

SEPTEMBER
2010



VHOC Newsette

Volume 56 Issue 9



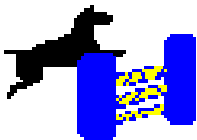
**Reminder: Submission deadline
is the 8th of each month**

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

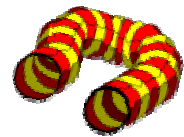
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Monday, September 20, 2010
7:00—9:00 p.m.**

Canoga Park Lutheran School (our training site)
7357 Jordan Avenue, Canoga Park, CA



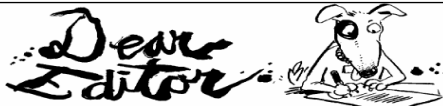
AGILITY FUN NIGHT!



For agility competitors, students, or just those of you who want to “play” agility with us, we’ll be setting up safe, small courses and agility exercises: a **nested jumpers course** (all jumps, with an easy pattern for neophytes and more challenging patterns for experienced teams); a **tunnelers/hoopers** course (tunnels & hoops—no jumping involved!); and even the newest NADAC event, **gaters** (navigate your dog around gate-like obstacles to hone your handling).

Assistance with set-up (6:30 on) and tear-down will be greatly appreciated!

Please RSVP by Thursday, September 18 to Lindia Brown at lbrown@rosenthallawcorp.com or leave a message at 818-884-1304.



Please send brags, photos, announcements and other information to C. Hills at:

cahills1@verizon.net

**on or before the
8th of each month.**

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BRAGS & SCORES

CONFORMATION

Lesley Green & Casey (Hat Trick's All American Cowgirl): August 29, 2010, Santa Barbara KC, Santa Barbara, CA:
 Lesley is a lifetime VHOC member but has not actively trained a dog in years. Recently she started showing her one year-old Airedale puppy in breed and Casey took Winner's Bitch—Reserve last weekend!

(Ed. Note: We are looking forward to many more brags).



OBEDIENCE & RALLY

Louise Brady & Edge (Ch Star Wilwin Figure Skater JH, NRD, NSD, V, BROM, FROM):
 August 28-29, 2010, Santa Barbara KC, Santa Barbara, CA:

Novice B, 192, 2nd Place, 1st Leg; Rally Novice B, 90, 3rd Leg—**RN Title!**
 Novice B, 185, 2nd Leg; Rally Novice B, 99, 1st Place for an insurance Leg.



Sheri Scott & Spike: July 9-11, 2010, "Summerfest", Ventura, CA:

Sheri writes: "After 2½ sessions of classes with Sarah & Laurie, Spike began and finished his Rally Novice title at Summerfest in Ventura. He took a second & fourth place in his first show weekend. It was nice to go to a show weekend and get a title. Of course this is a very easy one, our next title may be a long way off, (maybe our Tracking Dog in the winter, if we're lucky). This photo is fun...he looks rather angelic, doesn't he? That's not his personality though, he loves mud puddles, digging up worms and agility...Cavaliers just look sweet.

Karla Spitzer writes: "We had that awful flu going around, but last Sunday at KC Santa Barbara II, Ally and Hermione both got Rally Novice legs...it was Ally's first - 85 (a mistake on Scott's part), and Hermione got a 72 (who the heck knows what that was all about?! for leg 2"

Linda Zimmerman & Brooke (Ch Legacy Life's A Party RE, NAP, NJP, O-TN-N):
 Aug. 28, 2010, Santa Barbara KC, Santa Barbara, CA:

Brooke Qualified in both Excellent B and Advanced B Rally to earn her first RAE Leg!

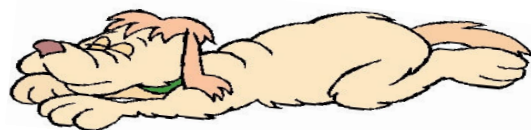
VHOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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VHOC STANDING COMMITTEES

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Agility Trial Volunteer Workers..... | Kim & Terry Simons |
| Banquet..... | Laurie Burnam, Stephanie Colman, Ann Hills |
| 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..... | Nancy Giltner |
| Trophies..... | Patti Rovtar & Sarah Sykes |
| Yahoo Website | Allison Pobirs |



BRAGS & SCORES

AGILITY

Laurie Burnam & Scout: August 27-29, 2010, Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, Walnut, CA:

Excellent Std, 100, 5th MX leg, **17 MACH** points, Excellent Std, 100, 6th MX leg, **9 MACH** points, Excellent JWW, 100, 9th MXJ leg, **8 MACH** points, Novice Fast, 100, 2nd Place, 1st leg.

Stephanie Colman & Quiz: July 31-Aug. 1, 2010, Peninsula Australian Shepherd Club of America:

Elite Reg, 10-Q, 1st Place, Elite Jumpers, 10-Q, 2nd Place, Elite Gamblers, 10-Q, 3rd Place; Elite Gamblers, 10-Q.

Stephanie writes: "Quiz had a very scary run-in with the tire jump, taking it out and doing a complete 360 in the air in the process, landing on his head/neck. I had set him up way back on the Gamblers start line, so he had really picked up some speed before hitting the jump. He immediately re-did the tire jump and had no reservations about it; then the judge let us go ahead and do the run as an Exhibition Only and he had a beautiful run. Thankfully he was fine and not spooked by it, but watching the video definitely makes me a fan of displaceable tire jumps!"



Ed. Note: This is why many clubs have switched to the displaceable/spreadable tire jump. If you can bear to watch, here's the video on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGlho0lWvH8>
Here is a link to a video with a displaceable tire: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2D4hpIxIPA>

Debbie Lang & Quila: September 4-5, 2010, Golden Retriever Club of Greater LA, City of Industry, CA:

Excellent A JWW, 3rd Place, 1st Leg; Novice B Fast, 1st Leg; Open Std, 1st Place, 3rd Leg—**OA Title!**
Novice B Fast, 2nd Leg.

Debbie writes: "Open Agility did prove tougher than Novice but we finally got it!
On to Excellent A, and we are giving Novice Fast a try."



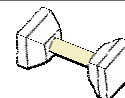
Amanda Rogan & Cayenne: August 28, 2010, Orange Coast Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, Walnut, CA:

Excellent B, 1st Double Q!!



VHOC TOP DOG 2010

Laurie Burnam, Team Captain



Would you like to be considered for our Top Dog team this year? Southern California Dog Obedience Council's Top Dog Competition will be held on Saturday, November 13 at the Orange Empire Clubhouse in Bloomington. We have several members interested but would like to give you all a chance to participate before making the final decision. We will need 3 Novice, 3 Open and 3 Utility dogs (2 show in each class with 1 alternate in each class). If more than 9 dog/handler teams are interested, we will have try-outs at CPLS on September 16 or September 23.

There are no NQs in Top Dog—failing a particular exercise doesn't mean you fail the entire class—you just don't get the points for that exercise. If we don't have a full team we start out the day minus 200 points per empty space, so every little bit helps! Awards are given to individual dog and handler teams earning the best scores in their class, as well as to the club earning the highest total number of points.

We all have a blast supporting fellow teammates and other friends entered. There is food galore all day long and a nice general camaraderie among fellow dog enthusiasts. We invite all club members to come and support your Top Dog team.

Please contact Laurie Burnam, Team Captain, at bellaluna@pacbell.net or 818-784-8440.



Ed. Note: We received the following thank you note from one of our Junior members who will be taking a hiatus from her training to begin her college education at a university in Pennsylvania. We will all miss her and Taxi at the Thursday night agility classes.

Good luck, Janelle!

Member News

Dear VHOC,

My journey started about 6 years ago when Taxi and I enrolled in our first ever VHOC group agility class. I was 12 years old, scared out of my mind, and nervous as to how I would be treated (after some not so good experiences). I had no idea what to expect, so naturally, I expected the worse. As I brought my crate up to the agility field, I was greeted with smiles, "hello's", and people who looked genuinely happy to see a 12 year old girl out there training her dog. This was the first of many AMAZING experiences with VHOC. As we all know, Taxi has not been an easy dog. Those of you who are out there on Thursday nights have all heard my infamous "TAXI COOOOOME!!!!" when she decides to zoom around the church yard. Even though she has spent many nights not paying attention and barking constantly, the members of VHOC have been nothing but supportive of me.

I wanted to send out a HUGE thank you to everyone who has always been there for me; who has supported me even when Taxi was not paying attention; who hasn't gotten angry or upset if Taxi decided to visit your dog while you were working; and who put up with a naive 12 year old girl pursuing her passion.

I recently received a gift card from VHOC before my journey to college. This generous gesture was not necessary, but is whole-heartedly appreciated. I will use this gift card to help prepare myself for college. VHOC, a second family, has seen me graduate middle school and high school, and now I am off to college. I know you will all be there for me forever, and I just wanted to thank you for everything.

With much love,

Janelle Farkas



Asher Farkas Art Exhibit in Pasadena!



Asher is one of 31 artists in Southern California that will be exhibiting his art in a juried art show at the Pasadena Art Walk. This event is open to the public and takes place on October 9th from 11 am to 5 pm. The location is on El Molina between Green and Colorado. Asher knows that many of you will be busy with your dogs; but if you have time, he would love for any of his VHOC friends to come out and see his art.

Amanda Prince & Rogan

By Debbie Prince



After an intensive year of competition, Amanda and Rogan received an Invitation this month for the 2010 AKC Agility Invitational as the #1 ranked Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. They started out strong in July 2009, finishing the first month of the yearlong competition with 340 Invitational points and multiple placements. From the very first qualifying week through the fall and into winter they held the #1 spot.

Then in November, a cyst appeared on Rogan's back causing him occasional pain when running a course. Medication brought the cyst down but at the end of December, it reappeared with a vengeance. Rogan had to have surgery to remove the cyst. During the surgery, the vet found that his microchip had migrated and he found it in the cyst. Amanda & Rogan were out of competition for several weeks. Then in the spring, they came back stronger than ever. They worked their way back up the rankings, making a final push in May and June and racking up 10 Double Q's, 7-1st placements, 9-2nd placements, and 878 Invitational points.

It was a quite a year, filled with excitement, challenges, lots of highs, a few lows, and many sacrificed teen activities for dog trials. Amanda and Rogan really came together as a superb team during the year. In earlier years of trialing, they were learning the game and growing up together, Rogan would visit judges & jump-setters, stop to sniff a good spot, run around obstacles, not run if it got too hot and once even stopped and laid down under the A-frame on a particularly hot day. Now mistakes included

going so fast he went off the other side of the table, running into each other because Rogan was going faster than expected, flying off the teeter, spinning, and taking EXTRA obstacles! Mistakes that made us laugh and watch in wonderment that this was the same dog and his young handler. It's been an incredible journey and we're so proud of both of them.



MACH ROGAN—2010



Editor's Note:

If you missed the wonderful story of Amanda and Rogan's Journey to their MACH, see Page 4 in the May 2010 issue of the Newsette on our website:

www.vhoc.org/newsletter

Member News

Ed. Note: We enjoyed reading the following article which appeared in the August issue of the WLAOTC newsletter and asked David to share it with his fellow VHOC members. It is reprinted with permission of the Editor, WLAOTC Newsletter.

A PEEK BEHIND THE BORDER COLLIE MYSTIQUE — David Zelitzky

Be kind when you see me at a dog show. I know I show a Border Collie and I know you've seen how well they do, but for a minute I'd want to be like Toto, that clever Cairn Terrier, and pull back the curtain on this wizard of a dog. Border Collies are energetic, smart, focused and agile—just ask anyone who has never had one and they'll tell you how easy they are to train. And let me tell you, as someone who has trained and shown several and seen others show and train them it's all true—true in all its daunting, puzzling, nerve-wracking glory. It's true the Border Collie has amazing energy; they can keep their mind on a dozen things you don't want them to all at the same time and work around the clock well after you're ready to call it quits! They're focused on all the things they like to focus on: sheep, tennis balls, toys, other dogs' toys, moving objects, in other words pretty much everything going on outside the obedience ring while you're inside the obedience ring.

And smart? Wow—after a couple shows, Rival, my current Border Collie, realized that I would never return to correct him when all the handlers are leaving the ring for the group exercises. In practice, to help him understand not to sniff, I had left treats in front of him, poured tuna juice on the grass, and left toys spread out to entice him, and he would not be deterred from his picture-perfect stays. But as I walk out of the ring at a show he sniffs the grass and as I watch him he starts to nibble, eyeing me as I telegraph messages that can't be repeated in polite company, and continues to munch for the five minutes I'm gone. Because he knows I have never corrected him when there's a judge with a clipboard and a row of handlers. Several weeks ago, when he chewed the grass to within a foot of the dog next to him, the judge asked the steward to pull him out of the lineup. The steward later told me that she couldn't get him to stand up! This smart dog was convinced he was being proofed again by having someone else ask him to break a stay! Yes, no doubt they are smart dogs.

We've had whining during the group exercises (well, we still have that), no sits on our halts, taking the judges' commands on heeling before I do, sniffing the grass on the signal down so he can't see my sit signal, and after all of that the real fun began. At the Ventura indoor winter shows in December he had a beautiful glove retrieval—a perfect pivot to glove one, a fast, focused run out, a quick pick up and turn and then, three feet from me, threw the glove up in the air, jumped up and caught it. And as I stared in wide-

eyed disbelief, hoping he would return to me, he instead started dancing around with it until I called him back. That was a first! So I just stayed an hour after the show to work him through it and then came to the show at six the next morning to warm him up again. He just didn't have his mind on his job is all. I put a hole in my practice glove and attached my flexi-leash to it and as he put it in his mouth I pulled back so he had to hold on tight and return to me. The next day as he ran to glove three I held my breath as he ran out, snatched the glove, ran back and jumped around the ring with it again! And to show me that he had taught himself well, in Open on the retrieve on the flat he ran out, grabbed the dumbbell, ran back and jumped around in front of me with it, just out of reach! At that point the bemused judge looked at me and said, "I think your dog needs a psychiatrist." I didn't feel like laughing. Maybe I was too serious in my training and Rival was just releasing his stress.



So the next show I made sure to play ball with him before we went in the ring. No difference. And for five shows the same thing happened. So I took three months off of showing and we're back in the ring again to a whole new bag of tricks. And after all the training, I still hold my breath when we do gloves.

So be kind when you see me and please think of the hours I spend after work training and all the week-ends I devote to that elusive vision of the perfect exercise. When you see me warming up outside the ring, don't be like the woman sitting ten feet away at one of my last shows who said loud enough to make sure I heard, "I don't think Border Collies should be allowed in the same class as us. They should have their own class, it's just not fair!" I wanted to say, "Have you ever seen us?" But I'm a good sport and I smile

and walk away. And on the rare occasion when I win—we have two Utility B wins—please don't say to me, "Of course you can win. If I had a Border Collie I would win too. Why don't you take my breed and see if you can do anything—that would be a real challenge!" Honestly, I feel challenged enough as it is.

No one knows where our dogs start and no one knows how much work it takes to get where we are. When people show their dog and are happy with their qualifying run I celebrate with them. And when I work for hours on my fronts and finishes so I can hopefully get a placement at a show please don't look the other way when I come out of the ring because my Border Collie has taken a placement from your dog that's not a Border Collie. And when you ask people with a Border Collie if they're going to the next show think twice before you tell them that they're ruining the sport for you when you tell them that you are. I have 20 OTCH points now and I'm competing against people who have hundreds of OTCH points. I don't know if or when I could ever get the 80 more points I need to finish the Obedience Championship. It's a struggle for every single point I get. But I will celebrate all your successes with you if you don't begrudge me mine.

All our training is invisible. Only our training buddies know what we have gone through to get the performance you see in the ring. No one knows how sight sensitive our dogs were, how sound sensitive, or scared of people, or of crates, or how long it took to get a dog to work around squeaky toys. Who knows how many hours it took just to get them to heel with us? We only see the finished product in the ring. If you're happy with your dog I'm happy for you. Yet I know judges who sharpen their pencils when they see a Border Collie enter the ring to be sure that they can catch every half point deduction because they are convinced we have an easy breed that really needs to be scrutinized. And when a judge says to me, "You couldn't pay me

to take that crazy dog!" when he sees my hyper, sound-sensitive dog, it stings nonetheless, because he has no idea how far we've come.

Maybe I'll go back to my easier breed, the Weimaraner—so honest and sweet. But for now I'm showing a Border Collie, and yes, he's smart and energetic and agile. And even though he makes me bang my head against the wall and wonder if I'll ever enter another show, I still love him to death. When he looks at me with those soft brown eyes late at night when he's tired and has put in a good day's work I know that he tries the best he can—he's just at the mercy of his brilliant Border Collie genetics.



Bahia Sur — High in Trial
(Photo by Kitten Rodwell)

WELCOME A NEW MEMBER!

Jack Kushnatsian and his Labrador Retriever, Buddy

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

Jack has already attended a meeting and activated his membership!



Message from Lindia Brown

General Meeting Coordinator

Thank you everyone who attended and contributed to the pot luck dinner for the August 16th General Meeting. We had some really yummy food, the opportunity to visit with fellow members, and a great door prize: a Paul Mitchell gift bag of dog grooming products, donated by Idelle and Andy Tyzbir at the banquet earlier this year. The gift bag was won by John Tyler, a guest of new member Sheri Scott. Since John does not have a dog right now, he passed the grooming items on to Sheri's dog, Spike. Below is a message from Sheri.

“John (JP Tyler) took a number for the two of us and won. He is our old friend from Nevada and is staying with us for a few months while working with my husband. John is a musician, songwriter, carpenter and truck driver. Although he has no dogs now, he grew up with many in Florida where his family raised, trained and hunted with dogs regularly.

We had a very nice time and enjoyed meeting many of you and your dogs. The meal was very nice and we especially enjoyed Flo Walberg's lovely sweet potato dish. John gave the shampoo products to Spike, and as we are out of shampoo, the timing was perfect. Spike is a therapy dog at Kaiser Permanente, Woodland Hills and must have a bath every Thursday before going to work, so the products are appreciated and will be well used, beginning this week.” ~ Sheri Scott

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



VHOC Yahoo Group

If you haven't yet registered or have not recently visited the VHOC Yahoo Group, you're missing out on a lot of timely information. This forum enables VHOC members to network with fellow club members and share the joy of dog sports, training and competition. Our moderator, Allison Pobirs, is looking forward to welcoming new and returning members.

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/VHOC/>

**VHOC 2010 TRIAL AWARDS FUND
DONATIONS NEEDED!**

To everyone who has already donated to our awards fund for our Obedience & Rally Trial to be held on December 11th and 12th, thank you very much!!

If you have not yet pledged sponsorship for a class or made a donation to the General Awards Fund yet, we are actively seeking your support for our club! Everyone who contributes will be acknowledged in our Trial Catalog for your generosity.

This year we have re-organized our Awards List and are offering sponsorship opportunities for our Class and Breed Group Awards instead of individual Breed Awards.

We've listed below the Class and Breed Groups that have not yet been spoken for and need sponsors:

Saturday, December 11, 2010

HS Toy Group HS Non-Sporting Group
Utility B

Graduate Novice Graduate Open
Versatility Beginner Novice

Wild Card Novice Wild Card Open
Wild Card Utility Brace
Team

Sunday, December 12, 2010

HS Hound Group HS Toy Group
HS Non-Sporting Group

Novice A Open A Utility A
Novice B Open B Utility B

Rally Advanced B Rally Excellent A
Rally Excellent B

Beginner Novice Graduate Open
Graduate Novice Versatility

Wild Card Novice Wild Card Open
Wild Card Utility Veterans
Brace Team

We are requesting a contribution of \$25.00 for each Class or Breed Group you choose to sponsor. For General Fund donations, no amount is too small! Class sponsorship will cover first place trophies and rosettes through 4th place. We need to cover the cost for Obedience, Rally, Groups, and Special Awards for two days. 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

-or-

You may also bring checks or cash to our training site on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings and deliver in person to either Sarah or Patti. You can also reach us by emailing Sarah at sykess1@mac.com or Patti at rovstar@dslextrreme.com to make a pledge.

Thank you!
Sarah Sykes & Patti Rovtar, VHOC Trophy Co-Chairs

VHOC RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED!

It's that time of year again and we are preparing for our upcoming trial in December. We are collecting raffle donations of cash and/or items. 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 CPLS training site Tuesday or Thursday night or make arrangements for us to pick up the items at a show or meeting. You may contact Cindi Malchose at cindi4pets@aol.com ahead of time to be sure someone will be there to receive your donations. We also welcome monetary donations which will be used to purchase larger items as well. You can bring checks to the school, etc., or mail them to:

C. Hills, VHOC Treasurer
10944 Rathburn Avenue
Northridge, CA 91326

All donations are welcome and needed in order for our raffle to be a success.

Thank you,

Cindi Malchose, Jan Racey and Christy Tattersall — VHOC Raffle Committee

AKC News

AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™



AKC
Canine
Partners™

More Dog Fun starts here, for mixed-breed dogs!

Share the Fun! AKC Canine PartnersSM listed dogs are eligible to compete with purebreds and other mixed-breed dogs in AKC companion events: AKC Rally®, Agility and Obedience.*

Protect the Fun! With an AKC Canine Partners listing, your dog will receive a Lifetime Enrollment in AKC CAR Pet Recovery Service, and a Complimentary 60-Day Trial AKC Pet Healthcare Plan.**

Have more Fun! An AKC Canine Partners listing also gives you a free one-year subscription to AKC *Family Dog Magazine*.

Show off the Fun! with your AKC Canine Partners Official Decree of Dog Fun, AKC CAR collar tag and AKC Canine Partners decal – all part of the benefits of listing with AKC Canine Partners!

Join the Fun! Enroll your mixed-breed dog in the AKC Canine Partners program, today. Simply go to www.akccaninepartners.org to apply online or print out a mail-in application.



AKC Canine PartnersSM

LOTS MORE DOG FUN™

Sponsored by  MMJ Genomics, Inc.
EST. 2011



* Dogs must be spayed/neutered to compete in AKC companion events.

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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*



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

www.poochabilitydogtraining.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'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.

VHOC *Newsette*

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO: