



Newsette



WWW.VHOC.ORG

P.O. BOX 10132 CANOGA PARK, CALIFORNIA 91309

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Calendar Items

- April 12th 10AM—Fit Dog Walk at Ventura Pier
- May 3—Hollywood Dog Obed Club Obed/Rally Trial
- May 9-10 Buenaventura Dog Training Club Obed/rally Trial
- June 12th 7PM—Zoom General Meeting with Dr Deena Case-Pall—more information to follow.
- Sept 12-13—VHOC Obedience and Rally Trial
- Dec 4-6 - VHOC Annual Agility Trial



We usually don't hear about Rattlesnake concerns so early in the year. But, with the early rains, and increased heat there are more rodents and other food sources for the snakes and they are more active.

See Precautions on Page 14 taken from <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Reptiles/Rattlesnake>



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

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Got News?

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

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

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

Debbie Lang at
djlang@sbcglobal.net

Submission deadline is the 8th of each month

This is YOUR Newsette...make it great!

April Fit Dog Walk Change of Location

Our next walk is Sunday **April 12th**

gather at the base of the pier at 9:45 am, the walk will be starting at 10 AM

Location: **Ventura Pier Promenade** (Cement walkway to the right of the pier)

Address: 750 E Harbor Blvd., Ventura. Please park in the parking structure. Cost is \$2/hour or \$10/all day. If you eat at a local restaurant afterwards you can get the parking validated.



Due to the unusually high number of rattlesnake encounters reported in the Santa Monica Mountains this season, we've decided to relocate our April 12th Fit Dog Hike to a safer location: Ventura Pier and Promenade. This is an easy, one-mile walk along the cement pathway at Ventura Beach. We did this walk last year and everyone had a great time.

Parking Information:

- Parking near the Ventura Pier is available in several options, including a parking structure, surface lots, and street parking.
- The parking structure at Harbor Boulevard and California Street, adjacent to the pier, charges \$2 per hour or a \$10 all-day rate .
- Some businesses on the pier may validate the pass.
- You can also find paid parking at San Buenaventura State Beach's lot, which is within walking distance of the pier

If you're interested in joining us for this walk,
please **RSVP to Monica by April 10th** at:

nolanmilano@gmail.com

Allison Pobirs' thoughts and Reflections on the VHOC 2025 Perpetual Annual Awards

The honor and joys of being added to the rooster of members etched into a perpetual trophy

Being added to the names etched into a perpetual trophy is an incredibly prestigious and rewarding experience, marking a permanent place in the history of a competition, organization, or team. Unlike a standard, one-off award, having your name on a perpetual trophy signifies a lasting legacy of excellence that is displayed for years, if not decades.

Here is why it is considered so "cool" and meaningful:

Immortalized Legacy: Your name is physically etched alongside past winners, placing you within a "living monument" of achievement. It ensures your hard work is not forgotten but is instead part of a continuous story.

Visible Recognition: These trophies are usually displayed in prominent, central locations—such as corporate lobbies, clubhouses, or school hallways—so your achievement is seen daily by colleagues, peers, and visitors.

Significance of Excellence: It acts as a testament to perseverance, commitment, and skill, symbolizing that you are among the best of the best.

Historical Connection: It connects you to a long line of winners, building a sense of continuity, tradition, and shared history within a group.

Motivation for Others: Knowing your name is on the trophy serves as a "powerful source of inspiration" for others to strive for the same level of accomplishment, giving you a legacy that motivates.

In short, it moves your accomplishment from a passing moment to an enduring, visible mark of success.

So many new and old teams were added to the ranks of recognition at the VHOC Annual Awards Presentations and Banquet Sunday March 29th. Several of our attendees made their way to BJ's Brewhouse & Restaurant for an evening of laughter with good company, food, awards, and entertainment that Ann Hills orchestrated, it was a delightful time for us all! The slideshow that accompanied the awards presentations, was darling and honored member's accomplishments warmed my heart, and those of recipients. The slide show of attendee's dogs garnered many ooohs and ahhs. The menu - yum. That was a lot...it could have ended there, but noooo...Ann put together an entertaining, interactive dog trivia game played simultaneously by all which was a lot of fun for all.

Another acknowledgement to Debbie Lang who captured special moments from the evening to commemorate the evening. We also had the opportunity to wish Michelle Goyette (and her Aussies and equines) farewell as she prepares to relocate to Massachusetts. But not empty handed. She takes many of us with her on the award plaque retired to her as the last person awarded said 'filled' plaque. A memento of her VHOC experience!

This was a lovely evening, congratulations to all for their accomplishments with their K9 partners, bonding and creating memories. Whether you titled, earned an award or simply treasured with experiences, and celebrating those experiences of your fellow club members.

The Annual VHOC Awards Banquet is always a nice time. So much so that many of us came directly from trials to participate.

Congrats to all for your 2025 trials (pun intend) and tribulations

Here we come 2026!

Updated information for the Special Edition

The definition of a Herding Champion was not correct in the Annual Awards Presentation and subsequently the Special Edition of the Newsette. I have requested our webmaster to post the updated version of the VHOC Special Edition—Annual Awards 2025 on the VHOC website.

The correct requirements are:

An AKC

Herding Championship

Is Awarded when the dog that has acquired an HX title and earned 15 championship points in Advanced classes with at least two first places in an Advanced class carrying championship points. One of the Advanced class first places must be for three points or better, and both Advanced class first places must be acquired under different judges.

**Cynthia Binder
and Yarra**



**If you missed the
Annual Award Banquet on
March 29th**

**You missed a good time.
A Special Edition of the Newsette
has all of the
Award Plaque recipients
and the Annual Award
Winners**



We had 34 Title Plaque Recipients

Congratulations to all our members and dogs who are out there learning, training and competing.

We had a variety of titles earned in lots of events.

Agility, Rally, Obedience
Therapy Dog, Herding, Fit Dog
Fast CAT, Scentwork,
Canine Good Citizen, Fetch,
Trailing & Locating



**Thank you Ann Hills
for a great Presentation
and Allison Pobirs for
Awards Presentation**

Laurie Burnam found this while cleaning out some files, I wonder how much is still true.

Subject: I got this from a cousin....

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 1:55 PM

DID YOU KNOW?

- Peel a banana from the bottom and you won't have to pick the little 'stringy things' off of it. That's how the primates do it.
- Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.
- Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mold!
- Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating. Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.
- Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.
- To really make scrambled eggs or omelets rich add a couple of spoonfuls of sour cream, cream cheese, or heavy cream in and then beat them up.
- For a cool brownie treat, make brownies as directed. Melt chocolate mint patties in double broiler and pour over warm brownies. Let set for a wonderful minty frosting.
- Add garlic immediately to a recipe if you want a light taste of garlic and at the end of the recipe if you want a stronger taste of garlic.
- Leftover snickers bars from Halloween make a delicious dessert. Simply chop them up with the food chopper. Peel, core and slice a few apples. Place them in a baking dish and sprinkle the chopped candy bars over the apples. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes!!! Serve alone or with vanilla ice cream. Yummm!
- Reheat Pizza Heat up leftover pizza in a non-stick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy micro pizza. I saw this on the cooking channel and it really works.
- Easy Deviled Eggs Put cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag. Seal, mash till they are all broken up. Add remainder of ingredients, reseal, keep mashing it up mixing thoroughly, cut the tip of the baggy, squeeze mixture into egg. Just throw bag away when done easy clean up.
- Expanding Frosting - When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar and calories per serving.
- Reheating refrigerated bread - To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.
- Newspaper weeds away—Start putting in your plants, work the nutrients in your soil. Wet newspapers, put layers around the plants overlapping as you go cover with mulch and forget about weeds. Weeds will get through some gardening plastic they will not get through wet newspapers.

- Broken Glass—Use a wet cotton ball or Q-tip to pick up the small shards of glass you can't see easily.
- No More Mosquitoes - Place a dryer sheet in your pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.
- Squirrel Away! - To keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it.
- Flexible vacuum - To get something out of a heat register or under the fridge add an empty paper towel roll or empty gift wrap roll to your vacuum. It can be bent or flattened to get in narrow openings.
- Reducing Static Cling - Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose. Place pin in seam of slacks and... ta da!...static is gone.
- Measuring Cups - Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill with hot water. Dump out the hot water, but don't dry cup. Next, add your ingredient, such as peanut butter, and watch how easily it comes right out.
- Foggy Windshield? - Hate foggy windshields? Buy a chalkboard eraser and keep it in the glove box of your car. When the windows fog, rub with the eraser! Works better than a cloth!
- Reopening envelope - If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Viola! It unseals easily.
- Conditioner - Use your hair conditioner to shave your legs. It's cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth. It's also a great way to use up the conditioner you bought but didn't like when you tried it in your hair.
- Goodbye Fruit Flies - To get rid of pesky fruit flies, take a small glass, fill it 1/2' with Apple Cider Vinegar and 2 drops of dish washing liquid; mix well. You will find those flies drawn to the cup and gone forever!
- Get Rid of Ants - Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it 'home,' can't digest it so it kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works and you don't have the worry about pets or small children being harmed!
- INFO ABOUT CLOTHES DRYERS - The heating unit went out on my dryer! The gentleman that fixes things around the house for us told us that he wanted to show us something and he went over to the dryer and pulled out the lint filter. It was clean. (I always clean the lint from the filter after every load clothes.) He told us that he wanted to show us something else; he took the filter over to the sink and ran hot water over it. The lint filter is made of a mesh material... I'm sure you know what your dryer's lint filter looks like. Well .the hot water just sat on top of the mesh! It didn't go through it at all! He told us that dryer sheets cause a film over that mesh that's what burns out the heating unit. You can't SEE the film, but it's there. It's what is in the dryer sheets to make your clothes soft and static free... that nice fragrance too. You know how they can feel waxy when you take them out of the box .well this stuff builds up on your clothes and on your lint screen. This is also what causes dryer units to potentially burn your house down with it! He said the best way to keep your dryer working for a very long time (and to keep your electric bill lower) is to take that filter out and wash it with hot soapy water and an old toothbrush (or other brush) at least every six months. He said that makes the life of the dryer at least twice as long!

How about that!!

Learn something new everyday! I certainly didn't know dryer sheets would do that.

Public Health Reports All Time High of Flea-Borne Typhus Cases

People Urged to Take Precautions Now to Protect Themselves and Their Pets

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is reporting a record number of flea-borne typhus cases in Los Angeles County, with 220 cases identified in 2025, the highest-ever recorded. Alarming, nearly 9 out of 10 people identified as infected with typhus required hospitalization, underscoring the seriousness of the disease and the urgent need for awareness and prevention. The good news is that flea-borne typhus is treatable with antibiotics, especially when diagnosed early.

People are often exposed in and around their homes, when infected fleas are carried indoors on pets or other animals. Fleas that spread typhus are commonly found on stray animals, rodents, and other wildlife such as opossums.

Public Health urges people to take these key steps now:

- Protect your pets: Use flea control year-round
- Avoid stray animals: Don't feed or handle them
- Keep wildlife out: Secure trash and block entry and hiding points

Cases have been reported across the County, including three localized outbreaks [investigated](#) in 2025 in Central Los Angeles City, the City of Santa Monica and the unincorporated neighborhood of Willowbrook in South LA County. This marks a continued rise from 187 cases in 2024 and reflects a sustained upward trend in recent years.

“Flea-borne typhus can cause serious illness, but it is preventable with simple steps,” said Muntu Davis, MD, MPH, Los Angeles County Health Officer. “With cases at an all-time high and most requiring hospitalization, it’s critical that people take simple steps now, such as routinely using flea control on their pets, avoiding contact with stray animals, and preventing wildlife from living in or around their homes.”

Symptoms typically appear within 1–2 weeks after becoming infected and may include fever, headache, rash, and body aches. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should seek medical care promptly, especially if they may have been exposed to fleas or animals.

In 2025, cases ranged in age from 1 to 85 years, highlighting that people of all age groups are at risk.

Public Health Reports All Time High of Flea-Borne Typhus Cases—Continued

About Flea-Borne Typhus (Typhus)

Typhus is an acute febrile bacterial infection caused by *Rickettsia Typhi* bacteria, which is spread by infected fleas.

Because animals carrying infected fleas often appear healthy, people may not realize they are at risk.

In Los Angeles County, infected fleas are commonly found on rats, free-roaming cats, and opossums. Pets that spend time outdoors can carry fleas into homes and expose household members. People can also become infected when flea dirt (poop) enters the body through cuts or scrapes in the skin or if rubbed into the eyes. Infected animals typically do not show signs of illness, and flea-borne typhus is not spread from person to person.

Signs and symptoms of flea-borne typhus can include fever, headache, body aches and muscle pain, nausea, vomiting and rash. Flea-borne typhus is treatable with antibiotics, and early diagnosis helps prevent severe illness and hospitalization.

Additional Steps to Prevent Flea Exposure

The best way to prevent illness is to reduce exposure to fleas and avoid contact with animals that may carry them. People can still be exposed without direct contact, as infected fleas can be brought into the home on pets or other animals.

Protect yourself and your pets:

- Routinely use flea control products on your pets.
- Keep pets indoors as much as possible.
- When outside, use EPA-registered insect repellent labeled for protection against fleas.

Avoid attracting wild or stray animals:

- Don't leave pet food outdoors.
- Don't feed or touch free-roaming animals.

Maintain your property:

- Keep your yard free of debris and trim overgrown plants and bushes.
- Keep trash in containers with tightly fitting lids.
- Close off crawl spaces and seal openings where animals can enter, hide, or find food.

Report concerns:

- Notify local animal control if you observe stray animals, rodents, or opossums near your property.

Know the symptoms:

- Flea-borne typhus can cause fever, chills, headache, and rash. Seek medical care promptly if symptoms develop.

To learn more about flea-borne typhus and prevention visit: ph.lacounty.gov/Typhus

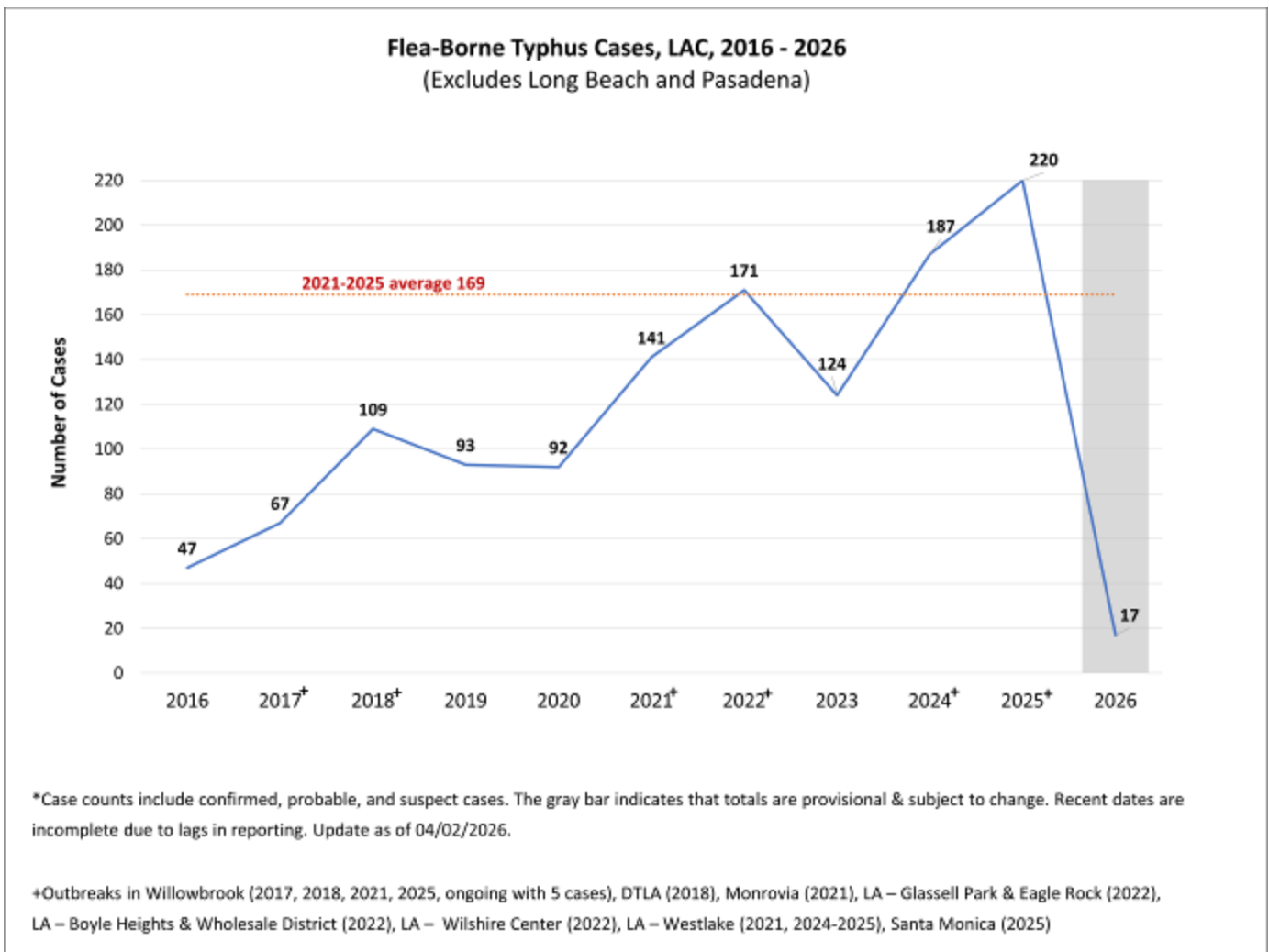
Information submitted by Laurie Burnam

<https://lacounty.gov/2026/04/02/public-health-reports-all-time-high-of-flea-borne-typhus-cases/>

Flea-Borne Typhus

LA County documented chard of increase of FBT cases.

FBT has increased in LA County since 2010. In 2025, an all-time high of 220 cases were documented. This marks a continued rise from 187 cases in 2024 and reflects a sustained upward trend in recent years. The observed increase in typhus cases has been widespread throughout the County however, localized clusters and outbreaks have been identified primarily in Central Los Angeles and South Los Angeles areas. FBT cases occur year-round but tend to peak during the late summer and fall months. For more detailed information, visit the LA County Acute Communicable Disease Control Disease Surveillance Data Dashboard: http://dashboard.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acdc_annual_report_dashboard/.



Taken from— ph.lacounty.gov/Typhus

FLEA-BORNE TYPHUS



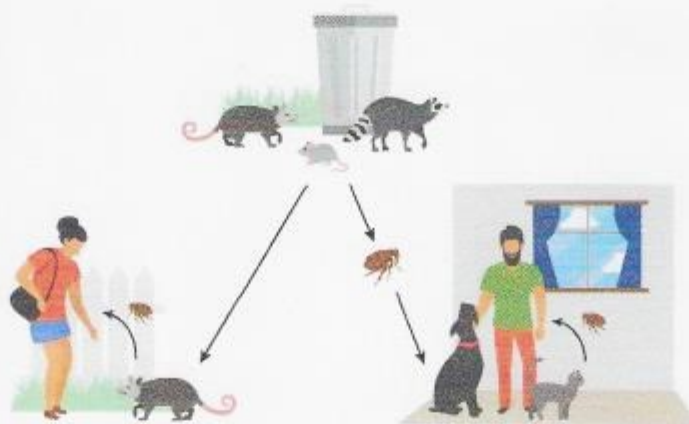
What is flea-borne typhus?

Flea-borne typhus is a bacterial disease that can spread from some animals to humans by fleas and make people sick. Typhus is endemic (always present) in Los Angeles County.

What animals can carry the bacteria that causes typhus?

Opossums, cats, and rodents (rats) can carry the bacteria that causes typhus. Fleas living on these animals can become infected and then spread the disease to humans.

Flea-borne Typhus Transmission



Who is at risk of getting flea-borne typhus?

People who touch, pet, or come in contact with rats, opossums, and free-roaming cats in areas where typhus is present are at risk of getting typhus from infected fleas.

People living outdoors or in housing infested with rats or other rodents are also at risk of getting typhus from fleas.

What are the common symptoms of typhus?

Common symptoms include: fever, headache, chills, muscle aches, and rash on or around the chest, sides, and back.

If you have these symptoms, see your health care provider right away. Tell your health care provider if you have had contact with fleas or rodents.

Prevention

Avoid contact with fleas:

- Use flea control products on pets
- Keep pets indoors
- Do not leave pet food or trash outside that may attract animals
- Seal holes and openings in the home where rodents can enter
- Do not feed or try to touch free-roaming cats or wild animals
- Keep trash cans covered at all times
- Trim and remove plants near the outside of the house
- Use insect repellent when outside



2026 AKC Show Events

- April 9-12 – Belgian Tervuren Club of Southern CA – Lancaster – **Herding C Course**
- April 11 – 12 – Southern California Portuguese Water Dog Club – City of Industry – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- April 16th – April 19th – Conformation Shows at City of Industry
- April 18 – Scent Work Club of San Diego – Poway – **Scent Work Trial**
- April 18 – High Desert Scent Work Club – Phelan – **Farm Dog Certification (FDC)** - David Shui, Event Secretary
- April 18 – AKC Judge Fetch Test XI – Phelan – **Fetch Test** - April Vaillancourt, Event Secretary
- April 18-19 – German Shepherd Dog Club of the SGV – Lancaster – **Herding C Course**
- April 19 – Southwest Obedience Club of LA – Torrance – **Rally/Obedience** - Jennifer Gysler, Event Secretary
- April 18-19 Dog Agility Club of Ventura – Camarillo – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- April 24-26 – Apple Valley Kennel Club – Victorville – **Rally/Obedience** - Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, Superintendent Plus Conformation
- April 25-26 – Keeshond Club of So Cal – City of Industry – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- May 1-4 – Hollywood Dog Obed Club – Agility - Camarillo - [Jump City Agility](#)
- May 3 – Hollywood Dog Obed Club – Camarillo - **Rally/Obedience**
- May 2-3 – Ventura County Scent Work Club – Acton – **Fast CAT** [Action Dog Sports](#) |
- May 9-10 – Buenaventura Dog Training Club – Obedience/Rally - Camarillo
- May 9-10 – Cocker Spaniel Club of Orange County – Norco – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- May 15 -Scent Work Club of the SGF – Pasadena – **Scent Work Detective Class only**
- May 16-17 – Scent Work Club of the SGF – Burbank – **Scent Work Trial**
- May 15-17 – Moorpark KC – Camarillo – Agility - [Jump City Agility](#)
- May 16-17 – Agility Club of San Diego – Temecula – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- May 21 Tri-Valley Working Dog Club of Pinon Hills – San Juan Capistrano – **All Breed Rally/Obedience and Working Breed Conformation**
- May 21 – Los Encinos KC – San Juan Capistrano – **Fast CAT**
- May 22 – San Gabriel Valley KC – San Juan Capistrano – **Rally/Obedience/ Conformation**
- May 23 – South Bay KC – San Juan Capistrano – **Obedience/Conformation**
- May 24 - Antelope Valley KC – San Juan Capistrano – **Obedience/Rally/Conformation**
- May 25 – Los Encinos KC – San Juan Capistrano – **Obedience/Rally/Conformation**
- May 22-25 Greater Los Angeles Scent Work Club – Acton – **Fast CAT** [Action Dog Sports](#) |
- May 22-24 Southern California Portuguese Water Dog Club – Camarillo – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- May 30-31 – Dash Agility Club of So Cal – Huntington Beach – Agility - Michele Morlang, Event Secretary
- May 30-31 – Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association – Ventura – **Scent Work** and **Conformation**
- May 30-31 – High Desert Scent Work Club – Phelan – **Fast CAT**
- June 4 – Greater LA Scent Work Club – Camarillo – Agility - [Action Dog Sports](#) |
- June 5-7 Border Collie Club of Gtr LA – Camarillo – Agility - [Action Dog Sports](#) |
- June 11 – Ventura County Scent Work Club – Camarillo – Agility - [Action Dog Sports](#) |
- June 12-14 Border Collie Club of Gtr LA - Camarillo – Agility - [Action Dog Sports](#) |
- June 19 – 21 – Golden Retriever Club of Gtr LA - Camarillo – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- June 26-28 – Southern California Collie Club - Camarillo – Agility - [Jump City Agility](#)
- July 4-5 – Samoyed Club of LA – City of Industry – Agility – [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- July 11-12 Papillon Club of So Cal – Norco – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- July 18-19 Dog Agility Club of Ventura – Camarillo – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- July 31 – Aug 2 – Moorpark KC – Camarillo - [Jump City Agility](#)

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.

So far there have been six rattlesnake bites in Ventura County—two of them have been fatal. With the early rains and the warmer temperatures the snakes have come out earlier than usual. Although they are around all year the increased warmth has triggered the rattlesnakes to increased activity. I know a lot of our members hike and walk their dogs, just please be more careful and aware.

Potential Conflict and Coexistence—RATTLESNAKES

Remember

- Stay alert when outdoors.
- Wear sturdy boots and loose-fitting long pants. DO NOT wear sandals or flip-flops in brushy areas.
- Stay on well-used trails. Avoid tall grass, weeds, and heavy underbrush.
- Check rocks, stumps or logs before sitting down.
- Shake out sleeping bag and tent before use.
- Let others know where you are going, when you plan to return, and carry a cell phone. Hike with a companion when possible.
- DO NOT grab “sticks” in water. Rattlesnakes can swim.
- DO NOT let dogs off leash. Dogs are at increased risk when sniffing the ground near brushy areas.
- DO NOT try to touch or handle a snake, dead or alive. Dead rattlers may still inject venom shortly after death.

In the event of a snake bite

- Stay calm - but act quickly!
- Remove items which may constrict swelling (e.g., watches, rings, shoes).
- Transport victim to the nearest medical facility.
- Do NOT apply a tourniquet.
- Do NOT pack the bite area in ice.
- Do NOT cut the wound with a knife or razor.
- Do NOT use your mouth to suck out the venom.
- If a pet is bitten - Speak to your veterinarian about canine rattlesnake vaccine options.

For more information, call the [California Poison Control System](#)(opens in new tab)(external link) at (800) 222-1222. **In the event of an emergency situation, call 9-1-1 and seek medical attention immediately.**

URL—<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Reptiles/Rattlesnake>



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

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Submitted by Allison Pobirs

Tired of training outside?

Preparing for that big, noisy indoor show?



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

Come enjoy climate-controlled comfort at 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.

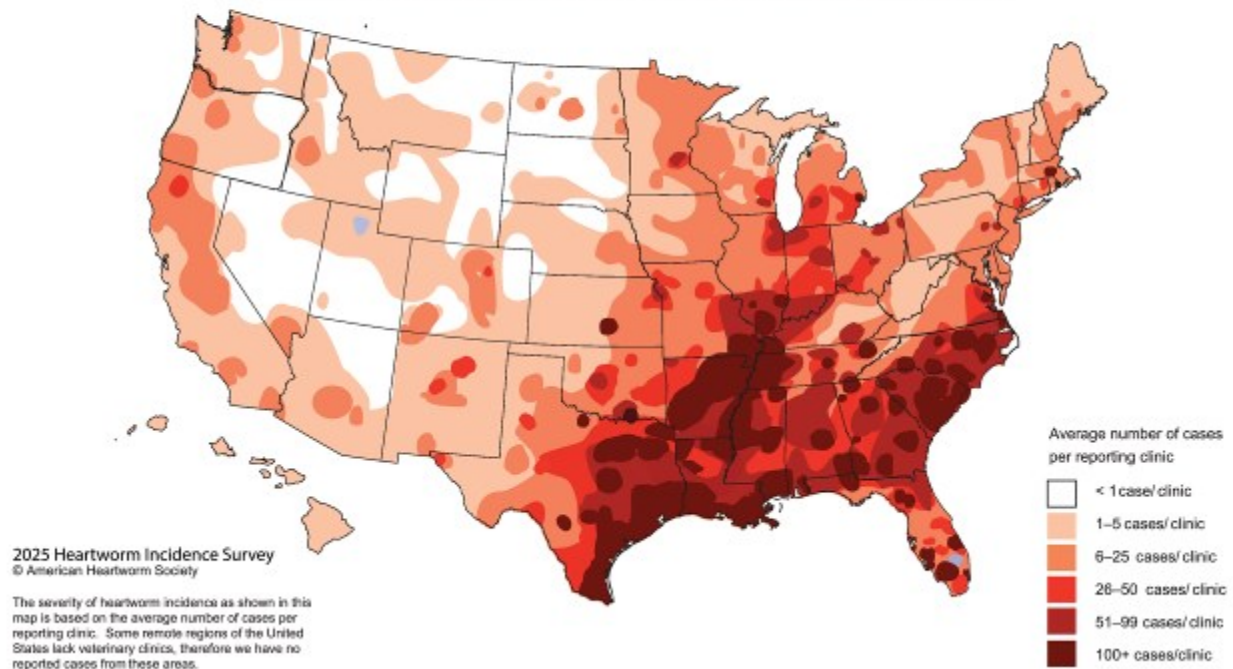
Call 818-832-9906 for more information
www.j9sk9s.com

National Heartworm Awareness Month

2025 HEARTWORM INCIDENCE



© American Heartworm Society The severity of heartworm incidence as shown in this map is based on the average number of cases per reporting clinic. Some remote regions of the United States lack veterinary clinics, therefore we have no reported cases from these areas.



<https://d3ft8sckhnqim2.cloudfront.net/images/2026/04/2025%20incidence%20map.png>

April is **National Heartworm Awareness Month**, and, by protecting our dogs, we as pet parents can also protect ourselves from the heartache that can come from the loss of a canine companion—or the expensive and difficult treatment due to this preventable health issue.

This month-long [pet awareness holiday](#) helps shine the spotlight on the danger of heartworm season before the worst months: spring and summer.

Established in 1974, the [American Heartworm Society](#) strives to stop the spread of the disease through both the distribution of funds for heartworm research and the spread of the information to researchers, veterinarians and the public

While California isn't in the top 9 states for heartworm, please be aware when you leave California that you might want to look into protecting your dog from heartworm.

Please contact your veterinarian for appropriate medication for your dog.



Debbie Lang and Morgan

Inland Empire Herding Dog Association, March 21, 2026 at Diamond Dog in Chino

Morgan qualified in Herding Started A course Sheep for his final leg with a 73, earning his **HSA's title**.

Braggs



Laurie Burnam and Tesla

ASCSC/MAC Agility, Juniper Hills, Calif March 28-29, 2026

Getting very close... In ASCA Agility you need many, many qualifying scores in three classes to achieve your agility trial championship called ATCH.

This past weekend Tesla just needed one 10 point Q in Elite Jumpers and she got it with a 3rd place. She needed three 10 point Q's in Elite Gamblers and she got them with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd placements. These have been hard for her in past trials of ASCA, but sales through them in AKC. Go figure! She needed 30 points in Elite Regular and she got a 5 point Q and 3rd place. In ASCA Regular offers 5 point Q's for one dropped bar, they unofficially call it a "dirty Q" tee hee.

I think these two accomplishments gets her two more titles of Elite Gamblers Outstanding Performance **GS-E-OP** for 120 Q's and Elite Jumpers Outstanding performance **JS-E-OP** for 120 Q's, titles #83 and #84.

So now all we need is 25 more points in Regular for her first ever Championship. That's 205 points so far, needing it to be 230 points. Fingers crossed!



Karen Ullman and Bowie

Bowie earned his **NW1 title** at the Pink Biscuit K9s NACSW trial on 03.15.26 in Santa Paula. He came in 4th in the overall placement.

He also earned a Q and 1st place in Steeplechase at the Santa Barbara Flyers USDAA trial on 03.29.26 in Camarillo.



Braggs

Ann Hills and Toqui

On March 6, Toqui **won the 20" International Sweepstakes Class** at the AKC National Agility Championship in Temecula .



Robyn Zelden and Lyric

Lyric earned her **FCAT title** in Bakersfield March 29th with Kern County KC—Dog Sports of America

Shiro Torquato and Archer

March 28th, 2026, NACSW Odor Recognition Test , Westlake Village, CA

Archer and I have been training and trialing in AKC Scent Work for the past year. We decided to try out NACSW trials but had to pass the Odor Recognition Test to qualify. Archer did very well in his first ORT, passing all three odors (birch, anise and clove) and earning the **title ORT-BAC.**



Braggs

Deanna Smith and Bryce

Bryce earned his last leg in **Rally Novice (RN) Title**

Thanks to the German Shepherd Club for putting on a beautiful event.

CH Marshfarms Meet Me In St Louee HSAs BCAT
THDA CGCA TKI RN



Laurie Burnam and Tesla

Even those of us with experience can make a mistake. According to the AKC if your dog has an Obedience title you can not enter the A classes in Rally. Tesla earned her CD last year. So for the German Shepherd Dog Trial in March this year I got one of those letters stating that I still needed two more legs, that I had entered the wrong class.

I didn't follow my advice, I tell my students to enter rally first as they count obedience titles but obedience doesn't count rally.

German Shepherd Dog Club of Greater Los Angeles. AKC Obed/Rally Trials
Camarillo March 21/22, 2026

Rally Excellent A 199 1st pl 1st leg (sadly doesn't count towards title)

Rally Excellent A 197 1st pl 2nd leg (sadly doesn't count towards title)

Open A Obedience 193.5 1st pl 1st leg



Debbie Lang and Panda

March 29th ASCA Agility in Juniper Hills

10 – point Q's in Round 1 and 2, 1st place.

She just needs 70 more Regular points for her ACE II

April 3rd—Poodle Club of SoCal At Vincent Hill Event Center—

She was only entered in Master Fast Preferred—Qualifying with a 63 and 1st Place



Braggs



Allison Pobirs and Claire

Claire had great time exploring a variety of dog sports during 2025. She dipped a paw in Dock Diving, Agility, Fast CAT, Fetch, Herding, and Scentwork.

With limited trialing she blasted her way to Fast CAT titles. Retrieved her way to Fetch titles and searched her way through various elements to find hidden odors earning Scentwork titles. She navigated courses start to finish in the blink of an eye for agility titles.

Thank you VHOC for celebrating the accomplishments of club members and the opportunity to earn title plaques and be included in recognition of the many exhibitors before by being awarded the Multi-Sport Acknowledgement Award and the ASCA/NADAC Agility Novice Award

Robyn Zelden and Crew

Crew got **Best of Breed (BOB)** March 29th at the Vines & Wines Cluster dog show.

He got Select the other three days



Braggs



Cynthia Binder and Ukon

Ukon has a brag!! We got his final advanced herding title certificate in the mail. Getting the advanced B is very difficult for a German Shepherd as this is a course designed for the Border Collie and NOT a tending breed! Ukon now joins a very elite group (there might only be two) of German Shepherds who have all of the advanced sheep titles. (HXAs, **HXBs**, HXCc, HXDc, FSXs).



Cynthia Binder and Yarra

At the same trial his daughter Yarra finished her **Intermediate B sheep title, HIBs** so the next day I moved her up to Advanced. She not only qualified, she ended up going Reserve High in Trial!

Note: the FIRST GSD to ever get all the advanced AKC sheep herding titles is Yarra's mother Sabine. So they are keeping it all in the family!



Cynthia Binder and Beyya

On 3/16/26 Beyya gave birth to 10 puppies: 3 boys and 7 girls.

Proud papa is Ukon!



Braggs

Adrian Smith and Flynn

Flynn had more success at the Antelope Valley Stockdog Club herding trials March 13–16, 2026.

Friday : 4th Place in started D-course sheep

Saturday: 1st Place in started A-course sheep

Sunday: 1st Place in started B-course sheep and 1st Place in started A-course sheep

Rigel In Like Flynn HSAs CGC TKN (Bryce x Bree) – bred, trained and handled by Adrian Smith.



Fun at the AKC National Agility Championships

Cynthia Binder with Sabine, Ukon, Yarra

All 3 of my Master Agility dogs were invited to the AKC Agility National Championships in Temecula March 19-22...so we went. Sabine had fun, but the other 2 did well, despite 100 degree heat. Ukon had 3 CLEAN jump rounds with just a couple of time faults in JWW and ended up with a 291/300 and 11 place overall in his division (out of 42 dogs). Yarra had 2 clean rounds, but they were fast enough to earn her a spot in Challengers (which is like the semi-finals)!. Due to my handling, she had a bar down there, but remained the highest non-eliminated GSD for the event! An AKC rep also chose Yarra for a special report, and she now has her pic up on the AKC Facebook page!



YARRA

Cheri Preciado with Faith, RoxC, Stone and Mercy

We started the year with a bang. Stone completed training and certification for **CGC** and Love on a Leash. RoxC completed Monica's beginning obedience class and will be testing for her CGC at the next test date. All my dogs, Faith, Mercy, Stone, and RoxC have earned points toward their first or second Fast Cat titles, Faith, RoxC, and Mercy have earned legs and titles in both AKC and ASCA Agility. Stone earned his **ASCA RE and REX titles** in one weekend with 198, 197, and 196, scores. Faith finished her **REX** with a 199. (ASCA Rally is 200 points possible) This coming week we hope to come home with legs or titles in Rally Masters and Agility. Mercy has completed all her Elite Agility titles in ASCA and needs one leg each to her Open AKC agility titles. I'm having so much fun with my dogs.

Braggs



Faith



RoxC



Stone



Mercy

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](http://ascadog.com)

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

USDAA—[Home | USDAA](http://usdaa.com)

Jump City Agility —[Jump City Agility](http://jumpcityagility.com)

Lynda Tjarks Agility—[Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](http://lyndatjarks.com)

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

Jack Bradshaw - Dog Show Superintendents—[Jack Bradshaw - Dog Show Superintendents \(jbradshaw.com\)](http://jbradshaw.com)

Barn Hunt—[Barn Hunt Association](http://barnhunt.org)

National Association of Canine Scent Work—[NACSW | NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE SCENT WORK](http://nacsw.com)

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

CPE—Canine Performance Events—[CPE | CPE DOG Canine Performance Events Home - Canine Performance Events](http://cpe.com)

UKC—United Kennel Club—[Home | United Kennel Club \(UKC\) \(ukcdogs.com\)](http://ukcdogs.com)

USCSS—United States Canine Scent Sports—[USCSS \(uscaninescentsports.com\)](http://uscaninescentsports.com)

World Canine Freestyle Organization (Dance)—[The World Canine Freestyle Organization – WCFO, Inc.](http://wcfo.com)

Dogs Can Dance—[DogsCanDance.com](http://dogscan dance.com)

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

International Dog Parkour Association—[Home | International Dog Parkour Association](http://internationaldogparkour.com)

Love on a Leash—Therapy Dog— [Love On A Leash® – Volunteer pet therapy certification](http://loveonaleash.com)



Newsette

April is
National Canine Fitness
Month

**Don't forget our Fit Dog walk
this Sunday April 12th**

VHOC Training Classes

PLEASE CHECK WITH OUR INSTRUCTORS 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

NEW 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

Intermediate 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