



Newsette



WWW.VHOC.ORG

P.O. BOX 10132 CANOGA PARK CALIFORNIA 91309

Contents

- 2 Whom to Contact
- 2 New Members
- 3 June General Meeting
- 5 VHOC September Obed/Rally Trial
- 6 Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Dog
- 7 How to keep your dog from Overheating
- 8 Can Dogs Eat Strawberries And Blueberries
- 12 July - Nov 2026 AKC Event Dates
- 13 Mastering Non-Verbal Cues
- 16 Brags
- 22 Different Dog Organizations
- 23 VHOC Classes

VHOC Rally and Obedience Trial Sept 12th and 13th Entries are Open Now

Freedom Park East
275 E. Pleasant Valley Road
Camarillo,

July is National Pet Hydration Awareness Month



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

VHOC Board of Directors

President
Shiro Torquato

Vice President / General Mtg
Monica Nolan

Treasurer
Ann Hills

Corresponding Secretary
Carole Hills

Recording Secretary
Daphne Green

Membership
Carole Hills

Training Coordinators

Rally/Obed:
Laurie Burnam
Agility:
Ann Hills

Obedience Trial
Monica Nolan

Agility Trial
Jeff and Kathy Kogen

Scent Work/ Nose Work:

Beginning Scentwork:

Shiro Torquato

Past President
Nancy Giltner

Intermediate/Advanced Nose Work

Carole Hills

VHOC Standing Committees

Agility Trial Volunteer Workers

Kathy Kogen
Shiro Torquato

Banquet

Ann Hills
Allison Pobirs

Seminar Coordinator

VACANT

Food & Hospitality

Laura Thomas

Trophies

Deborah Lang
Ann Hills

Newsette

Deborah Lang

Website Administrator

Jennifer Voogt

Welcome to our New Members!

(in order to activate membership, applicants need to attend one general meeting or volunteer to help at a VHOC event)

**Sterling and Jinny Chow with their Papillons - Shocker, Lexi and
Sophie, their Miniature Poodle - Liam and their Toy Poodle - Izzy**

VHOC Zoom General Meeting, June 12th, Genetics, Epigenetics and Anxiety Plus

Presentation Overview -

Dr. Dena Case-Paul presented on "Genetics, Epigenetics and Anxiety Plus" at the Valley Hills Obedience Club meeting, discussing how behavioral issues in dogs can be influenced by both genetic and epigenetic factors. She explained that while genetics determines which traits can be expressed, epigenetics controls whether those genes are turned on or off, and environmental factors can cause lasting changes that may be passed down to future generations. Dr. Case-Paul shared research on how traumatic experiences can alter gene expression through epigenetics, citing studies on mice, human disaster survivors, and Holocaust descendants to demonstrate how anxiety and fear behaviors can be inherited. She emphasized that many dogs displaying fearful behavior may not have been abused but could have genetic predispositions to anxiety, and discussed prevention strategies including enriched environments, systematic desensitization, and potential pharmaceutical treatments. The presentation concluded with a discussion of specific treatment approaches for anxious dogs and recommendations for gradual exposure therapy to help dogs build comfort in challenging situations.

Dog Genetics and Epigenetics Research

Dr. Dena Case-Paul presented on genetics, epigenetics, and anxiety in dogs, explaining that behavior is influenced by multiple factors including biology, environment, and learning. She outlined the biological components including genetics, physiology, and health, while introducing the concept of epigenetics as a mechanism that can affect gene expression without changing DNA itself. Dr. Case-Paul noted that some epigenetic changes can be passed down to offspring and grandchildren, emphasizing that these biological factors interact with environmental influences to determine behavioral traits.

Genetic Basis of Dog Fear

Deena presented on the genetic basis of fear in dogs, referencing research from the 1970s and 1980s at the University of Arkansas that established fear as a genetic trait. She discussed how early studies found that despite good socialization efforts, nervous behaviors persisted in puppies, and more recent genetic mapping identified specific genes associated with fear, aggression, and touch sensitivity. Deena also explained epigenetic research showing how traumatic experiences can alter gene expression and be passed down through generations, concluding with her belief that dogs can experience PTSD based on observations from Hurricane Katrina rescue dogs.

General Meeting Genetics, Epigenetics and Anxiety Plus - continued

Generational Trauma Research Discussion

Deena discussed research on how trauma can be passed down through generations, citing studies on 9/11 survivors, Holocaust descendants, and Pakistani orphanage children that showed evidence of epigenetic changes linked to post-traumatic stress disorder. She presented findings from mouse studies on enriched environments and potential interventions, including the use of beta-blocker medication propranolol for early trauma treatment. Deena concluded by sharing insights from a forensic veterinary continuing education program about the limitations of identifying abused dogs based solely on behavioral symptoms.

Canine Stress Response and Management

Deena discussed breed differences in stress responses, explaining that dogs bred for vigilance, like German Shepherds and Border Collies, may experience hypervigilance and associated physical symptoms. She theorized that genetic factors affecting the parasympathetic nervous system could be passed down and impact both physical sensitivity and emotional behavior in dogs. A viewer shared her experience with a rescue dog who had difficulty with traditional training methods and asked about gentling techniques. Deena recommended a multifaceted approach including Purina Calming Care probiotics, Adaptil spray, and prescription medication, while suggesting systematic desensitization as an effective training method.

Managing Anxiety in Dogs

Deena discussed managing anxiety in dogs, explaining that while complete normalization may be unrealistic, gradual environmental enrichment and desensitization programs can help build confidence. She recommended avoiding overwhelming experiences and suggested specific tools like Calming Caps and Sileo gel for sound phobias. The discussion covered various treatment approaches including behavior modification, pharmaceutical options, and scent work as a potential confidence-building activity, though Deena emphasized the importance of carefully managing new environments and triggers for anxious dogs.

VHOC Obedience and Rally Trial

Sept 12/13, 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION AND SHOW RULES

Entries must reach the Event Secretary, LYNN EHRENBURG by
Wednesday, August 26, 2026 – 11PM (PDT)

Mail to: 6562 Caliente Rd. PMB 208
Oak Hills, CA 92344

Email: spragility@gmail.com

ONLINE ENTRIES Online entries will be accepted, provided the entry form is emailed to the trial secretary spragility@gmail.com with proof of Zelle payment. Payment can be sent, via **Zelle**, to **VHOC** (payvhoc@gmail.com) In the memo box, include: "VHOC O/R TRIAL", trial date, your name, dog's name and classes.

JUDGES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

DONNA MEADE

Utility B, Pref Utility, Utility A, Grad Open, Nov B, Nov A, Pref Nov

NANCY CRAIG

Open B, Pref Open, Open A, Versatility, Grad Nov, Beg Nov B, Beg Nov A

SHANNON JONES

All Rally Classes

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

DONNA MEADE

Open B, Pref Open, Open A, Versatility, Grad Nov, Beg Nov B, Beg Nov A

NANCY CRAIG

Utility B, Pref Utility, Utility A, Grad Open, Nov B, Nov A, Pref Nov

SHANNON JONES

All Rally Classes

Link to trial premium on VHOC website -

https://www.vhoc.org/_files/ugd/b0639f_e3975638893b41bfaa093af0105d1d6b.pdf



By adding fresh, whole foods to ANY dog food, you automatically increase the nutritional value of the food, but there are some things that need to be avoided.

Some foods to **avoid** feeding your dog:

- Raw salmon and raw trout (fish that is frozen for seven days or cooked will not pose a threat)
- Processed meats (lunch meat, ham, bacon, sausage)
- Cooked bones (unless very finely ground)
- Cooked fats and cooked grease
- Grapes, currants, and raisins
- Apricot, peach, cherry, persimmon, and plum pits
- Avocado peel, pit, and leaves
- Green tomatoes, tomato vines, and tomato leaves
- Rhubarb
- Macadamia nuts
- Nutmeg
- Onions and scallions
- Raw potatoes and green potatoes
- Chocolate
- Alcohol
- Raw dough and raw yeast
- Any food containing xylitol

Most human-grade, fresh, whole foods are perfectly safe to feed your dog.

Some foods that make nutritious toppers and treats:

- Eggs
- Sardines in water
- Lean meats
- Fresh fruits and fresh vegetables

Submitted by Allison Pobirs

How to Keep Your Dog From Overheating

Preventing overheating starts with proactive care and close monitoring. Small adjustments to your dog's environment and routine can make a big difference in keeping them safe.

If your dog shows signs of overheating, move them to a cooler area immediately and spray cool (not cold) water on their coat, ensuring it reaches the skin. Using cold or icy water can actually reduce heat loss by constricting blood vessels.

Other prevention strategies include:

- Providing constant access to fresh water and shaded areas
- Gradually acclimating your dog to warmer temperatures
- Limiting exercise and time spent outside during hot weather
- Using dog cooling products, such as vests and wraps, cooling mats, or cooling beds
- Carefully observe dogs that are prone to breathing difficulties, including elderly dogs and those that are chronically ill
- Avoid placing crated dogs in areas that have poor or inadequate ventilation or warm, stagnant air
- Taking care when using dog dryers, especially cage dryers
- Contacting your veterinarian or breed club for guidance on your specific dog's needs
- Using an electric fan to help draw heat from the surface of your dog's skin. If you don't have one, manually fanning your dog can also help.

Don't leave your dog in a parked car in any weather, whether or not the windows are cracked. Even on a cool day (the mid-60s), the temperature in a closed car rises to 130 degrees Fahrenheit in minutes. The dog's own body temperature increases the heat and moisture, especially for larger breeds, using up oxygen. Death can occur within 15 minutes.

Also, make sure to keep your home cool on warm days. Install a temperature alarm in your house, motor home, or van that contacts your cell phone automatically. If air conditioners and electricity fail and owners aren't aware, dogs may be in danger.

URL = <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/overheating-in-dogs/>

July is National Pet
Hydration Awareness Month



Can Dogs Eat Strawberries And Blueberries

As a pet owner, it's natural to want to share your favorite fruits with your furry friend. Strawberries and blueberries are not only delicious for humans, but they are also packed with essential nutrients that can benefit your dog's health. But before you start tossing these tasty treats to your pup, it's important to understand the potential risks and benefits of feeding them to your pet.

Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries? The short answer is yes, both strawberries and blueberries are safe for dogs to eat in moderation. These fruits are low in calories and high in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, making them a healthy snack option for your canine companion. However, there are a few things to consider before incorporating strawberries and blueberries into your dog's diet.

supplements, or specialized treatments, which can add to long-term costs but help prevent more serious health issues.

Before we delve into the details, let's take a look at 7 interesting trends related to dogs eating strawberries and blueberries:

1. **Increasing Awareness of Canine Nutrition:** With the rise of pet wellness trends, more pet owners are becoming knowledgeable about the importance of proper nutrition for their furry friends. This has led to a shift towards feeding dogs whole foods, including fruits like strawberries and blueberries.
2. **Rise in Homemade Treats:** Many pet owners are opting to make their own dog treats at home, using fresh ingredients like strawberries and blueberries. This trend allows pet owners to control the quality of ingredients and tailor treats to their dog's specific dietary needs.
3. **Demand for Organic and Non-GMO Products:** Just as with human food trends, pet owners are increasingly seeking out organic and non-GMO options for their pets. This has translated to a growing demand for organic strawberries and blueberries for dogs.
4. **Emphasis on Antioxidants:** Antioxidants play a crucial role in supporting overall health and immunity in dogs. As a result, pet owners are looking for antioxidant-rich foods to incorporate into their dog's diet, such as strawberries and blueberries.

Can Dogs Eat Strawberries And Blueberries - continued

5. **DIY Dog Food Recipes:** The popularity of DIY dog food recipes has surged in recent years, with many pet owners experimenting with incorporating fruits and vegetables into their dog's meals. Strawberries and blueberries are often included in these recipes for their nutritional benefits.

6. **Influence of Social Media:** Pet influencers on platforms like Instagram and TikTok have played a significant role in popularizing fruits as treats for dogs. Posts featuring dogs enjoying strawberries and blueberries have contributed to the trend of feeding these fruits to pets.

7. **Veterinary Approval:** As more research is conducted on canine nutrition, veterinarians are increasingly supportive of feeding dogs fruits like strawberries and blueberries in moderation. Many vets now recommend these fruits as healthy snack options for dogs.

To provide further insight into the topic, let's hear from some professionals in the field:

"Strawberries and blueberries are not only safe for dogs to eat, but they can also provide a range of health benefits. These fruits are rich in antioxidants, which can help support your dog's immune system and overall health." – Veterinarian

"It's important to remember that while strawberries and blueberries can be a healthy addition to your dog's diet, they should only be given in moderation. Too much of any fruit can lead to digestive upset or weight gain in dogs." – Canine Nutritionist

"Before introducing strawberries and blueberries to your dog, it's always a good idea to consult with your veterinarian. They can provide personalized guidance based on your dog's individual health needs and dietary requirements." – Pet Nutrition Consultant

"Keep in mind that some dogs may have allergies or sensitivities to certain fruits, so it's essential to monitor your dog for any adverse reactions after introducing strawberries and blueberries into their diet." – Animal Dietitian

Now, let's address some common concerns and questions related to dogs eating strawberries and blueberries:

1. **Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries with the seeds?**

Yes, the seeds in strawberries and blueberries are safe for dogs to consume. However, some dogs may have difficulty digesting larger seeds, so it's best to offer these fruits in smaller pieces.

Can Dogs Eat Strawberries And Blueberries - continued

2. Are there any benefits to feeding strawberries and blueberries to dogs?

Yes, strawberries and blueberries are rich in vitamins C and K, as well as antioxidants that can help support your dog's immune system and overall health.

3. Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries every day?

While strawberries and blueberries are safe for dogs to eat, they should be given in moderation as part of a balanced diet. Too much fruit can lead to digestive issues or weight gain in dogs.

4. Are there any potential risks to feeding strawberries and blueberries to dogs?

In general, strawberries and blueberries are safe for dogs. However, some dogs may have allergies to these fruits, so it's essential to monitor your dog for any adverse reactions.

5. How should strawberries and blueberries be prepared for dogs?

It's best to wash strawberries and blueberries thoroughly before offering them to your dog. You can serve these fruits fresh or frozen, but avoid feeding them canned or preserved fruits that may contain added sugars or preservatives.

6. Can puppies eat strawberries and blueberries?

Puppies can eat strawberries and blueberries in moderation once they are weaned and are eating solid food. However, it's always a good idea to consult with your veterinarian before introducing new foods to a puppy's diet.

7. Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries if they have diabetes?

While fruits like strawberries and blueberries can be a healthy snack option for dogs with diabetes, it's essential to monitor their blood sugar levels and consult with your veterinarian to determine the appropriate serving size.

8. Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries if they are overweight?

If your dog is overweight, it's best to limit their intake of high-sugar fruits like strawberries and blueberries. Instead, opt for low-calorie treats or consult with your veterinarian for personalized dietary recommendations.

9. Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries if they have kidney disease?

Dogs with kidney disease may benefit from the antioxidants and vitamins in strawberries and blueberries. However, it's crucial to consult with your veterinarian to ensure that these fruits are suitable for your dog's specific health condition.

Can Dogs Eat Strawberries And Blueberries - continued

10. Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries if they have gastrointestinal issues?

In general, strawberries and blueberries are gentle on the digestive system and can be beneficial for dogs with gastrointestinal issues. However, it's best to introduce these fruits gradually and monitor your dog for any adverse reactions.

11. Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries if they have food allergies?

If your dog has a known food allergy, it's essential to introduce new foods like strawberries and blueberries cautiously. Monitor your dog for any signs of an allergic reaction, such as itching, hives, or digestive upset.

12. Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries if they are on a raw diet?

Strawberries and blueberries can be a healthy addition to a raw diet for dogs. These fruits can provide essential nutrients and antioxidants that may be lacking in a raw meat-based diet.

13. Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries if they are on a grain-free diet?

Yes, strawberries and blueberries are suitable for dogs on a grain-free diet. These fruits are naturally gluten-free and can be a nutritious supplement to a grain-free meal plan.

14. Can dogs eat strawberries and blueberries if they are on a weight loss diet?

If your dog is on a weight loss diet, it's essential to monitor their calorie intake, including treats like strawberries and blueberries. Offer these fruits in moderation to avoid exceeding your dog's daily calorie limit.

In summary, strawberries and blueberries can be a healthy and tasty snack option for dogs when given in moderation. These fruits are packed with essential nutrients and antioxidants that can benefit your dog's overall health. However, it's important to consider your dog's individual dietary needs and consult with your veterinarian before introducing new foods into their diet. With proper preparation and moderation, strawberries and blueberries can be a delicious addition to your dog's mealtime routine.

Information taken from

<https://vetexplainspets.com/can-dogs-eat-strawberries-and-blueberries/#>

2026 AKC Show Events

- July 11-12 - Papillon Club of So Cal – Norco – Agility - Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production
 July 17 – AKC Judge Fetch Test XII – Temecula – Fetch - Sue Ingham, Event Secretary
 July 18 – Santa Ana Valley KC – Chino – AKC Temperament Test - Gwen Lattin, Event Secretary
 July 18-19 - Dog Agility Club of Ventura – Camarillo – Agility - Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production
 July 18-19 – Ventura County Scent Work Club – Acton – Fast CAT - Action Dog Sports |
 July 21 – AKC Judge Fetch Test XII – Temecula – Fetch - Sue Ingham, Event Secretary
 July 23-24 – Valley Hills Obed Club – VHOC – Camarillo – Agility - Action Dog Sports |
 July 25-26 – Border Collie club of Gtr LA – Camarillo – Agility - Action Dog Sports |
 July 31 – Aug 2 – Moorpark KC – Camarillo – Agility - Jump City Agility
- Aug 1-2 – Moorpark KC – Camarillo – Agility - Jump City Agility
 Aug 9 – Southwest Obedience Club of LA – Fetch (Novice only) - Pamela Regan, Event Secretary
 Aug 7-9 - Dash Agility Club of So Cal – Huntington Beach – Agility - Michele Morlang, Event Secretary
 Aug 15-16 – Keeshond Club of So Cal – City of Industry – Agility – Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production
 Aug 29-30 Golden Retriever Club of Gtr LA – City of Industry – Agility – Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production
- Sept 5-6 – South Coast Vizsla Club – City of Industry – Agility – Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production
 Sept 9-11 – Valley Hills Obedience Club – Camarillo – Agility - Action Dog Sports |
 Sept 12-13 – Valley Hills Obedience Club – Camarillo – Obedience/Rally - Lynn Ehrenberg, Event Secretary
 Sept 12-13 – Cocker Spaniel Club of Orange County – Norco – Agility – Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production
 Sept 18-20 – Southern California Collie Club – Lake View Terrace – Agility – Jump City Agility
 Sept 19-20 – Valley Hills Obedience Club – Acton – Fast CAT - Action Dog Sports |
 Sept 19-20 – German Shepherd Dog Club of San Gabriel Valley – Camarillo – Obedience/Rally - Jennifer Gysler, Event Secretary
 Sept 25-27 – Santa Ana Valley KC – City of Industry – Obedience/Rally - Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, Superintendent
 Sept 25-27 – Moorpark KC – Camarillo – Agility – Jump City Agility
- Oct 2 – Scent Work Club of the San Gabriel Foothills – Pasadena - Scent Work Detective Class only
 Oct 3-4 – Scent Work Club of the San Gabriel Foothills -Azusa - Scent Work Trial
 Oct 2-4 – Golden State Rottweiler Club – Camarillo – Agility – Jump City Agility
 Oct 9-11- Dash Agility Club of So Cal – Huntington Beach – Agility - Michele Morlang, Event Secretary
 Oct 10-11 – Bakersfield Obedience Training Club – Bakersfield – Obedience/Rally - Margaret L Throne, Event Secretary
 Oct 17-18 – Cocker Spaniel Club of OC – City of Industry – Agility - Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production
 Oct 23-25 – Southland Weimaraner Club – Perris – Fast CAT - Action Dog Sports |
 Oct 23-25 – Greater Los Angeles Scent Work Club – Perris – Farm Dog Certification - Action Dog Sports
 Oct 23-25 – Hollywood Dog Obedience Club – Camarillo – Agility - Jump City Agility
 Oct 23 – Tri-Valley Working Dog Club of Pinon Hills – Perris - Obedience/Rally - Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, Superintendent
 Oct 24 – Kennel Club of Riverside – Perris – Obedience/Rally - Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, Superintendent
 Oct 25 – Pasanita Obedience Club – Pasadena – Obedience/Rally - Jennifer Gysler, Event Secretary
 Oct 29 – South Bay KC – City of Industry - Obedience/Rally – Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, Superintendent
 Oct 30 – Long Beach KC – City of Industry – Obedience/Rally – Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, Superintendent
 Oct 30-Nov 1 – South Coast Vizsla Club – Norco – Agility - Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production
 Oct 31 – San Gabriel Valley KC – City of Industry – Obedience/Rally – Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, Superintendent
- Nov 1 – Antelope Valley KC – City of Industry – Obedience/Rally – Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, Superintendent
 Nov 8 – German Shepherd Dog Club of the San Gabriel Valley – Moorpark – Rally - Lynn Ehrenberg, Event Secretary
 Nov 14-15 – Greater San Diego Basset Hound Club – Anaheim – Rally - Lorraine Yu, Event Secretary
 Nov 20-22 – Buenaventura Dog Training Club – Camarillo – Agility - Jennifer Gysler, Event Secretary

All Trial Dates were taken from the AKC Events Page, many of the Trials have Premiums associated with them on the event pages. [American Kennel Club - Event Search](#) The trials listed are within 100 miles of Santa Clarita, CA.

If a trial application hasn't been submitted to the AKC the trial will not show up on the AKC Event Search.

Mastering Non-Verbal Cues: How a Handler's Body Movement Influences Dog Agility Performance

Dec 1, 2025, 3 min read

Dog agility is a sport where every second counts and every movement matters. While the dog's speed, focus, and training are crucial, the handler's body movement plays an equally vital role in guiding the dog through the course. Non-verbal cues from the handler can make the difference between a smooth run and a confusing, error-filled performance. Understanding how your body communicates with your dog can unlock new levels of agility success.

Why Body Movement Matters in Dog Agility

Dogs are incredibly perceptive to their handler's body language. In agility, handlers cannot rely on verbal commands alone because the dog is often too far away or moving too fast to hear or process words clearly. Instead, dogs watch their handler's posture, gestures, and positioning to anticipate the next obstacle.

Body movement acts as a silent language that helps the dog:

- Understand which obstacle to approach next
- Gauge the speed and direction to take
- Stay focused and confident throughout the course

When a handler's movements are clear and intentional, the dog responds with precision and speed. When movements are unclear or inconsistent, the dog hesitates or makes mistakes.

Common Mistakes in Handler Positioning and Their Effects

Even experienced handlers can fall into habits that confuse their dogs. Here are some common positioning errors and how they impact the dog's performance:

Standing Too Close or Too Far

- Too close: The dog may feel crowded or distracted, leading to hesitation or refusal at obstacles.
- Too far: The dog might lose sight of the handler's cues, causing missed turns or slower responses.

Facing the Wrong Direction

If the handler faces away from the dog or the next obstacle, the dog can become unsure about where to go. Dogs rely on the handler's body orientation to confirm the correct path.

Mastering Non-Verbal Cues - continued

Overusing Arm Gestures Without Body Alignment

Waving arms wildly without aligning the body can confuse the dog. Dogs read the whole body, not just hand signals. If the body points one way but the arms signal another, the dog may hesitate or choose the wrong obstacle.

Stiff or Jerky Movements

Sudden or rigid movements can startle the dog or make it difficult to read the handler's intentions. Smooth, flowing motions help the dog stay calm and focused.

The Importance of Synchronization Between Handler and Dog

Agility is a team effort. The best results come when handler and dog move as one unit. Synchronization means the handler anticipates the dog's speed and adjusts their own pace and positioning accordingly.

When synchronized:

- The dog trusts the handler's guidance
- The handler can correct or redirect the dog quickly
- The run flows naturally without wasted energy or confusion



Synchronization develops through practice and mutual understanding. It requires the handler to be aware of the dog's body language and energy, and the dog to be tuned into the handler's cues.

Training Tips to Improve Body Awareness and Movement

Improving your body movement as a handler takes focused training. Here are practical tips to build better non-verbal communication with your dog:

Practice Mirror Drills

Use a mirror or video recordings to observe your own movements during training. Look for:

- Consistent body orientation toward the dog and obstacles
- Smooth transitions between movements
- Clear, deliberate gestures

Mastering Non-Verbal Cues - continued

Work on Footwork

Your foot placement affects your balance and ability to signal clearly. Practice moving fluidly around obstacles without crossing your feet or turning your body away from the dog.

Use Minimal but Clear Gestures

Train yourself to use simple, purposeful body signals rather than large, distracting motions. For example, a slight lean or step can be enough to guide your dog.

Train with Your Dog Off-Leash

Spend time practicing agility sequences without verbal commands. This forces both you and your dog to rely on body language, strengthening your non-verbal connection.

Synchronize Breathing and Movement

Stay calm and breathe steadily. Your dog can sense tension or excitement through your body. A relaxed handler helps the dog stay focused and confident.

Seek Feedback from Experienced Handlers or Trainers

Ask others to watch your runs and provide feedback on your body language. Sometimes small adjustments can make a big difference.

Mastering the art of non-verbal communication through body movement is essential for any dog agility handler. Clear, confident, and synchronized movements help your dog navigate the course smoothly and quickly. By avoiding common positioning mistakes and practicing body awareness, you build a stronger connection with your dog and improve your agility performance,

Submitted by Allison Pobirs - Taken from:

URL - <https://www.off-leashobedience.co.uk/post/mastering-non-verbal-cues-how-a-handler-s-body-movement-influences-dog-agility-performance>



Please Contact Me With All
Your Real Estate Needs Or Questions!

MARILYN BENNETT
REALTOR® | DRE Lic #01272179
818.469.6699
shilohxmic@aol.com
www.SeeMarilyn4Homes.com

Your Best Friend in Real Estate

EQUITY UNION REAL ESTATE

Luna - Agility Grand Champion



**Congratulations
to
Jeff Kogan
and
Luna
on earning
their
AGCH**

Agility Grand Champion (AGCH) Title

The Agility Grand Champion (AGCH) recognizes dogs that show consistency and versatility across all classes of the AKC agility program. To earn the AGCH title, the following number of qualifying scores must be earned at the highest level in each of these classes:

- Standard & Jumper with Weaves – 100;
- Fast and Time 2 Beat – 75;
- Premier Standard and Premier JWW – 50.

These qualifying scores may be earned from either the Regular or Preferred classes or a combination of both these classes. Qualifying scores will be grandfathered.

Brags

Brags

Laurie Burnam and Tesla

ASCSC/MAC Agility, Juniper Hills, June 27/28, 2026

Elite Gamblers 10 Q 1st place

Elite Jumpers 10 Q 1st place

Elite Regular 5 Q 2nd place



That 5 points got us our first championship **ATCH 1 !!!!**
It took 3 years entering the Elite level to achieve this championship, although we were very busy doing other dog sports.

Tesla -Agility Trial Champion



Deborah Schuch and Leo

Leo's hip and elbow imaging were evaluated by OFA at excellent and normal! He's one step from being CHIC'd.

CH Voyager's Concerning Flight With Milagros

The OFA, working with the breed's parent club, recommends basic health screening tests for all breeding stock. Dogs meeting these basic health screening requirements will be issued Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) numbers



Brag

Debbie Lang and Panda

June 19 and 20, Santa Clarita Valley Australian Shepherd Club - ASCA Agility Trial
Panda achieved her **ACE II (Agility Competitor Enthusiast) Championship**.

She was running in the 12-inch Senior Dog Class. All of the requirements are the same: 200 Regular points, 100 Jumpers points, and 100 Gambler points. She just needed 25 Regular points.

6-19 Regular Round 1 - 10 pts

6-19 Regular Round 2 - 5 pts

6-20 Regular Round 1 - 5 pts

6-20 Regular Round 2 - 5 pts

Panda - ACE II



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 our Indoor Training Facility!

J9sK9s is located in the west San Fernando Valley near Sherman Way and Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

Boasting "Agiliflex" rubber flooring, our 1600+ square feet of space and 35 feet of mirror are waiting for you and your canine pal to come train in!

We have obedience jumps, baby gates, crates and some agility equipment too.
Available to rent to individuals for just \$30 an hour.

Also available for pre-approved events and small groups at an additional cost.

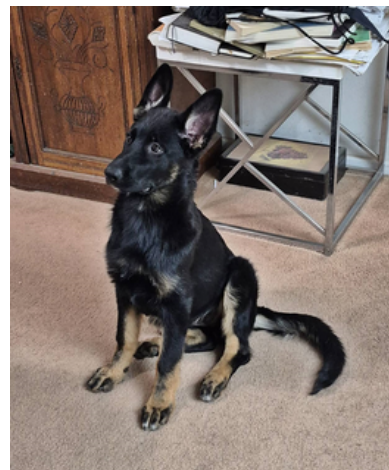
Call 818-832-9906 for more information
www.j9sk9s.com

Braggs

Cynthia Binder and Danka

I want to introduce Danka who is just coming 16 weeks old. Happy her ears are up! I'll be happier when those sharp puppy teeth go away tho..... (I can't provide pix of my hands and arms as that might be too graphic---LOL!!)

Looking forward to getting her out as soon as all her puppy vaccines are done.



Robyn Zeldon and Crew

Crew got a **Working Group 2** at the Burbank Kennel Club Dog show on June 21, 2026.

BISS GCHB Lubeaux's A Moment To Last Forever BN, RI, BSE, CGCA, CGCU, TKA, VHMA, SWN, THDX, ATT, FITS, FDC, SD1, LI1, UL1



Robyn Zeldon and Crew

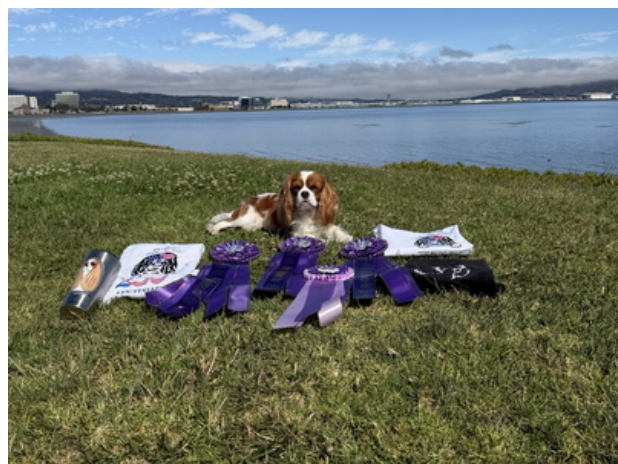
Crew earned his **Therapy Dog Excellent Title**. 200 visits and a whole lotta love

THDX

Braggs

Kanen Ullman and Bowie

Bowie earned his Preferred **Excellent Standard title** with 1st place at the SCCC trial in Camarillo on 6/27/26 under judges Nick Sparks. He also got another 1st place in P1 Gamblers at the Happy Dog USDAA trial on 7/4/26.



Flo Walberg and Dolly

Went to a great "King Cavalier Dog Show" in San Francisco and did really great! We did obedience all 3 days and Dolly did great.

The first day, she won with a perfect score of "200".

The next day, she won again with a 199 1/2 and the 3rd day she got a 199.

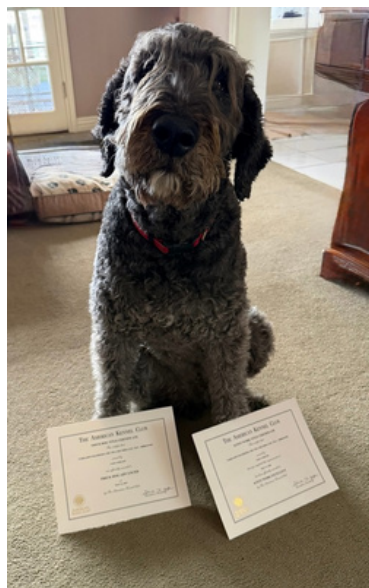
They were all 1st place.

Brag

Tara Farkash and Bagheera

Bagheera earned his **Intermediate and Advanced AKC Trick Dog titles. (TKI and TKA)**

He finished his AKC **Scent Work Excellent title - SWE** in June.



Debbie Lang and Max

SCVASC ASCA Agility Trial June 19-21, Santa Clarita
June 19

Regular Vet Elite Round 2 - 10 pt. Q - 3rd place

June 20

Regular Vet Elite Round 2 - 10 pt. Q - 3rd place

Veterans Regular Elite title - RV-E

June 21

Regular Vet Elite Round 1 - 10 pt. Q - 2nd place

Regular Vet Elite Round 2 - 5 pt. Q - 2nd place



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!

Different Dog Organizations

Now days there are so many things we can do with our dogs. There is just too much going on to be able to list all of the events or the superintendents.

Below are links to different organizations, the list isn't comprehensive and I'm sure I've missed some that people have been associated with. But it is a start.

AKC—[American Kennel Club - Event Search \(akc.org\)](http://akc.org)

ASCA (Australian Shepherd Club of America) —[Events Calendar– ASCA](#)

NADAC—[The North American Dog Agility Council \(nadac.com\)](http://nadac.com)

USDAA—[Home | USDAA](#)

Jump City Agility —[Jump City Agility](#)

Lynda Tjarks Agility—[Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)

Weekday Wing Ding Dog Agility Trials (Stone Pony, Action Dog Sports)—[Upcoming Trials – Weekday Wing Ding Agility Trials \(wwdat.us\)](#)

Jack Bradshaw - Dog Show Superintendents—[Jack Bradshaw - Dog Show Superintendents \(jbradshaw.com\)](#)

Barn Hunt—[Barn Hunt Association](#)

National Association of Canine Scent Work—[NACSW | NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE SCENT WORK](#)

AHBA—American Herding Breed Association—[Home - American Herding Breed Association \(ahba-herding.org\)](#)

CPE—Canine Performance Events—[CPE | CPE DOG Canine Performance Events Home - Canine Performance Events](#)

UKC—United Kennel Club—[Home | United Kennel Club \(UKC\) \(ukcdogs.com\)](#)

USCSS—United States Canine Scent Sports—[USCSS \(uscaninescentsports.com\)](#)

World Canine Freestyle Organization (Dance)—[The World Canine Freestyle Organization – WCFO, Inc.](#)

Dogs Can Dance—[DogsCanDance.com](#)

NASDA—North American Sport Dog Association—[North American Sport Dog Association – Celebrating Canine Versatility \(nasda.dog\)](#)

International Dog Parkour Association—[Home | International Dog Parkour Association](#)

Love on a Leash—Therapy Dog—[Love On A Leash® – Volunteer pet therapy certification](#)



**Put it on your calender -
VHOC Obedience/Rally Trial
Sept 12/13**

VHOC Training Classes

PLEASE CHECK WITH OUR INSTUCTIONS FOR NEW CLASS START DATES
VHOC Website— <https://www.vhoc.org/copy-of-group-classes>

Agility - Novice—Advanced
Mondays 6:00—7 pm, Reseda and Mondays 7:00—8 pm, Reseda
Instructor: Olga Chaiko, For more information, please contact Ann Hills at
tonkanuki@aol.com

Obedience - Beginning Competitive - Thursday 6:30, Simi Valley
Obedience - Open / Utility Obedience—Thursday 7:45, Simi Valley
Instructor: Patti Rovtar, For more information, please contact Patti Rovtar at
pattirovtar@gmail.com

Nose Work / Scent Work Classes
Continuing Nose Work (Intermediate—Advanced) - Mondays 6:30-7:30
Chatsworth
Contact Carole Hills for information—chills37@aol.com
Beginning Scent Work—Tuesday evenings in Moorpark 6 to 7:30 PM
Advanced Scent Work - Wednesday evenings in Moorpark 6 to 7:30 PM
Wednesday early evening in Moorpark 4 to 5:30 PM
Contact Shiro Torquato for information— drshiro2000@gmail.com