

February  
2012

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

# VHOC Newsette

Volume 58 Issue 2



Official Newsletter of Valley Hills Obedience Club, Inc.  
P. O. Box 10132, Canoga Park, CA 91309  
VHOC Website: [www.vhoc.org](http://www.vhoc.org)

Submission deadline is the 8th of each month

## REMINDER FOR ALL MEMBERS

Remember to check the website ([www.vhoc.org](http://www.vhoc.org)) for announcements, cancelled classes, upcoming events and other important club information.

### From the Editor

Please send your articles, brags, scores, and photos for the Newsette to the newly-elected Editor, Carole Raschella, at [carole@raschella.com](mailto:carole@raschella.com). This is my last month as editor — after 8 years and nearly 100 issues. It was a great experience and lots of fun. Now we are all looking forward to the next few years' newsletters with our professional artist club member, Carole Raschella. Best wishes and have a wonderful time, Carole!

Make plans to join fellow VHOC members as we celebrate events and accomplishments of 2011!

The Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2012 — 6:30 to 10:00 pm

The University Club at the  
California State University  
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge 91330

Please RSVP to Linda Brown at 818-884-1304  
or [LindiaLindia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LindiaLindia@sbcglobal.net)

Look for the invitation and more details on Page 11



Please send brags, photos, announcements, articles, and other information to Carole Raschella at: [carole@raschella.com](mailto:carole@raschella.com) on or before the 8th of each month.

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# BRAGS & SCORES



## AGILITY

**Laurie Burnam & Scout:** February 4-5, 2012, Tri-Co Aus. Shep. Working Assoc & DASH, Riverside, CA:  
Elite Reg, 10-Q, 2nd Place, Elite Reg, 10-Q, 2nd Place, Elite Reg, 10-Q, 5th Place, Elite Reg, 10-Q, 5th Pl  
Elite Jumpers, 10-Q, 2nd Place, Elite Jumpers, 10-Q, 3rd Place, Elite Gamblers, 10-Q, 2nd Place.

Laurie writes: **“Scout's Titles #57 & #58 by obtaining 200 points each: Regular Standard Elite Outstanding Performance RS-E-OP and Jumpers Standard Elite Superior Performance JS-E-SP. Now just need 8 Q's in Gamblers to get her Agility Trial Champion Title...oh so close...”**

**Debbie Lang & Quila:** January 27, 2012, Orange Coast Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, Walnut, CA:  
Double Q and 13 MACH points, T2B, Q—6 points

**Debbie Lang & Quila:** February 4-5, 2012, So Cal Portuguese Water Dog Club, Industry, CA:  
Double Q and 24 MACH points. **Only 114 more points to go!**

## HERDING



**Mike Brill & Enzo:** January 28-29, 2012, Border Collie Club of Greater LA, Leona Valley, CA:  
Herding Pre-Trial—Qualified! **Not bad for his first time out!**  
Herding Pre-Trial—Qualified—**PT Title!!**



**Ann Hills & Trooper:** January 14-15, 2012, San Pasqual Herding Club, Escondido, CA.

Started Ducks, 86, 1st Place, 2nd Leg.  
Advanced Course A Sheep, 77, 2nd Leg.  
Intermediate Course B Sheep, 70, 4th Place, 2nd Leg.

**Ann Hills & Trooper:** January 29, 2012, Border Collie Club of Greater LA, Leona Valley, CA:

Advanced Course A Sheep, 85.5, 5th Place, 3rd Leg—**HXAS Title!**  
Intermediate Course B Sheep, 83.5, 2nd Place, 3rd Leg—**HIBS Title!!**



## Obedience & Rally Matches

### 2nd Saturday of each month

Monthly obedience/rally matches held at Louise Park, Van Nuys, S/E corner of Louise Ave. & Sherman Way, west of Balboa. Nested courses: novice, advanced, excellent. \$5.00 per run or 3 runs for \$12.00. Entries at 9:00 a.m. Judging at 10 a.m.

### Dog Training Equipment for Sale

Laurie offers a variety of training equipment: Handmade leashes, armband holders, PVC training boxes, ring posts, canine T-shirts and more!

Call Laurie at (818) 784-8440 or  
email [bellaluna@pacbell.net](mailto:bellaluna@pacbell.net)  
[www.poochabilitydogtraining.com](http://www.poochabilitydogtraining.com)



## BRAGS & SCORES

### OBEDIENCE & RALLY

**Laurie Burnam & Scout:** *January 14, 2012, Tri-County Australian Shepherd Working Assoc, Anaheim, CA:*  
Excellent B, 194, Q, 3rd Leg—**RE Title!**  
Excellent B, 197, XQ, Extra Leg.

**Yvonne Garst & Captain:** *January 22, 2012, Ventura Co. Dog Fanciers Assoc, Ventura, CA:*  
Rally Advanced B, 3rd Leg—**RA Title!**

**Debbie Lang & Quila:** *February 2, 2012, Norwegian Elkhound Assoc. of No Cal., Fresno, CA:*  
Novice B, 182.5, 2nd Place, 1st Leg.

**Debbie Lang & Quila:** *February 3, 2012, Fresno Dog Training Club, Fresno, CA:*  
Novice B, 183, 2nd Leg.

**Debbie Lang & Fable:** *February 2, 2012, Norwegian Elkhound Assoc. of No Cal., Fresno, CA:*  
Rally Novice B, 94, 3rd Place, 3rd Leg—**RN Title!**

**Debbie Lang & Fable:** *February 3, 2012, Fresno Dog Training Club, Fresno, CA:*  
Rally Novice B, 94, 3rd Place, Insurance Leg.

**Cindi Malchose & Indy:** *January 7-8, 2012, Palm Springs KC, Palm Springs, CA:*  
Rally Novice B, 100, 1st Place, 3rd Leg—**RN Title!**  
Rally Advanced A, 97, 1st Leg.

Cindi writes: "It was a really fun weekend and Indy surprised me by her attention. I was a little concerned about moving her up to Advanced on Sunday since I haven't really worked her off leash in Rally, but she did really well and seemed to have a lot of fun. Of course...Indy always has a lot of fun!"

**Patti Rovtar & Chili:** *January 27-30, 2012, San Bernardino, CA:*  
Open B, 198, 2nd Place! **High in Trial- High Scoring Working Dog in Trial!**

Open B, 195.5, 3rd Place! "Oops, I said 'hurry' during our heeling pattern and cost Chili 3 points. She was awesome, me not so much!"

Open B, 195, 1st Place! "**Chili got HIT-All-Breed and HIT-High Scoring Working Dog in Trial too!** So proud of my girlie!"

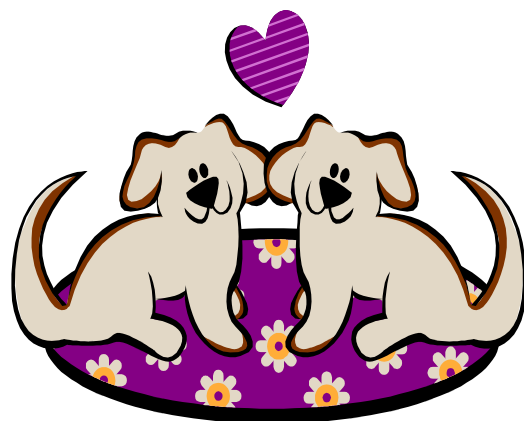


All Sizes Welcome



Patti Rovtar's 'Chili'  
Hillary Hunter's 'Gabby'

Photo by David Zelitzky  
at the Ventura Trials



Happy Valentines Day!

# BRAGS & SCORES

## OBEDIENCE & RALLY



**Roxanna Sanchez & Tuk:** *January 21-22, 2012, Ventura Shows, Ventura, CA:*

**Roxanna writes:** "Tuk completed his Rally Novice Title in 3 consecutive shows with a 1st, 2nd and 4th Place, scoring 99-99-98." — RN Title!

**Karla Spitzer & Hermione:** *January 28-29-30, 2012, Orange Empire KC & Tri-Valley Working Dog Club of Pinon Hills, San Bernardino, CA:*

1st Leg—193, 2nd Leg—190½, 3rd Leg—190½—BN Title!



**Linda Zimmerman & Hudson:** *January 8, 2012, KC of Palm Springs, Indio, CA:*

Beginner Novice B, 192, 1st Place—2nd Leg;  
Rally Advanced A, Q—2nd Leg.

**Linda Zimmerman & Hudson:** *January 21, 2012, San Fernando KC, Ventura, CA:*

Rally Advanced A, Q, 3rd Leg—RA Title!

**Linda Zimmerman & Hudson:** *Jan.22,2012m Ventura County Dog Fanciers, Ventura, CA:*

Rally Excellent A, 97, 1st Place—1st Leg.

## VHOC VESTS FOR SALE

The club has a limited supply of Fleece Hunter Green vests, embroidered with the VHOC logo, and is offering them for sale to members at \$28 each.

The 100% polyester vests are available in ladies' and men's sizes from S to 3XL. They have an adjustable hem with barrel locks and shock cord, front zip pockets and feminine cut on the ladies' sizes. The men's style is tapered with side seam pockets.

If you are interested, please contact Carole at [cahills1@verizon.net](mailto:cahills1@verizon.net)

### LADIES'



### MEN'S



# Member News

It's a boy!



Picture Perfect Puppy!



Heading Home!

**INTRODUCING...**  
On Target's Without Question



"My friends call me 'Ladd.' You should, too!"

His sire is the talented ADCH MACH 2 Eyespy The Flash, AXP, OJP, OF, ROM. His mother, 'Brick,' from working lines, is co-owned by On Target and OffOn BCs, and loves to play flyball and go herding.

Ladd and I look forward to many fun adventures together!

Early litter pictures at:  
<http://www.ontargetbcs.com/aladdin.cfm>

*Artwork courtesy of Stephanie Colman*



## NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Emily & Al Nelson and their Cane Corso—Spyro  
Elizabeth Patterson and her Australian Shepherd—Mimosa  
Daos Poonma and her Labrador Retrievers—Reign & Raj  
Carol Soh and her Pug—Poops

*Applicants need to attend only one general meeting or volunteer to help at a VHOC event to activate their membership.*

## How to Build a Dog

Scientists have found the secret recipe behind the spectacular variety of dog shapes and sizes, and it could help unravel the complexity of human genetic disease.

*By Evan Ratliff*

**It's an unusually balmy mid-February afternoon in New York City, but the lobby of the Hotel Pennsylvania is teeming with fur coats.**

The wearers are attendees of what is undoubtedly the world's elite canine mixer, one that takes place each year on the eve of the Westminster Kennel Club dog show. Tomorrow the nation's top dogs from 173 breeds will compete for glory across the street at Madison Square Garden. But today is more akin to a four-legged meet-and-greet, as owners shuffle through the check-in line at the competition's official lodgings. A basset hound aims a droopy eye across a luggage cart at a wired-up terrier. A pair of muscled Rhodesian ridgebacks, with matching leather leashes, pause for a brief hello with a fluffy Pyrenean shepherd. Outside the gift shop a Tibetan mastiff with paws the size of human hands goes nose to nose with a snuffling pug.



Photograph by Robert Clark

The variety on display in the hotel lobby—a dizzying array of body sizes, ear shapes, nose lengths, and barking habits—is what makes dog lovers such obstinate partisans. For reasons both practical and whimsical, man's best friend has been artificially evolved into the most diverse animal on the planet—a staggering achievement, given that most of the 350 to 400 dog breeds in existence have been around for only a couple hundred years. The breeders fast-forwarded the normal pace of evolution by combining traits from disparate dogs and accentuating them by breeding those offspring with the largest hints of the desired attributes. To create a dog well suited for cornering badgers, for instance, it is thought that German hunters in the 18th and 19th centuries brought together some combination of hounds—the basset, a native of France, being the likely suspect—and terriers, producing a new variation on the theme of dog with stubby legs and a rounded body that enabled it to chase its prey into the mouth of a burrow: hence the dachshund, or "badger dog" in German. (A rival, flimsier history of the breed has it dating back, in some form, to ancient Egypt.) Pliable skin served as a defense mechanism, allowing the dog to endure sharp-toothed bites without significant damage. A long and sturdy tail helped hunters to retrieve it from an animal's lair, badger in its mouth.

The breeders gave no thought, of course, to the fact that while coaxing such weird new dogs into existence, they were also tinkering with the genes that determine canine anatomy in the first place. Scientists since have assumed that underneath the morphological diversity of dogs lay an equivalent amount of genetic diversity. A recent explosion in canine genomic research, however, has led to a surprising, and opposite, conclusion: The vast mosaic of dog shapes, colors, and sizes is decided largely by changes in a mere handful of gene regions. The difference between the dachshund's diminutive body and the Rottweiler's massive one hangs on the sequence of a single gene. The disparity between the dachshund's stumpy legs—known officially as disproportionate dwarfism, or chondrodysplasia—and a greyhound's sleek ones is determined by another one.

The same holds true across every breed and almost every physical trait. In a project called CanMap, a collaboration among Cornell University, UCLA, and the National Institutes of Health, researchers gathered DNA from more than 900 dogs representing 80 breeds, as well as from wild canids such as gray wolves and coyotes. They found that body size, hair length, fur type, nose shape, ear positioning, coat color, and the other traits that together define a breed's appearance are controlled by somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 genetic switches. The difference between floppy and erect ears is determined by a single gene region in canine chromosome 10, or CFA10. The wrinkled skin of a Chinese shar-pei traces to another region, called HAS2. The patch of ridged fur on Rhodesian ridgebacks? That's from a change in CFA18. Flip a few switches, and your dachshund becomes a Doberman, at least in appearance. Flip again, and your Doberman is a Dalmatian.

"The story that is emerging," says Robert Wayne, a biologist at UCLA, "is that the diversity in domestic dogs derives from a small genetic tool kit." Media reports about *the* gene for red hair, alcoholism, or breast cancer give the false impression that most traits are governed by just one or a few genes. In fact, the Tinkertoy genetics of dog morphology is a complete aberration. In nature, a physical trait is usually the product of a complex interaction of many genes, each one making a fractional contribution. Height in humans, for instance, is determined by the interaction of some 200 gene regions.

So why are dogs so different? The answer, the researchers say, lies in their unusual evolutionary history. Canines were the earliest domesticated animal, a process that started somewhere between 20,000 and 15,000 years ago, most likely when gray wolves began scavenging around human settlements. Dog experts differ on how active a role humans played in the next step, but eventually the relationship became a mutual one, as we began employing dogs for hunting, guarding, and companionship. Sheltered from the survival-of-the-fittest wilderness, those semi-domesticated dogs thrived even though they harbored deleterious genetic mutations—stumpy legs, for instance—that would have been weeded out in smaller wild populations.

Thousands of years later, breeders would seize on that diverse raw material when they began creating modern breeds. They tended to grab traits they desired from across multiple breeds—or tried to rapidly replicate mutations in the same one—in order to get the dog they wanted. They also favored novelty, since the more distinct a line of dogs appeared, the more likely it was to garner official recognition as a new breed. Such artificial selection tended to favor single genes with a large impact, allowing traits to be fixed more rapidly than groups of smaller-impact genes ever could.

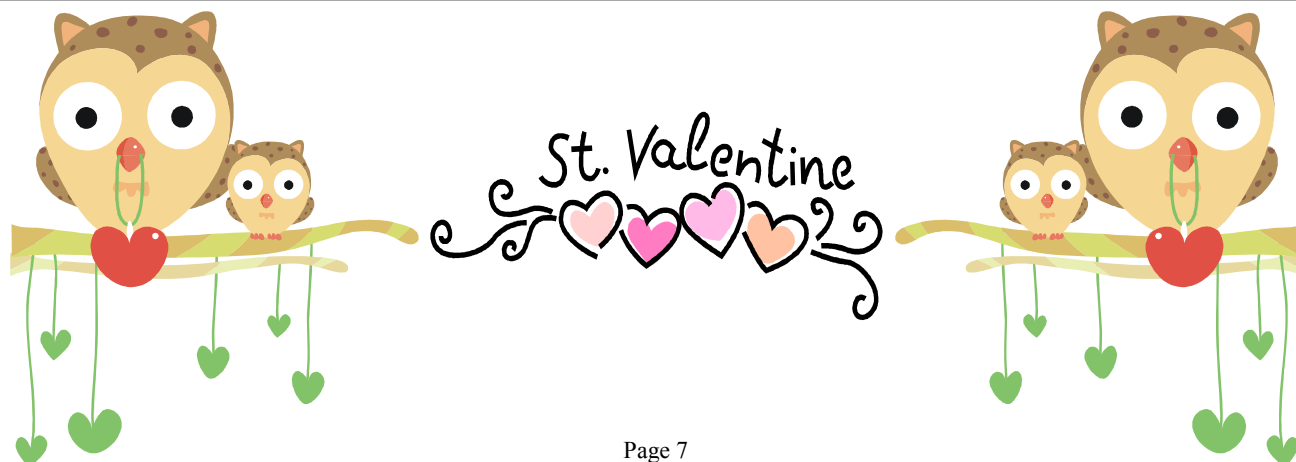
"It's kind of like when you set your remote control to control your TV, your stereo, and your cable," says Carlos Bustamante, a CanMap geneticist now at Stanford University. "You hit the on-off switch, and it does them all."

This revelation has implications the scientists are just beginning to unravel—most important, for the understanding of genetic disorders in humans. Already, more than a hundred dog diseases have been mapped to mutations in particular genes, many of them with human counterparts. Those diseases may have a whole array of mutations leading to a risk of disease in dogs, as they do in us. But because dogs have been genetically segregated into breeds developed from just a few original individuals, each breed has a much smaller set of errant genes—often only one or two—underlying the disease. For instance, Cornell researchers studying the degenerative eye disease retinitis pigmentosa—shared by humans and dogs—found 20 different canine genes causing the disorder. But a different gene was the culprit in schnauzers than in poodles, giving researchers some specific leads for where to start looking in humans. Meanwhile a recent study of a rare type of epilepsy in dachshunds found what appears to be a unique genetic signature, which could shed new light on the disorder in us as well.

In short, while the Victorian breeders were crafting dogs to suit their tastes, they were also creating genetically isolated populations, little knowing how useful they might be to scientists in the future. The possibilities are especially abundant for cancer, certain types of which can show up as often as 60 percent of the time in some dog breeds but only once in every 10,000 humans.

"We are the people who are doing the genetics," says Elaine Ostrander, who studies dog evolution and disease at the National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH. "But breeders are the people who have done all the fieldwork." One category of trait that has so far proved resistant to the CanMap analysis is behavior. Only a single mutant behavioral gene has been identified to date: the dog version of the gene for obsessive-compulsive disorder in humans, which can cause Doberman pinschers to obsessively suck on their fur to the point of bleeding. More common characteristics such as loyalty, tenaciousness, or the instinct to herd clearly have genetic underpinnings. But they can also be affected by factors ranging from a dog's nutrition to the presence of children in the house, making them difficult to quantify rigorously enough to study. Nevertheless, "we've probably got as good a shot, if not better, of understanding behavior in dogs over other animals," says Stanford's Bustamante. After all, he points out, there are millions of dog lovers out there willing and eager to help with the fieldwork.

*Reprinted from National Geographic.com*



## JUMPING SERIES IV: "Just Right Jumping" by Suzanne Clothier

*NOTE: This article is the last of a 4 part series on jumping that first appeared in Off Lead magazine.*

Let's assume that your dog is physically prepared for jumping - structurally sound and fully functional. He's mentally prepared - he's relaxed, confident, with a world of systematic training under his collar; he knows how to jump almost anything you can throw at him. End of jumping problems, right? Hardly. To think that physical and mental preparation is enough is like saying that because your car is mechanically sound and you're a good driver, there's nothing to worry about. When you hit a patch of ice, you suddenly remember that there's one other ingredient at work - the proper conditions. There's a good reason land speed records are set out on the salt flats and not in the bayous of Louisiana: the conditions are right.

Jumping conditions are the classic Goldilocks situation: like Baby Bear's chair, porridge and bed, things need to be just right. Unfortunately for our dogs, the conditions are often anything but just right. This is particularly true in competition settings where we have no control over (or often even prior knowledge of) the conditions under which our dogs will be asked to jump. In our training sessions, we can work to offer our dogs the best possible conditions for jumping safely and well. Just right conditions for jumping are a blend of footing, lighting, environment and the distances between the jumps.

The quality of footing - soft or hard, yielding or resistant - is an extremely important consideration. The dog's body will pay a heavy toll indeed for footing that is not supportive of jumping mechanics. It takes little imagination to understand that jumping on a hard surface can be harmful. Anyone who has spent a day simply standing or walking, or jogged for years on pavement can attest to the painful reality of concussive forces. On the other hand, as tourists at the beach learn, soft footing such as sand presents other equally painful problems. Though walking along the ocean's edge is pleasant, the very sore muscles that appear later that night are not. Hard footing is not without its advantages - it's easier at take off to do so from a firm surface (or one that gives a bit but resists forcibly, such as a springboard). But the landings are murder. Landing in soft footing means that some of the force of landing will be absorbed, thus sparing the joints of the front end. But footing that is too soft can fail to offer sufficient support for takeoff (and landing as well), leading to potentially serious overstretching or injury of muscles, ligaments and tendons. In a perfect world, our dogs would take off from firm but slightly springy footing and land on soft but not too deep footing. But so far, no one's figured out how to make that happen.

The texture of surfaces is also important. A surface can be abrasive (concrete, asphalt, gravel) or slick (carpeting, matting, wet or frosted grass, mud, brushed or painted concrete, ice, snow) or unstable (gravel, matting that is not fixed firmly in place, leaves, loose soil, sand, deep mud, snow) or almost any combination of these qualities. How much the texture will affect the dog's jumping will depend on just how fast he's moving. While all of us can walk safely on ice, few of us are foolish enough to try running on

it - that's why ice skates were invented. When sharp turns or changes of direction are added, when the dog is expected to move with precision, the texture of a surface can become a major factor in his jumping abilities. At an international agility competition a few years ago, the conditions were awful - carpeting that might have served as reasonable footing for slow moving breed ring dogs proved far too slick for the lightning fast agility stars. Despite considerable experience, more than a few jumping faults were caused not by any lack on the dogs' part but by the conditions themselves. (Even in the large open spaces of the group ring at Westminster, moving only at the brisk trot, show dogs frequently lose their footing and slip.) Handlers who wonder about the appropriateness of any given footing might do well to not just walk a course but actually dash around like loonies, as fast as they can with lightning fast changes of direction and sharp turns. Ideally, they should also be sure to jump over things. And do it all while not knowing what comes next. Just a suggestion.

Lighting presents yet another dilemma. Outdoors, this is rarely a problem, though I don't doubt that jumping right into the sun is as difficult for a dog as it would be for us. Handlers would do well



to always check the line of sight toward a jump from the dog's point of view. Dogs do see better than we do in dim light but remember that's a generalization that compares all dogs to all hu-

mans. Individual dogs may not see as well as their handler in dimly lit conditions. Indoor lighting can present odd shadows that while confusing to the dog may not be noticed by the handler. Additionally, jumps may blend into background objects like arena walls - dogs are color blind (not without color vision), so greens and reds are indistinguishable from each other. A bright red jump set against a background of institutional green may be very hard for the dog to see and correctly judge. Other color combinations may prove equally difficult.

Environment is fairly self explanatory. Cold, wet weather is hard on joints and muscles, making them more susceptible to injury. Even with appropriate warmup, muscles can chill very quickly - keep in mind that even in the heat of August, major league baseball pitchers are brought to the mound with a jacket thrown over those valuable muscles. In cold weather, even what seems a brief wait at the start line or in-gate can result in chilled muscles. Hot humid weather presents a serious threat. Unable to sweat and thus cool their bodies, dogs depend on evaporation over their tongue for heat exchange. There is a very narrow range of tolerable conditions when both heat and humidity are high. Humane handlers simply don't ask their dogs to perform under environmental conditions that place a dog at risk.

Though very poorly understood by both trainers and judges, the

mechanics of distance can defeat dogs even when the footing, lighting and environmental conditions are ideal. The pure physics of a body in motion at any given speed is complicated, but the basics are present in our every day lives. When driving our cars, we know that we need a certain distance in order to turn our vehicles - the turning radius varies depending on the length of the wheel base. The dog's wheel base is his body length, as measured from point of shoulder to point of buttocks. No matter how skilled the driver, a Chevy Suburban cannot turn in the same tight space that say a Volkswagen Beetle can. The larger the dog, the larger his turning radius. We also understand that the size and weight of a vehicle in combination with its speed will determine how quickly we can stop. A Honda Civic will come to a halt much faster than an eighteen wheeler, even if both are moving at the same sixty miles an hour. The bigger the body, the more distance it travels in any given situation. For a Pomeranian, the fifty foot distance of the obedience ring is like the parking lot at Walmart for a Miata. For a Great Pyrenees, that same fifty feet is a nightmarishly small space in which to maneuver a large body.



For agility dogs, things get much, much worse. The minimum spacing between obstacles is set not in the best interests of dogs or even with any realistic understanding of just how much distance a body moving

at speed can consume. In my work on the AKC's agility advisory committee, the ignorance behind regulations and course design was evidenced when a test course was set up by a very well known competitor, judge and instructor. The final jump in her course (designed for advanced dogs jumping 24") aimed the dog directly at a cement wall about twenty feet away, probably sufficient but a bit tight for dogs blazing over that final jump. What horrified me was that the matting under that final jump extended at best five feet from the jump; beyond that was only slick painted concrete. To my eye, this was a very dangerous situation.

If we could have created a textbook dog who jumped precisely so that his takeoff and landing were equidistant from the jump, he would have landed two feet from the jump. Assuming this was a moderate size dog, with a body length of 24" - typical Golden size. Standing still, his body length would comprise 2/3 of the remaining three feet of matting. Moving at a moderate speed (not the high speed expected on an advanced course) a dog with a body length of 24" would cover somewhere between six and eight feet in one stride. Even if he landed as soon as possible after the jump, stopping on that dime is not possible. The necessary next stride would more than consume the available footing, putting him on slick footing, headed right at a concrete wall.

What shocked me most was that this judge was more than a little disgruntled when I pointed out the dangerous situation. Her reply was typical of many judges and trainers, "But if I move that jump, I'll have to shift the whole course!" I protested enough so the course was redesigned, but that woman's attitude is sadly prevalent in the agility community. Courses are designed on paper, and without any understanding of the simple physics involved for the dogs who have to try to solve sometimes unsolvable problems with their bodies. The dogs pay the price for our ignorance.

At the Olympics in Barcelona, there was quite an uproar over the design of the show jumping course and the footing of the ring. It had rained heavily, and despite the best efforts of the ring crew, the footing was dangerously slick and deep. The course design was difficult - ostensibly in order to test the horses and riders - but many riders felt it was dangerously demanding. In show jumping, each successive round becomes more difficult: jumps are raised, and the course tightens. Despite the conditions, horses and riders gave their best. More than a few highly experienced horses faulted out with mistakes due in part to the conditions. Normally, the final round is the one where increased demands separates winners from losers based on the fastest time and the least faults. But in Barcelona, there was no final round. Though several ties existed, the remaining riders as a group agreed that under these conditions asking more from their equine partners was unfair; they were unwilling to put their horses at risk. Their decision was a moving reminder that even when facing the possibility of an Olympic medal, we have an obligation to do what is best for the animals who willingly give us their all simply because we asked.

The best handlers I know are the ones who spend countless hours training their dogs, who drive hundreds of miles and spend countless hard earned dollars in their pursuit of titles. They do what every competitor does, but then they take it one step further. After all that, they then consider whether the conditions are ones that are fair and reasonable for their dog. When the answer is no, they vote with their feet, unwilling to trade their dog's well being for the possibility of a qualifying score. Like Goldilocks, they're willing to wait until the conditions are just right.



*Reprinted from Off Lead Magazine*



# Fun Stuff



**off the mark** by Mark Parisi  
www.offthemark.com



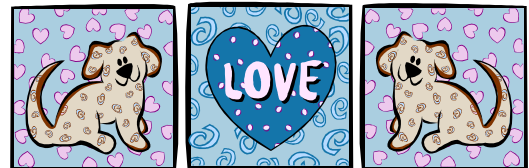
THE REAL REASON  
PANTOV'S DOG SALIVATED

Submitted by **Christy Tattersall**

We welcome and encourage members to submit articles, brags, scores and photos to publish in the VHOC Newsette. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity.

Send to Carole Raschella, Editor, at [carole@raschella.com](mailto:carole@raschella.com)

If you know of a member who would appreciate receiving correspondence, such as a get-well card, sympathy card, etc., please email Melody Myers, Corresponding Secretary, at [ruby\\_mudpie@hotmail.com](mailto:ruby_mudpie@hotmail.com).



Happy Valentines Day!



Tired of training outside? Preparing for that big, noisy, indoor show? Need to do some fine tuning in front of a big mirror? Come enjoy climate controlled comfort at the J9'sK9s Training Facility! Located in the west San Fernando Valley, at 21720 Sherman Way in Canoga Park, California. It's 1/2 block west of Owensmouth Street, upstairs from "C & C Pet Food". Our immaculate, carpeted facility with over 1600 square feet and

a 35 feet of mirror is available for rent to individuals and their canine partners for \$10 an hour. We have competitive obedience equipment, baby gates, crates and some agility equipment too, just waiting for you and your dog to come and play with! Also available for pre-approved events and small groups at an additional cost. Call (818) 832-9906 for more information.



# HDLRC, Inc. Annual Sanctioned B/OB-Match

Saturday March 10, 2012  
1000 Trails Soledad Canyon RV Resort  
4700 Crown Valley Rd., Acton CA. 93510

Conformation / Rally / Obedience

Conformation Judge: Mrs. Sue Vose    Obedience / Rally Judge: Tink Ten Eyck

Show Chair: Shiro Torquato    Co-Chair: Jamie King

Setup: 7:30 AM    Registration: 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM (Obedience/Rally)  
9:00AM-Noon (Conformation)

Obedience/Rally ring begins: 11:00 AM    Conformation ring begins: 1PM

**Potluck: main dish provided by HDLRC. Please bring a potluck item to share with everyone.  
Please bring water for you and your dogs.**

Plenty of shade trees, but if you bring a canopy bring tie-downs due to wind.  
There is a **\$5 fee** for parking paid at the Ranger Station.

Conformation Classes:  
(LABRADOR RETRIEVERS ONLY)

- Puppy Dog/Bitch 3 – 6 Months
- Puppy Dog/Bitch 6 – 9 Months
- Puppy Dog/Bitch 9 – 12 Months
- Dog/Bitch 12 – 18 Months
- Bred By Exhibitor Bitch
- Open Dog/Bitch
- Veteran Dog/Bitch
- Junior Showmanship

Obedience Classes

- (ALL BREED and MIXED-BREED):
- Novice A/B
- Open A/B
- Utility A/B
- Rally Classes
- (ALL BREED AND MIXED BREED):
- Novice A/B
- Advanced A/B
- Excellent A/B

## HDLRC B-OB Match Entry Form

**Pre-Entry Fees: \$5 for first entry, with \$3 additional entry same dog.**  
**Day of Entry Fees: \$7 for first entry, with \$4 additional entry of same dog.**

Mail your pre-entry before March 5<sup>th</sup> to:

**Jamie King**

**8839 Gaviota Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343 Fax # is 818-891-4833**

**Day of entries will be taken from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM for Obedience/Rally  
and 9:00AM to Noon for Conformation**

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Variety \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Show Class \_\_\_\_\_ Class Division \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Class \_\_\_\_\_ Obedience Class \_\_\_\_\_ Rally Class \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Dog \_\_\_\_\_

AKC Reg No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder \_\_\_\_\_

Sire \_\_\_\_\_

Dam \_\_\_\_\_

Actual Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

I/we agree to hold the High Desert Labrador Retriever Club of CA, its members, officers and agents exempt from any claim for loss or injury which may be alleged to have been caused to any person or thing within the premises of this event. Only breeds recognized by the AKC will be allowed to compete.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Valley Hills Obedience Club Annual Banquet Celebrating 2011!

Saturday, February 18, 2012

6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

\* \* \* \*

The University Club  
Cal. State University Northridge  
18111 Nordhoff Street  
Northridge, CA 91330

\$25.00 per person

## MENU:

*Cocktail Reception with Cash Bar to Start.*

*Buffet dinner includes choice of entrée, sides, dessert, soft-drinks, coffee and tea.*

**R.S.V.P. Required no later than Wed., Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Adherence to this date is greatly appreciated.**

## Directions:

The University Club is located on the Southeast side of the CSUN campus.  
From Nordhoff St., head north on Zelzah Ave. Turn left on Dearborn and left into The  
University Club parking lot. (First driveway to your left.) Free parking is available.

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## VHOC Annual Banquet R.S.V.P.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of People Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Banquet tickets are \$25 per person.

No. of vegetarians in your party: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form, with payment (checks to VHOC), by Wednesday, Feb. 8 to:**

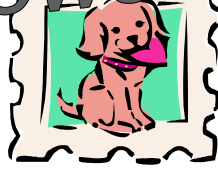
**Lindia Brown**  
4201 Topanga Canyon Blvd., No. 14  
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

## **QUESTIONS:**

[LindiaLindia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LindiaLindia@sbcglobal.net) OR [StephanieColman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:StephanieColman@sbcglobal.net)

# VHOC Newsette

Valley Hills Obedience Club, Inc.  
P. O. Box 10132  
Canoga Park, CA 91309



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

TO: