



The MESSENGER an Official Publication of BVKA
Web: bellvernonkennelassn.com
Facebook: Bell Vernon Kennel Association
Editor: Debbie Thompson / d.thompson0@me.com

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Happy National Dog Month!

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MEMBER CONTACT FOR SPORTS AND EVENTS

Tracking: Ramon Sandoval / rsalp211@gmail.com

Obedience: Reta Bray / chapala22@gmail.com

Rally: Pat Lamont / tjandpatlamont@yahoo.com

Agility: Denise Vasquez / mrscdv@aol.com

Nose Work: Martha Roberson / mhrob55@outlook.com

Next Meeting Date

With the Fall Agility Trials right around the corner, September 12-14, the September 11 BVKA meeting is cancelled. Please join us again when we reconvene October 9. The September Messenger will announce date, time, typical location, and speaker at that time.

We have been fortunate to have some truly amazing guest speakers this year and thanks to Jean, I know they will continue. To show our appreciation for their time, expertise, and effort, it would be great if you would consider sending a personal message of thanks following the meetings. I will try to remember to provide contact information for each in The Messenger so that all you will need to do is click, write, and send. I'm sure any and all comments would be gratefully received. To start with, here is [Laurel's Website](#), our invited speaker from last week's meeting, so you can reach out to her if you are so inclined.

Upcoming BVKA Events

- *FALL AGILITY TRIALS: September 12-14, Fun Fur Paws in Mount Vernon*
*** No September Association Meeting due to trials the following day*

News and Announcements

Another Reason to Attend the Meetings!

Jean discovered that Bob's Burger and Brew has a loyalty program ... I know!! For information about the program and how to sign up, just [click here](#).

Martha has Agility Equipment for Sale!!

Hello agility devotees! I am finally ready to let the rest of my agility equipment go to new homes. They are professional quality items all purchased from JJ Dog supplies.

- 1) A-Frame trainer. Each panel is 3 x 5. Sonny put wheels on one side for easier moving. The panels come apart and chains are there for adjusting - \$100
- 2) Pause table with 8" and 16" legs - \$75
- 3) 15 foot tunnel with 4 weighted clasping bags - \$50

All proceeds go to the NOAH animal shelter. If interested, contact me at 360-466-4302 or email mhrob55@outlook.com. FYI these are all heavy pieces. Bring help to load up.



Obedience News from AKC - Thank You Earl!

Clearing the High Jump

We have been made aware of some recent chatter concerning clearing the High Jump; we hope this blog article will clear up the confusion in question.

Obedience Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 14. Retrieve Over High Jump, Scoring. A dog that fails to go over the full height of the jump in either direction, that uses the jump for any aid in going over, or that returns over the jump without the dumbbell must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that touches the jump when going over it or for a dog that displays any hesitation or reluctance in jumping. All applicable penalties listed under the Retrieve on Flat apply.

Therefore, if the dog clears the jump with the top panel not being displaced, but the panel(s) underneath come off, the dog has cleared the height of the jump and should receive a qualifying score.

If in the process of clearing the jump, the dog touches the jump, the top board stays on, but any panel underneath comes off, there should be a minor or substantial penalty per the regulations. A tic/touch has never been an NQ, and it should not start to be one now.

If the dog hits the jump and the top panel is displaced, the dog has not cleared the height of the jump, which would result in a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Additionally, Obedience Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 34 The high and bar jumps should be checked throughout the class to ensure the pins, pegs, and/or cup holders (that hold the panels and/or bar in place) are securely seated after each jump change.

As the judge, ask yourself this: did I make sure to check that the panels were set correctly?

Rally: Though the scoring is different in Rally, the explanation of clearing the high jump (or not) would be judged the same.

The Companion Events Team

BVKA/CDTA 4-H ACT Event - Mike's Report

Our 4-H ACT Event was last Friday, after the Chuckanut Dog Training Association trial was finished. Total entries were 14. Of those, 10 were 4-H kids. The other four were adults. Everyone did well. Out of the 28 runs, at the most there were only one or two missed contacts. Table faults happened the most often. Some knocked bars. And some over the time limit. Mister Robin had me send compliments from him that all did so well. He was impressed that everyone, and their dogs, were having so much fun. In the 1st round, seven out of 14 qualified. Second round saw nine out of 14 qualify. Exactly half passed both runs, and earned ACT1 titles. The split was the same for kids and adults. Half of each earned titles. Thank you goes out to CDTA for allowing us to do this event in conjunction with their trial. The help of all the volunteers that made this happen is also very much appreciated.

A huge thank you to Mike and Linda for all their hard work orchestrating this event.

You did it, again!! 🙌

Bragging Rights!

Robby (Cedarwing Rainier Robin) participated in the English Cocker specialty in Enumclaw. Robby ended up getting High in Trial both days of the specialty for their very first venture into the Novice B class with scores of 197 and 196. They also completed their Rally Excellent title with a first and a second place.



Expertly handled by Earl - Congratulations!

Bragging Rights! Continued

Not a big brag, but I was proud of my boy. Kobe got a first place in Graduate Open (2nd leg) in the WSOTC trial August 10th.



Expertly handled by Reta - Congratulations!

The boys and I participated in our Evergreen Belgian Tervuren Specialty in Enumclaw last Wednesday and Thursday with Cyg coming home with two RAE legs and his title! Logan started his RAE journey with two legs! Very proud of these boys!!! Love them both and their enthusiasm in what they are asked to do.



Expertly handled by Tracy - Congratulations

Bragging Rights! Continued

Tucker and I did an AKC Scentwork trial August 2nd in Monroe. We entered two events for the first time - Exterior (scent is hidden outside) and Buried (scent is in a container under 4" of sand). He did great at both - got a first place in Buried with a time of six seconds, and 3rd place in Exterior with 17 seconds. This game is so much more fun than I expected, and Tucker loves it just as much as he loves agility. I encourage any of you who are looking for another sport to try to check it out!!



Expertly handled by Marilyn - Congratulations!

Lily competed at the Collie Scent Work trial on August 3rd. Her first opportunity at all Advanced searches. She performed beautifully in Containers, Buried and Interiors. She also achieved another leg in the poop class. (Even tho she just done that before searching). Oh well, we all know “s###t” happens. 🙄 More opportunities ahead this Friday at Fun Fur Paws.



Expertly handled by Martha - Congratulations!

Blue-Green Algae Poses Deadly Risk to Pets During Summer Heat
WSU Insider | Washington State University
Courtesy of Jean Groesbeck



PULLMAN, Wash. — As summer temperatures take hold, toxic blue-green algae blooms can be a deadly threat to pets across the Pacific Northwest.

Exposure to blue-green algae — or cyanobacteria — can kill pets in as little as 15–20 minutes. Animals can be exposed to blue-green algae and its toxins by simply contacting any affected water body, including ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, or even residential decorative ponds and neglected swimming pools.

“Just grabbing a ball or a stick from the water or even licking algae off their fur can be fatal,” said Dr. Chelsea Sykes, a diagnostic toxicologist at Washington State University’s Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

Cyanobacteria are microscopic organisms that live in fresh bodies of water that usually multiply and bloom when water is warm, stagnant, and rich in nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen from sources such as fertilizer runoff. Blooms typically occur in late spring through early fall and can resemble thick, slimy green paint or pea soup on and in surface waters and eddies of running waters. Blooms, however, can have many colors.

Dead fish, waterfowl, or other animals around a water source may indicate the presence of blue-green algae, but it is impossible to tell whether a given body of water has a toxic bloom without sophisticated testing. During warmer months, it is best to assume all still or slow-moving surface waters are potentially contaminated.

“Unfortunately, you can’t tell if a bloom is toxic just by looking at it,” Sykes said. “That’s why we always say, ‘when in doubt, stay out.’”

Symptoms of algae poisoning in pets can develop quickly and include vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, disorientation, pale gums, skin rashes, seizures, difficulty breathing, or collapse.

If a pet is showing signs of exposure, immediate veterinary care is critical. Pet owners can call their veterinarian or the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital emergency line at [509-335-0711](tel:509-335-0711).

“Once symptoms begin, the window for treatment is very short,” Sykes said. “Fast, aggressive care gives the best chance for survival.”

To reduce the risk of exposure, Sykes recommends avoiding any water that looks discolored or like spilled paint, preventing pets from drinking or swimming in unknown water, and rinsing them off with clean water if they do get wet. It’s also important to keep animals from licking their fur afterward.

“The best protection is prevention,” Sykes said. “Keep your pets leashed near open water and always be cautious. It’s not worth the risk.”

