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David LeCount, Training  
Karen Jackson, Building

**OFFICE:**  
Mary Ash

**MEMBERSHIP:**  
Lori Jackson

**NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE:**  
Sue Osborn

**BUILDING GROUP  
USE COORDINATOR:**  
Debbie Hilton

**AOCNC REPS:**  
Mary Ash, Sue Osborn

*See last page for contact  
information for above members*

*Past newsletters are at  
[http://www.nvdtc.org/club\\_newsletter/](http://www.nvdtc.org/club_newsletter/)*



March-April 2023

# TATTLE TAILS

## NVDTC Newsletter

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

### Let's Talk Dog Toys

In this edition read about how to have [more] fun with dog toys and why dogs need them. You can read three articles about dog toys. If you are viewing this newsletter as a PDF, you can click on the "live" links in each article to read about toys and view a video of a game you can play with your dog and their toys.

**Put Your Toys Away ~~~~~ Page 5**

**The (Toy) Name Game ~~~~ Page 5**

**Why Dog Toys? ~~~~~ Page 7**

### Let's Talk Dog Classes

Session 1 is a wrap. Wednesdays was a popular day for puppy and adolescent classes taught by Carol Coawette and Sandy Bonifield. Check out page 4 for photos. Fridays and Sundays Vange Leonis taught a number of special classes. Check out page 5 for photos *and* video links.

Other Session 1 classes at the club included scent work on Mondays taught by Donna Golemon and freestyle classes on Tuesdays taught by Judy Gamet. Mary Ash taught Good Manners classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays plus Rally classes on Thursdays.

Session 2 started this week and Session 3 is now online. Visit [nvdtc.org/pdfs/upcomingNVDTCClasses.pdf](http://nvdtc.org/pdfs/upcomingNVDTCClasses.pdf) to see which classes you want to sign up for when registration opens on March 13th!

### AKC ANNOUNCES

#### AKC FIT DOG TITLES By Jessica Rice

The American Kennel Club (AKC®), the world's largest purebred dog registry and leading advocate for dogs, is proud to announce three new AKC FIT DOG titles that dog owners may earn with their dogs. The AKC FIT DOG titles are open to all dogs.

Now more than ever, fitness is essential for both dogs and people. An estimated 70% of people aged 20 and over are overweight, and nearly 55% of dogs are overweight or obese.

To earn each of the three AKC FIT DOG titles

(Bronze, Silver, and Gold), owners will earn points in six categories that include: Completing an AKC FIT DOG 6-weeks course, entering a race that can be walked/run with their dog, documented walks that are done independently or in a group, completing "unique" activities such as swimming or Parkour, earning an AKC title related to fitness such as agility or dock diving, and earning an AKC Parent Club title such as Pack Dog



**continued on page 2**



## The NACSW 2022 Top Dog Names

According to AKC registration statistics and Canine Partners enrollments, the most popular girl's name of 2022 was Luna and the most popular boy's name was Max. Bookending the list at the bottom for girls was Zola and Willie for boys.

The top 10 names for 2022 were:

### GIRL NAMES

1. Luna
2. Bella
3. Daisy
4. Lucy
5. Willow
6. Penny
7. Sadie
8. Maggie
9. Rosie
10. Ruby

### BOY NAMES

1. Max
2. Milo
3. Cooper
4. Charlie
5. Teddy
6. Tucker
7. Buddy
8. Bear
9. Rocky
10. Leo

## AKC Fit Dog Titles *continued from page 1*

or Sledding.

"Fitness is important for all dogs and their owners," said Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President of Sports and Events. "The purpose of the AKC FIT DOG title is to encourage dog owners to improve both their health and that of their canine companions."

Dogs must be at least six months old to earn the Bronze level title. Some activities may be done independently (such as walking) and others will be done in the presence of other people, such as community fun runs and AKC Fit Dog courses.

"We care about dogs and want them to be healthy and fit," said Dr. Mary Burch, AKC Family Dog Director, "and working on AKC FIT DOG titles provides structure and organization to an ongoing fitness plan for dogs and their owners."

The Guidelines for Participants and the approved methods of documenting activities can be found at <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/>. Questions can be emailed to FITDOG@akc.org.

Individuals interested in AKC FIT DOG titles may start applying for the titles now.

AKC | Jan 06, 2023



*Dog is such a small word for something that takes up so much room in your heart.*



## Stellar Brag: Carol Coawette & Pierre

On December 31st in Monterey, Pierre and I tried out our skills in AKC Scent Work Detective level.

It was in a torrential downpour and gusty winds!

We were competing against a few teams who have already won their Detective Title (which takes 10 Q's).

Not only did he qualify but he nailed it and also took First Place.

I am happily shocked and proud of this boy!

—Carol



**Got BRAGS?**  
**Submit to**  
**[brags@nvdtc.org](mailto:brags@nvdtc.org)**





## Napa Valley Dog Training Club

68 Coombs St. Bldg. N • Napa, CA

707-253-8666 • [nvdtc.org](http://nvdtc.org)



## 2023 Training Session 3

April 17th through May 27, 2023

Standard Classes run for 6 weeks for \$125.00 unless noted otherwise.

Class payment & shot records due April 10th.

Registration for Session 3 2023 classes is ONLY accepted between Mar. 13th & Apr. 3rd.

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

### Monday

9:00 am  
Scent Work  
Donna (continued class)

10:00 am  
Scent Work  
Donna (continued class)

11:00 am  
Scent Work  
Donna (continued class)

12:00 pm  
Scent Work  
Donna (continued class)

Classes below are 5 weeks  
No class on May 8th\*\*

3:00 pm  
Scent Work  
Donna (continued class)

4:00 pm  
Scent Work  
Donna (continued class)

5:00 pm  
Scent Work  
Donna (continued class)

6:00 pm  
Scent Work  
Donna (continued class)

### Tuesday

10:00 am  
Good Manners 1  
Mary

11:00 am  
Good Manners 2  
Mary

12:00 Noon  
Good Manners 1 Overflow  
Mary

### Wednesday

9:00 am  
Adolescent Dog  
Carol

10:00 am  
Puppy  
Carol

11:00 am  
Puppy  
Carol

12:00 Noon  
Adolescent Dog  
Sandy

1:30 pm  
Good Manners 1  
Sandy

### SPECIALTY CLASSES\*\*\*

from Judy Gamet [www.dogscandance.com](http://www.dogscandance.com)

Tuesday 3:30 pm Private Coaching – DCD  
 Tuesday 4:30 pm\*\*\* Musical Rally  
 Tuesday 5:30 pm\*\*\* Rehearsing Your Freestyle  
 Tuesday 6:30 pm\*\*\* Training & Rehearsing Your Freestyle Routine  
 Tuesday 7:30 pm\*\*\* Success Beyond Luring

Schedule subject to change.

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



MEMBERS RECEIVE ONE \$10 DISCOUNT PER CLASS

### Thursday

10:30 am  
Rally – All Levels  
Mary

11:30 am  
Rally  
Mary

5:00 pm  
Rally - Novice  
Mary

6:00 pm  
Rally - Novice  
Mary

### Friday (3 Weeks\*)

(5/5, 5/12, & 5/19)

2:00 pm  
Confidence Building  
Vange

3:00 pm  
Confidence Building  
Vange

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

### Sunday (3 Weeks\*)

(4/30, 5/7, & 5/21)

10:00 am  
Community Walks  
Vange

12:00 Noon  
Mighty Mights  
20 pounds or less at maturity  
Vange

1:00 pm  
Beginning Tricks  
Vange

2:00 pm  
Strengthening the Basics  
Vange

6 Weeks of Standard Classes:  
\$125 (\$60 max in vouchers)

\*3 Weeks of Standard Classes:  
\$65 (\$30 max in vouchers)

\*\*5 Weeks of Standard Classes:  
\$105 (\$50 max in vouchers)

\*\*\*6 Weeks of Specialty Classes:  
\$135 (\$40 max in vouchers)

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## The NACSW Skills Challenges

by Donna Golemon

During the Christmas break some of us got together to participate in the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW) Skills Challenge.

Anne Stanley videoed everyone's runs and then prepared them for submission making the owners' job easier.

There were four challenges for each dog to complete and three levels to choose from. You had to earn points to earn the titles and the points earned were reflected in the title earned.

The titles were:

**NSA1, NSA2, NSA3 and NSAM**

(NSA stands for Nose Work Skills Achievement Title with NSAM being the highest title you can earn for this series which stands for Nose Work Skills Master)

The four searches were:

- Independent Hunting
- Suspended Hide
- Multiple Hides
- Container

Each of the searches had requirements for each level. For example, in the Suspended Hide challenge for Level 1, the hide was 2 feet above the ground; for Level 2, it was 4 feet above the ground; and at Level 3, it was 6 feet above the ground.



Suspended hide? Two minutes? 6 feet off the ground? No problem. Tim Medina and Rocket have this.

*Congratulations to all the participants listed below who earned the following titles:*

- Margie Vulk and Camille NSA1 (cm)
  - Roxanne Gracia and Tanner NSA2 (cm)
  - Mary Ash and Cort NSA2 (cm)
  - Mary Ash and Kitt NSA2 (cm)
  - Linda Wargo and Happy NSA2 (cm)
  - Donna Golemon and Tarp NSA2 (cm)
  - Anne Stanley and Fig NSA2 (cm)
  - Chris and Pepper NSA2 (cm)
  - Carol Coawette and Pierre NSA3 (cm)
  - Tim Medina and Beatrix NSA3
  - Donna Golemon and Nickel NSAM (cm)
  - Tim Medina and Rocket NSAM
- (cm = club member)



9 AM Puppy



10 AM Adolescent



12 Noon Adolescent

**CONGRATULATIONS to ALL of our Session 1 graduates!**  
Pictured are graduates from the Wednesday puppy & adolescent classes.



5 PM Puppy



6 PM Adolescent



Rowdy from 12 Noon Adolescent



## Put Your Toys Away

You may be thinking — putting things away is the opposite of fun. But hold on. Teaching your dog something new such as putting their toys away is mentally stimulating. And if you teach them how to do it in a positive way you can make a fun game out of it

If your dog's toys are kept in a container you can teach them to put their toys away. Yes, it does sound weird to teach your dog to clean up after themselves but it's actually a lot of fun. Teaching your dog new skills boosts their confidence, and it's a great way to give them more mental stimulation.

[animalbehaviorcollege.com/blog/pet-training/how-to-teach-your-dog-to-put-away-his-toys/](https://animalbehaviorcollege.com/blog/pet-training/how-to-teach-your-dog-to-put-away-his-toys/)

If your dog already knows "drop it" have them pick up a toy and give them their drop it command once they're standing over the container. Praise them like crazy, then repeat. With some practice and consistently you'll have a dog that knows how to clean up after himself, and best of all he'll enjoy it.

<https://iheartdogs.com/important-how-to-teach-your-dog-to-leave-or-drop-something/>

## The (Toy) Name Game

Another fun brain game for dogs is the name game, and the best way to do it is by using your dog's toys. Do you already have names for your dog's toys? If so you're already ahead of the curve.

Start by playing with your dog and one specific toy, giving it a name while you do. After some practice and praise, your dog will assign that verbal name with the chosen toy. Once your dog has learned that specific toy's name, you can test their skills by seeing if they can pick it out among their other toys. After your dog knows the name of one toy you can move on to teaching them the name of another.

On average dogs can learn 165 different words, so your dog has the potential to learn the names of a lot of different toys. After your dog knows the names of a number of them, have them pick specific ones out of a pile. This is a great way to boost their problem solving skills.

Chaser the Border Collie, seen in the video at link below, knows the names of 1000+ toys.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8jWtLnavXQ&t=34s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8jWtLnavXQ&t=34s)

## Friday's Session 1 GM1 Confidence Building Class:



And below are links to videos from Sunday's Session 1 Strengthening the Basics class:

[youtube.com/watch?v=dWVaoag5eYY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWVaoag5eYY)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uY2cuvrQj7k>

[youtube.com/watch?v=mC8Fm9c6Lmc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mC8Fm9c6Lmc)



February 13, 2023 General Meeting

## MINUTES (unapproved)

Past and present minutes are  
available online at:  
[napadogtraining.org/meeting/](http://napadogtraining.org/meeting/)



[www.nvdtc.org/meeting](http://www.nvdtc.org/meeting)

- I. **Call to Order** – at 6:32 pm
- II. **Call for additional or changes to agenda** – note given to Mary, and she will add in at the appropriate time
- III. **Approval of December 12, 2022 minutes** (Donna Golemon)– Approved with one change, Michael Kaplan to Michael Patland otherwise minutes APPROVED
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** (Lori Jackson) – Checking Account \$21,159.62; Savings Account \$22,365.04; Certificate of Deposit \$20,126.95. Inquiry made asking if anyone knows the status of the trainers receiving their 1099, Linda not presents to answer, Mary to call
- V. **Board, Committee and Chair Reports** (Mary Ash)
  - a. **Presidential Position**, Mary reported that she is no longer the interim president, the board voted her in as President
    - i. Volunteers to sweep building – Asked if anyone was interested in sweeping the building after classes, no one volunteered
  - b. **Membership** (Lori Jackson) Reported there are currently 28 membership in the club. New Member was voted in Emily Kiewet with her dog Zepher, Welcome
  - c. **Office** (Mary Ash) reported registration closed today, Trainers should be able to pick up their class information on Friday.
  - d. **Training (David LeCourt)**
    - i. Training Meeting scheduled for Monday February at 5 pm, anything to add to the agenda, please send ASAP
    - ii. Approval of new assistant, Dina Parish approved for puppy, Adolescent and GM 1. Marilane will update Assistant document
  - e. **Publicity** – donations were made to Kiwanis Club and Brown Valley School each received a

certificate for a class. Kiwanis event was cancelled, will return certificate and reissue at another time

- f. **Building** (Karen Jackson)
  - i. If cleaning liquids need to be refilled, please leave a note for Karen, and she will take care of it.
  - ii. Contact was made with Ross, about leak and wall, they are behind in getting things done. New roofing will be done in the spring to all buildings
  - iii. Spring cleaning date not set yet, will be done when weather is warmer
  - iv. Pest control change from every 6 weeks to every 14 weeks. And will be done starting in April and not done in the winter months
- g. **Newsletter/Website** (Sue Osborn) Deadline for March/April newsletter is February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- h. **Hospitality**, thank you to Debbie Hilton and Marilane Bergfelt for tonight's hospitality. Sandy, volunteered to bring refreshments for the March meeting
- i. **Sunshine**, (Debbie Hilton) Frances has a new collie, and has a dog wheelchair if anyone is interested to sell, large size dog. A card was also sent to Chris Mayer

### VI. Old Business

- a. Agility Equipment, silent auction to be held at the General Meeting in March, items will be on display on Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 pm. Auction will be done at the end of the meeting. All items to be removed by March 19<sup>th</sup>. Linda Wargo will purchase a set of 4 jumps or cavaletti to replace the jumps. Robert Osborn

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**AGENDA ITEMS:** Submit items for agenda by 12 noon the Friday before a scheduled board or general meeting. Agendas will be posted at [nvdtc.org/agendas](http://nvdtc.org/agendas) a day or two before a meeting. Agenda items can be submitted to: [agenda@nvdtc.org/](mailto:agenda@nvdtc.org).



## MINUTES

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has also volunteered to make some jumps. Discussion was held on the reason for getting rid of the equipment and it boils down to safety. David to talk with Marilane and Lea at the end of the meeting. A motion was also made to give a jump to Linda Wargo as a thank you for purchasing jumps.

### VII. New Business

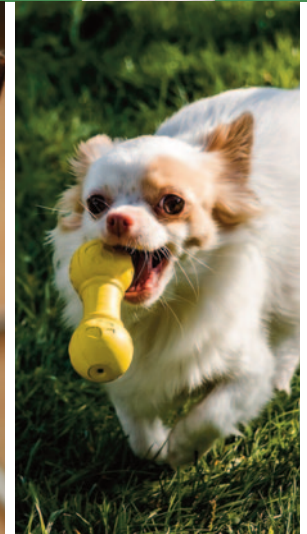
- a. Banquet, Linda Wargo, is working on ordering and receiving the plaques. The banquet should be scheduled between mid-April and mid-May. No one volunteered to organize the banquet
- b. Upcoming LAPS event announcement, classes start in 2 weeks on Saturdays
- c. Napa Humane has not contacted us regarding use of the building this year. Item closed until we hear from them
- d. Speakers at meeting, in April a vet will be the speaker, June is the pizza party, if anyone has suggestions for speakers, please let any board member know.

- XIII. **Braggs:**
- Marilane bragged that Debbie has repaired the legs on the baby gates
  - Carol and Pierre, enter a master and detective trail, didn't have much luck with the master runs, but earned their **first Detective leg and first place**
  - Kim and Bliss, earned their Puppy Achievement and a 3-point major in AKC Conformation, so now has 5 points
  - Mary and Cort achieved their second legs in all novice scent work elements, placing is 3 of the elements. Also was second high in trial. Cort earned his ASCA Beginners Novice title, and earned his International Championship
  - Donna and Tarp earned their first legs in all novice scent work elements with a second place in containers
  - David at the International trial, received 1<sup>st</sup> place in Family Group

Congratulations to all!

Meeting Adjourned at 7:14 pm

## Happy St. Patrick's Day!



## Why Dog Toys?

Dogs need something to do even though they are primarily bred as companion dogs. They don't have a "job" per se so they will look for something to chew or do to occupy themselves and you certainly do not want them to come up with their own devices or to chew things like your furniture, shoes, and carpets or whatever else they can find you don't want them to have.

Toys are great for both physical and mental stimulation for your dog.

Below are links to two articles about the variety of toys available and their uses. In two articles at links below, you will find more information as to why dogs need toys, ways to engage your dog with toys, the variety of toys available, recommendations on toys, & related safety concerns.

A dog who has regular mental and physical stimulation is a happy dog, and happy dogs typically have very happy owners.

<https://pawsintraining.com/why-dogs-need-toys/>

<https://www.ddfl.org/resources/dog-toys-and-how-to-use-them>



Photo: Donna Golemon

Another use of a dog toy is a kitty pillow!

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



**Next Meeting:  
March 13, 2023  
6:30 PM at Clubhouse**

*Leave dogs at home.*



Sandy Bonifield's  
Miniature Schnauzer  
8-week old puppies

**Submission deadline for the  
MAY/JUNE 2023 newsletter  
is April 22, 2023.**

Send to: [editor@napadogtraining.org](mailto:editor@napadogtraining.org)

Do you have a special or cute dog picture you'd like to share? If you send a photo of YOUR dog(s) and name (s) to the newsletter editor, they could appear in a future newsletter edition!

Email to: [editor@napadogtraining.org](mailto:editor@napadogtraining.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 the latest news & photos:  
[www.napadogtraining.org](http://www.napadogtraining.org)

