

OCTOBER 2009

TATTLE TAILS

club newsletter



Dogs' Intelligence On Par With Two-year-old Human, Canine Researcher Says

Although you wouldn't want one to balance your checkbook, dogs can count.

They can also understand more than 150 words and intentionally deceive other dogs and people to get treats, according to psychologist and leading canine researcher Stanley Coren, PhD, of the University of British Columbia. He spoke on the topic "How Dogs Think" at the American Psychological Association's 117th Annual Convention.

Coren, author of more than a half-dozen popular books on dogs and dog behavior, has reviewed numerous studies to conclude that dogs have the ability to solve complex problems and are more like humans and other higher primates than previously thought.

"We all want insight into how our furry companions think, and we want to understand the silly, quirky and apparently irrational behaviors [that] Lassie or Rover demonstrate," Coren said in an interview. "Their stunning flashes of brilliance and creativity are reminders that they may not be Einsteins but are sure closer to humans than we thought."

According to several behavioral measures, Coren says dogs' mental abilities are close to a human child age 2 to 2.5 years.

The intelligence of various types of dogs does differ and the dog's breed determines some of these differences, Coren says. "There are three types of dog intelligence: instinctive (what the dog is bred to do), adaptive (how well the dog learns from its environment to solve problems) and working and obedience (the equivalent of 'school learning')."

Data from 208 dog obedience judges from the United States and Canada showed the differences in working and obedience intelligence of dog breeds, according to Coren. "Border collies are

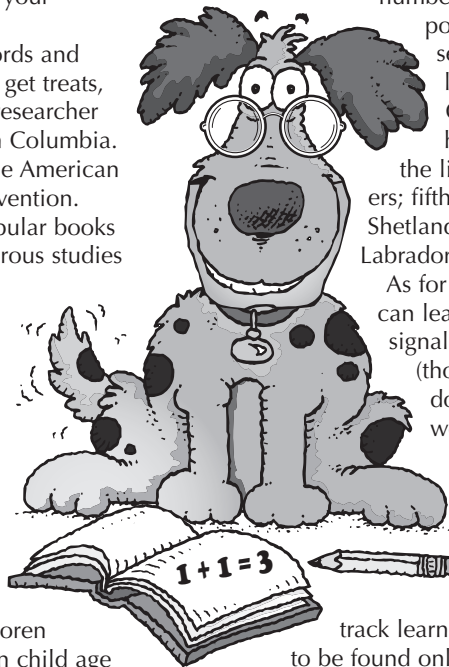
number one; poodles are second, followed by German shepherds. Fourth on the list is golden retrievers; fifth, dobermans; sixth, Shetland sheepdogs; and finally, Labrador retrievers," said Coren. As for language, the average dog can learn 165 words, including signals, and the "super dogs" (those in the top 20 percent of dog intelligence) can learn 250 words, Coren says. "The upper limit of dogs' ability to learn language is partly based on a study of a border collie named Rico who showed knowledge of 200 spoken words and demonstrated 'fast-track learning,' which scientists believed to be found only in humans and language learning apes," Coren said.

Dogs can also count up to four or five, said Coren. And they have a basic understanding of arithmetic and will notice errors in simple computations, such as $1+1=1$ or $1+1=3$.

Four studies he examined looked how dogs solve spatial problems by modeling human or other dogs' behavior using a barrier type problem. Through observation, Coren said, dogs can learn the location of valued items (treats), better routes in the environment (the fastest way to a favorite chair), how to operate mechanisms (such as latches and simple machines) and the meaning of words and symbolic concepts (sometimes by simply listening to people speak and watching their actions).

During play, dogs are capable of deliberately trying to deceive other dogs and people in order to get rewards, said Coren. "And they are nearly as successful in deceiving humans as humans are in deceiving dogs."

ScienceDaily (Aug. 10, 2009)



Napa Valley Dog Training Club
(707) 253-8666
Clubhouse: 68 Coombs St., Bldg N
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4097, Napa CA



Officers

President: Laura Ecklin
Vice President: Joy Wood
Treasurer: Lynda Rhyno
Secretary: Sue Osborn
Past President: Linda Luchsinger

Board Members

Sandy Bonifield
Janet Davis
Marlene Soldavini
Gary Walker

Monthly membership meetings are the second Monday of the month at the clubhouse.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th of each month.

www.NapaDogTraining.org



TRAINING SESSIONS

Subject to Change



**Class Fees
(7-weeks):
Members* &
Non-Members
\$115**

**Senior/Jr/Rescue:
\$100**

All sessions run
7 weeks,
one time per week
at the day &
time shown
for 50 minutes.

Please call
the club at

707-253-8666

to check class
availability
and to register.

**Members have the
opportunity to earn
vouchers to offset
cost of classes.*

Session 6 ~ 2009

Oct. 5, 2009 through Nov 20, 2009

Week off between sessions 5 & 6: Sept. 28-Oct 2

Monday

6:00 p.m.	Competition Obed	Teresa
7:00 p.m.	Clicker	Kelly

Tuesday

11:00 p.m.	Puppy	Mary
5:00 p.m.	Good Manners I	Kelly/Mary*
6:00 p.m.	Puppy	Kelly/Laura*
7:00 p.m.	Good Manners I	Linda/Teresa*
8:00 p.m.	Good Manners II	Teresa

Wednesday

9:00 a.m.	Canine Good Citizen	Marlene
10:00 a.m.	Good Manners I	Marlene
11:00 a.m.	Good Manners II	Marlene
6:00 p.m.	Agility Advanced	Katherine
7:00 p.m.	Agility Jumpers III	Joy
8:00 p.m.	Agility Intermediate	LeAnn

Thursday

10:00 a.m.	Rally	Mary
11:00 a.m.	Rally	Mary
5:00 p.m.	Rally	Mary
6:00 p.m.	Rally	Mary
7:00 p.m.	Rally	Mary
8:00 p.m.	Rally	Mary

Friday

5:30 p.m.	Good Manners I	Lea
6:30 p.m.	Puppy	Lea
7:30 p.m.	Canine Good Citizen	Teresa

*Alternate

Session 1 ~ 2010

Jan. 4, 2010 through Feb. 19, 2010

Week off between sessions 1 & 2: Feb. 22-26

Monday

6:00 p.m.	Competition Obed	Teresa
7:00 p.m.	Clicker	Kelly

Tuesday

TBA	Puppy	Mary
5:00 p.m.	Good Manners I	Lea
6:00 p.m.	Puppy	Lea
7:00 p.m.	Good Manners I	TBA
8:00 p.m.	Good Manners II	TBA

Wednesday

9:00 a.m.	Canine Good Citizen	Sandy
10:00 a.m.	Good Manners I	Sandy
11:00 a.m.	Good Manners II	Sandy
6:00 p.m.	Agility Advanced	Katherine
7:00 p.m.	Agility Beginning	Joy
8:00 p.m.	Agility Intermediate	LeAnn

Thursday

10:00 a.m.	Rally Novice	Mary
11:00 a.m.	Rally Novice	Mary
5:00 p.m.	Rally Excellent	Mary
6:00 p.m.	Rally Advanced	Mary
7:00 p.m.	Rally Novice	Mary
8:00 p.m.	Rally	Mary

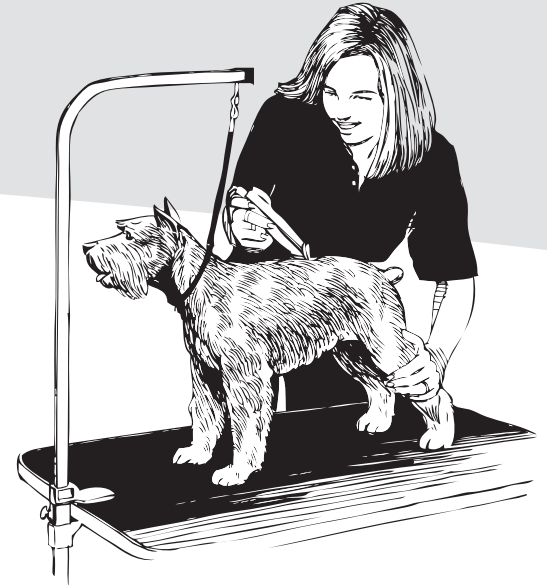
Friday

5:30 p.m.	Canine Good Citizen	TBA
6:30 p.m.	Good Manners 1	Kelly
7:30 p.m.	Puppy	Kelly

A BIG THANK YOU

The *Miniature Schnauzer Club of Northern California* would like to thank Napa Valley Dog Training Club for allowing us to hold our "Pet Grooming Workshop" on September 19th at the training center. We had between 30 to 35 pet owners and approximately 25 Miniature Schnauzers. Some of the owners came in with dogs that looked like little lambs on a leash. These same people walked out with a dog in a groom fit for the show ring, well almost. Everyone had a wonderful time and learned a lot about how to take care of their dogs between groomings. Some of them even said they would try to do it themselves. The saying of the day: "*IT WILL ALWAYS GROW BACK.*"

Sandy Bonifield



TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 2010

January 4 — February 19, 2010

March 1 — April 16, 2010

April 26 — June 11, 2010

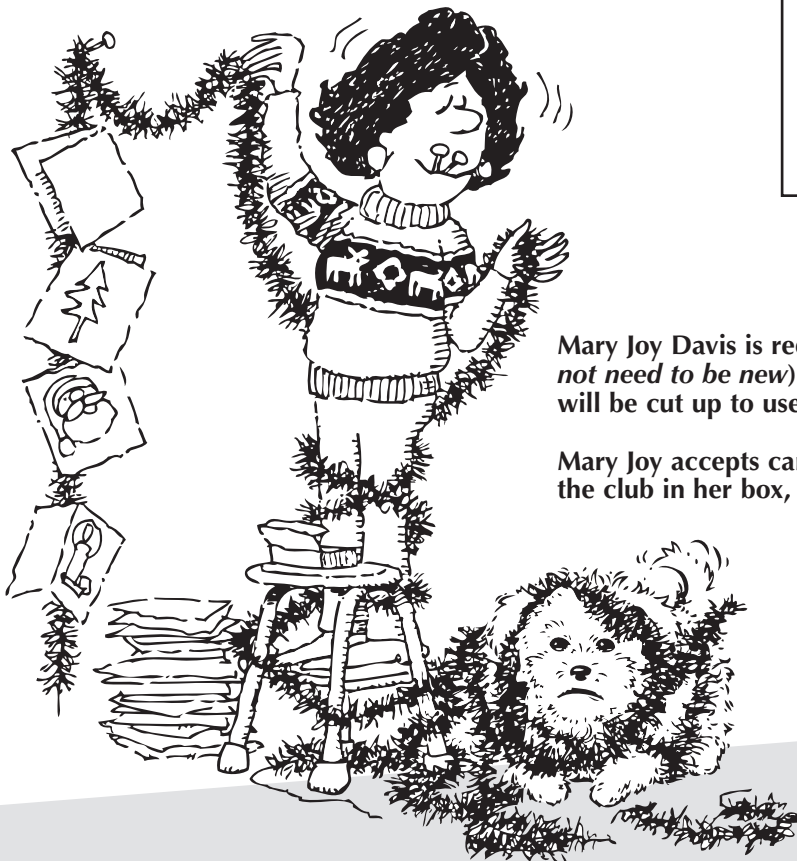
June 28 — August 13, 2010

August 23 — October 8, 2010

October 18 — December 10, 2010

For upcoming events
go to nvdtc.org/events

Visit www.infodog.com, www.nadac.com,
www.k9wag.com, and www.k9cpe.com
for information on conformation
shows, obedience and agility trials,
tracking tests, field trials, etc.



Mary Joy Davis is requesting USED (*they do not need to be new*) Christmas cards. They will be cut up to use in her annual project.

Mary Joy accepts cards, which can be left at the club in her box, anytime all year long.

One reason a
dog can be such
a comfort when
you're feeling
blue is that
he doesn't try to
find out why.

~Author Unknown

September 14, 2009 NVDTTC General Membership Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Laura Ecklin, President, called meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.
- B. Board Members present: Sandra Bonifield, Janet Davis, Laura Ecklin, Linda Luchsinger, Sue Osborn, Lynda Rhyno, Marlene Soldavini, Joy Wood and Gary Walker.

II. MINUTES—M/S/C to accept minutes from the August 10, 2009 general meeting as published in the September newsletter.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT, Lynda Rhyno

- A. Checking: \$11,877
- B. Money Market: \$8,942
- C. CD: \$11,469
- D. Agility figures are not included.
- E. Judy Gamet still to be paid (60% of proceeds).
- F. M/S/C to approve Treasurer's Report.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Review of bylaws will be main focus for next board meeting.

V. TRAINING, Joy Wood, Marlene Soldavini

- A. The first session for 2010 has been set.
- B. A special clicker class, to be taught by Kelly Finn, has been scheduled to start at the end of session six. The class will go into December. Let Kelly know if interested in taking this class.

VI. BUILDING, Gary Walker

- A. Gary is still looking at weather stripping for roll down door.
- B. Breaker that turns off light in bathroom keeps getting flipped.

VII. OFFICE/CASHIERS, Sandy Bonifield

- A. Classes are filling up.
- B. Ad for classes to be run in Napa Valley Register.
- C. Sandy will be looking for Tuesday night office workers for session 6.

VIII. 2009 AGILITY TRIAL REPORT, Mary Ash

- A. Final numbers are not yet available.
- B. Netted approximately \$2000 (compared to \$3000 in 2008).
- C. More workers could have been used.

IX. NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE, Sue Osborn

Club events can be viewed on facebook by anyone, no need to sign up with facebook to view them unless you want to receive a timely notification of each event (by becoming a fan).

X. PUBLICITY, Janet Davis

After brochures were okayed for placement at Pet Food Express, a message was left on answering machine to remove brochures

due to company corporate policy.

X. AOCNC, Gerry Glantz

- A. The planning of next year's AOCNC events will take place at next month's meeting.
- B. Dog Dancing Workshop went well; Gerry wrote a nice thank you to NVDTTC.
 - 1. PA system, not normally part of building use, did not work.
 - 2. Instructions and batteries need to be given to anyone using the system.
- C. Ad for the Mt. Diablo Dog Training Club calendar will not be placed this time.

XI. HOSPITALITY

Tonight was the annual barbecue; Joy Wood and Laura Ecklin volunteered for October's hospitality.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Dog Dancing Workshops
 - 1. AOCNC Dog Dancing Workshop
 - a. On behalf of AOCNC, Gerry wrote a nice thank you to NVDTTC
 - b. PA system, not normally part of building use, did not work.
 - c. Instructions and batteries need to be given to anyone using PA system.
 - 2. Judy Gamet Dog Dancing Workshops
 - a. Both morning and afternoon workshops were very successful.
 - b. Judy had lots of prepared materials and equipment, which helped with success of workshops.
 - c. A big thank you to Marilane for all her organization, work, PR and the flyers she made. M/S/C to give Marilane a \$50 voucher as a thank you for all her work.
- B. Year End Banquet
 - 1. The weekend of February 6th is being considered.
 - 2. If you have any ideas for a venue, let Laura Ecklin or Joy Wood know.
- C. Nominating Committee, Janet Davis
 - 1. The following names are presented and will be published in the October newsletter: President: Mary Ash; Vice President: Sandy Bonifield; Secretary: Sue Osborn; Treasurer: Lori Jackson; Past President: Laura Ecklin; Board Members: Janet Davis, Mary Joy Davis, Teresa Russell and Gary Walker.
 - 2. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the October 12 general meeting. Voting of Board members to occur at the November general meeting.
- D. Bylaws
 - 1. AKC finally responded to bylaws by stating they do not need to approve them; there are too many clubs for AKC to approve each club's bylaws.
 - 2. Board has recommended bylaw implementation for January.

E. Banner

1. Board approved banner design submitted by Sue Osborn
2. The 8 foot x 3 foot banner can be used on tables or displayed on a wall.
3. Sue will make the order.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Membership Drive Ideas

1. Craig's List
2. Post classes on facebook.
3. Promote in Napa Valley Register's activities section (Joy Wood will check into this).
4. Wearing of T-Shirts
 - a. For anyone interested in having the club logo put on their own shirt, it is on file at Nita's Trophies.
 - b. Information about logo on file can be put on website, in newsletter and distributed via flyers.
5. If anyone has other ideas, put them in Laura's box.

B. Fun Day for Dogs

1. Proposed for November general meeting.
2. Karen Jackson and Vange Leonis volunteered to organize such an event, they will present detailed information at next meeting for approval.

XIV. BRAGS: Mary Joy Davis, Stefanie Meinhardt, Lynda Rhyno, Christy Rose, Dee McNeil and Karen Jackson.

XV. MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:38 p.m. Tonight was the annual barbecue complete with many potluck appetizers, side dishes and desserts! Thank you to Brian and Heather, chefs for tonight's party!

Respectively submitted,
Sue Osborn, Secretary



Election of 2010 Officers & Board Members

The nominating committee presents the following slate of nominees for officers and board members for 2010:

President: Mary Ash

Vice President: Sandy Bonifield

Secretary: Sue Osborn

Treasurer: Lori Jackson

Past President: Laura Ecklin

Board Members: Janet Davis, Mary Joy Davis, Teresa Russell, and Gary Walker.

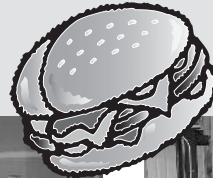
Above slate will be presented at the October general membership meeting. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor. All nominees must be present. Voting will take place at the November general meeting.

SUNSHINE

On behalf of the club, Mary Joy extended sunshine through cards, notes and messages to Frances Harvey, Mary Ash, Ellen Garieaff, Gerry Glantz, and Donna Goleman.



ANNUAL BARBECUE SNAPS



**MEMBERSHIP DUES
REMINDER**

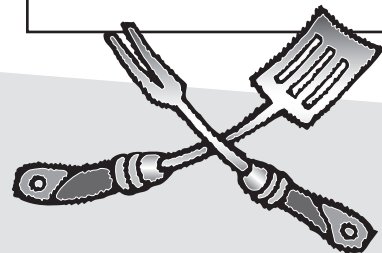
It's that time of year—time to pay membership dues.

Continue the camaraderie members enjoy.

Forms can be picked up at the club.

Also, remember, if dues are not paid by January 1st, you cannot earn vouchers.

Thank you to Jim Spiva for bringing his camera and taking photos! These and other photos from the barbecue are linked from the club's website—www.napadogtraining.org/.



YEAR END AWARDS



It is time to start thinking about the 09 Year End Awards. In order to be eligible for one of these awards a member must have attended at least three general meetings in 09 and have worked at least one major event or on a committee. The criteria for earning an award for your dog is simple. You must have competed in any venue (agility, obedience, rally, etc.) and received a title in that venue. NVDTTC not only recognizes AKC events but mixed breed events as well. If you competed in a non-AKC event it must require that you receive at least three legs (or equivalent) in order to title. The official form for year end awards is shown below, available in the office, and is online at www.napadogtraining.org. They must be turned in to Linda Luchsinger by Tuesday, January 5, 2010. If you have any questions please feel free to give Linda a call at 253-8666.

Napa Valley Dog Training Club Year End Awards Application 2009

You have until December 31, 2009 to complete your titles. However, if you have received awards so far this year, please fill out your paperwork ASAP.

Please fill out all information below.

You must fill out a separate application for each individual award.

Your Name _____

Dog's Registered Name (if applicable) _____

Dog's Call Name _____

Your Breed of Dog. _____ Variety/Color _____

Date Title Received _____

Title Received (i.e.: AKC Agility Novice Jumper, AKC Champion, CD (Companion Dog))

Do you already have a plaque? _____

Do you only need a new engraving for your existing plaque? _____

In order to receive your year end award you must have attended at least 3 meetings in 2009 and worked on one event or committee. See Linda Luchsinger if in doubt about whether you have fulfilled this requirement. *There will be no exceptions to this requirement.*

*This form must be returned to Linda Luchsinger, 1042 Terrace Lane, Napa, CA 94559 or may be left in her box at the club no later than **January 5, 2010**. If you have any questions, please call Linda at 253-8666.*

**Next General Meeting at the Club:
Monday, October 12, 2009
6:30 p.m.**



Scheduling of Meetings

Board meetings are scheduled monthly or bi-monthly depending on club activities. Board meetings are open to all interested members. Call 253-8666 to verify both date and location of meeting. General meetings for members and guests are at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month.

**If you have articles, stories or events to share in the NVDTTC
Newsletter, please contact Sue Osborn:
NewsletterEditor@napadogtraining.org**

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th of each month.

**Napa Valley Dog Training Club
P.O. Box 4097
Napa, CA 94558**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Agility Trial Chair: Mary Ash
Obedience Trial Chair: Mary Ash
Tracking: Debbie Crain
AOCNC: Gerry Glantz
Training: Joy Wood
Training Assistant: Marlene Soldavini
Building: Gary Walker
Office: Sandy Bonifield
Sunshine: Mary Joy Davis
Newsletter/Website: Sue Osborn
Membership: Linda Luchsinger
Publicity: Janet Davis
CGC: Marlene Soldavini

This newsletter is also available online at napadogtraining.org