



Wagging Tails

The Newsletter of Vegas Valley Dog Obedience Club

PAGE 1 VOLUME 50, ISSUE 8 AUGUST, 2025

- **PUPPY TESTING**
- **2025 NOC/RNC RESULTS**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Volhard Puppy Aptitude Test	1
Famous Dog Quotes	1
Officers & Directors	2
Contact	2
Upcoming Meetings	2
Events Calendar	2
Volhard Puppy Aptitude Test	3
Puppy Test	4
Test Scoring	7
Removing Dog Hair In Cars	8
Pet Emergency Information	8
Breed of the Month	10
AKC News	10
From the Editor	12
Brags & Photos	12
Hallie's Tips	13
About Us	13

WENDY VOLHARD'S PUPPY APTITUDE TEST

WHAT IS PUPPY TESTING?

Some of the tests we use were developed as long ago as the 1930's for dogs bred to become Guide Dogs. Then in the 1950's, studies on puppies were done to determine how quickly they learned. These studies were actually done to identify children's learning stages.

Top Dog Tips: The ideal age to test the puppy is at 49 days of age when the puppy is neurologically complete and it has the

brain of an adult dog. With each passing day after the 49th day the responses will be tainted by prior learning.

Later on, in the early 60's more tests were developed to determine if pups could be tested for dominance and submission. These tests determined that it was indeed possible to predict future behavioral traits of adult dogs by testing puppies at 49 days of age. Testing before or after that age affected the accuracy of the test, depending on the time before or after the 49th

day.

We took these tests, added some of our own, and put together what is now known as the Volhard Puppy Aptitude Test, or PAT. PAT uses a scoring system from 1-6 and consists of ten tests. The tests are done consecutively in the order listed. Each test is scored separately, and interpreted on its own merits. The scores are not averaged, and there are no winners or losers. The entire

(See **TESTING** Page 3)

Famous Dog Quotes

1. Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog. — *Lee Iacocca*
2. Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful. — *Dean Koontz*
3. If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them. — *Phil Pastoret*
4. Once you have had a wonderful dog, a life without one, is a life diminished. — *Rudyard Kipling*
5. No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as the dog does. — *Marilyn Monroe*

Contact Us

Vegas Valley Dog Obedience Club

P.O. Box 80695

Las Vegas NV 89180-0695

Phone: (702) 368-0656

E-mail: info@vvdoc.org



We are on the Web!



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Daniele Ledoux-Starzyk
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
AUGUST	5
SEPTEMBER	2
OCTOBER	7
NOVEMBER	4
DECEMBER	2
JANUARY	6

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

Upcoming Events Calendar

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

September 4, 2025 VVDOC Fall Training Class Registration

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

September 11, 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

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 Registration

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

June 11-14, 2026 Nut Farm Classic Show & Trials, California

July 2-6, 2026 AKC National Obedience & Rally Championships, Missouri

July 10-13, 2026 Truckee Meadows Dog Training Club Trials, Nevada

July 25-26, 2026 Flagstaff Kennel Club Show & Trials, Arizona

The Volhard Puppy Aptitude Test



(TESTING From Page 1)

purpose is to select the right puppy for the right home.

The tests are as follows:

1. **Social Attraction** - degree of social attraction to people, confidence or dependence.
2. **Following** - willingness to follow a person.
3. **Restraint** - degree of dominant or submissive tendency, and ease of handling in difficult situations.
4. **Social Dominance** - degree of acceptance of social dominance by a person.
5. **Elevation** - degree of accepting dominance while in a position of no control, such as at the veterinarian or groomer.
6. **Retrieving** - degree of willingness to do something for you. Together with Social Attraction and Following a key indicator for ease or difficulty in training.
7. **Touch Sensitivity** - degree of sensitivity to touch and a key indicator to the type of training equipment required.

8. **Sound Sensitivity** - degree of sensitivity to sound, such as loud noises or thunderstorms.

9. **Sight Sensitivity** - degree of response to a moving object, such as chasing bicycles, children or squirrels.

10. **Stability** - degree of startle response to a strange object.

During the testing make a note of the heart rate of the pup, which is an indication of how it deals with stress, as well as its energy level. Puppies come with high, medium or low energy levels. You have to decide for yourself, which suits your life style. Dogs with high energy levels need a great deal of exercise, and will get into mischief if this energy is not channeled into the right direction.

Finally, look at the overall structure of the puppy. You see what you get at 49 days age. If the pup has strong and straight front and back legs, with all four feet pointing in the same direction, it will grow up that way, provided you give it the proper diet and environment in which to grow. If you notice something out of the ordinary at this age, it will stay with puppy for the rest of its life. He will not grow out of it.

HOW TO TEST

Here are the ground rules for performing the test:

- The testing is done in a location unfamiliar to the puppies. This does not mean they have to taken away from home. A 10-

foot square area is perfectly adequate, such as a room in the house where the puppies have not been.

- The puppies are tested one at a time.
- There are no other dogs or people, except the scorer and the tester, in the testing area
- The puppies do not know the tester.
- The scorer is a disinterested third party and not the person interested in selling you a puppy.
- The scorer is unobtrusive and positions him or herself so he or she can observe the puppies' responses without having to move.
- The puppies are tested before they are fed.
- The puppies are tested when they are at their liveliest.
- Do not try to test a puppy that is not feeling well.
- Puppies should not be tested the day of or the day after being vaccinated.
- Only the first response counts!

Top Dog Tips: During the test, watch the puppy's tail. It will make a difference in the scoring whether the tail is up or down.

The tests are simple to perform and anyone with some common sense can do them. You can, however, elicit the help of someone who has tested puppies before and knows what they are doing.

(See **TESTING** Page 4)

HAGAR



DID YOU KNOW?

August is National Dog Month

(TESTING From Page 3)

Volhard's Puppy Aptitude Test

TEST	PURPOSE	SCORE
Social Attraction: Place the puppy in test area. From a few feet away the testor coaxes the pup to her/him by clapping hands gently and kneeling down. Testor must coax in a direction away from the point where it entered the testing area.	Degree of social attraction, confidence or dependence. Degree of social attraction, confidence or dependence.	1. Came readily, tail up, jumped, bit at hands. 2. Came readily, tail up, pawed, liked at hands. 3. Came readily, tail up. 4. Came readily, tail down. 5. Came hesitantly, tail down. 6. Did not come at all.
Following: Stand up and walk away from the pup in a normal manner. Make sure the pup sees you walk away.	Degree of following attraction. Not following indicates independence.	1. Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot, bit at feet. 2. Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot. 3. Followed readily, tail up. 4. Followed readily, tail down. 5. Followed hesitantly, tail down. 6. No following, or went away.
Restraint: Crouch down and gently roll the pup on his back and hold it with one hand for a full 30 seconds.	Degree of dominant or submissive tendency. How it accepts stress when socially and/or physically dominated.	1. Struggled fiercely, flailed, bit. 2. Struggled fiercely, flailed. 3. Settled, struggled, settled with some eye contact. 4. Struggled, then settled. 5. No struggle. 6. No struggle, straining to avoid eye contact.
Social Dominance: Let pup stand up and gently stroke him from the head to back while you crouch beside him. Continue stroking until a recognizable behavior is established.	Degree of acceptance of social dominance pup may try to dominate by jumping and nipping or it is independent and walks away.	1. Jumped, pawed, bit growled. 2. Jumped, pawed. 3. Cuddles up to testor and tries to lick face. 4. Squirmed, licked at hands. 5. Rolled over, licked at hands. 6. Went away and stayed away.
Elevation Dominance: Bend over and cradle the pup under its belly, fingers interlaced, palms up and elevate just off the ground. Hold it there for 30 seconds.	Degree of accepting dominance while in position of no control.	1. Struggled fiercely, bit growled. 2. Struggled fiercely. 3. No struggle, relaxed. 4. Struggled, settled, licked. 5. No struggled, licked at hands. 6. No struggle, froze.

(See TESTING Page 5)

(TESTING From Page 4)

Volhard's Puppy Aptitude Test

TEST	PURPOSE	SCORE
Retrieving: Crouch beside pup and attract its attention with crumpled up paper ball. When the pup shows interest and is watching, toss the object 1 to 2 meters in front of pup.	Degree of willingness to work with a human. High correlation between ability to retrieve and successful guide dogs, obedience dogs, field trial dogs.	1. Chases object, picks up object and runs away. 2. Chases object, stands over object, does not return. 3. Chases object and returns with object to testor. 4. Chases object and returns without object to testor. 5. Starts to chase object, loses interest. 6. Does not chase object.
Touch Sensitivity: Take puppy's webbing of one front foot and press between finger and thumb lightly, then more firmly till you get a response, while you count slowly to 10. Stop as soon as puppy pulls away or shows discomfort.	Degree of sensitivity to touch.	1. 8 - 10 seconds before response. 2. 6 - 7 seconds before response. 3. 5 - 6 seconds before response. 4. 3- 4 seconds before response. 5. 1 - 2 seconds before response.
Sound Sensitivity: Place pup in centre of area. Testor or assistant makes a sharp noise a few feet from the puppy. A large metal spoon struck sharply on a metal pan twice works well.	Degree of sensitivity to sound (also a rudimentary test for deafness).	1. Listens, locates sound, walks towards it barking. 2. Listens, locates sound, barks. 3. Listens, locates sound, and walks there curiously. 4. Listens, locates sound. 5. Cringes, backs off, hides. 6. Ignores sound, shows no curiosity.
Sight Sensitivity: Place pup in centre of room. Tie a string around a large towel and jerk it across the floor a few feet away from the puppy.	Degree of intelligent response to strange object.	1. Looks, attacks and bites. 2. Looks, barks and tail up. 3. Looks curiously, attempts to investigate. 4. Looks, barks, tail-tuck. 5. Runs away, hides.
Structure: The puppy is gently set in a natural stance and evaluated for structure in the following categories:	Degree of structural soundness. Good structure is necessary.	Good: The puppy is correct in structure. Fair: The puppy has a slight fault or deviation. Poor: The puppy has an extreme fault of deviation.

(See TESTING Page 6)

(TESTING From Page 5)

Puppy Aptitude Test Chart

	Social Attraction	Following	Restraint	Social Dominance	Elevation
1	.	.	.	.	.
2	.	.	.	.	.
3	.	.	.	.	.
4	.	.	.	.	.
5	.	.	.	.	.
6	.	.	.	.	.

	Retrieving	Touch Sensitivity	Sound Sensitivity	Stability
1	.	.	.	.
2	.	.	.	.
3	.	.	.	.
4	.	.	.	.
5	.	.	.	.



Straight front



Straight rear



Shoulder Layback



Front angulations



Croup angulations



Rear angulations

	Straight Front	Shoulder Angulations	Shoulder Layback	Croup Angulations	Straight Rear	Rear Angulations
Good	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fair	.	.	.	.	.	.
Poor	.	.	.	.	.	.

(See TESTING Page 7)

INTERPRETATION OF SCORES

Mostly 1's:

This dog is extremely dominant and has aggressive tendencies. It is quick to bite and is generally considered not good with children or the elderly. When combined with a 1 or 2 in touch sensitivity, will be a difficult dog to train. Not a dog for the inexperienced handler; takes a competent trainer to establish leadership.

Mostly 2's:

This dog is dominant and can be provoked to bite. Responds well to firm, consistent, fair handling in an adult household, and is likely to be a loyal pet once it respects its human leader. Often has bouncy, outgoing temperament: may be too active for elderly, and too dominant for small children.

Mostly 3's:

This dog accepts human leaders easily. Is best prospect for the average owner, adapts well to new situations and generally good with children and elderly, although it may be inclined to be active. Makes a good obedience prospect and usually has a common sense approach to life.

Mostly 4's:

This dog is submissive and will adapt to most households. May be slightly less outgoing and active than a dog scoring mostly 3's. Gets along well with children in general and trains well.

Mostly 5's:

This dog is extremely submissive and needs special handling to build confidence and bring him out of his shell. Does not adapt well to change and confusion and needs a very regular, structured environment. Usually safe around children and bites only when severely stressed. Not a good choice for a beginner since it frightens easily, and takes a long time to get used to new experiences.

Mostly 6's:

This dog is independent. He is not affectionate and may dislike petting and cuddling. It is difficult to establish a relationship with him for working or as a pet. Not recommended for children who may force attention on him; he is not a beginner's dog.

- a) When combined with 1's (especially in restraint); the independent dog is likely to bite under stress.
- b) When combined with 5's the independent dog is likely to hide from people, or freeze when approached by a stranger.

No clear patterns (several 1's, 2's and 5's):

This dog may not be feeling well. Perhaps just ate or was recently wormed. Wait two days and re-test. If the test still shows wide variations (lots of 1's and 5's), it is probably unpredictable and unlikely to be a good pet or obedience dog.

By Sassafra Patterdale, CPDT-KA, CTDI
Updated May 13, 2025
AKC.org/expert-advice

How to Remove Dog Hair From Your Car

If your dog regularly joins you in your car, you're likely no stranger to seeing fur or hair floating around. While dogs will shed, their fur doesn't need to build up. Here are ways to reduce and remove the amount of dog hair in your car.

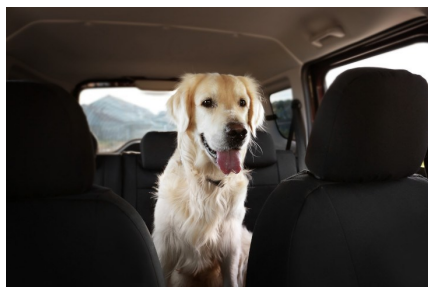
Grooming Is Key

You can help prevent dog hair from entering your car with a regular dog grooming routine. Most dogs need grooming at least weekly, while heavily coated breeds may need more, especially during shedding season. Regular brushing will reduce the amount of fur your dog leaves behind. Having portable grooming gear can also be helpful, allowing you to do a quick clean-up after potentially messy activities like hiking or swimming.

Utilize Seat Covers

If your dog rides in the backseat of your car with a seatbelt restraint, put a cover over the backseat. You can purchase seat covers to fit virtually all makes and models of cars, vans, and trucks, plus they're easy to install.

Importance of Crating



Putting your dog in a crate in the car keeps them safe, especially in the event of a collision, and can help contain fur. If the dog hair is primarily within the crate, you can remove and wash any beds or blankets inside. It's also easy to wipe down the crate's interior to remove any additional hair.

How to Remove Dog Fur From Your Car

To remove dog hair from your car, have the below supplies on hand:

Vacuum

Lint/fur remover rolls

Cleaning wipes designed for use on car upholstery

To clean your vehicle, start with wherever there is the largest amount of hair. Then

move to the smaller areas, where fur can hide or be harder to remove. Follow these steps:

Start with the biggest sources of hair in the car, removing crates and/or any seat covers.

- Follow cleaning instructions for seat covers (most are machine washable but may or may not be able to go through the dryer). Remove and wash bedding from inside any crates.
- Vacuum, paying special attention to areas between seats and floorboards.
- Go over the car with a lint roller.

Follow up with cleansing wipes on hard surfaces, like the dashboard.

Looking for a New Car?

When the time comes to get a new vehicle, if you know dogs will be frequent passengers, consider opting for features like leather or vinyl seat upholstery. It is generally easier to wipe dog hair off these materials than fabric, though you might still want to use seat covers.

Editor's note: When all else fails, have your car detailed.



Pet Emergency Information Sheet

From your Editor:

Emergencies can happen. Be prepared with this pet emergency info sheet.

To fill out the Pet Emergency Information Sheet, pet owners should provide important information including names, medical needs, emergency contacts, and other details.

Keep a copy in your car glove compartment, and another attached to their crate in an easy-to-see place. I keep one inside a closeable vinyl document pouch clipped to the top of my crates, and a second inside my glove compartment. Keep a copy at home, too.

Here is a link to the sheet I put together and completed for each of my dogs. There are many others online to choose from.

Print a copy from Page 9.



PET EMERGENCY INFO

PET'S NAME:

Name: _____

Breed: _____

Sex: _____ Date of Birth: _____

CHIP #: _____

CURRENT VETERINARIAN:

Name: _____

Clinic Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

OWNER'S NAME

(Place Photo Here)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION:

Medical Conditions: _____

Medication: _____

Current Food: _____

Vaccines are current. A copy of the most recent record is attached.
ALTERNATE EMERGENCY CONTACTS
NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

SHOULD I BE UNABLE TO ATTEND MY ANIMALS DUE TO INJURY OR DEATH:

My animal should be boarded in the nearest animal boarding facility or veterinarian. **DO NOT TAKE MY PET TO AN ANIMAL SHELTER OR HUMANE SOCIETY.** The above people have agreed to pay all fees to retrieve my animal, and they have my permission to remove my animal from the boarding facility. Said person also agrees to pay any medical expenses for said animal. They have been notified and agree to this information.

Should one of my animals be lost following an accident, please contact the above individual who will assist in the search should I be unable to participate.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Height

12-16" inches

Weight

12-28 pounds

Life Expectancy

14-16 years

AKC Terrier Group

About the Breed from the AKC

The American Hairless Terrier, a Louisiana native, is a smart, inquisitive, and playful dog that comes in hairless and coated varieties. He is a fine choice for allergy sufferers who want a dog with true terrier grit and courage.

The American Hairless Terrier comes in both

Breed of the Month

coated and hairless varieties. The hairless variety might have eyebrows and whiskers, while the coated has a short, shiny coat. The skin of the hairless is smooth and warm to the touch.

Hairlessness, though, presents its own challenges. Sunburn is a concern, and cold weather requires special precautions. This breed is protective of their humans and make alert watchdogs.

These dogs are incredibly smart, picking up quickly on tricks and rules. But they do need a firm leader to keep them in line. Once you establish the hierarchy, they will fall into place, respecting their owner.

This breed is receptive to direction. They will likely enjoy games that require action, both mentally and physically. Engaging with them in outdoor activities and providing puzzles gives them a healthy outlet for their boundless energy.

They are incredibly affectionate with their families, always wanting to be a part of things. But they aren't overbearing or always in your face. American Hairless Terriers want to be a part of things but don't have the need to steal the



American Hairless Terrier

show.

If you're looking for a small dog but aren't a fan of their usual barking tendencies, you're going to love that this breed rarely does. These dogs are pretty quiet unless something serious is going on.

American Hairless Terriers do very well with other dogs and even cats! They enjoy having buddies to run and play with and even to nap with from time to time. The same sentiment may not extend to smaller pets like rodents, though. This breed wasn't used for hunting big game but might still exhibit a prey drive... So, their ancestral DNA has quite a history of hunting rodents...

AKC News



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

2025 AKC National Obedience Championship

Sunday, July 6, 2025

587.0 386 OTCH2 Maranatha's Like A Man Possessed UDX2 OM3 (Labrador Retriever)

1 **Owners:** Petra Ford

Handler: Petra Ford

586.5 407 RNC TC OTCH17 AGCH MACH5 PACH RACH2 Norwood Color Me Zayne UDX18 OGM RM4 RAE4 HSAd HSBds HXAds HXBd MXC PDS MJC PJS MXPB MJPB PAX MFG TQX MFP T2B5 (Border Collie)

2 **Owners:** Kimberly Berkley

Handler: Kim Berkley

586.0 431 OTCH3 Surefire Up To Speed UDX2 OM3 MH (Golden Retriever)

3 **Owners:** Mara Lynne Wacker

Handler: Mara Wacker

585.0 322 OTCH2 High Times Get Your Motor Run'N UDX OM2 JH (Golden Retriever)

4 **Owners:** Diane Orth

Handler: Diane Orth

585.0 331 OTCH4 High Times Squeeze The Day UDX2 OM5 SH (Golden Retriever)

4 **Owners:** Sharri Sibert

Handler: Sharri Sibert

(See NOC Page 11)

(NOC From Page 10)

585.0 341 OTCH3 My Dawg Miss M UDX2 PCDX OM4 (Labrador Retriever)

4 **Owners:** Patrick Nolan/Constance Cleveland-Nolan

Handler: Connie Cleveland-Nolan

585.0 355 OTCH4 High Times Stir'N The Pot UDX OM3 SH (Golden Retriever)

4 **Owners:** Robin Fargus

Handler: Robin Fargus

585.0 379 OTCH11 Quantum's She's Red Hot UDX8 OGM (Labrador Retriever)

4 **Owners:** Petra Ford

Handler: Petra Ford

585.0 414 RNC TC OTCH11 MACH2 RACH Bolser Zuko You're The One UDX11 OGM RM3 RAE3 HSAd HSBds HXAds HXBd MXG PAD MJG PJD MFS TQX T2B3 (Border Collie)

4 **Owners:** Kimberly Berkley/Megan E Harrison

Handler: Kim Berkley

584.5 408 OTCH2 HC RACH Norwood's Can Ewe Keep Up UDX4 OM7 RM2 RAE2 HSAds HSBd HXAds HXBd AX AXJ XF TKN (Border Collie)

10 **Owners:** Emily Scott

Handler: Emily Scott

See Full NOC Results and more here: <https://akccompanionevents.com/>

Select NOC, Results, Sunday Final Results

The 2025 AKC Rally National Championship Winners

Rally Novice Winner

Call Name: Farley

Registered Name: Majestic Livin Down Bi The River RN FCAT6

Breed: Australian Shepherd

Handler: Christine Hubacek

Score: 300/300

Time: 192.36

Rally Intermediate Winner

Call Name: Piper

Registered Name: Hyper Piper RAE FDC CAA FCAT4 SWA SHDN CGCA CGCU TKA ATT FITG

Breed: Miniature American Shepherd

Handler: Kristen Liesman

Score: 300/300

Time: 255.75

Rally Advanced Winner

Call Name: Jinx

Registered Name: GCH CH Nighthawk's Jinx, You'Re It! CD BN RE CGC TKN

Breed: Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Handler: Daviann Mitchell

Score: 300/300

Time: 186.47

Rally Excellent Winner

Call Name: Soba

Registered Name: Vos Van De Nacht I'll Take Another RE OA AXJ OF CA BCAT CGCA TKA

Breed: Belgian Malinois

Handler: [April Pelletier](#)

Score: 300/300

Time: 234.76

Rally Master Winner

Call Name: Mattie

Registered Name: RACH Mattie Ross CDX BN RM3 RAE6 AX OAJ XF CA BCAT SWA CGC

Breed: All-American Dog

Handler: Arwen Price

Score: 297/300

(See RNC Page 12)

(RNC From Page 11)

Time: 322.3

The 2025 AKC Rally National Champion

Call Name: Tara

Registered Name: OTCH2 RACH3 Summer Brook Nothing But Love UDX2 PCDX OM5 RM7 RAE7 AXP OJP CGC

Breed: Golden Retriever

Handler: Karen Summers

Score: 400/400

Time: 335.8

See Full RNC Results and a copy of all Course Maps here: <https://akccompanionevents.com/>

Choose RNC, Event Courses.



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**

VVDOC FALL TRAINING CLASSES

Registration is 7:00pm September 4, 2025 at

Cynthia Cunningham Elementary School

4145 Jimmy Durante Blvd

Las Vegas, NV 89122

1st Night of class is September 11, 2025.**Contact Catie Hooley to Volunteer.**

Braggs and Member Photos



From Carol Riback

At Hidden Valley Dog Obedience Club on Saturday [June 14, 2025] Roo took first in Utility and Open, HIT and HC, and High Scoring Non-sporting dog. On Sunday he took second in Utility and Open, missed HC by a half point, and took Highest Scoring Non-sporting dog. He got 11 OTCH points bringing him up to 56 OTCH points for his OTCH2 title.

A special thanks to AKC Obedience and Rally Judge Hallie Ray, who has generously allowed us to reprint sections from her online blog. These are Hallie's opinions as a judge, not official AKC information. Hallie shared that she was her Club's newsletter editor (Richmond DOC) and they exchanged newsletters with VVDOC in the 1990s. Her blog may be found at <https://dracoshelties.wordpress.com/category/general/>

Judging Heeling

May 19, 2025

There is nothing more basic to AKC Obedience than heeling and heel position. Every class has at least one heeling exercise, and every exercise has at least one time that the dog is in heel position, whether sitting, standing, or down.

There are five errors a dog can make in heeling: it can be wide or crowded, forged or lagged, or not straight. (Obedience trivia: the word "crooked" used to be defined in the AKC regulations but otherwise it never appeared, so they finally removed it from the Glossary!)

I've written about heel position elsewhere (see some of the Tips for Novice), but it always bears repeating: "The dog should be at the handler's left side straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. The area from the dog's head to shoulder is to be in line with the handler's left hip. The dog should be close to but not crowding is handler so that the handler has freedom of motion at all times." There we have the errors: not straight, forged or lagged, wide or crowding.

I was asked recently, what about a dog that leaps in the air on the fast, or to as-

sume the stand in the Moving Stand and Examination? Elevation isn't addressed here! My Sheltie Torrie would bound along during the fast...and lost points for it, because as one judge described it, "She's in heel position on the way up but lags a bit on the way down." This is entirely in the eye of the judge, discerning any particular dog's position. Many leaping dogs should, and do, lose points. On the MSE, another point comes into play: as long as the dog is in heel position when the command is given, I'd not penalize a leap-to-stand unless the dog touched (crowded) the handler. Proper handling requires that the handler continues without pausing, so the dog will quickly not be in heel position any more anyway. To summarize: leaping *per se* is not penalized, but any heeling errors will be.

There are penalties in heeling that aren't just position related. Handlers should move briskly and naturally, and per the regulations must run on the fast. Pace changes must be evident, and start and end on the judge's orders. Adapting to the dog is penalized, as is drifting so the dog is against the ring gates or wall, which aids the dog because it can't go wide. "Adapting" includes a variety of errors, from marching 4-5 steps in place on a turn, stepping back-

ward while completing an about turn, going wide around one cone and very close on the other, and of course drifting to the left as the dog goes wide.

And finally, sits at heel and finishes have many possibilities for penalties. They must meet all five position criteria and be performed promptly. It's "common knowledge" that a failure to sit costs 3 points; however, the regs currently say that's a "minor to substantial" deduction which leaves it to the judge's discretion. I cringe when a dog earns a 188 and the handler crows, "I almost got a perfect score, because if I hadn't had four no-sits I'd have had a 200!" No judge will be taking off 3 points per no-sit on that dog. Instead they'll "gestalt" the score.

My concept of gestalt scoring aligns with AKC's mandate to judges: qualify the qualifiers, and rank the performances by score. AKC wants judges to be able to account specifically for the first 2.5-3 points deducted on an exercise. Beyond that, it's "yeah, that's four point heeling, and two no sits, and some whining, but they DID work as a team: 8 points off." In my opinion this is the hardest part of obedience judging, coming up with fair and consistent gestalt scores.

ABOUT US



P.O. Box 80695

Las Vegas NV 89180-0695

Phone: (702) 368-0656

E-mail: info@vvdoc.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@vvdoc.org for more information about our organization.