



# Newsette



WWW.VHOC.ORG

P.O. BOX 10132 CANOGA PARK, CALIFORNIA 91309

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## Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **March 30th**—VHOC Annual Awards Banquet at BJ's in Woodland Hills
- ◆ **April 13th**—Picnic and **General Meeting** in Acton— Topic is Fast CAT (see the flyer on Page 3) Starting at 11:30 AM
- ◆ **June 8th**—Fit Dog Walk at Balboa Park—more information to come

### 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](mailto:chills37@aol.com)

### VHOC Board of Directors

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### VHOC Standing Committees

**Agility Trial Volunteer Workers**  
Nancy Giltner

**Banquet**  
Ann Hills  
Allison Pobirs  
Jennifer Voogt

**Seminar Coordinator**  
VACANT

**Food & Hospitality**  
Laura Thomas

**Trophies**  
Deborah Lang  
Ann Hills

**Newsette**  
Deborah Lang

**Website Administrator**  
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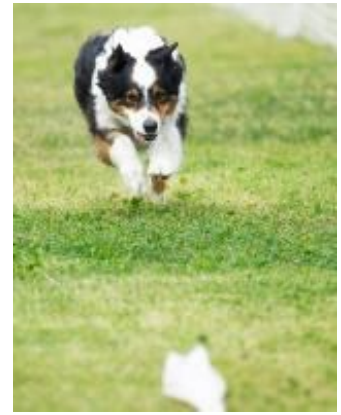
*Welcome to our New Members!*

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

**Cheri Preciado with her Aussies Ruby, RoxC, Mercy, Faith, Kenny and Stone**



# April 13th General Meeting



Come join us for the April 13th General Meeting.

We will have a "Intro to FAST CAT" picnic meeting.

We will hold the meeting in the picnic area of Acton Park near the surfaced parking lot.

Acton Park: <https://parks.lacounty.gov/acton-park/#>

Acton Park  
3751 Syracuse Ave.  
Acton, CA 93510

Starting at 11:30 am we will be able to watch the Fast CAT runs for about 30 minutes, prior to our club discussion about FAST CAT. The meeting should coincide with the break being taken by the Fast CAT event personnel. The trial will resume about 1 pm and VHOC members can try runs themselves or just watch. There are usually day of trial signups be sure and bring your dog's AKC registration number if you want to run Fast CAT.

VHOC will provide the main dish for lunch, please feel free to bring potluck sides to share. Please, bring your own beverages.

This is a public park, so we please be ambassadors of canine good citizenry. All dogs must be leashed or in crates, and remember to clean up after your dogs. Bring lightweight chairs and crates as we may not be able to park adjacent to the picnic tables and car crating in the sun is not advisable.

Directions from SFV: 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway north. Exit Crown Valley Rd. Turn right (south). Travel about a mile and the park is on the right. Turn right on Syracuse to the parking lot. The lot is small and street parking may be required.

The link to the FAST CAT trial info : [VCSWC April 12 & 13, 2025 FAST CAT TRIALS - Southern California Scent Work](#)

The link to AKC's FAST CAT page is: <https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/>

RSVP to Nancy Smith by Wednesday April 9th— [nancymyerssmith@yahoo.com](mailto:nancymyerssmith@yahoo.com)



# VHOC Fit Dog Hike

## February 23, 2025

VHOC held its first Fit Dog Hike on Sunday, February 23rd. The location was Corriganville Movie Ranch in Simi Valley. The property was once used by film studios for outdoor location shooting. The unique sandstone formations can be seen in several old-time westerns.

The day was beautiful with temperatures in the 70s. We had 18 people and 16 dogs show up for the hike. They went around and over the sandstone. Billed as an easy 1.2 hike, the walk included going up and down a hill, which was a little challenging with its slippery footing. But with a little help from their friends, the casualty list was small. This was a great hike in that we had all sorts of dogs strolling together. Everyone got along – lots of chatting, dog sniffing and picture taking.

The hike qualified as a group Fit Dog hike. This means that those that attended can use the hike as one of the requirements for a Fit Dog title. There are three levels to this titling program – Bronze, Silver and Gold. Depending upon the level, you need to earn points in at least two Fitness Categories. These include: Participating in a canine fitness class, community runs/walks, individual walks and hikes, unique activities such as parkour or swimming, and/or titling in a AKC fitness sport such as agility or FAST CAT.

**The club's next Fit Dog hike will take place on Sunday, June 8th, 10am. The location will be Lake Balboa in the Valley. The 1.3 mile loop around the lake is on a concrete pathway – so no hills! Hope we get another great turnout.**

Submitted by Monica Nolan




## VHOC now recognized as FIT Dog Club

**We will be having several 1+ mile walks a year.**

- Our first walk was February 23, 2025
- Our second is scheduled to be at Balboa Park June 8, 2025





### AKC FIT DOG BRONZE (Novice) TITLE CHECKLIST

Dog owner name \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dog Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dog Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions: Must have a total of at least 5 points from at least 2 categories below. See the AKC FIT DOG Participant Guide for details regarding the required documentation for each category.**

Category	Points
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>A. AKC FIT DOG Course</b> (taught by an AKC Approved FIT DOG instructor) (5 weeks of classes)	<b>3</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>B. RUNS</b> - complete at least 1 organized community run. Document with wearable, smart phone, etc. Distance = at least 1 mile (e.g. Turkey Trot)	<b>3</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>C. WALKS AND HIKES</b> (you may choose either an independent or group walk) 1. <b>INDEPENDENT WALKS/HIKES</b> (on your own) Walk 75 minutes per week for 8 weeks with dog (document) _____ 2. <b>GROUP WALKS/HIKES</b> Complete 1 or more group walks (e.g., AKC FIT DOG Club walk) (at least 1 mile per walk)	<b>3</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>D. UNIQUE TO YOU AND YOUR DOG</b> [ ] Swimming [ ] Parkour - (OPKA or ADP) _____ [ ] Other _____	<b>2</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>E. AKC TITLE - FITNESS RELATED</b> May only count 1 title - includes virtual titles [ ] AKC Agility/ACT [ ] MADD Dock diving [ ] UpDog Disc Dog [ ] AKC FAST CAT [ ] AKC CAT [ ] AKC Lure coursing [ ] AKC Herding [ ] NAFA Flyball [ ] AKC Fetch [ ] AKC Field Trial or Hunting Test [ ] AKC Rally/Obedience [ ] AKC Tracking <small>What else? (QA, CDX, etc)</small> _____	<b>2</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>F. AKC Parent Club Performance Titles</b> May only count 1 title [ ] Pack Dog [ ] Skidding [ ] Coaching [ ] Carding [ ] Draft Dog [ ] Other _____ <small>What else? (QA, CDX, etc)</small> _____	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

For details, see the Participant Guide:  
<https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/>

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## Dog Owner's Guide to Types of Ticks

Blood-sucking ticks aren't just gross; they can spread disease to dogs and humans. Here's how to identify ticks and keep your dog safe.

By [Kim Campbell Thornton](#), Published: December 3, 2024

Nine tick species make their homes in various regions of North America. Besides being squicky to think about or, worse, encounter on your dog or yourself, some of the blood-sipping parasites—members of the arachnid family—can spread serious diseases to dogs and humans alike, including Lyme, Rocky Mountain spotted fever (which is not limited to the Rocky Mountains), anaplasmosis and more. That's the best reason to know which types of ticks are out there, where they live, how to identify them, ways to protect yourself and your pets from them, and what to do if you find a tick on your dog.

### Types of Ticks Dogs Get

Depending on where you live, these are the tick species you can encounter in North America:

- [American dog tick](#) (*Dermacentor variabilis*)
- [Asian longhorned tick](#) (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*)
- [Black-legged tick](#) (*Ixodes scapularis*)
- [Brown dog tick](#) (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*)
- [Gulf Coast tick](#) (*Amblyomma maculatum*)
- [Lone star tick](#) (*Amblyomma americanum*)
- [Rocky Mountain wood tick](#) (*Dermacentor andersoni*) (not dementor, but close)
- [Spinose ear tick](#) (*Otobius megnini*)
- [Western black-legged tick](#) (*Ixodes pacificus*)



Depending on its species and how recently they've fed, ticks can range from the size of a poppy seed to that of a small grape. Credit: Bernard Lynch | Getty Images

Tick populations are constantly on the move, finding new territory by way of migrating wildlife, traveling pets, and improved habitat resulting from climate change. Here's what to know about the various species.

**American dog ticks**, sometimes called Eastern wood ticks, are found in the eastern United States as well as the Pacific Northwest and certain areas of Canada and Mexico. Grassy fields and trails are their habitat. They feed on dogs and humans and their bite can transmit [Rocky Mountain spotted fever](#), tularemia and canine tick paralysis. American dog ticks are brown to reddish-brown with gray or silver markings on their back.

Invasive **Asian longhorned ticks** reported throughout most mid-Atlantic states, are generalists that feed on livestock, dogs, deer, and other animals. While they can be found anywhere, they appear to prefer tall grasses and wooded areas. They aren't known to transmit Lyme disease but have been shown experimentally to transmit the emerging Powassan and Heartland viruses. Severe infestations can result in fatal blood loss. Their appearance varies by feeding status. Asian longhorned ticks that haven't fed are a light reddish-tan to dark reddish with brown. Adult females that have fed appear gray-green with yellowish markings and can be the size of a pea. Males are rare because these ticks can reproduce without them.

**Black-legged ticks**, commonly known as deer ticks, are found in the eastern U.S. and Midwest, as far north as southeastern Canada and as far south as northeastern Mexico. They can spread [Lyme disease](#), [ehrlichiosis](#), and [anaplasmosis](#) to dogs and humans. Deer ticks favor forested habitat with low bushes and shrubs from which they can launch themselves onto their blood-filled feeding stations. They are reddish-brown with a black marking resembling a shield on their back and are about the size of a sesame seed.

## Dog Owner's Guide to Types of Ticks –continued

**Brown dog ticks** are global. In the U.S., no state is free of them, including Alaska and Hawaii. Brown dog ticks can live indoors and outdoors, in urban and rural areas, and dogs are their preferred hosts. They not only spread deadly [Rocky Mountain spotted fever](#), but also [ehrlichiosis](#) and [canine babesiosis](#). Around the world, they show resistance to acaricides, products that kill ticks. Habitat management and pesticides help to keep them under control. As the name implies, they are brown with few distinguishing features.

**Gulf Coast ticks** live along the Gulf Coast and up into the Atlantic coast. They spread an emerging disease in dogs called American canine hepatozoonosis (as opposed to Old World hepatozoonosis), first identified in the U.S. in 1978 on the Texas Gulf Coast. Since then, the disease has been diagnosed in dogs in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Tennessee. Gulf Coast ticks live in grass prairies and coastal uplands.

Female **lone star ticks** can be identified by the bright white spot on their back, or scutum. They inhabit the southern and eastern U. S., hiding in leaves and mulch and rushing out when they sense potential hosts. Not-so-fun fact: They are the fastest and most aggressive tick species when it comes to latching onto a host. Lone star ticks spread a number of diseases, including tularemia and [ehrlichiosis](#) to dogs and humans, and Heartland virus, Southern tick-associated rash illness, and Bourbon virus in humans. Their bite may also lead to a meat allergy called alpha-gal syndrome.

**Rocky Mountain wood ticks**, found primarily in Rocky Mountain and Western states, northern Plains states such as North and South Dakota, and southwestern Canada, prefer shrublands, lightly wooded areas, grasslands and trails, generally at subalpine elevations. They can transmit [RMSF](#) and tularemia to dogs and humans (and cats) and Colorado tick fever virus to humans. In some instances, their saliva contains a neurotoxin that can cause [tick paralysis](#) in dogs and humans. Rocky Mountain wood ticks have a red body shaped like a tear drop. Females have a white, shield-like marking at the top of the body, while males have gray and white spots.

**Spinose ear ticks**, a type of soft tick, range in color from gray to light brown. They are found throughout North America, including Mexico and western Canada. The good thing about them is that they don't spread any diseases. The bad? They're ticks. Wounds caused by their bite can develop secondary microbial infections or maggot infestations in severe cases.

**Western black-legged ticks** are West Coast cousins to black-legged ticks, living in forested areas all along the Pacific coast. Like their eastern cousins, they are vectors for [Lyme disease](#), feeding on infected host animals and then transmitting disease to other animals, including dogs and humans, in subsequent blood meals. They are oval-shaped with a brownish-black body and black legs. Although you wouldn't want to examine one closely enough to find out, females have an orange abdomen.

## Ticks and the Diseases They Spread to Dogs

Tickborne-disease diagnoses have risen steadily over the past two decades. More ticks in more places mean more close encounters with ticks by dogs and humans.

Most tickborne diseases are transmitted through saliva to the unwitting and unwilling host: your dog or yourself. If ticks have fed on an infected animal, the saliva they inject through a bite of the next host contains disease-bearing pathogens. Dogs don't directly spread tickborne diseases to humans, but they can bring ticks into homes, putting their people at risk of tick bites as well.

For instance, [Lyme disease](#) begins with infected deer ticks on dogs. Approximately 50 percent of deer ticks are carriers of this potentially devastating disease and the ticks are difficult to find because of their small size. Fortunately, they must be attached to the host for nearly two days or slightly longer before infection occurs, so if they're removed in a timely manner, disease risk is limited.

## Dog Owner's Guide to Types of Ticks –continued

You may have heard that dogs don't get Lyme disease, but that's a misconception. Many dogs are asymptomatic or have only subtle signs, but they can become infected and some do exhibit serious signs that come on quickly: lameness from painful joints, depression, weakness, reluctance to move, enlarged lymph nodes and fever. Chronic cases can result in persistent polyarthritis, acute progressive renal failure, and—although they are not conclusively linked to Lyme borreliosis—neurological signs such as changes in behavior: think sudden or unusual depression, fear, or aggression. If your dog has experienced a tick bite and shows these signs, talk to your veterinarian about running a tick panel and instituting aggressive antibiotic treatment right away.

Lyme disease isn't always easy to diagnose in dogs or humans. It's a disease of exclusion, so your veterinarian may want to rule out orthopedic disorders or other potential infectious causes.

For instance, *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, transmitted mainly by black-legged ticks, can cause clinical signs resembling those of canine Lyme. [Anaplasma](#) is seen most commonly in California and in the northeast United States. Signs include lameness, diarrhea, vomiting and fever. Another member of the rickettsia family, *Anaplasma platys*, causes infectious cyclic thrombocytopenia in dogs, resulting in periodic platelet loss and problems with blood clotting.

[Rocky Mountain spotted fever](#) is delivered by the bite of a tick carrying *Rickettsia rickettsii* bacteria. Signs of infection include high fever, appetite loss, muscle and abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and a stiff gait. Besides the Rocky Mountain area, it has been diagnosed in areas east of the Mississippi, including New York, and can be deadly in both dogs and humans.

[Ehrlichiosis](#) is a group of bacterial diseases caused by the rickettsia *Ehrlichia canis* or other types of *Ehrlichia*. It's usually transmitted by lone star ticks and brown dog ticks. Signs can be short-term or long-term and include fever, swollen lymph nodes, appetite loss, depression, stiffness, and coughing or difficulty breathing.

[Babesiosis](#) is a protozoal infection transmitted by blacklegged ticks, with transmission taking 48 to 72 hours. It invades red blood cells, triggering fever, anemia and weight loss. It is seen in the South and in California.

Signs of [tick bite paralysis](#), caused by the bite of an American dog tick or Rocky Mountain wood tick, include weakness, fever, a change in the dog's voice, vomiting, dilated pupils, and incoordination. Removal of the offending tick usually brings relief.

American canine hepatozoonosis is unusual in that transmission occurs not through the bite of a tick, but when a dog ingests either an infected tick or an infected intermediate host such as a rabbit. The disease is lifelong, with signs including fever, depression, weight loss, muscle atrophy, soreness and weakness. Many dogs die within two years of diagnosis.

## Finding and Removing Ticks on Dogs

Any time your dog has been outdoors in wooded areas or tall grass, a tick check is in order before you let them enter the house. Start with the head, face, neck, and inside of the ears. Look between the toes, at the junctures of legs and belly, and at the tail. Run your fingers through the coat in search of any bumps that aren't normally there. Part the fur so you can see down to the skin.

Once you overcome the ick factor, here's how to remove a tick. Put on latex gloves to protect your skin in case the tick bursts, grasp the tick with tweezers, as close to the skin as possible, and pull back with steady, even pressure. The goal is to remove the entire tick, including the head, in one go.



## Dog Owner's Guide to Types of Ticks –continued

Kill the tick by dropping it in alcohol—no crushing or flushing. Crushing the tick can expose you to disease, and flushing isn't good because ticks have air sacs that help them to survive in water. Then disinfect the bite area (and the tweezers) with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.

Don't use the end of a burnt match or lit cigarette or try to smother the tick with petroleum jelly or nail polish. These old-timey techniques can hurt your dog, increase the amount of time the tick is attached, and cause the tick to release more bacteria or protozoa into the bite site—both of which increase the risk of disease transmission.

### Keep Ticks at Bay

- Create a tick-unfriendly yard by keeping lawns short, lining the perimeter of your yard with wood chips or gravel, removing leaf litter and other brush that can shelter ticks in winter, and planting lavender, garlic, and chrysanthemums, which are natural tick repellents.
- Consider protective clothing for your dog—and yourself. Vests, t-shirts, and other items treated with dog-safe insect repellent can help keep ticks off your dog, or you can have them wear a onesie or similar item to reduce the amount of skin exposed to ticks. For yourself, wear shirts with long sleeves and socks pulled over pants legs. (And don't lean against trees—ask me why.)
- If you live or hike in areas where ticks are common, consider putting your dog on a preventive product. Tick preventives come in oral or topical form, as well as a collar that lasts for eight months. Depending on the product, it may repel ticks, kill on contact, or kill ticks if they bite a dog. Just because a tick is on your dog doesn't mean the preventive product isn't working. If you have any questions about which products might work best for your dog and the area where you live, check with your vet.

URL - [Dog Owner's Guide to Types of Ticks - Whole Dog Journal](#)

Article submitted by Allison Pobirs



### Calendar

Mar 22-23 – GSDCSGV Obedience and Rally trials at Freedom Park

Mar 22-23—IEHDA Herding Trials in Chino

Mar 27-30—Agility—[Upcoming Trials – Weekday Wing Ding Agility Trials](#)

⇒ **Mar 30 – Awards Banquet at BJ's Woodland Hills**

Apr 3-6—Agility—[Upcoming Trials – Weekday Wing Ding Agility Trials](#)

Apr 12 – Poochability Match

Apr 12 & 13 – Fast CAT at Acton Park [VCSWC April 12 & 13, 2025 FAST CAT TRIALS – Southern California Scent Work](#)

⇒ **April 13 – VHOC General Meeting with Picnic and Intro to Fast CAT to be held at Acton Park at the same time as the Fast CAT Trial**

## Excerpt from AKC Board Meeting Minutes February 2025-Final

### Agility – Transferring of Points and QOs from MACH to PACH

The Board VOTED to change the *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)* to allow for the transfer of accumulated points and double Qs (QQ) from the Master Agility Championship title (MACH) title track to the Preferred Agility Championship title (PACH) title track.

Once entered in the preferred master-level classes, the owner may, at their discretion, transfer one time QQs and points earned towards the MACH title to those needed to earn a PACH title. Only points and QQs that have not been applied to an awarded MACH title may be transferred. These changes will become effective on July 2, 2025.

#### Chapter 8 (new paragraph)

MACH To PACH Transfer of points and Double Qualify (2Qs) Points and Double Qs earned by a dog at the regular Master level that have not been applied to an awarded MACH title may upon request be transferred in whole to the dog's Preferred Master level for the purpose of earning a PACH. This is a one-time transfer per dog.

### Agility – Regulation Clarification for the Tire Jump

*The Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)*, Chapter 3, Section 3, 11. Tire Jump describes the method for attaching the connecting straps to secure the tire to the frame with the provided strap or elastic band. Staff feel there is a safety concern as the strap does not break away should a dog become lodged between the tire and the tire frame, potentially causing injury.

The Board VOTED to change the definition of a connecting strap to include the wording that the connecting strap must be displaceable.

**These changes will be effective on July 1, 2025.**

*Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)*, Chapter 3, Section 3, 11. Tire Jump

#### 11. Tire Jump.

(New wording underlined below – all other parts of this section 11 remain the same.) After confirming that the tire meets the required 16-20 lbs. requirement, secure the tire to the frame with the provided strap or elastic band that is displaceable from the tire frame when force is applied.

### Agility – International Sweepstakes Class (ISC) Updates

The Board VOTED to approve updates to *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)*, Chapter 14 to keep the International Sweepstakes Class (ISC) Regulations consistent with changes in international Agility.

The only new Regulation is to allow bitches in season to compete at ISC-only trials at the option of the host club. This will be done on a one-year trial basis.

Section 2. Eligibility of Dogs. This class is open to dogs that are eligible to compete in AKC Agility Trials. Dogs may be entered in any of the offered class levels and in multiple levels at the trial. For ISC ONLY trial Bitches in season (BIS) may be entered at the club's discretion. If the club decides to allow BIS to complete that information and any restrictions placed by the club must be noted in the Premium. (This will be done as a 1-year trial period and then evaluated)

(See updates in Appendix A.)

**These changes are effective May 1, 2025.**

**Excerpt from AKC Board Meeting Minutes February 2025-Final = continued**

**Herding – Change to the Minimum Field Size for Course B Ducks**

The Board VOTED to amend the AKC Herding Regulations to reduce the minimum field size in Herding for Course B Ducks to 150 feet by 200 feet to allow clubs with smaller open fields to hold duck trials. The distances for the exercises do not change.

**The change is effective for trials held after March 5, 2025.**

Chapter VI. Section 1. Course B.  
Paragraph 8.

For ducks, the field must allow ~~400~~ 50 feet at the top and 50 feet at the bottom, which is in addition to the distance the stock will be placed from the handler’s post, which is from 60 feet to 150 feet, depending on the level. The width of the field must allow ~~75~~ 50 feet on each side of the gates. The minimum trial field size for ducks, when all levels are offered, is 200 150 feet X 250 200 feet.

Section 2. Course Layout.  
Paragraph 6.

Gate #2 shall be set to stand at approximately a 15 45-degree angle with the cross-drive course line so the handler can see through the gate opening.

**Herding – Regulation Clarifications for Course D**

The Board VOTED to add clarifications to Chapter 8 of the AKC Herding Regulations which covers Course D. These clarifications will give more specific information about the Herding work required for this course. These clarifications will benefit our judges when scoring each performance and allow exhibitors to gain more technical information about what will be required to earn a qualifying score. This change also includes permitting cattle as livestock.

(See updates in Appendix B.)

**These changes are effective May 1, 2025**

Taken from [Board-Minutes-February-2025-FINAL-PUBLISHED.pdf](#)

Mach to Pach point change information submitted to Newsette by Nancy Smith



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

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**Yvonne Garst with Barbie and Herman Jo**

SWCSGF, AKC scent work March 8th

University of the West.

**Yvonne Garst and Barbie** HD Novice B, First place, **New Handler Discrimination Title.**

**Yvonne Garst and Herman Jo**

HD advanced qualifying score

SWCSGF, AKC scent work—March 9th

**Yvonne Garst and Herman Jo**

Advanced exteriors qualifying score.

Advanced interiors qualifying score

Advanced buried qualifying score

Advanced containers qualifying score

Herman Jo



Barbie will be age 13 March 26th



**Laurie Burnam and Tesla**

Australian Shepherd Club S. Cal/MAC, ASCA Agility Juniper Hills, Feb 15, 16, 2025

Elite Regular 5 pt Q 5th place

Elite Gamblers 10 pt Q 2nd place

**BRAGS**

**Monica Nolan with Rose and Augie**

**Happy St. Patty's Day!**

Rose and Augie earned their **Fit Dog Silver titles** this month after completing their second hike with the club on February 23rd.

We also returned to agility after a four month hiatus, entering the March 8th ASCA trial at Juniper Hills. Results showed our lack of practice- mistakes all around! Augie did manage to snag a Q and 2nd in Elite Jumpers and Rose Q'd with a 2nd in Novice Regular. The crowd cheering run of the day was Novice Gamblers where I tripped, fell flat on my face, then got up and finished the run. Rose got the Gamble, earning her a 1st place!



**Cheri Preciado with Ruby, RoxC, Mercy, Faith, Kenny and Stone**

Our new member Cheri Preciado came to us with lots of brags.

**Ruby**

Caralot Ravishing Ruby earned her **ATDd, ATDs, ATDc titles** in February completing the requirements for the **WTCH** (Working Trial Championship) ASCA doesn't not call stock-work herding.



**RoxC**

Caralot Kyk N Rox BN, RNX has earned her **CD and RAX** in February .

**BRAGS**

**Mercy**

Caralot Love N Mercy BN, CD, RNX, RAX, GS-N-SP, JS-N-SP, RS-N-SP, has earned her **RS-O, GS-O, JS-O, JS-E, and her REX** in January/February.





**Cheri Preciado with Ruby, RoxC, Mercy, Faith, Kenny and Stone**

Our new member Cheri Preciado came to us with lots of brags.

# BRAGS

**Faith**

Caralot Little Spot O'Country BN, CD, RNX, RAX has earned her **GS-N-SP, JS-N-SP, RS-N-SP, and RA** in January/February.



**Kenny**

Caralot She Believes N Me BN, RNX, RAX, completed his **CD** on his 9th's birthday February 23.

**Stone**

Caralot Styx N Stonz BN, CD, RNX, RAX hasn't trialed so far this year. He needs 1 point for his Conformation Championship.





# BRAGS



Top Ten Working Group	
1	OTDH Gladys High Plains Dribble V Murphy UDQD Rottweiler F Walberg 475
2	OTDH CH OTDH2 Seneca H Gusher UDQD CGM BN RA FDC CGC CGC Standard Schnauzer S Orlan 400
3	RACH Dogmochain Luna Kain Stellanau UDQD PCD QMS GN VER RMZ RMZ FDC CG Rottweiler H Stone/D Stone 346
4	OTDH RACH Skatibook Theodor Snaker UDQD UDQD PUTD QDM BN GN GO PPD B Standard Schnauzer D Galfr 318
5	Highview Ivy League Scent UDQ OMZ BN GO GN AG SWN SGA SGA SEA CGC Portuguese Water Dog S Corfran 206
6	OTDH Nabeska's Silver Linking Of Tahaj UDQD DPO BN RE CGCA CGCU TGA Standard Poodle S Vandenberg 204
7	BayWires Parakeed's Axel UDQ QMH BN BN FDC CGCA TGH ATT Standard Schnauzer J Bailey 214
8	CH OTDH2 Legend Yarns Prince Of The Wires UDQ PCD QM7 BN GO Standard Schnauzer K Wright/Knight 204

6	GCHB CH Kalista's What A Catch UD QML RE GA DAU CP TIG Portuguese Water Dog N Beemany/L Hunt 66	4	CH Gladys The Lem Gurlinger V Murphy UD QML VER RA DM CG CGCA TKN Rottweiler B Ortaga 77
7	RACH Allyn The Eagles Are Coming UDQD UD BN RE ROR ROR WOF SWE SDM SBN Portuguese Water Dog L Hovinsky/L Wobbehoff 31	5	Helo & Esmonds Fantastic Voyage UD PUTD BN FTR Rottweiler S Woodson/D Gaidin 33
8	Patriot's Robacoctor Harbor CGC CGC Portuguese Water Dog S Galfr 26	6	Deerwood's Radek's Rymgol UD QML RNG RACZ AN AXD XF GA BCAT Rottweiler A Jordra/P Karala 24
9	CH Searchley's Foddlers CGC BN GN RJ SON SDN Portuguese Water Dog L Macrackan 23	6	GCH CH Big Beach's Ticket To Ride CG BN CGC TKN Rottweiler S Harvey 24
10	CH RACH Ablescence Marinda Irish Eyes Are Smiling CGC PCDX BN GN RM4 B Portuguese Water Dog C Winters/E Whelan/A Lane 22	6	CH Twin Creeks Denning In The Rain CG BN RE Rottweiler L Rowald 24
		7	Melba's Canary Diamond UD BN RE SAU SWN SEE SIA SBA Rottweiler C Harby 22
		8	CH Sleepers 2 Hot 2 Hobbies Roman Blomac CG CGCA TKN Rottweiler T Wale 21
		9	GCH CH Fleeter's Pearl Hallel CG BN RA CGC TKN Rottweiler J Rowlett, Dvayn/K Pfluer 17
		10	Helo & Esmonds Helbert Peltis CGC MAP NUP CSA ACTD Rottweiler J Gled/N Hobbe Jackson 18

**Flo Walberg and Ashley**  
I got the report according to AKC from last year's results.  
**She got to be #1 Rottweiler and #1 dog in the Working Group.**



**Debbie Lang with Morgan**  
On March 2, 2025 at the Australian Cattle Dog of GLA herding trial Morgan was entered in Started A Sheep. He earned his 1st leg with a score of 84 and 4th place.



**Debbie Lang with Max and Panda**  
Scent Work Club of the San Gabriel Foothills—March 8th  
Max—Qualified in Novice A—Interiors and Exteriors. In Buried he qualified with a Brilliant ribbon and 3rd place  
Panda—Qualified in Handler Discrimination with a 3rd place

**Kathy Spilos and Brontay**

**BRAGS**

**Brontay, HT!** Alongside Kathy Spilos, Brontay took a big paw step forward the weekend of February 16, when she completed her herding test and earned her first ever herding title under judge Peggy Richter! Last October she passed the initial leg of this journey in Chino, but didn't have a chance until the new year to finish the job. Icing on the cake, it happened at their German Shepherd Dog Club of the San Gabriel Valley's herding trials in the high desert.



Kathy Spilos says thanks to a village of mentors - human and canine — and ESPECIALLY her uncle Votan, Love on a Leash (LOAL) has officially certified Brontay as a Therapy dog! In addition to that, she has also earned her **AKC Therapy Dog Novice title!** Brava “Baby B!” We all knew you were headed this direction!



Brontay on the red carpet while visiting at Pepperdine University after the fires:



Brontay with members of the MPTF therapy dog team: From Left-Right, seated -- River and Lulu; on the ground — Sapphire, Rosie and Brontay.

**For those curious about the LOAL Certification Process:** The therapy dog certification process for LOAL includes a Control (obedience, temperament and behavior) Evaluation. Once the handler/dog team passes that they're allowed to begin part two in which the team must complete ten “supervised visits.” At the end of the tenth visit, the team’s evaluator conducts the Visit Evaluation. Passing this second evaluation allows the team to then apply for full, lifetime membership with LOAL. Interested in learning more about therapy dog work and the certification process? Contact VHOC members, Kathy Spilos and/or Monica Nolan.



# ACE - Champion Panda



## BRAGS

### Debbie Lang and Panda

After going to the Scent Work trial on Saturday 3/8 we went to the ASCA Agility Trial in Juniper Hills on Sunday 3/9.

Panda earned her **ACE Championship**—she is entered as a Senior Dog and can jump at 12 inches and get a little extra time on runs. This program is great for the older dogs.

She finished her ACE under judge Mark Buehl and she qualified in all four runs, two Elite Regular and two Elite Gamblers with 10 point Qs and First place in all four classes.

*Tired of training outside?*

*Preparing for that big, noisy indoor show?*



*Need to do some fine-tuning in front of a big mirror?*

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**Sharon Shilkoff and Nick**

Nick " Verdoro's National Treasure" found Arizona to be to his liking. At the beginning of February at the Sahuaro KC, Nick went WD/BOW/BOB and took a Group 3 for a 5 pt major. Returning to Arizona at the beginning of March, Nick garnered his second major for 4 points and the next day was WD for another 2 pts. I owe many thanks to his handler, Megan Honari of Washington State. He now sits at 11 points and I'm hoping he'll be home soon! And in January, Nick competed in his first Scent Work Trial at the Scent Work Club of San Gabriel Foothills, securing qualifying ribbons in Nov-ice A containers, exterior and interior. Nick was bred by Michael Faulkner and Ann Greenbank and is owned/loved by Sharon Shilkoff.

<http://www.woodlandgr.com>



**BRAGS**



**Debbie Lang with Panda and Morgan**

We went on the Fit Dog Walk with the club on February 23rd at Corriganville Park in Simi Valley.

Panda and Morgan both earned their **FIT DOG BRONZE** titles.

# BRAGS

## Cynthia Binder and Yarra

My 3 year old GSD Yarra finished her **Started A Cattle herding title** at the large annual ACD herding trial in Chino 3/1/25. The cattle were difficult but she showed a lot of gumption and succeeded!

I'm even prouder of the fact that on 2/15/25 at the GSD herding trial in Neenach, she got her first place major and finished her **Herding Championship!**



# Herding Champion Yarra





# 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](#)





Don't forget our April 13th  
General Meeting  
Flyer on page 3

## 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](mailto:pattirovtar@gmail.com)

### Agility - Skills & Drills -

**Skills and Drills I (Novice/Intermediate) Wednesdays 6:30 pm, Reseda**

**Skills and Drills II (Intermediate/Advanced) Mondays 7:00 pm, Reseda**

Instructor: Olga Chaiko, For more information, please contact Ann at [tonkanuki@aol.com](mailto:tonkanuki@aol.com)

**PLEASE CHECK WITH OUR INSTUCTORS FOR NEW CLASS START DATES**

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

### NEW Scent Work Classes

**Continuing Nose Work (Intermediate—Advanced) - Mondays 6:30-7:30 Chatsworth**

Contact Carole Hills for information—[chills37@aol.com](mailto:chills37@aol.com)

**Beginning Nose Work—Wednesday evenings in Moorpark**

Contact Shiro Torquato for information— [drshiro2000@gmail.com](mailto:drshiro2000@gmail.com)