC Roo took 3 first places, went HIT twice, and got 8 points towards his OTCH2. We also just received the Certificate of Eligibility for Roo to go to the 11th AKC Obedience Classic in Orlando, FL.



**From Nancy Swords —** My old man, Nico, 11 yo getting a mani/pedi while being adjusted.



**Red Canyons KC —  
From Marti Siska**

At Red Canyons KC Daffy earned her CD in her first three tries.



**Kristina Klingler** reported that Kally achieved the title of Master National Champion in Kentucky.



**Nancy Swords** reported that Kikka achieved her Scent Work Exterior Advanced Title



**Red Canyons KC —  
From Geri Hunt**

At Red Canyons KC Dusty earned his CDX title on Saturday Sept. 7th.

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.



The **moment** the performance goes awry REMEMBER from that point on you are working on the next time you are to enter the ring. All is not lost for your remaining ring time. Keep the **entire** ring time positive for your dog. That may require digging deep into your mental toolbox and coming up with your best acting skills. *Don't dwell on the error(s) in the ring as your disappointment may be the memory the dog takes out of the ring.* Entering the ring once again in the future could bring back that past

memory of a negative experience. Then history repeats itself.

As an obedience judge there are times I witness a handler showing disappointment to their dog when an error is made.

This comes in the forms of spoken language, tone of voice and/or body English. The dog then shuts down and it goes downhill from there. The day then ends being a total loss with nothing gained. Success in training is not all about a green ribbon; it is also about building attitude, so use your ring time wisely and to your dog's benefit, not detriment.

Next time you are at a dog show sit outside the obedience or rally rings and watch the Oscar Performances going on.

The contenders for the best actor/actress

Oscars will be the handler(s) who always keeps the dog "up" and happy. They will be ones interacting with the dog between exercises keeping the dog engaged and focused. When and if there is a mistake, observe and learn the skills of the best performing actors. The Oscar winners will reap many rewards in future performances and those dogs will enjoy the sport the most, plus look forward to going into the ring once again to please their handler!

There is a time and place for everything. Think of the dog show ring as a stage where you are the main performing actor for the day. Will it be Oscar worthy? Training and fixing issues/mistakes is for another place and another time.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
November is **National Senior Pet Month**



Happy Thanksgiving

ABOUT US



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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@vvdoc.org](mailto:info@vvdoc.org) for more information about our organization.