



Newsette



Remembering the Dogs of 9/11

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VHOC Obedience/Rally Trial September 16 & 17

Hi All,

Just a reminder that VHOC's annual obedience and rally trial is this weekend, September 16 & 17 at Stone Pony Ranch in Moorpark. If you're not entered, come out anyway and support your fellow club members.

If you are entered, please remember that the trial grounds open at 7am - not earlier! The trial starts at 8:30 so you will have plenty of time to setup and warmup your dog before your class. Also, no setups allowed on Friday due to an agility trial going on in the afternoon.

Good luck and have fun!

Monica Nolan

VHOC OR Trial Chair

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
djang@sbcglobal.net

Submission deadline is the 8th of each month

This is YOUR Newsette...make it great!

Aflatoxin... Avoiding the Deadliest Natural Toxin in Dog Food

URL: <https://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/canine-nutrition/aflatoxin/>

Submitted by Allison Pobirs

Aflatoxin can cause life-threatening illness in dogs

Aflatoxin is one of the most **dangerous natural poisons** known to food scientists. And many times, it can be found in some of the most popular dog foods on the market.

Recently...

Aflatoxin has led to the tragic **death of hundreds of dogs**... and has caused an increasing number of life-threatening dog food **recalls**.



What Is Aflatoxin?

Aflatoxin is a **potent ‘natural’ poison** that’s produced by a common type of **food mold** known as *Aspergillus flavus*.

But it’s **NOT the mold** you need to worry about.

It’s aflatoxin... the **deadly poison** produced by that mold... [that can cause liver failure, cancer and death](#)... in dogs.

Which Ingredients Contain Aflatoxin?

In nature...

Aspergillus mold is a gray-green, fuzzy-looking substance that can be found growing on the surface of **cereal grains**.

Grains like wheat, millet, sorghum, and rice.

However, since 2009...

Corn has been the **most common source** of aflatoxin in every poison-related [dog food recall](#).

Here’s what **corn** contaminated with **Aspergillus mold** looks like:

Aspergillus mold on corn and producing aflatoxin

But keep in mind...



Corn Is NOT the Problem

It’s the **companies** that buy these **moldy crops** (in the first place). And then fail to test them for **hidden toxins**... BEFORE they’re used to make pet food.

Larger, **multi-national** pet food companies tend to have the resources needed to routinely test for contaminants.

Which is probably why (since 2009)...

We’ve noted **zero aflatoxin-related recalls** from major brands, including those that use corn in their recipes.¹

What’s more...

Corn is **not the only source** of aflatoxin.

That’s because...

Aspergillus mold can grow on just about **ANY food crop**... including wheat, rice, millet... and dozens of others.

Aflatoxin... Avoiding the Deadliest Natural Toxin in Dog Food—continued

What Makes Aflatoxin So Dangerous?

Compared to almost any other dog food **contaminant**, aflatoxin has the potential to be **FAR more dangerous**.

That's because...

Aflatoxin is **invisible**. So, you can't see it... not even with a high-power microscope.

Yet it can **still be present**... even when there's **no visible sign of mold** on the surface of the food.

What's more...

Unlike Salmonella and other **disease-causing bacteria**...

Aflatoxin is a **poisonous chemical**.

Which means... it's **NOT alive**.

Corn contaminated with mold during storage



So You Can't Kill It

And you can't cook it out of a dog food, either.

In fact...

Aflatoxin is so resistant to heat...

It even survives the germ-killing process of pasteurization... a process required by law when making canned dog foods.

Or the high heat methods used for making dry dog food.

Which is why, after cooking, the deadly poison can still be found inside an unopened can of wet dog food...

Or a sealed bag of dry kibble.

How Toxic Is Aflatoxin?

Compared to other natural poisons...

Aflatoxin has the **highest toxicity** of all mold toxins.² And for this reason, it's one of the leading causes of **liver failure** and **liver cancer** in dogs.³

What's worse...

There's **no known anti-toxin** to neutralize it. So, once aflatoxin enters a dog's body... there's **no way to remove it**.

Two Ways Aflatoxin Can Kill Your Dog

Dogs are **highly susceptible** to aflatoxin poisoning.

That's because unlike **humans**, who eat a **varied diet**...

Dogs tend to eat the **same food**... meal after meal... day after day... for a lifetime.

Which is why there are **2 ways** aflatoxin can kill a dog.

Acute poisoning

Chronic poisoning

Acute Poisoning

Dogs exposed to **higher doses** of aflatoxin can experience **sudden and severe** reactions to the poison.

Acute reactions like these can progress so **quickly** that a dog **can die** before ever receiving treatment.

These are the cases you hear about the most... and they represent the **leading cause** of aflatoxin-related recall events.

Aflatoxin... Avoiding the Deadliest Natural Toxin in Dog Food—continued

Chronic Poisoning

In contrast...

Dogs exposed to **lower, non-lethal doses** of aflatoxin over a longer period of time may survive.

But chronic, **long term** exposure to **smaller doses** can be **just as deadly**.

That's because...

Tiny, invisible amounts of poison can **accumulate** in the body... **over time**... and can ultimately cause liver cancer later in your dog's life.⁴

Which is what makes **chronic** poisoning so much **more dangerous**.

The Bottom Line

Chronic, long-term exposure to tiny, undetectable amounts of aflatoxin in your pet's food has the potential to cause serious damage to the future health of your dog.

How to Protect Your Dog from Aflatoxin

On this page...

You've learned about aflatoxin and why it's so dangerous. Here are **3 things** you can do right now to **protect** your dog from this **deadly poison**.

Become aware of recalls **early**. So you can **take action**... before smaller doses of aflatoxin can accumulate in your dog's body. [Click here to get free lifesaving dog food recall alerts by email](#) as soon as they happen.

Don't rely on grain-based dog foods alone. Keep in mind, aflatoxin is only **rarely found** in **grain-free** recipes. Instead, consider [diet rotation](#) to **diversify** your pet's **menu**.

Don't avoid corn. Mold toxins can be hidden in ANY grain-inclusive recipe. To lower the risk, avoid brands with **troubled recall histories**... especially those known for being **repeat offenders** when it comes to aflatoxin or other matters of product **safety**. Repeat offenders are removed from each of The Dog Food Advisor's "best" lists as soon as they're discovered. So, visit one of the many [Editor's Choice](#) categories from our [Best Dog Food](#) page for some safe suggestions.

Recommended Brands

The following lists were selected from our [best dog foods](#) pages. None of the recipes are made by companies known for being repeat offenders when it comes to aflatoxin... or other matters of product safety.

[Best Dog Foods](#)

[Best Puppy Foods](#)

[Best Dry Dog Foods](#)

[Best Fresh Dog Food](#)

[Best Dog Food with Grain](#)

[Best Grain Free Dog Food](#)

[Best Senior Dog Foods](#)

[Best Dog Foods by Category](#)

References

Recall events tracked by The Dog Food Advisor from October 2009 through September 2021, the latest update of this page.

1. Flores-Flores, M. E., Lizarraga, E., de Cerain, A. L. & Gonzalez-Penas, E. [Presence of mycotoxins in animal milk: A review](#). Food Control 53, 163–176 (2015)
2. A Wouters et al, [An outbreak of aflatoxin poisoning in dogs associated with aflatoxin B1-contaminated maize products](#)
3. [Aflatoxin Poisoning in Pets](#), U.S. Food and Drug Administration

September is National Service Dog Month

National Service Dog Month, celebrated every September, takes place to show appreciation to our four-legged friends who often play a huge role in the lives of human beings. Yes, service dogs are more than just pets since they have been trained to take care of humans suffering from certain ailments, disabilities, or mental health issues. Therefore, the sole purpose of their life becomes to aid their human companion and make their lives easier. This is why it is essential to honor these hard-working pups by dedicating the entire month of September to them.

The eight types of service dogs are Autism Service Dogs, Hearing Dogs, Diabetic Alert Dogs, Seizure Response Dogs, Guide Dogs, Allergy Detection Dogs, Mobility Assistance Dogs, and PTSD Service Dogs.

Taken from URL— <https://nationaltoday.com/national-service-dog-month/>

Don't forget to Wash Your Dog's Water Bowl

A pet's mouth has good and bad bacteria in it that binds to water and sticks to the side of the bowl, creating a slimy biofilm. When pets drink from excessively dirty water bowls, they risk getting UTI's, middle ear infections and dental plaque formation.



Submitted by Allison Pobirs

92-Year-Old Dot Dobie Competes in Agility With Standard Schnauzers

By [Ranny Green](#)

Published: Sep 12, 2023 | 4 Minutes

URL—<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/dot-dobie-agility/>

Whether you're a seasoned [AKC Agility](#) competitor or just like to watch, you can tell that Agility courses are often pretty complicated. Now imagine navigating one of these Agility courses at age 92. Vancouver, Washington, resident Dorothy "Dot" Dobie doesn't have to imagine — this is her reality.

She's not new to the sport either. She currently competes with her [Standard Schnauzers](#) "Kruzer" CH MACH6 Steinhaus Wyldwind Kruzecontrol, and "Kaper," Steinhaus Wyldwind Chasing Lions. Kaper, who turns 2 in October, has already advanced to the Excellent level in both Standard and Jumpers Agility classes.



Photo by Joe Camp

A Lifelong Competitive Spirit

Even before she got started in dog sports, she always had a strong drive. Her level of ambition is mirrored in her fascinating past, pushing boundaries and making a name for herself in everything she did. In the 1950s, Dobie worked in a Navy SEALs program called 'Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service' ([Navy WAVES](#), part of the United States Naval Reserve). No easy task, especially in a time where it was most common for women to be nurses if they were involved in the military. "There were eight of us who went to Seattle for a rigorous two months' training program," she recalls. "Half were out after the first three days. Another woman [and I] hung in there until the end." During the period that the program ran, [WAVES recruited over 90,000 women](#), mainly during World War II, to serve onshore and throughout the continental United States.

Throughout her life, she continued to find outlets where she could dedicate her passion. From 1944 to 1974, Dobie was a member of various top-tier American Softball Association teams, including the [Erv Lind Florists](#). This team won the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) World Championship in 1964, with her as captain. With her fast pitch, she was All-American four times, in 1960, 1965, 1969 and 1970. Dobie was inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame in 1995, and can also be found in the Portland ASA, the Yakima Washington, the Northwest Region, and the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame.

Over 60 Years of Agility

It's only natural that her love for competition continued. In the 1960s, Dobie purchased her first Standard Schnauzer. She competed in [Conformation](#) for almost thirty years before taking a stab at something new.

She tried Agility in the 1990s and hasn't stopped since. "Agility has given me a reason to enjoy life and want to live for another day," Dobie says. "My many Agility friends are my extended family and support me. They reach out to me at all times, whether at the show venues or at home. Quite honestly, I don't know what I would do without them."



Photo by Joe Camp

92-Year-Old Dot Dobie Competes in Agility With Standard Schnauzers—continued

Despite her strong bond with her Agility family, Dobie is still fiercely independent. Even nearing 100, she drives herself to all her competitions, and still trials 15 to 16 times per year. She has her boundaries though: she always tries to get home before dark, and limits her trials to ones near her in the Pacific Northwest.

Staying in Shape and Not Slowing Down

Dobie makes sure to prioritize her physical wellness. “Dot’s long experience with physical fitness allows her to stay in shape and understand how to move effectively,” explains her trainer, Heather Christenson of [Bright Agility Academy](#). Christenson notes that it can be hard to get Dobie to slow down sometimes, and she continues to be a strong competitor mentally and physically. “She immediately internalizes feedback and implements changes in handling when working with different handling choices. This enables her to work through issues that come up quickly. She’s a wonder!”

Though she may face complications with her body, her dreams and ambitions aren’t getting any simpler. Foot surgery recently sidelined Dobie, but only temporarily. “This is exasperating,” said Dobie of her injury. “Sitting on the sidelines and not being able to compete is not for me.”

Luckily, she’s already on the mend, and making plans to enter two Agility competitions in Oregon this September. Even when she’s not competing, she’s still exercising at home where she can to stay in shape.

Someone to Look Up To

Dot’s friends, young and old, continue to be impressed by what she accomplishes. Her Agility ambitions aren’t dwindling with age, and her dog’s titles reflect the hard work she puts into their relationship and the sport. Kruzer has his [MACH6 and CH](#) under his belt, and right now she’s working with Kaper towards his MACH1.

“Dot is absolutely amazing,” says Martha “Marti” Park, Dobie’s close friend. “Who else gets a new puppy at age 91?” Park notes that in his first trial, a three-day trial this past summer, Kaper won every class he qualified in. At this trial alone, he earned both his Novice Agility Standard and Jumpers titles, and ended up High in Trial. “She’s a phenomenal handler,” Park says. “She’s an inspiration to all of us.”

Other competitors are in awe of Dobie in action too. “Every time I watch Dot compete, I think, ‘Wow, I wish I could run like that!’” says fellow Agility competitor and longtime friend [Little Liedblad](#). “She is so smooth with her moves when running with her dogs. I’ve seen her take a tumble in the ring, bounce right back up, and continue on as if nothing happened.”

Judges aren’t exempt from the wonder of Dot Dobie’s runs either. “I find myself saying, ‘I sure wish I could run as well as Dot,’” says AKC Agility judge and licensed trial secretary Lori Sage. “Dot always has a kind word and a special hug to greet me at all the trials, something I truly cherish. She’s always a bright spot in my busy day running Agility trials. I want to be like Dot when I grow up!”

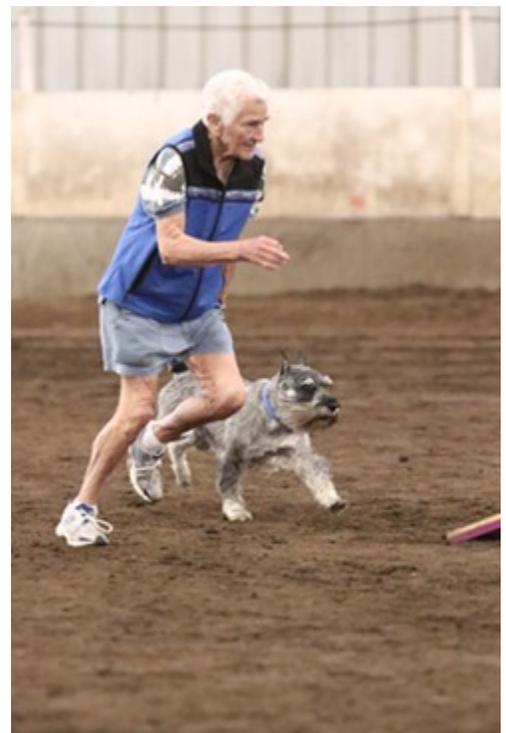


Photo by Joe Camp

92-Year-Old Dot Dobie Competes in Agility With Standard Schnauzers—continued

Celebrating Dot

Dobie’s impact on others doesn’t go unnoticed. To celebrate her 90th birthday in June of 2021, Park organized a celebration at an Agility trial in Ridgefield, Washington. Everyone in attendance, judges included, wore special “Dot Day” T-shirts, signed a memory book, brought gifts, swapped stories, and ate cupcakes with frosted dots on them.

“Dot does not like being the center of attention,” explains Park. “So we knew that if we wanted to do something for her, we would have to do so without her knowing. The fact she is not on Facebook nor any social media made planning a bit easier, with everyone sworn to secrecy.” Along with doing what she loves in Agility, Dobie got to feel just how appreciated she is in the dog sport world and beyond. “The love shared that day was literally palpable and remains a lifetime memory for all of us.”

Dobie reflects on her action-packed life so far by mirroring it in song titles, and tells it with a smile on her face. “‘Born Free,’ as my parents gave me freedom to become what I wanted; ‘My Way,’ even though it may not have been the right way or the best way; ‘The Impossible Dream,’ which would include winning the World Softball Championship and earning MACHs on my dogs; and ‘Wind Beneath My Wings,’ which includes my teammates, opponents, and especially my Agility family, who encourage me to do better and reach for the stars.”



Photo by Martha Park

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Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
7	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
8	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	1 secs
9	Instantly	Instantly	4 secs	21 secs	1 mins
10	Instantly	Instantly	4 mins	22 mins	1 hours
11	Instantly	6 secs	3 hours	22 hours	4 days
12	Instantly	2 mins	7 days	2 months	8 months
13	Instantly	1 hours	12 months	10 years	47 years
14	Instantly	1 days	52 years	608 years	3k years
15	2 secs	4 weeks	2k years	37k years	232k years
16	15 secs	2 years	140k years	2m years	16m years
17	3 mins	56 years	7m years	144m years	1bn years
18	26 mins	1k years	378m years	8bn years	79bn years



> Learn how we made this table at hivesystems.io/password

Braggs

Sharon Clarke with Leo and Dash

For Leo: Leo and I attend the Santa Barbara Kennel club conformation shows on August 24,25,26 and 27. On Thursday, Leo was Best opposite Sex and were Owner Handler winner, but we did not place.

On Friday, Leo was awarded Best of Breed and Best Owner Handler, we moved onto the group rings, but we did not place in either ring. On Saturday, we had a repeat of Friday, Best of Breed, best Owner Handler and again did not place in either group ring. Sunday, Leo was best opposite Sex. Not bad for a dry run in anticipation of our national and regional specialties to be held the following weekend in Costa Mesa at the Shoreline shows.

On Friday, September 1st there was a supported entry for Standard Schnauzers, but we did not place. On Saturday, September 2, the National Specialty we showed in breed again and made the first cut, but ultimately did not go any further in the competition. Leo was also entered in Stud Dog and won this competition. On Sunday, September 3, the Regional specialty Leo showed in Breed, made the cut, but did not go any further. He was also in the Stud Dog competition and again won this category.

For Dash: Believe it or not, Dash (obedience dog) entered in Veterans Sweeps won his age category and went on to win Best in Veterans Sweeps at the National Specialty on Saturday. He had not been in a breed competition in some 6 years and never with me at the end of the lead as he was professionally handled to his Bronze grand championship. And he did it again on Sunday at the Regional specialty!

This past weekend we were again in a familiar ring in obedience in Santa Maria at the Santa Maria San Luis Bay GSD obedience trial. Dash had a great weekend. On Saturday he was 1st in Utility and 2nd in Open B and was tied for a while for high in trial, but ultimately walked away with high combined! On Sunday, Dash was 1st in Utility and also 1st in Open B and again High Combined!

Dash—Saturday win with Susie Osburn



Dash—Sunday win with Linda Hausa



Allison Pobirs and Claire

Claire is finding her wings!

Seems she loves swimming so only made sense to see if she'd like

Dock Diving

Turns out she l-o-v-e-s dock diving



Braggs

Monica Nolan with Augie and Rose

We had a super fun weekend at ESAG's 3 day NADAC agility trial in Mammoth Lakes August 18-20.

Augie ran in Elite and earned 9 Qs and **3 titles - Regulars, Jumpers and Chances.**

Rose ran in Intro and earned 10 Qs and **2 titles - Regulars and Chances.**



Braggs

Robyn Zeldon with Luca & Lyric

Luca and Lyric both earned their **NASDA Shed 1 and Lost Item Recovery 1 Title** on August 27, 2023 at the NASDA trial in Big Bear.



Luca passed her AKC Temperament Test and earned her **ATT Title** on September 2, 2023

Lyric passed her AKC Temperament Test and earned her **ATT Title** on September 2, 2023





Debbie Lang and Max

Max earned his 4th Master JWW leg August 23, 2023 at the VCSWC AKC agility trial at Stone Pony.

He placed second, running 29.52 seconds on a 41 second course.

Braggs

VHOC Training Classes

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

PLEASE CHECK WITH OUR INSTUCTORS FOR NEW CLASS START DATES

VHOC Website— <https://www.vhoc.org/copy-of-group-classes>

Agility - Skills & Drills - Mondays 6:30 and 7:30, Reseda

Instructor: Olga Chaiko, For more information, please contact Ann at tonkanuki@aol.com

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

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

Braggs

Sarah Sykes and Tele

6/4/23 - Flatirons Kennel Club in Longmont, CO - Utility B, 1st leg, 192.5, 1st place

8/17/23 - Mile Hi Golden Retriever Club Specialty in Greeley, CO - Utility B, 2nd leg, 182, 1st place

8/18/23 - Mile Hi Golden Retriever Club Specialty in Greeley, CO - Utility B, 3rd leg, 189, 1st place, **NEW UD TITLE and HIGH IN TRIAL!!**And..... 4 OTCH points!

9/3/23 - Cheyenne Kennel Club, Cheyenne, WY - Utility B, 189, 4th place

I'm so thrilled that I finally have earned a UD! We had a few NQs earlier in the year and then we earned the title in three straight trials all with first places, from Utility B. Even though we are really a Utility A team, I switched us to the "B" class so we wouldn't always have heeling & signals first and that suited Tele just fine! The Colorado obedience community has been so supportive and welcoming to us since we moved, and it was extra special to finish the title at our specialty with a High In Trial along with some OTCH points.

Now we're working on improving our scores (our heeling needs some polishing!) as we continue to have fun in the obedience ring!



UD Leg #1



**UD Title and
High In Trial**



UD Leg #2



Newsette

VHOC Upcoming Trials

VHOC Obedience and Rally Trial Sept 16th and 17th - Obedience Judge - Ms. Susie Osburn, - Rally Judge - Shannon Jones - entries are open now, they will close on Friday Sept 1st.

VHOC Annual Agility Trial - December 8th, 9th and 10th - renting the Stone Pony Facility in Moorpark - Judge - Cynthia Blanton

Upcoming - VHOC Trials at Stone Pony, Moorpark:

- Sept 14/15 - evening trial - Judge - Shannon Jones—entries close Sept 6th
- Nov 14/15 - Judge - Barbara Bounds

You can enter the trials at Stone Pony online—<http://wwdat.us/upcoming-trials/>

Also, the weekend after our Obedience Rally Trial in September:

German Shepherd Dog Club of the San Gabriel Valley trials follow the VHOC trials at Stone Pony - September 23-25, 2023; judges are Hazel Olbrich and Carol Riback

