

THE HOWLDS' BUGLE



Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club

October, November, Decemberr 2024

Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club

Officers

President Sue Williams
Vice President Carol Gabriel
Secretary Andy Peterson
Treasurer Lori Finucane

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Carol Gabriel, Junko Ishihara, Allyson Hicks

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays to the Members of NCIWC and your families!

As 2024 ends, the NCIWC board thanks all of you for joining us for a wonderful year of Irish Wolfhound entertainment, shows, coursing, walks and much more. All our events were well attended by members. Our specialty in October was much fun. We hope you enjoyed the events as we did.

As 2025 approaches, we again have many choices for you. Whether you have one wolfhound couch potato, or many more, we have events that you will enjoy. The Howliday Pawty will be held at Dillon's Beach on January 1. The Gathering of the Cu has been moved this year to coincide with our Monterey Beach Walk on the weekend of January 18 and 19. The St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held in SF on March 15, and two lure courses will be held March 1 and 2 in Fairfield. These events all happen within the first three months of 2025!

Also mark your calendar now for our fun B match scheduled for May 17 in Vacaville. We will have a fancier from Mexico judging, and there will be many activities in addition to conformation for you to enjoy.

For all events and information go to our website at www.NCIWC.org. And if you haven't yet, create a member account.

Here is a poem by Shel Silverstone that you may enjoy. Although I have to say my wolfhounds would probably just lick Santa and ask for treats!

Christmas Dog poem By Shel Silverstein

*Tonight's my first night as a watchdog,
And here it is Christmas Eve.
The children are sleepin' all cozy upstairs,
While I'm guardin' the stockin's and tree.*

*What's that now--footsteps on the rooftop?
Could it be a cat or a mouse?
Who's this down the chimney?
A thief with a beard--
And a big sack for robbin' the house?*

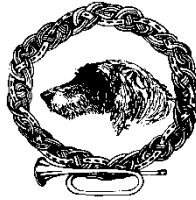
*I'm barkin' I'm growlin' I'm bittin' his butt.
He howls and jumps back in his sleigh.
I scare his strange horses, they leap in the air.
I've frightened the whole bunch away.*

*Now the house is all peaceful and quiet again,
The stockin's are safe as can be.
Won't the kiddies be glad when they wake up tomorrow
And see how I've guarded the tree.*

Happy 2025 to you all.

Sue Williams
NCIWC President





NCIWC Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 24, 2024 6:00pm to 8:00pm (via Zoom)

Meeting Start Time: 6:02 pm

Attendance: Sue Williams, Carol Gabriel, Andy Peterson, Lori Finucane, Junko Ishihara, Cindy Steele, Trini Zavala, Mary Sharkey Christian, Frank Christian, Lynne Rosebrock, Jim Bouziane, Kerri Shandro, Barb Patterson, Dick Jolley, Blake Matheson, Bill Clawson, Frank and Mary Mesa

Acceptance of previous Minutes:

Motion by Carol Gabriel to accept previous minutes of Seconded by Cindy Steele, then unanimously approved by board.

President's Report : Sue Williams thanked everyone for their hard work regarding the Specialty and mentioned she heard from many people who thought the show went really well. Since many of the show topics are covered further into the meeting, she didn't get into any details in her report.

Secretary's Report: Andy's report was again brief, stating he'd forwarded some various documents sent by the AKC to the board.

Treasurer's Report: Lori Finucane sent out an updated financial report. She said the club has a net negative from specialty of approximately \$2,700 after spending about \$12,500 on the show. There might be a few more outstanding bills to be paid. She said the Boutique sales were lower than last year. It was explained that fluctuations in sales can be expected from year to year. Carol was thanked for all her hard work setting up the baskets and auction items. Carol made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Cindy and it was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2024 Post Specialty Reports:

Specialty Chair report: Lynne Rosebrock talked about the successful show, but was concerned about the net loss. Ways were discussed to increase revenue, including raising the entry fees, RV fees, and the price of the dinner. An increase of \$5 for entries (approximately 80 entries per day) and for RV fees was tabled until the next board meeting. Jim Bouziane thought the dinner price could be raised because people who attend the dinner want to hear the judges' comments and that's worth paying a little extra - the club secretary is paraphrasing Jim's comment here. It was suggested the comped meals for the photographer aren't necessary as the photographer makes money from photo sales. The welcome bags could be less expensive to make, or be eliminated altogether. A backup judge might be needed for the 2025 show. Dates for the 2025 show need to be confirmed for the Yolo County Fairgrounds.

Co-chair/Performance Chair report: Cindy Steele reported rally entries were good. She needs at least one more person on the All Star Hound Committee. "Alloy's" name will be engraved on the trophy.

Specialty Lure course: Junko Ishihara said entries were pretty good this year and there were several last-minute entries. The Ridgeback club had a good turnout. Lynne said we need to promote the lure coursing to our club more. Jim Bouziane offered a suggestion of announcing the events after the National Anthem along with periodic announcements during the show. Lynne said she would work on a pre-written script for the announcer.

Hospitality: Sue Williams, Junko Ishihara, Kay Paz & Cindy. The lunches and judges dinner went well. Everyone said the dinner had excellent food. The water bottles on ice were appreciated by all. Lori Finucane said we didn't lose any money on the dinners. It was nearly a break-even event.

Auction/Raffle: Carol Gabriel is retiring from the Chair. Next year, Ally Hicks is going to help along with Anne Simpson. This year's sales were good, but the club could always use more donations of items.

Trophies: Robin McInerny was not present so Lynne Rosebrock made the report. More trophies for the top awards need to be made,

ie, BOB, BOS, SEL D, SEL B. The club has enough of the smaller medallions for another show, but trophy-chairs and other larger medallions items need to be reordered.

Boutique: Lisa Burr was not present so Trini Zavala lead the discussion. There was a possibility the shirts and goods purchased via the website wouldn't arrive in time to be worn at the show. It was suggested it might be better to just pick up pre-ordered shirts at the show. There was some discussion of eliminating .

Heart Clinic: Wendy Jepsen will take the lead as the new Chair. Next year's has not yet been determined.

Specialty Grounds setup: Andy gave a brief report on the using the new popup system. With 4-5 people helping, it took about 45 minutes to raise the popups and about 20-30 minutes to break them down and store them. They fit into the trailer easily. The consensus seems to be positive about the new system. There was discussion about the upgrading the PA system. Even though the judges used a mic, people in the back still couldn't hear clearly enough. Andy is going to do some research and figure out a better method for the indoor PA setup (The outdoors system worked okay with a wired mic.) It was agreed that most of the issue indoors had to do with people talking during the speakers. Two "hall monitors" are needed to walk around and ask people to stop their conversations when the speakers are talking.

Specialty RV: Frank and Mary went over some electrical issues a few RVers had, but overall the RV parking went smoothly. Frank thought a marginal increase (5\$) in the RV fee wouldn't be too big a deal.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Fun Match in May: Mary Sharkey, the show Chair, gave a brief report about a May 17th match at Pena Adobe Park. The club hired a judge residing in Mexico, Ethel Berns, for the match.

Bugle: Robin Burchett is not present so no Bugle issues were discussed.

Legislation: Kathy Bowler wasn't present, so no report was given.

Website: Jim Bouziane will look into a premium-list issue on the website – a link to the ASFA premium list.

Membership: Ally spoke about two potential members. Maryanne Castilaw and Susan Tank.

A motion was made by Carol and seconded by Lori to accept the new members which was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Accepting payment via Stripe: NCIWC can now accept payment with Stripe similarly to how we used Square at last year's specialty.

NEW BUSINESS

List of 2024-25 Calendar Events Andy hasn't completed it yet, but he's working on getting it finished by the first week in November.

Nominating Committee: Kay Paz is the chair with Dick Jolley, Trini Zavala. and Jim Williams as members.

Gathering of the Cu: Combining the Monterey Beach Walk and Cu into one weekend event was discussed (on a trial basis) and it was deemed a good idea. The dates of January 18th for the Cu and January 19th for the Beach Walk were agreed upon. Blake Matheson is working on the location of the Gathering somewhere in Monterey and will let the board know what he finds. Royal Arches Park was floated as a backup location for the Cu. Lynne suggested dedicating the weekend festivities to Lois. A motion was made by Cindy to formally approve the dates of January 18th & 19th with a Cu location TBD. Carol seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Next meeting date: February (TBD)

Cindy made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second Carol and the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote of the board.

Adjourned at: 8:08 pm

BRAGS!! BRAGS!! BRAGS!! Those who bragged, don't forget to pay your donation on the website or send a check to Lori.

NCIWC New Members Page

Read In October 3, 2023

**Jenna Bush
21884 Rough and Ready Hwy
Rough and Ready, CA 95975
(530) 386-6030
jennarides14@hotmail.com**

IW:

Sponsors: Ally Hicks & Sue Williams



**Tim & Chris Petro
473 Felkner Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527
(925) 426-8471
TimPetro1@comcast.net**

IW

Sponsor: Chris Bergman & Mary Sharkey

**Kerri Shandro & James Bouziane
23420 Bear Creek Road
Bend, OR 97701
(831) 588-7405
jbouziane@me.com**

IW

Sponsors: Ally Hicks & Sue Williams

December 12, 2024

Dear NCIWC Members:

The NCIWC Nominating Committee consisting of Chair Kay Paz, Trina Zavala, Richard Jolly, and alternate Jim Williams.

It is important that the board is comprised from a balance of interests and opinions. Board members should be individuals, who will stand up for their convictions, are respected by and respectful of the membership, are able to work cooperatively and effectively with others. We are asking the membership to help the committee develop a list of potential candidates that will meet these criteria from which the committee can select its nominees. Please remember that all suggested individuals must be active members.

The positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors. If you would like to be placed on the slate of candidates for any of these positions, or would like to recommend someone with their approval, please let one of the Nominating Committee members know via email or telephone.

Please submit your suggestions to the nominating committee by December 31, 2024. See contact information for the Nominating Committee below. Thank you for your time, consideration, and input.

Sincerely,

Kay Paz, 2025 NCIWC Nominating Committee Chair

Kay Paz: kaypaz7@gmail.com 408-670-4476

Trina Zavala: trinazavala@yahoo.com 510-612-1121

Richard Jolly: richardejolly@gmail.com 714-323-1423

Jim Williams: jim.glenneyrie@gmail.com 916-759-8535



SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR WITH DOUBLE FUN!

THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE CU - Saturday 1/18/25

AND

THE MONTEREY BEACH WALK - Sunday 1/19/25

**THIS WEEKEND'S EVENTS ARE DEDICATED TO
LOIS HALL THOMASSON.**

**LOIS DEVOTED 70 YEARS OF HER LIFE TO THE IRISH
WOLFHOUND BREED AND CALLED THE MONTEREY
PENINSULA HER HOME FOR MORE THAN 5 DECADES.**

**THE CU WILL BE HELD ON PRIVATE PROPERTY
PROVIDED BY BLAKE MATHESON,
LOCATED AT 180 BARNET SEGAL, MONTEREY, CA 93940
The Judge will by Lani Powers**

The Monterey Beach Walk information is on the following page.

SUNDAY, ENJOY THE ANNUAL MONTEREY BEACH WALK

This is a fun event for you and your dog(s). You will be strolling along raised walkways overlooking the scenic Monterey Bay as well as through the historic Cannery Row. Lunch will be available for purchase at the London Bridge Pub and yes, the dogs are invited too!)

DATE: Sunday, January 19, 2025

MEETING TIME: 11:00 AM

STARTING POINT: London Bridge Pub, 256 Figueroa St., Monterey <https://lbpmonterey.com/>

We will begin with lunch at the Pub. An outdoor patio area will be reserved for us from opening (11 am) until 11:45 am. After that available space will be open to the public.

After lunch, the plan is to walk from the Fisherman's Wharf parking lot to Lover's Point and back. This is 5-miles roundtrip. For those who choose to walk a shorter distance, options are available.

The Fisherman's Wharf parking lot has kiosks where you can pay for parking. An all-day pass is \$12.00

Please remember to bring water and "poop bags" for your dog(s).

There will be at least one support vehicle with bottled water to meet us at several points along the route, and in case of emergency, a ride for walker and dog(s) will be available back to the start.

Please call Kay Paz at 408-670-4476 so she can give the Pub an approximate head count for lunch.

T-Shirts, stickers, tote bags and mugs
featuring wonderful AI photos
by IW owner Pat Fish



Pat Fish



Available at:

<https://www.redbubble.com/people/patfish/shop>

Updated Guidelines for Performing CPR on Dogs Hoped to Save More Canine Lives

Quality chest compressions and new breathing support methods are critical.

The survival rate for dogs in the hospital who stop breathing and undergo CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) is low. Fewer than 6 percent make it out alive. In an effort to improve the odds, researchers participating in an initiative known as RECOVER— Reassessment Campaign on Veterinary Resuscitation—combed through almost 1,400 studies to ascertain which methods work best.

The result is the first set of major revisions to the guidelines on CPR for canines since 2012. The new RECOVER guidelines have been published by researchers from veterinary institutions across the country, including Tufts' own emergency and critical care veterinarian Elizabeth Rozanski, DVM, a member of our Your Dog editorial board.

Currently, unlike medical professionals for people, medical professionals for dogs are not required to become certified in CPR. But the RECOVER guidelines have led to a rapid growth in CPR certification for veterinary professionals. Agonal gasps are a "no" for breathing and indicate that CPR should begin.

Anyone doing mouth-to-snout resuscitation while compressions are being performed should wear a tight-fitting mask to help cut down on possible transmission of zoonotic diseases (diseases that can jump species). In the rare instance that CPR is performed outside a hospital setting and a tight-fitting mask is not available, someone with a high risk of infection either because of low immunity or age should do chest compressions only and forgo breathing into the dog's airway. Chest compressions should be performed in uninterrupted cycles of 2 minutes before another breathing assessment is made. And they should be performed at a rate of 100 to 120 compressions a minute. (One anecdotal recommendation is to sing Stayin' Alive as you go in order to keep the pace.)

Different techniques are advised for different shapes and sizes of dogs. Wide-chested dogs (such as English bulldogs) can receive CPR while lying on their back, just like people. It's a natural position for them. The heels of the hands are "stacked" as they push down, just as they would be for a person. But most dogs getting CPR should be lying on their sides, with the person pushing on the dog's chest while standing behind its back.

For medium to very-large breed dogs, the heels of the compressor's hands should also "stack," or over-lap. For dogs in that size range that

are keel-chested, the compressor's overlapping hands should be placed with the heels directly over the dog's heart. For round-chested dogs of that size like retrievers, the compressor's overlapping hands should be placed with the heels over the widest portion of the thorax—the region between the neck and the abdomen.

For small dogs, such 2-handed chest compressions are literally too heavy-handed. They could over-compress the heart as well as unnecessarily damage the ribs and other parts of the chest. One hand may very well be wide enough to wrap around the dog's chest. Hand placement in such cases can be:

- A) The circumferential, 2-thumb technique, which compresses the heart between the thumbs and the continuing from page 4 opposing flat fingers of the hands.
- B) The I-handed technique, which compresses the heart between the thumb and the flat fingers of the dominant hand wrapped around from underneath, while the non-dominant hand braces the dog from above.

Hospital versus other places

We sometimes see or hear stories in the media of a dog being brought back from the brink by a heroic fireman or other person. But such instances are quite rare. Dogs who stop breathing and might benefit from CPR are much more frequently in the hospital and either have a disease or are undergoing an operation and have experienced cardiac arrest because of a complication from the anesthesia. The silver lining in that is that even though veterinary medical professionals are not required to learn how to perform CPR on their patients, many are in fact certified in the procedure. Thus, with the new guidelines based on voluminous research into what works and what doesn't, it is Step 2. The compressions themselves should be only somewhat deep, with the hand pressing the chest down to a depth that equals one quarter the width of the thorax (essentially the chest cavity). The chest should come fully back up between compressions you should not push down again until there has been what scientists call "full elastic recoil." Otherwise, you're not sending blood through the circulatory system as completely as possible, so the dog has less chance of regaining consciousness.

Step 3. Ventilation (Mouth-to Snout). Hold the dog's mouth closed tightly and place yours over the animal's nostrils to make a seal with the snout, then blow into the nostrils. Start with 30 compressions followed by two breaths. Lose as little time as possible between the breaths and the next set of compressions.

Step 4. Get the dog to the hospital. If the dog does not respond after about five two-minute cycles, the odds are very low that she will. Still, conscious or not, get her to the emergency room immediately. A

veterinary facility has machinery and medications that will facilitate treatment, giving her a better chance of long-term survival.

Tufts Your Dog November 2024





**IF YOU'RE LUCKY,
A DOG WILL COME
INTO YOUR LIFE,
STEAL YOUR HEART,
AND CHANGE
EVERYTHING.**

How Changes in Weather Can Affect Your Dog's Mood

By Anna Burke

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Have you ever noticed that your dog's mood shifts with the weather? Storms, heat, cold, and the changing seasons affect our dogs, just like they affect us. Most dogs can even sense when the weather is about to change.

But how does hot weather affect dogs, and how does cold weather affect dogs? Understanding the impact of these changes on your dog can help you prepare your canine companion for the forecast ahead.

Changing Seasons

How does hot weather affect dogs? When the temperature heats up, some dogs rejoice, while others seek out cool, shady spots where they can rest. Though all dogs can be susceptible to hot weather hazards, certain dog breeds may be less heat-tolerant than others.

Brachycephalic breeds, such as Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Pugs, and Boston Terriers, do best when staying cool in hot weather because they can have difficulty breathing in extreme heat. Large breeds are also susceptible to heat, as are longhaired breeds like the Komondor, Afghan Hound, and Alaskan Malamute. If you own a breed like these, you may find that your dog is not as active in hot weather or as willing to engage in play and other activities.

Some dogs may even get snappish in very hot weather and may want more space and less petting. A group of researchers in Beijing, China found that the frequency of emergency room visits for dog bites in a major hospital increased when temperatures were highest. In very hot weather, you may want to minimize interactions between your dog and strangers, including children.

How does cold weather affect dogs? Colder climates, on the other hand, are where Northern breeds like American Eskimo Dogs, Samoyeds, and Siberian Huskies thrive. Longhaired or double-coated breeds like German Shepherd Dogs, Saint Bernards, Great Pyrenees, and Newfoundlands typically enjoy cooler weather, too. They often become more active and playful during the winter months.

In contrast, some dogs, such as Italian Greyhounds, Greyhounds, hairless breeds, toy breeds, senior dogs, and dogs with conditions such

as hypothyroidism, Cushing's disease, or arthritis, may become less active or playful during winter months.

Relocating to a New Climate

Seasons usually change gradually, giving your dog time to adjust.

Relocating to an entirely new climate, however, can cause sudden shifts in your pup's mood. Depending on your dog's breed, you may notice that they become more or less active, and some dogs even show signs of irritation if the weather makes them too uncomfortable.

A move to a cold climate can be shocking for dogs that are not used to chilly temperatures. Some pups seek out warm places, like heating vents, blankets, or your bed, and you might notice your canine companion becoming cuddlier in the cold.

Whether it's hot or cold, understanding the cause of your dog's sudden lethargy or increased activity level can help you determine if the change in mood is circumstantial or medical. Lethargy is a common symptom of many illnesses and should be taken seriously, so make sure your dog is not exhibiting any other abnormal signs. If they are, consult your veterinarian immediately.

Helping Your Dog Adjust

If your dog gets grumpy in the heat, don't worry. There are things you can do to make them more comfortable and lower their risk of heatstroke.

- Avoid taking your dog for walks during the hottest parts of the day.
- Make sure they have plenty of fresh water and shade available at all times.
- Raised canvas platform dog beds offer a cooling alternative to traditional beds, and you can even invest in cooling mats or dog-friendly swimming pools for particularly heat-intolerant dogs.
- If you don't have air conditioning, adjust a fan so that your dog has access to a nice, cool breeze.
- Never leave a dog unattended in an enclosed vehicle or in a warm environment that does not have good air circulation.
- Beware of walking your dog over hot sidewalks, streets, sand, or other hot surfaces.
- Although swimming is a great way to get exercise on a hot day, and most dogs can swim, never leave your dog unsupervised around a pool or in any body of water.

You can also help your dog acclimate to the cold. Put a limit on outdoor time, and be sure to clean the salt and ice balls off of your dog's paws when you come inside.

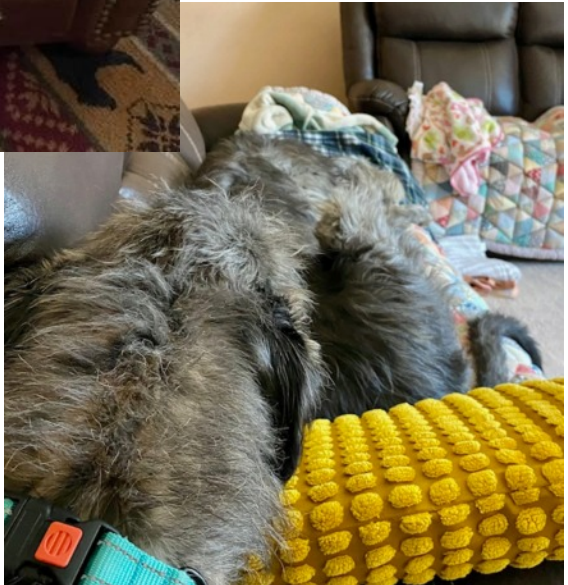
Depending on your dog's coat type, you might also want to dress them in something warm. With so many dog sweaters, jackets, raincoats, and booties to choose from, keeping your dog warm is easier than ever. However, it's important to note that you should never leave an item of clothing on an unsupervised dog. And anything you do put on your canine companion should fit properly (not too tight or too loose). *This article is intended solely as general guidance, and does not constitute health or other professional advice. Individual situations and applicable laws vary by jurisdiction, and you are encouraged to obtain appropriate advice from qualified professionals in the applicable jurisdictions. We make no representations or warranties concerning any course of action taken by any person following or otherwise using the information offered or provided in this article, including any such information associated with and provided in connection with third-party products, and we will not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, special, exemplary or other damages that may result, including but not limited to economic loss, injury, illness or death.*

Internet





They make great
Watch Dogs



Bridging the Communication Gap

If only we could translate our dogs' communications with more precision so we could better tend to their physical and emotional needs. It's coming. *

Researchers are starting to use speech processing models that decipher human speech—for such purposes as voice-to text and translation from one language to another—to distinguish between the nuances of canine vocalizations and thereby get a better handle on what they mean. Drilling deeper into tone and pitch might be better able to help us understand the difference between "There's a dog passing the house, and I'm freaked out about it" and "There's a dog passing the house, and I think I've seen him before and want to meet him up close. "

The work is being conducted by investigators at the University of Michigan, who are collaborating with scientists at Mexico's National Institute of Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics. They are using AI models originally programmed for technologies that unpack human speech in their effort to develop new systems targeting canine communication. Applying the science of capturing human communication patterns to unravel those of dogs may actually help speed up the process.

Internet



Happy Tail Syndrome

When lots of tail wagging can

What dog lover doesn't enjoy the sight of an exuberant pet's vigorously wagging tail? The thing is, if the tail keeps smacking against walls, furniture, or other hard surfaces, the skin can break open at the tip. It bleeds, often with blood spraying all over. It's also painful—and difficult to heal. Worse, it's apt to keep recurring. Every time the wound scabs over, it easily opens up the next time the tail goes thumping against a firm surface. "We see cases like this a couple of times a month," says Tufts emergency and critical care veterinarian Elizabeth Rozanski, DVM, who tends to cases at our Foster Hospital for Small Animals.

Good-sized dogs with long, thin tails that they can wag with great vigor and that don't have a lot of hair to cushion them are the most prone to develop Happy Tail Syndrome. Think: greyhounds, pointers, Dalmatians, and Labrador retrievers. But thicker-tailed dogs can be victims, too, including cocker spaniels and Irish Wolfhounds.

The syndrome sometimes takes off in a dog kept in a confined space like a crate, where there's not room for the tail to wag without hitting the sides. But repeated flapping against surfaces around the house can bring it on, too.

Treatment is tricky

Because a dog's tail tip is so vulnerable, efforts to heal one that has broken open and possibly ulcerated are not terribly easy. The American Kennel Club recommends cleansing the wound with saline or a medical wound cleanser, keeping the wound moist (perhaps with hydrophilic gel), and wrapping the entire area (but not too tightly). You also need to keep the dog from getting to the bandage, either with a collar around his neck that keeps him from reaching to the back of his tail or using some ingenuity with toilet paper rolls, pool noodles, or other soft items. Some people even rig a sling to keep the tail from moving. A vet visit is worthwhile to see if antibiotic ointment would be a good idea, or maybe some other treatments in the veterinary arsenal.

Preventing recurrence

Some people whose dogs have been victims of Happy Tail Syndrome have coated the legs of their furniture and the bottoms of walls with foam padding. There are also products you can buy that keep the tail stationary with a special harness and/or straps. But as you might

imagine, both of these are less-than-perfect solutions, either making your home unsightly or keeping your dog from acting on an involuntary instinct. That's why, in the most intractable of cases where a dog is always in pain because his tail is continuously ripped open, tail docking may be a consideration.

Tufts Your Dog December 2024



Easy (and Fun!) Tricks to Teach Your Dog

If you haven't tried to teach your dog tricks before—or are looking for a fun way to spend some time with your best friend—here are a few things to try.

When it comes to tricks to teach your dog the list of possibilities is endless. The tricks included in this article assume you've done some basic training already, but as long as your dog has a sit and a down, you'll be good to go. The fun part is that these are just the beginning. Once you learn how to teach your dog, the sky's the limit.

Before diving in, it is important to note that you should never force your dog into performing a behavior. In the long run, it prevents the dog from learning and can create an aversion to the behavior you're trying to teach. If you find yourself getting frustrated, take a break and try something different.

While there are many training methods available—each with their advantages and disadvantages—I use a combination of luring and shaping to teach tricks. In my experience, training is most effective when everyone involved is engaged and having a good time!

PAW/SHAKE

1. "Shake" is a classic for a reason. In addition to being a fun trick, it's also useful for getting your dog accustomed to having his feet touched—a huge help for drama-free nail trims and vet visits. Like humans, most dogs have a side they prefer. When teaching this trick, I start with the side the dog offers first. To begin:
2. Cue your dog to sit in front of you. Put a treat in your palm and close your hand into a fist around it.
3. Hold your fist in front of the dog within easy paw reach. Somewhere between floor level and about six inches off the ground works well for most dogs, though you may have to try different heights to see what your dog responds to best.
4. Wait for your dog to move his paw. As soon as he does—even a little bit—mark it and reward him. It's a good idea to

reward him with your opposite hand (not the one you're hiding the treat in). This will make it easier for him to understand that the reward comes when he touches your hand with his paw, not his nose.

5. Reset your dog and repeat the process.
6. Once he starts to lift his paw more consistently, you can begin waiting for him to move it closer to your hand before rewarding him. Note: Many dogs jump straight to pawing at the hand with the treat. That's great for teaching this trick. Mark and reward the behavior.
7. Trouble, Don't worry! Just back up a step and let him get some more practice before trying to up the difficulty once more.
8. When he is once again putting a paw in your hand regularly, add a verbal cue. I use "paw" for the left paw and "shake" for the right.

SPIN/TWIST

For this trick, the end goal is to have your dog stand in front of you and spin in a circle. It is one of the easiest tricks to train and, as a bonus, it looks pretty cute. Here's how to teach it:

1. Stand in front of your dog with a treat or toy in your hand. You'll start by showing him the item, which is being used as a lure.
2. When he moves toward the lure, move your hand away in a slow circle in front of you.
3. As your dog follows the lure and completes the circle, mark and reward him. If he is having trouble making a full circle, you can start by marking and rewarding at the halfway point. When he is consistently doing half-turns, refrain from marking until he does a three-quarter turn; when he is consistently succeeding at three-quarter turns, hold out for full circles; this is how you "shape" the spin.
4. Repeat until he is reliably circling and then add the cue you want. I use "spin" to ask for a circle to the left and "twist" for a circle to the right.

BACK UP

Backing up on cue is another trick behavior that has many practical uses—such as asking your dog to move away from a door or getting him to give you some space when he is underfoot. To teach it:

1. Stand in front of your dog with a treat in hand. Hold the treat over his nose and take a small step toward him—this will put the treat over his head instead.
2. When he steps backward to follow the treat, mark and reward the behavior. It doesn't have to be a big step on his part. Any backward movement is good to start. You may have to stand still and wait a bit for him to figure it out.
3. Grab another treat and repeat the process. Once he is able to take one step back reliably, you can add a second step before marking and rewarding.
4. Gradually increase the number of steps before the reward.
5. When your dog can reliably do three or four steps back, add a verbal cue. I use "back."
6. Once he responds consistently to the verbal cue, fade the physical prompt of stepping toward him. If he is in trouble, don't worry! Just back up a step and let him get some more practice before trying to up the difficulty once more.

FIGURE EIGHTS

Figure eights won't work for a Great Dane or Irish Wolfhound without some adjustments, but for any dog short enough to walk through your legs, this is a cute trick. In addition to looking impressive, it is useful for developing flexibility (in dog and handler!). I work on figure eights inside or in a fenced yard since adding a leash to the mix can create a trip hazard. To begin:

1. Ask your dog to sit in front of you. Take a step to the side so your feet are a little farther than shoulder-width apart. There should be enough space between your legs for the dog to fit through easily. Make sure you are comfortable and well-balanced.
2. Hold a treat in your right hand. Hold the treat behind you low enough that your dog can see the food; mid-thigh level usually works for medium and large dogs.
3. When your dog moves toward the treat, pull it slowly back and to the right. The goal is to lure him through your legs

toward your right side. As soon as he walks through, mark and reward him. If he's uncertain about it, you can try throwing the treat or a toy behind you to add some momentum.

A note here: If your dog is reluctant to walk through your legs, absolutely do NOT straddle him or grab his collar and "help" him. While it may not seem like a big deal from the human perspective, asking a dog to walk underneath you is asking for a lot of trust on his part. If your dog isn't having fun, find another trick to teach first before returning to this one.

4. Reset and repeat the steps above until your dog is comfortably walking through your legs.
5. Once he's walking through your legs easily, have him sit in front of you again. This time, hold a treat in each hand.
6. When he walks through your legs, continue to move your right hand in a circle around your leg until it is in front of your knee. When your dog follows, mark and reward.
7. Now, hold your left hand behind you and let him see the treat. Lure him through your legs and to your left side. Mark and reward. Practice those steps, perhaps alternating the direction of his movement (right, left) until you get a smooth flow.
8. Once your dog clearly understands the process, you can add a verbal cue, "weave" in my case, and begin to fade out the lure. For very large dogs or handlers facing mobility challenges, two cones—or any similar objects—can be used in place of your legs. Just position yourself where you can lure the dog around both obstacles and follow the steps listed above.

CRAWL

I usually sit on the floor in front of my dog to teach crawl. Standing and using a target stick also works well. To start:

1. Clue your dog to lay down. Hold a treat a few inches in front of his nose and drag it slowly away along the floor. Slow is key here since you don't want him to hop up and walk toward it.

2. If he makes any movement toward the treat without standing up—such as moving just one or two paws toward the treat, or crawling forward just an inch—mark and reward.
3. Once he's reliably crawling forward a few inches, you can start gradually extending the distance and adding the verbal cue "crawl."
4. Fade the lure once he is consistently responding to the cue. Once I've gotten "crawl" established as a cue, I expand the game by setting up obstacles for my dogs to crawl under—most often I sit on the couch, prop my feet on a stool and ask the dog to crawl under my raised legs.

I use the same steps for training a dog to go under an obstacle as I do for a no-obstacle crawl. Again, don't force a dog who is reluctant or hasn't figured it out yet; while it might be tempting to give a gentle push to the shoulder if they won't stay down, it's far better to let him figure it out himself. Not only will he learn the behavior better, you'll also avoid creating an unpleasant experience that could sour him on it.

Definitions

Lure, Luring The luring Technique uses toys or treats to guide the dog to do what you want.

Mark, Marker Is a verbal reward used to draw the dog's attention to the handler.

Cue Audible signal, or hand gesture or handler's change of position to reward for good behavior.

Reset Go back to the starting position

Shaping Is a training technique that reinforces incremental steps toward a desired behavior.

DON'T FORGET TO HAVE FUN!

Some of the best tricks my dogs have learned over the years started as pure silliness. Among other things, my 2-year-old Airedale, Carmen, has learned a few dance moves. While there are plenty of behaviors we worked on with a plan and specific goals in mind, these evolved organically when she showed an interest in what I was doing and, since it made me laugh, I decided to reinforce it.

The dance moves began when Carmen was about 5 month-old. My sister was dancing around the apartment and the puppy was fascinated. She started tracking my sister's arm movements, which resulted in a floppy-eared head bob. Not only was it absolutely adorable, I loved how closely the puppy was watching and responding. I grabbed treats and we had an

impromptu dance party where we rewarded her for following along. With time and repetition, it evolved into several specific hand signals and behaviors—including the head bob, stepping in time, and a forward step-back-step combo.

The moral of this silly story is, "Don't be afraid to play with your dog! Try new things and reward behaviors you want to keep. Fun and excitement are powerful training tools for humans and dogs alike.

Kate O'Connor is WDI's Executive Editor. She grew up in a family that bred and showed Airedales and has worked as a groomer, trainer, kennel manager, and vet hospital care attendant. Kate and her dogs participate in rally and agility.

Whole Dog Journal July and August 2024



NCIWC Calendar

*If you have an activity to add here, please let me know -
Editor, Robin Burchett tory_iw@att.net (925) 566-4171*

Conformation and Obedience

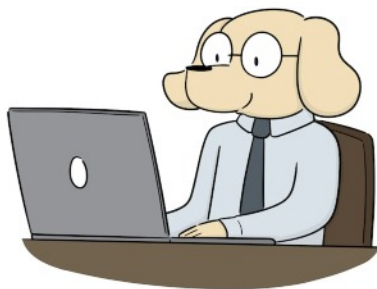
Feb 14, 15, 16 2025	Sun Maid KC	Fresno
March 13, 14, 15, 16, 2025	Shasta KC	Anderson
March 21, 2025	San Mateo KC	Woodland
March 22, 23 2025	Oakland KC	Woodland
March 27, 28, 30 2025	Kern County KC	Bakersfield
March 29, 2025	San Luis Obispn KC	Bakersfield
April 12, 13 2025	Sacramento KC	Lodi
April 25, 26 2025	Redwood Empire KC	Woodland
April 27, 2025	Chief Solano KC	Woodland

Fast Cat

March 8, 2025	Two Cities	Sutter
March 15, 16, 28 2025	Vallejo Dog Training	Elk Grove
March 18, 2025	SSIB	Elverta
April 10, 11 2025	NC Sporting Group	Lodi
April 12, 13 2025	Sacramento KC	Lodi

Lure Coursing

March 1 2025	NCIWC ASFA	Fairfield
March 2, 2025	NCIWC AKC	Fairfield
March 29, 30 2025	SSIB AKC	Elverta



The Founders' Bugle

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