



DOG TRACKS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ AUGUST 2024

Welcome to the new SJDTC quarterly newsletter!

This issue is an idea of what might be included in each quarterly issue, as well as a chance for everyone to chime in on what they'd like to see covered.

The newsletters would be produced September, December, March and June. This first issue is being sent out in August so that coverage can be included for our big trial in September.

Here are a few ideas I've thought of including:

- [Class Sessions](#)
- [Upcoming Trials](#)
- [Helpers needed at events](#)
- [Health related articles](#)
- [Other interesting dog-related information](#)
- [Braggs.](#)

I know Martha collects brags at the end of the year for our web page, and members are given an opportunity to brag after our meetings but not everyone is able to attend the meetings so this would be a chance to recognize success in a broader basis, so send me your brags!.

What would you like to see covered? Would you want to do a quarterly column on a subject?

Let me know!

Kim d.



"I can't believe that they try to hide my medication in my food. I'm a drug sniffing dog!"

Contents:

Doc Tailwagger	Page 3
Upcoming SJDTC Events	Page 4
Help Needed	Page 4
Rattlesnake Clinic	Page 6
Miss Penny Paws	Page 8

And various other things sprinkled here and there like dropped cookie crumbs!





is an integral element of the transaction. Some hosts may want to meet you and your dog at the first time of using their spot. You can search the local area for a Sniffspot that suits you, they are generally all secure, and some have more facilities than others. Some spots may have animals/dogs nearby, but the actual spot is for the hirers use only.

There is a fabulous spot in Valley Springs, two acres with a pond! And there are dozens in other areas.

All of the details, rules, how to use the app etc. can be found either in the Sniffspot app in the app store, or you can go directly to their website at sniffspot.com.

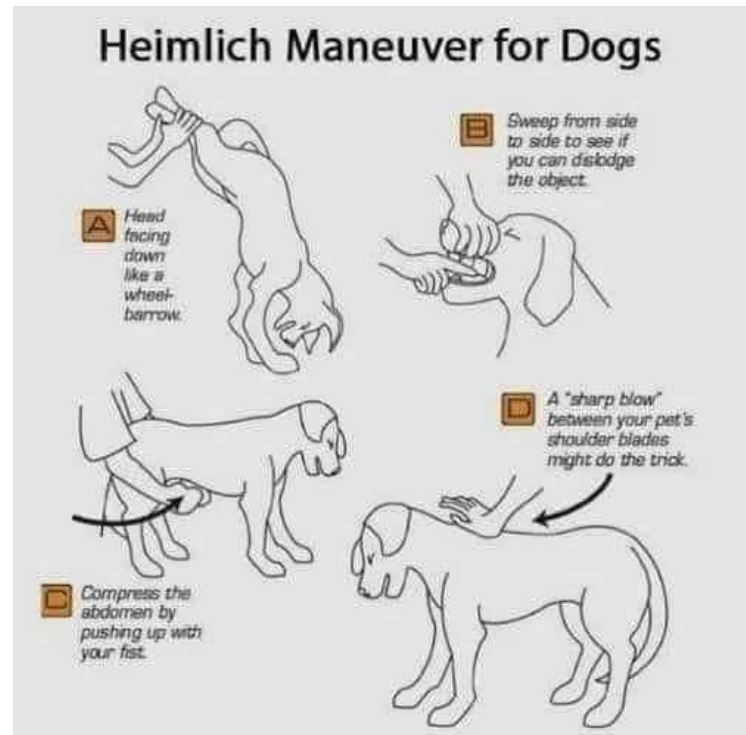
It's nice to have options on where we can take our fur kids to safely play!

SniffSpot Anyone?

I was just reading about Sniffspot and so wanted to share the information with you all as it seems like a great solution for those that want a safe place to take their dogs to run free, without the worries of other dogs at dog parks. Here is the article I read:

Sniffspot is basically Airbnb for dogs (their marketing speak, not mine!). Users hire a space (field or garden) from hosts who are willing to rent out their space for dogs to play off lead. The best thing is, it is for exclusive use of the person hiring the spot. I have been using Sniffspot for about 18 months (in Woodland), and we use it twice a week. It has been the best thing for our dog! The average cost is about \$10 per hour.

There are rules to follow, and (like Airbnb), the transactions are based on trust. Obviously, you are using someone else's land, and they are allowing strangers onto their property, so mutual trust/respect



Don't forget the General Membership meeting on Tuesday, August 6th – 7pm!



Health tips by Doc Tailwagger

Blue-Green Algae ~ A Warning Worth Repeating

Just about every summer there are a lot of warnings about the blue green algae that was so toxic to dogs that many were dying after swimming in lakes. While the majority of the cases were in other states, it is good to be aware if you take your dogs to swim in local lakes.

Hopefully this won't be an issue this summer, but I thought it prudent to share this information from the KCRA3 website:

Dog owners in the Southeast are spreading the word about the dangers of contaminated water following the deaths of their beloved pets.

In Wilmington, North Carolina, three dogs died after frolicking in a pond, while another succumbed after a swim in Lake Allatoona, Georgia. A common enemy likely led to the deaths of all four dogs: liver failure brought on by ingesting water contaminated with toxic blue-green algae. These pets died in the same region, but toxic algae can be found all over the United States -- so dog owners throughout the nation need to be on the lookout.

WHAT ARE TOXIC ALGAE?

Algae occurs naturally in water, but the blue-green variety are considered harmful algal blooms. Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are "primitive," photosynthetic organisms that can feed off the sun to make their

own energy and release oxygen and possibly toxins in the process, said David G. Schmale III, a professor at Virginia Tech.

Some species produce potent toxins that can sicken or even kill people, pets and wildlife, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Blue-green algae and other HABS can produce different types of poisons, some that affect the liver, others the brain.

Schmale said he hasn't seen a coroner's report to verify the causes of death, still he speculates the dogs were thirsty and the water contaminated. "Samples of the water where the dogs were likely exposed will need to be tested" for toxins and bacteria to verify this, though, he said.

WHERE DO THESE ALGAE GROW?

Harmful algae can bloom in both fresh and marine water. They've been observed in large freshwater lakes, smaller inland lakes, rivers, reservoirs and marine coastal areas and estuaries in all 50 states, according to Schmale.

Toxic algae can also grow in decorative ponds as well as backyard pools, providing homeowners with a good reason to properly sanitize swimming water.

WHAT DO TOXIC ALGAE LOOK LIKE?

Toxic algae can look like foam, scum or mats on the surface of water, said Schmale. Harmful algae blooms, which can be blue, vibrant green, brown or red, are sometimes mistaken for paint floating on the water. Toxic algae often stink, sometimes producing a downright nauseating smell, yet animals may be attracted to the smell and taste of them, according to the EPA.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY DOG HAS BEEN EXPOSED?

Symptoms, which usually arise anywhere from 15 minutes to several days after exposure, include diarrhea or vomiting, weakness or staggering, drooling, difficulty breathing and convulsions or seizures, the EPA reports. Immediately, take your pet to the vet if you see these symptoms.



HELP WANTED

And of course, with all of our activities, we need your help for all events. We can't do a successful trial without our wonderful volunteers!

Currently help is needed for the following events:

9/12, 9/13, 9/15 Scent Work trial – Woodland
9/21 – our big obed/rally trial at Sycamore. Need **ONE MORE** for Utility and **TWO MORE** for Open Obedience. Help is also needed for set up Friday **9/20**, and tear down after the show on **9/21**.
10/11, 12, 13 – Scent Work – Acampo

If you can help at any of the events, please let me know as I coordinate the workers to make things easier for the trial chairs.

Techers are definitely needed for the obedience class session at the Grape Festival and Susan and Marsi will teach you how to teach the puppy class – that's a fun one so please consider giving it a try!

Speaking of the big September Obedience/Rally trial, we also need help getting ads for the catalog. You don't need to be a great salesman, the prices are very reasonable and people are generally willing to support events like ours.

Just ask **ONE** business you deal with on a regular basis, if they would support our club by placing an ad.

Full page (4.25" x 5.5") is \$40
Half page (2 1/8" x 2.25") is \$20
Business card size is \$15

UPCOMING SJDTC EVENTS



**MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS!**

9/12/24 – Scent Work Trial – Woodland
9/13/24 – Scent Work Trial – Woodland
9/15/24 – Scent Work Trial – Woodland
9/21/24 – Rally/Obedience – Sycamore Lane
10/11/24 – Scent Work - Acampo
10/12/24 – Scent Work – Acampo
10/13/24 – Scent Work – Acampo
11/3/24 – Rally Seminar – Dream Big
12/1/24 – Ltd Obedience Trial – Dream Big

Obedience and other classes – Grape Festival
10/5 – 11/6/24



Please submit black and white ad in .jpeg format only, to Lisa Hillstrom lisa.hillstrom@yahoo.com
Any questions, please contact Lisa.

ALL ADS DUE BY 9/1

Thank you!

And on the Lighter Side~



A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and he sees a sign in front of a broken-down shanty-style house: 'Talking Dog for Sale.' He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice-looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

'You talk?' he asks.

'Yep,' the Lab replies.

After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says 'So, what's your story?'

The Lab looks up and says, 'Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so... I told the CIA. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world

leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping.'

'I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running...

But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals.'

'I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired.'

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

'Ten dollars,' the guy says.

'Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?'

'Because he's full of beans! He's never been out of the yard'



RATTLESNAKE CLINIC



It was a successful rattlesnake aversion training again in Burson.

Barbara Moffett reported the following message on Facebook:

Thank You Natural Solutions for a Successful 2nd Annual Rattlesnake Aversion Training!

114 Dogs were Trained Friday & Saturday at Burson Community Center sponsored by San Joaquin Dog Training Club & TriDam Lions Club!

Our Temperatures got to be 112 Friday & 100 Saturday! The Ground was 140 Degrees & they were hosing the ground to cool it down for the dogs & snakes.

Everyone was so happy that attended ❤️

Natural Solutions does a fabulous job with this training. And well done SJDTC volunteers too!!



No thank you!

I shall Not Eat Bees!!!

You may have been there – you're outside playing with your pup or just enjoying the fine weather and here comes your pup looking very different than they looked earlier! Yep – they were stung by a bee. A dog that gets stung by a bee will have a serious swelling.



As funny as they may look to you – and I've had it happen to my pups and they DO look funny – some dogs may be highly allergic to a bee sting.



Your first step should be to give your pup some Benadryl. Because dogs metabolize different than humans, the dosage is 1 mg per pound of body weight. So, a 70-pound dog would get 3 of the 25mg tabs. It is very safe to give to your dog.



In rare cases, if the dog is highly allergic to bee venom, he will have anaphylactic shock, which is dangerous. A dog with anaphylaxis may get extremely swollen and if the airways are affected, it may stop the dog from breathing.



Keep an eye on your pup for any dizziness or difficulty breathing and seek immediate veterinary attention at once.

NON-TOXIC BEE REPELLENT

Fill a spray bottle with water nearly to the top. Add a few teaspoons of liquid dish soap; this will help the next ingredients dissolve and distribute evenly. Add a few drops of peppermint essential oil – enough that you can readily smell when you spray the mixture. Then add 1/8 teaspoon each of cinnamon and cayenne pepper. Shake well. Strain and refill spray bottle.



Dear Speedy,

Not only is it better for your digestion to eat slowly, but it's better manners as well. Your owner needs to watch you for food protectiveness too. Are you really that hungry? Or are you trying to eat fast so no one else can get to your food?

How is your weight? If you're underweight, maybe you need more food. Do you get enough exercise? A large rock will work, but there are many dog food bowls out there for speedy eaters. Some have a large hump in the middle, some are designed like a maze.

Adding warm water to the food helps sometimes to slow down gobbling, but soft mush food can create more plaque so you'll have to brush after every meal. If your owner picks up your bowl half way through your meal, she should add a treat (like a liver snack) to the bowl when she gives it back, so the experience is a positive one.

Happy digestion,
Miss Penny Paws

Dear Miss Penny Paws



Dear Miss Penny Paws,

My owner thinks I eat my meals too fast. What do you think? Keep in mind, she makes me sit and wait before I'm allowed to eat and I flood the floor with drool while waiting. I can devour 2 cups of food in about 10 nano seconds.

My owner has tried hand feeding me and taking my dish away half way through my dinner, but nothing slows me down. A friend suggested putting a big rock in the middle of my dish so I'd have to eat around it. I don't know if that would work – what if I ate the rock too? Personally, I don't understand why she is so concerned.

Signed,
Speedy Eater

WHAT GIVES PEOPLE FEELINGS OF POWER

