

Sherwood Dog Training Club

AKC License Club

May 2026 Newsletter



The Sherwood Dog Training Club (SDTC) was formed in 2003, with official status as a non-profit corporation established in 2006. We also have Tax Exempt status with the IRS as a 501(c)4. We received our notice that we have become an AKC Licensed Club in August of 2008.

Sherwood Dog Training Club

President: Danielle Silverstein

Vice President: Linda Ruedy

Secretary: Robin Murphy

Treasurer: Jill Faulmann

Board: Darlene Brushwein

Board: Jan Lewis

Board: Helen Hamilton

Newsletter: Darlene Brushwein

Website:

<https://www.sherwooddtc.org/>



Sherwood Dog Training Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 @ 7PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2517890074?pwd=VGdKeGhtM3I0T3FOdnJoVEUxRjZoQT09&omn=86860609589>

Meeting ID: 251 789 0074

Passcode: 0Avc7r

**What fabulous Spring Trials, we did with style,
Club members worked hard, that made me smile.**

**It started on Friday as usual, mid day
Got all the equipment out and we were on our way.**

**Ring gates and stanchions, jumps and tables
Easels were set to keep white boards stable.**

**The Award area was made oh so nice
For Debbie's arrangements and Susie's roses that were precise.**

**Darlene made the kitchen into her space
Whoever walked in would see her smiling face.**

**The classes ran so very efficient
For the stewards we had were very proficient.**

**Big thanks to Susie, Cheryl and Molly
Saturday's trial went without any folly.**

**Elizabeth, Jennifer and Laurie doing their best
Everything went smooth for each exhibitor guest.**

**Salomeja did the hospitality with her usually skill
No one left hungry, everyone had their fill.**

**We loved our Judge Michele Dembowski, she did a great job
Who came complete with a table Steward, her husband Bob.**

**And I can't forget the wonderful crew
After a long day stayed until cleanup was through.**

**Thanks to Salomeja, Janice, Margo and Helen
Even our Judge and husband stayed til the end.**

**Debbie and Darlene were also part of the crew
And Danielle was there with her back pack blower too.**

**Thanks to everyone, who helped pull it all together
Even Mother Nature was nice to give us great weather.**

Jill



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



Dates to Mark for 2026 at Cash Arena in Sherwood, OR

Trial Date: Rally only / Saturday, May 30, 2026 and Sunday, May 31, 2026

Match Date: Sunday, May 17, 2026

Trial Date: Obedience only Saturday, October 10, 2026 and Sunday, October 11, 2026

Match Date: Sunday, October 4, 2026



We have openings!

Rally Trials

Saturday, May 30, 2026

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Closes May 13th

Link to premium and entry form

<https://www.sherwooddtc.org/services>

For a complete Look at all AKC upcoming Events

Events: <https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search>



The May 17th Obedience Match is open for entry.

The closing date for the match is Friday, May 7th.

The match entry form is attached below and is also on the SDTC website.
<https://www.sherwooddtc.org/services>

All information on how to enter is on the entry form.

This match is open to **SDTC members only**.

You may have one or two runs.

Runs are \$10 each, \$11 if using PayPal on the SDTC website.

There will be no refunds given on this match.

If you are traveling with someone, please put a note on your entry form for Betty and if you have any special requests.

There will be 2 rings and the match will start with utility in one ring and open in the other. Once those classes are done, the rings will switch to novice and beginner novice.

Start time will be 9am and could go until 5pm, depending on how many people enter.



Sunday May 17, 2026 SDTC Intra-Club Match Entry Form

Match is at the Cash arena, 17720 SW Elsner Rd, Sherwood, OR 97140

All runs \$10 (\$11 if using paypal on SDTC website) for 10 minutes, maximum of 2 runs per member.

Please plan to help run through other dogs by calling the exercises or stewarding. We need help at the end of the match packing up and sweeping up please!

Run order and other information will be emailed out to entrants approximately 1 week prior to the match

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____ phone(s) _____

Are you a member of the Sherwood Dog Training Club ? (circle one) YES NO

First class requested _____ Dog name _____

Dog breed _____ jump height _____

Second class requested _____ Dog name _____

Dog breed _____ jump height _____

Amount enclosed _____ or Amount paid Paypal _____

By signing this entry form, the exhibitor agrees to the following. Unsigned forms will be returned along with all fees.

I hereby release the Sherwood Dog Training Club, Inc., the Owners of Cash Arena other animal owners, property owners, instructors, spectators, and/or any other participants from any and all liability for accidents, injuries and/or damages to me, my dog or property caused by participation in any activities including the period of time immediately prior to and/or immediately after the conclusion thereof so long as the animals are located on the premises designated for the activity. I understand that by participation, I am a joint venture participant and assume all liability for injury to my dog, my property or myself occasioned by this participation. This waiver shall be effective from the date of signing.

To the best of my knowledge, I attest that I do not have or have symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of attending this event. I will not have knowingly been in contact with or exposed to any known carrier of COVID-19 within the past 14 days. I agree that I am attending this event entirely at my own risk and take full responsibility for my own health and safety during this event. I will not hold SDTC or any other person affiliated with the event in any way liable for any present or future COVID-19 exposure or illness incurred during or after this event. I agree to follow all SDTC, county, state and CDC rules and requirements to reduce spread and possible exposure to this virus.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

**SEND ENTRY/WAIVER FORM WITH FEES TO:
Betty Rose, 2015 SW 204th Ave, Beaverton OR 97003**

MAKE CHECK OUT TO SDTC

If using paypal, send electronic copy to bettyrose97070@yahoo.com



Marcie finished her AKC CDX at the April SDTC Trials.

She's now officially UCDX UBN URO2
Aratone Royal Marsala CDX BN RI FIT-S.

Submitted By: Jan Lewis



Upcoming UKC Shows / www.ukcdogs.com

Washington

May 1-3

United Nose Work Tri-cities, Richland, WA **Nose Work**

May 23-24

Puget Sound K-9s, Graham, WA **Nose Work**

June 19-21

Lilac City Dog Training Club, Spokane, WA **Obedience & Rally Regional Qualifying Event**

July 31-Aug. 2

UKC Western Classic, Longview, WA **Agility, Rally, Obedience**

Aug. 22-23

Lilac City Dog Training Club, Spokane, WA **Nose Work**

Oct. 17-18

Lilac City Dog Training Club, Spokane, WA **Nose Work**

Oregon

May 1-3

Canine Action Pack, Cornelius, OR **Obedience & Rally**

Nov. 13-15

Canine Action Pack, Cornelius, OR **Obedience & Rally**

Montana

May 16-17

Rocky Mountain Dog Stars, Huntley, MT **Nose Work**

Colorado

July 17-19

High Plains Kennel Club – 2026 UKC Regional Qualifying Event, Kiowa, CO
Obedience & Rally

Details at ukcdogs.com

United Kennel Club (UKC) is an international dog registry celebrating bonds, rewarding ability, and preserving the value of a pedigree. <http://www.ukcdogs.com/>



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

Attention All Rally Judges and Participants

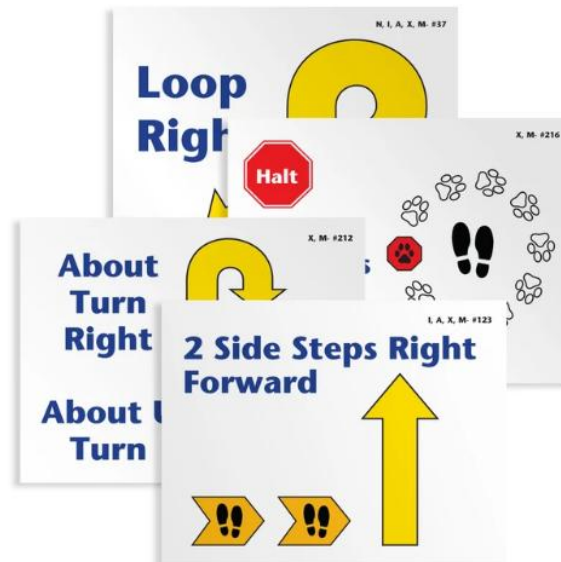
By AKC Companion Events Department on April 16, 2026

Exciting news! We have a new AKC Rally® Regulations book coming soon; it is due to be published and available in May. This new book will include several important updates and clarifications to language and terminology. The new book will be effective upon publication.

Please read the documents below to prepare accordingly.

Here is a preview of what is coming.

- **WORD and PDF documents to the Mini Signs;** notably description clarifications for signs 13, 14, 26, 119, 120, 121, 122, 301, 302, 303
(Right Click to open) This link has updated descriptions (updated 3-2026)
<https://akcbedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/rally-minisignswdescriptions-4-2026.pdf>
<https://akcbedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/rally-minisignswdescriptions-4-2026.doc>
- **PDF to the Glossary of Rally Terms**
<https://akcbedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/00-glossary-of-rally-terms-3-2026.pdf>
- **PDF to the Scoring Section**
<https://akcbedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/scoring-rally-regs-3-2026.pdf>
- **PDF to the Rally Judge Scoresheet**
<https://akcbedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/rally-judge-scoresheet-2026.pdf>



Pacific Sled Dog and Skijor Association present the 2026



******SAVE THE DATE******

**Show and Go Obedience Fun Match
September 12, 2026, Saturday
Crook County Fair Grounds 1280 Main St
Prineville 97754**

- Match is outdoors with 4' netting around 2 rings.
- Day of Match entries.
- Participant, please plan on helping judge and steward.
- Thank you in advance.
- \$10.00 for 10 minutes
- Day of match entries start 8;30 am
- Match Starts 9 am
- Ring 1 Utility
- Ring 2 Open; Novice to follow Utility, Open, Novice

Camping on site available / Contact the Fairgrounds

Show chairman: Cheryl Liddle ca.liddle60@gmail.com 541-416-0284

• **UW News / April 6, 2026 / Gillian Dohrn**
Parasitic tapeworm — a risk to domestic dogs and humans — found in Washington coyotes

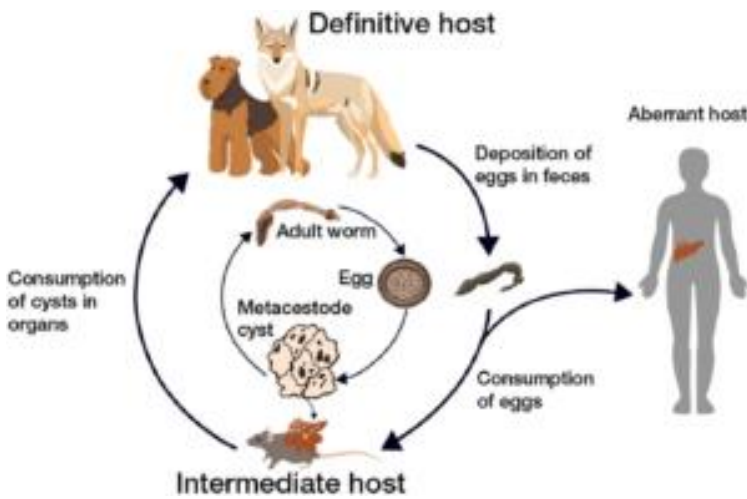


A new University of Washington study detected a parasitic tapeworm that can infect domestic dogs and humans in the intestines of one-third of coyotes surveyed in Washington. This coyote (not part of the study) was spotted in Seattle’s Discovery Park last fall. *Photo: Samantha Kreling*

New evidence suggests that a disease-causing tapeworm that has been spreading across the United States and Canada has arrived in the Pacific Northwest. The tapeworm, called *Echinococcus multilocularis*, lives as a parasite in coyotes, foxes and other canid species and can cause severe disease if passed to domestic dogs or humans.

E. multilocularis has long been recognized as a public health threat in parts of the Northern hemisphere, including Europe and Asia, but was considered extremely rare in North America until approximately 15 years ago, when cases in humans and dogs began cropping up in Canada and the midwestern U.S., indicating that the parasite was spreading.

This study, led by University of Washington researchers, is the first to detect *E. multilocularis* in a wild host on the west coast of the contiguous U.S. Researchers surveyed 100 coyotes in the Puget Sound region, and found *E. multilocularis* in 37 of them. The results were published March 24 in PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases.



"This parasite is concerning because it has been spreading across North America. There have been numerous cases of dogs getting sick, and a handful of people have also picked up the tapeworm," said lead author Yasmine Hentati, who recently graduated from the UW with a doctorate in environmental and forest science. "The fact that we found it here in one-third of our coyotes was surprising, because it wasn't found anywhere in the Pacific Northwest until earlier this year."

When *E. multilocularis* infects an animal or person, it causes cancer-like cysts to form in the liver and sometimes other organs. If untreated, infection can be fatal.

The typical life cycle of *E. multilocularis*, showing canid, rodent and human hosts. *Photo: PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases/Hentati et al.*

However, not all carriers become sick. *E. multilocularis* has a complex life cycle that involves multiple hosts. Canids, which host adult parasites, can support thousands of worms in their intestines without becoming sick. The worms shed eggs that are then passed in their feces.

Rodents — another host — become infected by eating food contaminated with coyote feces. Once consumed, the parasite eggs migrate to the liver and form cysts, ultimately weakening or killing the rodents. The parasite's life cycle begins again when coyotes prey upon infected rodents.

Humans and domestic dogs are categorized as accidental hosts. Humans may pick up the parasite by consuming tapeworm eggs — in food that is contaminated with coyote or dog feces, for example — and can develop a disease called alveolar echinococcosis, characterized by slow-growing metastatic cysts. Symptoms may not appear for five to 15 years after exposure, which complicates diagnosis and treatment.

Alveolar echinococcosis is considered the third most important food-borne illness globally, and one of the top 20 neglected tropical diseases by the World Health Organization. Many countries have developed robust protocols for tracking it.

Domestic dogs that are exposed to *E. multilocularis* may or may not become sick, depending on where the parasite is in its life cycle at exposure. It is more common for dogs to carry the parasite and shed eggs without developing disease, but dogs that are exposed to parasite eggs may develop the same cancer-like cysts as other infected animals.

"To minimize the risk of dogs getting infected with *E. multilocularis*, owners should not let them prey on rodents or scavenge their carcasses," said co-author Guilherme Verocai, an associate professor and director of the Parasitology Diagnostic Laboratory at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Owners can also give dogs preventative medication for worms and ticks and ensure routine veterinary care, which should include diagnostic tests for parasites, Verocai said.



This map depicts expansion of *E. multilocularis* across the U.S. and Canada over multiple decades. *Photo: PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases/Hentati et al.* Although the researchers found *E. multilocularis* in more than one-third of local coyotes tested, there is little evidence of the infection spreading to other hosts. One study reported seven cases of the parasite in dogs in Washington, Oregon and Idaho since 2023, five of which were in Washington. Few human cases have been reported in the U.S., and none on the West Coast.

“The reason that it’s so high in coyotes is because they are regularly eating raw rodents, and that is the primary way for them to get infected. Most domestic dogs are not eating the raw livers of wild rodents,” Hentati said.

Before the uptick in the 2010s, there were several reports of *E. multilocularis* on remote islands in

northwestern Alaska. Those cases were caused by a parasite with different origins than the current outbreak. Genetic analysis pins the earlier cases to a tundra variant while these recent cases are driven by a more infectious variant with European origins. The coyotes in this study carried the newer variant, now thought to be the predominant variant in the U.S. and Canada.

Neither Canada nor the U.S. require dogs to undergo deworming upon arrival, which may explain the spread. Previous studies also proposed that *E. multilocularis* could have come over in red foxes imported for hunting 100 years ago, but no one knows for sure.

“The main takeaway is that *Echinococcus multilocularis* is here, it’s pretty prevalent in the local coyote population and people should be aware of potential risks,” Hentati said.

Co-authors include Ellie Reese, lab manager at UW; Samantha Kreling, UW doctoral graduate in environmental and forest science; Laura Prugh, a UW professor of environmental and forest science; Chelsea Wood, a UW associate professor of aquatic and fishery science; Claire Curran of the College of William and Mary; Erika Miller of Sound Data Management; Dakeishla M. Díaz-Morales of DePaul University; and Christopher J. Schell of UC Berkeley. This study was funded by The National Science Foundation and the University of Washington Hall Conservation Genetics Fund. For more information, contact Hentati at yhentati26@gmail.com.





Emily won Utility B at the Sherwood DTC Saturday trial which was worth 6 points; exactly what she needed to finish so pending AKC confirmation, she is now OTCH RACH Tymac Over The Wraynbow VCD1, UDX4, PCD, OM4, BN, GN, GO, VER, RM2, RAE2, OFF.

On Sunday Emily was second in Utility B to add 2 more OTCH points for a total of 102 and another Q in Open B for UDX QQ# 42 and a bunch of OM points.
Thanks Em, that's enough girlie.

Thanks to SDTC members for the so very special OTCH rosette and bar., And to my support team. This journey has been possible due to the support of so many people and I treasure all of you.

Carolyn Wray



<https://dogdaysnw.com/>

Dog Days Obedience Run Through Class with Laurie Rubin

A monthly half day Obedience Run Through Class is starting at Dog Days Dog Training in Vancouver, Washington, on the fourth Wednesday morning of the month. Dog and handler teams run through the exercises offered at obedience trials. The time can be used for any level of obedience and/or for problem solving specific exercises. Handler choice whether to ask for feedback or simply have the exercises called as in a trial.

This month Wednesday, May 27th . \$15 via PayPal or Zelle or \$17 via mailed check.

Time slots can be reserved by clicking on the following link to fill out your entry information on a Google Form <https://forms.gle/6FegZToPZcbmRy4y5> **AND** sending \$15/time slot via PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/> to Laurie Rubin. After logging in to PayPal and clicking "**Send**," search for Laurie Rubin or earthlaurie@sonic.net. My link has a photo of a red merle Aussie. In the box that asks "What's this For?," please type "Dog Days, May 27, 2026 Run Through Class." Zelle \$15 payments accepted, too. Checks made out to Laurie Rubin for \$17/time slot are OK. **Both your payment and Google Form must be received for your entry to count.** Payments are non-refundable unless the class fills before I receive your entry. In that case, I will notify you and refund your payment. The schedule will be e-mailed to those who have reserved a slot by the day before the class.

Next class. Wednesday, June 17th.

Time slots can be reserved by clicking on the following link to fill out your entry information on a Google Form <https://forms.gle/6FegZToPZcbmRy4y5> **AND** sending \$15/time slot via PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/> to Laurie Rubin. After logging in to PayPal and clicking "**Send**," search for Laurie Rubin or earthlaurie@sonic.net. My link has a photo of a red merle Aussie. In the box that asks "What's this For?," please type "Dog Days, May 27, 2026 Run Through Class." Zelle \$15 payments accepted, too. Checks made out to Laurie Rubin for \$17/time slot are OK. **Both your payment and Google Form must be received for your entry to count.** Payments are non-refundable unless the class fills before I receive your entry. In that case, I will notify you and refund your payment. The schedule will be e-mailed to those who have reserved a slot by the day before the class.

Future class date: Wednesday, July 22nd.



Dr. Karen Becker

April 25 at 6:17 AM

...

Think all petting feels good to your dog? Not even close. Science shows a lot of what we call affection is actually overstimulation. Slow it down. Your dog doesn't want a drum solo on their head. Slow strokes equal calm, fast pats equal stress.

A new peer-reviewed study surveying dog and cat owners looked at how touch relates to pet wellbeing and found clear differences between species. For dogs, gentle petting had the biggest positive impact, especially slow, calm stroking along the chest, shoulders, and sides. The more time and physical contact, the better, with added benefits when dogs lean on their owners or sleep close by. This type of touch mimics natural social grooming and helps reduce stress while promoting relaxation. In contrast, owner-initiated petting didn't have the same effect in cats. What mattered more was cat-initiated contact, particularly head rubbing, also known as bunting. Gentle touch can improve wellbeing, but only when it aligns with the animal's natural behavior and comfort level. Takeaway: If your dog leans into you, relaxes, or closes their eyes, you're doing it right, if they pull away or get restless, adjust pressure or location.



Obedience Run Through Class in Sandy, OR with Laurie Rubin

A monthly Obedience Run Through Class takes place at **Penny Harvey's training building in Sandy, Oregon**. Dog and handler teams run through the exercises offered at obedience trials. The time can be used for any level of obedience and/or for problem solving specific exercises. Handler choice whether to ask for feedback or simply have the exercises called as in a trial. This class is run by Laurie Rubin.

This month's class, Sunday, May 3rd , \$15 via PayPal for each slot of up to 15 minutes or \$16 via mailed check.

Time slots can be reserved by clicking on the following link to fill out your entry information on a Google Form <https://forms.gle/RRG46buKuWGmswm37> sending \$15/time slot via PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/> to Laurie Rubin. After logging in to PayPal and clicking "Send," search for Laurie Rubin or earthlaurie@sonic.net. My link has a photo of a red merle Aussie. In the box that asks "What's this For?," please type "May, 2026 Run Through Class." Zelle \$15 payments accepted, too. If you prefer to mail a check for \$16/time slot, be sure to also fill out your entry information on the Google Form linked above. Payments are non-refundable unless the class fills before I receive your entry. In that case, I will notify you and refund your payment.

Entries are non-transferable. **These classes have been filling. Both your payment and Google Form must be received for your entry to count.** The Thursday before the class, the schedule and driving directions will be e-mailed to those who have reserved a slot.

Next class, Saturday June 13th , \$15 via PayPal for each slot of up to 15 minutes or \$16 via mailed check.

Time slots can be reserved by clicking on the following link to fill out your entry information on a Google Form <https://forms.gle/YPuhqz5KVHL1wtQP6> AND sending \$15/time slot via PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/> to Laurie Rubin. After logging in to PayPal and clicking "Send," search for Laurie Rubin or earthlaurie@sonic.net. My link has a photo of a red merle Aussie. In the box that asks "What's this For?," "June, 2026 Run Through Class." Zelle \$15 payments accepted, too. If you prefer to mail a check for \$16/time slot, be sure to also fill out your entry information on the Google Form linked above. Payments are non-refundable unless the class fills before I receive your entry. In that case, I will notify you and refund your payment.

Entries are non-transferable. **These classes have been filling. Both your payment and Google Form must be received for your entry to count.** The Thursday before the class, the schedule and driving directions will be e-mailed to those who have reserved a slot.

Future class date: Sunday, July 26th and August 9th.





Ka-Ching earned CS-ATCH #4 - CPE Specialist - Agility Trial Champion - at the Columbia Agility Team's Spring Classic in Ridgefield.

She finished the weekend with 10 clean runs, and is now heading to the CPE National Agility Championships in May!

She is a sassy girl who enjoys playing in a variety of sports.

Good Girl, Ching!

Submitted By: Susan Iggulden

Everyone expects the dog to stay calm.

Very few people expect it of themselves.

We talk a lot about consistency in dog training. Use the same cue. Reward the right behavior. Follow through. But most people never stop to look at themselves in that equation.

Who are you when you're training? Because that's what your dog is actually learning from.

It's easy to stay steady when things are going well. When your dog is focused, when the picture is clean, when you feel like you're both on the same page. In those situations, most people feel like good trainers.

That doesn't tell you much. You really know who you are when things start to fall apart.

When your dog drifts off and you can't get them back. When they hit a point where they don't know what to do and everything starts to unravel. When what you thought they understood just isn't there.

And at the same time, you can feel yourself getting wound up and frustrated. Your timing is off. You start trying to fix it. The plan you walked in with isn't working anymore, but you keep pushing it anyway because you don't know what else to do.

And then your voice changes. It gets sharper. There's an edge to it now. You start repeating yourself, and before you even realize it, the volume is increasing exponentially.

Not because you decided to do that, but because you're losing your grip.

Dogs notice everything. Not just what you ask, but how you show up while you're asking it. And what they're paying attention to is not whether you followed a plan perfectly. It's whether you're still the same person when they're not at their best.

Can they trust that you're still safe when they make a mistake?

Can they trust that the rules won't suddenly change because you're tired or irritated?

Can they trust that the version of you they get when they're doing well is the same version they get when they're struggling?

If your responses change, even a little, the whole situation shifts. Now your dog isn't just trying to figure out the task. They're trying to figure out you.

You can see it when it happens. They start watching instead of working. They hesitate. Or they rush. Or they check out completely.

The thinking drops off because you aren't the same person anymore.

That's why so many training sessions go sideways even when people are doing the right things on paper. The cues are the same. The rewards are the same. But the person delivering them isn't.

Dogs pick up on that immediately.

This doesn't mean you have to be perfect. Nobody is. But you do need to be aware of what you're bringing into the session.

If you're frustrated, notice it. If you're tired, adjust what you're asking. If you feel things starting to slip, slow yourself down instead of trying to fix your dog faster.

Those choices matter more than people think.

Consistency at this level isn't about getting everything right. It's about being steady enough that your dog knows what they're walking into every time.

You build that over time. Taking a breath before you step in. Supporting your dog. Choosing to stay level instead of reacting.

Owning your own emotions.

That builds trust.

Your dog starts to understand that you don't change on them when things get hard. They don't have to brace for pressure or guess what version of you is going to show up.

That's what lets them stay and work through the hard stuff. That's what lets them try, make mistakes, and keep going without falling apart.

So yes, be consistent in your cues. Be consistent in your rewards. But more than anything, be consistent in yourself.

That's what your dog is reading. That's what shapes how they learn. And that's what determines whether they can stay in it long enough to figure things out.

And I'm telling you, it's the hardest part of the equation, so spend more time on that than trying to fix your dog.



Barbara Lloyd 

April 19 at 7:14 AM · 



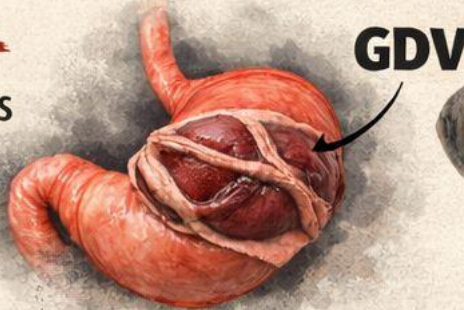


BLOAT IN DOGS (GDV):

A CRITICAL EMERGENCY EVERY DOG OWNER MUST KNOW

WHAT IS BLOAT (GDV)?

- ▶ STOMACH FILLS WITH GAS & TWISTS
 - ➔ Cuts off blood supply
 - ➔ Tissue dies & toxins build
 - ➔ Leads to shock & sepsis



BREEDS AT HIGHEST RISK



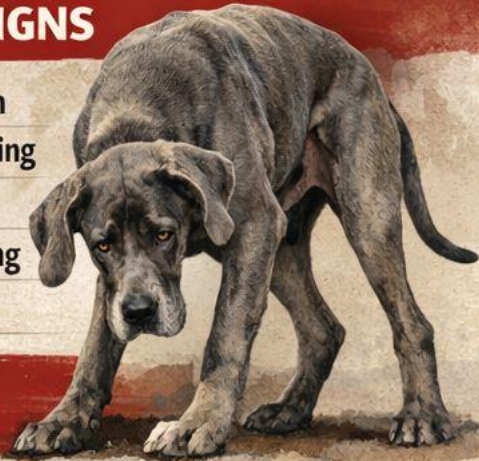
- Great Danes
- German Shepherds
- Dobermans
- Weimaraners
- Irish Setters



- Large & Deep-Chested
- Older Age
- Family History of GDV

WARNING SIGNS

- ▶ Distended Abdomen
- ▶ Unproductive Retching
- ▶ Excessive Drooling
- ▶ Restlessness / Pacing
- ▶ Weakness / Collapse



WHAT TO DO

GET TO THE VET IMMEDIATELY!

- Don't Wait!
- No Home Remedies
- Call Ahead

ACT FAST!
TIME IS LIFE OR DEATH

RISK REDUCTION



▶ Small, Frequent Meals



▶ No Vigorous Exercise After Eating



▶ Reduce Stress & Anxiety



▶ Consider Gastropexy Surgery

KNOW THE SIGNS. ACT QUICKLY. SAVE A LIFE.



www.theholisticcanine.com



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

Leptospirosis in Dogs: Signs, Symptoms, Treatment

By Nandini Maharaj Updated: Mar 11, 2026

What Is Leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis in dogs is an infection caused by *Leptospira*, which are bacteria that target the kidneys and liver. "The bacteria are typically transmitted through contaminated water sources," says Dr. Jamie Whittenburg, DVM. "Some strains may actually enter the body through the dog's skin if they swim in contaminated water." Commonly diagnosed in dogs, this disease can be fatal.

Warm and wet climates provide an ideal breeding ground for *Leptospira* bacteria, which are found in the kidneys of infected mice, rats, skunks, raccoons, and possums. "Since these animals are found all over the world, so is leptospirosis," says Dr. Kelly Fishman, DVM. "The excreted bacteria can survive in water, mud, and urine for extended periods of time."

Dogs can get sick from ingesting infected water. Alternatively, they might get sick if an open wound is exposed to contaminated water. Dogs can also contract leptospirosis if they're bitten by an infected animal or consume tissue from an infected animal's body. It is also possible that a female dog can transmit leptospirosis via her placenta to her puppies.

But dogs aren't the only ones at risk. Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease, meaning it's caused by exposure to harmful germs that animals can spread to humans. People may contract leptospirosis by coming into contact with an infected dog's urine or other bodily fluids (except saliva) or coming into contact with food, water, or soil contaminated with infected urine. To avoid contracting leptospirosis, wear disposable plastic gloves while handling items that have come into contact with dog urine, and wash your hands thoroughly after.



What Are the Symptoms of Leptospirosis?

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), signs of leptospirosis in dogs may include:

- Lethargy
- Poor appetite
- Tender muscles
- Urinating more or less than usual
- Dehydration
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Shivering
- Not wanting to move
- Painful swelling in the eye area
- Being thirstier than usual
- Jaundiced or yellow appearance to the dog's eyes, skin, and gums
- Blood in urine or feces, or appearing as small bruises on the dog's skin and whites of their eyes (sometimes)

In most dogs, your vet may see some of these symptoms, as well as increased renal values (when levels of certain substances in your dog's kidneys are elevated). In many (but not all) dogs, your vet may see increased hepatic (liver) values. Fluid may also gather in your dog's body, causing body parts like the legs to swell.

Not all dogs show signs of illness after becoming infected with *Leptospira* bacteria, Dr. Fishman says. And even once they do show ill effects, the immediate cause may not be apparent since fever and lethargy can be clinical signs of other illnesses. Typically, Dr. Fishman says that dog owners will see that their dog isn't feeling or acting normal with low energy, like refusing to eat, eating less, or vomiting.

How Is Leptospirosis in Dogs Diagnosed?

If you notice these behaviors in your dog, contact your veterinarian at once. Your vet will record a thorough history of your dog's health, including their vaccination status. They'll also conduct routine bloodwork to look for elevated liver and kidney enzymes. Even if your dog has been vaccinated against leptospirosis, your vet will recommend testing to rule out infection, Dr. Fishman says.

Specialized tests are required to check for the presence of bacteria in your dog's blood or urine. "Most commonly, this will be a PCR — polymerase chain reaction — test that will be sent out to a medical laboratory to look for the presence of genetic material from the *Leptospira* bacteria in the blood or urine," Dr. Whittenburg says. "A different test, the microscopic agglutination test, detects antibodies to the disease."

Leptospirosis can affect dogs of any age, breed, sex, or size. Historically, this disease was more common among medium and large rural and performance sporting dogs that had "greater exposure to wildlife and contaminated water and mud," Dr. Fishman says. But all dogs can potentially contract leptospirosis. For example, pets that live in densely populated areas might become infected if they frequent outdoor spaces contaminated with the urine of rodents or livestock, Dr. Whittenburg adds.

Preventing Leptospirosis in Dogs

Leptospirosis is most common in areas that are warm and wet, but recently, there have been leptospirosis outbreaks around the world and in American cities like New York, Chicago, Detroit, Dallas, and Fort Worth.

While there are no specific dog breeds that are genetically predisposed to contracting leptospirosis, some dogs may be more susceptible because of their age, poor vaccination history, and health status, Dr. Fishman says.

In addition, other factors can put dogs at risk of becoming infected, including:

- Sniffing and licking other dogs' urine
- Residing in cities and rural areas with high rainfall and flooding (where dogs might be exposed to stagnant water), especially if there is a high rodent population
- Living in geographic regions that have high case numbers
- Spending time outside in the summer and fall, when temperatures are high and provide optimal conditions for bacteria to reproduce
- Being around stagnant natural water sources that could be potentially contaminated with the urine of infected wildlife, livestock, or rodents

Dogs will likely be outside at some point, regardless of where you live. So it's a good idea to avoid exposing them to stagnant water or potentially contaminated natural water sources. Try to curb them from excessively sniffing or licking other dogs' pee spots, and thoroughly disinfect outdoor spaces where animals tend to urinate. Consider looking into controlling your local rodent and raccoon populations.

If you suspect your dog might have been exposed to another animal infected with leptospirosis, consult your vet immediately.

Canine Leptospirosis Vaccine

It's important to talk to your veterinarian about risk factors to determine whether your dog should be vaccinated against leptospirosis. "In many areas of the country with a high prevalence of the disease, vaccination is considered core," Dr. Whittenburg says. The vaccine is administered in puppies over 12 weeks and once a year in adult dogs. According to the AVMA, the vaccine remains effective for 12 months.

The vaccine for leptospirosis has been around since the 1980s. In the past, Dr. Fishman explains, vets didn't always recommend vaccination for all dogs. "Since rural and working dogs were thought to be the ones most at risk." However, she adds, "recent outbreaks in cities have changed our understanding of which dogs are at risk, and vet schools and the CDC recommend that all dogs be vaccinated to prevent severe illness and death." Even if your pet has previously contracted leptospirosis, the vaccine can still help, since there are numerous strains of the disease.

Treating Leptospirosis in Dogs


Contracting leptospirosis can lead to serious illness and even death. "The earlier treatment is started, the better the dog's chance for survival," Dr. Whittenburg says.

If your dog becomes seriously ill, they may require hospitalization and aggressive treatment consisting of antibiotics, fever-reducing medications, intravenous fluids, and nutritional support, she explains. Continuing with antibiotics long-term (as prescribed by your vet) can ensure that the infection clears and your dog does not become a carrier for leptospirosis.

Once your dog is eating and drinking well, they can return home and begin a course of oral antibiotics. Dr. Fishman recommends that any other dogs living in the home be treated for leptospirosis to avoid spreading the disease.

This article is intended solely as general guidance, and does not constitute health or other professional advice. Individual situations and applicable laws vary by jurisdiction, and you are encouraged to obtain appropriate advice from qualified professionals in the applicable jurisdictions. We make no representations or warranties concerning any course of action taken by any person following or otherwise using the information offered or provided in this article, including any such information associated with and provided in connection with third-party products, and we will not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, special, exemplary or other damages that may result, including but not limited to economic loss, injury, illness or death



Would you throw
our ball, please? 



When you are competing, no matter the level, it is easy to let the cloud of disappointment overwhelm you when your dog makes an error in the ring. A failure can feel like a waste; a waste of time, effort, and money. A substantial deduction can deflate us as the possibility of winning, or even placing is diminished.

You can't have a "do-over," however, you can make it your goal to get the most out of the rest of your performance with these simple strategies.

You never want to waste a mistake!

Fight Disappointment- Choose to Recover!

When your dog makes a mistake, IMMEDIATELY tell yourself, "That is the only mistake we will make today!" and then continue your performance with that determination. You can't take the moment back, but you can salvage the rest of the performance. Be determined to do everything possible to continue with a flawless performance.

If you allow the disappointment of the error to overwhelm you, one mistake can become many mistakes. You will not only be disappointed by that mistake, but you will end up disappointed in the entire performance. As a junior tennis player, when I missed a shot, my father, and tennis coach, would tell me to "shake it off." That is exactly what we should do when our dog makes a mistake in the ring – shake it off!

One Exercise at a Time

When you prepare to enter the ring, tell yourself how many exercises you have to do. That way, you will tackle them one at a time, not worrying about what you have already done, or what is left to come.

It is thrilling to watch your dog perform an exercise perfectly that he has previously struggled with. However, that is the worst time to let your guard down. If you breathe a sigh of relief, or take a moment to celebrate, when your dog successfully performs his weakest exercise, you may let your guard down and unbelievably, fail the next exercise. This is not unique to competition obedience. It is true in every sport. The professional golfer misses the easy putt after an amazing shot onto the green. The tennis player wins the game when his opponent is serving, and then lets his opponent win the next game when the serving advantage is his. Don't let that happen to you!

Do Not Dismiss a Mistake as a Fluke!

If you are competing multiple days, never consider a mistake that happens early in the weekend to be a fluke. Assume it will happen again and address the error before you compete again.

For example, imagine your dog fails the drop on recall because as you give the signal to drop, dogs start barking, causing your dog to become distracted. You think, "that was bad luck. I should just use a verbal command."

Stop! Before you change your performance, evaluate your dog's performance. He got distracted! This time it was dogs barking, but what else could it be? It is always safer to treat the symptom (i.e. Your dog was distracted by barking, what else might distract him?) than to blame it on the circumstance (i.e. It was unusual for dogs to bark at the exact moment I was giving my signal).

Every time you go in the ring, make it your primary aim to gather information about the aspects of your performance that did not meet your expectations. The information your five-minute performance provides should direct the focus of your subsequent training sessions. By carefully evaluating your performance, no performance is wasted!

Analyze - Exercise Problem or an Attitude Problem?

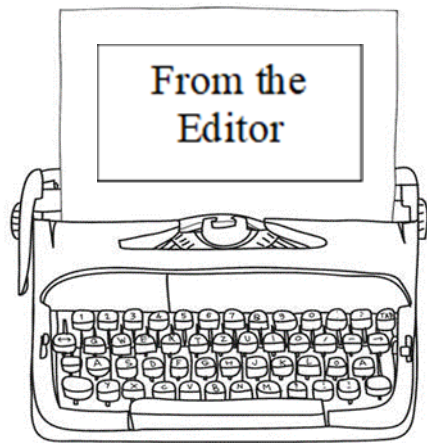
Your performance will reveal when we have an exercise that is not ready for competition. For example, your dog makes an honest error, and upon reflection you realize that he does not yet understand how to perform in a new situation. For example, your dog is performing the go-outs fast and straight in all the places you train, but he goes to the show and looks lost. It is likely that your dog does not have enough experience to perform in a new location.

Sometimes our dogs are distracted or disinterested. A performance may start well but deteriorate as it progresses. For example, in Open A, the Broad Jump is last. Upon evaluation you realize that your dog was slow on the Retrieve on the Flat, almost missed the jump on the return over the jump, and then walked the Broad Jump. This may indicate your dog had become disinterested and distracted culminating in a failure of the last exercise. In this case, the challenge is to improve the dog's attitude as soon as it deteriorates as opposed to working harder on the Broad Jump.

When we compete, we will both succeed and fail.

We can learn from either.

Make it your goal to let every trip into the ring better prepare you for the next!



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- Advertisements for rehoming k9 equipment, etc. are always welcome.
- Training programs and classes offered by members will be posted with a link to a website for members only [possibly under a column specifically designated for that purpose].
- Advertising of puppies/litters will not be accepted

We are looking for articles from our membership.

- Do you have a brag or accomplishment?
- Have you written an article that the membership could benefit from?
- Know of an upcoming event? Example: Obedience trial, Scent trial, Specialty, Health clinic..... etc.



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Check where emails come from.**

Never open links from emails you do not recognize or seem weird.