



# Newsette



WWW.VHOC.ORG

P.O. BOX 10132 CANOGA PARK, CALIFORNIA 91309

## Contents

Whom to Contact	2
In Loving Memory—Joyce Davis	3
Deepest Sympathies	4
VHOC Feb 8th Fit Dog Hike	5
Mallow—Common Weed	7
Chin Rest –Neurological Standpoint —Dr Lisa Schmidt	8
Teaching Chin Rest—AKC	9
Hammerhead Worms	11
2026 AKC Show Events	12
Braggs	13
Different Dog Organizations	21
VHOC Classes	22
Daylight Savings Time Change—March 8th	22

- Dog Training Education Month
- Pet Dental Health Month
- Responsible Pet Owners Month
- Feb 20th—National Love Your Pet Day



**Hopefully everyone got their 2025 Annual Awards information in to Ann Hills.**

**We are investigating dates in March for our Awards Banquet. More information to follow**

**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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## 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](mailto:djlang@sbcglobal.net)

**Submission deadline is the 8th of each month**

**This is YOUR Newsette...make it great!**



# Joyce Davis



This is from Joyce's husband Paul:

Joyce Davis passed away on January 19, 2026 at the age of 82. She and her loving husband Paul were married for 59 years. She was survived by him and their daughter Elise and husband Kevin Keith. Joyce had two grand children, Zoe, and Jasper, who were able to visit their grandmother for her last Christmas, which was a joyous occasion . They saw both her wonderful personality and periods of pain. The family had been close, even more so in the last few years. Tragically, Joyce was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2022, but was not ready to die. After surgery at UCLA in 2022 and treatment of recurrences, she began a trial-drug program in 2024, which stopped further growth of cancer for more than a year. She had many challenges (hip fractures, perforated stomach, and chronic pain), but she coped remarkably and enjoyed life much of the time. In January 2026, she had a sudden setback and died within a few days. The very end was peaceful but came none too soon.

Joyce was born an artist and graduated from Stoneham High School and the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston. Her home includes her wonderful and unique portraits, landscapes, and abstract art pieces that she had done over the years. Everything Joyce did reflected her artistic side (inherited from her Swedish grandfather) and her artist's unfailing eye. Joyce's other love, beyond her family and friends was animals, especially a series of Golden Retrievers that she raised, trained, and showed in confirmation, obedience, and field work. A major goal for Joyce after her cancer operation was to recover enough to get back to field training. She did so and was able to put a Master Hunter title on her beloved dog Java in 2025. Joyce also enjoyed her rose garden. She was not in love with gardening generally, but loved her roses and their different styles and aromas so much that she kept up her garden until the end. She would cut roses to have at the dinner table or to start the day taking Paul for to walk through the garden and sniff. Joyce was a beautiful person and will be sorely missed.

As Joyce wanted, she died at home with Paul, Elise, and her dog Java.

There will be no burial ceremony, but a celebration-of-life ceremony may be scheduled in a month or two. Please do not send flowers. Some might contribute in Joyce's memory to their favorite charity or remember her in some special family activity.



# StarN Ewe Meant To Intervene

## “Scusi”

February 24, 2012 - January 19, 2026

Thank you everyone for your support



# Our deepest sympathies to Laurie Burnam on her loss of Scusi



## February 8, 2026 Fit Dog Hike

On Sunday, February 8th, the club had its first fit dog hike of the year. The hike was supposed to be on the Las Virgenes View Trail. But once we arrived at the parking area, which was at the corner of Las Virgenes Road and Mulholland Highway, everyone agreed it wasn't an optimal location to park and take the dogs out. After some quick Google searching an alternate location was found less than ten minutes away – Paramount Ranch.

Operated by the National Park Service, Paramount Ranch offers miles of scenic trails within the Santa Monica Mountains. Its use as a movie location continues today. We chose an easy 1.1-mile loop that took us through chaparral and valley oak communities.

Our group consisted of nine humans and twelve canines. As usual, all the dogs got along and shared sniffing spots along the trail. After we got back to the parking lot, a small group decided to continue enjoying the area and embarked on another trail that took them around the western movie set.

Fit dog hikes are a great way to get exercise and chat with folks in a non-competitive setting. They're also great for giving your dog socialization experience walking in packs.

As a Fit Dog Club, VHOC offers four group hikes a year. Our next hike will be in April. If you have any suggestions for a good hike, please email Monica (nolanmilano@gmail.com).

AKC offers Fit Dog titles to recognize the physical activity you do with your dog. Participation in organized group hikes is one way to earn points for these titles.

For more information on Fit Dog, go to <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/akc-fit-dog-titles>.





# Feb 8th Fit Dog Hike Paramount Ranch



## **Mallow** - (*Malva neglecta*—Common names: **Buttonweed, Cheese Plant, Cheeseweed, Common Mallow, Dwarf Mallow, Mallow**)

Mallow is a plant that grows in many gardens and meadows. It has purple or pink flowers and soft, hairy leaves. Mallow has been used as a medicinal plant for centuries, both for humans and animals. But what can mallow do for dogs? And are there any risks or side effects? In this article, you'll find out everything you need to know about mallow in relation to dogs.

### **What is mallow and how does it work?**

Mallow belongs to the mallow family and is closely related to the hibiscus and hollyhock plants. It contains many valuable ingredients such as mucilage, tannins, flavonoids, vitamin C and minerals. These have an anti-inflammatory, soothing, antibacterial and antioxidant effect. Mallow can therefore help with various complaints, such as

- Skin problems such as eczema, wounds or insect bites
- Respiratory diseases such as coughs, bronchitis or asthma
- Gastrointestinal complaints such as diarrhea, constipation or gastritis
- Urinary tract infections such as cystitis or kidney stones
- Eye infections such as conjunctivitis or styes



### **How can mallow be used for dogs?**

Mallow can be used in various ways for dogs, depending on what ailments are present. The most common forms are

- Tea: Pour a teaspoon of dried mallow flowers or leaves over a cup of boiling water and leave to infuse for 10 minutes. Then strain and leave to cool. The tea can be mixed into the dog's drinking water or given into the mouth with a syringe. The tea can also be used as a poultice or rinse for the skin or eyes.
- Tincture: Fill a glass one third full with fresh or dried mallow flowers or leaves and pour alcohol (e.g. vodka or grain) over them. Seal the jar and leave to infuse in a dark place for two to four weeks. Then strain and pour into a dark bottle. The tincture can be added to the dog's food or drinking water (one to two drops per kilogram of body weight) or applied externally.
- Ointment: Melt 50 grams of beeswax in a water bath and add 100 milliliters of vegetable oil (e.g. olive oil or almond oil). Then stir in a tablespoon of dried mallow flowers or leaves and leave the mixture to simmer for 15 minutes. Then strain and pour into a clean jar. The ointment can be applied to the skin or massaged into the paws.

### **What are the benefits and disadvantages of mallow for dogs?**

Mallow has many benefits for dogs as it is a gentle and natural remedy. It can help with many ailments without causing side effects. It is also easy to obtain and process.

However, there are also some disadvantages of mallow for dogs that you should be aware of. Firstly, mallow can trigger allergic reactions if the dog is hypersensitive to the plant. This can manifest itself as a skin rash, itching, swelling or difficulty breathing. In this case, use should be discontinued immediately and a vet consulted.

On the other hand, mallow can influence the effect of other medications by strengthening or weakening them. This can lead to undesirable interactions. You should therefore always inform your vet if you want to give your dog mallow.

**URL—<https://www.fellow.dog/ingredient/mallow-1>**






## Let's talk about why Chin Rest works from a neurological standpoint — because this isn't just a “cute trick.”

### Neurological Reasons Chin Rest Works:

- The chin, jaw, and neck are highly innervated areas. When your dog rests their chin in your hand, they receive steady tactile input that activates calming neural pathways.
- Gentle pressure and stillness help reduce excessive muscle firing. That alone begins shifting the nervous system away from fight-or-flight.
- It supports parasympathetic activation — the “rest, regulate, think” side of the nervous system — without completely shutting down arousal.
- Holding the head still reduces visual scanning. Less scanning = less environmental input = less sensory overload.
- Stillness interrupts momentum. High arousal thrives on motion. Chin rest breaks that cycle.
- For stressed dogs, predictable contact and a clear job increase perceived safety.
- For high-drive dogs, it teaches regulation without suppressing motivation.

Over time, dogs learn something powerful:

-  “I can go from aroused to thinking without leaving the work.”
-  “Connection helps me regulate.”
-  “My handler is part of my reset.”

That's huge.

You're not just teaching a behavior.

You're teaching nervous system flexibility.

And that's what keeps dogs in the Thinking Zone — in training and in the ring.

Train Smart. Run Connected. Stay in the Zone.

Article by Dr. Lisa Schmit

How to find tips and courses, communicate:

Website: [www.inthzoneagility.com](http://www.inthzoneagility.com)

Email: [inthzoneagility@gmail.com](mailto:inthzoneagility@gmail.com)

ITZ online school: <https://inthzonedogtraining.teachable.com>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/LisaSchmitInTheZone/playlists>

ITZ business facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/inthzoneagility>

ITZ facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/InTheZoneAgility/>

Newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/dNZpcM>

Submitted by Allison Pobirs

# Chin Rests: Practical Uses and Teaching Your Dog

By [Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT](#), Published: Feb 06, 2025 | 4 Minutes

No doubt you put time and effort into training your dog to do [obedience behaviors](#) and maybe even some [tricks](#). But have you thought about training your dog to accept [handling](#)? These are the types of behaviors that help you examine and [groom your dog](#).

The chin rest is a perfect example. It's easy to train and can be used at home, at the [veterinarian](#) or [grooming salon](#), and even out in the world whenever you need your dog to stay still or [calm down](#). Read on to learn more about why you should teach your dog a chin rest and step-by-step instructions for doing it.

## What Is a Chin Rest?

A chin rest is when your dog rests their chin in the palm of your hand and holds it there until you release them. It doesn't matter if they're standing, sitting, or lying down as long as they place their snout in your hand. This is a great way of asking your dog to stay still which can be helpful at the vet or groomers, for example. It also makes an adorable trick. You can even transfer the chin rest to an object, such as the arm of a sofa or a towel on the arm of a wheelchair. This can be useful for [therapy dogs](#) as they position themselves for petting.

## What Are the Benefits of Teaching Your Dog a Chin Rest?

When your dog gives you a chin rest, they hold themselves stationary. It's a voluntary position. If you ask your dog for a chin rest, and they perform the behavior, it shows they're willing to participate which is far less stressful than if you have to restrain them. By pairing the position with rewards, you'll positively reinforce the chin rest. After enough repetitions, your dog will look forward to the behavior and do it readily.



JoeChristensen/E+

Consider if your dog develops an eye infection and is prescribed eye drops. If your dog gives you a chin rest, it's far easier to administer the drops than if you have to pin your dog down. Forcing the drops will only make it harder to give them next time around. The same would be true for an ear exam at the vet's office or grooming around your dog's face. Getting your dog's cooperation with a chin rest saves everybody stress and frustration. But most of all, it's easiest on your dog.

A chin rest can also help to calm your dog. It can be a way to give your dog a break when they find an environment overstimulating. It can also be a useful skill for reactive dogs or fearful dogs. Simply ask for the chin rest and wait until your dog has relaxed. By lowering your dog's arousal levels, you'll help them think more clearly. Plus, as you don't need anything other than your hand, you can do it anytime and anywhere.

## How Do You Teach Your Dog to Do a Chin Rest?

You can use the technique of shaping to train a chin rest in baby steps. Start with something as simple as letting your dog sniff your hand or moving their snout towards your palm. Mark the behavior with a clicker or marker word like "yes," then reward the behavior. Continue until your dog is doing it reliably. Then, slowly increase the criteria until you're only rewarding closer and closer approximations to the final behavior.

Another option is luring, which is likely a faster and easier way to teach most dogs this skill. First, ensure your dog is comfortable taking food directly from your hand, as this may cause some dogs to get nippy or anxious. If this is true for your dog, first work on desensitizing your dog to having your hands near their face. But once your dog is happy to come near your hand, follow these simple steps:

## Chin Rests: Practical Uses and Teaching Your Dog—continued

### Step One

Hold your palm flat and facing upwards in front of your dog. Hold a [treat](#) in your other hand above and just behind your palm. Let your dog come to you to get the treat. They should be placing their chin over your palm, but they don't have to touch it yet. Mark and reward your dog as soon as their chin is over your palm.



A8-dct via Getty Images

### Step Two

Once your dog is comfortably coming for the treats, you can lure them to the palm of your hand. Position your hands as before, but now, as your dog brings their nose towards the treat, lower the treat until their chin is in your hand. Then, mark and let them eat the [treat](#) as their chin rests on your palm.

### Step Three

Next, you need to [fade the lure](#). As before, hold your fingers behind your open palm, but now they should be empty. When your dog pushes their chin into your palm, mark the behavior, then grab a treat from your pocket or a [treat pouch](#). If possible, try to provide the treat while your dog's chin is still in your palm to further reinforce that position. If your dog will only perform the behavior if you have a treat in your hand, try rubbing your fingers with a smelly treat, so they smell like food even though there's nothing there. If your dog refuses to move away from your hand because that's where the good stuff is, reset them by tossing a treat on the floor a few feet away.

### Step Four

Hold out your palm without any finger lure at all and see if your dog places their chin in your hand. If you've reinforced the position enough, they should no longer need the lure. Your turned-up palm should have become the [hand signal](#) for the behavior. If not, do a few more repetitions with an empty lure before trying again. Only add a verbal cue like "chin" after your dog is responding reliably without the lure. Simply say the word right before you hold out your palm so your dog links the two signals.

### Step Five

Once your dog will reliably and enthusiastically place their chin in your hand, begin to add [duration](#) by delaying your marker and reward. You can also begin to add your release cue when the behavior is finished. Don't ask for more than a second or two at first, and as you build duration, go slowly and intersperse shorter intervals with longer ones, so you aren't pushing your dog too far, too fast.



fotyma via Getty Images

### Step Six

When your dog will hold their chin in your hand for a reasonable amount of time, go back to asking for only a second of duration but begin to add the kinds of [distractions](#) you expect your dog might face. For example, move your other hand around your dog's head, use your other hand to gently lift your dog's ears, or hold a bottle of eye drops above their eyes. Mark and reward your dog for staying still despite these distractions.

### Step Seven

When your dog can calmly handle distractions, combine the distractions with slowly increasing duration until they can hold the chin rest as long as needed no matter what the situation.

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/teach-dog-chin-rest/>

## Hammerhead Worms—taken from Facebook

In 2026, hammerhead worms (land planarians) are a known invasive species in California, with sightings documented across various regions from Sacramento and Fresno to Southern California. These predatory flatworms have been present in the state since at least 1943.

### Identification and Habitat

**Appearance:** They are long, flat worms—often reaching 8 to 15 inches—with a distinctive fan- or shovel-shaped head. Colors range from yellowish-brown to tan, they can often featuring one or more dark longitudinal stripes.

**Habitat:** They thrive in cool, dark, and moist environments. In California, they are commonly found in gardens, greenhouses, under rocks, logs, leaf litter, or near outdoor faucets.

### Risks to Humans and Pets

**Toxic Mucus:** Hammerhead worms secrete a neurotoxin called tetrodotoxin to paralyze prey.

**Human Safety:** Direct contact can cause skin irritation or rashes. Experts strongly advise wearing gloves if you must handle them.

**Pet Safety:** Pets that lick or ingest these worms may experience sickness, vomiting, or severe reactions. If a pet eats one, consult a veterinarian immediately.

### Why They Are a Threat

Hammerhead worms are invasive predators that primarily eat earthworms, which are essential for healthy soil and ecosystems. They have no natural predators in California, allowing their populations to grow unchecked.

### How to Safely Dispose of Them

Do not cut hammerhead worms in half. They can regenerate a full new body from a single severed segment, effectively multiplying if chopped.

To kill and dispose of them safely:

Wear gloves or use a tool like tweezers to pick them up.

Seal them in a bag or container with salt, vinegar, or rubbing alcohol.

**Alternative methods:** You can also freeze the sealed container or leave it in direct sun for several hours before throwing it in the trash.



# 2026 AKC Show Events

- Feb 13-15 – Contact Point Agility Club of LA – Agility – ACTON - [Action Dog Sports |](#)
- Feb 14-15 – Papillon Club of So Cal – Agility – Temecula - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- Feb 15 – Belgian Tervuren Club of So Cal – Tracking – Chino - Teri Meredyth, Event Secretary
- Feb 21-22 – South Coast Vizsla Club – Agility – Norco - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- Feb 21-22 – German Shepherd Dog Club of the SGV – Lancaster – **All Breed Herding A and C Course – HT/PT Testing**
- Feb 27 - Scent Work Club of the San Gabriel Foothills – Covina - [Scent Work Detective only](#)
- Feb 28-March 1 - Scent Work Club of the San Gabriel Foothills – Rosemead - [Scent Work Trial](#)
- Feb 27-March 1 – Australian Cattle Dog Club of Gtr LA – Chino – **All Breed Herding A and B course – HT/PT Testing**
- Mar 5-6 – Poodle Club of Southern California – Camarillo – Agility - [Action Dog Sports |](#)
- Mar 7-8 – Border Collie Club of Greater LA – Camarillo – Agility - [Action Dog Sports |](#)
- Mar 7-8 – Papillon Club of So Cal -Agility – Agility – Temecula - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- Mar 13-15 – Antelope Valley Stockdog Club – Lancaster – **All Breed Herding**
- Mar 14 – Great Dane Club of California – Anaheim – **Farm Dog Certification (FDC)**
- Mar 14-15 – Santa Ana Valley KC - Moreno Valley – **Fast CAT**
- Mar 14-15 – Golden Retriever Club of Greater LA – Temecula – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- MAR – 19 – AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB – Temecula - Steve Herwig, Event Secretary for AKC NAC**
- Mar 21 -22 – Inland Empire Herding Dog Association of CA – Chino – **All Breed Herding Ducks/Sheep – A Course**
- Mar 21-22 – German Shepherd Dog Club of the SGV – Camarillo – Obedience/Rally**
- Mar 26 – Kern County Kennel Club – Bakersfield – **Rally/Obedience**
- Mar 26 – Kern County Kennel Club – Bakersfield – **Fast CAT**
- Mar 26 – Greater LA Scent Work Club – Camarillo – Agility - [Action Dog Sports |](#)
- Mar 27-28 - San Luis Obispo Kennel Club – Bakersfield – **Rally/Obedience**
- Mar 27 – 28 San Luis Obispo Kennel Club – Bakerfield – **Fast CAT**
- Mar 27-29 – Border Collie Club of Greater LA – Camarillo – Agility - [Action Dog Sports |](#)
- Mar 27 – 29 – High Desert Scent Work Club – Bakersfield – [Scent Work Trial](#)
- Mar 29 – Kern County Kennel Club – Bakersfield – **Rally/Obedience**
- Mar 29 – Kern County Kennel Club – Bakersfield – **Fast CAT**
- April 2-3 – Poodle Club of So Cal – Acton – Agility - [Action Dog Sports |](#)
- April 4-5 – Tri-Valley Shetland Sheepdog of NW LA – Acton – Agility - [Action Dog Sports |](#)
- April 4-5 – Vizsla Club of America – Temecula – Agility - [Home - Lynda Tjarks Agility Production](#)
- 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 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
- 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**
- 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 – **Rally/Obedience**
- May 22 – SanGabriel Valley KC – San Juan Capistrano – **Rally/Obedience**
- May 23 – South Bay KC – San Juan Capistrano – **Obedience**
- May 23 Antelope Valley KC – San Juan Capistrano – **Obedience/Rally**
- May 25 – Los Encinos KC – San Juan Capistrano – **Obedience/Rally**
- May 22-25 Greater Los Angeles Scent Work Club – Acton – **Fast CAT**
- May 30-31 – Dash Agility Club of So Cal – Huntington Beach – Agility - Michele Morlang, Event Secretary

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

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



**Laurie Burnam and Tesla**

Santa Clarita Valley Australian Shepherd Club  
ASCA Agility Jan 23/24 2026, Santa Clarita, Ca

- Elite Regular 10 Q 2nd place
- Elite Regular 10 Q 4th place
- Elite Regular 5 Q 3rd place



# Braggs



**Debbie Lang and Max**

Santa Clarita Valley Australian Shepherd Club  
ASCA Agility Jan 23-25 2026, Santa Clarita, Ca

- Open Regular 10pt Q 1st place
- Open Regular 10pt Q 2nd place **RS-O Title**
- Elite Regular 5pt Q 4th place
- Elite Regular 5pt Q 3rd place
- Elite Gambler 10pt Q 2nd place 1st qualifying score

*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](http://www.j9sk9s.com)

**Shiro Torquato and Archer (1/30/26)**

I wanted to share that Archer had his first acting job for Hollywood Animals. Thank you to Laurie Burnam who got us connected to the studio trainer. He will be on the packaging for Zuke's dog treats and on their website and Instagram feed. We spent about 8 hours in the Angeles Crest National Forest on January 30th, where they shot the photos and videos. Archer had a blast getting attention and treats from many people. He loved crossing the streams and playing in the water. Although we were both exhausted after hiking 8 miles to Switzer Falls and back. Thanks, Monica Nolan for organizing the Fit Dog walks. It helped prepare us a little for this adventure.



**Debbie Lang and Panda**

Jan 24th—5 pt Qualifying Regular run at SCVASC ASCA Agility Trial, under Richard Pittman

Feb 7th —Regular Round 1 & Round 2—10 point Qualifying runs, under Bambi Ellis at Tri-County ASWA ASCA Agility Trial

Just 90 more Regular points towards her Senior Dog ACE Championship



**Braggs**



**Cynthia Binder and Beyya**

Beyya turned 2 years old 12/22/25 and just 2 days later I did her OFA hip x-rays, and got an EXCELLENT!

Then she immediately came into heat, was bred and is now pregnant.....with my next puppy!

Dad is TC PACH3 RACH Ukon vom Binderhaus.

**Cynthia Binder and Ukon**

My boy Ukon finished his **breed championship** at the Beverly Hills Kennel Club show, and was Best of Breed 3 days in a row!

Ukon was the first triple performance champion ever in the GSD breed. Now he joins an elite group of **AKC Triple Champions** (TC, has to be breed, herding and either agility or obedience).

He will be the 5th ever. He is now listed as **TC PACH3 RACH Ukon vom Binderhaus.**

**Ukon is also my first breed champion!**



# Braggs



## **New AKC Breed Champion AKC DC - Dual Champion and AKC TC - Triple Champion**



Dual Champion:

Any dog that has been awarded the title of **Champion of Record (Ch.)** may be designated as a “Dual Champion,” after it has also been awarded the title of Field Champion (FC) or **Herding Champion (HC)**.

Triple Champion:

Any dog that has been awarded the title of **Dual Champion (DC)** and the title of Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH) or Tracking Champion (CT) or **Agility Champion (MACH or PACH)** may be designated as a Triple Champion.



# Braggs

## Lori Borenstein and Indy

Indy passed his **Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and CGC-Advanced tests**. The tests were offered by the Hollywood Dog Obedience Club on January 25th. Indy was so excited to take the test that he leaped onto the sign-in table so that he could personally sign the registration form!



## Happy 11th Birthday

### Lori Borenstein with Stormy and Monroe

Stormy (middle) along with his brother Monroe (left) celebrated their 11th birthday in February. Indy (right) enjoyed the party, as well!



### Debbie Lang and Panda

Inland Empire Herding Dog Assoc.—Sylmar, CA Duck trials

Jan 17th—Qualifying run 3rd place 87.5 points **Herding Advanced A course—Ducks title—HXAd**

Jan 18th—Qualifying run 5th place 89.5 points





**FAITH**



**MERCY**



# Braggs

**STONE**



**Cheri Preciado with Faith, Mercy, RoxC and Stone**  
My pack all got to play Fast CAT in Acton. All got points.  
Mercy and Faith toward their Dcat, RoxC and Stone toward their BCat.  
The next weekend Faith made her Open Agility debut in ASCA. She earned her **Open Jumpers** and half of her Open Gamblers titles. Handler errors kept her from more Q's.



**RoxC**



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Your Real Estate Needs Or Questions!



**MARILYN BENNETT**  
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**Your Best Friend in Real Estate**

**Robyn Zelden and Crew**

Crew got **Best of Breed all three days at the Winterfest** dog show January 16-18, 2026

Crew is exclusively handled by Maddie McCue  
INTL CH GCH CH LuBeaux's A Moment To  
Last Forever CGCA, CGCU, TKA, VHMA,  
SWN, FITS, FDC, ATT THDA, RN



**Monica Nolan with Augie and**

**Rose**

Had a fun day of agility on January 24th at the SCVASC Trial. Augie picked up 3 nice Qs in Elite classes drawing him even closer to his ASCA Championship. Only need 10 more points.

No ribbons for Rose but she popped into the picture anyway to brag about her first time in Elite classes. Zero Qs but some very nice runs.



**Braggs**



**Monica Nolan with Augie and Rose**

Augie and Rose also keep busy with therapy visits 2-3 times a month.

In January both made their 50th therapy dog visit, earning them AKC's **Therapy Dog THD title**.





### Jane Nye and Henry

Henry the Cardigan Welsh Corgi won **Rally High Combined Triple, Rally Highest Scoring Dog** in Adv B and Ex B, and **Highest Scoring Dog in Obedience out of Open B** at our Cardigan Specialty in Ventura on January 22. Judge was Gina Grissom.



### Debbie Lang and Morgan

Jan 23rd—SCVASC ASCA Agility Trial—Qualifying score in Open Gamblers—1st leg.

Morgan got to play Fast CAT Jan 31/ Feb 1. He earned points in all four runs, working on his DCat—Just 27 more points.

Feb 7th—Tri-County ASWA—ASCA Agility Trial—Judge Bambi Ellis—Morgan finished his **Senior Dog ACE—Open Regular Title—RSDA-O**

# Braggs



# Braggs

## Allison Pobirs and Claire

DATE: Saturday, January 24th, Host: SCVASC , Judge: Richard Pittman

It is not often that an Agility trial comes to the Santa Clarita Valley. The plan was to drop by and hang out with friends for a bit.

VHOC members Debbie, Laurie, and Monica were having such a great time running the courses.

So.... Claire and I (Allison) jumped in and joined the party!

We had a grand ole time and returned home with an unanticipated

ASCA **Novice Gamblers title—GSA-N!**

Class: ACE Gamblers (Novice)

R1: Q 1st

R2: Q 1st



## Jane Nye and Greyson

Greyson the Cardigan Welsh Corgi got his **Rally Master 2 title** at our regional specialty!



# 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](#)



# Newsette



## VHOC Training Classes



Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at which time clocks "spring forward" and reset to 3 a.m.

[Valley Hills Obedience Club | Group Classes](http://www.vhoc.org/group-classes)

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

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

### 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 Hills at [tonkanuki@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:chills37@aol.com)

**Beginning Scent Work—Thursday 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](mailto:drshiro2000@gmail.com)