



Newsette



WWW.VHOC.ORG

P.O. BOX 10132 CANOGA PARK CALIFORNIA 91309

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VHOC Annual Awards Banquet postponed due to Covid

Please keep track of your 2020 titles.

We will be celebrating both the 2020 and the 2021 titles

at the Awards Banquet to be scheduled in Jan/Feb 2022.

January General Meeting Via Zoom

Please join us for our Virtual General Membership Meeting on **Friday, January 15th, at 6:30 PM on Zoom**. Our guest speaker this month is **Suzanne Veta of Tender Loving Canines**, a service dog program within Guide Dogs of America she will tell us about TLC's prison program .

If you wish to join us at 6:30 PM on January 15th, please RSVP to Carole before January 13th to receive the link for the virtual meeting. chills37@aol.com

REMINDER

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

If you know of a member who would appreciate receiving correspondence, such as a get-well card, sympathy card, etc., please email our Corresponding Secretary, Carole Hills, at
chills37@aol.com

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Got News?

*Do you have a brag? Did you get a new puppy? Is your dog celebrating a birthday?
Do you have other dog-related news, photos, articles, humor or upcoming events you'd like to share?*

*Do you have a canine product or service you'd like to promote?
Ads are only \$10.00 a month, or \$50.00 for an entire year.*

Email me for more information, or just send your stuff to:

Debbie Lang at
djlang@sbcglobal.net

Submission deadline is the 8th of each month

This is YOUR Newsette...make it great!

Janurary 2021

General Membership Meeting

**Please join us for the General Membership Zoom Meeting
on Friday, January 15 at 6:30 PM.**

Suzanne Veta of Tender Loving Canines, a service dog program within Guide Dogs of America, will tell us about TLC's prison program in which carefully screened incarcerated individuals learn how to successfully train a service dog using positive reinforcement training, and then spend approximately 18-24 months working with a dog assigned to their care. The trained service dogs are then matched to military veterans with PTSD, children with autism and a variety of in-need populations.



If you would like to receive the Zoom link, contact me at chills37@aol.com

Carole Hills, VHOC Membership Director

Thank You from VHOC

**VHOC wants to thank everyone who came out to support our trial
at Stone Pony in Moorpark December 5-6-7.**

We were very fortunate that the winds died down on Friday and we were able to continue with our trial. Then we just made it under the Covid Stay at home order that went into effect on Monday. We need to especially thank Nancy Giltner who coordinated all of our volunteers for all three days. I know that both Ann and Carole Hills spent all day, everyday there as well, as timers, scribes or jump setters.

We also want to thank all of our members who exhibited at our trials.

Keep supporting our club so we can continue to have great trials.

**Now it is time to start getting ready for our September 18th and 19th
Rally and Obedience Trial.**

Virtual Home Manners & Other AKC Programs Increase Accessibility

By [Sassafras Lowrey, CTDI](#) , Dec 22, 2020



[COVID-19](#) has changed the way we live and the things that we are able to do with our dogs. But amidst all the cancellations and hardships, one bright light has been the expansion of virtual competition in dog sports, and the ability to [participate in dog events remotely](#).

One of the exciting side effects of these virtual opportunities is that they have opened up the world of dog sports to people and dogs who previously haven't been able to participate.

Virtual Accessibility

Although great strides have been made in recent years to make dog shows more welcoming and accessible to people with disabilities, it still isn't always possible for everyone to attend. Some individuals with chronic health conditions may be reluctant to enter. Additionally, people who have disabilities like Autism and PTSD may be overstimulated in the loud, chaotic environment of a traditional dog show. Since the expansion of the virtual titling, I have heard positive feedback from many people about how important and encouraging these programs have been both in terms of being able to succeed with their dogs and feeling more included in dog sports.

Fighting Isolation

Many people have expressed a sense of isolation during 2020 but unfortunately for many people, that isolation from the dog community isn't unique to this year. Dog owners who are geographically isolated from dog shows and large training facilities because they live in rural areas have been able to benefit from the new programs, and even virtually build friendships, mentorship, and training connections with other competitors across the country.



The pandemic has also created a different kind of isolation for [kids and teens regardless](#) of where they live. With many students in school virtually and many extracurriculars canceled, the AKC virtual sports programs can provide a much-needed opportunity to be able to do something fun and productive while in lockdown. Particularly for kids with parents who aren't themselves involved with dogs, or who have limited time to take them to and from dog shows this unique chance to earn titles with their dogs from their home or neighborhood.

Good For Dogs

The expansion of virtual titling has also been fantastic for expanding the reach of AKC sports to dogs who often aren't able to participate — particularly shy, fearful, or [reactive dogs](#). These titles are giving people an accessible way to showcase all the fantastic things their dogs are capable of doing while being able to also prioritize their dog's comfort. Doing [sports with a challenging dog](#) can be a boost of confidence to both the dog and owner. It also provides great encouragement to dog owners to keep working with their dogs.

Virtual Home Manners & Other AKC Programs Increase Accessibility—Continued



Virtual Home Manners

With the expanded offering of the [Virtual Home Manners title](#) for Adult Dogs and Puppies (VHMA/VHMP), there are even more ways for dog owners to get involved with the AKC. In a year when [Canine Good Citizen \(CGC\)](#) testing isn't accessible because of the pandemic for people/dogs in many communities, the VHMA title offers a great pandemic-safe alternative.

Many dog owners who are geographically isolated, lack access to transportation, and have disabilities mentioned they felt it wasn't possible for them to ever earn a CGC with their dog. However, being able to get the manners title at home is a great alternative. For those who aspire to their CGC when it's safe to test, this is a great practice opportunity to work on skills like grooming, loose leash walking, and basic obedience.

Even though the VHMA title is a great first step towards earning a CGC, it's actually testing some different skills so dogs who already have a CGC can also work toward this title as something fun to do during the pandemic.

Getting Started

For people who have never been involved in AKC sports, it can feel overwhelming to think about entering a show. Most of us strive to be helpful and [welcoming to newcomers](#) whether we engage with them in online groups or at local events. But still, it can be challenging to get involved with dog sports for the first time. Even something like filling out an entry form can be a confusing barrier for people who are new, particularly if they don't have mentors to lean on. Virtual programs decrease the barriers to getting involved and allow newcomers to quickly see how much fun dog sports can be. These new competitors are putting titles on their dogs, exploring new sports, and many are likely to continue in dog sports virtually and in-person with their dogs after the pandemic.

Obviously, virtual programs aren't for everyone. There will always be people who prioritize the experience of in-person competition and compete head to head with other dog/handler teams. However, by extending programming to include virtual options, AKC sports are increasing accessibility in exciting ways. This increased accessibility will only serve to help diversify the sport and help to expand participation to dogs and individuals who might previously have not felt like there was a place for them in the dog world.

Article URL:

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/increasing-accessibility-with-the-akc-virtual-home-manners-title/>

Dog Training Tip

It is **a lot easier** to prevent unwanted behavior in the first place rather than trying to fix it once ingrained.



Your dog is always learning - he will **remember his actions** and **form habits**.

Stopping him from repeating bad behavior can be as easy as putting on a leash, walking away from a trigger or taking him to a different room in your house (depending on the situation).

**PROACTIVE TRAINING IS THE BEST TYPE
OF TRAINING!**



20 Training Dos And Don'ts

Dog lovers sometimes wonder why, despite their best efforts, their attempts at pet training fall short of expectations. No matter what you try, Rex still thinks the couch is his personal kingdom and Rover roams to areas that you want him to learn are out of bounds. As you've probably discovered, training takes more than just hoping your dog will read your mind and obey.

To help make training easier for you, here's our list of Top 20 Training Dos and Don'ts.

First, the Dos:

1. Do focus on your dog. Training must be about bringing him into your world by understanding his instincts and natural behaviors.
2. Do be honest with him. Never fool him into doing what you want or tease him with commands you teach him.
3. Do begin each command with the end in sight. Reward your dog lavishly—but only when he has completed the task you've set.
4. Do be consistent. Always use the same words for desired behaviors and the same tone of voice.
5. Do think ahead. Anticipate your dog's actions before he moves.
6. Do reward or admonish your dog immediately. He needs to associate praise or admonishment with the specific act.
7. Do teach him one command at a time. More than one command can easily confuse even the cleverest dog.
8. Do allow enough time for him to take in your command and then act. He may not react immediately, but this is not necessarily a sign of disobedience. Be patient.
9. Do enjoy yourself and he will too. This way, he'll associate his training with companionship—so it will become easier for both of you. And play with your dog before and after each training session.
10. Do be kind and patient. A poorly trained dog is the fault of the trainer, not the dog.

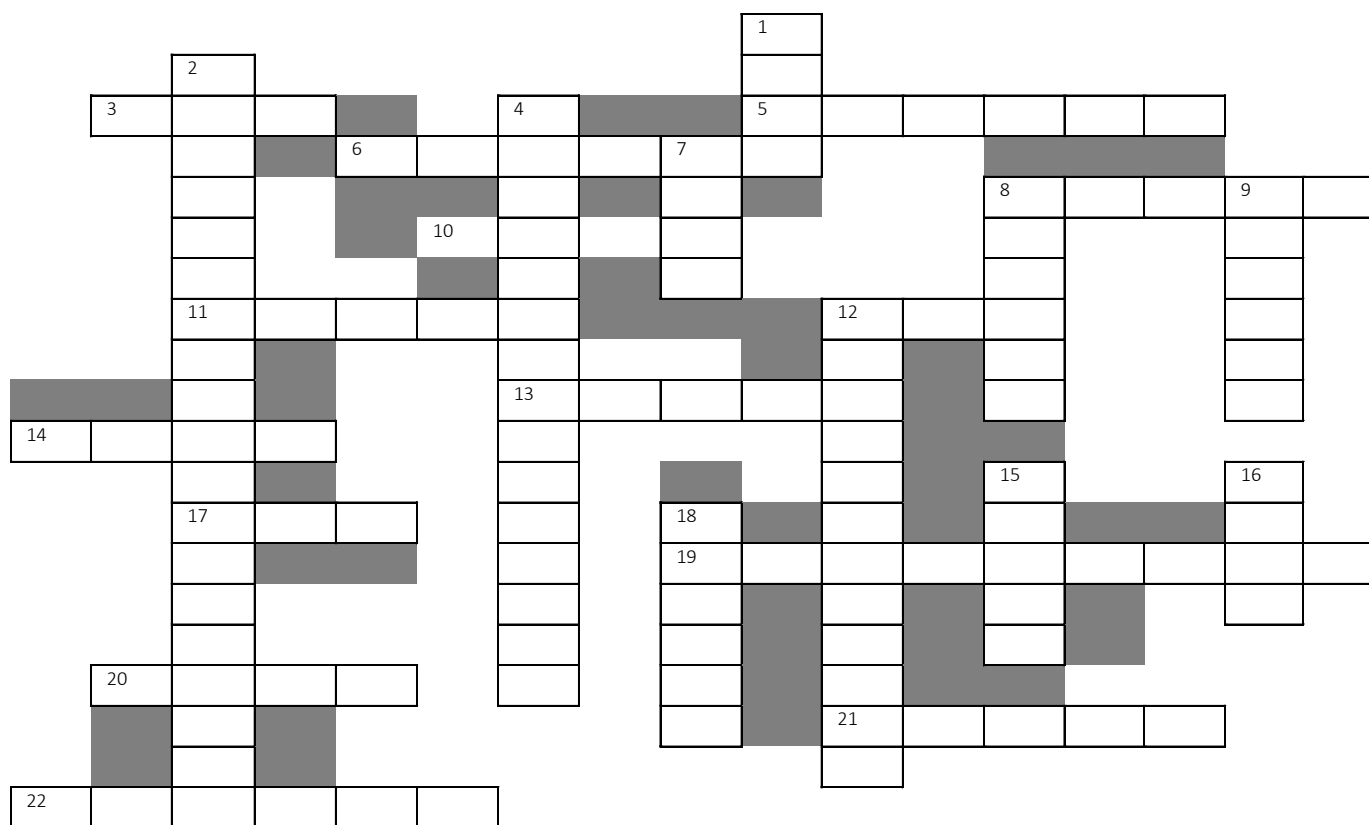
Knowing what to do is only half the story. Coupled with that, successful training depends on understanding the Don'ts:

1. Don't ever allow others to pamper him any more than you would. You're his master—the de facto alpha dog in your home pack—and he must look to you for leadership.
2. Don't ever finish a training session on a bad note. Remain positive and praise him for any progress made.
3. Don't punish him while you're angry. Training should be a pleasurable and nourishing experience for both of you.
4. Don't lose your temper while training. He needs to understand that you are in control.
5. Don't chase him if you want him to come. The idea is make him come to you.
6. Don't deceive your dog. Never shower him with praise to bring him to you and then punish him because he's been naughty. Be honest with him.
7. Don't continually repeat the same command to your dog until he executes it. He should understand you very early. Be patient but don't overuse the command.
8. Don't discipline your dog for disobedience unless you're certain that he understood the command you gave. And remember, discipline and punishment are two very different things.
9. Don't reward your dog for a given behavior, then, later admonish him for the same behavior. Consistency is crucial.
10. Don't allow anybody else to command your dog while you're training him.

This list isn't meant to be exhaustive, but just enough to help direct you in the right direction when it comes to successfully training your dog. For some dogs and their owners, these tips may be enough. However, if your efforts are still unsuccessful, it may be time to seek the help of a professional dog trainer.

Article URL: <https://www.pedigree.com/dog-care/training/20-training-dos-and-don'ts>

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



DOWN

ACROSS

1 – To remain in one place	3- You need 50 visits for this title acronym.
2 – The first Rin Tin Tin Movie?	5 – Sport where you direct your dog through obstacles.
4 – What breed was “Hooch” in Turner and Hooch?	6 – Best known Beagle
7 – What you clean up every day dog _____	8 – A SAR dog follows a human _____.
8 – A movable object used in agility	10 – Rapid dog star of Stephen King novel
9 – Another name for dogs	11 – AKC breed group that hunts game rather than birds.
12 – Breed of clue # 10	12 – One of the first commands your dog learns.
15 – First dog in space.	13 - One of the first Mixed Breed stars
16 – Star of “Call of the Wild”	14 – Our club
18 – An agility _____.	17 – Acronym for Tracking Dog Excellent
	19 – What VHOC was first know for.
	20 – Acronym for dogs that show consistency and versatility across all classes in AKC agility program.
	21 – dog sport quickly overtaking obedience.
	22 – Most well known Collie

AKC Titles & Programs You Can Do From Home

By [Sassafras Lowrey, CTDI](#) Oct 20, 2020

So many parts of our daily lives have [changed because of COVID-19](#). Even our favorite dog activities — from classes and seminars to shows — have been canceled or postponed for the safety of everyone involved. It can be overwhelming to look around and feel like your daily life is practically unrecognizable from just a few weeks ago, but the good thing is there's one very important thing that hasn't changed — your dog! Despite social distancing and the coronavirus pandemic, you and your dog can still have fun training together, working on your favorite sports and activity, and even earning titles!



Trick Dog

In response to COVID-19, the AKC has opened up the Trick Dog titling program to be accessible via submission of videos which are reviewed and approved by CGC evaluators. If you don't know a CGC evaluator you can [easily search for one](#). This time of social distancing is the perfect opportunity to get your dog involved in the Trick Dog program. Under the new rules, AKC trick titles can be observed and earned digitally. Full rules and [requirements for video submissions](#) and each level of Trick Dog Titles (Novice through Elite Performer) are available online.

If you are someone who is used to spending multiple nights a week at training classes and every weekend at dog shows, the AKC's Trick Dog program is a fantastic way to channel your energy by earning titles at home until it's safe to resume normal training and showing in other sports. Even if you and your dog have never competed at a dog show, Trick Dog titles are a wonderful introduction to dog sports. To keep myself busy, I set the goal of finishing up my youngest dog's Elite Performer title during the first couple of weeks of social distancing and this week she earned it — becoming only the third [Newfoundland](#) to get the title!

Virtual Home Manners

The [Virtual Home Manners](#) tests assess ten skills that well-mannered pet dogs need in the home setting. The Virtual Home Manners tests are evaluated online by CGC Evaluators in the same manner that is currently used for Virtual Tricks. There is not an in-person VHM testing process. Virtual Home Manners is a natural lead-in for AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen (CGC) in-person training.

FitDog

If you live somewhere where it is safe for you and your dog to get out of the house regularly to [walk each day](#) don't forget about the [AKC's Fit Dog program](#). Check your local regulations and maintain at least six feet of distance between anyone else you may pass on your walk. For the program you and your dog commit to walking each day either:

Walked at least 30 minutes 5 times per week for a total of at least 150 minutes per week for at least 3 months. *For dogs and people in good shape.*

Walked at least 15 minutes per session at least 10 times per week (e.g., two 15-min walks per day) for at least 3 months. *For dogs or people who would benefit from a walk that is a shorter duration, e.g., senior dogs. When you and your dog have achieved either of these benchmarks you fill out the AKC FitDog form and will be sent a free FitDog program magnet!*

AKC Titles & Programs You Can Do From Home –continued

Rally

The [AKC Rally Novice Virtual pilot program](#) will provide exhibitors an opportunity to stay-at-home and enter an AKC Rally® event.

This program is designed to have a Rally Novice competitor set up a pre-designed AKC Rally® course in the safety of their own yard, record the performance, and submit it to AKC. In turn, AKC will assign a pre-selected AKC Rally Judge to virtually review and score the team's Rally performance.

There are [five pre-designed official rally courses](#) published on the AKC website to choose from. To participate, follow the setup instructions provided, video record the performance, upload the video to YouTube, set the required YouTube viewing options, and submit the video link with the entry form and fee to AKC.

You can [download and print every Rally sign](#) at home and [learn each skill through instructional videos](#).

Agility Course Test 1 & 2

Now you can get started in Agility Course Test (ACT) from home! During this time of necessary social distancing, the AKC wants to provide those with dogs that are ready to test their agility skills a way to try the sport of ACT Agility locally.

The [AKC Agility ACT 1 & 2 Virtual pilot program](#) will provide exhibitors an opportunity to stay-at-home or use their local training site and enter an AKC ACT 1 or ACT 2 event. You can [buy equipment online](#).

Virtual Water Test

Several pointing breeds are required to pass the AKC Water Test in order to be awarded field trial or hunting test titles. The [Virtual Water Test](#) will be a convenient option for owners to demonstrate their dog's ability to retrieve over water. The owner or handler submits a video of a dog performing the water test. The dog's performance is evaluated by two field trial or hunting test judges. The owner will receive an e-certificate proving their dog passed the test.

Virtual Top Dog Challenge

Are you missing the fun and competition of dog shows? Want to try conformation but don't know where to start? The AKC Virtual Top Dog Challenge is an online conformation event for AKC-recognized breeds and the Miscellaneous class. To enter the Virtual AKC Top Dog Challenge II, [read the Official Rules](#) completely, then [visit AKC Shop to purchase your \\$25 entry](#).

At-Home Practice For Every Sport

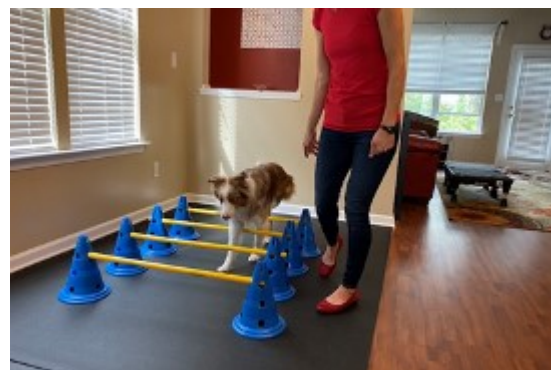
If you can't be at your regular training classes right now, there are aspects of nearly every canine sport that can be worked on at home, even if you live in a small house or apartment. Many dog trainers are offering virtual lessons at this time so it's a good opportunity to [support your favorite trainers by booking private sessions](#) with them which can give you homework specifically tailored to your dog. Even if you don't work directly with a trainer remotely you can create your own training plans and games for whatever sports you are involved in. You might need to get creative, but there's a way to work aspects of every sport from home. I've even seen home videos from fellow Newfoundland owners who are involved in Water Test/Rescue as a sport working on send-outs and line tows on dry land in their backyards while social distancing.

AKC Titles & Programs You Can Do From Home –continued

Ideas for Training At Home

AKC Rally

For AKC Rally practice, you [can print signs online](#) or hand-make your own with notecards — even sticky notes will work! Pick some of your dog's favorite signs and a few signs you need extra practice on and put together a course in your yard if you have one, or even in your living room to create your own at-home Rally course.



Obedience

In Obedience, you can practice focus as well as cleaning up any crooked sits or messy positions. You can also work on small heeling patterns in your home or yard. This is also a great opportunity to work on stays and other obedience skills like “Go Outs” and scent articles.

Agility

To keep up with agility training, set up one or two jumps using a stack of books and a broomstick and work more technical handling skills like jump wraps. Just make sure to not jump your dogs on slippery or hard flooring. If you have weave poles you can also practice tricky weave pole entries. There are several affordable [at-home agility sets](#) you can buy on Amazon.

Scent Work

If you and your dog are experienced in Scent Work, you can set up practice searches in your home and/or yard. If your dog hasn't tried Scent Work, this can be a fun opportunity to play some [introductory indoor scent games together](#).

Working Toward the Future

With so many uncertainties in the world, it can help to know what to do next, but setting and working towards training goals is a great way to add structure in the day for you and your dog. You can set a goal to teach your dog a new trick each week, to finish up a title, or to practice scent work every day. Whatever sport(s) you and your dog play, try to carve out a few minutes of each day for training. Not only will this give you something to focus on, but it also will help you and your dog stay polished and ready to return to classes and competition when there is no longer a need for social distancing.

If you're someone who thrives on competition or a sense of comradery in addition to earning trick titles from home, you can connect online or by phone with your friends from your local training club or in [groups on Facebook](#). Challenge each other every day or share course maps for Rally courses, Scent Work exercises, or agility sequences that can be practiced in small spaces. Share videos of your progress and cheer everyone on as we train our dogs and maintain social distancing. For a daily challenge, participate in our Woof From Home activities on Instagram every day and share videos of your dog participating. Staying safe and keeping others safe doesn't mean we have to let our dogs get bored!

The AKC is here to help dog owners adapt to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Find answers to all your coronavirus concerns, plus at-home activity ideas, training tips, educational resources, and more at our [‘Coping With Coronavirus COVID-19’](#) hub.

Article URL: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/sports/akc-titles-programs-can-home/>

AKC Virtual Titles and Programs – Extensions and Additions

Rally—

This Pilot has been extended through midnight, December 31, 2021

Agility Course Test 1 & 2 -

DECEMBER 2020 UPDATE: We are excited to announce the addition of ACT Jumpers to the AKC Virtual ACT Program. **ACT Jumpers will be available February 1, 2021.** More info & courses to come. The Virtual ACT program has been **extended to December 31, 2021.**

Trick Dog –

All of the trick dog forms were modified for video submissions. According to the AKC Trick Dog group **“Trick Dog virtual testing will be going forward indefinitely.”**





FACEBOOK.COM/OFF THE LEASH DAILY DOG CARTOONS

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Call 818-832-9906 for more information
www.j9sk9s.com

Brags

Monica Nolan and Augie

We concentrated on AKC agility this month, earning our first two Open Jumpers Qs and two more Open Standard Qs, giving Augie his AKC Open Standard title!

We also received notification that Augie qualified in AKC's 2020 virtual National Trick Dog Competition. The competition was open to dogs that have their Trick Dog Elite titles.

Here's a link to our performance: <https://youtu.be/e09fXgtQWj0>

Don't know what our placement was, but they sent a nice little trophy, which we immediately put to good use.



Bebe Michels and Dolly

Promise's Hello Dolly v Olympia (Dolly) has her second major!

Thank you, Ms. Gloria Kerr, for finding Dolly among a truly beautiful lineup of bitches at the Imperial Valley Kennel Club, and a special huge thank you to Nicole Torre for bringing the best out in my girl.

(GCHB CH Abendrot's Red, White & Boom x GCH CH Olympia Purple Haze v Promise)

Braggs



Carole Raschella has a new love in her life.

New Kid In Town!
Schofield's History
Has Its Eyes On You,
aka **Zander**. Hanging
out in Carole's messy
office...



Robyn Zeldon and Luca

Luca got her Rally Intermediate Title



Crossword Puzzle Answers

DOWN

ACROSS

1 – stay	3– THD
2 – Where the North Begins	5 – Agility
4 – Dogue de Bordeaux	6 – Snoopy
7 – Poop	8 – Track
8 – Teeter	10 – Cujo
9 – Canine	11 – Hound
12 – Saint Bernard	12 – Sit
15 – Laika	13 - Benji
16 – Buck	14 – VHOC
18 – Course	17 – TDX
	19 – Obedience
	20 – AGCH
	21 – Rally
	22 – Lassie

Braggs



Four obedient VHOC pups celebrating the holidays. From L-R: Todd (Kim Simons), Flea (Tracy England), Apple (Diane Schlesinger), Pippi (Patti Rovtar). Photo Submitted by Diane Schlesinger.

Please contact me for all your Real Estate Needs or Questions...



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Braggs



Cyndi and Debbie Lang

Backrow—Lee, Alta, and Fable

Middle—Morgan, and Panda

Front—Max



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TO:



Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!

