



THE HAPPY HEELER

April 2024



DEADLINE FOR MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER IS MAY 1, 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I start with a new student, I think back to the first dogs I officially trained in obedience in 1975. I remember how awkward it felt as I continued to practice the techniques shown to me. I remember how exciting it was when I saw tangible positive changes in the dog's behavior. Each positive change inspired me to continue to improve my communication with my dogs. I learned to try many training techniques that motivated each individual dog to desire working with me. I knew if I practiced good engagement with the dog I was able to develop an incredible bond with each dog I worked with. I learned dogs really want to be and work with you.

I try to teach students just beginning their journey of training their dogs the thrill of communicating with their dogs. How to develop healthy relationships with their dogs as they teach their dog appropriate behavior. To counsel them to pursue the goals of trialing with their dogs. There are no limits to what your dog can do with you. It's a whole community of people working to improve their communication with their dogs. It's a community I'm happy being part of.

Many of our members have these same experiences with their dogs. I see the same engagement and relationship they have with their dogs that I work hard to attain. There are many of you that have something to offer our members and their dogs. The same thrill of improving your dog's training is the same thrill when you share your knowledge with a student that needs your guidance. You can be satisfied when you know you've helped those students and their dogs.

We are looking for members that would like to teach classes to our members. Recently the drop-in obedience instructor had to stop teaching the class. We have postponed offering the class and are looking for one or more to volunteer for the position so we can continue to have the class. The conformation drop-in class has 4 plus trainers that alternate which week of the month they teach. If we can get a few volunteers for drop-in obedience then they can alternate and also participate in the class.

Are you good at teaching your dogs to focus? How about tricks? Our classes save dogs from ending up in the shelters. Dogs with an engaged knowledgeable owner do not end up in shelters. Consider helping our community by teaching classes. It's a lot of fun.

Email us at admin@ocsdc.org or call to discuss. 818-445-9270

*Best regards,
Linda Greco*

Upcoming Classes

Below, you will find our calendar of events for the upcoming Month of May. We are currently conducting classes in beginning obedience, intermediate obedience, scent work and CGC urban class.



MAY 2024 RESCHEDULED DUE TO WEATHER			CHECK WITH CLASS TRAINERS IF CLASSES ARE			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Beg. Obed. Class 6:30p Beg Rally Signs 7:30p	2 Beg. Obedience	3	4
5	6	7 (Members only) Drop in Conformation 7pm Puppy Class 6:30p Class	8	9 Beg. Obedience DROP IN OBEDIENCE 7PM INSTRUCTOR UNAVAILABLE	10	11
12	13 Board Meeting Marie Callendar's	14 (Members only) Drop in Conformation 7pm Puppy Class 6:30p Class	15	16 Beg. Obedience	17	18
19	20	21 Beg. Obedience 6:30p Class Beg Rally Signs 6:30p Class Int. Obed 7:30 pm Class Puppy Class 6:30p Class (Members only) Drop in Conformation 7pm	22	23 Beg. Obedience DROP IN OBEDIENCE 7PM INSTRUCTOR UNAVAILABLE	24	25
26	27 General Meeting San Diego Zoo Parking Lot 7pm	28 Beg. Obedience 6:30p Class Beg Rally Signs 6:30p Class Int. Obed 7:30 pm Class Puppy Class 6:30p Class (Members only) Drop in Conformation 7pm	29	30 Beg. Obedience	31	



Our Booth at Silver Bay



For the first time, we were able to have and staff a booth at the Silver Bay Kennel Club's Dog Expo (formerly Meet The Breeds). There were many clubs there, representing their breeds and a lot of foot traffic. Lauren Haskin and Robin Hoffman did a wonderful last minute job of putting the booth together. Karen Ernest made excellent handout fliers. We still have some of those fliers and members should take them and post them in their respective communities at pet stores, veterinary hospitals, grooming facilities, or anywhere else that dog owners within the community frequent. I have posted several in my community.

Lauren wants to acknowledge the following members who clearly went above and beyond, making our booth such a success: Fred and Tracy Shinnick who manned the booth with their two Löwchens. Valerie Harrison who helped set up and supplied the "German Shepherds" that guarded the booth!

Other booth volunteers who greeted people were Alison Enoch-Morris, Holley Garrett, Yuko Yamada. Breezeway's Braveheart was also a volunteer greeter accompanied by Lauren Haskin and Robin Hoffman. A BIG thanks goes to Karen Ernest who got the banners made on very short notice.

Tracy Shinnick said she and her husband Fred have been members of OCSDC for about a year and a half. They had Giant Schnauzers for 35+ years, but when they moved to a condo downtown, they had to downsize in dogs as well. After much research they decided on a Lowchen and added Luke to the family. They say he's a great little guy and in the year they have had him, he's earned his CH, CGC, BCAT & SWN. He also has his TKE. They are currently working towards a GCH, an Advanced Scent Work title, and have started agility. How exciting!

Congratulations! New Champion!

We are so proud of the accomplishments of our club members through their hard work and dedication.



CH Redwood's Element of Surprise, RN, SCN, CGC
"Alistir"

Alistir is proudly shown with his owner, Jolene Shultz. Jolene and Alistir attended our conformation handling classes from the time he was a rambunctious pup. It's been a thrill to watch him grow and develop, becoming the top show dog that he most certainly is.

Our club continues to hold drop in conformation classes at 7:00PM every Tuesday evening. We teach the 1st through 4th Tuesdays each month. When Tuesday falls on the fifth week as it is this month (April 30th) there will be no classes. Night time zoo hours are starting, so we will be moving our class location away from the solar panel parking and towards the north end of the parking lot, not far from the War Memorial Building. Watch for us.

Winners!

Congratulations to Michele Garmer and her beautiful Rottweiler Bitch Von Der Stahl Never-Ending Remembrance of Lucene, call name, "Birdy", for going Winners Bitch and Best of Opposite Sex from the 9-12 puppy class at the Del Sur Kennel Club show on Saturday, and on Sunday, Winners Bitch, Best of Winners and BEST OF BREED over specials from the 9-12 month puppy class!

Saturday



Sunday



Care of our Senior Dogs

Written by Dr. Marty Greer

Did you know that a dog is considered a senior once he is in the last 30 percent of his expected life span? As he approaches the last quarter of his life, he is considered geriatric. And just like humans, there's a variety of bodily changes he will encounter. Regular veterinary checkups with blood work and X-rays are important to monitor these changes and make sure your senior dog is comfortable throughout his life.

Normal signs of aging in dogs include slight cloudiness of both eyes, not hearing quite as well, and moving a little slower. Some signs that should not be assumed as normal aging are unexplained weight loss, an increase in water consumption and urination, lameness, forgetfulness and other changes in their daily routine. Should you notice these things, you should take your dog to see your vet for further evaluation.

One of the most significant changes a senior dog will experience is his metabolism, which will decrease by about 20%. If his calorie intake doesn't reflect this change, the risk of obesity increases. Weight management is the most important thing you can do to help your dog in his old age. Your dog's hair coat will gradually become thinner, duller and gray in color, especially around the face and muzzle. Keeping your dog's nails trimmed to an appropriate length will help reduce arthritis in the feet and improve traction on all surfaces. Over time, your dog's regular activity and movement will cause gradual degeneration in his joints and cartilage. There are a variety of things you can do for a dog with arthritis to make his life easier. Dog joint supplements have ingredients that will help replenish lost cartilage and synovial fluids. Weight management, elevated feeders and ramps will reduce the stress on his aching joints. Heated or orthopedic beds can warm up stiff joints or give him the support he needs as he sleeps. For dogs with arthritis and normal liver and kidney function based on blood work, your veterinarian can add a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication such as carprofen (Rimadyl®) to improve mobility with decreased pain.

Dental disease in dogs is the most common problem in older dogs. Over 70 percent of dogs have signs of gum disease by the time they're age four. This makes good oral hygiene extremely important in your dog's younger years, and especially as they get older. Plaque will start to form tartar if it is not removed, leading to gingivitis and other periodontal diseases. Regular dog dental care includes dog tooth brushing, dental rinses, hard chews and treats for friction against plaque and regular dental checkups with dental cleanings with your veterinarian.



Moratorium on Dog Breeding Permits

Many of you may have already heard that the Los Angeles City Council on April 9th, approved a temporary moratorium on dog breeding permits as part of an effort to address overpopulation at the six City-controlled animal shelters run by the City of Los Angeles. City council members unanimously approved an ordinance to enact the moratorium. The vote was 13-0.

Many of you might be thinking that this is Los Angeles and it does not affect us. Don't be too sure. Our shelters here in San Diego are full as well. Not that long ago San Diego Humane Society announced they could not take in any more surrenders because they were at capacity. It appears to still be the case, as recently, shelters, rescues and humane societies joined forces, formed a coalition titled, "San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition" and are currently promoting fostering over the airways. The following information regarding suspension of LA breeder permits comes from an article in the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) Forum.

What is the cause of the full shelters, and what can be done about it? Right now, LA shelters are housing double the number of dogs that can be safely cared for. Los Angeles declared their shelters "no kill" a few years ago and the concept appears to have backfired. With limited space to properly house animals and no program for euthanizing those animals that are suffering physically and emotionally and cannot be or should not be adopted out because they have exhibited illness, are old and infirm, or have aggressive temperament issues, overpopulation becomes an issue.

Euthanasia is not a punishment or a sign of failure in these cases. It is a painless release from months or years of suffering and should not be denied as a peaceful end to life when necessary.

The number of animals that are in shelters for reasons other than aggression/behavioral problems is small. In an overcrowded shelter, employees and volunteers can do little to help an aggressive animal and are themselves in danger of attack or injury. When the City implemented "no kill" in 2021, it gave assurance to the public that most of the animals would be rehomed with forever owners. Unfortunately, that is not the case. As a result of declaring "no kill", people willingly gave up their animals, thinking they would find "forever" homes, no matter the problem. This caused a spike in shelter numbers. As stated earlier, not all animals are adoptable.

Another issue contributing to overpopulation and not being addressed is dog trafficking. There are high numbers of animals coming across our border through multiple rescue groups. An article in the Tijuana Sun dated July 22, 2023 states there are more than 50 shelters dedicated to the rescue of abandoned/stray dogs in the City of Tijuana and of those 50, none are in total compliance with regulations. From October 1 2022 to July 2023, the Tijuana City Council found 13 dog shelters that did not have permits to operate, places where dogs were kept in overcrowded unhealthy conditions. According to data from the Animal Control Department, in Tijuana there are more than 50 thousand dogs without owners on the streets, which equates to around 150 in each neighborhood, . Rescue organizations pay out on average \$20 each for dogs that will be taken to the U.S. As a result, street dogs are rounded up and kept in homes or other places that are not properly regulated, until they go to rescues, who traffic them all over the U.S. The impact importation of dogs from outside the U.S. is having on communities all across the country—and LA is no exception—is HUGE. And what is LA's answer? They penalize reputable breeders, who selectively breed for health, longevity and stable mentality, when they have sufficient requests for at least 90% of the expected offspring.

New Cancer Vaccine for Dogs

<https://news.yale.edu/2024/03/05/novel-cancer-vaccine-offers-new-hope-dogs-and-those-who-love-them>

There is now a vaccine that has been developed that can slow or halt certain cancers in dogs and possibly humans in the future. The vaccine treatment is a form of immunotherapy that is now under review by the U.S. Department of Agriculture after having gone through several clinical trials over the past eight years, with promising results.

There are approximately 90 million dogs living in 65 million households and one in four of those dogs under ten years of age will develop cancer. Among those dogs over ten years of age, the ratio drops to one in two.

Types of cancers that afflict dogs and humans are similar. Like humans, dogs can get melanoma, breast cancer, colon cancer and osteosarcoma, among others.

To date, more than 300 dogs have been treated with the vaccine during a series of clinical trials, which are still ongoing at 10 sites in the U.S. and Canada. The findings, which have been published in [a peer-reviewed study](#), have shown that the treatment creates antibodies that are able to home in on and bind to tumors, and then interfere with the signaling pathways responsible for tumor growth.

According to the research team, the vaccine increases the 12-month survival rates of dogs with certain cancers from about 35% to 60%. For many of the dogs, the treatment also shrinks tumors.

While future studies will determine if the vaccine can reduce the incidence of cancer in healthy dogs, the treatment for now remains a therapeutic treatment option after a cancer diagnosis has been made.

Clinical trials of the vaccine are underway for three dog cancers: osteosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, and transitional cell carcinoma. The trials are taking place at 11 sites around the United States and one in Canada, and you must contact the clinics directly to ask about enrollment, appointments, and other important restrictions.

The clinical trial sites are listed on the website for the [Canine Cancer Alliance](#), including a video explanation of the therapy, and at therajan.com.





AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Dear American Kennel Club fanciers,

The entire American Kennel Club Board of Directors and staff condemn alleged criminal conduct by any participant in our sports, and we will continue to examine ways to strengthen our oversight. We are committed to the well-being of every fancier, young or old, and will investigate every complaint that is received.

If you witness or suspect wrongful behavior, it should be reported to the police immediately. If at an AKC event and you need assistance, contact the AKC representative or Event Chair.

AKC is a welcoming community because we believe in sharing and celebrating the joy of dog sports together. We must treat others with dignity and respect while looking out for one another. There is nothing more important than safety for everyone who takes part. AKC leadership and staff monitor events and are trained with abuse awareness and prevention courses from the U.S. Center for SafeSport.®

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or allegations about improper conduct at AKC events. We are here to assist.

Dennis B. Sprung
President & CEO, AKC
[516-637-6567](tel:516-637-6567) cell
[212-696-8327](tel:212-696-8327) office
dbs@akc.org

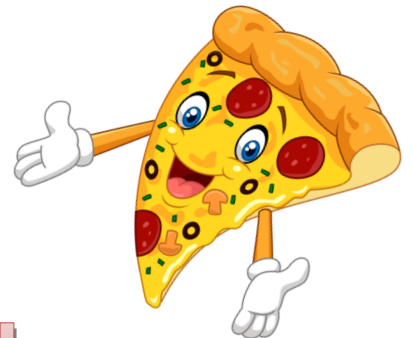
April 22nd - Save the Date!

General Meeting

7:00PM



North end of Zoo Parking Lot



Free Pizza!

Come and Enjoy!

RSVP Robin Hoffman at 805-427-4996

4rhoffman44@gmail.com

4rhoffman44@gmail.com

OCSDC Information Contact Page

Board of Directors

President

Linda Greco

lindasfgreco@gmail.com

(818) 445-9270

Director

Betsy Hartwig

eahartwig@cox.net

(619) 772-2702

Vice President

Karen Ernest

karenernest@icloud.com

(619) 727-9188

Director

Lauren Haskin

1doglady@gmail.com

(619) 889-2569

Corresponding Secretary

Robin Hoffman

4rhoffman44@gmail.com

(805) 427-4996

Director

Kathy Marmack

pawswithattitude@hotmail.com

(619) 921-4555

Recording Secretary

Margaret Williamson

elkie44@gmail.com

(619) 972-8654

Director

Bobbie Sevier

bsevier1@aol.com

(619) 322-4036

Treasurer

Michelle Garmer

michelle.garmer@gmail.com

(619) 322-3637

Director

Mechelle Stall

lucene1948@cox.net

(619) 228-3434

Happy Heeler Newsletter

Barbra Scott, Editor

coprfyld@cox.net

Margaret Williamson, Publisher

elkie44@gmail.com