



# The Pooches' Post

February 2019

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- **Board Meeting in February 14, 2019** *Bonnie Spiece's home—7PM*
- **February General Membership Meeting** *February 28, 2019 Laramie County Library —7PM*

## The Extreme Cold and Going Potty Outside!

By Nancy Kerns

When temperatures hit near- or below-zero, you may need to *strongly* encourage your dog to potty – actually, insist on it! Veterinarians see spikes in the number of cases of urinary tract infections in winter, when dogs tend to “hold it” for as long as possible, declining invitations to go outside at their usual potty times, and failing to take the time to empty their bladders fully when they do go outside. The longer urine is held in the body, the more bacteria can grow in that urine; when the population of bacteria tips past a level that the dog’s immune system can control, discomfort and systemic illness can result.

You may need to encourage your dog to drink adequate amounts of water when it’s super cold, too. Many dogs become reluctant to drink when it’s cold, and end up getting dehydrated, which can set the stage for a wide constellation of disorders, especially in senior dogs. If you come home from work and your dog’s water bowl has gone untouched all day – it’s at the exact level where it was when you filled it fresh that morning – you should start experimenting to find whatever works best to get your dog to drink more. Some effective tactics include filling the bowl with fresh water more frequently; warming the water to something more than room temperature; or adding bone broth, chicken broth, or even a bit of honey to the water. Feeding him a high-moisture food will also help, whether it’s canned, fresh home-prepared, raw frozen, or simply his regular kibble soaked in warm water or broth.

Assuming your dog is drinking enough, here are some tips for encouraging him or her to potty as fully and often as usual:

If you can, make a designated potty station outdoors. A covered outdoor area, preferably a spot with some protection from driving wind, is very helpful. Put down anything that will help protect your dog’s paws from the cold ground (or ice or snow): some straw or wood shavings work great, but a few squares of artificial turf (even if it’s just a door mat) that your dog can stand on to pee, will help. You can hose them off (or even toss them out) when the temperatures thaw! This is an emergency!

Some folks walk their dogs to the nearest parking garage, or set up a “potty box” in their own garage when the weather is too nasty to spend an adequate amount of time outside.

Do you live in an apartment or other urban setting where you have to potty your dog on walks? If so, we hope you have already invested in and accustomed your dog to wearing some sort of paw protection. Wearing boots can help protect his feet from freezing temperatures as well as potentially dangerous ice-melt substances that can be found on urban sidewalks.

Make sure you are bundled up, too! Trying to rush your dog into going potty quickly because *you* are freezing can backfire; back in the house, when you step in a puddle in your socks, or find a pile under the dining room table, you can go ahead and smack *yourself* over the head with a rolled-up newspaper. “Naughty owner!” Dress as warmly as possible and let your dog take her time outside.

Make sure you give your dog some extra-yummy rewards when he or she goes potty outdoors in extraordinary temperatures.

## Dog Classes in Cheyenne



**Barb Sahl/ "The Elemental Dog, LLC"**

Scent detection games for dogs  
(307) 421-5514

[the.elemental.dog@gmail.com](mailto:the.elemental.dog@gmail.com)



**Cathy Anderson/ "A Paws-A-Tive Step K9 Training"**

(307) 630-9616

[CheyRottRescue@aol.com](mailto:CheyRottRescue@aol.com)



**Alliance of Therapy Dogs**

For information contact:

Billie Smith at (307) 432-0272



**Mary Flanderka/ ADAPT**

Agility & Obedience  
(307) 290-0069



**MONICA TURNER, CTDI**  
Certified Trick Dog Instructor

- Private lessons
- Title evaluations  
307 - 206 - 5588
- Pet sitting
- Dog walking  
Rover.com/sit/MonicaTurner



Mailing Address - **CHEYENNE KENNEL CLUB • PO BOX 202 • CHEYENNE, WY 82003**

If you change your contact information (email, mailing, address), please contact Bonnie Spiece at [windypinecc@gmail.com](mailto:windypinecc@gmail.com) or (517) 896-1417

**2019 SHOW  
COMMITTEES**  
*These committees will be  
updated in March*

**Show Chairman**

Chair:

Assistants:

**Judges**

Chair:

**Obedience**

Chair:

**Rally**

Chair:

**Chief Ring Steward  
(Conformation)**

Chair:

**Chief Ring Steward  
(Obedience/Rally)**

Chair:

**Conformation Trophy,  
Billing, Catalog Ads**

Chair:

**Obedience Trophy,  
Billing, Catalog Ads**

Chair:

**Food Vendors**

Chair:

**Hospitality**

Chair:

**Reserved & Free Grooming**

Chair:

**Grounds**

Chair:

**RV Parking**

Chair:

**RV set-up & planning**

Chair:

**Raffle Committee:**

Chair:

**Catalog Sales**

Chair:

**Clean-up Crew**

Chair:

**Vendor Committee**

Chair:

## Is Our Dogs' Behavior Genetic?

Or is it "all in how you raise them"?

Nature vs. nurture and raising a well-adjusted dog.

By Jessica Hekman, DVM, MS (Whole Dog Journal)

Dr. Ilana Reisner wanted her new Australian Shepherd puppy, Asher, to have a rock-solid temperament. She knew how tough it is to live with a fearful or aggressive dog because, as a veterinary behaviorist, she works with reactive dogs and their owners for a living. So she did everything that she advises her clients to do: she found a puppy whose parents had lovely personalities and whose breeder provided excellent socialization experiences; she brought the puppy home between eight and ten weeks of age; she continued his socialization herself; and she enrolled him in a well-managed puppy class so that he would have a chance to learn good social skills with puppies his own age.

Given that Dr. Reisner did everything that behavior experts recommend to create a confident, well-socialized puppy, she was surprised when Asher showed anxiety around other dogs in his puppy class – nervousness that only increased as he matured. Then she had some bad luck when, at age four months, Asher was jumped by an out-of-control dog, and it was a really scary experience for him. By the age of eight months, Asher was showing clear signs of fear of other dogs.

Dr. Reisner has continued to work with him over the ensuing years, but he hasn't improved; she describes him as a whirling dervish when he sees unfamiliar dogs. And yet she did everything she could to avoid this issue. Is it possible that, due to genetics, Asher's behavior problem was inevitable? How much influence did Asher's environment have in the development of his temperament?

### Our Dogs' Genetics VS. Their Environments

In the complex interplay between genetics and environment, sometimes genetics takes the upper hand. Researchers have tested just how far genetic influences on personality can go by breeding animals for particular temperaments and absolutely nothing else.

This sort of study is, by necessity, very long term and therefore fairly rare, but there are two well-known examples in canids. A group in Russia has bred two lines of foxes over three to four decades, selecting one line for fearfulness of and aggression to humans, and the other line for friendliness to humans.

A similar long-term project in the U.S. has resulted in a line of pathologically fearful pointer dogs. In both these cases, the lines of animals breed true, meaning that if a fearful animal is bred to a fearful animal, all of the offspring are fearful without exception, even when raised by a non-fearful non-biological mother.

How relevant are these findings to pet or working dogs? It turns out that personality is influenced by many, many genes, and if you breed for any other traits in addition to temperament, like looks or performance, then your ability to guarantee particular results in the puppy goes out the window.

In the real world outside the laboratory, genetics rarely confers absolutes; instead, it confers risks. Outside the lab, behavior problems are almost never truly inevitable. They may, however, be extremely high risk.

Which leaves us with what we have: dogs who are bred for many different traits, and as a result produce puppies with personalities mostly similar to their parents', but sometimes quite different. Sometimes the results are wonderful, and sometimes not so much. We can decrease the risk of unwanted traits like fearfulness through careful breeding, but we can never completely weed those traits out.

### Our Dogs' Experiences

Just as we don't have complete control over the genetic contributions to a dog's personality, we lack complete control over the puppy's environment. By the time the breeder and then the owner are formally socializing a puppy, the little canine brain has already gone through massive amounts of development, and as a result has gone down some roads and abandoned others. The uterus is a rich source of experience for the fetal brain, which is profoundly affected by both reproductive and stress hormones. Early life in the nest with mom and siblings is also chock full of experiences that mold a young mind. The puppy is learning his place in the world and how to interact with other dogs from very early on.

All we can do, then, is our best. We can provide innumerable positive and varied experiences for puppies to teach them that the world, in all its sometimes unexpected variety, is safe for them.

Just as importantly, we can prioritize giving dogs as solid a genetic background as possible. Temperament should be the highest priority in breeding, closely followed by physical health. Animals with questionable temperaments should not be allowed to pass on behavioral problems, either through their genes, through stress hormones in the uterus, or through modeling fearful behavior to their puppies in early life. Temperament is more important than preserving stellar conformation or spectacular performance; in fact, in breeds with small gene pools, bringing in genetic diversity from outside the breed is preferable to breeding dogs with questionable temperaments.

So the question "Is this dog's problem genetic?" may not be meaningful, because all behavior problems are caused by genetic risk plus life experiences. However, the question "Can this dog be helped?" absolutely is.

*Continued on Page 3*



## BRAGS!

- Echo and Barb Sahl recently earned a Novice and Intermediate Trick Dog Titles (NTD and ITD) from Do More With Your Dog.
- Ducky and Cindy Germain got their Farm Dog Certification

## Cheyenne Kennel Club General Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2019 — Pioneer Park Center

Meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm

**Minutes:** MSP to approve November General meeting minutes as published in the Dec Pooches' Post

**Treasurers Report:** \$350 in AKC fees were paid in 2018. MSP to approve as presented

**Corresponding Secretary:** Application was received, will be discussed in board meeting, February general meeting.

**Guests introductions:** No guests

**Member Applications:** Jerry & Jill Sweeney – 3rd reading - unanimously approved. Welcome Jim and Jill!  
Kay Allen – 2nd reading

### Committee Reports:

**Education:** JoLynn: Kay Allen will help distribute books

### Old Business:

Any new information on status of Fair Board and/or Archer Complex? JoLynn: CKC is scheduled at the Archer Complex for 2020, 2021

### New Business:

#### **Swearing in of Board & Officers by: Annalisa Linch**

President – Bonnie Spiece

Vice President – Robin Casey

Recording Secretary – Monica Turner-McPherson

Corresponding Secretary – JoLynn Hefferman

Treasurer – Barb Sahl

Board members: Cathy Anderson, Mary Flanderka, Chandra Flaim, Stacy Woita

Meeting was adjourned at 12:28

**Signed:** Barb Patterson  
*Former Recording Secretary*  
Monica Turner  
*Recording Secretary*

#### After adjournment – **Club Awards:**

- Humanitarian Award – Given by Awards Chair to Brandon Peterson and dog, Flo, for managing geese at Cheyenne city parks
- Show Chairman Award – Given by Show Chair (Stacy Woita) to Lisa Burgess
- President's Award – Given by outgoing President (Bonnie Spiece) to Robin Casey
- Club award Plaques and/or certificates were given to those whose dogs titled in 2018.

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**Genetics Continued from Page 2**—We have powerful tools at our disposal to help dogs live in this complex human world: thoughtful breeding practices, positive socialization experiences, and loving training and management. These are the tools Dr. Reisner uses with Asher to help him live a comfortable, happy life despite his fears. There's a lot we can do to make good dogs from the raw materials we're given.

Jessica Hekman, DVM, MS, completed her internship in shelter medicine at the University of Florida's Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program in 2013. She now studies the genetics of dog behavior in Illinois, where she lives with her husband and two dogs. Check out [Dr. Hekman's Facebook page](#), where posts about dog brains and behavior (and sometimes shelter medicine).

## 2019 CLUB POSITIONS

### Animal Shelter Liaison:

Robin Casey

### Specialty Club Liaison:

Cathy Anderson

### Events Committee:

Tess Galloway

### Awards Banquet & Annual Awards

### Membership Committee

Tess Galloway

### Finance & Audit Committee

Barb Sahl

## MEETING AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Corresponding Secretary Report
- Guest Introductions
- Member Applications
- Committee Reports
- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjournment
- Brags

## PENDING APPLICATION

Kay Allen



# Front Range Activities

March								
3/3	AKC	Tracking	Littleton	CO	Timberline Bassets; Chatfield; TD/TDX	O	Carol Makowski; 303-665-9007	<a href="mailto:carolmakow@aol.com">carolmakow@aol.com</a>
3/8	NACSW	NW	Montrose	CO	Mountain Dogs; Museum of the Mtns West; Elite/NW3/NW1	I/O	Jill Kovacevich 970-343-0754	<a href="mailto:mtnnosework@gmail.com">mtnnosework@gmail.com</a>
3/10	AKC	Tracking	Littleton	CO	Pembroke Welsh Corgi; Chatfield; TD/TDX	O	Lynn Kaemmerer; 303-794-9246	<a href="mailto:badblackcorgi@gmail.com">badblackcorgi@gmail.com</a>
3/15	AKC	AG	Castle Rock	CO	Palmer Divide Agility Club (PDAC); Douglas	I	Deb Lewis; 970-532-3124	<a href="mailto:LookoutTS@aol.com">LookoutTS@aol.com</a>
3/24	AKC	Tracking	Littleton	CO	Denver Foothills Tracking Assoc.; Chatfield; T	O	Lynn Kaemmerer; 303-794-9246	<a href="mailto:badblackcorgi@gmail.com">badblackcorgi@gmail.com</a>
April								
4/5	AKC	AG	Castle Rock	CO	Mile High Golden Retriever Club (MHGRC); Douglas CFG; All Breed	I	Deb Lewis; 970-532-3124	<a href="mailto:LookoutTS@aol.com">LookoutTS@aol.com</a>
4/5	NADAC	AG	Golden	CO	Mountain Dog Sports; Jefferson CGF	I	Lindsey Cooper; 303-452-2786	<a href="mailto:spot_coop@yahoo.com">spot_coop@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:mountaindog-sports@yahoo.com">mountaindog-sports@yahoo.com</a>
4/12	AKC	AG	Elbert	CO	Pikes Peak Agility Club (PPAC); Latigo Trails	I	Kelly Misegadis; 719-649-8910	<a href="mailto:hoosierboston@yahoo.com">hoosierboston@yahoo.com</a>
4/12	AKC	OB/R	Brighton	CO	Collie Club of Colorado; Adams CFG; All Breed	I	Deb Lewis; 970-532-3124	<a href="mailto:LookoutTS@aol.com">LookoutTS@aol.com</a>
4/13	AKC	B/OB/R	Brighton	CO	Terry All KC; Adams CFG	I	Onofrio Dog Shows; 405-427-8181	<a href="mailto:mail@onofrio.com">mail@onofrio.com</a>
4/12	AKC	AG	Casper	WY	Agility Club of Central Wyoming; Central Wyoming FG	I	Karen James; 307-259-2752	<a href="mailto:kkjames@bresnan.net">kkjames@bresnan.net</a>
4/19	AKC	AG	Golden	CO	Mile High Agility Club (MHAC); Jefferson CFG	I	Deb Lewis; 970-532-3124	<a href="mailto:LookoutTS@aol.com">LookoutTS@aol.com</a>
4/19	NACSW	NW	Montrose	CO	Mountain Dogs; Montrose Fairgrounds; Summit	I/O	Jill Kovacevich; 970-343-0754	<a href="mailto:mtnnosework@gmail.com">mtnnosework@gmail.com</a>
4/27	AKC	AG	Arvada	CO	Cairn Terrier Club of Denver; APEX Field House	I	Deb Lewis; 970-532-3124	<a href="mailto:LookoutTS@aol.com">LookoutTS@aol.com</a>
May								
5/3	NADAC	AG	Brighton	CO	Mountain Dog Sports; Adams CGF	O	Lindsey Cooper; 303-452-2786	<a href="mailto:spot_coop@yahoo.com">spot_coop@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:mountaindog-sports@yahoo.com">mountaindog-sports@yahoo.com</a>
5/4	AKC	OB/R	Arvada	CO	Mtn. States DTC; APEX Field House	I	Robert Miller; 303-278-8384	<a href="mailto:millerdogshows@mac.com">millerdogshows@mac.com</a>
5/3	NACSW	NW	Arvada	CO	Diane DuBose; Arvada Covenant Church; NW2/NW1	I/O	Jill Kovacevich; 970-343-0754	<a href="mailto:doubledtrials@gmail.com">doubledtrials@gmail.com</a>
5/10	AKC	AG	G. Junction	CO	Western Colorado Agility Club; Mesa CFG	O	Deb Lewis; 970-532-3124	<a href="mailto:LookoutTS@aol.com">LookoutTS@aol.com</a>
5/10	NACSW	NW	Gunnison	CO	Mountain Dogs; Pioneer Museum; Elite/NW3/NW2	I/O	Jill Kovacevich; 970-343-0754	<a href="mailto:mtnnosework@gmail.com">mtnnosework@gmail.com</a>
5/25	AKC	AG	Denver	CO	Cairn Terrier Club; Schaefer	I	Deb Lewis; 970-532-3124	<a href="mailto:LookoutTS@aol.com">LookoutTS@aol.com</a>

**Abbreviations:** AG - Agility, B - Breed (Conformation), CA - Coursing Ability, CFG - County Fairgrounds, DOC - Dog Obedience Club., DTC - Dog Training Club, FG - Fairgrounds, KC - Kennel Club, N/A - Not applicable, NW - Nosework, OB - Obedience R - Rally, UNK - Unknown