



# Newsette

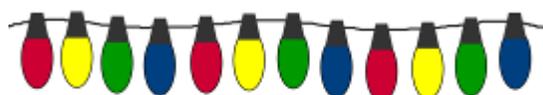


WWW.VHOC.ORG

P.O. BOX 10132 CANOGA PARK, CALIFORNIA 91309

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# Happy Holidays!

**Don't forget our Holiday Party this Saturday 7PM**

**At Nancy Gilner's home.**

**Please RSVP so we know how much needs to be purchased for the Main course**

**Nancy's email is:**

**ngiltner623@gmail.com**

**See flyer on Page 3 for more details.**



### 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

**President**

Nancy Giltner  
ngiltner623@gmail.com

**Vice President / General Mtg**

Stephanie Colman  
StephanieMColman@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Ann Hills  
tonkanuki@aol.com

**Corresponding Secretary**

Carole Hills  
chills37@aol.com

**Recording Secretary**

Melody Myers  
ruby\_mudpie@hotmail.com

**Membership**

Carole Hills  
chills37@aol.com

**Agility Trial**

Nancy Giltner  
ngiltner623@gmail.com

**Training**

Laurie Burnam bellaluna@pacbell.net  
Sarah Sykes sykess1@icloud.com  
Nancy Giltner ngiltner623@gmail.com

**Obedience Trial**

Monica Nolan  
nolanmilano@gmail.com

**Past President**

Ann Hills  
tonkanuki@aol.com

### VHOC Standing Committees

**Agility Trial Volunteer Workers**

Nancy Giltner

**Banquet**

Kathy Spilos  
Linda Brooks  
Ann Hills

**Catalog**

Carole Raschella

**Food & Hospitality**

Ellen Zuckerman

**Seminar Coordinator**

Sandy Walton

**Newsette**

Deborah Lang

**Raffle**

Cindi Malchose  
Allison Pobirs  
Jan Racey

**Top Dog Captains**

Patti Rovtar  
Cindi Malchose

**Trophies**

Deborah Lang  
Joyce Davis

**Website Administrator**

Jennifer Voogt

**Yahoo Group**

Allison Pobirs

**SCDOC Rep**

Vita Allison

*Welcome to our New Members!*

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

Roxanne Stevenson and her two Golden Retrievers - Cooper & Gibson



## **It's Holiday Party Time**

VHOC's Holiday Party will be on Saturday—

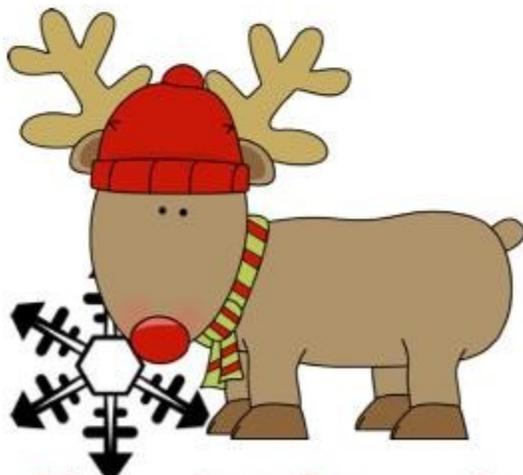
**December 16th at 7 PM**

It will be at Nancy Giltner's home -  
4744 Vista de Oro, Woodland Hills

VHOC will provide the Main Course

Please RSVP to [ngiltner623@gmail.com](mailto:ngiltner623@gmail.com)

And let her know if you will be able to bring an appetizer,  
side dish or dessert.



We will also have the annual gift exchange—  
if you would like to participate please bring  
a gift valued at \$20 or more.

Please RSVP to [ngiltner623@gmail.com](mailto:ngiltner623@gmail.com)



## Valley Hills Obedience Club 2018 Membership Renewal

**Dues are due by December 31, 2017**

***Payments received after this date will be assessed a \$10.00 late fee.***

Please complete the form below with your changes and return it with your 2017 membership dues to:

**Carole Hills  
13689 De Garmo Avenue  
Sylmar, CA 91342**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Dog (breeds): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

	<i>Received by December 31:</i>	<i>January 1-March 3:</i>	<i>After March 3</i>
<b>Single membership</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>Membership terminated: must re-apply with application fee*</b>
<b>Family membership</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$45</b>	
<b>Junior membership</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$20</b>	
<b>Joined after October 1</b>	-- <b>Applied to following year</b>		

*\*"Membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid sixty (60) days after the first day of the fiscal year" (Constitution & By-laws).*

# TOP DOG 2017

On November 18, 2017, all the participating Southern California Obedience Clubs found ourselves at our old stomping grounds at Pikes Peak Park in Norco for the annual Top Dog Competition. The weather was great and the day did not disappoint. The camaraderie of this friendly competition between clubs was alive and well, as was the presence of the unexpected that always cleverly finds its way to this day.

Our VHOC team was very diverse this year - our dogs were youngsters and oldsters, accomplished and unseasoned, along with, as always, a diversity of breeds. We even had a new mom on the team who recently completed her puppy raising duties!



## NOVICE

Jada (Rottweiler) and Gwen Fiorito represented us well in the ring! The judge loved her. She just came back to work after raising her puppies! The little ones must have really taught her how to go in circles because her figure 8 was beautiful! Her exercises were nicely done and she barely missed a call back to the second round by only 1/2 a point!

Dash (Standard Schnauzer) and Sharon Clarke were our second working team. Dash just turned two years old and had age appropriate FUN in the ring.....he was really fun to see! This was his very first time in an obedience ring! Amongst his gleeful leaps and bounces, he presented some very nice stretches that showcased his potential for competition obedience. He felt joyfully drawn to the judge while setting up for his recall, so much so that he set himself up right between the judges legs - what a cute, cute boy! He earned himself a respectable qualifying score!



JADA ←

DASH →



# Top Dog 2017 - con't

## OPEN

I would like to preface this by saying that I am very proud of these two Open teams. Coming from different dog sport venues, they both worked very diligently to prepare for their Open exercises!

Mikko (Australian Shepherd) and Monica Nolan left their canine freestyle dancing shoes home for the day to give Open a try. Mikko is new to Open and gave it a great effort, in spite of the heat when he got into the ring. The broad jump was his Waterloo in training, and he did a wonderful job in the ring with it. His ring nerves got in his way on some of the work, but we're very proud of his effort.....he really is a good boy and tried very hard!

Lexi (Golden Retriever) and Paula Geigle temporarily hung up their agility shoes to take a shot at Open. They sure got a surprise when a handler in the opposite ring and Paula both tossed their dumbbells towards each other at the same time for a retrieve. Lexi galloped out to get hers, but the dog from the other ring passed his and got to hers first – then took off back to his handler with it. She did not know what to do with that, but got a re-throw so it was all good!



Mikko



Lexi





K9

GYM

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[www.k9gym.com](http://www.k9gym.com)

# Top Dog 2017 - con't

## UTILITY

Caper (Golden Retriever) and Joyce Davis were our stars this year! Caper did a great job in her first round. She did her Directed Jumping go-outs to a line of dogs doing a group stay in the opposite ring - twice! That is no small feat, but she pulled it off beautifully! This team got our only call back for Round Two! She did a beautiful job in the second round and finished the day as the 4th place Utility dog!! Congratulations, Joyce and Caper! Well done!!

Pippi (Rottweiler) and Patti Rovtar started out great.....then Pippi decided she should take her glove to the judge, and when the judge turned her back on her, she then thought maybe the steward should have it. Oh boy, Pippi Pippi Pippi! I had to call her back, so we lost those points! She thought it was kinda fun to front to the judge, so she did it again on part 2 of the Directed Jumping! No call back for Miss Pippi!

Every year we have one special dog that starts the day with a 200 and ends the day with a 200 along with a belly full of cookies!! This is our Utility Alternate, who has no other job all day. For Top Dog 2017, this was Gidget (Corgi) and Amy Balchum! Thanks for being a part of our team!

At the end of the day, VHOC ended up with enough points to finish in 7th place out of 12 competing obedience clubs.

Cindi and I are very proud of our Team this year - it truly was diverse in many ways and everyone worked hard to represent VHOC well!!

Patti Rovtar and Cindi Malchose

Top Dog Co-Captains



**Caper**



**Pippi**



# Obedience Results



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

<b>1. High in Trial</b>	197.5 - Utility B	<b>#166 Paddy Warner &amp; Baywinds Stetson 200x</b>
<b>2. High Combined</b>	392 (194.5 + 197.5)	<b>#138/166 Paddy Warner &amp; Baywinds Stetson 200x</b>
<b>4. High Triple Q Rally</b>	277 (92 + 92 + 88)	<b>#242 Gina Grissom &amp; Redwind Shiza Chocolate Diva</b>
<b>5. High Combined Rally</b>	195 (97 + 98)	<b>#240/254 Lisa Hampton &amp; Bar H Blue Bulldozer</b>
<b>6. High Preferred</b>	195 - Pref. Nov	<b>#202 Teiko Doran &amp; Westernesse Ewe Herd It Here</b>
<b>10. High Optional Titling</b>	198 - Beg. Nov. B	<b>#190 Miki Shannon &amp; Excel's Pitt Stop at Trolleycar</b>
<b>11. High A Classes</b>	196 - Open A	<b>#145 Paddy Warner &amp; Baywinds Watch Her Strut</b>
<b>12. High Champion of Record</b>	196.5 - Open B	<b>#152 Bonnie Behrmann &amp; Grougemoor First Sign of Spring</b>
<b>13. High ILP/PAL</b>	194.5 - Novice B	<b>#119 Meda Whitley &amp; Mayfair Court Jester</b>
<b>14. High All-American</b>	195 - Open B	<b>#132 Laurene von Klan &amp; Ginger Pinky Boojie von Patrick</b>
<b>15. High Sporting Group</b>	197 - Open B	<b>#149 Robert Trujillo &amp; Tanbark's Southern Wind</b>
<b>17. High Working Group</b>	197 - Open B	<b>#133 Patti Rovtar &amp; SilverHeart's StoryBook</b>
<b>18. High Terrier Group</b>	188.5 - Open B	<b>#136 Judith Lewis &amp; Tabitha Follows Molly</b>
<b>19. High Toy Group</b>	196.5 - Open B	<b>#144 Hillary Hunter &amp; Domino Oakhills California Poppy</b>
<b>High Herding Group</b>	197.5 - Utility B	<b>#166 Paddy Warner &amp; Baywinds Stetson 200x</b>





# Obedience Results



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

<b>1. High in Trial</b>	199 - Open B	<b>#131 Paddy Warner &amp; Paddys Winnie the Pooh</b>
<b>2. High Combined</b>	392 (194.5 + 197.5)	<b>#150/179 Louise Fox Meredith &amp; RedtopYou're the One</b>
<b>4. High Triple Q Rally</b>	278 (92 + 93 + 93)	<b>#242 Gina Grissom &amp; Redwind Shiza Chocolate Diva</b>
<b>5. High Combined Rally</b>	190 (93 + 97)	<b>#240/254 Lisa Hampton &amp; Bar H Blue Bulldozer</b>
<b>6. High Preferred</b>	195.5 - Pref. Nov.	<b>#202 Teiko Doran &amp; Westernesse Ewe Herd It Here</b>
<b>10. High Optional Titling</b>	199 - Beg. Nov. B	<b>#193 Cynthia Binder &amp; Sabien Vom Binderhaus</b>
<b>11. High A Classes</b>	189 - Open A	<b>#112 Gabrielle de Benedictis &amp; Mayhem's Jade Be Nimble</b>
<b>12. High Champion</b>	186.5 - Open B	<b>#175 Tom &amp; Melinda Peters &amp; Invictus Immerzu Ish</b>
<b>13. High ILP/PAL</b>	189 - Open B	<b>#136 Judith Lewis &amp; Tabitha Follows Molly</b>
<b>14. High All-American</b>	187.5 - Open B	<b>#132 Laurene von Klan &amp; Ginger Pinky Boojie von Patrick</b>
<b>15. High Sporting Group</b>	197 - Utility B	<b>#178 Robert Trujillo &amp; Tanbark's Southern Wind</b>
<b>17. High Working Group</b>	197 - Utility B	<b>#178 Patti Rovtar &amp; SilverHeart's StoryBook</b>
<b>18. High Terrier Group</b>	189 - Open B	<b>#136 Judith Lewis &amp; Tabitha Follows Molly</b>
<b>19. High Toy Group</b>	197 - Open B	<b>#144 Hillary Hunter &amp; Domino Oakhills California Poppy</b>
<b>21. High Herding Group</b>	199 - Open B	<b>#131 Paddy Warner &amp; Paddys Winnie the Pooh</b>



# AKC Achiever Dog Certificate Program

The American Kennel Club is excited to announce the launch of its new Achiever Dog certificate program. The AKC Achiever Dog certificate program is designed to recognize those exhibitors and dogs who participate in multiple sports. A dog will receive an AKC Achiever Dog certificate when they have been awarded a placement or earned a qualifying score in three different sports. Dogs can start earning AKC Achiever Dog certificates December 1, 2017.

“Many exhibitors are interested in participating in different sports,” said Dr. Carmen Battaglia, AKC Board Member. “The AKC Achiever Dog program is designed to encourage owners to try a variety of sports, finding those they enjoy and realizing success. Both are winners!”

AKC is launching the Achiever Dog as a pilot program. At the end of one year, all owners who have received a certificate will be surveyed to determine the success of the program. Opportunities for improvement will be identified and could lead to a more refined program which recognizes these versatile dogs. The survey finding will help to shape the future of the AKC Achiever Dog certificate program. For more information on this program, visit <http://www.akc.org/events/achiever-dog/> or email [achieverdog@akc.org](mailto:achieverdog@akc.org).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is the Achiever Dog certificate?**

The purpose of this new certificate program is to celebrate the dedication of exhibitors and versatile skills of their dogs.

### **Will this certificate be retroactive?**

A dog must earn at least 1 of the 3 sport achievements on or after December 1, 2017. Previously earned titles or participation can be used as 2 of the three required achievements.

### **Is there an application that needs to be completed for this certificate?**

There is no application to be filled out; these certificates will be automatically mailed out after the third participation activity is completed and recorded by AKC.

### **How long is the pilot program going to last?**

The pilot program will run for 1 year, starting December 1, 2017. At the end of one year, participants of the POA will be surveyed to determine the success of the program.

### **How does a dog earn the Achiever Dog certificate?**

A dog must earn a placement or qualifying score in three different sports in order to earn the Achiever Dog certificate. The different sports can be found [here](#).

## VALLEY HILLS OBEDIENCE CLUB, INC.

# Annual Awards

The VHOC Annual Awards Banquet, scheduled for **Sunday, January 28, 2018**, is a singular event at which we welcome new members, recognize outstanding service to the club, honor members' special accomplishments during the previous year (heretofore, the "current year"), become "well-socialized," and share our common link: our love of dogs.

### ***Terms of Eligibility, Rules and Regulations:***

All VHOC members whose dog(s) completed a title in the current year are eligible to receive title plaques.

Awards #4-22 are open only to those VHOC members who have attended at least FIVE VHOC events in the current year, where "event" is meant to include general membership or board meetings, the Annual Awards Banquet of the previous year, the Holiday Party, and the VHOC match and/or trials. Members who *work* an approved VHOC event (e.g., a match or trial) will be given credit for attending *two* events per day. Contact the Membership Director (Carole at [chills37@aol.com](mailto:chills37@aol.com)) if you would like to verify your event attendance.

In the spirit of equity and to encourage a wider range of award recipients, we ask that VHOC instructors not apply for awards in the sport that they teach.

Perpetual awards will be kept by the recipient for one year and returned to VHOC by January 10 of the following year. If for any reason the recipient should cease to be a member in good standing of VHOC, it is expected that s/he return the award to the club at that time.

All awards are for the American Kennel Club (AKC) registry, unless otherwise specified (e.g., "*any registry*").

### ***General Awards:***

#### 1. Title Plaques

VHOC offers a plaque to all members whose dog(s) completed a title in any performance sport from any registry, the final leg of which must have been earned during the current year.

#### 2. A-Team Award

In recognition of first-time achievement, VHOC offers an award to all members who earned a Novice A title in obedience, rally or agility (any registry), the final leg of which must have been earned during the current year.

## ***Annual Awards—Continued***

### 3. American Breed Championship Medallion

VHOC offers an award to all members whose dog(s) completed a breed championship, the finishing points of which must have been earned during the current year.

### 4. Outstanding Junior Handler Awards

In recognition of outstanding performance, Andy and Idelle Tyzbir, in memory of Minna Mott, offer an award to all junior handlers competing at licensed trials in any performance sport, in any registry. Junior handlers are asked to submit a brief paragraph summarizing their accomplishments achieved during the current year.

### ***Special Obedience Awards:***

### 5. George Giswein Memorial Trophy

A perpetual trophy to be presented to the member whose CDX or UD dog has the highest aggregate score for 5 separate shows during the current year, in either Open or Utility work. The purpose of this award is to encourage the continued exhibition of dogs that have earned obedience titles. No scores earned before a competing dog earned his/her title will be acceptable toward the total scores for this trophy. Both CDX and UD dogs are eligible to compete, but the scores used must be in either Open or Utility, not a combination of the two. If a dog is shown in more than five shows, only the five highest scores will apply.

### 6. 200 Award

An award for a score of 200 earned at a licensed obedience trial of any registry during the current year.

### 7. Ch. Maveric of Varagon. CDX Memorial Trophy in Memory of Minna Mott

A perpetual award offered by Val and Ray Gonsor in memory of Minna Mott will be presented to the member whose dog completed a CD, CDX or UD title in any registry with the highest total score for three legs, as follows:

Owner must be a member in good standing at the time each leg is earned. Date of membership will be the date on which the Club approved the application.

Handler must be the owner or a member of the owner's immediate family.

Final leg must be earned during the current year.

No failures permitted before or between qualifying legs.

## ***Annual Awards—Continued***

### 8. Greenberg-Hochman Memorial Trophy

A perpetual trophy offered by Ira and Loretta Greenberg and Ken and Susie Hochman in memory of Ch. Iralor's Bit of Gold, CD, Ch. Sebastian of Bel-Air, Golden Pride of Iralor CD and Rusnel's Joshua CD to the member whose dog has the highest combined scores in any regular obedience class from AKC licensed trials, as follows:

Owner must be a member of VHOC in good standing and for at least six months.

Scores used may be a combination of any regular classes and must be qualifying scores.

All scores must be earned between January 1 and December 31 of the current year.

A maximum of 7 scores will be considered (with no minimum number).

### 9. Highest Scoring VHOC Member Okman-Tyzbir Perpetual Trophy

Andy and Idelle Tyzbir offer a perpetual trophy to the member whose dog has the highest aggregate scores among AKC qualifying or non-qualifying obedience scores from any regular or non-regular class and who does not qualify for any other award in the current year, with the exception of a title plaque, A-Team Award or Ch. Medallion. There is a minimum of 2 scores and no maximum; in the event of a tie, more weight will be given to scores from the regular classes.

### 10. The Red Nadauld Family Trophy

A perpetual trophy awarded to the member with the highest aggregate scores earned on the three legs of a Utility A title. The final leg must be earned during the current year.

### 11. UDX Award

An award offered to the member with the ten highest combined qualifying scores in Open B and Utility B.

### 12. Non-AKC Award

An award offered to the member with the five highest aggregate scores in any obedience class from any combination of non-AKC obedience registries, e.g.: UKC, ASCA, SCDOC (Top Dog), etc.

### ***Multiple Sport Award:***

### 13. Multiple Sport Title Acknowledgment

Laurie Burnam offers a perpetual trophy to all members who obtain 2 or more titles from different sports (i.e., obedience, agility, conformation, herding, lure coursing, field, tracking, carting or hunting), in any registry. All qualifiers' names will be listed by year; the trophy will be held for one year by the member with titles in the most performance sports. In the event of a tie, the trophy will be awarded to the handler with the most titles earned.

## ***Rally Awards:***

## ***Annual Awards—Continued***

### 14. High Scoring Rally Novice Award

Sandy Walton offers a perpetual award to the member whose dog has the highest aggregate scores earned on the three legs of a Rally Novice title. The final leg must have been earned in the current year. Failures before or between legs are permitted. Title may be earned from the A or B class.

### 15. High Scoring Rally Advanced Award

Carole Raschella offers a perpetual award to the member whose dog has the highest aggregate scores earned on the three legs of a Rally Advanced title. The final leg must have been earned in the current year. Failures before or between legs are permitted. Title may be earned from the A or B class.

### 16. High Scoring Rally Excellent Award

Sarah Sykes offers a perpetual award to the member whose dog has the highest aggregate scores earned on the three legs of a Rally Excellent title. The final leg must have been earned in the current year. Failures before or between legs are permitted. Title may be earned from the A or B class.

## ***Agility Awards:***

### 17. High Scoring AKC Agility Novice Award

VHOC offers a perpetual award to the member whose dog has the highest aggregate scores earned on the three legs of an AKC Novice Standard title and three legs of a Novice Jumpers titles (six titling scores in total). The final leg (from either the Standard or Jumpers class) must have been earned in the current year. Titles may be earned from the Regular or Preferred, A or B classes. In the event of a tie, handlers may be asked to submit additional data, such as Yards Per Second, or Course Yardage & Dog's Course Time.

### 18. High Scoring AKC Agility Open Award

VHOC offers a perpetual award to the member whose dog has the highest aggregate scores earned on the three legs of an AKC Open Standard title and the three legs of an Open Jumpers title (six titling scores in total). The final leg (from either the Standard or Jumpers class) must have been earned in the current year. Titles may be earned from the Regular or Preferred, A or B classes. In the event of a tie, handlers may be asked to submit additional data, such as Yards Per Second, or Course Yardage & Dog's Course Time.

### 19. High Scoring AKC Agility Excellent A Award

VHOC offers a perpetual award to the member whose dog has the highest aggregate scores earned on the three legs of an AKC Excellent A Standard title and the three legs of an Excellent A Jumpers title (six titling scores in total). The final leg (from the Standard or Jumpers class) must have been earned in the current year. Titles may be earned from the Regular or Preferred classes. In the event of a tie, handlers may be asked to submit additional data, such as Yards Per Second, or Course Yardage & Dog's Course Time.

## Annual Awards—Continued

### 20. High Scoring NADAC/ASCA Agility Novice Award

Carole Hills offers a perpetual award to the member whose dog has the highest aggregate scores earned on the three legs of a NADAC or an ASCA Novice Standard title (NAC/RS-N) and the *first two* legs of a NADAC or an ASCA Novice Jumpers title (NJC/JS-N). Legs may come from the Proficient or Skilled category (NADAC) and the A or B class (ASCA). The final leg (from the Standard or Jumpers class) must have been earned in the current year. Members may submit their five scores for each registry; however, scores from the two registries cannot be combined. In the event of a tie, handlers may be asked to submit additional data, such as Yards Per Second, or Course Yardage & Dog's Course Time.

### 21. High Scoring NADAC/ASCA Agility Open Award

Carole Hills offers a perpetual award to the member whose dog has the highest aggregate scores earned on the three legs of their NADAC or an ASCA Open Standard title (OAC/RS-O) and the *first two* legs of a NADAC or an ASCA Open Jumpers title (OJC/JS-O). Legs may come from Proficient or Skilled category (NADAC) and the A or B class (ASCA). The final leg (from the Standard or Jumpers class) must have been earned in the current year. Members may submit their five scores for each registry; however, scores from the two registries cannot be combined. In the event of a tie, handlers may be asked to submit additional data, such as Yards Per Second, or Course Yardage & Dog's Course Time.

### 22. High Scoring NADAC/ASCA Agility Elite Award

Deborah Lang offers a perpetual award to the member whose dog has the highest aggregate scores earned on the three legs of a NADAC or an ASCA Elite Standard title (EAC/RS-E) and the *first two* legs of a NADAC or an ASCA Elite Jumpers title (EJC/JS-E). Legs may come from Proficient or Skilled category (NADAC) and the A or B class (ASCA). The final leg (from either the Standard or Jumpers class) must have been earned in the current year. Members may submit their five scores for each registry; however, scores from the two registries cannot be combined. In the event of a tie, handlers may be asked to submit additional data, such as Yards Per Second, or Course Yardage & Dog's Course Time.

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# H3N2 canine influenza in Los Angeles County, 2017

## Overview of Canine influenza H3N2

The canine influenza H2N3 virus usually causes mild to moderate disease in dogs and on rare occasions can also infect cats. [This strain of canine influenza was first found in the US in 2015 when it emerged in Chicago](#) and spread to other parts of the country.

Infected dogs start shedding the virus 2 days before the start of clinical signs, and for at 21 days or more afterward, even after they appear healthy. In August 2017, the Veterinary Public Health Program (VPH) learned from The College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin that some infected dogs may shed the virus for 30 days or more. Transmission of influenza usually occurs through contact with infected respiratory secretions (e.g. coughing, sneezing) as well as from contamination of the environment (e.g. bedding, floors, bowls, collars, leashes). **To date, there is no evidence that humans can become sick with canine influenza H3N2.**

As of November 2017, this virus is still uncommon in Los Angeles County. When cases occur, VPH's goal is to stop the spread of the virus to protect the animals of our county. The most effective tool in stopping the spread of canine influenza H3N2 is prolonged home quarantine of sick dogs (40 days). VPH recommends that highly social dogs (dogs that frequently go to dog parks, groomers, boarding facilities, or daycare) should be vaccinated against canine influenza H3N2.

## First report of 2017 - Outbreak in 35 dogs, most imported from Asia

In March 2017, a local veterinarian reported a potential outbreak of canine influenza H3N2 in dogs imported from Asia. The dogs showed signs consistent with influenza such as coughing, sneezing, fever and nasal discharge. During the initial investigation, it was found that laboratory testing by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) had confirmed the virus in two dogs.

After a prolonged investigation, a total of 52 dogs exposed to the virus were identified, including 35 sick animals. Of the 35 sick dogs, the virus was confirmed by PCR in 6 dogs and suspected in the other 29 dogs. A total of 62 dogs were placed under quarantine or isolation in 17 locations. The 62 dogs included the 35 sick dogs, plus 17 that were exposed but did not become sick, plus 10 that were living with the exposed but healthy dogs.

Two sick dogs died, however both had been suffering from other unrelated illnesses. Ultimately, all of the other sick dogs have recovered and were released from isolation. The College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin provided assistance by testing samples from several dogs. Samples were submitted to veterinary virologists in order to compare this virus to the canine influenza H3N2 virus that caused a large outbreak in the Chicago area in 2015.

## Second report of 2017 - Single case in a dog from San Bernardino County

In April 2017 VPH was notified of a single dog that had tested positive for canine influenza H3N2. The case was not connected to the earlier report of sick dogs imported from Asia. The dog had been ill very early in March when it was brought from San Bernardino County into Los Angeles County. The dog had been kept in isolation for 2 weeks before being placed in a facility with a large group of dogs. VPH worked closely with the large facility to check for further spread of the virus. Very few dogs in the facility were coughing, suggesting that influenza was unlikely to have been on site. With the help of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin, VPH performed PCR testing on 10 of the 91 dogs in the facility for influenza - all 10 were negative. Sixty-nine of the 79 dogs that had been in the facility in March and April were located. Most were healthy, but 14 had developed some coughing. Three of the 14 were serologically tested for exposure to canine influenza H3N2 and were negative, showing they had not been exposed to the virus.

## H3N2 canine influenza in Los Angeles County, 2017—Continued

The Veterinary Public Health Unit of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health assisted in the investigation by visiting two locations where the sick dog had spent time in that county, and found no evidence of any respiratory outbreaks in dogs.

### **Third report of 2017 - Single case in a ill dog imported from Asia to the San Gabriel Valley**

In May 2017, a single dog imported from Asia was found to have fever and pneumonia soon after arrival. The dog was taken to two veterinary practices in the San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles County. It was kept at home until it appeared healthy, but was not isolated for 40 days. After it appeared healthy, it was taken to local dog parks. This case was not reported until August 2017, three months after the dog's illness.

### **Fourth report of 2017 - Outbreak in 27 dogs in the San Gabriel Valley**

In early August 2017, VPH was notified that a dog in the San Gabriel Valley tested positive for canine influenza H3N2 by PCR. The dog developed a mild cough in late July after boarding at a local kennel. The veterinarian had tested the dog for influenza 2 days later.

VPH worked closely with the boarding facility to contact owners of dogs that were present during the second half of July 2017. At least 26 other dogs developed respiratory-like illness. Only three of these 26 dogs were tested for canine influenza by PCR, and all three were negative. Note that a negative PCR test does not rule out infection, since infected dogs can shed the virus intermittently. During this investigation, VPH learned from the University of Wisconsin that dogs infected with this virus may potentially be contagious for 30 days or longer (unpublished data). Therefore, dogs that had been ill were placed under home quarantine for 40 days after the onset of illness. Healthy animals that had been exposed to the sick dogs were quarantined at their homes for 14 days after last potential exposure. All of the sick dogs recovered and the outbreak resolved. The source of this outbreak was unknown. No direct link was found with the single case in May imported from Asia, however, since they both occurred in the San Gabriel Valley, it is possible that they may have been connected.

### **Fifth report of 2017 - Single case in a dog in the San Fernando Valley**

In early November 2017, a veterinarian in the San Fernando Valley area reported that a dog with moderate coughing and mild sneezing had tested positive for canine influenza H3N2 by PCR. The dog had been at a grooming facility during the week before illness, but had no other reported contact with dogs. The dog was placed in home isolation for 40 days, and an investigation was performed. Veterinary practices and animal-related businesses in the immediate area were contacted to find out if they were also seeing cases. As of November 9, 2017, there is no evidence of an outbreak.

## **Recommendations**

### **Pet owners**

If you think your pet has influenza, keep it away from other animals and contact your veterinarian.

Dogs that frequently interact with other dogs (e.g. dog park, groomer, daycare) should be vaccinated against canine influenza H3N2.

To prevent spread of disease, do not let a sick pet share its food bowl, leash, toys or other supplies with other pets.

Wash your hands after touching your pet.

### **Veterinarians/Animal workers**

## H3N2 canine influenza in Los Angeles County, 2017—Continued

Do not allow coughing dogs into your lobby. Move them immediately into an exam room, or (if it is not hot outside) have the owner wait in the car with their coughing dog.

In any case with a coughing dog, ask about the health of dogs that spend time near the coughing dog, to determine if there may be an outbreak. Advise the owner to keep the coughing dog at home.

Dogs that frequently interact with other dogs (e.g. dog park, groomer, daycare) should be vaccinated against canine influenza H3N2.

### Isolation & Quarantine

Confirmed or suspected cases - home isolation for 40 days.

Pets exposed to confirmed or suspected cases - home quarantine and observation for clinical signs for 14 days.

Report any suspected or confirmed case of influenza in dogs or cats to VPH using [this reporting form](#)  .  
If a case is suspected, use proper isolation measures to prevent infection via direct contact or fomites.  
Recommendations for disinfection and biosecurity available [here](#).

### More Information

[Canine Influenza - Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#)

[Canine influenza \(Dog Flu\) - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Canine Influenza - American Veterinary Medical Association \(AVMA\)](#)

[Canine Influenza H3N2 Updates - Cornell University Animal Health Diagnostic Center](#)

*Last updated: November 9, 2017*

Taken from County of LA Public Health site—<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/InfluenzaCanineH3N2.htm>

## 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!**

# November General Meeting

Thank you Stephanie Coleman for putting together this fun meeting activity.

A trained guide dog is a gift of independence for someone who is blind or visually impaired. This informative, hands-on presentation offered us a glimpse into what it's like to navigate the world as a person who is blind. We had several interactive games that allowed us to see how difficult it is for a blind person to do the everyday tasks that we take for granted.

We learned how GDA's highly skilled dogs are trained, and how their unique skillsets enrich the lives of their partners. We met a puppy-in-training, who was very friendly. We learned more about the critical role of GDA's volunteer puppy raisers.



# BRAGS

**Scott Friedman/Karla Spitzer and Odi**—*October 22, 2017, Samoyed Club of America, Camarillo, CA:*

Odie—qualifying in Excellent Jumpers—100—1st place

*November 12, 2017, Dog Agility Club of Ventura, Camarillo, CA:*

Odie got her second Excellent Standard leg 3rd place.

*November 25, 2017, Buenaventura Dog Training Club, Hobert Park, Ventura, CA:*

Odie finished her Excellent Standard Title—1st place

**Scott Friedman/Karla Spitzer and Henry**—*Nov. 11-12, 2017, Dog Agility Club of Ventura, Camarillo, CA:*

11/11 Henry got his first let in open JWW - second place...first try, though, and he got his first open standard leg, first place..

11- 12 Henry got his second Open JWW leg today—1st place

**Cynthia Casby and Potter**—Potter (Wild Wind’s Magical Mischief Maker at Fireside RN HT NA FDC CGC) earned the third leg of her Coursing Ability (CA) title today with ease at the Trial in Chino. Since becoming an adult she has loved Coursing with all her heart. The show folks remembered her from last time due to her loud “enthusiasm” and joy of the chase. We will probably keep going for a CAA and CAX just for the fun and exercise



**Happy Holidays**



# BRAGS

**Patti Rovtar and Pippi**—November 11, 2017

Pippilotta Delicatessa earned herself a 198!!! and 1st place In Utility B today!! Best score yet in Utility for the little rascal - I'm so proud of her!!

She sorta forgot what a straight finish is by the time we got into Open, but pulled out a 195.5 and third place to win High Combined!! We missed a run off for HIT by 1/2 a point!

4 OTCh points and UDX leg #7 (I had the count wrong and discovered she had one more leg than I thought!)

FOUR more Gold Stars for Pippi!



**Laurie Burnam and Scusi**—November 24, 2017, Buenaventura Dog Training Club, AKC Agility, Hobert Park, Ventura, CA:

Master Fast 76 points 2nd place 6th leg

Master JWW 100 3rd place 7th leg 12 MACH points 5.33 yards per second

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# BRAGS



## Joyce Davis and Caper—

We are thrilled!

Caper went High in Trial with a 198.5 from the Open B class at the High Desert Lab Club Specialty. She also came in 3rd in Utility B with a 194. The club worked hard to make everything run smoothly, and the weather was perfect as well. Our judge Shirley Indelicato was as lovely as ever.

Caper's eyes lit up and she became totally engaged when she was presented with the gift basket, made us all laugh.

For this Caper a steak dinner awaited.

Thank you all for a wonderful day.



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# BRAGS

**Laurie & Scusi**— Dec 9 & 10 2017, Valley Hills Obedience Club, Agility trial Woodley Park, CA:

Master JWW 100 Q 10 MACH points 4.93 YPS

Master JWW 100 Q 3rd place 10 MACH points 5.17 YPS

### Sharon Clarke and Dash

Dash is a new Grand Champion!!!!

He earned his title on Saturday, December 9th attaining the requisite number of points with a Best of Breed win. He was also Best of Breed on Sunday, December 10th.

Respectfully submitted by his VERY PROUD & HAPPY Mom,

Sharon Clarke

### Patti Rovstar and Here's Pippi!

Dec 9, 2017 - Valley Hills - Utility B 192, Q - Open B 197+, 1st Place! UDX leg #8, 6 OTCh points, High Score Working Group!

Dec 10, 2017 - Valley Hills - Utility B 197++, 3rd Place, Open B 194, Q! UDX leg #9, 2 OTCh points, High Score Working Group!



**Paula Geigle—Hunter and Lexi**—VHOC Obed-Rally-Agility Trial Dec 9-10 2017, Woodley Park, CA.

Hunter completed his rally advanced title with 2 more legs at VHOC trial.

Lexie earned her second open JWW agility Q at same show placing 2nd in her class.



# BRAGS

**Cathy Davis with Roxie, Ella and Jude**—*Dec. 9-10, 2017, VHOC Agility trial Woodley Park, CA:*

Roxie Double Qed on Sat, Qed in Std on Sun.

Ella Qed in Novice JWW on Sun.

Jude had a fun time

**Cindi Malchose and Jenna** - December 3, 2017. Pink Biscuit Trial. Piru CA.

L2C title

### **Paddy Warner and her Aussies, Winnie, Kippy and Stetson**

Winnie and I are happy to report that we were High in Trial ( with a 199+ in Open B ) and High Scoring Herding dog at the VHOC show on Dec. 10th, 2017 in Obedience.

Kippy and I won the Open A class and won High scoring dog from the A classes on Sat.

Also on Sat Dec. 9 2017 Stetson and I won High In trial ( from the Utility Class) and High Combined, and High Scoring Herding dog in obedience.

WHAT A FANTASTIC WEEKEND



**Paddy and Winnie**



**Paddy and Stetson**



# BRAGS



**Marcia Siderow and Remi**—*VHOC Agility trials Dec 9-10, Woodley Park, Van Nuys, CA:*

Remi, Karbits Remington Steele, got his Excellent Fast title at the VHOC trial this past weekend. He got his second que on Saturday and his third que on Sunday.

## Sue Ingham and Flame

Flame (JavaHills Happy Red Hot Flame) got his RN this weekend. He did it in four runs, an NQ at Toller Nationals in October 2016, then a first place at Toller Nationals in October 2017. The last two Qs were at the VHOC trials this weekend, a fourth place and a third.

**Linda Zimmerman and Angel**—*VHOC Obedience and Rally Trial—Dec 9-10, 2017, Woodley Park, CA:*

Angel (Legacy Joie De Vivre) BN NAP RE CGC is still having fun as a senior citizen with her senior citizen handler, Linda Zimmerman.

VHOC Rally Dec 10

Q in Rally Advanced

VHOC Rally Dec 11

Q in Rally Masters (3rd Masters Leg)

Q in Rally Excellent 93 4th place

Q in Rally Advanced 91 for 4th RAE Leg



# BRAGS

**Debbie Lang and Quila**—*Nov 10 and 11, 2017, Ventura Dog Agility Club, Camarillo CA:*

11/10 Master FAST Q—1st place, Premier STD Q—TOP 25% Q, T2B-P 10 point Q

11/11 Mast FAST Q—1st place, Premier JWW Q, Premier STD Q –TOP 25% Q, T2B-P 9 point Q

**Debbie Lang and Panda**—*Nov 10 and 11, 2017, Ventura Dog Agility Club, Camarillo CA:*

11/11 Master FAST Q Leg #4 to Master title



**Debbie Lang and Quila**—*Dec 8, 9, 10, 2017—VHOC Agility Trial Woodley Park, Van Nuys, CA:*

12/8 Premier JWW Q

12/9 Premier JWW Q, Premier STD Q—TOP 25% Q

12/10 Premier STD Q—TOP 25% Q, T2B-P 7 point Q

**Debbie Lang and Panda**—*Dec 8, 9, 10, 2017—VHOC Agility Trial Woodley Park, Van Nuys, CA:*

12/8 20” STD—Excellent—Q for 1st qualifying score

12/9 20” JWW—Masters—5th qualifying score to Masters title

12/10 20” STD—Excellent— Q for 2nd qualifying score,

20” JWW—Masters— 6th qualifying score to Masters title





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