



Newsette



WWW.VHOC.ORG

P.O. BOX 10132 CANOGA PARK, CALIFORNIA 91309

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It is that Membership Renewal Time of Year

The flyer is on Page 3.

Please read the flyer—there is the option to use Zelle for payment this year.

The dues amount has not changed:

Single Membership = \$25.00

and

Family Membership = \$35

We will always accept membership donations from the lifetime members



Happy New Year!!

REMINDER

Remember to check the website <http://www.vhoc.org> for announcements, cancelled classes, upcoming events and other important club information.

If you know of a member who would appreciate receiving correspondence, such as a get-well card, sympathy card, etc., please email our Corresponding Secretary, Carole Hills, at chills37@aol.com

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Jennifer Voogt

Got News?

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

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

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

Debbie Lang at
djang@sbcglobal.net

Submission deadline is the 8th of each month

This is YOUR Newsette...make it great!

**Valley Hills Obedience Club
2024 Membership Renewal**

Dues must be received by January 30, 2024

Please complete the form below with your changes for the 2024 Membership Roster and return it with your 2024 membership dues (\$25 single and \$35 family).

Return to: Cynthia Casby
VHOC Membership Chair
237 S. Griffith Park Dr.
Burbank, CA 91506

OR Email form to: VHOC.membership@gmail.com
AND pay by Zelle to (626) 372-6428

I am also happy to send you a Zelle request. We do not take PayPal or Venmo

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, St., Zip: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Dog (breeds): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Check this box to opt out of Electronic Communication:

"Membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid thirty (30) days after the first day of February 2024"

Setting up Your Dog's Emergency Caregiver

By [Miranda Carney](#)

Sponsored by [The Loyal Legacy Plan Underwritten by New York Life](#) Published: Aug 23, 2023 | 4 Minutes



How to Set Up an Emergency Caregiver for Your Dog

Every year, a large number of dogs are left in limbo after their owner dies. For these dogs, the sudden change can be a traumatic experience. Luckily, it can easily be avoided with a little forward planning. So how do you set up an emergency caregiver for your beloved dog, in case they should outlive you?

Choosing a Friend or Family Member To Take Care of Your Dog After Your Death

Perhaps you're thinking: "I know *exactly* where Fido will go if I die: to my sister/best friend/neighbor/aunt." If you do have an emergency caregiver in mind, wonderful! Even so, experts recommend spending some extra time thinking the decision through.

First, consider whether your pet will truly be happy in the caregiver's environment. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Does my dog like this person?
- Has this person cared for pets before?
- Will my dog get along well with every member of the household, including any other pets or children?
- Will this person be able to provide the quality of life my dog is used to? For instance: will your dog have a yard, if they're used to one? Will they get as much exercise as they're used to? Will they have as much company as they're used to? Or, if your dog has led a quiet life, will their new home be too busy or chaotic? You might also want to consider household rules, such as whether your dog will be allowed upstairs, or onto furniture.
- If your dog has any medical requirements, such as medications: will someone in the new household be able to take care of those needs?

Juliet Boyd, Executive Director of Oakland's [Hopalong Animal Rescue](#), also advises giving serious thought to how happy your designated caregiver will be with the arrangement. She encourages pet owners to ask themselves: "Is my friend or family member someone that truly loves my pet, or are they doing this as a favor to me because they love me?" At the [Pet Survivor Program](#), Hopalong's program for pets who have outlived their owners (on which more later), she notes: "We have had some people contact us who've said, I'm supposed to inherit my sister's cat or dog but I'm not completely comfortable." Remember: if your pet's new owner isn't truly happy to have them around, your pet won't be truly happy either.



alexsokolov/Getty Images Plus

And don't keep all this deliberating to yourself. It's important to bring your potential caregiver into the conversation and discuss your dog's needs with them at length, to see if they'd be a good fit. When you have that conversation, also be sure to discuss how you'd like your dog's medical and end-of-life care to be treated.

Setting up Your Dog's Emergency Caregiver—continued

Making Sure Your Designated Caregiver Can Afford a Dog

Sadly, finding a caregiver for your pet won't only be about establishing mutual respect and lifestyle compatibility. Anyone agreeing to care for a dog—especially an older dog or one with existing medical needs—will also have to consider medical expenses, as well as the day-to-day cost of caring for a dog.

In fact, the financial burden of caring for pets is one of the major reasons so many dogs end up in shelters after their owners die. It's also why these bereaved dogs—who are often older and so more likely to face medical problems—so often struggle to find permanent homes once they've reached the shelter.

All of which makes it clear: when you select a caregiver for your dog, it's important to leave enough money for your dog's care, too. But how much should you leave?

A good rule of thumb is to calculate your annual expenditure on your dog, and multiply that by your dog's life expectancy, then add some extra money for unexpected medical expenses. "You don't have a crystal ball for what that future will be, and veterinary costs can be incredibly high, depending on the dog's future health," Boyd notes. "So I would say, honestly, allot a little more money than you thought, just to cover the bases for care should a medical condition develop."

And *how* can owners will money for their pet's care? Sadly, it's not legal to leave money directly to a pet, but you have a few other options: you can will the money directly to the designated caregiver, or set up a trust in your pet's name. Setting up a pet trust will mean that the caregiver must follow your instructions and use the money only for the care of your pet.

Services To Make Sure Your Pet Is Well Cared for After Your Death

Alternatively, you could seek out one of the country's growing number of programs for pets that outlive their owners—like the Pet Survivor Program at Hopalong Animal Rescue.



At the Pet Survivor Program, staff compile a full dossier of information about participating pets, including their likes and dislikes, medical needs, and the owner's dream home for them. The owner then gifts \$6,000 (or more if they wish) per pet to Hopalong Animal Rescue, in their will. In exchange, Hopalong finds a loving forever home that matches the pet's needs and preferences, covers all of the pet's medical bills for the rest of their life, and remains in contact with the new owner, as a third party looking out for the pet.

The great thing about this, Boyd says, is that "it takes away the filter for adopters. A lot of people think twice about adopting a senior pet, because they're worried about medical issues." But the Pet Survivor Program "takes away that filter of worrying about veterinary costs, so if they fall in love with a particular dog or cat that has an underlying medical condition or is a senior, they don't have to say, I just can't afford it right now."

Hopalong Animal Rescue also pledges that no pet in the Pet Survivor Program will end up at a shelter: they're placed in a trusted foster home, or directly in a loving forever home that matches the owner's stipulations. These days, the popularity of the program and Hopalong's network of thousands of potential adopters mean that most dogs go straight to their forever home.

Setting up Your Dog's Emergency Caregiver—continued

The Pet Survivor Program is based in Oakland but accepts pets from around the country. To see if a similar program is available in your area, contact your local rescue organizations.

When Should You Choose Your Dog's Emergency Caregiver?

Boyd encourages all dog owners to consider their pet's emergency care sooner rather than later. "Many people are shocked to hear that still so many pets wind up in shelters," she told me. "I can't tell you how many we see. And you can tell that they were cared for and deeply loved by someone, and because no arrangements were made, they wind up at your local city shelter."

Since there's no knowing what tomorrow holds, the best time to prepare for your dog's comfortable, loving life after your death is right now.

The Loyal Legacy™ Plan allows you to set up a personalized pet trust for your dog and provides you with the money you'll need to fund it with Group Term Life Insurance underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company. #5846077.1

Article URL—[How to Set Up an Emergency Caregiver for Your Dog \(akc.org\)](http://www.akc.org)

This is an article on the AKC website, while VHOC does not recommend specific companies for this service it is an important part of our life planning process.

Sadly, emergency care that we can't provide because we are incapacitated is needed way too often. A loved one passes away and nobody knows what to do about their pets that are left behind. Many times family members already have their own obligations or responsibilities, and for many reasons can not take in another pet.

It is our responsibility as pet owners to think of the future, in addition to death, think of what could happen if you should have a catastrophic accident and can't be there to take care of your pets. Who can you rely on to take up that commitment. As we get older we start losing some of those close friends.

Once you are gone your pets advocates are limited or non-existent.

Take a moment and consider your options for your pets, they will appreciate it.



New AKC FETCH Program

What is AKC Fetch?

Welcome to AKC Fetch! When dog owners are asked about activities they like to do with their dogs, the most common responses are to take their dog for a walk and to play ball (fetch) with the dog.

AKC Fetch titles were created as another activity in which owners could have fun with their dogs in the AKC Family Dog Program. Earning AKC Fetch titles provides opportunities for both physical and mental exercise. While some dogs are natural retrievers, AKC Fetch, especially at the advanced levels, will involve teaching new skills such as retrieving.

AKC Fetch is designed for all breeds.

AKC Fetch is a pass-fail noncompetitive test. The four levels of titles (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Retriever) assess the ability of the dog to retrieve. In the Advanced and Retriever levels, the dog must respond correctly to signals. There is also a memory component in Advanced and Retriever because a retrieving bumper or ball is dropped (or thrown) behind a blind where it cannot be seen.

For each of the four titles, the dog must pass the test twice under two different approved AKC Fetch judges.

Dogs who are at least 6 months of age are eligible to take the AKC Fetch test as long as they are registered or enrolled with AKC and have an AKC, PAL, or AKC Canine Partners number.

Why Participate in AKC Fetch?

AKC Fetch provides a form of exercise for dogs and their owners. Dogs learn new skills and many handlers will learn to teach a skill (i.e., retrieving) they have not previously taught.

AKC Fetch titles are fun to earn and can be used as a required AKC title for earning the Gold level of AKC FIT DOG.

URL: [AKC Fetch Program – American Kennel Club](#)

February 2, 2024

The first Fetch title tests will begin.

There is a trial coming up at Stone Pony -

ACTION DOG SPORTS

Save the date!

AKC Fetch tests Feb. 8, 2024

Moorpark, CA



**I FELT LIKE I SHOULD
CLEAN THE HOUSE TODAY
SO I WENT OUT AND
TRAINED MY DOG UNTIL
THE FEELING WENT AWAY**

@THINGSDOGHANDLERSAY

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 \$25 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

Annual Awards Time Applications Due by January 29th

A email has been sent out with all the rules and forms for the Annual Awards to all of our members by Carole Hills on January 9th.

If you didn't receive it and you are a member of VHOC please contact Carole and let her know.

Applications should be sent to Ann Hills at tonkanuki@aol.com or mailed to Ann Hills at 13689 De Garmo Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342.

Alternatively, you may send info in a Word document or in the body of an email--please indicate each award by number.

Contact Ann with any questions.

These awards are for 2023.



Why Chicken and Rice is an outdated approach for GI issues in dogs

by Destany McDonald June 21, 2023



If your dog has ever had a sensitive stomach, diarrhea, or other gastrointestinal issues, have you been told to “feed chicken and rice”?

It’s everywhere. Even conventional veterinarians who are opposed to people food will tell you, “feed chicken and rice“ if your dog has a sensitive stomach, diarrhea, or other gastrointestinal issues. Here are the reasons why we at Poochie Moochie Edmonton do not suggest this.

Rice is bland and helps to settle an upset stomach, for us humans. That’s for humans! Sometimes what works for humans will also work for dogs and cats. However, in the event of a sensitive stomach, this is not the case!

Why is that?

Humans produce a lot of amylase. Amylase is a digestive enzyme that breaks down carbohydrates. Dogs have very little amylase by comparison and if their intestines are stressed out, they have even less amylase. So if you feed them rice, you’re likely to make things even worse. We know dogs and cats have little nutritional requirement for carbohydrates in their diet.

Rice is a grain and a carbohydrate. It is inherently inflammatory. It is far too starchy to be part of any dog's daily diet, let alone one that is suffering GI tract inflammation. The high starch in rice spikes blood sugar, and can also be contaminated with toxic arsenic.

It takes a lot of work for the body to break down carbs. This job is handled by the pancreas. The duct from the gallbladder is right across from the duct of the pancreas. The gallbladder contains bile. Bile breaks down fat.

So what’s left? Carbohydrates. The primary job of the pancreas is to digest carbohydrates! Sure, the pancreas has a small function of digesting fat and protein; but the primary job of the pancreas is to digest carbohydrates.

So if a dog has an upset stomach, it is possible that it has a upset pancreas. If they do, then why would we feed rice, which makes the pancreas even more irritated?

Vet’s believe and will tell you that pancreatitis is a fat problem. That is mainly in part because they do a blood test to evaluate the function of the pancreas. It measures pancreatic lipase. (Lipase is an enzyme that digests fat – AKA lipid.) So if the pancreatic lipase is high, the dog has pancreatitis. This does not mean the illness is a lipid or fat issue, it just means the lipase is high, but we should absolutely stop feeding carbohydrates because the primary enzyme made in the pancreas is amylase.

Why Chicken and Rice is an outdated approach for GI issues in dogs—Continued

Why are the majority of conventional veterinarians continuing to tell people that their dog has pancreatitis and absolutely must avoid fat?

Could it be marketing? Could it be that nutritional training is not the main focus of vet school? Is it trusting the Sales Reps from the 'Big money kibble' industry? Your guess is as good as ours, but our pets are our responsibility and digging into ingredient labels is one way to protect them. Take a look at all of the vet prescribed food. (If you aren't already aware, the ingredients are listed by weight.)

INGREDIENTS: Brewers Rice, Corn Gluten Meal, Chicken Meal, Chicken By-Product Meal, Hydrolyzed Chicken Flavor, Flaxseed, Chicken Fat, Ground Pecan Shells, Pork Liver Flavor, Lactic Acid, Fish Flavor, Ginger, Dried Beet Pulp, Iodized Salt, Potassium Citrate, Dried Citrus Pulp, Potassium Chloride, Choline Chloride, Calcium Sulfate, Dicalcium Phosphate, Glyceryl Monostearate, vitamins (Vitamin E Supplement, Thiamine Mononitrate, L-Ascorbyl-2-Polyphosphate (source of Vitamin C), Niacin Supplement, Calcium Pantothenate, Vitamin A Supplement, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Riboflavin Supplement, Vitamin B12 Supplement, Biotin, Folic Acid, Vitamin D3 Supplement), Pressed Cranberries, L-Lysine, Taurine, minerals (Ferrous Sulfate, Zinc Oxide, Copper Sulfate, Manganous Oxide, Calcium Iodate, Sodium Selenite), Magnesium Oxide, Mixed Tocopherols for freshness, Natural Flavors, L-Carnitine, Beta-Carotene.

See above, the number one ingredient in a vet prescribed food for a dog with pancreatitis is RICE. Followed by cheap replacements for animal proteins.

Every single veterinary student learns in the first year of vet school that the primary function of the pancreas is carbohydrate metabolism.

“Any information on nutrition received after veterinary school usually comes via a handful of petfood manufacturers that sell through the veterinary channel. That information is by its very nature prone to be limited and biased.” - Dogs Naturally Magazine

An important side note to point out is the long list of synthetic vitamins and minerals.

You might wonder, isn't the addition of these vitamins and minerals a good thing?

To put it simply, there are not enough nutrients in processed foods to prevent disease. When a meat, grain, vegetable, or fruit is cooked or heat processed in any manner, nutrients are lost. Synthetic vitamins, prepared from chemicals instead of nature, are frequently less active biologically than their natural counterparts, thereby reducing any beneficial effect they may have. In order to gain AAFCO approval, a pet food must meet a standard vitamin and mineral requirement. The least expensive way to meet this requirement is to add an accepted blend of premeasured synthetic vitamins and minerals to a processed diet.

Why Chicken and Rice is an outdated approach for GI issues in dogs—Continued

Generally, too much of a whole food source, like oranges or brussels sprouts, will at worst cause diarrhea; however, the body can recognize and expel the excess appropriately. This doesn't happen with an overexposure to synthetic vitamins and minerals. There is even a case of a pet food manufacturer accidentally adding too much of a synthetic vitamin into the recipe, which led to the death of many dogs.

There is also the concern of where the synthetic vitamins were sourced. Synthetics from China is a valid concern.

A body can thrive on smaller amounts of whole food source vitamins than it can on synthetics.

This is why when you feed a complete balanced raw meal you do not have to add extra supplements, because your pet is extracting the nutrients they need directly from the whole food source.

When we're talking about general dietary distress and look at the chicken and rice concept, it would be more appropriate to feed chicken only. As a white meat it is easy for a dog or cat to digest. Unless of course the animal is sensitive to chicken, which unfortunately is typically the case. Chicken is one of the two most common protein intolerances or sensitivities to many dogs. The likely culprit for that is most people are feeding factory farmed rather than organic chicken. Factory farmed chickens are fed grains (often GMO grains, pumped full of growth hormones and antibiotics and vaccinated 3 times in its 30 day lifespan. No wonder our dogs have a problem with chicken.)

What do we suggest?

A sick dog will naturally fast and this is recommended to give their digestive system a break. Fasting for dogs is safe for 24-48 hours.

Bone broth is excellent because it sits well in their stomach and can be given during fasting. This is also great for enticing picky dogs or cats. It is full of vitamins, minerals and protein. It can also help rehydrate your pet after an illness. Bone broth even has the ability to fix leaky gut. Leaky gut is when the junctions in the intestinal track have little holes in it. This can cause autoimmune reactions and leeching of toxins into a dogs system. The collagen helps to tighten these junctions. Poochie Moochie has [bone broth by Open Farm](#) and [Primal](#).

A better approach for calming your dogs upset stomach would be pure pumpkin which is high in fiber and is a natural bowel modulator which helps diarrhea and constipation. It is also high in antioxidants therefore will boost your pets immune system! At Poochie Moochie Edmonton we carry [Pure pumpkin purée by Big Country Raw](#). We also offer powdered pumpkin by [North Hound Life](#) and [Thrive](#). Just add water when serving! These are great options because they're more shelf stable.

Cooked sweet potato is another good choice when it comes to feeding your dog with an upset stomach.

Sweet potatoes have fiber and nutrients that can help calm your dog's stomach. They're also low in fat and easy to digest, making them an ideal food for dogs with sensitive stomachs.

Instead of chicken, boiled turkey would be a much better option. Because it is also a white meat it's easy for your pet to digest and typically pets who have allergies to chicken are okay with turkey.

Why Chicken and Rice is an outdated approach for GI issues in dogs—Continued

Lastly [slippery elm](#) is a natural supplement that is clinically proven to protect and soothe your dogs intestines and stomach from irritation and inflammation, which can be caused by diarrhea or vomiting as well as other inflammatory bowel problems.

So please. Skip the rice. It's a cheap filler, has very little nutritional benefit and could be making things worse, especially in dogs with pancreatitis. There are many other easily digestible options out there and we'd love to help you improve your pets health naturally, the way their body is designed!

Sources

<https://aussiepooch.com.au/blogs/news/why-chicken-rice-is-one-of-the-worst-things-to-feed-a-sick-dog#:~:text=Dogs%20do%20no%20not%20digest,spike%20in%20blood%20glucose%20levels.>
<https://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/calling-bullhit-prescription-diet-dog-food/>
<https://fourleafrover.com/blogs/natural-health/what-to-feed-a-dog-with-an-upset-stomach>

Submitted by Allison Pobirs

<https://www.poochiemoochie.com/blogs/news/why-chicken-and-rice-is-an-outdated-approach-for-gi-issues-in-dogs>



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Your Real Estate Needs Or Questions!



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Your Best Friend in Real Estate

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!!!

It's been a great year! Ashley finished the year with a lot of OTCH points. In 2022, she rated #1 Rottweiler, so I will be waiting to see how she rates for 2023!

I want to congratulate all my students with their wonder dogs and performances throughout the year. It's been fun in our training class and wish you all a great 2024!

Have fun in the new year ahead!

Flo Walberg



Braggs

Cynthia Casby and Gryff

Gryff earned his second Novice Standard Preferred leg at Stone Pony on January 31 under Jeff Kogen. He was 1st with a score of 100 and 3 seconds under SCT. He finished NAP some time ago so we are looking forward to Open soon?

Robyn Zeldon and Lyric

Lyric was Winners Bitch for **her first major** are the Imperial Valley KC show on December 2, 2023 in Yuma AZ

IntCH NatCH HnrCH Twin Creeks Here Comes The Sun CGCA, CGCU, TKA, RN, ATT, SWN, L1C, FDC, VHMA





Braggs

Happy New Year!

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy 2024
with lots of Qs and clean runs!

Augie, Rose & Monica



Laurie Burnam with Scusi and Tesla

AKC Trick Performer Titles TKP

10 tricks accomplished

Evaluated December 23, 2023

Scusi title #131 to date and Tesla #64 to date

Carry a basket in their mouth, Roll a mat, Wooden puzzle game, Walk backwards, Side pass, Carry toy on back, Figure 8 without handler, Identify toy by name, to name a few.

**We've had lots of
brags during 2023!
Get those applications in
for the 2023 Annual Awards**



VHOC To Do List

Membership renewals due by January 30th
Lifetime member dues donations are always welcome.

2023 Annual Awards Applications are Due by January 29th.

VHOC Training Classes

Obedience - Beginning Competitive - Thursday 6:30, Simi Valley

Obedience - Open / Utility Obedience—Thursday 7:45, Simi Valley

Instructor: Patti Rovtar, For more information, please contact Patti Rovtar at pattirovtar@gmail.com

PLEASE CHECK WITH OUR INSTUCTORS FOR NEW CLASS START DATES

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

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

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