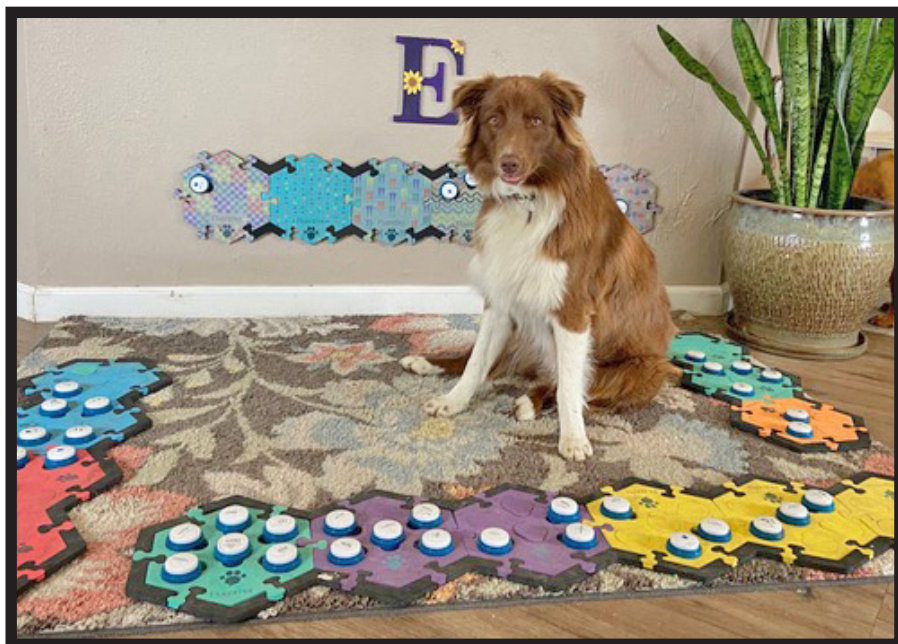


SEPTEMBER 2024

BVSTailwaggers.com
Tailwaggers Facebook



“I Wish My Dog Could Talk” Speaker, Amber McGee



Elphie with her plethora of buttons!

“I Wish My Dog Could Talk” By Pam Miller

How many times have you said “I wish my dog could talk” while looking at your dog, who is looking back at you with those big pleading eyes, wanting something...but you can’t figure out what? If only my dog could talk. Well, maybe with the right training, your dog could talk!

Our guest speaker this Tuesday, September 3rd, is Amber McGee with her Australian Shepherd, Elphie. You may know Amber as a horse trainer who lives in Tehachapi, and has made a name for herself working with BLM mustangs and our own local Oak Creek wild horses.

But Amber also works, with her dog Elphie, on an exciting new training discipline. She is teaching Elphie, who is now two years old and who began a journey of learning how to talk before she was one, to communicate using a collection

of buttons preprogrammed with different words. Elphie has a vast vocabulary which includes nouns and pronouns, but also includes feeling words and questions. She is able to put words together in a sentence. “If dogs can understand words humans say to them, shouldn’t they be able to say them back to us?” Thus reasoned Christina Hunger, a speech-language pathologist, who developed a program for young children who were not yet talking to use words with the help of computers. She went on and developed a program for dogs where they push buttons to express their wants and needs with words.

Continued...

Members and friends of Tailwaggers are invited come to the meeting on TUESDAY September 3rd in the Equestrian Center Lounge. Doors open for refreshments at 6:00 and the meeting is at 6:30.

Amber and Elphie are participating in what has turned into a scientific research study into whether animals can communicate with us using language. There are currently over 3,300 members on their research forum, which is being conducted in cooperation with UC San Diego.



After listening to Amber's presentation last year at a Tailwaggers meeting, and participating in a two week workshop with Amber, I sat down with my then two year old puppy, Jazz, and we began our own "button talking" journey. I found out a lot about my dog through the buttons. Not only did Jazz ask for things for herself, like to "play" and "hug" but she also asked questions like, "Nonni friend, where?" after my other dog Nonni died. She also is aware of other dogs' needs. She surprised me the first time she asked me to open the door and instead of going out, she stood back and had me let another dog in.

If you want to know more about how this can happen I suggest two wonderful books: How Stella Learned to Talk by Christina Hunger and I Am Bunny by Alexis Devine. These two fascinating books will make believers out of you.

Join us for a demo and discussion about this fascinating topic as Amber shares her own experiences!

You can follow Elphie on her Facebook page: Elphie Talks

On Instagram: Elphie_the_aussie

For more about the program: <https://www.theycantalk.org>

Meeting the Challenges

President's Message

Pam Miller

I wish there was a secret...a secret way to get what I want. I don't really think there is a secret except that there is no secret.

I heard of three good ideas that aren't secrets.

The first good idea was that **Consistency** works better than **Intensity**. For instance, I wanted my dog Nonni to roll over. I was sure she would never learn to roll over. At first I was impatient and intense about teaching her. That did not work! So, I consistently asked her to roll over whenever I was doing anything with her that included food as the reward. One day she rolled over! Wow, consistency over intensity won!

Using the same example, the second idea is that **Progress** is better than **Perfection**. If I had (and I did for a while) expected perfection from Nonni I would have said she couldn't do it and quit. Instead, I praised her for all the other tricks she could do and just ignored the failures. Soon, I was praising her for rolling over.

The third idea is that keeping to **Fundamentals** is better than going with the **Fads**. For me, fundamentals include being honest, having compassion for others, doing for others and acting on my convictions. With dogs, I have to remember that the bond and trusting relationship with my dogs are more important to me than how many tricks they learn or at what speed. So, I stick with the fundamentals, treating them with love and respect, and not worrying about the latest fad that tells me my dogs should be able to never bark at another dog, or should love having her teeth brushed.

These ideas seem important. So is doing them **Over and Over**.

Tailwaggers Happy'ngs

General Meetings 1st Tuesday of the Month

Our General meetings are 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.

September 3, 2024

Speaker: Amber McGee - Teaching Dogs to Talk

October 1, 2024

**Josh Proctor, Animal Behaviorist
& voting for new Board**

The Third Tuesday, November 12, 2024

End of the year PARTY & Installation

Agility Division

Agility Playdays

Saturday, Sept 21st
October 5 & 19; Saturday Nov. 2.
To sign-up or help,
call Gary Hill (480) 216-8488
or Lucy Radike (661) 904-3379

Therapy Dog Division

Happy Hounds and Friends Reading Program

The group will take a break for the summer. This is a good time to contact Mary Thompson and let her know if you are interested in finding out about the program at 661-972-0731.

!!! WalkAbouts Time Change to 6pm !!!

Walkabouts on the Nature Trail will now be held at 6:00 on THURSDAY EVENINGS. Jeannie Alvarado will there to greet you. Call Jeannie at 661-917-1915 for more information.



Contents

Speaker:

Amber McGee-Teaching Dogs to Talk

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Training Division Events

FOR THE LUV OF DOGS Spring/Summer

Training Camp with Molly Mackin, AKC-CGC Evaluator, APDT, LIMA, VSA Certified Dog Trainer.

Upcoming trainings will be postponed at this time. For more information, or to sign up for up-coming trainings, text/call Molly Mackin at 818-512-9836.

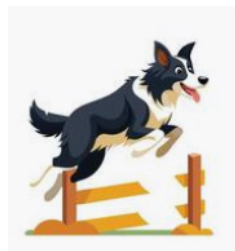
NOSE-WORK SERIES -Rebecca Barocas, Competitor and Trainer in Nose-work for over 10 years.

Contact Rebecca at 661-435-1194 for more information or to sign up for her next series beginning on Friday, October 25 through November 22nd. This will be a 5 week series and the price will be \$105.



AGILITY FOUNDATIONS CLASS

Gary Hill, Competitor and Agility Teacher



**NEW 8 week CLASS!!
Beginning Sept 12 - Oct 17
\$150 per dog**

**Contact Gary Hill to register
(480) 216-8488**

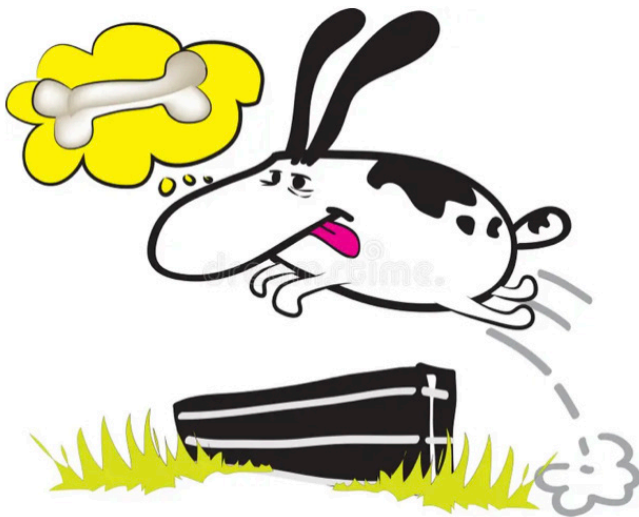
Agility Foundations Class with Gary Hill

Hello, Friends!

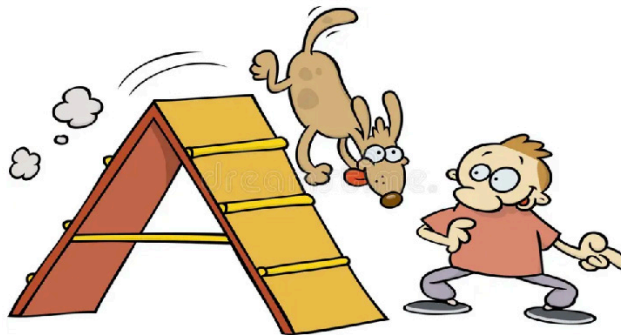
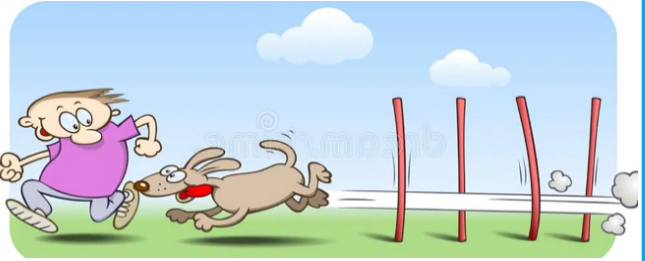
Over the past few years, a number of you have expressed interest in having agility classes here in BVS. I'm pleased to announce that beginning next month, I will offer "Agility Foundations" for those who are interested in developing the fundamental handling skills necessary for the sport.

This one-time course will meet on six consecutive Thursday mornings, 9-10 AM, beginning September 12 and finishing October 17. The cost is \$150 per dog. The class will be limited to 6 participants; however, if there is sufficient interest, we may consider adding a second class.

Early class sessions will comprise flatwork - i.e., exercises designed to develop each



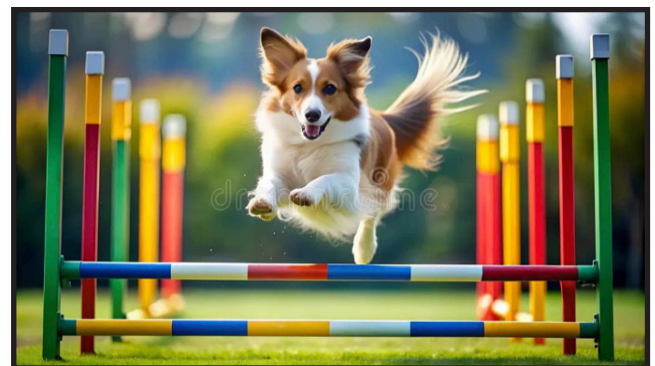
handler's physical skills and improve communication with their canine teammates - and later classes will include jumps and tunnels, while continuing to build handler-dog team work. The flatwork foundational skills we will cover are similar, if not identical, to those used in both obedience and rally, so should be helpful for anyone hoping to pursue one of those activities in future.



It is highly desirable that participants have already completed at least one level of obedience, since the exercises will require that participating dogs be able to stay focused on their handlers while working. Ideally, dogs should be able to work off-leash, though much of the early flatwork may be done with a leash, if necessary.

If you are interested in signing up, please send me a text message asap: 480-216-8488. I'm also happy to answer any questions you may have, preferably via text.

Here's to keeping it pawstive!
Gary



General Meeting Minutes

Aug 6, 2024 by Dot Ramirez, Sec.

Call to order: Vice Pres, Lucy Radike at 6:30

Lucy made the announcements:

- Thank you to Jeannie for ice cream social, Mary for Staffing the table.

Upcoming activities:

- Speakers: Megan Reuben (tonight), Josh Proctor (October).
- Agility: Sept 7, Nosework begins Oct 25, Dog training classes announced and Walk-about now on Thursdays at 7pm.
- Molly talked about Project Hope, many new members joined TW because of Project Hope. Bravo (German Shepherd) has a new home and spoke about Josh Proctor from Bakersfield Animal Care Center.
- **Guest Speaker: Megan Reuben**
Began grooming dogs in 2015, specializing in dogs that need special handling when being groomed. She uses positive reinforcement to build trust and communication and understands that the grooming experience can be scary for dogs. She demonstrated the correct way to brush, comb and remove mats so as not to cause irritation to the skin. Megan talked about the different grooming equipment that she uses. She spoke about nail trimming and showed two short videos. Bathing tips were also presented followed by several members asking questions.
- Ended the evening with several Raffle prizes.
- Next month taking nominations for next year's board, final announcements.
- **Adjournment: 7:13**

Monthly Financial Report

August, 2024

By Jeannie Alvarado

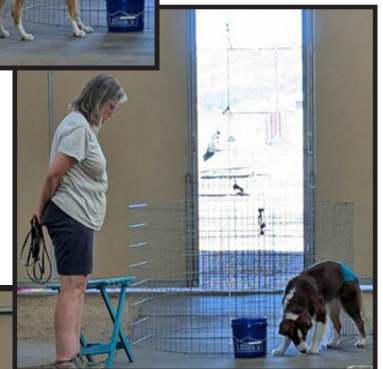
Checking Account Beginning Balance	\$5,897.89
INCOME	
Total	0.00
EXPENSES	
Newsletters	150.00
Total	\$150.00
Ending Balance	
As of Aug 25, 2024	\$5,747.89

Spotlight on Some Nosework Participants



Kathy Montes & Jessie

Sally Lyon & Mayah

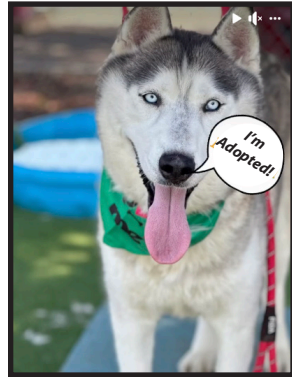
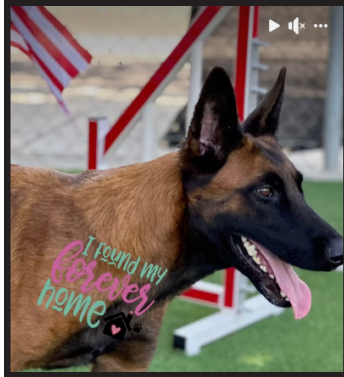


Bob Tebbe & Ben



Rescue Doing Great Work

Project Hope finding Homes for Dogs.



Thank you Jennifer White for these pictures, a great reminder of what volunteers are capable of doing when coming together! We work really hard on the front lines to get these dogs adopted! Yesterday we got 16 dogs new homes. For every celebration there is the hard reality that 100 to 150 new dogs alone will enter the City of Bakersfield Animal Care Center /Shelter on a weekly basis. We volunteers never give up because we know every dog should have a chance to find their forever people! We have so many fabulous dogs in all sizes, temperaments and breeds. We welcome you to come into our shelter and see for yourselves or call me and I will show you around...

Molly Mackin

Up-Coming Club Business and Fun!

September 3rd Meeting

NOMINATIONS - Anyone who wants to accept the nomination for being on the board needs to let the current board know at this meeting.

October 1st Meeting

VOTING for your Club Board at this meeting.

November 12th Meeting

PARTY TIME! End of the year party at Jeannie Alvarado's home! Installation of new officers will happen that night. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

December and January

We will be dark in December and January. Have a wonderful Holiday and rest up for a brand new 2025.

November 23rd Christmas Photos

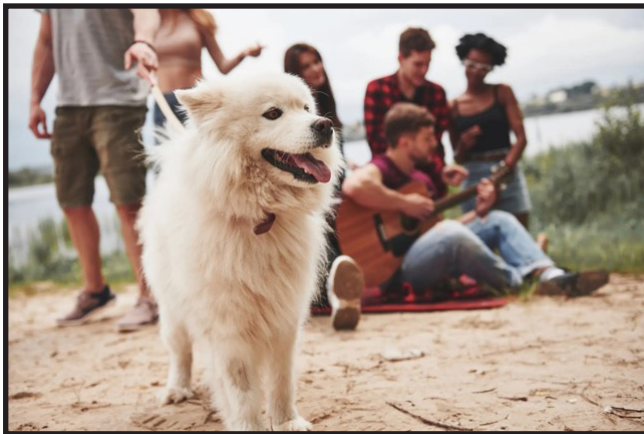
Look for more details in the next newsletter.



Featured Article

Heatstroke in Dogs

Summary from <https://www.bellaandduke.com/learn/dog-health/heatstroke-in-dogs/>



Heatstroke occurs when a dog gets too hot and is unable to cool themselves. Dogs are more susceptible to heatstroke than humans as they rely on panting to cool down and can only sweat through their nose and paw pads. Heatstroke can be fatal, with over 1 in 10 affected dogs dying, so it is an emergency if you think your dog might have it. (1) Exercise-related heatstroke is the most common type, accounting for 75% of cases in the UK. (2) This reinforces the importance of knowing when it is too hot to walk your dog and keeping the activity suitable for the climatic conditions. The other type of heatstroke occurs when a dog is exposed to hot environments, such as a hot car.

When is it too hot to walk my dog?
This can be a tricky one to give a definitive answer to as various climatic factors affect the rate at which dogs cool, including air temperature, radiant heat, humidity and wind speed. This, combined with the fact that some dogs are more at risk of heatstroke, due to their breed, age, weight or having an underlying health condition, means you need to assess the risk for your own dog. (3) It is important to remember that exercise-related heatstroke can occur at any time of year though, and that in fact, the average temperature (with the above factors considered) reported for this type of heatstroke was just 16.5°C. (63°F) General advice is usually that if the air temperature is below 19°C, (68°F) the risk is fairly low unless you have a dog who is more susceptible to heatstroke. At 20-23°C (70-76°F) you should keep to low-intensity exercise with no chasing or running! If it's above 23°C, (76°F) you should wait until it is cooler to take your canine bestie out and about.

If you are in any doubt, then it is always best to stay at home and stay cool – we have some tips to help keep your pet as cool as a cucumber.

Check surfaces!

No one wants blistered paws – ouch! Pavements, sand, or concrete all absorb heat and can get up to 50°C (130°F) higher than the air temperature. The rule of thumb is that if you can't comfortably hold the palm of your hand down on the ground for 10 seconds, the pavement can burn and blister your dog's paws, so don't walk them!

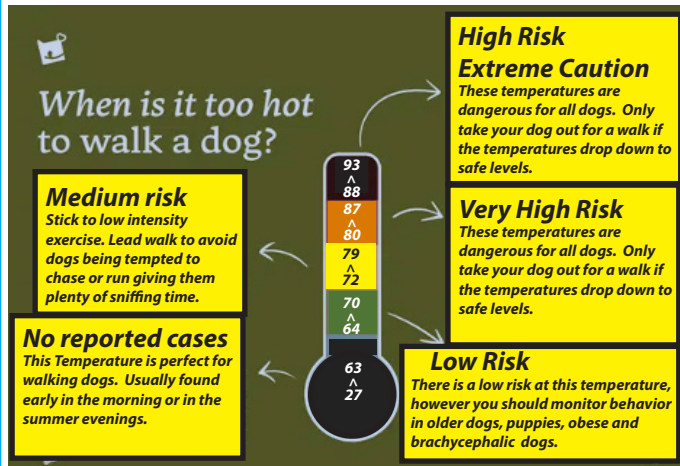
When is the best time to walk my dog during the summer?

Early mornings and late evenings, when it is

Continued...

Heatstroke in Dogs, con't...

cooler, are the best times to take your four-legged friend out for a walk on hotter days. It can sometimes be pretty humid in the evenings, which can affect the rate at which your dog cools – so bear this in mind when deciding if it is safe to take your pooch out. Woodland, shaded areas or places with safe water access will all help keep your dog cooler when out and about, and can make a walk more enjoyable, even at the cooler times of the day. It is also a good idea to take a water bowl with you to keep your dog well-hydrated.



Won't my dog just stop when they get too hot?

Unfortunately, many dogs aren't that good at self-regulating and will continue to chase a ball or run, even when they are hot and tired. This is why it is so important that you exercise your dog responsibly to help keep them safe. It is always best to keep it slow and steady, or not go for a walk at all if you are worried that it might be too warm.

The signs of heatstroke in dogs

It is vital that you are aware of the early signs of mild heatstroke so you can identify that there is a problem and act quickly:

Mild:

- Excessive panting, even when activity stops
- Stiffness
- Reluctant to move
- Fatigue

Moderate:

- Drooling
- Diarrhoea and vomiting
- A single seizure
- Collapse (but recovers)

Severe:

- Incoordination/wobbliness
- 2 or more seizures
- Depression
- Unresponsiveness
- Coma

Intervention when the signs are mild can be lifesaving, as dogs that reach severe signs are 65 times more likely to die.

What to do if your dog has heatstroke

Here's what you should do if you think your dog has heatstroke:

- You should call your vet immediately and tell them you're bringing in a dog with suspected heatstroke.
- Move your dog into the shade.
- Cool your dog down quickly – recent evidence in human medicine suggests the best way to do this for adult dogs is cold water immersion.
 - Pour, hose or, if possible, immerse the pet in really cold water (this needs to be done under constant supervision, keeping the head above water). Don't try to immerse the pet if it's too large, or you are unable to do so without hurting yourself
 - NB: If using a hose pipe, make sure to run through any hot water that may be sitting in the tubing.
 - For older dogs, spraying them with very cold water and using a fan for air movement is best – this is known as evaporative cooling.

Continued...

- DO NOT soak towels and leave them draped over the pet
- Offer them water.
- Switch on the air conditioning in the car before transporting the dog to the vet

Myth buster

Gradual cooling and not using cold water has previously been recommended, to prevent shivering and vasoconstriction (when blood vessels in the skin squeeze shut)... this has been busted! Rapid cooling is key!

Editor note: Go to the link for the full article with footnotes. bellaandduke.com/learn/



WholeDog Journal

Excerpted from Fight! A Practical Guide to the Treatment of Dog-Dog Aggression

by Jean Donaldson

A good meet and greet consists of the two dogs smoothly making muzzle to muzzle contact followed by some mutual rear investigation. Then either play will break out or the dogs will

go their separate ways. A male may urinate on the next available vertical surface.

Meet and greets may feature stiffness, posturing and snarky stuff. The latter sometimes indicates some lack of social skill or confidence, or simply routine friction in normal dog interactions.

It's a good general policy with unknown quantity dogs to break meet and greets off after several seconds, if the dogs don't do so themselves. I recommend allowing posturing, stiffness or standing over, provided there is rapid enough behavior change, i.e. the dogs don't get stuck in some looking stance such as a stiff **and growly T-position** (**perpendicular to each** other with one dog's chin or chest over withers of other). If there is some snarking or if they get stuck in some stiff posture, break them off. Happy talk them while walking away if one or both dogs are too stiff.

If you want to try again after breaking it off, wait a couple of minutes before re-engaging to let them cool off. Keep the dogs moving during the break and keep up the happy talk even as you disengage. Put the problem dog(s) through some obedience paces at some distance. Then try again.

For more information on ways to separate aggressive dogs as well as ways to use behavior modification to retrain an aggressive dog, download Jean Donaldson's **Fight! A Practical Guide to Dog-Dog-Aggression**.



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.

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Vice President
Lucy Radike
661-904-3379

Treasurer
Jeannie Alvarado
661-917-1915

Member at Large
Gary Hill
480-216-8488

Secretary
Dot Ramirez
209-277-8827

**Newsletter Editor/
Communications**
Pam Miller
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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: _____