

OCTOBER  
2009



# VHOC Newsette

Volume 55 Issue 10



**Reminder: Submission deadline  
is the 8th of each month**

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)



## Tricks For Treats



**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**Monday, October 26, 2009 — 7:00 PM**

VHOC Training Site - CPLS  
7357 Jordan Avenue, Canoga Park, CA



- DOGGY COSTUME CONTEST!  
*(Handler Costume Optional)*
- HUMAN & DOG TREATS!
- TRICK CONTEST!
- TRAINING!

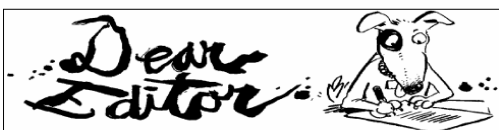


Please RSVP to Lindia Brown by Friday, October 23  
Email: [lbrown@rosenthallawcorp.com](mailto:lbrown@rosenthallawcorp.com)



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Send braggs, announcements and other information to Carole Hills at [cahills1@verizon.net](mailto:cahills1@verizon.net) on or before the 8th of each month

## BRAGS & SCORES

### CONFORMATION

**September 26-October 4, 2009, ASCA National Specialty, Greeley, CO:**

**Asher Farkas & Symba:** 1st Place in Novice 13-17 Junior Handling class (Saturday and Sunday)!

**Symba:** 2nd in Open Blue Merle Altered Bitches class (handled by Moira Cornell (Saturday & Wednesday))

### AGILITY (ASCA Nationals)

**Asher Farkas & Symba:** Nov Jumpers Q, 2nd Leg—**JJ-N Title!**

**(Asher's first title on a dog ever!!!)** Nov Gamblers Q, 2nd Leg—**GJ-N Title!!**

**Asher Farkas & Symba:** 2 Nov Jumpers, 1 Nov Gamblers—**HIT JR!!!**  
**(beating his sister!!)**

**Janelle Farkas & Taxi:** *ASCA Agility National Finals:* Elite Reg, 10-Q



*Sharon Farkas writes:* "Finals were tough this year. Taxi fell off the dog walk and was not able to walk off the course. It was a very scary moment. Luckily there was a veterinarian on site who attended to Taxi which allowed her to run the final run of agility finals. They completed the course in style, taking a 1st place in that round. Unfortunately for Team Taxi, Taxi's injury prevented them from placing higher than 3rd because they did not finish the course when Taxi was hurt. Although disappointed, Janelle is thrilled that she and Taxi are able to continue to run agility."

### OBEDIENCE & RALLY

**Ann Hills & Trooper:** *Sep. 20, 2009, ASCA Joshua Tree ASC, Palmdale, CA:* Nov B, 1st Place, 198, 3rd Leg—**CD Title!!**

**High Score Other Breed, High in Trial!!**

**Allison Pobirs & Quinn:** *Sep. 20, 2009 ASCA Joshua Tree ASC, Palmdale, CA:* Open A, 3rd Place, 190 — 1st Leg



*Allison writes:*

This trial was such fun in the company of fellow exhibitors, VHOC members—Laurie Burnam with Scout, Ann Hills with Trooper and Quinn with me. VHOC member Shirley Indelicato was our judge. Also on hand to cheer for the club exhibitors was VHOC member, Rita Morneault, who took a break from her morning herding with Blur to be there with us!

# BRAGS & SCORES

## CONFORMATION & RALLY (cont)

**Shiro Torquato & Cody:** *September 19, 2009, Santa Ana KC, Cerritos, CA:*  
 Rally Excellent, 95, 2nd Place — **RE Title!!**

**We finally convinced Linda Zimmerman to send her brags...and what a lot of brags!!  
 Congratulations to Linda, Hudson and Brooke on two new titles — so far this year!!!**

### CH Legacy Leading Man (Hudson) Old English Sheepdog

3/28/09	Kern County KC	BOW	3 pts.	MAJOR
4/26/09	Lake Mathews KC	WD	1 pt.	
5/16/09	Mt. Palomar KC	BOB	2 pts.	
5/22/09	Los Encinos KC	WD	4 pts.	MAJOR
5/30/09	Pasadena KC	BOW	1 pt.	
5/31/09	Pasadena KC	BOW	1 pt.	
7/4/09	Santa Maria KC	WD	4 pts.	MAJOR = <b>NEW CHAMPION!</b>

### CH Legacy Life's A Party RA, NAP, NJP (Brooke) Old English Sheepdog

5/30/09	Pasadena KC	Rally Adv A	1st place	1st Leg
5/31/09	Pasadena KC	Rally Adv A	3rd place	2nd Leg
8/9/09	South Bay KC	Rally Adv A	3rd place	3rd Leg = <b>RA TITLE!</b>
8/28/09	Santa Barbara KC	Rally Exc A	2nd place	1st Leg

## AGILITY (cont)

**Laurie Burnam & Scout:** *September 25-27, 2009, Hollywood DOC, Van Nuys, CA:*  
 Ex Std B, 100, 3rd Place, 1st MX leg, 13 MACH points; Ex JWW B, 100, 3rd MXJ leg, 6 MACH points—  
**1st Double Q! Yippee!!** Ex JWW B, 100, 4th MXJ leg, 7 MACH pts. (**Total 45 MACH pts. to date**)

**Stephanie Colman & Quiz:** *October 10-11, 2009, Hi Desert ASCA, Lakeview Terrace, CA:*  
*Elite Jumpers, 10-Q, 2nd Pl, Elite Jumpers, 10-Q, Elite Gamblers, 10-Q, 1st Pl—GS-E Title!*  
*Elite Reg, 10-Q, 2nd Pl, Elite Reg, 5-Q, Elite Jumpers, 10-Q, 4th Pl.*

**Asher Farkas & Symba:** *September 20, 2009, WLAOTC CPE, Los Angeles, CA:* Full House L1-Q  
**Asher Farkas & Symba:** *October 10-11, 2009, Hi Desert ASCA, Lakeview Terrace, CA:* Nov Jumpers, 10-Q

**Janelle Farkas & Taxi:** *Sept. 20, 2009, WLAOTC CPE, Los Angeles, CA:* Full House L4-Q; Jackpot L3-Q

**Janelle Farkas & Taxi:** *October 10-11, 2009, Hi Desert ASCA, Lakeview Terrace, CA:*  
*Elite Reg, 10-Q, Elite Jumpers; 10-Q, Elite Reg, 5-Q, Elite Jumpers, 10-Q, Elite Reg, 10-Q—HIT JR!!*

## DOCK JUMPING

**Stephanie Colman & Quiz:** *October 2, 2009, Splash Dogs,*  
*Los Angeles County Fair, Pomona, CA:*  
 Jump of 19'5" for 1st Place in the Senior Division!



**New members Paul and Carla Grace with their Golden, Gracie, were also there. Gracie jumped her personal best of 12'8"!**



## VHOC GENERAL TROPHY FUND DONATIONS NEEDED!

**To everyone who has already donated to our trophy fund this year, thank you very much!!!**

If you have not made a donation to the General Trophy Fund yet, we sure could use a little help for our Club! No amount is too small. We will be adding the names of everyone who contributes to our list of 2009 General Trophy Fund donors so you will be acknowledged in our Trial Catalog for your generosity.

We need to cover all of the first place trophies and rosettes for obedience and rally for two days. If you have pledged and not yet sent a check, please do - the trophies are coming in and need to be paid for! Thanks!

You can reach us by email at [rovstar@dslextreme.com](mailto:rovstar@dslextreme.com) (Patti) or [agileOES@aol.com](mailto:agileOES@aol.com) (Linda) or in person at our training site (CPLS) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

### **Please help support your Club!**

Checks should be made payable to VHOC and sent to:

Patti Rovtar  
21218 De La Osa Street  
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

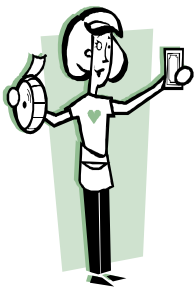
Yours in Training,  
Patti Rovtar and Linda Zimmerman  
VHOC Trophy Co-Chairs



## VHOC RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED!

It is that time of year again and we are preparing for our upcoming trial in December. We are collecting Raffle Donations of every size. Any large or small dog (or non-dog) item can be used. We have all received items that aren't right for our dog but may be perfect for someone else. We also need baskets. You can bring your donations to the School training site Tuesday or Thursday night or make arrangements for us to pick up the items at a show or meeting. You can contact me (Cindi) ahead of time to be sure someone will be there to receive your donations.

We also welcome monetary donations to purchase larger items as well. You can bring checks to the school, etc., or mail them to:



Christy Tattersall  
19201 Kenya St  
Northridge, CA 91326

Again, all donations are welcome and needed in order for our raffle to be a success.

Thank you,  
Cindi Malchose,  
Jan Racey, Christy Tattersall — VHOC Raffle Committee

## **October is National Fire Safety Month and that goes for our pets, too!**

Linda Zimmerman has submitted timely information for a worthwhile cause should club members be considering making a year-end charitable donation. She has learned that more than 500,000 pets are affected by fires each year, and over 40,000 of those pets die of smoke asphyxiation, because many of our city fire departments and EMT offices do not have Pet Oxygen Masks. Do you know if your local fire department has a Pet Oxygen Mask on all their fire and rescue trucks? Firefighters can often save a pet's life if they have the right equipment. You can help by participating in a new program "BARK 10-4" which, with your donation, helps fire departments obtain the much-needed Pet Oxygen Masks. Visit the website: <http://www.bark10-4.com> and sponsor the purchase of a large mask for \$25 or a three-piece set which includes a small, medium and large size mask for \$65. The sponsored masks will be shipped directly to the fire department of any city and state you designate.

# VHOC TOP DOG TEAM

## Novice:

Ann Hills and Trooper  
Shiro Torquato and Cody  
Ladonna Loken and Christmas (alternate)

## Open:

Stephanie Colman and Quiz  
Cindi Malchose and Jenna  
Allison Pobirs and Quinn (alternate)

## Utility:

Laurie Burnam and Scout  
Pending - alternate spot available

The club will participate again this year in the Southern California Dog Obedience Council (SCDOC) annual Top Dog competition on November 14, 2009 in Bloomington, CA.

Team Captain, Allison Pobirs, may still have an open spot for a Utility dog. If you are interested, please contact her at: [sunnyedog@yahoo.com](mailto:sunnyedog@yahoo.com).

Allison also invites all VHOC members to come out and cheer for their club's Top Dog team.

## NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS



**Susan Boyce and her BSD, Anya**

**Christina Jaeger and her Great Dane,  
CH Shah Shah Jaeger II**

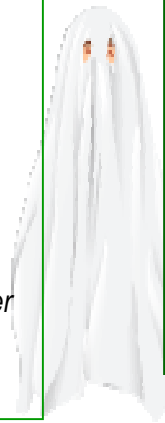
**Larry Ribbeck and his Weimaraners,  
Dino & Tina and Golden Retriever, Rocky**

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



## WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you know of a member who would appreciate receiving correspondence, such as a get-well card, sympathy card, etc., please email C. Hills, VHOC Newsette Editor at [cahills1@verizon.net](mailto:cahills1@verizon.net).





## OBEDIENCE & RALLY EVENTS

### OCT

- 17-18 HVOC, Hidden Valley OTC, Escondido. Sharon Licciardi, 661-273-1240 or slicciardi@roadrunner.com. Cl. 9/30 **Inc. Rally**  
30-31 Various clubs, S/O. LA Co Fairplex, Pomona. Bradshaw, 323-727-0136 or mail@bradshaw.com. Cl. 10/14 **Inc. Rally**

### NOV

- 1 Various clubs, LA Co Fairplex, Pomona. S/O. Bradshaw, 323-727-0136 or mail@bradshaw.com. Cl. 10/14 **Inc. Rally**  
8 High Desert Lab Ret. Club. S/O. Thousand Trails, Acton. Sharon Licciardi, Sec. 661-273-1240. Cl. 10/21  
21-22 Tri-Valley Sheltie. S/O. Happy Dog ATC, Moorpark. Jan Mcaninch, Sec. 714-846-5134 or jan@mcaninch.net. Cl. 11/4

### DEC

- 4 **Match. Valley Hills OC. Woodley, Van Nuys. Ent. 11:30-12:30, Judging: noon. \$6/4, Sandy Walton, 323-654-4110**  
5-6 **Valley Hills OC. S/O. Woodley Park, Van Nuys. Sharon Licciardi, Sec. 661-273-1240. Cl. 11/18 Inc. Rally**  
11 Long Beach KC. S/O. LB Con.Center, Long Beach. Bradshaw, 323-727-0136 or mail@bradshaw.com. Cl. 11/18 **Inc. Rally**

## AGILITY EVENTS

### OCT

- 17-18 **USDAA Driven Dogs Agility, Grank K9 Ranch, 2492 Grand, Fillmore. Lisa Dewey, vapordog@earthlink.net. Cl. 10/2**  
23-25 GS Rottweiler Club, ark, Lakeview Terrace. Jean O'Neill, Sec. 719-547-7767 or jmo@earthlink.net. Cl. 10/9  
30-11/1 SGVKC/AVKC, Santa Fe Dam Rec. Area. Lynda Tjarks, 661-867-2773 or jumpnfunagility@yahoo.com. Cl. 10/14  
31 **Fun Run Show 'n Go, Woodley Park, Van Nuys. \$5 pre-reg., \$6 day of. Jean, 661-726-4683, jean@funrunagility.com**  
31 **USDAA DART, Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. Lisa Dewey, vapordog@earthlink.net. Cl. 10/19**  
31 **NADAC MAC, Lorraine's Place, Pearblossom. Lorraine Cirinelli, Sec., www. agilityusa@aol.com. Cl. 10/21**

### NOV

- 1 **NADAC MAC, Lorraine's Place, Pearblossom. Lorraine Cirinelli, Sec., www. agilityusa@aol.com. Cl. 10/21**  
2 **USDAA DART, Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. Lisa Dewey, vapordog@earthlink.net. Cl. 10/19**  
7-8 **USDAA Happy Dog ATC, Tierra Rejada Ranch, Moorpark. . Cathy Naef, hdr@happydogagility.com. Cl. 10/30**  
7-8 DAC, Ventura. Gabrieleno, Lakeview Terrace. Lynda Tjarks, 661-867-2773 or jumpnfunagility@yahoo.com. Cl. 10/21  
8 Show N Go, Jump City Agility, Woodley, Van Nuys. \$5 pre, \$6 day of. Cara Callaway, fun4dogs@aol.com  
14-15 Samoyed Club. Woodley Park, Van Nuys. Lynda Tjarks, 623-556-8460 or jumpnfunagility@yahoo.com. Cl. 10/28  
21-22 Tri-Valley Sheltie. Happy Dog ATC, Moorpark. Rebecca Chamlee, 805-584-2227 or tvssc@mac.com. Cl. 11/7  
27-29 USDAA Happy Dog Agility, Tierra Rejada Ranch, Moorpark. Cathy Naef, hdr@happydogagility.com. Cl. 11/13

### DEC

- 5-6 **Valley Hills OC. Woodley Park, Van Nuys. Lynda Tjarks, 623-556-8460 or jumpnfunagility@yahoo.com. Cl. 11/18**  
19-20 Papillon Club of SC. Woodley Park, Van Nuys. Lynda Tjarks, 623-556-8460 or jumpnfunagility@yahoo.com. Cl. 12/2  
26-27 High Desert AC. LA Co. Fairplex, Pomona. Lisa Dewey, 818-767-7659 or vapordog@earthlink.net. Cl. 12/11  
31-1/1 Keeshond Club. Ind. Hills Expo, City of Industry. Lynda Tjarks, 623-556-8460 or jumpnfunagility@yahoo.com. Cl. 12/16

## HERDING EVENTS

### OCT

- 24-25 Antelope Valley Stockdog Club, Lucky Ewe Ranch, 17150 Fort Tejon Rd, Llano. Jan McAninch, 714-345-5176. Cl. 10/13  
31 Australian Cattle Dog Club, Terry Kenny's Ranch, Lancaster. HRD Event. Rita Favreau, 760-743-8050 or Inrigh@cox.net

### NOV

- 1 Australian Cattle Dog Club. Terry Kenny's Ranch, Lancaster. HRD Event. Rita Favreau, 760-743-8050 or Inrigh@cox.net  
7-8 Belgian Tervuren Club. Bel Canto Ranch, Lancaster. Jan McAninch, 714-846-5134 or tervs@mcaninch.net. Cl. 10/26  
14-15 Inland Empire Herding Dog. Stonewall Ranch, Perris. Jan McAninch, 714-846-5134 or frankmac@worldnet.att.net.  
21-22 Golden State Rottweiler Club. Action K9 Sports, Escondido. Rita Favreau, 760-743-8050 or Inrigh@cox.net

## HUNTING EVENTS

### OCT

- 24-25 Lab. Retriever Club, Prado DTC, Chino. Lauren Bullock, 714-628-9807 or landsendlabs@yahoo.com. Cl. 10/15

### NOV

- 7-8 English Springer Spaniel Club. Prado Rec. Dog Ctr, Chino. Debby Higgins, 760-955-5764, debbydestinsteel@charter.net  
7-8 Golden Retriever Club. Prado Dog Training Area, Chino. Karen Webb, 760-384-2347, starcrowned@mchsi.com. Cl. 10/28  
14-15 CA SC Retriever Club. Goode Lake Field, Lost Hills. Torri Hanselaar, 858-229-4548, tim665@yahoo.com. Cl. 11/4

## LURE COURSING EVENTS

### NOV

- 1 San Diego Rhodesian Ridgeback Club. TD Dairy, Ramona. H. Hayek, 760-738-9171, hghayek@hpk-tropaco.com Cl. 10/21  
28-29 California Coursing Assoc. Prado Dog Ctr, Chino. J. Dannenbring, 951-734-2559, orionkennelsofca@aol.com Cl. 11/25

Legend: S= Show (Conformation), O= Obedience Trial, Cl=Entries Close, Inc=Includes Rally (All events are AKC unless otherwise noted)



# HIGH DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB of CA. SPECIALTY

DATE: November 7 & 8, 2009

LOCATION: Thousand Trials Campground, Soledad Canyon, Acton, CA

4700 Crown Valley Rd, Acton, CA, 93510

(RV sites, trailers and cabins are available for rent.

Contact Marlene at 661-269-7022 for details)

## EVENTS:

### Saturday & Sunday-Conformation Labradors Only

#### NOVEMBER 7 2009

Dogs/Intersex: Mrs. Trudy Rose (Talimar)

Bitches/Juniors: Mrs. Winnie Limbourne (Wingmaster)

Sweepstakes: Mr. Greg Lynch (Kellyn)

#### NOVEMBER 8 2009

Dogs/Intersex: Mrs. Winnie Limbourne (Wingmaster)

Bitches: Mrs. Trudy Rose (Talimar)

Sweepstakes: Mrs. Diann Sullivan (Cedarwood)

### Sunday-All-Breed Obedience

#### NOVEMBER 8 2009

All-Breed Obedience Judge: Mrs. Shirley Indelicato

All-Breed Rally Judge: Mr. Ken Miller

***Please join us for complimentary Breakfast and Lunch both days.***

Specialty Show Chair: Dan Welle-[blueknight@qnet.com](mailto:blueknight@qnet.com)

Specialty Obedience Chair: Diane Curry-[loveroflabs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loveroflabs@sbcglobal.net)

Specialty Obedience Co-Chair: Shiro Torquato-[drshiro@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drshiro@sbcglobal.net)

Show Secretary: Sharon Licciardi-[motherhen@pacbell.net](mailto:motherhen@pacbell.net)

You may register on line at: <http://www.slicciardi.com>

Entries Close: Wednesday, October 21, 2009

***“Putting ‘Special’ back in Specialty”***

**<http://www.hdlrc.com/>**

#### VHOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President.....Nancy Giltner  
Vice President.....Carole Raschella  
Corresponding Secretary.....Ann Hills  
Recording Secretary.....Allison Pobirs  
Treasurer.....Carole Hills  
Membership.....Cindi Malchose  
Publicity.....Christy Tattersall  
Agility Trial .....Moira Cornell & Kim Simons  
Obedience Trial .....Laurie Burnam  
Training .....L. Burnam, M. Cornell, K. Simons  
Past President.....Moira Cornell

#### VHOC STANDING COMMITTEES

Agility Trial Volunteer Workers.....Kim & Terry Simons  
Banquet.....L. Burnam, S. Colman, A. Hills, J. Farkas  
Catalog.....Carole Raschella  
Food.....Nancy Giltner  
General Meetings.....Lindia Brown  
Newsette.....Carole Hills  
Raffle.....Cindi Malchose, Jan Racey, Christy Tattersall  
Show-N-Go.....Sandy Walton  
Seminar Coordinator.....Karla Spitzer  
Trophies.....Patti Rovtar & Linda Zimmerman  
VHOC Yahoo Group.....Allison Pobirs

# Riding in Cars with Dogs - Tips for Safe Roadtrippin' with Rover!

Reprinted with permission from Stephanie Colman's Tales From the Bark Side!—Caninestein Dog Training

Who doesn't know at least one dog who instantly rockets himself into a fit of excitement upon hearing his owners mention going for a R. I. D. E.? For many dogs, the car is the magic portal to everything fun: the park, the pet store or the hole in the wall where the French fries come from. (Oh c'mon... like you've never been to a drive thru with your dog in the car?)

As a trainer, one of my greatest pleasures is seeing dog owners venture out to experience life with their dogs in tow. Including your dog in outings, whether something routine like a trip to the bank or a weekend mini vacation, is a great bonding experience and an excellent opportunity to sneak in valuable urban socialization and training. However, when taking Rover along for the ride, it's important to follow a few safety tips:

## **Buckle Up that Pup!**

Most people would never dream of letting a toddler travel unsecured in a vehicle, but sadly, it happens to dogs all the time. Experts estimate that nearly 98 percent of pets travel unrestrained. This shocking statistic presents a variety of dangers for both pets and people. The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) estimates that 25 percent of all accidents are the result of driver distraction. Dogs riding loose in cars can quickly become a dangerous distraction as they roam about the vehicle. In the event of an accident, unrestrained animals pose several potentially life-threatening problems. The non-profit group [Bark Buckle Up](#) estimates that during a collision at 40 mph, a 25lb dog can cause an impact equal to 1,000 lbs of force. A 60 lb dog at just 35 mph represents 2,700 lbs of force. If the unrestrained dog were to hit a person, it could easily break the person's neck. Likewise, hitting or crashing through the car windshield with that much force would more than likely kill the dog.

In less extreme examples, unrestrained dogs can sustain injuries from flying off seats and hitting other parts of the vehicle or being struck by the air bag, which deploys at approximately 200 mph. Assuming your pet survives the initial accident, you now must deal with a panicked animal prone to unpredictable, even aggressive behavior. As a result, injured human passengers must wait longer to receive potentially life-saving care. Many years ago, I heard a story about an elderly gentleman, travelling with his unsecured dogs, who had a heart attack and crashed his vehicle. His panicked dogs barked and lunged aggressively at the doors and windows, keeping paramedics at bay for so long, that the gentleman died before paramedics could get to him.

Even if your dogs aren't aggressively challenging rescue personnel, they're at risk for bolting out of the vehicle as soon as the doors are opened. Now your dogs are at risk of running loose, getting lost and potentially causing another accident as drivers swerve to avoid hitting them in the street.

Collisions aren't the only kind of accidents to worry about. Dogs riding unrestrained face other potential dangers such as:

**Jumping out of or falling from an open window.** It only takes a second for a determined Casanova Cocker Spaniel to decide he must get to the precious Poodle across the street! Dogs can easily jump out or fall from an open car window. I once worked with a woman whose Boxer was nearly killed when he jumped from the

back of her moving vehicle onto busy Wilshire Blvd. Her two dogs were riding unrestrained with the back windows rolled up, that is, until one dog stepped up onto the arm rest, hitting the window button and lowering the window.

**Eye injuries from debris.** Yes, dogs may seem to enjoy riding with their heads hanging out of the window, but it's not safe. Riding this way puts them at risk of injury from flying debris and also increases the likelihood of arousal toward passing people and other dogs.

**Dogs in trucks.** Under no conditions should dogs ride loose in the back of trucks. Period. In many states, including California, it's illegal unless the dog is in a secured cage or cross-tied, or unless the truck has side rails that are at least 46" high. Even cross-tied or with legal railing, it's a very unsafe way for your pet to travel. Please don't do it, even on short trips.

So how does one keep canine companions safe during car travel? Confinement is the answer and you have two choices, a properly-fitting canine seat belt or a pet carrier.

**Seat Belts** – There are several types of canine seat belts on the market. Most work on the principle of a body harness with a strap that attaches to the car's seat belt system. The strap is designed to be just long enough for the dog to comfortably shift from a sit to a down, rather than move around excessively on the seat. Some straps have a loop in the handle that is threaded through the shoulder harness of the car's seat belt, some snap directly into the buckle, and others are designed to attach to the tether points of an SUV. While \*any\* seat belt may be better than riding loose, not all seat belts are created equal. Some seat belts are independently tested and manufactured to meet (or in some cases, even exceed) standards for human seatbelts, so be sure to do your homework prior to securing your furry friend. Here are a few references to get you started:

<http://www.ruffrider.com/>

<http://www.caninseatbelt.com/>

<http://www.barkbuckleup.com/>

If your dog has been used to riding loose, it may take a little training to acclimate him to the new arrangement. If possible, recruit a friend or family member to accompany you for a short drive. Sit with your dog (backseat only, away from the front airbag, please!) and reward him (praise, petting and treats) for remaining calm while sitting or lying down. After a few tries with someone else behind the wheel, try a solo adventure. Remember to praise your dog while driving, and plan to toss him a treat or two whenever you can safely do so. If you have two dogs who will need to ride together, do this process with each dog individually before attempting it with both.

**Pet Carrier** – There are three choices in the pet carrier category: plastic, wire or soft-sided, duffel-style (for toy breeds). If airline requirements are any indication of which is the safest, plastic comes out on top. Whichever type you choose, be sure to somehow secure the crate within the vehicle. Small crates and soft-sided carriers can be strapped in using the car's seatbelt, and larger crates in the rear section of SUVs can be tethered to factory-installed anchor points.

Now that your pet is safely secured during transport, consider the following tips for travel near and far:

### May I See Your ID?

Be sure to keep an ID tag with current information on your dog at all times, especially when travelling. If travelling out of town, add an ID tag with your cell phone number and a local contact number where you'll be staying. Have your pet micro-chipped as an added source of permanent identification. (As an added tip, pet ID tags with the word "REWARD" and a phone number are great for adding to your key ring in case you ever lose your keys!)

### Local Veterinary Care

Prior to embarking on an out-of-town adventure with your pet, do your research and find the local veterinarian as well as the local 24-hour emergency facility. Map out directions in advance and keep them on file with the name, address and phone number of the facility.

### Local Medical Considerations

Before leaving, speak with your vet about medical concerns specific to your destination. For example, heartworm may not be a problem in your hometown, but may be rampant at your destination.

### Know the Facts

It's easy to forget important information in an emergency, so keep a detailed fact sheet for each pet in your glove box. Include details such as the name, phone number and address of your primary veterinarian, date of most recent vaccinations, whether or not your pet has medical insurance (and with what company), medical conditions/related medication, and notable personality traits. Include a recent front and side-view photo that can be used to make "Lost Dog" posters in case your dog is separated from you while away from home. You should also include the name

and phone number of a friend or family member who is authorized to care for your pets should you fall ill or become injured while travelling.

### Mind Your Manners at Home and on the Town

Basic obedience can play a major role in keeping your dog safe and secure while on the road. The following behaviors are a must-have when hitting the open road:

**Wait and Stay** – Prevents your dog from forcing his way out of the car door alongside the busy road or blasting past you out of the hotel room in an unfamiliar area.

**Coming when Called** – Get your dog back to you in virtually any situation. Just might save his life!

**Quiet** – Helps barking in the car, in hotels or at campsites.

**Sit** – A quick, easy position to pre-empt other unwanted behaviors.

**On Your Spot** – Helps your dog learn to settle and relax in a specified area. Portable dog beds work great for this, as they travel easily and allow your dog to travel with a familiar piece of real estate.

**Loose Leash Walking** – A dog who refrains from skiing his owner around town is much less likely to find himself in trouble while away from home.

Lastly, remember that dogs appreciate predictability and travel is a change in routine. This can be stressful for some dogs, so be sure to bring along some comforts from home (dog bed, toys, favorite chew bone) and make an attempt to stick with pieces of your dog's regular routine. Something as simple as practicing a sit stay for his food bowl in the hotel – if it's what he's used to at home – can go a long way toward providing a sense of security while on the road.

—Stephanie Colman, Tales from the Bark Side!

## VHOC Board Meeting—September 14, 2009

The board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Nancy Giltner. Board members Laurie Burnam, Moira Cornell, Ann Hills, Carole Hills, Patti Rovtar, Karla Spitzer, Christy Tattersall, Sandy Walton and Linda Zimmerman were in attendance. Minutes were approved and the Treasurer's report presented.

**General Membership Meeting Committee:** Lindia Brown reported via email on the August meeting which included CGC tests with Linda Brooks as CGC evaluator. 7 dogs tried out and 4 passed.

**Training:** Laurie Burnam advised that the Pet Obedience class was good. Moira Cornell will be gone the last week in September for the ASCA Nationals. Classes will resume on October 5. Kim Simons requested via email that the club approve the purchase of a drill for securing weave poles and removing stakes. Motion made, seconded and approved via email vote.

**Seminars:** Karla Spitzer presented possible seminar venues. CPLS presented as an option. Suggested clinicians: Terry Simons (agility), Cindy DiFranco (massage), perhaps 1/2 day of each.

**Membership:** Cindi Malchose sent new applications received from Kristy Palmer and Christina Jaeger, which were approved.

**Publicity:** Christy Tattersall advised that the Pet Press ad is up for renewal. Board discussed whether to continue for another 3 months at

\$680 or run the ad for one month only. Christy will follow up with the editor to see if months have to be continuous.

**Newslette:** Carole Hills will now be responsible for sending out get-well or sympathy cards.

**Website:** Laurie moved that we hire Matt Voogt to re-design (and possibly maintain, TBD) website. The motion was seconded and approved. Moira will serve as club liaison with Matt.

**Yahoo Group:** Allison Pobirs will continue to post upcoming trials and seminars.

**Council:** Rich Blashford was sworn in at Sept. Council meeting. He will get Top Dog packets and mail them to Team Captain. Discussion as to whether we need 2nd Open and Utility dogs for Top Dog.

**Trophies:** Patti Rovtar sought guidance on what to do in the case of no response from past trophy donors; it was decided that another donor be acquired or not offer the trophy. Nov 13 is the deadline for donor list.

**Old Business:** Stephanie Colman offered via email to coordinate the purchase of VHOC logo jackets which had been approved by the majority of the board via email. The club will pay for artwork set-up of our logo and the members will pay for their own jackets.

The next general meeting will be October 26 at CPLS at 7:00 pm. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## **OBEDIENCE TRAINING EQUIPMENT**

Flo Walberg has armbands, attention belts and armband sticks for sale.

Call Flo at (818) 341-6739 or email [OTCHFLO3@aol.com](mailto:OTCHFLO3@aol.com)



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's K9s 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.

## **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 am, Judging at 10 am.

## **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)



# VHOC *Newsette*

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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