



The MESSENGER an Official Publication of BVKA

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January - Happy New Year!



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NEXT MEETING DATE

Because of the BVKA Annual Appreciation and Awards Dinner set for February 7, there will be no General Meeting next month. The February 12 meeting is cancelled. Please join us when we meet again March 12 at Bob's Burgers and Brew in Burlington.

UPCOMING BVKA EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- TRACKING TESTS: February 1st at Wesen Farms, Bow
- ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET: February 7th at Max Dales, Mount Vernon
(*NO BVKA GENERAL MEETING: February 12th (Due to Annual Awards Banquet)*)
- OBEDIENCE/RALLY FUN DAY: April date TBD
- SPRING AGILITY TRIALS: April 17-19 at Fun Fur Paws, Mount Vernon
- NORTHWEST CLUSTER DOG SHOW: May 15-18 at the Lynden Fairgrounds
(*May 15-16 Mt. Baker All Breed Cluster Days/May 17-18 BVKA All Breed Cluster Days*)
(*NO BVKA GENERAL MEETING: May 14th (Due to All Breed Cluster Days)*)
- BARK IN THE PARK: June date TBD
- FALL AGILITY TRIALS: September 11-13, Fun Fur Paws, Mount Vernon
(*NO BVKA GENERAL MEETING: September 10th (Due to Fall Agility Trials)*)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



MIKE'S DELEGATE REPORT

Important news that all of you have been waiting to hear. There was a vote that all are excited to find out how it went. An amendment to Chapter 14, Section 2, of the Field Trial rules was proposed by AKC staff, and was approved by the Field Trial and Hunting Test Events committee, and AKC Board of Directors. It states that a dog disqualified in a Field Trial or Hunt Test is disqualified from entering either event. The amendment was passed by the delegates. Rule books for Field Trials for Retrievers, Beagles, Pointing Breeds and Spaniel will be updated with this change. Seems it was forgotten that Basset Hounds also have these events. May have to vote on that at another meeting.

Ok, so that wasn't exactly exciting news that everyone has been waiting, on the edge of your seats, to find out the results. December isn't the busiest month for votes. What is important are reports from AKC, and a chance to hear candidates for the AKC Board of Directors give an introduction

and vote for me speech. That is followed by some questions submitted by delegates, for each to answer. Members of the board may only serve two consecutive 4 year terms. After that, they must take a year off before being able to again run for an open position. Voting for the board positions happens at the March meeting each year. There are 3 vacancies to be voted on for 2026. Three people were put forward by the Nominating Committee. Six other candidates went through the process to also be nominated. Makes 9 candidates for 3 open positions. Time for me to re-read their speeches, and check my notes, to be prepared to vote in March.

A reminder. The AKC event fee went up from \$3.50 per entry to \$4.50 per entry on January 1st. This is for all sports and events. The only exception is for the ACT (Agility Course Test). AKC per entry fee for that is already at \$5, and will stay there for 2026. On January 1st, of 2027, the fee will be raised, for all sports, another dollar to \$5.50 per entry. The ACT will go up to \$5.50, at that date, as well. This fee is per entry, not per dog. For example, at an agility trial, you enter Standard, JWW, FAST and Time to Beat for your dog. That is 4 entries. AKC fee for that was \$14. Now it is \$18. For our agility weekend, this will be an increase to expenses of about \$1,000.

Time now for a recap of AKC's financial position. For the first 9 months of 2025, AKC income was about \$66 million. Expenses were close to \$70 million. That equals a loss of about \$4 million. That trend is expected for the remainder of 2025. Expenses were around \$1 million less than for the same period in 2024. Income from Registrations, and related items, accounts for 68% of income for AKC. It is down by 5% compared to the same 9 months in the previous year. Sports and Events comprise 20% of revenue. That income is flat. Advertising, Sponsorships and Royalties account for 19% of income. They are down 11%. E-Commerce is 13% of revenue, and is up 9%. Lots of numbers there. If you were reading carefully you may have noticed an issue with the math. Adding up the assorted components of revenue, you get 120%. Means I have to go through the posted slides and figures to see what isn't adding up.

AKC has admitted that their IT system, and website, are outdated and in dire need of repair and reprogramming. This is a long term project. As part of this system upgrade, there is a moratorium on any sports looking for changes that require new, or updated, programming. The moratorium may last for 3 years. More on that later.

Like the major sports in the US - football, baseball, basketball - AKC is looking to have a bigger international footprint. They are partnering with F.C.M., Mexico's overall kennel club, to have an AKC show in Mexico city. It will be in November, 2026. Conformation only. You can earn points towards AKC breed titles at this show. There will also be an opportunity to work towards Mexican titles during the weekend. A Cooperation Agreement has been signed with the Brazilian Kennel Club (CBKC). It regards registrations and pedigrees. Research into health issues is another part of the agreement.

Minutes are not yet posted for all of the different committees.

There are ongoing discussions to change the group structure to be in line with the FCI (overall worldwide organization of national dog clubs, and other country's kennel clubs. This would change the current 7 groups to 11. This has been debated for over 30 years. There is no target date for a vote, nor is it certain that the change will be made.

Obedience: They are still working on changes to Beginning Novice and Novice. At this point, there are two changes that have been sent to the board. Both will probably go into effect before the end of the year. In BN, the leave your dog and walk around the ring will be changed to a T pattern. The handler will walk a T, completely in front of the dog. No longer will the handler be required to walk behind the dog. In Novice, the leave your dog and get your leash will be lowered to the same distance as Open - 15 feet.

Rally: The number of dogs judged per hour is being reduced. It was decided that the current number of 20 dogs was too high. Number has been lowered to 18.

Agility:

Agility Equipment Safety Study finished collecting data, at the end of October. Researchers are working on collating and studying the data. Hopefully, the final report will be passed to the delegates in March. Agility judges were to send information regarding dogs falling off any contact equipment - A-frame, dog walk, and teeter. This included all agility organizations worldwide. Once the report has been released, AKC and other organizations will decide what, if any, changes should be made.

Following are being considered, with no timeline for implementation

1. Allowing a 2nd obstacle, in FAST, to be pointed in both directions. Currently only one may have different points depending on direction. For example 10 points for one direction over the a-frame. Eight points going the other way.
2. Allow day of move-ups, or down, change jump heights, and move either way between Regular and Preferred.
3. Change to allow a 2nd preferred dog to compete in each breed, at the Invitational. Also, due to the long day on Sunday, change to 3 runs for the weekend from 4.

The ability to move unused points and double Q's from regular (MACH) to preferred (PACH) no longer has a target date. It was originally supposed to be put into effect last July. Now, due to the moratorium not allowing sport changes requiring programming, this may be 3 years in the future. If things go quickly on the system upgrades, it might be sooner. Don't count on it. Your older dog may be long retired before this actually happens.

The Darkness to Light training has finished the required certification for judges. A significant number of judges chose to give up their judging license instead of completing the class. There are 25% less Junior Showmanship judges. Conformation lost 17%. Both Obedience and Rally lost 16%. Agility had the most meet the requirement. Only 11% dropped out.

AKC sent out an alert regarding Washington State Senate bill 5974. This bill covers lots of different aspects regarding local law enforcement. Part of that states that local agencies' police forces need to have guidelines and policies in place for volunteers. The part that AKC was spotlighting regards volunteers working with Animal Control. The bill prohibits volunteers being used to track people, except for search and rescue. Or to be used to bite or apprehend suspects. Local Animal Control may use volunteers to help in disasters (shelters for pets since most Red

Cross shelters won't take animals), or in cases of puppy mills (either in getting animals to safety, or caring for animals waiting for the courts to decide the animals' fate).



MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT MARILYN LINDSEY

Hi Everyone!

I'm Marilyn – I live on Whidbey Island with my husband and 2 shelties. I'm retired now but before retirement my husband and I owned a large pest control company that serviced Island, Skagit, and Whatcom counties. It was a challenging adventure, working together and growing a company --- I'm glad to be retired!!

I was introduced to the dog world when our 14-yr old daughter and I accidentally showed up at an agility class. It looked like fun and the people were friendly and non-judgy so we signed up together, me with our Boston Terrier mix and her with her Sheltie pup, and that was the beginning of my new life with dogs and dog people. What started as a bonding activity with my daughter over 30 years ago turned into a whole new adventure for me. I've done agility, obedience, rally, freestyle (dog dancing), a quick and unsuccessful attempt at herding LOL, therapy visits, and my newest find – scent work. It also opened up teaching - when my instructor and best friend Jean Wells opened her training facility on Whidbey she asked me to teach some agility classes for her, and that was the beginning of me being an agility instructor. When we lost Jean to cancer a few years ago, I moved her classes to my place so her students could still have classes on Whidbey, and I'm still teaching classes today.

Currently I'm competing in agility and scent work with my 4-yr old Sheltie Tucker, and I'm taking agility and scent work classes with my almost 2-yr old Sheltie Riley.

When my friend Jean asked me to join BVKA many, many years ago, I asked her why. Her response – “so you'll get a free fancy dinner every year!” I've gotten so much more – great friends, opportunities to learn new things, exposure to all things 'dog', and a feeling of belonging with this dog community. Thank you BVKA – I'm proud to be your President.



BRAGS AND WAGS!

Toodle-oo won Best in Show Puppy 3 times at the international shows! Which of course I am giving all of that credit to her breeder Shannon Kelly. She is a very naughty and apparently beautiful puppy. It was lots of fun.

Congratulations Linda!



BRAGS AND WAGS!

Karma did her first nosework competition last Sunday in Woodinville. In her ORT (odor recognition test) she got Birch and Clove. Hopefully, Anise next month!!

Yay Pat and Karma!



BRAGS AND WAGS!



Apparently I have two dogs in the top rankings for Rally Obedience at Master level. Annie is number 1 and Karma number 15 although she stopped trialing last year after receiving her RACH. Still it's great to know that my two rally dogs both have these rankings. Annie's score of 1343 blew away the second highest at 1137.

Huge congratulations Christina!

n Sheepdog	1	Annie RM2 RAE2 NAP NJP ACT1J
n Sheepdog	2	Bonntyme's Runnin' Down A Dream RM2 RAE2 OAP OJP OFF CGC TKI FITB
n Sheepdog	3	Bonntyme's Shot In The Dark RM RAE NF DCAT RATS CGC TKE
n Sheepdog	4	CH Sarron Age Of Ultron CD RM5 RAE2 RC FDC CA FCAT RATN CGCA CGCU TKA ATT BN-V FITS
n Sheepdog	5	Adagio's Kaleidoscope RM RAE FDC
n Sheepdog	6	RACH Moonlite Eloquent Winsome Grace CD BN RM4 RAE4 RC HT FDC BCAT CGCU TKI FITG FTI
n Sheepdog	7	MACH Voltage American Vision RM2 RAE2 MXS MJG MFB TQX T2B BCAT CGCA
n Sheepdog	8	Mi-Kel's N Images Stand By Me CD RM RAE2 MX MXJ NAP MFB DCAT CGCA
n Sheepdog	9	Adagio's Legatus CD BN RM CA BCAT CGC TKA
n Sheepdog	10	GCH CH Hobbiton's Get Your Head In The Game CD RE HSCs FDC SCA SIA SEN CGCA CGCU
n Sheepdog	11	Blackforest's Aethon Memory Alpha RM2 RAE HSAs AX MXJ MXF T2B BCAT SWA DJ CGCA
n Sheepdog	12	M'Soaring De Tchurka La Noire RM3 RAE2 TDX NA NAJ OAP OJP NF OFF SWD SWM SCME SHDN TKN
n Sheepdog	13	CH Hobbiton's I'Li Be There For You CD BN RE PT SCA SIA SEA CGCA
n Sheepdog	14	RACH Images Eden's Demian CD RM2 RAE2 OAP OJP NFP ACT1 THDN CGC
n Sheepdog	15	PACH2 RACH Mika Panchakarma Liswyn BN RM4 RAE2 MXP6 MXPS MJP8 MJPG PAX2 XFP T2BP CGC
n Sheepdog	16	Moonlite's New Year's Pyrotechnics RE SIA SEA SCN



THE TAIL END

Recognizing and Treating Unhealthy Dog Nails Courtesy of Whole Dog Journal January 2025



Taking regular care of your dog's nails will help you identify and address problems such as breaks and infections early.

The most common problem for dog claws is lack of proper trimming, but it is possible to have truly unhealthy dog nails. Signs that your dog needs a veterinary visit include brittle nails that break frequently, discharge at the base of the nail, and claws growing into the paw pads.

Healthy vs. Unhealthy Dog Nails

Your dog's claws should be short and strong with a smooth, slightly shiny surface. Ideally, they will have a gentle downward curve, tapering toward the point.

For dogs with white nails, a healthy nail will be the same color as human nails – pale pinkish at the base where the claw wraps around the sensitive quick and milky white at the end where it is just solid keratin.

For dogs with black nails, the claw will be a uniform black color.

Dog nails can also be varying shades of reddish brown depending on the pigmentation of your dog's skin. These claws typically are lighter at the tip, but the difference may be more subtle than with white nails.

Each claw should be growing smoothly out of the dog's paw as an extension of the toe. Many nails have a shallow groove along the bottom, which is normal.

Signs of unhealthy dog nails include:

- Frequent broken nails
- Brittle texture that cracks or breaks frequently or shatters during nail trims
- Split nails
- Soft, mealy texture

- Rough or uneven surface
- Pus oozing from nail, including when cut
- Bleeding around the base of the claw
- Oily discharge on or at the base of the nail
- Color change
- Some nails being a dramatically different shape than others
- Changes in growth rate or direction
- Licking and chewing at the nails and paws

Common Dog Nail Problems

These are some of the more common causes of unhealthy dog nails:

- Bacterial nail infection
- Fungal nail infection
- Broken nails due to trauma
- Broken or split nails due to excess length
- Malnutrition
- Allergies

A less common but more severe potential cause of nail problems is the autoimmune disorder lupoid onychodystrophy (also called symmetrical lupoid onychodystrophy or SLO).

Fungal or Bacterial Nail Infection

Dog nails are pretty hardy, but they can become infected. These infections are usually secondary to other issues such as a cut, broken nail, or allergies that weaken the body's defenses and allow infectious agents to set up shop.

The appearance of a nail infection can vary. Bacterial nail infections generally have an oily or pus-like discharge, while fungal infections such as ringworm may be crusty. Yeast infections often have an odor similar to corn chips.

Your veterinarian will use a skin scrape and cytology to evaluate the infectious agent. Treatment may include both topical medications right at the source as well as oral medications for deep or widespread infections.

It is critical to treat for the full course of medication and to keep any follow up appointments. Nail bed infections can be stubborn and the outside may look perfectly normal while there is still infection present deeper in the claw base.

Broken Nails

Dogs can catch and break a nail on fences, furniture, their crates, or even running in the woods. The break may just affect the tip of the claw or could go all the way to the base. Sometimes the toe may be broken or dislocated as well.

The longer the nail, the greater the risk of a break. Long nails can get caught on clothing and dog beds or break during normal activity due to their excess length. Loose dewclaws that do not stay close to the leg are also at higher risk of getting caught on things when the dog is running around.

If a piece of the broken part of the nail is still attached, it should be removed. Loose, flapping nail tissue is just going to keep getting caught on things and causing your dog more discomfort. You may be able to remove the loose piece on your own, but a vet visit is often needed.

Remember that your dog's paw may be quite painful and even the sweetest dog may bite when in pain. Cleaning and treating the broken nail may require sedation.

Your veterinarian may prescribe antibiotics to prevent infection and may recommend bandaging the paw for a few days if the nerve within the claw is exposed. Pain meds may also be prescribed.

Allergies

If your dog suffers from chronic nail infections or has issues with multiple claws/paws at the same time, an underlying allergy may be part of the problem. Your dog may be allergic to something in his food or in the environment, or to multiple things. Getting the allergies under control will help to prevent recurring nail infections.

Lupoid Onychodystrophy

Lupoid onychodystrophy or SLO is not common, but it is very unpleasant. This autoimmune disorder causes your dog's immune system to attack the nails. It can cause the claws to be brittle or abnormally shaped, and to completely fall off. It can also be quite painful.

If your dog frequently breaks or loses nails, especially if multiple nails are often affected at the same time, lupoid onychodystrophy may be the culprit. Abnormal nail texture that persists even with proper nutrition is also a cause for concern.

German Shepherd Dogs, Rottweilers, and Gordon Setters are at increased risk of having this issue.

Diagnosing SLO requires ruling out other issues and taking a biopsy of the nail bed. It is then treated with immunosuppressive medications.

Monitoring Your Dog's Nails

Ideally, you should be trimming your dog's nails at least every other week to keep them at a proper length. Frequent nail trims mean you can still make progress and maintain short nails without having to cut a bunch of nail off each time.

Having regular nail trims as part of your care and grooming routine also provides the perfect opportunity to observe your dog's nails close up. You will get a good sense of what your dog's claws normally look like and how fast they grow. This allows you to spot any concerning changes early.

When to Call Your Vet

Some minor nail issues will resolve with time and proper nail trimming to shape the claws, but others require a veterinary exam and medications to get your pup up to snuff.

Schedule an appointment with your dog's vet if:

- Your dog is in pain due to a broken nail
- Claws are curling around and growing into the paw pad
- There is an abnormal odor from the paws
- A nail has split
- Your dog frequently breaks or rips off nails
- Your dog bites at his nails—this is due to itchiness or discomfort
- There is bleeding or discharge around the base of the claw
- Claws ooze pus or discharge when cut
- The texture or color of the nails has changed
- Claws are growing in unusual directions
- A broken nail does not grow back

Thankfully, most claw issues are not an emergency and can wait for regular business hours to be addressed. The exception is if you are unable to stop bleeding from a broken nail even after applying pressure.

If you have a new dog who may not have had proper care and nutrition before joining your family, don't worry too much about unusual nail texture, shape, or color. Poor nutrition and hazardous living conditions can lead to unhealthy dog nails, and it may take a couple months before your dog produces normal, healthy claws. Feed a complete and balanced diet, trim the nails regularly, and

monitor their progress over time. But if your new dog's paws and claws are painful, smell bad, or have a discharge, he will need to be checked over by a veterinarian.

