

DECEMBER, 2023



*Tailwaggers  
wish you  
a Merry  
Christmas and  
a Happy New  
Year!*

**Members and member guests are invited come to the Christmas Potluck on December 11, in the Equestrian Lounge. Doors open at 6:00. Christmas attire encouraged!! Prize for the best hat and ugliest sweater.**

# President's Message

Pam Miller



Like so many other people, Christmas brings mixed feelings with it for me. Unlike Thanksgiving, where you focus on what you are thankful for, even if there has been tragedy you think of the good times. My mom died around Thanksgiving many years ago but I remember having Thanksgiving with my brother and we remembered the good times we had with her.

However, Christmas seems different to me. It's harder to remember the good times when the hype is so focused on family and having a good time "all gathered around the tree." My brother, who doesn't really celebrate Christmas, and my son and his family that live "far away" are all that is left of my immediate family. I have to fight the feelings of missing my family and how it used to be. So I have to redo Christmas in my mind and focus again on what I am thankful for. Thank goodness I can do that.

I have a great community of friends in Bear Valley, which, even if I don't gather around their tree Christmas morning, I do feel their presence in my heart. I also get nurturing during this time of the year from my dogs, Nonni and Jazzy. They ARE gathered around my tree Christmas morning, wagging their tails and looking at their gift boxes, knowing they are getting presents!

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I hope everyone comes to the Christmas Potluck at our next meeting to share the feeling of community love that is so much a part of Christmas. I know it will make my Christmas more special to share a meal with my Tailwagger friends.



**Come to Tailwaggers Holiday Party!  
December 11, at 6:00.**

**It's a Potluck, so bring your favorite  
Holiday dish.**

**The Club will provide the Holiday Cheer  
and Atmosphere!**

# Tailwaggers Happy'ngs

## General Meetings

General meetings are the second Monday of every month, unless notified differently. We meet in the Equestrian Center lounge at 6:00 for refreshments and 6:30 for the meeting.

### December 11, Christmas Pot Luck!

Prize for the ugliest Christmas sweater or cutest hat.



**Come to Tailwaggers Holiday Party! December 11, at 6:00.**

**It's a Potluck, so bring your favorite Holiday dish.**

## Agility Division

**This division held the Last Agility Playday this Year.**

We look forward to beginning again next spring  
Contact Gary Hill, 480-216-8488, for more information.

## K9 Fitness Division

### WalkAbouts & HikeAbouts

Walkabouts and HikeAbouts on the Nature Trail and beyond will resume officially in the spring. It's a wonderful way to connect and meet new TW friends while socializing and exercising our dogs. You can join us with or without a dog.



## Training Division Events

### NEW TRAININGS!

The dates for the next series of classes will be announced in the spring. For more information, or to sign up for up-coming trainings, text/call Molly Mackin at 818-512-9836.

### NOSEWORK SERIES

**Rebecca Barocas, Competitor and Trainer in Nosework for over 10 years.**

Rebecca will be doing more classes for Tailwaggers in the spring. She is teaching Nosework classes now in Tehachapi and other locations. Contact Rebecca at 661-435-1194 to sign up or for more information.

## Dog Park Division

We have plans for giving back to the community a new tree, in place of the one that died at the dog park and refurbishing the dog park signs that are in dire need of a new coat of varnish. Look for more information about this project.

## Therapy Dog Division

### Happy Hounds and Friends Reading Program & Special Needs Resource Fair

For information about the Therapy Dog Program contact Mary Thompson at 661-972-0731 or Lauren Jaimes at 818-636-9443.



# November's Activities The Therapy Division

## Happy Hounds and Friends Reading Program at the Whiting Center & the Hospital



Molly and Casey



Loren and Tesla, showing off for the kids.



These are the epitome of great therapy dogs...They love being touched.



Guy and Iona

The Therapy Division, con't



# The Rescue Division

## Christmas Pictures with Your Pups

On Friday, November 17th nine women came together to turn the Equestrian Center into a Christmas scene for our Christmas photo shoot. It only took this hard working crew about 3 hours to do what was necessary. The backdrop this year was fantastic and Robbin Siembieda did an excellent job of taking pictures. Everyone pitched in with what needed to be done on the day of the event. Jane Tanaka showed up on the 18th to set up the refreshment table which doubled for lunch for most of the organizers. Those shown in the picture to the right are: Back row; Mel McDavid; Dot Ramirez; Jeannie Alvarado; Lucy Radike; Nancy Chefalo. Sitting; Diana Munday; Pam Miller; and Holly Bennett. Not shown here are Jane Tanaka and Robbin Siembieda (taking the picture).



Some Results:



# More Rescue Division Activities

## Adoption Event at the Whiting Center

By Molly Mackin

We want to thank these wonderful people, Matthew Buck Director, Joshua Proctor Behaviorist, Rose Candelaria, Jeannie Proctor, who came out from the City of Bakersfield Animal Care Shelter on Mt Vernon the day after Thanksgiving to bring dogs to the Cultural Arts Christmas Bazaar and TW Project Hope event to find their forever homes. We are so happy 2 out of 3 got homes and the third went to a foster home. Yay! These people are on the front lines everyday making a difference to the shelter dogs' lives. They love all the dogs like we do and are doing everything they can to get these dogs placed, sending them to Washington, Canada, and Oregon. We simply do not have enough homes for all the dogs coming into the shelter. Please thank them for their hard work and commitment. They are the true heroes in all of this! We will be going down to the shelter to walk dogs again as soon as this strange disease is under control. We would love to have you join us. Happy Holidays with love to all our TW families. Special shout out of thanks to Dot Ramirez and Michael Bird for helping all day with this event and Cultural Art's, especially Linda Coverdale, for allowing us to tag along!



Janice Gomes with her newly adopted doggie! To the left, Molly, holding Todo, and Dot Ramirez.



## Give the Shelter Dogs a Bed for Christmas



### Tailwaggers Give Hope and Service to Mt. Vernon Shelter Dogs



This year the Tailwaggers Rescue Division is focusing on helping the staff and dogs at the Kern County's City of Bakersfield Animal Care Center. This shelter is understaffed and underfunded. The shelter was originally built to contain only half the animals than are there right now.

For Thanksgiving we provided the shelter with 16 ProSelect Heavy Duty 6-Quart Stainless Steel Pails. The "Christmas present" we want to give to the shelter is Kuranda anodized aluminum outdoor dog beds that are 35"x23". They are guaranteed to last five winters. The cost is approximately \$120.87 each depending how many we buy and they need 100 beds. If you can buy a bed for a dog, let us know!! Call Molly at 818-512-9836.

# Tailwaggers Visit City Shelter As Part of Project HOPE

**Volunteers - walking dogs, playing, putting together beds, etc.**



Mary Thompson



Josh Proctor, Shelter Behaviorist



Kathy Underwood



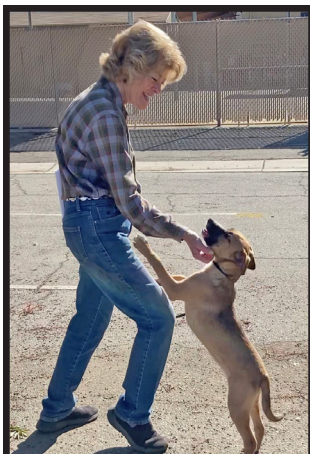
Bob Tebbe



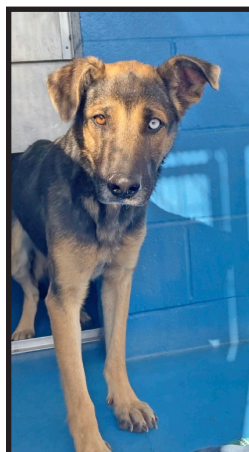
Dot Ramirez



Kathy Underwood and Dot Ramirez



Pam Miller



Elizabeth Taylor



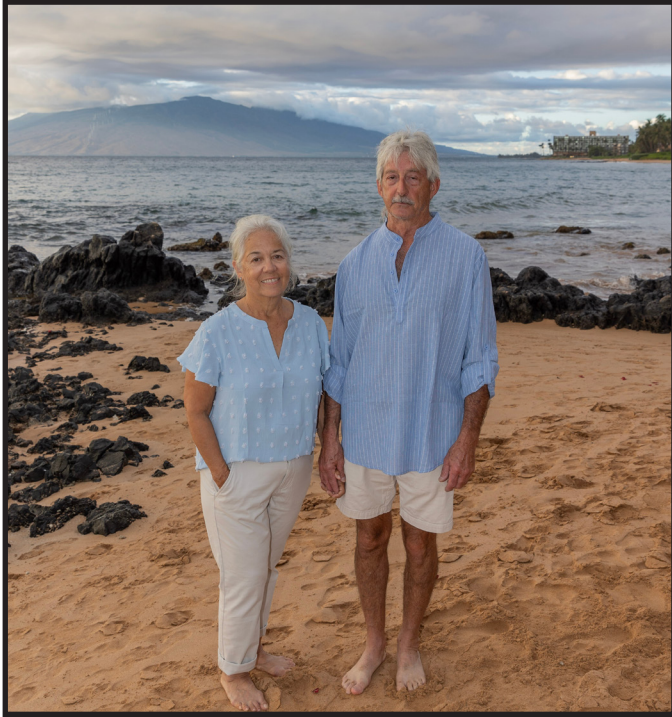
Molly Mackin



Mary Thompson

# As the Tale Wags - Featuring Caroline and Dana Carpenter

By Jane Tanaka



Caroline and Dana Carpenter moved to BVS 5 years ago from the City of La Mirada in Los Angeles County. They fell in love with the equestrian community here in BVS. They moved to BVS with their two horses (Duke, a 22 year-old gelding, and Misty, a 17 year-old mare) and their two kitties (Daisy and Lilly).

Caroline is a retired litigation paralegal and Dana is a retired tool maker, and they have been married 33 years. In addition to being members of the BVS Tailwaggers, they belong to the BVS Garden Club. Dana attended The Laguna Culinary Arts Professional Chef School, and is the chef of the family. Gardening and nurturing all of their fur babies keeps Dana and Caroline more than busy.

Caroline grew up with many dogs and cats over the years while Dana grew up with cats as family pets. About a year after they moved to BVS they adopted Angel, who had been living on the streets of Tehachapi and was a canine found wandering in the Walmart parking lot by Caroline's friend, Lori Frear. Angel had severe arthritis and other health issues. Dana even installed a sod lawn for Angel. After Angel passed away, they rescued Birdie, who is a 9 month old Australian Shepherd little girl, who has one eye and tunnel vision.

Their two cats, Lilly and Daisy "keep Birdie in line." Until one MONTH AGO, their pack was complete with two horses, two kitties, and one puppy.

Then through a post on BVS Neighbors, Caroline and her friend, Lori Frear, learned about a mama dog named Matilda (Mattie) and her litter of 8 newborn pups born at the Kern County Shelter on Fruitvale in Bakersfield. Matilda and her pups were scheduled to be euthanized in 48 hours. Upon hearing this, Lori and Caroline rushed down to the shelter and signed up to foster Mattie and her puppies. They set up a heated whelping pen in Lori's garage and brought Mattie and her pups home. Two of the pups did not survive kennel cough, but the rest of the family are recovering well.

If all continues to go well, the pups and their mom will be up for adoption in mid-December. Attached are photos of Mattie and her pups Brewster (m), Tip (m), Nacho (m), Rocco(m), Parker (m), and Lilly (f). Please contact Caroline at 714 504 8393 for adoption information.



Lori Frear with the mother dog, Mattie and one of the puppies, Rocco.

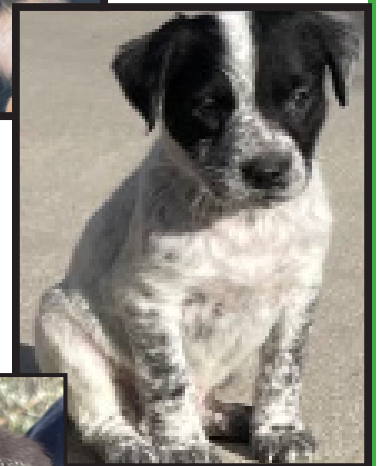
*Continued...*

## Tailwagger Puppies, Up for Adoption



Tailwagger, Lori Frear, read the motto above and it wasn't a week later that she and Caroline Carpenter, also a Tailwaggers member, rescued a family of eight dogs. She and Caroline put their hearts into action and decided to DO SOMETHING. This is the true meaning of the that motto. Lori, who said, "I can't walk into a shelter," now has a mini shelter at her house.

By mid December the puppies will be ready for adoption. Those of you who are ready for a puppy, start making plans now.



Matti, the proud mama.



# General Meeting Minutes

By Diana Munday, Secretary  
Monday, November 13, 2023

Meeting opened at 6:30 with Pam Miller, President, making announcements.

Tailwaggers now has 79 household memberships, approximately 150 people.

The Therapy Dog group was able to attend Tehachapi Hospital and brought the “Happy Hounds and Friends Reading Program” to a group of children at the Whiting Center.

Tonight was election night. It was a unanimous approval of the present Board of Pam, President; Lucy, VP; Jeannie, Treasurer, Diana was replaced by Dot as the new Secretary; and Gary, the Member at Large. The installation for the Board will be at the December meeting by Molly Mackin. This will also be a pot-luck dinner with the meeting starting at 6:00.

Molly Mackin got up to speak about Project Hope. We are collecting Kong’s, toys, beds, blankets, and purchasing buckets for the City of Bakersfield, Animal Center on Mt Vernon St. We are also raising money to buy dog beds to donate for Christmas. All are welcome to join the group to walk the dogs on a weekly or monthly schedule. The tie dyed scarves, made and donated by Daryl Gilreath, were sold at tonight’s meeting and the money made will go for Project Hope.

Saturday is our Holiday picture event. Hoping everyone schedules an appointment to have their picture taken with their dog/dogs. The money raised on Saturday will also go to Project Hope.

Our speaker for the night was Jared Vaughan from the Zoom Room Dog Training in Bakersfield. They concentrate on educating the human to better communicate with their canine. They have a 3000SF indoor gym for dogs where they can learn agility, hold puppy training, scent training, and herding. They have workshops, birthday parties, and game nights. They are open 7 days a week with 5 trainers.

## Treasurers’ Monthly Report

November 2023

By Jeannie Alvarado

**Checking Account Beginning Balance \$6,398.49**  
**INCOME**

Membership	30.00
Photo Shoot	655.00
Scarves	435.87
Shelter Pails	<u>600.00</u>

**Total 3,782.61**

**EXPENSES**

Newsletter	150.00
Scarves Decal	30.00
Ad/Photo Shoot Printing	178.37
Prime Signs/ Shelter Poster	<u>129.90</u>

**Total 488.27**

**ENDING BALANCE \$9,692.83**

**As of November 31, 2023**

Pricing varies on the number or programs you will be attending.

The meeting ended with giving away door prizes at around 8:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00

## More About the Christmas/Holiday Party!

There will be food and friendship. Carol Young is bringing home-made dog cookies for you to buy as Christmas gifts for your friends and we will have newly made doggie scarves for Christmas also!



*Prizes for the ugliest christmas sweater and coolest hat!*



## Feature Article



# A Mysterious Dog Illness Is Now in 12 States— Vets Weigh in on What You Need to Know

BY SIO HORNBUCKLE  
NOVEMBER 22, 2023

A mysterious new respiratory virus in dogs has been making pups sick since it showed up in Oregon this August. It has since spread to 12 states with rare cases being fatal, and veterinarians are urging caution — but not panic. In a new development this week, researchers may finally be closer to understanding its origins.

In a genetic sequencing of 30 dogs from New Hampshire who got sick last year and 40 dogs from Massachusetts and Rhode Island who got sick this year, researchers at the University of New Hampshire's Veterinary Diagnosis Laboratory and the Hubbard Center for Genome Studies found a previously unknown germ. The pathogen likely evolved from a component of the dog microbiome. Dr. David Needle, pathology section chief at the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire, told NBC News that the pathogen is "a funky bacterium." It's smaller than a normal bacterium and can be tricky to find and sequence. Its size may explain why some dogs

have become very sick, with some cases being fatal; smaller pathogens can more easily enter a dog's lungs, which increases the risk of pneumonia.

### Here's what we know — and how to protect your pup.

It's not yet certain that this pathogen is what's making dogs sick across the country. But if the germ turns out to be responsible, its discovery is the first step in potentially finding medications that can fight what veterinarians are referring to as CIRDC (canine infectious respiratory disease complex) because it has not been responsive to antibiotics.

### Which states is the mystery canine respiratory virus in?

Although cases of the respiratory virus first appeared in Oregon, there have since been possible cases in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Washington.



*Continued...*

Because the mystery illness shares symptoms with other canine respiratory infections, it's hard for experts to know exactly how many cases there have been or where the illness has occurred. And with pups traveling daily — especially during this busy holiday season — it's difficult to estimate local risk.

“There is no invisible barrier between states, so there is a possibility of spreading to other parts of the country if infected dogs are traveling,” says Oregon-based veterinarian Dr. Rachel Warnes. But she also stresses that this should not be a cause for alarm. “This disease appeared to peak in August in Oregon, and while cases are still being reported, it is not as common as the media would lead us to believe.”

What are the symptoms of the canine respiratory virus?

The mystery virus is not responsive to antibiotics and can evolve into severe pneumonia, so it's important to keep an eye out for early symptoms. Signs of the illness are similar to some other canine respiratory issues, such as canine influenza, Bordetella, and parainfluenza. “If your dog is showing any of the following signs: coughing, excessive sneezing, nasal or ocular discharge, lethargy, inappetence, isolate your dog at home and call your vet to make an appointment to be seen,” Dr. Warnes advises.

### **How can I keep my dog safe?**

Vaccination is an important step you can take to protect your pup. The Oregon VMA reports that most dogs who are vaccinated against respiratory illnesses have more mild cases of CIRDC. Early detection improves a dog's odds, too, so get your pup to the vet as soon as they show symptoms.

Because the illness is contagious, dogs should avoid gathering in large groups if possible. “There is no real need to be that extreme and keep dogs entirely away from each other since it is crucial to socialize pets,” says Dr. Pansy Suzuki, the medical director at Veterinary Emergency Group. “Pet parents should be cautious and consider smaller playdates with other dogs they know are healthy. There is more risk in a less controlled environment like a dog park.”

Pups should not share communal water bowls, and you should steer your dog clear of any dog with visible symptoms. “If your dog is sick, it is best to keep them at home, regardless of the cause of the illness,” Dr. Warnes says. She adds that holiday travel may contribute to the spread of illness. “Consider having a pet sitter instead of boarding over the holiday when many boarding facilities might be crowded,” she says. “Stressful situations, such as shelters and boarding facilities, can increase the chance of your pet contracting an illness. When our pets are stressed, their immune system is decreased.” That said, boarding situations are often unavoidable, and there are ways to minimize your pup's risk even if you can't find a sitter for the holidays. “If you do need to board your pet, ensure your boarding facility employs strict hygiene measures including vaccine protocols to ensure all pets are up-to-date with vaccines to minimize spread of known respiratory pathogens,” says Dr. Jamie Richardson, the head of veterinary medicine at Small Door Veterinary.

Some dogs should take extra caution. “Puppies, unvaccinated dogs, geriatric dogs (especially with other complicating diseases), and immunocompromised pets (on chemotherapy) can potentially be more severely affected than the general population,” Dr. Warnes says.



# Mission Statement

The BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club is dedicated to responsible dog ownership/guardianship. We are a body of people who care about their dogs and want to be with like-minded responsible people who feel the same. We are committed to sharing and learning. The club will provide experiences through education, training, fun events and social activities. It is designed to improve handler skills and be an information center for owners presenting issues and subjects based on our members' needs.

The club will provide support for local rescues in Kern County.



## Board Members

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661-203-5725

**Vice President**

Lucy Radike  
661-904-3379

**Treasurer**

Jeannie Alvarado  
661-917-1915

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