

MAY 2024

BVSTailwaggers.com
Tailwaggers Facebook



Are You Building Your Dog House on a Firm Foundation?

GARY HILL, Agility Competitor and Teacher



Gary Hill and his two dogs, Blue and Belle.

Whether your dog is a family pet, a working dog, your teammate in a canine sport, or all of the above, they need a firm foundation in order to thrive! While the extent of that foundation is determined by the expectations you have for your dog, ensuring a stable environment, developing a positive relationship with your canine companion, and cultivating your dog's confidence are

vital components of all good dog houses. For our dogs, a stable habitat starts with the consistency of our interactions with them. Dogs have evolved to carefully read and interpret our expressions, scents, and movements. Unlike the wolves they once were, dogs make direct eye contact with us, garnering data from our every gaze. Their keenly attentive eyes notice countless details we miss; they provide dogs with an astonishing 250-270-degree, panoramic view of the world; and they are formed to process moving images about 20% faster than our eyes can. Dog's famous noses are 40-50 times more scent-sensitive than are ours, and their range of hearing is double that of we humans. Most significantly, our companions use all of this information to predict what we will do next! Consequently, the more reliable their predictions are, the more secure they will feel. These traits are also why, unlike their ancestors, domesticated dogs are a part of OUR social group! All of this means that since WE are the primary object of our dogs' attention, we are ALWAYS training our dogs, whether or not we mean to be.

Fortunately, our dogs are like pre-school children: work is play and play is work, so to them, learning is exciting! This makes developing a great relationship through training relatively easy, because our canine companions "gamify" everything! My dog is my agility teammate and as far as she's concerned, we

Continue on next page

Members and friends of Tailwaggers are invited come to the meeting on TUESDAY May 7, in the Equestrian Center Lounge. Doors open for refreshments at 6:00 and the meeting is at 6:30.

Building on a Firm Foundation...can't

start each day with FUNdamentals! The good news is whether you simply need the “ABCs” of basic obedience that help you grow a great family pet or you want to kick your relationship up a notch and teach your dog tricks, build skills for a sport, develop a therapy dog, or whatever your dream might be, the greater Bear Valley Springs area has many certified trainers and dog enthusiasts taking part in the full array of human-canine activities. Whatever the case, the BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club is the place to find the resources you seek!

When you provide your dog with a secure environment and build a trusting relationship with them, their confidence will blossom, lessening the possibility of the common problems that stem from boredom, inadequate physical and mental exercise, and a lack of predictability in their human relationships.

Additionally, like us, a quality diet and ample sleep are crucial to your dog’s well-being. We need not worry about sleep – they will get plenty of that! Regarding food, consult your vet for expert, up-to-date advice.



Nothing is more fun than watching a happy dog!!

Embrace the Challenge**President’s Message**

Pam Miller

I was watching Jazzy pooping in the backyard, not a pass time I spend much time doing, but there she was pooping, and she was having a bit of a hard time getting it all out. She looked at me as if to say, “this is hard.” It made me think, yes lots of things are hard. We live in a reality of dualities. Good - Bad; Happy - Sad; Fast - Slow; Easy - Hard. I believe we grow through dealing with the hard things. The easy things we hardly think about, they are only here as contrast so we know what hard is.

Having a puppy or a troubled dog is the perfect situation to deal with hard stuff and to be rewarded by the contrast we see after going through the hard stuff. For instance, at the Agility Workshop last week there were several dogs having a hard time being in the presence of so many other dogs. It was nice watching the owners being calm and patient while helping the dogs deal with the situation. By the end of the hour, and many times throughout the hour, I could see the dogs relax and take a breath. Just that little moment seemed like a reward for their owners and an encouragement to continue on.

We were told to practice certain exercises with our dogs at home. That is really where the challenge lies for me...taking the time to practice. I have a hard time stopping long enough to do that and I know it’s hard for others but that is from where the rewards come. It’s only fair to our dogs to help them do their best, have the most fun they can, and set them up for success. I’m sure I am going to experience the hard part of stopping to practice, but I know if I meet that challenge I will bask in the joy of watching my dog have fun at the next playday! I propose you meet that challenge also. Let’s make the next playday EASY and fun!

Tailwaggers Happy'ngs

General Meetings

1st Tuesday of the Month

Beginning in April, our General meetings will be on the **first Tuesday** of every month, unless notified differently. We meet in the Equestrian Center lounge at 6:00 for refreshments and 6:30 for the meeting.

May 7, 2024

Speaker, Gary Hill: Why I Love Agility

June 4, 2024

Speaker, Rebecca Barocas: Is Your Dog Noisy?

July 2, 2024

Speaker, Michael Puffer from Have a Heart

August 6, 2024

Speaker: Samatha Williams: What is Rally?

Agility Division

Agility Playdays

Saturday, May 18th, Saturday, June 8th

Saturday, September 7 & 21st

To sign-up or help,

call Gary Hill (480) 216-8488

or Lucy Radike (661) 904-3379

Rescue Division

Bake Sale:

May 18 at the Grummage Sale, Cub Lake

To help contact Jeannie Alvarado, 661-917-1915

Animal Care Center Adoption Booth:

May 18 at the Grummage Sale at Cub Lake

For more information contact Molly Mackin, 818-512-9836.

Therapy Dog Division

Happy Hounds and Friends Reading Program

The group will read to the children at the Whiting Center and, this month on May 25th, they will go to a senior home. For information about the Therapy Dog Program contact Mary Thompson at 661-972-0731.



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Training Division Events Start!

FOR THE LUV OF DOGS Spring/Summer Training Camp with Molly Mackin, AKC-CGC Evaluator, APDT, LIMA, VSA Certified Dog Trainer.

Puppy S.T.A.R. and Obedience 1 beginning Friday, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and June 7th. \$210 for 6 weeks. For more information, or to sign up for up-coming trainings, text/call Molly Mackin at 818-512-9836.

NOSEWORK SERIES - NOW is the time to sign-Up Rebecca Barocas, Competitor and Trainer in Nosework for over 10 years.

Rebecca will be doing classes for Tailwaggers June 21, 28, July 5, 12 & 19. \$125 for 6 weeks. Contact Rebecca at 661-435-1194 to sign up or for more information.

WalkAbouts & HikeAbouts

Walkabouts on the Nature Trail resumed officially on April 5 with Lucy Radike leading the walks. It's a wonderful way to connect with and meet new TW friends while socializing and exercising our dogs. You can join us with or without a dog. Call Lucy for more information. (661-904-3379)

BVS Tailwaggers Minutes

Date: 4/12/24

Call to order: Pam Miller at 6:34

Welcome to new members

Activities and Announcements

- Walkabouts on Fridays if weather permits.
- Agility: Gary Hill to do coaching at the park if it's dried out. 2 classes for \$30.
- Molly Mackin's Dog classes begin in May.
- Rebecca Barocas's Nose work classes begin in June.
- Thanks to Vicki Taylor and Nan Bullard for putting together the Easter basket for the Whiting Center Easter program.

Presenter: Tonight's presenter is Mathew Buck Director of Bakersfield Animal Care Center.

Mathew began with a short video.

The presentation covered:

- Stats more dogs have been making it out of the Shelter in the past year than before.
- Intakes have increased 46%
- Spay neuters not happening during COVID caused problems now.
- Stressed the importance of spay and neuter. Altered dogs are less likely to escape, fight... Live longer. Stats on # a breeding pair can produce was eye opening.
- Help by adopting a shelter pet.
- 25% of shelter dogs are pure breeds.
- Only 10% of dogs find their forever homes.
- Consider fostering, it helps the dogs and makes room for others.
- Video clip of a foster's experiences.
- Volunteers for walks, playtime, pass out toys, treats...

- It costs \$15,000 to fly dogs to Canada
- It costs 8 K for each spay/neuter clinic.
- Video on the transport of dogs was shown.
- Many members asked Matt questions.

Molly: talked about the next phase of Project Hope, it will focus on finding more fosters. Make reservations for Shelter Tour. May 18 is the Grummage Sale and we will have a few adoptable dogs there.

Jeanie asked for volunteers for the Grummage Sale booth on May 18th.

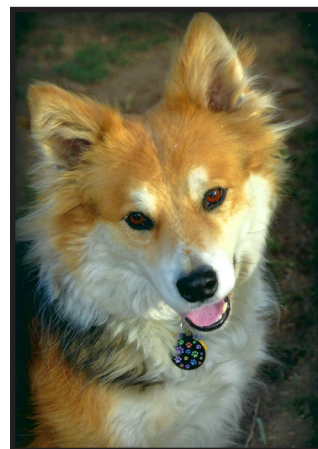
Respectfully submitted,

Dot Ramirez

In Memory... of Rocky AND Wiley



Condolences to Nilly Smith on the loss of Rocky. Nilly and Rocky started the Therapy Division together and our hearts grieve with you. He was the best dog ever!



Condolences to Kathy Underwood on the loss of Wiley. Wiley was adopted from the Mount Vernon shelter when he was two in 2008 and passed away this year.

"So good looking and sweet, I don't know if I will be able to find one that touches my heart as much as he did."

Feature Article

Getting Started: Training Your Rescue Dog

By Terry Albert

[editor: Remember as you read this article that most rescue dogs are traumatized by past events and all the changes occurring in their lives. They need at least a couple of weeks with NO PRESSURE to just get used to their new environment and figure out that this is their new home. You may need to adjust the 3-3-3 Rule to fit your particular dog. Once your dog is able, proceed with the suggested training offered in the this article.]

Training is a great way to get to know your new dog and develop a good relationship. But 'sit' and 'stay' are not the whole story. There are things you can do to develop a well-behaved pet while waiting for that first night of obedience class.

Your dog starts learning the minute he walks in your door. It is a matter of survival in the canine world for him to figure out the rules as quickly as possible. Take advantage of the first few weeks to prevent bad habits before they are established. As you calmly and consistently work with him, he learns the rules and looks to you for leadership. He gains confidence, settles down and feels secure. Bad habits from his former life will be easier to change in this environment where everything is new.

Some new owners have the wrong perception of the word "rescue." Behaviorist John Rogerson prefers to use "rehomed" rather than "rescued." It removes the emotional assumption, often inaccurate, that the dog has had a miserable existence until you adopted him.



Enzo, one of my re-homed dogs.

New owners decide Max has been abused and go overboard with nurturing. A smart dog is quick to take advantage. A few weeks later, the honeymoon is over and Max can't figure out why the rules changed ("Why can't I get on the couch?").

It may be hard to read your new dog's emotions. It could appear like he's adjusted the second he walks through the door. Don't bet on it! Supervise him closely during the first few weeks. Reinforce housebreaking and establish a daily routine. Read about the 3-3-3 Rule, which explains how long it takes a dog to be comfortable in his new home.

If he will regularly be alone for several hours, he needs to learn to spend time without you. A dog that gets constant attention and then is suddenly left alone may bark, chew, or develop other behavior problems. Practice now, and build up time in short increments.

A crate is your dog's safe haven from the world. From his crate, he can get used to new sights, sounds, and people without feeling pressured to react. Picture him alone in the house for the first time. The doorbell rings. Should he bark? Should he protect the house? Be frightened? Where's his new person to tell him what to do? His anxiety could lead to destructive behavior. A crate relieves him of that responsibility.

You may find that your new dog is easier to train than a dog that has lived with you for years. Old Rover knows exactly what he can get away with, and will resist change, while New Boomer is anxiously awaiting any signal from you.

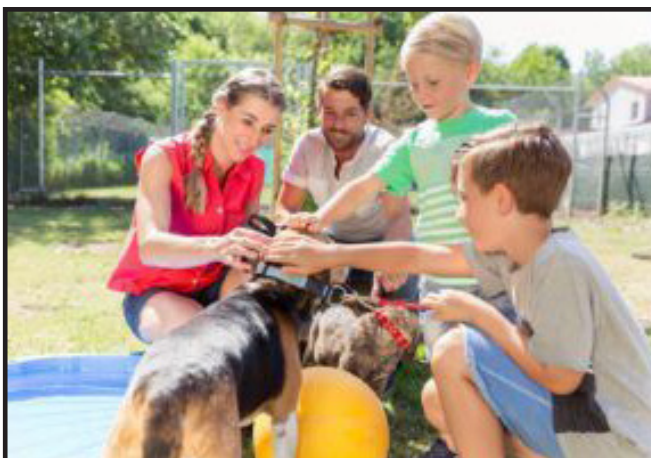
Build good communication between you and your dog. Be lavish with praise so he knows he's doing something right. Rewarded behavior increases in frequency. "Good potty!" or "Good sit!" when said with happy enthusiasm, tells your dog that he has made the right choice. "No" tells him he made a wrong choice, and he will learn the difference. He will test to see if you really mean it. Be consistent, and your reward will be a well-behaved family member for many years to come.

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

THE 3/3/3 RULE IS A GENERAL GUIDELINE FOR THE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD OF A DOG AFTER ADOPTION. EVERY DOG IS UNIQUE AND WILL ADJUST DIFFERENTLY.

		
<p>3 DAYS</p>	<p>3 WEEKS</p>	<p>3 MONTHS</p>
<p>TO DECOMPRESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FEELING OVERWHELMED ● MAY FEEL SCARED/UNSURE OF WHAT'S GOING ON ● NOT COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO BE "HIMSELF" ● MAY NOT WANT TO EAT OR DRINK ● SHUTS DOWN AND/OR HIDES UNDER FURNITURE ● TESTS THE BOUNDARIES 	<p>TO LEARN YOUR ROUTINE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● STARTS SETTLING IN ● FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE ● REALIZES THIS COULD BE HIS FOREVER HOME ● FIGURES OUT HIS ENVIRONMENT ● GETS INTO A ROUTINE ● LETS HIS GUARD DOWN, MAY BEGIN TO SHOW HIS TRUE PERSONALITY ● BEHAVIOR ISSUES MAY START TO APPEAR 	<p>TO START TO FEEL AT HOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FINALLY FEELS COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE IN HIS HOME ● BEGINS TO BUILD TRUST AND A TRUE BOND ● GAINS A COMPLETE SENSE OF SECURITY WITH HIS NEW FAMILY ● SETS INTO A ROUTINE

GIVE THEM A CHANCE



This family is clearly happy to have adopted a new dog – but they are doing everything wrong to welcome him to their family, whether it's day 1, 3, or 33! A dog should not be greeted in a chaotic, rush and should never be forcibly restrained when meeting new people or dogs. Having just one person reach to pet the top of the dog's head is a mistake; having the whole family do it at the same time is begging for a dog bite. Until the dog shows that he's comfortable with your family, give him space and allow him to greet people at his own pace. The slower you move, the more quickly he can

City of Bakersfield Animal Care Center Tour

By Holly Bennett

Last month, a small group of Tailwaggers were led by Matthew Buck, Director of the Mt. Vernon Animal Care Shelter, on a tour. We were all a tad apprehensive going into a “dog pound”.



The front door leads to a reception front desk area with office staff who process adoptions, fosters, and surrendered dogs. Tara oversees the Foster Dog Program, and she does a wonderful job with her easy, bright and happy personality.

Mathew Buck, the Director of the Center, met with the Tailwaggers visitors first and shared information about the center.

The office staff were friendly, helpful, and bilingual. There are publications to help inform and educate people. I’ve never seen more than two people waiting for assistance.



Josh Proctor, the Behaviorist, and logistics person when finding homes for dogs, shared what he did and how it all works.

There is a break room and clean bathrooms upfront also. Behind the desk are offices for Matthew and, the behaviorist Josh Proctor. Adoptable dogs are kept in these areas to help ease overcrowding. I think the pups like this!



We were then led into the surgery and treatment area where Dr Eller (volunteer vet) was spaying and neutering dogs in prep (along with vaccines) for their new families. These areas were clean, well-organized, and functional in such a small space. The dogs, in various stages of anesthesia recovery, seemed comfy and well cared for as shown in the photo.

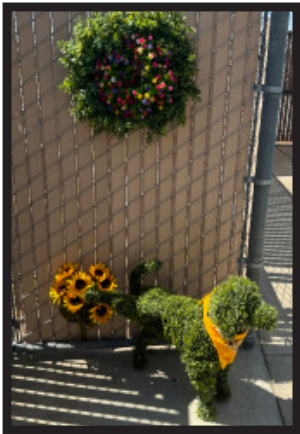
Next, we saw two “Meet and Greet” play yards which are shaded, have grass, toys, and plastic pools to fill with water for those dogs who like to splash, play, and cool off. I have spent some happy times with the dogs there. Project Hope and other volunteers visit the shelter routinely and walk, play, socialize, and introduce basic commands to the dogs. We want to do that which will help the dogs be successful in their new lives! The dogs love it and so do I! I cannot help but smile, laugh, talk nonsense, play, toss toys and more when I’m holding in my arms a smiling, wiggly dog who is looking into my eyes with adoration. The dog spirit is resolute, and in most cases, remains receptive to the helping, loving and being in the daily lives of humans as they were domesticated to be.

Continued...

Every dog is behaviorally and physically assessed, and only appropriate dogs are deemed adoptable.

We then walked through the kennels where we were met by all types of barking, wagging, and treat begging dogs, even puppies and their mamas. Yes, we gave them treats!

There is also a grooming area. Storage areas are scattered with some outside. They store Hills dog and cat food (bought at a 60% discount), enrichment toys (Tailwaggers donated 100 Kongs), elevated beds (150 which Tailwaggers and friends bought and donated), blankets, crates and more. (For the Dogs is a 501(c) (3) public Charity and accepts donations.)



The SPCA delivers dogs from the “Streets of Bakersfield” and owners who surrendered them. There is a separate area for intakes where they are isolated, processed and evaluated.

The shelter is decorated for the seasons and for holidays by Project Hope volunteers under the discerning direction of Molly Mackin. Currently, the theme is Spring with sunflowers, decorative dogs, banners and colorful bandannas, to go home with each adopted dog, and more.



Shown, on this page, are two of the five banners given by an anonymous person to the Center and made by Pam Miller and Molly Mackin, to help decorate the shelter for the summer.



The shelter is clean, and the dogs’ daily needs are met by friendly, dedicated, and hardworking staff whose care is clearly demonstrated.

In addition, the shelter has various programs such as community outreach (bilingual) to dog owners regarding spay and neuter programs and other care available, adoption events, presence at other events to promote adoption, spaying and neutering, fostering, vaccination and more. Many items are needed by the staff who must do with what they are given in limited amounts. There is also an Amazon Wish List for donations.

My impression of this shelter differs from my before tour expectations to a large degree. I now realized that a city or other social entity required to provide necessary community services only supplies a building, equipment, and materials to do the work. It is the local community who spends time working, volunteering, and visiting who infuse such a place with their unique compassion, experience, knowledge, time, desire, and dedication to improve and change the status quo. The community of Bakersfield and surroundings have brought to this shelter all the above-mentioned cultural and positive attributes. It is a joy to see!

Results of this approach have delivered amazing, unforeseen returns in the past year or so. The atmosphere of the Mt. Vernon Shelter is not sad, depressing, hopeless or ugly. Although there are times when what must be done is sad, the overall goal and tremendous drive is such that the folks are making big changes with what they do have and seeing positive results.



Teaching Your Dog To Focus Only On You and Why it is Important



The very first thing you should teach your dog after potty training is to focus on you. It is a big distracting world out there. Even in the house your dog can hear and smell things that you can't, these also are distracting to a dog. If you teach your dog to focus on you when commanded to do so in spite of the distractions around him, it will be much easier to teach him anything that you want to teach him.



WHY CAN'T I JUST CALL HIM BY NAME TO GET HIS ATTENTION?

Throughout the day you will use his name numerous times and for many different reasons. You may even yell his name from time to time. Your dog becomes desensitized to the sound of his name and he will most of the time simply ignore it. Worse, if you have yelled his name and then punished him for some reason, he may even cower when he hears his name.

Focusing on you is more than just calling his name. The term you will use to get his attention must be a unique term that is only used to get his attention and it must be a consistently positive occasion for the dog.



WHEN TO START TO TEACH YOUR DOG TO FOCUS ON YOU

Start each training session when he has not had contact with you for a while. Maybe first thing in the morning (after he has been out to potty) or after a long nap. Put a leash on him so that you will maintain control.

WHAT'S HIS MOTIVATION?

Some dogs are motivated by food regardless of when they ate last. If your dog does not always show interest in food, start the training session before you feed him his meal. Most dogs, however, are motivated by some type of food. Use whatever you know to be his favorite treat. Tiny bits of hot dog are usually a dog favorite. Generally, anything that has a strong smell is best.

If you have a small dog, you need to get on your knees or sit in a low chair or stool at a level that it is easy for them to look you in the eye. Hold the treat at your eye level, either right in front or slightly to the side of your eyes.

You might say his name and then the term you are going to use. You could use, "ready", "focus" or "look." It does not matter what term you use as long as you use that same term consistently and only for the purpose of

Continued...

Teaching Your Dog to Focus, con't

getting his attention on you. As an example you could say; "Spot Look". You can begin each session that way, but for the rest of the training session only use the term you intend to use.

When he looks directly at you, give him the treat and praise.

EACH TRAINING SESSION

Practice this as many times during the day you want, just be sure to make each session no more than 5-10 minutes each. Continue to practice consistently and gradually start to demand longer and longer periods of focus from him.

Teaching your dog to focus only on you and to ignore everything else around them is a necessary skill for your dog to know. The reasons why are numerous. If you have a dog that tends to be aggressive with other dogs while on a walk, for instance, you can make them focus on you and distract them when another dog walks by.



Even small dogs are stronger than you think and if you are not expecting it they can jerk the leash right out of your hand!

Dogs are curious creatures. When on a walk he may see a cat, squirrel, etc. If you teach him to focus on you until they are gone, he won't be tempted to jerk and try to chase whatever it is. The list of times that this will come in handy is long.

Treasurers' Monthly Report

Corrected March 2024

Financial Report - By Jeannie Alvarado

Checking Account Beginning Balance	\$5,576.57
INCOME	
Membership	270.00
Ads	50.00
Donation	30.00
Total	\$350.00
EXPENSES	
Newsletters	300.00
Meeting Supplies	26.21
Office Supplies	8.63
Audit Process	60.00
Printing	117.24
Total	\$512.08
Ending Balance	\$5,414.49
As of March 30, 2024	

Treasurers' Monthly Report

April Financial Report - 2024

By Jeannie Alvarado

Checking Account Beginning Balance	\$5,414.49
INCOME	
Membership	150.00
Donation	50.00
Agility Coaching Day	440.00
Total	\$640.00
EXPENSES	
Newsletters	150.00
Meeting Supplies	26.60
WC Booth	20.00
Scarves	130.00
Total	\$326.60
Ending Balance	\$5,727.89
As of April 30, 2024	

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

President Pam Miller 661-203-5725	Vice President Lucy Radike 661-904-3379
Treasurer Jeannie Alvarado 661-917-1915	
Secretary Dot Ramirez	Members at Large Gary Hill

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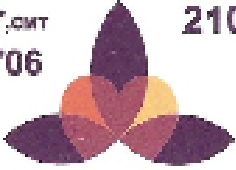
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**2024 BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Annual Dues: \$30.00. Make checks payable to: **BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club**.

Please print

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Street Address: _____ Tract & Lot _____

Cell Phone #(s) _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

E-mail address(s): _____

May we publish your name, phone numbers and e-mail address for club use? Yes _____ No _____

Please provide family members' names. Give the current ages and birth dates of your children who may be participating in Tailwaggers' activities. ****All minors must be accompanied by and under the supervision of a parent or parent-designated adult (in writing) while attending or participating in Tailwaggers' activities.**

The BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club exists to represent canine interests in BVS, to promote responsible, informed dog ownership, and good fellowship of dog owners and BVS residents, to promote fun dog-related activities, including training, to improve and maintain dog-related facilities within BVS, and to support local canine rescues. Membership is open to adult property owners and residents in good standing with the Bear Valley Springs Association (BVSA).

ACCIDENT RELEASE: My signature below hereby releases the Bear Valley Springs Tailwaggers Dog Club and the BVSA and all persons connected with these aforementioned groups from any liability/responsibility for any loss/injury/damage to either myself, my family, my dog(s)/or my equipment while I am/we are participating in, assisting with, or working on any event/activity sponsored by the BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club. Pursuant to Section 305 of the BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB By-laws, all adult family club members signing below hereby agree: (a) to take physical and financial responsibility for any dog under my custody or control; (b) that if participating in any BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB event with a dog that is not my own, they shall be liable for damage or injury inflicted by any such dog(s); and (c) that the Board of Directors or designated Event Coordinator or Trainer of BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club has the right to exclude any aggressive, unruly, or unmanageable dog and their handler from any BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB event. All adult family club members signing below further agree to sign and maintain on file with BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club a current year's Waiver, Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk form.
ALL adult family club members must sign.

Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

(Parents must sign for minor child)

Mail to: BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club, 29800 Jamaica Dunes Dr., Tehachapi, CA 93561

Tailwaggers Office Use Only

Dues Paid \$ _____ Date Paid: _____ Cash/Check# _____

Liability release/waiver signed: Yes__ No__

BEAR VALLEY SPRINGS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB

WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY EVERY CLUB MEMBER

All club members must sign one of these forms. Please read and be certain you understand the implications of signing.

In consideration of my participation in activities arranged by BEAR VALLEY SPRINGS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB (BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB), I hereby release and covenant not to sue BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB, its owners, shareholders, directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, and lessees and their successors from any and all present and future claims whatsoever, which the undersigned and any of them and the heirs, representatives, executors and administrators thereof, or any other persons acting in behalf, or on behalf of their respective agents, have or may have resulting from ordinary negligence and inherent risk of my participation in any activities or arrangements and the use of the facilities and equipment of BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB and Bear Valley Springs Association (BVSA) and Bear Valley Community Services District (BVSCSD), including but not limited to any loss, injury, damage, illness, sickness, or liability sustained by me while on or about the premises of the BVSA, the BVSCSD, or the BVS TAILWAGGERS DOB CLUB.

Express Assumption of Risk Associated with CANINE-RELATED ACTIVITIES. I, whose name and signature appear below, do hereby affirm and acknowledge that I have been fully informed of the inherent hazards and risks associated with canine activities and sports, including training, showing, competitions, exhibitions, events, meetings, play days and other activities. Inherent hazards and risks include but are not limited to:

1. Risk of injury from the activity and equipment utilized in canine activities of all kinds is significant including the potential for permanent disability and death.
2. Possible equipment failure and/ or the malfunction of my own or other's equipment.
3. My own negligence and/or the negligence of all others, including employees, agents, independent contractors or representatives of the BVSA, BVSCSD, and BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB, including but not limited to operator error.
4. The propensity of a canine (dog) to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury or death to the participant or others or their dog(s) regardless of the dog's previous training and past performance.
5. The inability to predict a dog's reaction to sound, movements, unfamiliar environment, objects, persons, or animals.
6. Propensity for a dog to bite, fight, run, scratch, make unpredictable movements, jump, push or shove without warning or apparent cause.
7. Collars, harnesses, leashes and other equipment may loosen or break, which may result in accident, injury or death.
8. The domesticated animal may also react in a dangerous manner when condition or treatment is considered hazardous to the welfare of the animal.
9. The potential for a participant or others to fail to exercise reasonable care, or take adequate control when engaging in a domesticated animal activity, including failing to maintain reasonable control of the animal or failing to act in a manner consistent with the person's abilities.
10. Broken bones or severe injuries which may result in severe impairment or even death.

11. Pursuant to Section 305 of the BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB By-laws, I agree to take physical and financial responsibility for any dog under my custody or control; that if I am participating in any BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB event with a dog that is not my own, I shall be liable for damage or injury inflicted by any such dog; and that the Board of Directors or designated Event Coordinator or Trainer of BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club has the right to exclude any aggressive, unruly, or unmanageable dog and their handler from any BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB event.

I understand the description of these risks is not complete and that unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury, illness, or death.

I agree that immediately prior to participation in any activity arranged for me by BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB I will inspect the facilities and equipment to be used and if any defect is apparent I will not use the facility or equipment and I will notify the management of the BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB of the defect.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER, RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING THIS WAIVER, RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

Any person under the age of 18 years must have a parent or guardian co-sign this form.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____