



MISSION STATEMENT

To promote responsible pet ownership by offering classes for the community in dog obedience and handling; to educate our members about responsible ownership of dogs; to advocate for the protection and well-being of all dogs; and to adhere to the guidelines of the American Kennel Club in our activities

VISION

To provide dogs and their owners with the best possible training in an atmosphere of courtesy and respect

2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR

January-February 2025



TATTLE TAILS

NVDTTC Newsletter

Napa Valley Dog Training Club • (707) 253-8666 • Clubhouse: 68 Coombs St., Bldg N
Mailing Address: 68 Coombs #7, Napa CA 94559 • www.napadogtraining.org



Festive Fun and Cheer at the Club's Christmas Party!

On December 9th, our clubhouse buzzed with laughter and holiday spirit as members gathered for the much-anticipated Christmas party! With a fantastic turnout, the evening was filled with delicious shared dishes, creative gift ideas, and the ever-thrilling “steal” gift exchange that kept everyone on their toes.

A heartfelt shout-out to Linda Wargo for spearheading this year’s impactful community support project* and adding excitement with her fabulous raffle prizes presented at this event.

And a big round of applause for Debbie Hilton, whose hard work behind the scenes transformed the clubhouse into a magical holiday wonderland.

Thank you to everyone who made the night unforgettable!

*A huge thank you to everyone who donated supplies & cash to the Ripple Effect Animal Project which was much appreciated by this organization.



rippleeffectnapa.org





2025 Training Session 2

March 3rd through April 12th, 2025

All Standard Classes run for 6 weeks for \$150.00 unless noted otherwise.

Class payment & shot records due February 24th, 2025.

Registration for 2025 Session 2 classes is **ONLY** accepted between Jan. 27th and Feb 17th.

Except for continuing classes, registration is by phone **ONLY: 707-253-8666**

Monday

All Scent Work classes
are continuing classes

9:00 am

Scent Work

Donna

10:00 am

Scent Work

Donna

11:00 am

Scent Work

Donna

12:00 pm

Scent Work

Donna

2:30 pm

Scent Work

Donna

*5:00 pm (4 weeks)

Scent Work

No Class 3/10 & 4/7

Donna

Puppy:
12 weeks to 5 1/2 months
Adolescent:
6 months to 1 year
Good Manners:
1 year+

Tuesday

11:00 am

Good Manners 2

Mary

12:00 Noon

Adv Obedience

Mary

7:00 pm

Good Manners 2

Carol

**Schedule
subject to
change.**

**Scan QR code
for most
current digital
version of this
schedule.**



**6 Weeks of Classes:
\$150
\$60 max in
coupons**

Wednesday

9:00 am

Good Manners 1

Carol

10:00 am

Adolescent

Carol

11:00 am

Puppy

Carol

12:00 Noon

Adolescent

Carol

1:30 pm

**Strengthening the
Basics**

Vange

5 pm

Puppy

Carol

6 pm

Adolescent

Carol

7 pm

Good Manners 1

Carol

***4 Weeks of Classes:
\$100
\$40 max in
coupons**

Thursday

10:30 am

Rally

Dena

11:30 am

Rally

Dena

5:00 pm

Rally

Mary

6:00 pm

Rally

Mary

Saturday

10:00 am

**Delightful
Distractions**

Vange

12 NOON

Mighty Mights

Vange

**MEMBERS
RECEIVE
ONE \$10
DISCOUNT
PER CLASS**

For all **Dogs Can Dance (Freestyle)** Tuesday classes,
register with Judy: judy@dogscandance.com • (707) 449-1715



THE PERFECT VACATION FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG

By Anne Stanley



What's your ideal vacation?

Relaxing on a warm beach, maybe with swimming, paddleboarding or kayaking? Perhaps you want to hike along a pristine forest trail. Camp among the trees beside a beautiful lake. Enjoy a comfortable hotel? Take a little nap in the shade of a majestic pine tree. Some people like all-inclusive vacations. How

about all of these – plus – this is just for you and your dogs. Now, that's a great vacation.

Each year, Wild Blue Dogs offers two spectacular dog camp adventures at Lake Tahoe. Camps in 2025 are scheduled for June 2-8 and September 14-20. Registration for camp is open now, and there are early-bird discounts available until February. Wild Blue Dogs is a non-profit organization, and all profits benefit canine cancer treatment and research.

Campers can bring up to three dogs, and can choose accommodations to suit their budget and preferences. All meals (for humans) are included every day, along with snacks and Yappy Hour. The core of the week is daily training sessions in agility, tricks, lure coursing, rally, problem solving, recall, scent work, kayak and paddle boarding, canine core conditioning and balance. Plus, there's hiking, crafts, sessions on nutrition, behavior and healthcare. Did I mention yappy hour, dog bingo and karaoke by the campfire?

Campers can do as little or as much as they like. For sports like agility, lure coursing, water sports and scent work, there are sessions for every level from introductory to advanced (Teach your pup to dog paddle or learn novice tricks and

Canine Good Citizen). You can even get your dog certified as an animal actor.

If you and your dogs like to walk, the camp offers daily hikes, short and long, around the beautiful Tahoe basin.

The camps are held at the Nevada 4H Camp facility just north of State-line, Nevada with 33 acres, completely fenced, and a private beach and dock on Lake Tahoe. Campers can stay on site at the camp, with basic log cabins and shared bath facilities, or at the Beach Retreat & Lodge at Lake Tahoe, or find their own accommodations.

All activities and classes are included. Private sessions with some instructors may be available.

Who are these instructors? You've probably heard of some of them.

- Terry Simons is an internationally recognized agility handler, trainer, coach. He is a Fox Network sports analyst, and celebrity judge for Hallmark's American Rescue Dog Show. He is the founder of another canine cancer foundation, and is an award-winning documentary producer.
- Suzanne LeRoy is a well-known trainer and AKC judge for scent work and other sports. Her dogs have appeared in TV, movies, advertising, magazines, calendars and dog food packaging, showing off their talents.
- Suzanne Knox is an obedience and agility trainer. Her specialties include off-leash training, rock solid recalls, go to your place, impulse control, and basic manners.





Bragg are also in general minutes—see page 6

BRAGS

Carol Coawette

Santa Rosa Scent Work Trial 10/20/24



Louie:

Louie won his AKC:
Advanced Exterior Elite leg
Advanced Interior Elite leg
Novice Buried Elite leg #9 placing 2nd
Novice Container Elite leg
Novice Interior Elite leg
He's working his way up & having fun.

Lodi Scent Work Trial 11/23/24



Pierre:

Pierre won his AKC:
Master Interior Title and placed 3rd.
Master overall Title
Master Buried Elite leg #9
Excellent Container Elite Title placing 1st
Excellent Exterior Elite Title
A very colorful day for him!



Louie & Pierre:

Pierre:
Won another AKC Detective leg!
And his AKC Master Elite Exterior Title

Louie:
Won legs in AKC Elite Novice Buried, Interior, and Exterior taking 3rd place in Exterior.

Sue Osborn



Brooklyn, Morgan, and I performed a brace for the most recent Dogs Can Dance® challenge and earned our Music Interpretation-World Traveler title with a score of 144 points.

Getting two dogs (especially German Shorthaired Pointers) to work together took some doing. To add to this challenge, I decided to use a favorite step-stool as part of the routine. When I started, I did not know using a prop like a step-stool needed to be incorporated into the dance three different ways. View the video at <https://youtu.be/tasbaf5eaXQ> to see how this was done.

This performance was the last of three levels required to be awarded the musical Interpretation (DCD-MI) division title. If we can pass two more division titles, we will become a Champion team through Dogs Can Dance®. A big thank you to Judy Gamet for all her help!

Have a brag? Send to brags@nvdtc.org



Perfect Vacation continued from page 3

Dog camp also includes guided hikes along some of Lake Tahoe's most beautiful scenic trails; training and testing for CGC, CGCA, and all levels of trick dog certification; and pro photography of you and your dog at camp. And, you go home with a great swag bag full of lots of goodies. Camps are limited to 100 campers. You'll meet a lot of wonderful new friends, both two- and four-legged.

Q&A for Wild Blue Dogs summer camp

What does this cost?

Cost for Wild Blue Dogs camp varies based on which accommodations campers choose. The total ranges from \$1,900 per camper (up to three dogs) providing their own off-site accommodations, \$2,000 per camper for those who choose to stay onsite at the camp, up to \$2,350 for the Beach Retreat and Lodge (double occupancy), per camp session (One week).

Is my dog too young to attend Dog Camp?

Young dogs thrive at Dog Camp. It is a great opportunity for them to meet lots of dog-friendly people, a wide variety of dog breeds in all shapes and sizes, to get some expert training from exceptional instructors, and to get lots of socialization. It is also a time of bonding for you and your dog.

Is my dog too old for Dog Camp?

No! You can be as active or take things as easy as you like, and so can your dog. Hikes offer a variety of levels for every ability. Classes are available for dogs of all ages and abilities. Try scent work, games, tricks, rally, and other activities to enrich your senior dog's life. There are beautiful lawns, a private beach, and shady pine trees to rest beneath.

My dog hasn't had much training, will my dog fit in?

This is an ideal place to bring your dog to continue his training and to build a strong foundation. Wild Blue Dog Camp has expert trainers to help your dog become the happy, well-trained canine citizen they deserve to be. A well-trained dog is welcome more places, has more opportunities for fun,

and is happier, and so are you. However, if your dog is aggressive toward other dogs or people, then this is not the place for them.

My dog is not reliable off leash; will he be safe?

Yes, your dog will be safe because you will always be in control of them, either on or off leash. If your dog does not have good recall we will work on teaching them, as well as teaching good canine etiquette and they will be on leash until they have proven themselves to be confident, responsive, and self-controlled.

Is this camp like a doggie daycare?

No! This is an interactive experience for you and your dog. You will be a team and participate in activities together.

Where can I get more information?

Go to: <https://www.wildbluedogs.org/summercamp>

A personal note: I've taken my dog, Fig, to both the June and September Wild Blue Dog camps. We've never had a better vacation. I felt I got the best value for my vacation dollars. Fig and I both had made new friends, and I didn't have to worry about her while I was away.

If you're looking for a wonderful vacation where you enjoy beautiful scenery and awesome dog activities, and want to play and learn with your dog, this is it. Plus, this benefits canine cancer research. A win for all.



TATTLE TAILS

NVDTC Newsletter

January-February 2025



6 of 10



December 9, 2024 General Meeting

MINUTES (unapproved)

Past and present minutes are available online at:
napadogtraining.org/meeting/



www.nvdtc.org/meeting

- I. Call to order 7:16 pm
- II. Call for additions or changes to agenda – noting added
- III. Approval of November 11, 2024, minutes – approved as is
- IV. Treasurer's report – Lori Jackson
 - a. Burliness Checking Account - \$5,987.04
 - b. Business Savings Account – \$22,369.14
 - c. Certificate of Deposit - \$21,578.02
 - d. Profit/Loss – Loss of \$5,511.83
- V. Board Committee and Chair Reports
 - a. Presidents – Linda Wargo, all reports later in the agenda
 - b. Vice -President – Carol Coawette, three new members, voted into membership
 - i. Nancy and Conrad Everheardt
 - ii. Maura Schulz
 - c. Membership Coupons Vouchers, turn in expiring vouchers. Place in the envelope identifying that they are expired or place in the box in the Club. Reminder they can be used by December 31, 2024. Still good to use in 2025 are the meeting coupons and board member coupons. Membership payments and due by the end of January
 - d. Office – Mary Ash, extended closing date of classes until December 30
 - e. Training – Donna Golemon, Classes start on January 13, 2025.
 - f. Building – Lori reporting for Karen, the following has been reported to Ross to be corrected: bad light in office, toilet not working also reported to Ross
 - g. Newsletter/Website – nothing to report
 - h. Hospitality – for January 13th meeting Linda L. and Sandy B. volunteered
 - i. Sunrise – nothing to report
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Guidelines and Procedures – Everything has been updated and was emailed out to membership
 - b. Gerry Glantz Memorial Award – the following people were nominated for this award: Mary Ash, Carol Coawette, Donna Golemon and Dena Parish, Will be announced at the 2924 Membership Dinner
 - c. End of Year Awards – information is due to Linda Wargo by January 8, 2024. If you are receiving a new plaque, please include a picture
 - d. Scent Work Trial – Anne has secured the dates with the college May 31 and June 1, 2025. We will need volunteers as the trial forms.
- VII. New business – nothing to report
- VIII. Braggs – All are AKC titles unless stated differently
 - a. Sharon and Thing earned their AKC Excellent SW title
 - b. Chris and Pepper earned their 3rd Q in interior master, finishing that title and earning their Master Scent Work title
 - c. Carol and Louie earned their Advanced HD title with a 4th place, also earned Advance Elite legs in Buried and Exterior
 - d. Carol and Pierre earned #8 leg in Excellent Elite Buried and leg #9 in Excellent Elite Interior
 - e. Mary and Zip earned their Novice Buried title, completing their Novice Overall SW title
 - f. Linda and Happy Qualified in three of four searches earning legs in Master exterior, containers and buried
 - g. Linda and Ziji finished their advanced container title and earning their Advance overall title. They also finished their excellent exterior and buried legs.
 - h. Linda and Sunny, competing for the first time were 4 out of 4 searches. Earning two fourth places and one second place.
- IX. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Minutes Submitted by Donna Golemon

Year End Awards DEADLINE

Submit year-end award applications to receive awards for titles earned in 2024 by **January 8th, 2025.**

Applications are to be turned into Linda Wargo. Exact details & requirements are spelled out on application itself and can be downloaded from:

nvdtc.org/pdfs/YearEndAwardsForm.pdf

2025 (2 Page) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR CURRENT MEMBERS IS ONLINE!
Renew today!

2025 Membership

Deadline for dues is February 1, 2025

Hardcopies are at the clubhouse and the digital version (for current members only) is on our website under "Membership."



DOG MYTHS DEBUNKED

Dogs have been our companions for thousands of years, but myths and misconceptions about them persist. Let's tackle some common dog myths and uncover the truth for the benefit of our beloved four-legged friends.

A Wagging Tail Always Means a Happy Dog

While it's true that a wagging tail can indicate happiness, it's not always the case. Dogs use their tails as a communication tool. For example, a stiff, high wag might signal agitation or dominance, while a low, slow wag can indicate insecurity. Always consider the dog's body language as a whole to understand their mood.

Dogs See in Black and White

Dogs do see color, but their range is limited compared to humans. They primarily see shades of blue and yellow. This limited color vision is due to fewer cone cells in their retinas. So, while your dog won't appreciate a vibrant red ball, they can still distinguish it from a green lawn by its brightness and contrast.

You Can't Teach an Old Dog New Tricks

Older dogs are absolutely capable of learning new behaviors and commands. While puppies may pick up training faster due to their developmental stage, older dogs often have longer attention spans and a stronger bond with their owner, making them excellent students. Patience and consistency are key.

Dogs Eat Grass Only When They're Sick

Dogs might munch on grass for various reasons, including bore-

dom, attention-seeking, or simply because they like the texture. Occasional grass-eating is normal and usually not a cause for concern, though excessive consumption might warrant a vet visit.

Dogs Feel Guilty When They Look "Ashamed"

That guilty look—head down, ears back, big eyes—isn't actually an admission of guilt. It's a response to your body language or tone of voice. Dogs are excellent at reading human emotions and may appear "guilty" to appease you if they sense you're upset.

Dogs Need to Be Dominated

The outdated "alpha dog" theory suggests that owners must dominate their dogs to maintain control. Modern training emphasizes positive reinforcement and building trust rather than asserting dominance. Dogs thrive when they have consistent boundaries and feel safe.

Dogs Can't Feel Complex Emotions

While dogs may not experience emotions exactly as humans do, they certainly feel a range of them, from joy and excitement to fear and anxiety. They also display empathy and form deep bonds with their owners. Anyone who's seen a dog comfort a grieving owner knows just how emotionally attuned they can be.

By debunking these myths, we can better understand and care for our canine companions. Share these insights with your fellow dog lovers and help spread the truth about our amazing, loyal friends!



HOW OLD IS MY DOG IN HUMAN YEARS?

It's a question many dog owners ponder: how old is my furry companion in human years? The idea of equating dog years to human years has been around for ages, with the popular rule of thumb being that one dog year equals seven human years. However, the truth is far more nuanced and depends on factors like breed, size, and developmental stage.

The Myth of the "Seven-Year Rule"

The seven-to-one ratio is a simple formula, but it doesn't hold up under scrutiny. Dogs mature at a much faster rate during their first couple of years, and their aging process slows down relative to humans as they grow older. For instance, a one-year-old dog is roughly equivalent to a teenager in human terms, while a seven-year-old dog might align with a middle-aged human.

A More Accurate Formula

Veterinary researchers have developed more refined methods to calculate a dog's age in human years. One widely referenced formula is based on a logarithmic scale:

$$\text{Human equivalent age} = 16 \times \ln(\text{dog's age}) + 31$$

This formula takes into account the rapid aging of dogs in their early years and their slower aging as they grow older.

Breed and Size Matter

Not all dogs age at the same rate. Smaller breeds, such as Chihuahuas, generally live longer and age more slowly than larger breeds, like Great Danes. Medium-sized breeds tend to fall somewhere in between. For example:

Small dogs (under 20 pounds): Reach senior status around 10-12 years.

Medium dogs (20-50 pounds): Enter their golden years at 8-10 years.

Large dogs (over 50 pounds): Often considered seniors by age 6-8.

Understanding Your Dog's Life Stage

Knowing your dog's "human" age can help you provide the best care at every stage of their life:

Puppyhood: Focus on training and socialization.

Adulthood: Maintain a healthy diet and exercise routine.

Senior Years: Schedule regular vet check-ups and adjust their care to address age-related changes.

General Guidelines for Dog-to-Human Age Conversion

Here's a rough comparison:

Dog's Age (Years)	Small Breed	Medium Breed	Large Breed
1	15	15	12
2	24	24	22
5	36	36	40
10	56	60	66
15	76	83	93

The Emotional Connection

While calculating your dog's age in human years is interesting, the bond you share goes beyond numbers. Every wag of the tail, bark of excitement, and snuggle on the couch creates timeless memories.

So, the next time someone asks how old your dog is, you can share both their calendar age and their human equivalent. And don't forget to remind them that, no matter their age, dogs bring joy to every year of our lives.

Fun and Interesting Dog Trivia

The Basenji's Unique Bark

The Basenji is known as the "barkless dog." Instead of barking, it makes a sound often described as a yodel or chortle, due to its unique vocal cords.

Dog Nose Prints Are Unique

Just like human fingerprints, a dog's nose print is unique. Some kennels even use nose prints for identification!

Why Dogs Kick After They Pee

That kicking motion some dogs make after doing their business isn't just to cover their mess—it's a marking behavior. They're leaving scent from glands in their paws to claim territory.

Dalmatians Are Born Spotless

Dalmatian puppies are born completely white. Their iconic spots develop as they grow older.

The Smallest Dog Breed

The Chihuahua holds the title for the smallest dog breed. Some can weigh as little as 2 pounds when fully grown!

Dogs Can Smell Time

A dog's incredible sense of smell allows them to detect the passage of time. For example, they can distinguish between the scents of morning and evening or predict when you're coming home based on scent changes.



CONGRATS to our NVDTTC graduates



Wednesday Morning Puppy



Wednesday Night Good Manners 1



Wednesday Night Puppy



Wednesday Night Adolescent

**Photos below are from our special classes.
More photos from these classes are on NVDTTC's Facebook page.**

One of the perks to being in the *Dining Out* class taught by Vange Leonis is having a potluck and buffet lunch at Century Oak Park in Napa.

Another special class taught by Vange is *Mighty Mights*. This class helps small dogs discover their strengths and polish their skills. Classes start indoors with confidence building exercises, and expand over the following weeks to end with a fun field trip with a friendly, calm, larger dog.

And yet another special class is *Strengthening the Basics*. This class is filled with fun games that polish skills like heeling with distractions, long-line stays (with the pup's owner sometimes facing away from their dog) and polite meet-and-greets, all of which are low stress ways to build a team's skills.



Dining Out



Mighty Mights



Strengthening the Basics

TATTLE TAILS

NVDTTC Newsletter

January-February 2025



10 of 10



Misplaced, Lost, or Missed eMails from NVDTTC?

Misplaced your email from NVDTTC via MailChimp with link to newsletters?
Missed that announcement about rattlesnake aversion or an upcoming presentation or workshop?

You can access recent emails sent out from NVDTTC via MailChimp by [CLICKING HERE](#) or by scanning the QR code below.



Submission deadline for the
MARCH/APRIL 2025 newsletter
is February 22, 2025.

Send submissions to: editor@nvdtc.org

Scheduling of Board Meetings:

Board meetings are open to all members and are scheduled on the *FOURTH* Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

Call 253-8666 to verify both date and location of meeting. Minutes from board meetings are available at the club.



Visit NVDTTC on the web for current info & photos at

www.nvdtc.org and on

Facebook at

www.facebook.com/NVDTTC/.

Next Meeting: January 13, 2025 6:30 PM at Clubhouse

Leave dogs at home.



Do you have a special or cute dog picture you'd like to share?

If you send a photo of YOUR dog (ε name) to the newsletter editor, he or she could appear in a future newsletter!

Email to:

[editor@nvdtc.org/](mailto:editor@nvdtc.org)

