



Wagging Tails

The Newsletter of Vegas Valley Dog Obedience Club

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VOLUME 50, ISSUE 7

JULY, 2025

- ◆ PHOBIAS
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Common Fears and Phobias in Dogs and How to Help Treat Them



By Anna Burke
Updated: Jan 29, 2024

If your dog is afraid of loud noises, strangers, or other dogs, they're certainly not alone. There are plenty of steps you can take to help your dog deal with their fears and phobias. AKC Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Jerry Klein walks us through some of the most common ones and how to help relieve them.

Fear vs. Phobia

"It is a common problem for dogs to be fearful," says Dr. Klein. "Fear is a defense mechanism and isn't something we have to eliminate entirely. Wolves and

other wild canids rely on fear to keep them alive, but when fearful behavior poses dangers to the dog or other family members, we have to intervene."

Dogs express fear in several ways. They may shake, pace, whine, bark, cower, hide, or even exhibit signs of fear reactivity, which is often confused with aggression. So, how do you know when your dog's fear has become a phobia?

According to Dr. Klein, a phobia is an "intense and persistent fear that occurs when a dog is confronted with something that might feel threatening, such as a

(See **PHOBIAS** Page 3)

Unusual Dog Laws

<https://www.rd.com/list/weird-dog-laws/>

1. The local laws of Galesburg, Illinois, state that "no person shall keep or maintain any animal, poultry or fowl in such a manner to cause inconvenience or disturbance to other persons by reason of noise, odor, or other cause." In other words, give your pooch a bath!
2. In Hartford, Connecticut, dogs with a habit of annoying people, cars, or other animals on city highways will not be tolerated under Section 22-362 of the municipal law. Any dog owner who allows their dog to be habitually annoying will be guilty of a misdemeanor.
3. In Massachusetts, it's illegal to allow your dog to chase a deer.
4. Glendale, California's animal control laws specifically prohibit dog owners from bringing their dogs into elevators in public buildings.
5. In Minneapolis, it's illegal to tether a dog, or any other animal, to a post, pole, or tree within the city limits.



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

MONTH	DATE
JULY	NO MEETING
AUGUST	5
SEPTEMBER	2
OCTOBER	7
NOVEMBER	4
DECEMBER	2

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

July 3-7, 2025 AKC National Obedience & Rally Championships, Missouri

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 4, 2025 VVDOC Fall Training Class Registration

September 5-7, 2025 Red Canyons Kennel Club Show and Trials, Utah

September 11, 2025 VVDOC Fall Training Classes Begin

September 12-14, 2025 Great Salt Lake Kennel Club Show & Trials, Utah

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

November 14-16, 2025 Poodle Club of Las Vegas Show & Trials

January 1-4, 2026 Palm Springs Kennel Club Show & Trials, California

January 8, 2026 VVDOC Winter Class Regis-

tration

January 10, 2026 VVDOC Awards Dinner

January 15, 2026 VVDOC Winter Class session begins

January 17-18, 2026 Phoenix Field & Obedience Club Trials, Arizona

Jan. 29-Feb. 2, 2026 Heart of the Desert Classic Show & Trials, Arizona

February 6-8, 2026 VVDOC Trials

February 27-March 1, 2026 Superstition Kennel Club Show & Trials, Arizona

March 20, 2026 VVDOC Trials

March 21-22, 2026 Silver State Kennel Club Show & Trials

March 27, 2026 VVDOC Trials

March 27-29, 2026 Kern Co. KC & San Luis Obispo KC Show & Trials, California

March 28-29, 2026 SSKC Trials

April 2, 2026 VVDOC Spring Class Registration

April 9, 2026 VVDOC Spring Class session begins

April 24-26, 2026 Apple Valley Kennel Club Show & Trials, California

Apr 30-May 3, 2026 Beehive Cluster Shows & Trials, Utah

May 1-3, 2026 Fiesta Dog Shows, Arizona

May 8-10, 2026 Del Sur KC, California

May 21-24, 2026 (4 Club Cluster) San Bernardino, California

(PHOBIAS From Page 1)

thunderstorm. Some dogs can even anticipate it." As with people who have phobias, this fear goes beyond a rational response.

Phobias are the result of a previous experience. Sometimes they are the result of repeated experiences, but for dogs, it just takes one experience to solidify a fearful



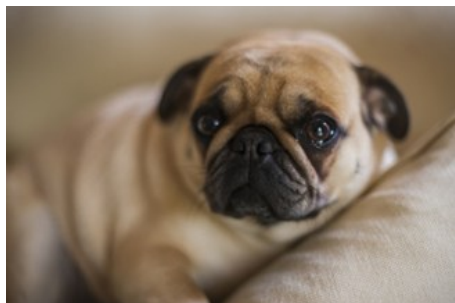
response into a phobia. "Animals don't understand what thunder is, and we can't explain it to them," says Dr. Klein. "Humans, however, can have phobias, even though they understand things. Phobias are irrational and take on a life of their own."

Common Phobias

Dr. Klein notes that there are four basic categories of fears/phobias commonly seen in veterinary practices:

Sound Phobias

Many dogs have sound phobias to loud noises like fireworks, thunderstorms, gunshots, and firecrackers. There is even research that suggests noise phobias can be inherited. According to Dr. Klein, herding breeds are particularly sensitive to noise phobias, perhaps because they're so at-



tuned to their environment.

Blood Injection Phobias

Many people have blood injection phobias, commonly referred to as a fear of needles. Some dogs experience a similar phobia when visiting the veterinarian. Dogs don't understand that veterinary visits are in their best interest, and many of the circumstances around these visits, such as feeling sick, pain, car rides, new locations, strangers, and the presence of other stressed animals can compound this fear into a phobia.

Situational Phobias

Separation anxiety is the most common example of a situational phobia. Dogs with separation anxiety don't seem to understand that their owners will return, and may exhibit destructive behaviors like chewing, relieving themselves in the house, and barking.

Fear of Strangers

Some dogs develop a fear of strangers, particularly men, after a negative experience. Dogs rescued from abusive homes often suffer from this fear, which can lead to reactive behavior. This phobia can also include a fear of people wearing hats or bulky clothing, and fear of other dogs.

Dealing With a Fearful Dog

Living with a fearful dog can be stressful and frustrating. Treating phobias takes patience, time, and consistency. This can feel impossible, especially when excessive barking angers neighbors and landlords. Perhaps the most stressful component is the risk of an accidental dog bite from a fearful dog or a dog that may jump or run through a window or into the street.

Luckily, there are steps pet owners can take to help their dogs deal with phobias, beginning with a visit to their veterinarian



as soon as possible. According to Dr. Klein, phobias may worsen with time, and they rarely resolve on their own. In some cases, they can even lead to new phobias, so the sooner you take action the better.

Veterinarians and board-certified veterinary behaviorists recommend behavior modification techniques as a first line of defense. These techniques, such as desensitization, help dogs manage their fearful behavior. There are medications available to relieve distress, however, most drug therapies work best in conjunction with behavior modification and aren't an instant cure.

Behavior Modification

Behavior modification encompasses dog behavior and owner behavior, too. Owners often contribute unintentionally to their dog's phobias, reinforcing undesirable behaviors or even instigating them. Retraining yourself and your dog to new behavior patterns takes time and patience, and is best done with the help of a veterinarian or veterinary specialist.

"One of the things I see people do all the time is say things like 'good boy' during stressful situations. This can actually reinforce the fearful behavior, as the owner is rewarding the dog for acting fearful," says Dr. Klein. Some dogs even learn to anticipate a stressful situation when they hear words like "it's okay," as they have come to associate those words with a stressful event, like going to the veterinarian.

(See **PHOBIAS** Page 4)

(PHOBIAS From Page 3)

Basic obedience training builds confidence in fearful dogs. It is also a useful tool for redirecting undesirable behavior, like asking a dog to sit, stay, or touch during a potentially triggering situation. Dr. Klein also points out that a constant pressure, like the presence of a Thundershirt or simply putting a hand on your dog, is better than patting, as this calms dogs down.

Planning ahead is an essential part of behavior modification. Most phobias are predictable, which means you can treat them as a training opportunity. The Fourth of July, for instance, is the same day every year and shouldn't come as a surprise. Owners of dogs with a fear of thunderstorms should check the weather forecast

during warmer months, and dogs with a fear of other animals may be exposed to their fear every time they go for a walk.

Drug Therapies

Some dogs learn to manage their phobias through behavior modification alone. Others may need the help of drug therapies, like antianxiety medications or room sprays that mimic calming therapies.

Always speak with your veterinarian before administering any medication to your dog, and while there are several categories of drugs that can relieve stress in canines, Dr. Klein cautions that the point of these drugs is to minimize the phobia to a fear, not sedate the animal. It's tempting to think that we can solve our dogs' anxieties through

medication alone, but just like with people, coping with fear in dogs is complicated. Every dog is unique. What works for one dog may not work for another, and it often takes some experimentation to figure out what plan of action will work best for your pup.

"The important thing to remember is that there is hope," Dr. Klein says. "Fearful behavior is very common, and you are not alone in dealing with it."

akc.org/expert-advice/training/

**Height**

10-12 inches

Weight

9-17 pounds

Life Expectancy

12-15 years

AKC Herding Group**About the Breed from the AKC**

With long bodies and short coats that are often black and tan, the solidly built dogs are shaped a bit like a downsized corgi, standing around 1 foot (30 centimeters) at the shoulder and weighing up to about 17 pounds (7.7 kilograms). Historically, they were

Breed of the Month

farm helpers that could both drive cattle and rout rats, and today they participate in an array of canine sports and pursuits.

"They're gritty little dogs, and they're very intelligent little dogs," says Patricia Blankenship of Flora, Mississippi, who has bred them for over a decade. "It's an enjoyable little breed to be around."

Their official description — or breed standard, in dog-world parlance — calls for them to be "courageous, happy, affectionate to owner"...

They're "extremely versatile," participating in everything from scent work to dock diving contests, says United States Lancashire Heeler Club President Sheryl Bradbury. But she advises that a Lancashire heeler "has to have a job," whether it's an organized dog sport or simply walks and fetch with its owners.

The Lancashire Heeler is a medium to high energy dog. Intelligent, alert and friendly, they are quick to learn new tasks. A sturdy

**Lancashire Heeler**

little dog with a short, weather-resistant coat of black and tan or liver and tan, they are affectionate with their owners, always happy, talkative and always ready for a walk. Their small size is what gives them their charm.

Small, powerful, sturdily built, alert and an energetic worker, the Lancashire Heeler works cattle but has terrier instincts when rabbiting and ratting. They have a unique characteristic called the Heeler Smile; when content, Heelers have been known to draw back their lips in an effort that emulates a human smile. In 2003, the breed was placed on the Endangered Breeds list of The Kennel Club, U.K, due to the small number of dogs composing the gene pool and the risk of several inherited diseases.

Dog-owner interaction is reflected in heart rate variability

November 8, 2024

Emotional connection enhances interaction in human relationships. Emotional synchronisation in the interaction between a child and a parent is essential for affective attachment. The relationship between a dog and its owner is also based on attachment, but little is known about its physiological mechanisms.

The heart rate variability of a dog and its owner adapt to each other

In a study conducted at the University of Jyväskylä, at the Department of Psychology and Jyväskylä Centre for Interdisciplinary Brain Research, it was found that the heart rate variability of a dog and its owner are interconnected during interaction. Heart rate variability, in other words, the variation in the heartbeat intervals, indicates the state of the autonomic nervous system. High heart rate variability is associated with a state of relaxation and recovery, while low heart rate variability indicates stimulation or strain, such as stress during an exam or sport performance. In

this study, the owner's high heart rate variability was connected to the dog's high heart rate variability, and vice versa. In addition, the physical activity levels of a dog and its owner mutually adapted to each other during the study.

Different connections for activity and heart rate variability

The connections of heart rate variability and activity levels between a dog and its owner were monitored during specific interaction tasks. Both heart rate and activity level were interconnected between dogs and their owners, but at different times. During free-form resting periods, the owner's high heart rate variability was connected to the dog's high heart rate variability. In other words, when the owner was relaxed the dog was also relaxed. Moreover, the owner's and dog's activity levels were similar during the given tasks, such as playing. Although it is known that physical activity has an impact on heart rate, the strongest connections of these variables between dog and owner were found in different situations and do not fully explain each other.

A recent study showed that the heart rate variability of a dog and its owner adapt to each other during interaction...The study deepens our understanding of the emotional connection between a dog and its owner, including its underlying physiological mechanisms.

This suggests that the connection in heart rate variability reflects the synchrony of emotional state rather than of activity levels.

"The interconnection in heart rate variability between the dog and its owner during resting periods may be explained by the fact that in those instances there were no external tasks, but the counterparts could react more to each other's state in a natural way," says Doctoral Researcher Aija Koskela.

(See **HEART RATE** Page 6)



States With Official Dog Breeds

ALASKA: Alaskan Malamute

DELAWARE: Golden Retriever

LOUISIANA: Catahoula Leopard Dog

MARYLAND: Chesapeake Bay Retriever

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston Terrier

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Chinook

NEW YORK: Working Dogs

NORTH CAROLINA: Plott Hound

PENNSYLVANIA: Great Dane

SOUTH CAROLINA: Boykin Spaniel

TENNESSEE: Bluetick Coonhound

TEXAS: Blue Lacy

VIRGINIA: American Foxhound

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Mixed Breed Dogs

WEST VIRGINIA: Black-and-Tan Coonhound

WISCONSIN: American Water Spaniel

WYOMING: Plott Hound

Today I saw a woman talking to her cat, she really thought the cat understood. I told my dog when I got home... we both had a good laugh.

(HEART RATE From Page 5)**Owner's temperament is connected to the dog's heart rate variability**

The study also investigated various background factors for the interconnection of the heart rate variability of the dog and its owner. Bigger dogs had higher heart rate variability. In addition, the dog's high heart rate variability was also explained by the owner's *negative affectivity*, a temperament trait that reflects the person's tendency to become easily concerned about negative things. This type of owner tends to develop a strong emotional bond with the dog, and therefore the shepherd dogs of this study possibly had a higher sense of safety with these owners.

The dog also influences the owner

A surprising finding in the study was that the owner's heart rate variability was best explained by the dog's heart rate variability, even though also the owner's activity level

and body mass index, which are known to impact heart rate, were taken into account in the analysis.

"We exceptionally investigated both a dog's and its owner's heart rate and activity level simultaneously, whereas previous studies have commonly focused either on the human's or the dog's perspective," says the leader of the study, Academy Research Fellow Miimaaria Kujala. "The challenging research setting gives a better opportunity to investigate interactive aspects."

This study indicates that the emotional states of dogs and their owners as well as the reactions of their nervous system become partially adapted to each other during interaction. The same mechanisms that strengthen human affective attachment also seem to support the relationship between a dog and its owner. This study deepens our understanding about interaction between species and about the meaning of emotional connection between dogs and humans.

Interaction research involved dogs bred for cooperation

The study was funded mainly by the Research Council of Finland and the Agria & Svenska Kennelklubben Research Fund. It involved altogether 30 voluntary dog owners with their dogs. The dogs represented breeds refined for cooperating with humans, such as sheep dogs and retrievers. The research findings are in line with previous studies, which have suggested that breeds selected for cooperation are particularly sensitive to react to their owners' behaviour and personality traits. Next, the project will seek to shed light more specifically on the influential mechanisms involved in this phenomenon.

The study was published on 24 October 2024 in *Scientific Reports*: Koskela, A., Törnqvist, H., Somppi, S. *et al.* Behavioral and emotional co-modulation during dog-owner interaction measured by heart rate variability and activity. *Sci Rep* 14, 25201 (2024).



The AKC National Art Contest encourages young artists to celebrate their love of dogs through creative expression. Youth ages 5-18 are invited to submit unique artwork that adheres to the guidelines below. The 2025 contest opens on May 12, 2025 and closes **September 29, 2025**.

Requirements:

- Artists must be between the ages of 5 and 18 at the time of submission
- Art must represent the theme "dog shows"
- Canvas Size: 8.5" x 11" (must lie flat)
- Medium: Drawing, painting, or mixed media
- The art must be original and not have been entered into any previous or other current contests
- Age Categories: 5-8, 9-12, 13-15, and 16-18
- Entry must be completed online via Jotform by parent or legal guardian 18 years or older
- All entries are due by September 29, 2025 by 11:59 PM ET
- Judging Criteria: creativity (40%), fit to the theme (30%), quality of art (30%) Download and share with schools, summer camps, homeschoolers, art clubs, and anyone else!



[Download the Full Color Flyer](#)

[Download the B&W Flyer](#)

Member Profile ... CLAUDETTE REEVES

My unofficial dog training started in 1986. I trained a stray shelter dog that was probably a Border Collie/Australian Shepherd mix. But he looked just like the picture of an English Shepherd. "Joe" was very smart and very easy to train. He learned all kinds of tricks which he would show off when I took him into elementary schools in Boulder City to show the children what a shelter dog was capable of doing. But Joe's best trick was how he helped me catch stray dogs. I would let him out of the Animal Control truck and he would make friends with the dog running at large. After a few minutes I would call Joe back to the truck and both Joe and the new stray would jump in. He was a great partner.



When I left Animal Control to attend vet school, Joe went with me. I did have to leave my other shelter dog Bear behind. Joe was a great study partner and jogging partner—yes back then I actually jogged 3 miles a day with him. After I graduated, Joe went to work with me. I lost count of how many dogs he saved by being an immediate blood donor.

After Joe I had some not so bright bulldogs and lots of shelter dogs that were not adoptable. Then two years after I retired I bought a bulldog puppy from an outside line. Betty entered our family in January of 2014. She was smart and demanded I pay attention to her. I was retired so I could finally give a dog the time needed for training. Betty and I actually started with puppy classes at Petco where she received her STAR puppy in June of 2014 at 7 months of age. Then we did lots of community classes through the City of Henderson Parks and Rec. The classes were conducted by Michael's Angel Paws taught by Stephanie Gerken and some of her other trainers. We did obedience, rally, agility, and CGC. Betty got her CGC in November 2015 and later her CGCA in March 2017.

Stephanie suggested Betty would make a good therapy dog, so we got our team therapy certified. We did so many visits at nursing facilities, schools, funeral homes, conventions on the Strip. But as Betty aged, she got cranky with other dogs so we had to retire from therapy because of her attitude.

At some point along the way, I decided I would enter a rally trial after taking a 6 week community class. I entered VVDOC/Silver State rally trial in April of 2016. This was at Primm Nevada. Here is where I met Collen and Bruce Britos. I was so new to the world of trials, that I did not know I needed a crate to park my dog during walk-throughs. Collen was nice enough to baby sit. Betty fell in love with Bruce—

something that all my other bulldogs did also. We qualified twice, with one NQ because I totally missed the sign. At this trial I met Carol Riback. We agreed that I needed some training help. I have been training with Carol ever since—9 years (5 bulldogs and 2 English Toy Spaniels).



At the October 2016 Pahrump trial I met Tina Keith and Penny D. They encouraged me to join VVDOC. So I joined the club towards the end of 2016/beginning of 2017.

I was the club Corresponding Secretary for two years, but living in Henderson made getting the mail very difficult. I was very happy when Kathy Mondragon took over that position.

One of my proudest moments was when Betty earned her RE in February of 2018. She had earned all her Rally titles in less

(See **PROFILE** Page 8)

Member Profile ... CLAUDETTE REEVES

(PROFILE From Page 7)

than 2 years. At that time Masters did not exist. She had already earned her CD so that was her retirement.



I started trials with her two puppies in November of 2018, they were about 1 year old. The most hilarious and fun time I ever had was entering both boys in Rally Pairs in Pahrump. We provided comic relief for the spectators.



I could not resist breeding Betty one last time. I bred her to the smartest bulldog that I have ever heard about. Sittingbullies Gabe. He did everything from Rally and Obedience to Agility to Carting and sports I have never even heard of. Gabe was also a movie-star. He did commercials and was on T.V. shows, and a movie.

Unfortunately these puppies were born right before the pandemic. So both their training and socialization were a little behind. But the influence of their father is amazing. We can pretty much hand Claire the keys to the car and tell her to drive herself to the trial and come back when she is done. Claire's true love is Agility. She has her CD and RE and now we are letting her have the time of her life with Agility. Her brother Henry is just a good boy, a little slower and the biggest goofball I have ever had.



I also trained two English Toy Spaniels with Carol. One had to retire due to medical issues-which was very sad since she was great at Rally. The other English Toy many of you saw running out of the ring

during his recalls. Freddy was a challenge. My second most proud moment was when Freddy did actually do a perfect recall at VVDOC in February 2024 and we got his BN title. He was my nosework dog, so we went back to concentrating on that. I had to put Freddy to sleep this past January 2025 due to a very aggressive cancer. He was only 6 years old.



Throughout this time I stewarded mostly in the Rally ring. I did the obedience ring once, but it was really hard with all the jump changes. I also found it difficult to enter two dogs and steward at the same time. I highly recommend anyone who has not volunteered to be a steward to try it. You learn a lot. I have also learned a lot at the meetings and the Sunday practices and of course Carol's classes.

Right now I am having a real difficult time with my mobility. I am trying to keep walking and training the dogs. They still have a few more titles to earn. They are what keeps me going.





AKC IMPACT IN NEVADA

The American Kennel Club® (AKC®) is a not-for-profit organization established in 1884 to promote the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. Together with our clubs and affiliates, AKC works to advance the health and wellbeing of all dogs, protect the rights of dog owners, and promote responsible dog ownership. We represent nearly 5,000 dog clubs nationally, including 30 clubs in the state of Nevada.

The AKC sanctions over 29,000 dog events each year, which generate significant economic benefits to local communities in addition to the millions of dollars AKC dog owners in Nevada spend annually on their dogs.

2024 NV DOG
EVENTS

248
EVENTS



17,800
PARTICIPANTS

An increase of 36% in
events & 30% in
participation from 2023.

\$2.15 million

ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF DOG SHOW WEEKEND

Surveys demonstrate that exhibitors at AKC conformation dog shows spend an average of \$982 per show weekend. This means spending by AKC dog show exhibitors for a show weekend could inject more than \$2.15 million into the local economy. And because AKC dog shows are an educational and family-friendly event, large spectator gates can generate additional revenues for cities and towns statewide.

AKC REUNITE ADOPT A K-9 COP GRANTS

AKC Reunite® and AKC Clubs work together to fund the purchase of law enforcement K-9s for police departments around the United States.

NEVADA POLICE AGENCY THAT RECEIVED A GRANT

Storey County Sheriff's Office



FOR DETAILS CONTACT DOGLAW@AKC.ORG OR VISIT WWW.AKC.ORG

HELPFUL INFORMATION FROM A VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE

Pet Quality of Life Scale

Consider the following aspects of your pet's everyday life to assess their overall condition. You may want to chart the results over the course of several days or periodically to watch for a trend. Use the numbers below to grade each aspect, and then add the numbers for the daily total.

Activity

2 – Normal Activity - No difficulty getting around

1 – Poor Activity – difficulty getting up, having trouble going potty or using the litter box, may require pain medication

0 – Minimal Activity – Needs assistance, pain medications do not help, or stays in the same place or position for most of the day

Playfulness

2 – Normal – Still enjoys favorite things (such as toys)

1 – Decrease – Still enjoys favorite things, but not as frequently

0 – No interest in their favorite things

Interaction / Attitude

2 – Interacts normally with family and other pets

1 – Some interaction with family and other pets

0 – Avoids interaction and/or hides from family and other pets

Elimination

2 – Normal urination and/or defecation

1 – Reduced/Irregular urination and/or defecation

0 – None or cannot get up to urinate or defecate

Appetite

2 – Eating well/normal

1 – Not eating as much and/or requires coaxing

0 – Not eating and/or refusing food completely; losing large amount of weight

Hydration

2 – Normal drinking

1 – Drinking habits have changed (either increased OR decreased in amount)

0 – Requires intervention (such as subcutaneous fluids)

Results:

12 – 9 Everything is okay, continue to monitor periodically

6 – 8 Requires intervention, talk with your veterinarian.

5 or less Consider humane euthanasia, talk with your veterinarian.

Remember, this is one of the most, if not, the most important decisions you will make for your pet. It is very difficult; however, you need to have the courage and not be selfish in making this decision. We, as humans, do our best and only out of love, when we determine that they are in continuous pain or suffering and it is time to let them go in peace. Please feel free to call and discuss any concerns you may have with us.



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
Submission deadline is the 10th of each month



*Good luck to the Obedience and
 Rally National Championship
 exhibitors! July 3-7, 2025*



- The 2025 AKC Rally® National Championship and National Obedience Championship will be held at Purina Event Center in Gray Summit, MO, **July 3-7, 2025**. The RNC will be on July 3rd – 5th (Thursday/Friday/Saturday) and the NOC will be on July 6th and 7th (Sunday/Monday.)

Tidbits

Many of you will remember having had the pleasure of showing or stewarding under AKC Judge John Cox. He has left us, but his “tidbits” deserve repeating. Below are some of his valuable and timeless tips.

Today's Random Little Tidbit #25 **Release or Excuse – Understanding the Difference**

This may be old news for some, but in case you have not heard, the American Kennel Club has a judge's blog for Obedience and Rally on the web (<https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/>)! The blog is a very useful tool for covering specifics in the Regulations, plus helpful for keeping up on current topics. Case in point..

MAY BE RELEASED:

- For misbehavior.

• Dog that must be repositioned in the group exercise.

MUST BE RELEASED:

- A dog from the group exercise if it has non-qualified in the individual exercises.
- A dog that does not remain sitting during the first part of the Novice Group exercise must be released from participating in the second part.
- A dog must be released from the group exercise for displaying uncontrolled behavior, if it interferes with another dog or leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise.

• If the dog has been released write “NQ-R” (Non-Qualifying Released) then carry down an “NQ” in the “Total Score” box.

• “NQ-R” does not require the judge to state a reason.

MAY EXCUSE:

- Dog relieves itself while in the ring for judging.
- Handler carries or offers food in the ring.
- Dog's performance has not met the minimum requirements.
- Training in the ring.

(See **TIDBITS** Page 11)

(TIDBITS From Page 10)**MUST EXCUSE:**

- A dog that is out of control.
- Unable to Examine.
- Any dog unfit to compete – sick.
- Any dog lame, bandaged or stitched.
- Bitch in season (attractive/disturbing).
- A dog that appears dangerous to other dogs (including when lining up {group} outside the ring).
- Handler who abuses their dog or who disciplines their dog in the ring.

- Handler who willfully interferes with another competitor or competitor's dog.

Any dog that appears dangerous or aggressive **MUST BE EXCUSED**

The Judging Procedure for the Judge's Book for Excused dogs has not changed! All "Excused" dogs require the judge to state a reason in the judge's book. DO NOT carry down an "NQ" to the Total Score box.

If a dog is "out of control", it is to be **EXCUSED**; versus a dog that "demonstrates uncontrolled behavior", that dog must be Released from return-

ing to the Group Exercises.

Likewise, any "misbehavior" that is disruptive enough to remove the dog from the ring, as long as that dog is not considered dangerous would be "released".

For additional information regarding marking the judge's book please see page 119 of the Obedience Judge's Guidelines.

AKC Blog Address: <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/> Sign up to receive updates

In Memoriam

We were sad to learn of the passing of Kathy Mondragon's husband Henry. Please offer your condolences to Kathy and her family.

DID YOU KNOW?

July is National Pet Hydration Awareness Month



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 for more information about our organization.