

Puppy Sociability Factors

In the May issue of *Psychology Today*, Dr. Stanley Coren discussed a study conducted by a Swedish University. The University had access to canine mothers and puppies in a Military Dog breeding program. The study measured the amount of time mothers spent in contact with the puppies. At 14 weeks, the puppies were measured for Social Engagement (sociability), Physical Engagement (interaction with objects), and Fortitude (reaction to something threatening.)

The results confirmed that puppies receiving the greatest amount of maternal care scored highest in these three personality measures.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/canine-corner/201605/does-mother-love-play-role-in-rearing-better-dogs>

Spike Weatherwax - Movie Dog

We discussed the story of Pal as the movie dog "Lassie" in the newsletter several years ago. Recently I found that the another Weatherwax dog named Spike starred in several movies. Spike appeared as "Old Yeller", and also in "The Dog of Flanders" and several other movies. The story of Old Yeller was being serialized in The Saturday Evening Post at about the same time that Frank Weatherwax - brother to Rudd Weatherwax, "Lassie" trainer - found Spike, a Labrador/Mastiff mix at the Van Nuys Animal Shelter and adopted him for \$3. Frank called Disney to get Spike an audition for the Yeller role. Everyone at the studio thought Spike was too cute and goofy to act like a dog capable of protecting his family from threats. But Spike demonstrated his incredible trained "acting" skills and won the part.

<http://americacomesalive.com/2014/08/18/old-yeller-played-spike-labmastiff-mix/#.VOImwpErl2w>

[http://disney.wikia.com/wiki/Spike_\(dog\)](http://disney.wikia.com/wiki/Spike_(dog))



Center for Pet Safety: Booster Seats

In October 2015 the Center for Pet Safety released their study of four pet travel or sometimes referred to as "booster" seats. These are popular for smaller dogs to let them see out of windows or bring them into human line of sight in the car.

Unfortunately, none of the seats tested performed well. A crash test sled and 30 lb. dog mannequins were used. The video results are available here:

<http://www.centerforpetsafety.org/test-results/pet-seat-pilot-study/>

A written summary of the study is available here:

<http://www.centerforpetsafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Subaru-CPS-Pet-Travel-Seat-Pilot-Study-Press-Release-FINAL1.pdf>

The Center continues to recommend that pets travel in a tested crate or carrier or tested harness. The Sleepypod Clickit Sport appears to be the best-rated vehicle harness currently available. If you study the design you'll notice how the harness spreads the restraint across various points in the dog's torso instead of exerting a lot of force in one area. The retail price on this is around \$75. NEVER use a restraint system that attaches to a collar, which would exert all force on the neck.

<http://sleepypod.com/clickit-sport>

VitusVet Pet Records on the Web

My vet recently made records for Max and Callie available through the VitusVet web site and mobile app. I can easily see all the prescriptions and vaccinations that were given for the last two years. This is great info to have accessible in addition to what is stored on the pet sitter's web site and the microchip registration sites. Take the time to review and update any necessary information stored on the web pertaining to your furry family members.

<http://vitusvet.com/for-general-practitioner/>

Association for Pet Obesity Prevention

Is it time for a weigh-in? According to this web site, an estimated 54% of dogs are overweight or obese in the United States. Check out the nifty tools, trackers and calculators on this web site. As a reminder, a "standard" Shetland Sheepdog is 13-16" and weighs 14-27 lbs.

<http://www.petobesityprevention.org/>

Arthritis Symptoms Checklist

Limps after exercise
Is reluctant to jump into the vehicle
Doesn't want to go for a walk, walks slower, or not as far
Stiff, particularly after getting up from resting for a while
Rests more often
Seems to be in pain during cold weather
Is reluctant to climb or descend stairs
Won't jump on sofa or bed anymore
Has lost interest in food
Does not want to sit or stand - would rather lie down
Bites at certain joints on leg
Seems "depressed"
Is uncomfortable when touched, especially on hips or tail
Does not seem comfortable when squatting to eliminate.

Vanguard CrLyme Vaccine

My veterinarian is now offering the Zoetis Vanguard CrLyme vaccine. This vaccine operates differently than previous Lyme vaccines. If your Sheltie is getting a lot of tick exposure you may want to read all the details.

<https://www.zoetisus.com/products/dogs/vanguard-crlyme/>

Nearsightedness in Older Canines

A new study by the Purina Research Center in Missouri indicates that our dogs become more nearsighted as they age.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/canine-corner/201604/how-the-visual-abilities-dogs-change-age>

“Bark” Ranger Gracie the Border Collie

Glacier National Park Conservancy in Montana has funded training for Border Collie “Gracie” to manage goats and sheep at the park, keeping them away from the parking areas and public. The park is already using Karelian Bear dogs to air-scent for bears near communities and encourage bears to leave by their barking and handler presence.

<http://www.akc.org/news/bark-ranger-national-park/>

The National Park service celebrates 100 years on August 25, 2016.

Hot Dog Treats

Use your microwave to dry hot dogs and make dog treats.

1. Slice hot dogs about the shape of a nickel
2. Place a paper towel on microwave-safe plate.
3. Put hot dog slices on the paper towel, not touching each other.
4. Cover with a second paper towel.
5. Microwave in one minute increments until the pieces look dry. Time will vary depending on your microwave.
6. Cut each dried piece into 4-6 pieces. Kitchen scissors work well for this.

Hot dogs contain a lot of salt. One method to reduce the salt content is to split the hot dogs lengthwise and soak overnight in cold water to remove some of the salt. Then proceed to dry in the microwave.

This author says you can use the same process with bologna. She also suggests storing some cereal such as Cheerios or Rice Chex with the dried hot dogs. They will absorb the flavor and can also be used as treats.

<http://www.shirleychong.com/recipes.html>

Parkour for Dogs

This might be described as agility on steroids. (Also spelled parkour.) It is “a sport or activity in which the participant moves quickly and fluidly through an area ... by surmounting obstacles ... and leaping across open spaces.” See the video of Neo performing parkour in the UK. Amazing.

<http://www.akc.org/content/entertainment/articles/parkour-pup-will-absolutely-blow-your-mind/>

The International Dog Parkour Association has more description and information.

<http://www.dogparkour.org/>

Canine Cruises

Potomac River Boat Company is still offering cruises with your Sheltie, departing from the Alexandria, VA dock one Saturday per month. Dogs ride free. See the schedule.

<http://www.potomacriverboatco.com/canine-cruise.php>

<http://cruisesonthebay.com/> offers dog-friendly cruises out of Annapolis, MD. Dogs ride free.

Virginia Companion Animal Licensing Procedures Study

Summary – Requesting VA dog owners please fill out the attached survey concerning dog licensing. **Under consideration are using microchips as licenses and creating a statewide database of licensed dogs. Return surveys before July 1, 2016.**

The **Companion Animal Licensing Procedures** study group is underway. It is mandated in Delegate Bobby Orrock’s House Joint Resolution – HJ 160 “*to study Virginia’s procedures for licensing of dogs and cats*”; and to “*assess the feasibility of establishing a statewide system for recording rabies vaccinations and licensing that may include a statewide database of licensed companion animals that can be remotely accessed by animal control officers in the field.*” The Treasurers Association requested this study. Even though the resolution talks about all companion animals one of the first study group decisions was to limit our efforts to just dogs. Here is the link for the complete resolution – <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+ful+HJ160ER>

The study has put together survey for 4 groups – County/City Treasures, veterinarians, animal control officers and the public – Virginia dog owners specifically. **The VA Federation is assisting in gathering surveys from VA dog owners.**

There are two ways to do this:

- 1) Fill out the paper copy that is attached and return it to Alice Harrington or
- 2) Do it online at the link provided. Results will go to the VVMA for tabulating and providing the results to the Study Director. Link- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/dograbieslicense>

If you have any questions you may contact Alice Harrington of the VFDCB at aharrington4832@verizon.net.

Many thanks for your help in this effort!

Alice

Alice Harrington

VFDCB

aharrington4832@verizon.net

For your information here are the study participants:

Dr. Julia Murphy, DVM, MS, DACVPM – Acting Director, State Public Health Veterinarian (in the Health Dept, not VDACS) is the leader of the study.

Jaime Hawley, Piedmont Health District, Virginia Department of Health

Patricia Duttry, Three Rivers Health Department, Virginia Dept of Health

Jodi Collins, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Sharon Adams, Virginia Alliance for Animal Shelters (Public Shelters)

Paulette Dean, Danville Area Humane Association

Robin Starr, Richmond SPCA

Matthew Gray, Humane Society of the United States (HSUS, VA State Director)

Debra Griggs, Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (President)

Heidi Meinzer, Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (lawyer)

Alice Harrington, Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs and Breeders, VFDCB

Sharyn Hutchens is the alternate VFDCB representative

Susan Seward, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (lobbyist)

Margaret Rucker, President, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association

Terry Taylor, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (Past President)

Leslie Knachel, Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine

Kathy Strouse, Virginia Animal Control Association

William Tydings, Virginia Animal Control Association

Rob Leinberger, Virginia Animal Control Association

Larry Land, Virginia Association of Counties

Lindsay Reames, Virginia Farm Bureau

Scott Miller, Hanover County Treasurer, County Treasurer's Association

Richard Cordle, Virginia County Treasurer's Association

Larry Pritchett, Virginia County Treasurer's Association

April Rogers, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (to lend expertise on statewide systems and databases)

The Virginia Department of Health, in cooperation with the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, animal control officers, local treasurers, humane groups, dog clubs, and other partners, is conducting a study of dog licensing procedures in Virginia and would like to ask dog owners for their feedback in regard to this process. **Under consideration are using microchips as licenses and creating a statewide database of licensed dogs.** This study was mandated by the General Assembly – per House Joint Resolution 160 <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+ful+HJ160ER>

This survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Please circle your answers.

THANK YOU!

Return to Alice Harrington, VA Federation of Dog Clubs and Breeders, member of the study group.
Aharrington4832@verizon.net - fax number 703-536-4575

1. What is your county of residence _____?
 2. Are you aware that dogs are required to have a rabies vaccination? YES or NO
 3. Are you aware that dogs are required to be licensed by your county or city? YES or NO
 4. Is your dog microchipped? YES or NO
 5. Would you support requiring all dogs to be microchipped? YES or NO
 6. Would you support a microchip serving as your county/city license instead of the county/city tag? YES or NO
 7. Does the process of first having your dog vaccinated for rabies and then purchasing a county/city license from your local treasurer make it less likely that you will purchase a county/city license?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I thought dogs were automatically licensed when they were vaccinated for rabies.
 - d. I can buy a county license from my veterinarian after my dog is vaccinated.
 8. Would you prefer to purchase your county/city license through your veterinarian as opposed to your county/city treasurer?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Yes and I would be willing to pay a nominal fee for this convenience.
 - d. No, I do not mind purchasing my county/city license elsewhere.
 - e. I already purchase my county/city license through my veterinarian.
 9. Would you be willing to have your dog's county/city license and rabies certificate information entered into a statewide database that could be accessed by animal control officers?
 - a. Yes
 - b. Yes, as long as animal control officers found this system useful.
 - c. Yes, as long as it increased the likelihood that a lost dog could be returned to his owner more quickly.
 - d. Yes, provided the data in the system could not be released to the general public.
 - e. No
 10. Please feel free to share any general comments about county/city licensing of dogs. You may add more pages.
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Letter from the AKC Agility Department

The new AKC Agility Course Test (ACT) program is ready for a full roll-out. We hope that clubs and instructors will use this new program to share the excitement of AKC Agility with their students. This program encourages potential new exhibitors to register their dogs with the AKC and to enter their first “trial” in a comfortable environment. This program will help them learn the ins and outs of entering and showing at AKC Agility Trials and ultimately any AKC event.

ACT events may be judged by current AKC Agility Judges, AKC Agility Field Representatives and evaluators. If anyone in your club would like to become an evaluator the person must be 18 years old, have completed an AKC AX or AXP title on a dog, submit an application and complete the ACT Evaluator Quiz. All information on becoming an ACT evaluator may be found on the AKC website on the [ACT Page](#).

There are two classes – ACT 1 and ACT2 that exhibitors can enter. Clubs and trainers can adopt the ACT classes as the graduation exercise for their training classes to be held at their facility, thus providing their students a familiar and comfortable setting. The ring size requirements are small enough that ACT classes can be held in many training facilities across the country. In addition to preparing for these introductory classes, exhibitors will learn to do things such to enter an AKC event, check-in at the ring, prepare for their run, and handle their dog while under judgment. We hope that clubs and trainers will use these classes as learning experiences.

There are several elements of the ACT program that are different from AKC Agility Trials.

Eligibility to enter: Dogs that are not registered/listed with the AKC may participate and their performance will be recorded under a temporary recording number. Owners will receive a letter from the AKC explaining how they can register their dogs. Application to be listed as a Canine Partner may be accepted at the test and submitted with the results.

Holding ACT events: Any AKC agility judge/ACT evaluator may hold a stand-alone ACT event. The event does not have to be held by an AKC licensed club. AKC agility clubs may hold ACT events in conjunction with their trials if they desire.

Jump Heights: No jump height card is required to enter an ACT class. Handlers are encouraged to have their dogs jump at the appropriate height that will help them prepare for AKC Agility trials.

Event Applications: Clubs or judges/evaluators do not need to file an application for ACT events; there will be no application fee. A \$5.00 per entry recording fee for all dogs entered will be submitted with the results.

Courses: Evaluators and judges will need to submit their courses for review however courses may be reused, which we encourage for ease of administration.

Titles: Dogs must receive two passing scores to earn each of the ACT titles. Dogs are required to be fully registered/listed in order to be awarded a title.

The clubs and judges who have helped with our final testing over the past couple of months have found this new program to be an excellent way to introduce new teams to the American Kennel Club.

We are excited about working together to bring new exhibitors to the American Kennel Club.

The AKC Agility Department

Do YOU Have a NEW Email Address?

Send email address changes to
Donna Richards, PVSSC
Corresponding Secretary at
dlrcpa@verizon.net to
assure you receive club news.



June Events

- PVSSC Meeting June 20
- Take Your Dog to Work Day June 24

Meeting Refreshments

Fran Beacham is our Refreshment Coordinator. *Thanks to everyone who volunteered refreshments for 2016*

2016

June meeting – Debbie Lauritzen
August meeting – potluck picnic
September meeting – Marilyn Manser
October meeting – the O'Sheas
November meeting – Donna Richards

Reminder, beverages are not provided; water is available and there is a water/soda machine.

Happy Summer



PVSSC Breed Referral Services

For information on
puppy and adult Shelties,
contact PVSSC members



Jan Stanley

703-281-2828
janstanley@verizon.net

or

Doey Blount

301-567-3933

jimjandoey@aol.com

Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue (NVSR)



NVSR rescues, rehabilitates, and places lost, abused, and abandoned Shelties where they will be loved, protected, and well cared for.

Visit the NVSR Website <http://www.nvsr.org/> to find out about activities, dogs for adoption, to support their activities, or even to see how you can volunteer!

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