

LEAD AND COLLAR



August/September 2016

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President	Gerianne Darnell	712-526-2252
Vice-President	Erin Embrey	402-672-2741
Secretary	Kris Woodke	402-393-4870
Treasurer	Deb Landon	402-298-7196
Training Director	Sharon Dowell	402-290-4390
Board Members	Dee Nelson	712-322-1103
	Linda Puckett	402-593-0703
	Alberta Gray	402-572-7190
Other Contacts		
Sunshine Person	Deb Stiner	402-990-1548
Web Coordinator	Deb Landon	402-298-7196
Club Web Site	www.bellevuedogobedience.com	
Class Coordinator	Caroline Rice	402-298-7185
BDOC Vouchers	George Embrey	402-672-2741
Club Newsletter	Sherry Rife	712-585-3427
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News from Ringside

Swag earned his AKC breed Champion title on June 18th at the Fort Dodge Kennel Club show with Judge Janie Bousek. **Mary**



Report of the President:

Once again, BDOC has been busy! June 3-5 was our annual CPE/UKC weekend, and this year we added a very successful nosework match on Sunday afternoon. There is a full report of those events elsewhere in the newsletter.

As our membership grows older, we need to decide what direction our club is headed. We had a great, informative discussion at the last meeting, which was the club summer picnic at my place on July 10th. Some of the things that were discussed were do we want to continue to offer classes, trials, and community events and work towards getting a building in order to be a "full service" club, or do we want to let go of some of the things we do and be more of a "niche" club. All of these issues and more will be discussed at the next club meeting, Wednesday, September 7, at Valentinis. We will eat at 6 and the meeting will start at 6:30, and I hope you can ALL attend. We will be voting and making decisions on some pretty important aspects of the club, so mark your calendar now to be there. Just like the upcoming presidential election, you may have a very different take on the choices/issues available to the club, so you need to be there to voice your concerns and VOTE.

See you all in September, **Gerianne**

Summer at the Casa de B.BC!

Erin Embrey

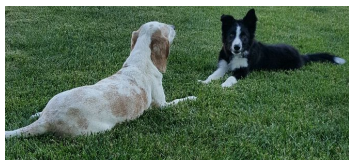
In June at the Friends of BDOC CPE trial Kasey earned his CATCH! Kasey has been the most versatile dog I have ever had and one that I have had multiple struggles with. To be able to say he is an AKC Agility Champion and CPE Agility Champion is pretty cool.

It was extra special to share that weekend with our friends Gerianne and Robert!

Ellie has been excelling in the field of Nosework. Who would have thought a Beagle doing great at Nosework! We passed our Odor Recognition Test for the NACSW venue which allows us to bypass the PT for UKC on the first three odors of Birch, Anise and Clove. We entered a UKC Nosework Trial and I was a little nervous about it. We entered Exterior and Vehicle Searches in Novice and passed both! Now, we go back to training and will hit up more Nosework trials soon.

Reign, my new little baby, almost 6 month old, Border Collie has been learning lots of valuable life information! He was also in his first Herding Seminar over the weekend. This was our first time being in the round pen with sheep and he was amazing. Reign went into the round pen with Kathy Knox as I have no idea how to read sheep. She was so good with him, even after he hit her in the lip with his head....OOOPS.

A good summer so far for Team B.BC!



UKC Trial

Gerianne Darnell, Trial Chairman

Friends of BDOC held a very successful UKC obedience/rally trial on June 3-5, 2015. This year we had two rally and two obedience trials on Saturday, making four of each for the weekend. Our very capable secretary, Kathy Novak, showed that she could handle four trials as well as three, no problem! We had a nice entry over the four trials, and many new legs and titles were earned. Special thanks to Norine Nieman for being the chief ring steward, and to Jim, Bert, Linda, Erin, George, and Kim for helping to set up the obedience room on Thursday night.

BDOC Nosework Match

By Sharon Dowell, match chairman

On June 5, BDOC brought a new sport to our community – UKC Nosework. As a result of our successful match, we are now approved to hold UKC Nosework trials, and three weekends are planned for 2017.

There were a whopping 66 entries in our match, which was held following our annual UKC obedience and rally trial. We made a profit of approximately \$430. We expect greater income from future Nosework trials since we have already purchased the small amount of supplies and equipment needed, for a sum total of approximately \$250. Supplies include boxes, small tins and vials, and five essential oils which are the scents the dogs must find. As you can surmise, storage and transport of trial equipment is easily managed, which is another plus for our club.

For those unfamiliar with the hot new sport of Nosework, you, as a handler work with your dog as he or she finds specific target odors in different settings, which get more challenging as you progress. There are container searches, interior, exterior, and vehicle searches with

hidden scents. All dogs can participate and use their natural sniffing abilities, which you hone during training. Once you get started, you can train as little as five minutes a few times a week and get remarkable results from your dog. It's a blast!

Our club is grateful to Gerianne Darnell for her initiative and leadership in getting our club involved in this up-and-coming sport, and, of course, for hosting the match at her facility. Laura Uran did a fabulous job judging, making it a positive and encouraging experience for all participants. Norine Nieman was also indispensable as trial secretary and volunteer coordinator, even wrangling a group of non-club members to help. We also thank club members for their assistance in running the event, especially Sue Volkmer, whom we ran ragged as the "hot" steward. She was the steward assigned to move boxes and items with the scents in or on them.

Many club members entered the match and we also had some out-of-town entrants, which surprised us and bodes well for our future trials. Feedback from participants was that it was a good match and experience, and there is anticipation for our first trial.

If you are interested in Nosework, the UKC website has information. The other leading Nosework organization is the National Association of Canine Scent Work, whose website is NACSW.net. Training information is available through Sunshine Obedience School and OneHappyDog.com, as well as many other sources.

CPE Trial

Deb Landon, Trial Chair

I am reflecting back on our recent Friends of BDOC CPE Agility Trial at Sunshine Farm. What awesome weather we had for a fun weekend in the country playing with our dogs! We have been so lucky to have this place available to us, which is so relaxing, especially for first-time handlers and dogs! A huge Thank You to Gerianne for providing our club with this opportunity! And the trial made a profit for the club!

Thank you to Darrell Marean, Erin Embrey and Gerianne Darnell for loading the truck at NHS after their trial on May 29th and Thank you to Darrell for picking up the truck, driving to transport the equipment and dropping off the truck at UHaul.

Thank you to club members who unloaded the equipment at Sunshine Farm on May 29: Darrell Marean, Gerianne Darnell, Erin Embrey, George and Kim Embrey, Linda Puckett, Deb Landon and Jim Hogsett.

Thank you to club members who were there for setup on Thursday June 2: Erin Embrey, George and Kim Embrey, Deb Landon, Alicia & John Robinson, Linda Haggstrom (and non-club members Michele Zarinelli and Jenny Martens)

Thank you to club members for June 2 Agility camper setup (and Obedience) Bert Gray, Linda Puckett and Gerianne Darnell.

Pam Clark was our judge for the weekend, and I think everyone enjoyed her courses. It was refreshing to have

a new judge when we were suddenly left without our previously hired judge.

Course Builders John and Walt kept everything well organized with moving the equipment to set up each class.

Thank You to our Trial Secretary, Rose Strasser. What a great job she does getting all the paperwork done and still able to run her dogs. Thank you to Linda Puckett for everything you did helping Rose during the weekend!

Thank you to Erin Embrey for stepping up at the last minute as Volunteer Coordinator and to club member volunteers who filled in the working spots to make each class run smoothly.

Thank you to Christie Baker for organizing the Canteen and making sure the volunteers had water and snacks all weekend. Also to those who donated food items, all greatly appreciated!

A HUGE Thank You to those who helped load the equipment on the truck at the end of the trial on Sunday. Club members: George and Kim Embrey, Linda Haggstrom & Husband. Non-club members: Leath McLaughlin, Deb McCall, Jessica Bruns, Carrie Johnstone, and Kerri Paulsen.

And finally, a HUGE Thank you to Darrell Marean for taking care of the UHaul truck and to club members who unloaded the truck at NHS: Randy Frady, Scott Dowell, Dave & Deb Landon and Darrell Marean.

Our next CPE Agility Trial is September 16-18, 2016, which will be held at the Nebraska Humane Society Meadow in Omaha.

Bellevue Dog Obedience Club Minutes of the Board Meeting Held July 9, 2016, Sunshine Farms

Board Members in Attendance: President Gerianne Darnell, Vice President Erin Embrey, Treasurer Deb Landon, Training Director Sharon Dowell, Secretary Kris Woodke, Members-at-Large Linda Puckett and Alberta Gray. Absent was Member-at-Large Dee Nelson.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.
2. Approval of the minutes of the last general membership meeting (April 27, 2016) as published in the newsletter: Motion to approve made by Sharon, second by Bert. Motion carried.
3. Approval of the minutes of the last board meeting (May 26, 2016). Motion to waive the reading of those minutes was made by Bert, seconded by Sharon. Motion carried.
4. Report of the President – Gerianne. No report at this time. See new business below.
5. Report of the Vice President – Erin. No report at this time.
6. Report of the Treasurer – Deb. The BDOC Treasury Report from April 28, 2016 to July 9, 2016 was presented to the Board (see attached). The report was reviewed, and a Motion to approve the report was made by Erin, seconded by Bert. Motion carried. Deb also reported that

she has made a hotel reservation for the judges for the Sept. and Oct. trials.

7. Report of the Secretary – Kris. No new membership applications have been received to date. Discussion of people who are not paid members but are still included on the Yahoo groups list.

8. Report of the Training Director – Sharon. Randy will be teaching a puppy class which currently has 4 students. There is a CGC class scheduled to start Aug. 10 for 4 weeks. There is a new CGC test called CGC Farms which is done at herding trials. Sharon will look at the rules for that test and maybe in the future we can offer CGCU, CGCA and CGCF testing. There is currently a problem getting instructors for our classes (and students). We used to advertise in the Bellevue paper but haven't done that in a while – is that something we would like to do again? Kris mentioned that if our current classes are pretty much in the central Omaha area, why advertise in the Bellevue paper.

9. Reports of Committees:

a. CPE Agility/UKC Obedience/Rally trial, June 3-5 – Deb/Gerianne. They will each write up reports of these trials to be included with the next edition of the newsletter.

b. Nosework match, June 5 – Sharon/Gerianne. Sharon will write up a report of this match to be included with the next edition of the newsletter.

c. AKC Obedience, Aug. 5-7 – Gerianne. As with the last trial, we will start with Beg. Novice/Novice each day. The judges' dinners will be held at Sunshine Farms each night. During the trials, we will have soups (Kris doing one day, need soup for another day, then leftovers the third day). We still need deserts/salads/etc. The rooms have been reserved. We will not be having a raffle at this event.

d. CPE Agility, Sept. 16-18 – Deb. The judge has been hired, but will still need to get a room/car reservation. Deb needs a volunteer coordinator and still needs to determine what they want to do for food.

e. AKC Agility, Sept. 30-Oct. 2 – Rose/John. No report at this time. Gerianne stated she has been corresponding with Go Dogs and GLOC regarding sharing the cost of transporting the equipment to/from OSC. Erin also talked with Roberto, the manager of OSC and reported that OSC is getting new turf in August. Erin also secured dates for BDOC's agility trials at OSC through 2018. Erin stated she would chair the May, 2017 agility trial and possibly the Sept. 2017 trial.

10. Old Business:

a. Website – Gerianne. Jim has completed the switchover of the website and has updated it. Sharon reports that Jim is very good at getting items on the website once it is given to him. We will pay Jim \$150 per year to be our webmaster.

11. New Business:

a. Need to discuss with the membership the current path of the club, ideas for finding volunteers, what do we want to do about classes/looking for a building/what is our overall objective for events – have fun/make money/or . . . – Gerianne. Her suggestion is BDOC no longer holds CPE trials since they seem to be the thing that causes the most problems/issues within the Club. The question was raised why can't we just be a social club and have our dogs entered in whatever trials we want to put on. Sharon stated that our classes are tied into the training building issue. Currently we don't have the manpower to have a building (cleaning it, staffing

classes, etc.). Classes have not generated any new members in many years. Many thought we just need to stick with putting on events we are good at and enjoy ourselves. Further discussion of possible topics for our overall Club objectives. The board decided to present these issues/ideas to the General Membership at the next GM meeting on July 10.

b. AKC Herding Trial, Sept. 27-24, 2017 – Sharon/Gerianne. This event will consist of two trials on Sat., one on Sunday.

c. UKC Nosework Trials – Sharon/Gerianne. We have received approval from UKC to hold Nosework trials. The proposed dates for upcoming trials in 2017 are Feb. 18-19, June 8-11 and Nov. 4-5. The June 8-11 trial would coincide with our UKC Obedience trial weekend so there would be one trial each day – obedience and Rally in the morning; Nosework in the afternoon, plus one Nosework trial late Thursday afternoon.

d. Miscellaneous – Linda brought up the issue of the status of ribbons for the upcoming obedience trials. It was determined that we have enough to get through this year, and we will order more next winter.

12. Motion to Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Deb and seconded by Linda. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Bellevue Dog Obedience Club Minutes of the General Membership Meeting Held July 10, 2016, Sunshine Farms

Board Members in Attendance: President Gerianne Darnell, Vice President Erin Embrey, Treasurer Deb Landon, Training Director Sharon Dowell, Secretary Kris Woodke, Members-at-Large Linda Puckett and Alberta Gray. Absent was Member-at-Large Dee Nelson.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Since many of the members at the meeting needed to leave early, it was decided to discuss New Business Issues first so as to get the majority of the members present a chance to give their input.

2. New Business: Gerianne began the discussion by saying that she felt there was too much dissent within the Club and that we needed to knock it off. We were friends before this meeting, we need to stay friends after this meeting. What happens at BDOC should stay at BDOC. Negativity breeds negativity. Currently, somehow there is a public perception that the Club is splitting up. Classes are not producing any new members, and many class participants are not interested in joining. Sharon Dowell was the last member who came from classes and that was about 4-5 years ago. Gerianne asked if it was really feasible for us to get a training building or have getting a building be a viable option for the Club going forward. It is difficult to teach classes in the current space we have at Five Elements since it is such a small area. If we were to get a building, then someone has to take care of that space with cleaning, snow removal, taking care of equipment, etc. The Board does not feel that getting a training building is a feasible option for the Club now and we should no longer offer classes since we have such a hard time finding instructors (and sometimes students) for the classes we do currently have.

As far as the issue of lack of volunteers, the Board feels we should let go of things that do not help the Club out. One suggestion is to let go of our CPE agility events, at

least for a while. Is there a viable alternative in the future? We would still have our AKC agility events twice a year. The Board feels we are primarily a social group that puts on great events for its members and the local dog community. The type and number of events needs to fluctuate with time as new events become popular. We can get new members from what people see at our trials – how great we all work together and how much fun everyone has. As far as the volunteer raffle, this was addressed a few years ago since so much money was being spent on vouchers for the volunteers, thus causing our trials to lose a lot of the income brought in, the raffle idea was conceived by Gerianne and Erin and put up for discussion before the General Membership at that time. No alternatives to the raffle idea were proposed at that time so it was adopted for our trials. It was thought that it best to offer 20 vouchers/prizes (10 each day) so there would be more opportunities to win something. A discussion then took place among the members present regarding what is it about the CPE trials people don't like. Some feel it is difficult getting out to Sunshine Farms when the trial is held there, some don't like the porta-potty issue. Sharon said that CPE seems to be the most manpower intensive events we have and there is dissent in the Club over those events. Dave Landon noted that at one time, NHS locked us out of their building and we had to rent porta-potties for the CPE event at that location. John Wilson stated that at the last CPE trial at NHS, probably the No. 1 thing he heard was where were the BDOC members to help out at that trial. He said he heard GLOC people asking if they helped out at BDOC events and Go Dogs events, why are BDOC members not helping out at the NHS CPE trial the weekend prior to BDOC's CPE trial? Also, he felt we needed more/better prizes for volunteers to win. He was at a trial in Minnesota last week and figured they spent \$700-800 in prizes for their volunteers. Kris W. stated that we are a volunteer club, people volunteer to help and now you are saying that they expect to be paid for their "volunteer" work. John stated that he thinks that is part of the CPE problem. He also thought we need to assign at least 4 people to help out at the end of the day of each trial to get ready for the next day's trial. Go Dogs has a person who runs building that helps them move contacts at the end of the trials.

Gerianne stated that we have had people in the past who volunteered to help who felt they weren't treated well when offering to help. Erin recalled that we have people from Ralston Vet who came out to load the truck and felt "shit upon". The Club has also tried to hire people who also weren't treated well by others when they showed up. We can revisit hiring people if that is what the Club would like to do in the future. Gerianne recalled that several years ago, BDOC paid CDC to supply volunteers (flyball teams are usually very willing to help – Go Dogs' flyball teams work a lot of their trials).

John stated that if BDOC wants to drop CPE, there are other local clubs who may be interested in picking up those dates. He also suggested maybe have trials in name only/sharing pot with other clubs and having a joint trial. He has been in contact with the new "regime" at NHS and reported that they are overjoyed to have people using the Meadow for dog events. Go Dogs' shed may also be useable if GOAG needs to find another storage space for its equipment. He stated that at their last trial,

GO Dogs had 150 less entries and made about \$4,000 and we only made \$4,500.

Gerianne asked if members were receptive to the idea of BDOC giving up its CPE agility trials. John felt that we should want to do whatever we can as a community/dog club to keep as many CPE/AKC agility trials in the area. CPE is a great venue for new dogs/handlers. GOAG is currently working well. Judge Christie Bowers told him this is the greatest equipment she had seen at a trial. John suggested that maybe BDOC could do a shared risk/trial with another local Club and offered to talk with GO Dogs and/or CDC about that idea. He also suggested that we table this discussion to the next meeting so members can think about it further and then make a final decision at our September meeting whether to let CPE go for a while. Gerianne stated the Club should definitely keep our AKC trials and John said we have judges hired through spring of 2019 and OSC reserved through spring of 2018. John also noted that he was afraid that without a building, membership in BDOC will die. Nobody in the Bellevue/LaVista area has a training building. The number of buildings available off the strip in Bellevue have been coming down in price and he thought maybe we could get 3,000 sq. feet for around a purchase price of \$120,000.

Caroline noted commercial property in Bellevue has gone down in value. There may be places available for rents, maybe something like a storefront in Southroads. Laura asked if we might be able generate more new members if we had a building – maybe. A discussion occurred regarding who would teach classes, clean the building (Erin used to do it and said it was awful) and if we didn't have a building, membership dying out. Gerianne pointed out that when we had our previous building, the Club lost \$8-\$9,000. The question came up as to who would be willing to be in charge of the building. If no one in the club was willing to follow through on these building issues, then there seems to be no way the Club can support a building.

Sandy Crawford asked if we had a mission statement, and Laura U stated that it was not just an issue of what we want; it hinges on what our members can do. Sandy C. stated it was obvious to her that what was missing in the Club was structure. She assumed our Constitution states why the Club was formed and defined our mission. She felt we needed to revisit this and get input from the members to see if revision of our mission was needed. If you don't have a mission statement that reflects the goals and ideas of the Club, then you don't have any direction. She felt the first thing we needed to do was redefine our Club mission, what our goals are. Sue Volkmer thought maybe it would be good to have a strategic planning meeting to determine the future of the Club. Sharon thought this would be good because then we could drill down, narrow everything down and stick with what we do best. Sharon also thought maybe we could do something like Survey Monkey to poll the membership about future goals of the Club. Caroline said she thought that was a good idea, but we needed to make sure we asked the right questions so as to get the information we need/want. If some people think we should still offer classes, then we need to ask them if they would be willing to help out with those classes. We should focus on the trials we currently have. If we have a

quality product, then people will use it. Caroline also noted that the people who write the grumpy e-mails aren't at the meeting and that whatever decisions we do make about the Club's future, some members will not be happy.

Marlene asked whether it would be cost prohibitive to survey the membership as to what they want from the Club. Bert said that when she was president, they did a survey much like that and only got a few responses back to that survey. Sue V. thought we could do Survey Monkey to determine what members are doing with their dogs/what do they have time for/willing to do? Sue Volkmer, Sharon Dowell and Laura Uran will coordinate the Survey Monkey survey and get it sent to the membership. We will discuss at the next general membership meeting the results of that survey. Sandy Crawford then brought up that the Board had made some recommendations regarding dropping CPE trials so the members should vote on those recommendations.

Caroline made a motion that we table any decisions on CPE agility trials until our next meeting in Sept. to give all members a chance to give their input into this recommendation. Sue Volkmer seconded the Motion. Voice vote taken and there were two nay votes, all others aye. Motion carried.

At 5:05 p.m., a break in the meeting was taken for dinner. The meeting was re-convened at 5:45 p.m.

3. Minutes of the last general membership meeting (April 27, 2016) were published in the last edition of the newsletter and will not be read at this meeting.

4. Approval of the minutes of the last board meeting (June 9, 2016). Kris stated that since that meeting was just held yesterday, those minutes are not yet available. Approval of these minutes will be moved to the next meeting.

5. Report of the President – Gerianne. No further report at this time.

6. Report of the Vice President – Erin. No report at this time.

7. Report of the Treasurer – Deb. The BDOC Treasury Report from April 28, 2016 to July 9, 2016 was presented to the membership (see attached). Deb is looking into investing \$10,000 as soon as she can get to the bank to talk to an investment banker. The report was reviewed, and a Motion to approve the report was made by Kris, seconded by Bert. Motion carried.

8. Report of the Secretary – Kris. No new membership applications have been received to date. Nothing else to report – no new members at this time.

9. Report of the Training Director – Sharon. Randy will be teaching a puppy class which currently has 4 students. There is a CGC class scheduled to start Aug. 10 for 4 weeks. There is a new CGC test called CGC Farms which is done at herding trials. Sharon will look at the rules for that test and maybe in the future we can offer CGCU, CGCA and CGCF testing. There is currently a problem getting instructors for our classes (and students). We used to advertise in the Bellevue paper but haven't done that in a while – is that something we would like to do again? Kris mentioned that if our current classes are pretty much in the central Omaha area, why advertise in the Bellevue paper.

10. Reports of Committees:

a. CPE Agility/UKC Obedience/Rally trial, June 3-5 – Deb/Gerianne. They will each write up reports of these trials to be included with the next edition of the newsletter
b. Nosework match, June 5 – Sharon/Gerianne. The match had 75 entries. Laura Uran was our “judge” and did an excellent job. THANK YOU, LAURA!!!

c. AKC Obedience, **Aug. 5-7** – Gerianne. As with the last trial, we will start with Beg. Novice/Novice each day. The judges’ dinners will be held at Sunshine Farms each night. Kris W. is doing one soup for our canteen, and Kim Embrey offered to do the other. We still need deserts/salads/etc. so please let Gerianne know if you can do one of those. Kris and Erin are in charge of volunteers and would love your help. There will not be any kind of exhibitor raffle at this event.

d. CPE Agility, **Sept. 16-18** – Deb. This event will be held at NHS. The judge has been hired and is flying in. Deb is in contact with NHS about crating, food, etc. She still needs a volunteer coordinator. Please call or e-mail her if you are interested.

e. AKC Agility, **Sept. 30-Oct. 2** – Rose/John. We are the first of three local agility trials at OSC and will be responsible for loading equipment at NHS/unloading at OSC.

f. AKC Obedience, **Oct. 28-30** – Caroline. Caroline still needs a volunteer coordinator. She is thinking about looking into getting some Girl and/or Boy Scouts to help out on Saturday and is still thinking about volunteers for Friday and Sunday. The judges have been hired but she still needs to get their rooms reserved. Looking into whether they can share a rental car to get them to/from CDC. Sharon is still in need of sponsors for the prize sponsorships of the various obedience and Rally classes at these trials.

11. Old Business:

a. Website – Gerianne. Jim has completed the switchover of the website and has updated it. Sharon reports that Jim is very good at getting items on the website once it is given to him. We will pay Jim \$150 per year to be our webmaster.

b. Tax Warrant – Kris. The Sarpy County Sheriff had a warrant out for Gerianne’s arrest (since she is the president) for the Club’s failure to pay personal property tax on the equipment we used to have in the Papillion training space. It was determined that the taxes were for the time frame when we were using the equipment in that training space and therefore, the taxes were owed. A check was sent in for that delinquent tax amount and the warrant has been dismissed. Since the equipment was determined to be mostly owed by members of the Club (ring gates, flooring) and not the Club itself and the other equipment has depreciated out, there should be no further personal property taxes assessed on that equipment.

12. Additional New Business:

a. Sandy Crawford presented a smaller American flag to be used for the Pledge of Allegiance before trials at Sunshine Obedience School. THANK YOU, SANDY, FOR THAT DONATION.

b. AKC Herding Trial, Sept. 27-24, 2017 – Sharon/Gerianne. This event will consist of two trials on Sat., one on Sunday.

c. UKC Nosework Trials – Sharon/Gerianne. We have received approval from UKC to hold Nosework trials. The proposed dates for upcoming trials in 2017 are Feb. 18-

19, June 8-11 and Nov. 4-5. The June 8-11 trial would coincide with our UKC

Obedience trial weekend so there would be one trial each day – obedience and Rally in the morning; Nosework in the afternoon, plus one Nosework trial late Thursday afternoon.

d. Next General Membership Meeting Date: Our next meeting will be September 7 at Valentino’s in Omaha.

13. Motion to Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Erin and seconded by Sue Volkmer. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Why Do Dogs Lick?

Liz Donovan, AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

You may appreciate the slobbery greeting your dog gives you upon your return from work each day, but do you ever wonder the reason behind it? Dogs lick their owners, other dogs, and themselves for a variety of reasons ranging from love and submission to a possible medical condition. Following are common reasons your dog might be offering up canine kisses.

Why Dogs Lick People, Other Dogs, and Themselves

It seems gross to us, but our sweaty, salty skin can be intriguing to dogs, who tend to explore the world with their mouths and are comforted by the scent of their caring owners. It’s the same reason they often [steal our socks and underwear](#). This, combined with the resulting attention and endorphins described below, makes smooches both tasty and rewarding for our pets.

Think back to the last time your dog licked you and how you responded? Did you reach down and give him a scratch? Offer him food? Say something to him (even if it’s something like, “Stop licking, would you?!”)? All of these actions are forms of [positive reinforcement](#)—showing your dog that licking you will get some form of attention, thereby encouraging him to continue the behavior in the future. Also, when a dog licks, it releases endorphins (the “feel good” hormone), which adds to the reward.

Your dog might be licking to show submission, especially if he’s [licking another dog’s muzzle](#). According to former [AKC Family Dog](#) columnist and veterinarian Nicholas Dodman, wild puppies’ lick their mother’s mouth as a signal for her to regurgitate the meat she’s hunted and as a way of demonstrating subordination. It makes sense, then, that domesticated dogs use this instinctual behavior when interacting with other dogs (or humans) they consider superior to them.

Dogs that repeatedly lick a certain spot might be suffering from an issue that needs a specialist’s intervention, including anxiety or [obsessive-compulsive disorder](#). Also, dogs who frequently lick their feet may be trying to resolve a persistent itch caused [by allergies](#). Dogs who lick their anal area frequently could be suffering from allergies or [may need their anal glands](#)

[expressed](#). If you notice your dog obsessively licking themselves, a person, or an object (bed sheets, for example), speak with a veterinarian, who may recommend medical treatment or a consultation with a behavior specialist.

In most cases, just be appreciative that your dog seems to enjoy your company and expresses his affection in this species-typical way. He obviously both respects you and loves you. Enjoy the moments!

Dog's Sucking Tendency Starts as a Pup

Some breeds have a propensity to suck or chew on blankets, but the behavior is thought to be associated with the dog's experience as a puppy.

Puppies are born with an instinct to nurse at mother's "milk bar." All things being equal, they are provided with this opportunity and will nurse to their little hearts' content until, at some later stage of development, the female, in her wisdom, begins to rebuff their attempts.

Even when the milk supply has virtually dried up, some pups will return to the "well" for an occasional comfort suckle if they become unnerved by surrounding events.

Dogs provided with such opportunities are unlikely to go on to become blanket suckers; actually, it's the ones who have this biological drive denied who divert their nursing behavior inappropriately.

An extreme example of a pup driven to blanket sucking would be an orphan pup bottle-raised by a well-intentioned owner. No matter how hard the human caregiver tries, he cannot provide the same opportunities to nurse as the pup's mom. In moments of unsatisfied need, the pup may turn to nursing on itself, its littermates, or a nearby blanket.

Early-weaned pups are also likely to exhibit displaced nursing behavior in the form of blanket sucking.

In addition, some breeds have a greater propensity to nurse or chew on blankets than others, implying a genetic influence on the behavior.

Breeds most well-known for this behavior are Doberman Pinschers and Dachshunds. Dobermans will nurse on blankets and also on themselves. In the latter instance, the behavior is termed "flank sucking." Perhaps the breed propensity derives from a more powerful nursing drive that is less easily satisfied and more likely to displace.

Editor's Note: Weimaraners are known "nookers" and it can be inherited. In 30+ years we have only had one who enjoyed nooking. Watch this video of Weims nooking.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzP7-8Como0>

