

LEAD



LINES

Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County

August 2019

OFFICERS

President.....Betty Gansky
Vice President.....Steve Campbell
Treasurer Fran Smith
Recording Secretary.....Celeste Platte
Corresponding Secretary Liese Hookey

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Nancy Honchar ,Tracey Guiejka , Diane Sedberry

COORDINATORS

Puppy Coordinator Lindsey Smith
Basic/Intermediate Coordinator..... Tracy Guiejka
Rally Coordinator.....Steve Campbell
Competition Coordinator..... Diane Sedberry
CGC Coordinator..... Susan Minix
Tracking Coordinator Lori Patterson
Agility Coordinator..... Barbara Bounds,
Nose Work Coordinator.....Judy McPartland

CONTACT INFO

Leadlines

Lori Patterson—Otcpcbleadlines@gmail.com

Volunteer Hours

Judy McPartland
otcvolunteerhours@gmail.com

Titles Earned

Otcpcb.djf@outlook.com

Facebook Admin

Kelly McDonough
Kellmcd222@gmail.com

Dear Friends and OTCBC members,

The 10th Annual Bark and Bowl benefitting the National Canine Cancer Foundation is fast approaching. Have you dusted off your bowling shoes? Join us for a night of fun, camaraderie and fundraising! We will be bowling to strike out Canine Cancer on Friday, September 6th at the AMF Bowling Lanes in Boynton Beach from 7pm to 10pm. Don't bowl? Don't worry, just join us to have fun and support this "pawsome" cause. Please email me if you plan to join us.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has been supporting the Club's 50/50 drawings that benefit this event. And thank you to the members who have supported our team.

If you would like to make a donation to honor a pup that you lost to cancer, please click on this link to support our team: <http://barkandbowl.com/southflorida/otcpbc-paws-for-a-cure-p-4.html>

Remember, all donations are 100% tax deductible! If you wish to make a donation by check, please make the check out to NCCF and mail to my attention. My address is: 1146 Fernlea Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33417.

We bowl for all dogs but most especially in loving memory of: Allie, Bandit, Bentley, Charlie, Cher, Coco Blue, Coco Lannon, Dash, Fallon, Fiona, Gator Dog Adams, Hobie, Hope, Opie, Reese, Ronan, Sansom, Shadow, Shamrock, Stormy, Taffy, Tucker, Watson, and Willow. If loved could have saved you, you would have lived forever.

Kelly McDonough



Friday, September 6, 2019
7-10 PM

AMF Boynton Beach Lanes
1190 W. Boynton Beach Blvd
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County (OTCPBC)
General Membership Meeting
Monday, August 5, 2019

Members Present: Steve Campbell, Celeste Platte, Nancy Honchar, Diane Sedberry, Liese Hookey. Absent: Diane Sedberry ABSENT: Betty Gansky, Fran Smith, Tracey Guziejka

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve June 3, 2019 minutes from the General meeting as printed in Lead Lines. Motion by Lori Patterson. Seconded by Diane Sedberry. Motion approved unanimously.

President Report – Absent. Steve Campbell: On behalf of the Board of Directors and President Betty Gansky he thanked Karen Jones and Lodge Weber for the work they put into the obedience and rally Dog Obedience Clubs of Florida (DOCOF) team. Both leaders put together very competitive teams for both venues. As you may have heard by now, DOCOF has been cancelled for Labor Day weekend 2019 due to low entry numbers. The DOCOF committee would have been lost significant money if the event had proceeded.

Secretary Report – Celeste Platte. An updated copy of the Policy and Procedures has been sent to all members. There will also be copies available on the pass through. The premium for the Obedience Trail of September 28 & 29, 2019 has also been sent out and is available on the pass through.

Treasurer Report – Absent. Steve Campbell gave the report for Fran Smith of the club's current balance. Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the report as read.

Corresponding Secretary – Liese Hookey:

SECOND READING – VOTED INTO MEMBERSHIP

Lynn Brady
526 Sweet Bay Circle
Jupiter, FL 33458
561-317-6495
lynnbrady@gmail.com
Chihuahuas
Agility

Patricia Shadoin
8175 Playa Del Sur Blvd
Lake Worth, FL 33467
854-830-3876
passhadoin@gmail.com
Australian Labradoodle
Rally, Agility

Patty Armfield
13929 72nd Court North
Loxahatchee, FL
561-644-8488
Parmfield2000@yahoo.com
Australian Shepherds, German Shephard Dog
Obedience, Rally

Judy Wetzel
6268 Via Primo Street
Lake Worth, FL 33467
561-632-8113
Milo950@comcast.net
Vizsla
Agility, Scent Work, Rally, Tracking

Mary Carson
8704 159th Ct North
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418
561-307-7410
mary@darkwaterdanes.com
Great Danes
Obed, Rally, Agility, Scent Work

Bobbi Nettles
P.O Box 14545
North Palm Beach, FL 33408
561-248-1097
Springer Spaniel
waterlabs@att.net
scent work

FIRST READING:

Charlene Miserendino-Espodoza
13339 82nd Lane North
West Palm Beach, FL 33412
German Shepard Dog
glorykennels@yahoo.com
561-236-5963

Carolee Boyles
#25-45
7040 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road
Loxahatchee, FL 33470
813-431-4304
Carolee@caroleeboylesmediagroup.com
Flat Coat Retriever

Scent Coordinator – Judy McPartland, Absent. Her report was read by Nancy Honchar. **Check the website for upcoming classes.**

Trials: The American Kennel Club (AKC) Scent Work trial November 30 and December 1, 2019 will offer Handler Discrimination Novice and Advanced as well as Interior Novice, Advanced and Excellent. Two trials per day. First Received. Diana Johnson-Ford is working on premium. NACSW ORT for January 18, 2020 is approved. The specific NACSW rule change regarding ORTs takes effect July 1, 2020. After that time all levels NW1-NW3, and Element Specialty Trials will require passing ORTs in Birch, Anise and Clove. For the Rebell Noses April 2020 NW2 Trial you must have ORT in Birch and Anise. Clove is not required. ORT requirements for NW3 are unchanged. Significant rule changes specific to the NW2 and NW3 trials search area requirements take effect January 1, 2020. All information regarding rule changes can be found on: www.nacsw.net/trial-information/trial-rule-book. AKC Scent Work Trial January 25-26, 2020. Elements to be offered not yet decided.

Obedience Coordinator – Diane Sedberry. Diane will continue to be the Obedience Coordinator for 2020. Diane is working on the training classes and instructors for the 2020 year. Obedience Trial Chairs and Secretaries

January 2020. Chair - Donna Kornmeyer; Secretary – Linda Wood.

June 2020. Chair - Peggy DeMinico; Secretary – Diana Johnson-Ford

September 2020: Chair - Patty Armfield; Secretary – Celeste Platte

Lead Lines: Deadline Monday August 19, 2019 for brags and announcements

Lodge Weber, DCOF Coordinator, will be attending the delegate meeting on August 31 and will give a report at the next meeting.

Canine Cancer – OTCPCB is donating \$100.00 to the fund, plus all monies collected thru 50/50 drawings these past meeting. Total collected thru June 3 from the 50/50 is \$634.00. Total monies collected as of August 5 is \$722.00. Individual donations from members is \$478.00. All total monies donated totals \$2,200.00. If you wish to donate to the cancer fund, go to www.barkandbowl.com. Kelly McDonough will be sending out information on the event being held on Saturday September 6 at the AMC lanes in Boynton Beach starting at 7 PM

Agility trials - Arcadia August 16 – 18, 2019. There were a total of 1885 entries. The max allowed was 2100. A VERY good entry for OTCPCB.

Old Business

New Agility trials: Two new trial dates for Agility have been approved by the AKC for OTCPCB. The dates are May 2 and 3, 2020.

They will be held at "Bratty Paws" located in Punta Gorda, indoors on astro-like turf in a one ring setting. Entries will be limited to 350 per day. Sheyla Gutierrez has been hired to Judge. With the addition of these two trials, OTCPCB now offers the maximum number of trials one club can offer in a year per AKC.

Tracey Guziejka has contacted the Town of Lake Park regarding the overgrowth from the property behind the club which is once again pushing on the fence. It is the responsibility of the property owner to correct this problem. Tracey is awaiting a call back from the town.

Christmas Party – 2020. Cindy Ponga will again host the Club's Christmas party. It will be held at the same location as last year - Buongiorno's. The membership was all in favor of scheduling the party. More information will be sent out soon.

Next Meeting will be held September 9, 2019 at 7 PM.

Meeting adjourned 7:29 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Platte, Recording Secretary*

NEWS FLASH!!! 8/7/19

First of all I'd like to thank Karen Jones & Lodge Weber for all of their hard work in organizing DCOF for us this year. Unfortunately DCOF was cancelled due to lack of entries versus the expense to go on with the event.

Karen Jones graciously became our club delegate in March of '19. We were notified that there will be a meeting at DCOF President Ken Kincaid's training center in Orlando on August 31st.

Karen is unable to attend this meeting. In order for OTCPCB to have a representative at this meeting Karen Jones graciously stepped-down as our delegate & Lodge Weber stepped-up. He will attend the meeting on OTC's behalf. The DCOF Board would like us to have an alternate delegate. Sandy Gates has graciously stepped-up to take up that position.

A BIG thanks to all three of you!!!

Betty

Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, August 5, 2019

Members Present: Steve Campbell, Celeste Platte, Nancy Honchar, Diane Sedberry, Liese Hookey. Absent: Diane Sedberry ABSENT: Betty Gansky, Fran Smith, Tracey Guziejka

President Report -Absent

Secretary Report – Celeste Platte: The Policy and Procedures have been updated and emailed to all members. There are a few copies on the passthrough. The Premium for the September 28 & 29, 2019 obedience trial is also available.

Treasurer Report – Fran Smith: Fran was absent but sent the Profit and Loss statement through August 2 for distribution.

Corresponding Secretary – Liese Hookey: There are six pending member applications which will be read at the general meeting.

Web Master: Judy McPartland: Judy sent a report that there had been a problem with the webpage, but that has been resolved. The problem with PayPal not showing secured for transactions has also been corrected.

Lori Patterson questioned if it was a good idea to book all the weekends with events through the end of the year. If a good opportunity arises, such as a seminar, can that be scheduled?

Obedience Coordinator – Diane Sedberry: There is one class scheduled to start in December. It is a Utility Class taught by Liese Hookey.

The 2020 Obedience Trial secretaries are as follows: Linda Wood - January, Diana Johnson-Ford - June and Celeste Platte - September.

Diane is also going to check if Rachel Flatley is available to do a seminar either this year or 2020. Diane had received a solicitation offering to hold a seminar at the club. However, no information could be found as to her credentials, and no one on the Board had heard of her. Diane will politely decline the offer.

Tracking/Lead Lines – Lori Patterson: Nothing on Tracking. Lead Lines deadline will be Monday, August 19 which will allow agility participants at the upcoming Agility trial to get their brags in.

New Business

DOCOF was cancelled due to low entries. To support this future event, the DOCOF Board has requested the entered clubs donate their entries fees. MOTION at the end of these minutes

Consider moving Rally trials in July 2020 forward to a week later than current scheduled due to three events occurring that same weekend.

Need to check with AKC if the trial can be moved.

Mentoring program to get new instructors involved in teaching classes – Celeste Platte. Volunteer to hold a one- or two-night class on teaching. Then attend the classes to assist the new teacher. The teacher would be required to have titled a dog within the last five years in the class they are teaching. A want add will be put in Lead Lines with the criteria.

Steve Campbell read the profits from the June Obedience and Agility Trials and the July Rally trial.

Master Supply List: A master list of supplies will be made up to put on refrigerator for people to fill out when the supply is low.

Ask instructors and board members to check the supplies and mark the list on the refrigerator.

MOTION: DOCOF has been canceled for this year, 2019. OTCPC already paid to send participants. At this time, pending the outcome of the delegate meeting in September, OTC will not request a refund of the fees paid. Celeste Platte, First. Nancy Honchar Second. MOTION Passed.

MOTION VIA EMAIL: Approve the purchase of plastic gates and other distractions for training, not to exceed \$300.00. First: Celeste Platte. Second: Steve Campbell. MOTION passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Platte, Recording Secretary

August Agility Trial -Thank You!

I'd like to thank everyone who helped in making our August Agility trials in Arcadia such a success!

We had two outstanding Judges: Barbara Bounds & Oksana Syrkin. Their courses were terrific! GREAT JOB!!!

My Trial Secretary: Lori Patterson & her helpers Tracy Hanna & Rosie Feeley. All of you kept everything running as smooth as silk! GREAT JOB!

My Chief Course Builders: Carol Perrella, Daniel MacDonald & Peter Liu. I can't thank you enough for all the work you put into this weekend. Staying to work the ground, move the equipment, etc. after a 12 hour day! You can't be beat!!!

My Volunteer Coordinators: Chelsea Conklin, Jane Tutton & Joanie Taugher. What a GREAT team you were! All of you all kept the rings well-manned throughout the weekend at a VERY busy trial. GREAT JOB!

A VERY BIG thank you to Bobbi Nettles & Rosemary Siebeneck who independently drove over, spent the night at a motel & worked two full days at the trial. They did all of this WITHOUT showing a dog!

A VERY BIG thanks to OTC members: Bob Becker, Diana Johnson-Ford, Linda Wood, Sandy Gates, John Gorbas, Kay Wheeler, Edda Thor, Judy Weitzel & Sandy Crechiolo who helped man the rings! It was SO good to see so many OTC members participate at the trials in Arcadia!

I also can't forget to thank my #1 volunteer my husband Jeff! It's wonder he can see anything now after Scribing & Timing all weekend!

A BIG THANKS to ALL of the CDAC members who made our trials in Arcadia a great experience by helping out all the way around!

Until next time!

Betty Gansky



We lost Kona to cancer this past Saturday. She had a huge cancerous blood tumor, a Hemangiosarcoma, which ruptured Saturday afternoon. We rushed her to the vet, but nothing could be done so they euthanized her after we said our goodbyes.

She was at the vet a few times & it was never detected. We thought she was getting old & tired because of her severe hip & elbow issues. She was a trooper to the end. She had a great time in scentwork class last Tuesday.

Kona vom Mittelwest, BN, RN, CGC, FDC, TKN, ACT1, RATN, SWN, SIA, Achiever Dog 2018 July 31, 2010-August 10, 2019

Cancer-the silent killer takes another canine. My heart is broken for her. She was a sweet & wonderful little girl. She was a great friend & gifted me with so much love.

Cindy Ponga



BRAGS



On April 20, 2019, Paris earned her NACSW NW1 Title hosted by RebeLL Noses LLC at the Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation in Tequesta. In order to earn that title, she had to locate 1 hide among 5 vehicles, 1 interior hide, 1 exterior hide and 1 container hide among numerous containers.

She also earned two more of the 10 Interior Novice qualifications needed to achieve her Interior Novice Elite Title at the AKC Nose Work Trial hosted by the OCOD Trial in Daytona, May 18, 2019. 5 more to go. She earned another Container Novice qualification towards her Elite Container Novice Title and needs only 3 more.

Diane Wolak



Great news! My goal with Fate was to finish her CDX before she turned 2. Fate will turn 2 on August 27th. My mission was accomplished today (July 14th) in Daytona where she earned her CDX & placed 2nd out of 4 qualifiers in an extremely difficult situation!

By that I mean the High Jump was on an angle & the Broad Jump was next to the ring gate that we shared with the Utility dogs. I looked at the set-up & was discouraged but said to myself "what the heck we'll give it a try"! Fate exceeded my expectations!

This was Fate's first trial in a multiple ring set-up. The venue was so packed we had to crate in the back room, that was after arriving at 7:30 Saturday morning.

She came very close to qualifying on Saturday only missing the "drop on recall". It's hard to do the drop when you're running 50 MPH! LOL!

Betty & Fate, BN, CDX, RA, NAP





Ultra proud of my Brownies! We went to a nice local Performance Scent Dog trial in Dania Beach. Not perfect on everything but still had a nice haul. I was a little too quick to call a few things today, good learning experience for me! Oh well they both had fun searching and people really like to watch us search which is awesome.

Raleigh passed Novice Containers(1st), Distance(3rd) and Speed and Advanced Buildings(2nd). Also finished her Novice Container and Distance Titles.

My man Cash finished his Scent Dog Novice Title by passing and titling in Novice Buildings(1st) and Exteriors. Also passed Advanced Container (2nd) search.

Looking forward to the next trial!
Lauren Walsh



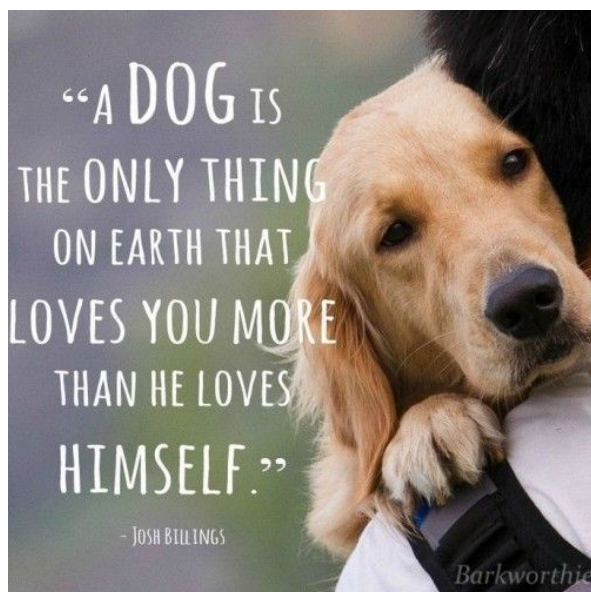
**We are happy to
announce that Samantha
is now a Champion!
Marie Forgach**

Kaylee and I have been very busy the past two years earning multiple title in several AKC venues. She is the first Australian Terrier to earn the coveted RACH.

CH RACH Ryba's
MyTime for Serenity,
CDX BN RM5 RAE2
BCat CGCA CGCU
TKN.



My thanks to all who
encouraged me to
earn these titles.
Sherry Cooper



Sherjak's Just in Case, call name Casey, earned his Master Agility Champion title June 1, 2019 at the Bayshore Companion Dog Club. Casey is 5 year old papillon owned and handled by Janet Brav. Casey is also qualified to compete at the 2020 AKC National Agility Competition in Perry, GA.



Bo and I, after many tries finally received our Novice Agility Preferred title. Thanks to all my friends at OTCPCB who have cheered us on.

Linda Wood



Fate completed her Novice Jumper's w/ Weaves Preferred title this past weekend & also earned her 1st leg in Open JWW Preferred.

She was really on a roll & ALSO earned her Open Agility Preferred title this

weekend after only showing in this class 5 times!

Fate has earned 8 titles since I began showing her on the 29th of Sept: Obedience: BN, CD, CDX, Rally: RN, RA, Agility: NAP, OAP & NJP.

She will turn TWO on August 27th! She's a remarkable little dog!

Betty



Volunteer Hours

Last Name	First Name	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours
Adams	Scott	9/12/2018	7/14/2019	210
Andrews	Angel	9/30/2018	6/2/2019	41
Asaro	Jean	10/28/2018	1/27/2019	34.25
Auer	Nancy	11/25/2018	4/7/2019	25
Becker	Robert	8/19/2018	6/16/2019	73
Bounds	Hailey	4/20/2019	4/20/2019	6.5
Boychuck	Tricia	11/17/2018	11/18/2018	8.25
Brown	Sandra	11/5/2018	6/3/2019	15
Butcher	Marjorie	3/31/2019	4/28/2019	27
Carey	Kim	2/3/2019	6/9/2019	23.5
Carlee	Lane	8/31/2018	8/14/2019	33.5
Carr	Lucy	1/13/2019	1/13/2019	20
Clouser	Patsy	11/18/2018	4/28/2019	28
Craig	Jane	11/17/2018	3/28/2019	52
Crechiolo	Joe	2/3/2019	6/9/2019	10
Crechiolo	Sandy	9/17/2018	7/14/2019	51.5
Czermann	Charlotte	9/28/2018	4/28/2019	56
Davis	Diane	5/26/2019	7/14/2019	23
Davis	Marge	9/9/2018	11/25/2018	21.5
DeMinico	Peggy	9/12/2018	7/14/2019	115.5
Feigenblatt	June	10/28/2018	4/14/2019	32.5
Feliciano	Jess	11/25/2018	11/25/2018	7.75
Forgach	Marie	11/25/2018	1/27/2019	17.5
Gates	Sandra	8/19/2018	7/14/2019	122
Gomez	Janet	3/3/2019	7/14/2019	47.25
Gorbas	John	8/19/2018	6/16/2019	66.75
Gosnell	Mike	6/3/2019	6/3/2019	4
Grosso	Brian	11/25/2018	1/27/2019	33.5
Grosso	Kathleen	8/18/2018	1/27/2019	35.5
Hamzy	Joe	9/28/2018	6/9/2019	14.25
Hamzy	MaryAnn	11/25/2018	11/25/2018	7.5
Hohmann	Marti	9/9/2018	1/27/2019	26
Johnson-Ford	Diana	10/14/2018	8/15/2019	135.5
Jones	Karen	9/12/2018	7/14/2019	88.5
Katzman	Andi	10/19/2018	10/19/2018	2
Kennedy	Bridget	12/19/2018	2/3/2019	22
Klein	Carol Ann	9/23/2018	5/26/2019	33.75
Kornmeyer	Donna	9/28/2018	8/5/2019	60

Last Name	First Name	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours
Kryla	Kathie	9/29/2018	6/9/2019	12
Macchia	Mary	8/30/2018	6/2/2019	21.5
McDonough	Kelly	1/13/2019	8/16/2019	25
McKennan	David	11/18/2018	7/14/2019	32.5
McPartland	Judith	8/20/2018	7/31/2019	226.75
Millar	Robert	9/1/2018	7/14/2019	53.25
Minix	Susan	9/12/2018	6/16/2019	55
Moore	Janet	9/30/2018	4/7/2019	34.25
Munn	Carol	9/9/2018	9/9/2018	2
Norton	Judy	10/14/2018	1/27/2019	31.5
Parker	Dianne	8/19/2018	8/31/2019	56.75
Patterson	Lori	1/6/2019	4/20/2019	44.5
Pichette	Helen	1/27/2019	1/27/2019	8
Ponga	Cindylou	9/9/2018	8/5/2019	40.5
Porter	Cynthia	9/9/2018	11/25/2018	32
Richards	Lou	9/9/2018	1/27/2019	17.25
Roche	Gary	11/18/2018	1/6/2019	23
Rubin	Laura	11/3/2018	6/3/2019	10
Siebeneck	Rosemarie	9/9/2018	8/5/2019	100
Smith	Lindsey	9/9/2018	2/13/2019	30.5
Strumwasser	Steve	1/19/2019	1/19/2019	2.5
Taylor	Lorene	10/19/2018	10/19/2018	2
Taylor	Matthew	11/17/2018	1/6/2019	22.5
Thors	Edda	4/20/2019	6/16/2019	4
Trummer	Michelle	2/3/2019	4/28/2019	18.5
Vasilou	Libby	6/9/2019	6/9/2019	5
Vence	Robert	9/23/2018	5/19/2019	113.5
Walsh	Lauren	9/9/2018	1/6/2019	9
Walter	Noel	6/9/2019	6/9/2019	5
Weber	Lodge	11/18/2018	7/14/2019	63.25
Wetzel	Judy	8/5/2019	8/5/2019	2
Wheeler	Kay	8/19/2018	1/27/2019	21
Wingfield	Wendy	9/9/2018	1/27/2019	13
Wolak	Diane	9/9/2018	1/27/2019	30.25
Wolak	Joe	9/9/2018	1/27/2019	43.75
Wood	Linda	8/19/2018	7/14/2019	122.25
Wright	Mary	9/17/2018	6/9/2019	127.8

Protect Your Pooch from Poisonous Plants

By Jan Reisen

Jun 13, 2019

It's important to protect your canine best friend from plants that are poisonous to dogs. Whether you're an avid gardener or have a few potted plants on your front stoop, you should be aware that some plants might not be your dog's friend. In fact, many shrubs, trees, and flowers commonly found in the garden and in the wild are dangerous if your dog eats them. Some can cause discomfort, some will make your dog miserable, and some can even be fatal if ingested.

Shrubs That Are Poisonous to Dogs

Azalea and Rhododendron: Used in landscaping and found in the wild, the entire genus is extremely dangerous for dogs. Eating even a few leaves can cause serious issues, including vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, paralysis, shock, coma, and death.

Holly: Varieties include American holly, English holly, Japanese holly, and Christmas holly. Although some are less toxic than others, it is best to keep your dog away from any variety. Eating the leaves can result in vomiting, diarrhea, and gastrointestinal injury due to the plant's spiny leaves. Symptoms include lip smacking, drooling, and head shaking.

Hydrangea: With high concentrations of toxic substances in the flowers and leaves, ingestion, especially of the leaves and flowers, can cause lethargy, diarrhea, vomiting, and other gastrointestinal upsets.

Ivy: Although a vine rather than a shrub, ivy is a common part of many landscapes. The foliage of certain types of ivy plants is dangerous to dogs, although not usually lethal. Ingestion can result in excessive salivation and drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, a swollen mouth and tongue, and difficulty breathing.

Oleander: All parts of this popular ornamental shrub are toxic to humans and dogs. If your dog ingests the flowers or leaves, he can experience extreme vomiting, an abnormal heart rate, and even death. Other signs to look for include tremors, drooling, seizures, and weakness.

Peony: These gorgeous flowering plants contain the toxin paeonol in their bark and may cause vomiting and diarrhea if ingested in large amounts.

Sago Palm: Often used as an ornamental shrub in temperate zones, it's considered one of the most toxic plants for dogs. Every part of the plant is toxic, especially the seeds. Ingesting just a few seedpods can result in acute liver failure. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea and bloody stools, decreased appetite, and nosebleeds.

Trees That Are Poisonous to Dogs

Black Walnut: The tree itself isn't dangerous, but the nuts that fall to the ground can be. They start to decay very quickly and produce mold, so when a dog ingests them they cause digestive upset and even seizures.

Chinaberry: The berries, leaves, bark, and flowers of this tree all contain toxins that can result in anything from vomiting and diarrhea to weakness, slow heart rate, seizures, and shock.

Fruit trees: The fruits of trees such as plum, apricot, peach, and even avocado contain pits, and the seeds of cherries and apples contain toxins that can make your dog sick and are choking hazards. Even if they only eat the fruit, eating too much can cause diarrhea.

Horse Chestnut (Buckeye): This tree contains saponin, which causes vomiting and diarrhea, dilated pupils, affects the central nervous system, and can also lead to convulsions and coma.

Japanese Yew: All varieties, from the dwarf to the giant trees, contain dangerous toxins that can be fatal to dogs. Symptoms include tremors, vomiting, difficulty breathing, and seizures. Because of their bright green leaves and red berries, they are popular holiday decorations – but they should not be used in homes where dogs live.

Other nut trees: As a general rule, nuts aren't safe for dogs. Avoid letting your dog eat the nuts from almond, pecan, hickory, walnut, or other nut trees. Ingestion can cause gastrointestinal problems and intestinal blockage. Also, there are toxins in walnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, and hickory nuts that can cause seizures or neurological symptoms if your dog eats them.

Flowers and Bulbs Poisonous to Dogs

Autumn Crocus: These fall-blooming plants contain colchicine, which is extremely toxic, causing gastrointestinal bleeding, severe vomiting, kidney and liver damage, and respiratory failure. Symptoms might be delayed for several days, so don't wait to seek veterinary attention if your dog has ingested any part of this plant.

Begonia: Often used in containers, these tubers can cause mouth irritation and difficulty swallowing when ingested.

Chrysanthemum: These common flowers contain lactones and pyrethrin, which cause intestinal irritation. While not lethal, eating any part of the plant can result in vomiting, diarrhea, excessive drooling, skin rashes, and loss of coordination.

Daffodil: Ingesting any part of the plant, especially the bulb, can cause severe vomiting, drooling, tremors, respiratory distress, convulsions, and heart problems.

Foxglove: All parts of these tall beautiful flowers, from the seeds to the petals, are extremely toxic to dogs. Ingestion can cause cardiac failure and even death.

Geranium: All varieties of this common container plant are poisonous to dogs. The symptoms include lethargy, low blood pressure, skin rashes, and loss of appetite.

Iris: Ingesting any part of the plant can cause skin irritation, drooling, diarrhea, vomiting, and lethargy.

Lily: With so many different varieties of lilies, it's hard to remember which are dangerous and which are relatively benign. Some — for example, daylilies — are extremely toxic to cats, but cause only gastrointestinal upset in dogs. Others, such as the calla lily, release a substance that burns and irritates a dog's mouth and stomach, and symptoms can be mild to severe.

Lily of the Valley: Symptoms of ingestion include diarrhea, vomiting, a drop in heart rate, and cardiac arrhythmia.

Tulip and Hyacinth: The bulb is the most toxic part, but any part of these early-blooming flowers can be harmful to dogs, causing irritation to the mouth and esophagus. Typical symptoms include excessive drooling and vomiting. If many bulbs are eaten, symptoms may include an increased heart rate and irregular breathing. With care from a vet, dogs usually recover with no further ill effects.

Where to Get Help if You Think Your Dog Ate a Poisonous Plant

The [AKC Vetline](#) offers 24/7 access to trained pet care professionals and licensed veterinary staff who offer assistance with questions about poisoning, as well as general healthcare issues concerned with illness, injury, nutrition, and when a dog should be examined by a veterinarian. It's very important to remember that the hotline is not a substitute for veterinary care.

According to American Kennel Club Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Jerry Klein, the best cure is prevention. He recommends that you survey your yard and identify any plants that may be dangerous. Then restrict your dog's access to them. And when in doubt, seek professional help. "The most common mistake pet owners make is to wait to see if the dog becomes ill before contacting the veterinarian," says Dr. Klein.

My Dog Ate a Toxic Plant — What Should I Do?

If you suspect your dog has eaten something toxic, follow these steps:

Contact your vet or [AKC Vetline](#) as soon as possible. Or call the [Pet Poison Helpline](#)(855-764-7661) for accurate advice. (You will be charged a fee when you call the helpline.)

1. Try to identify the plant by taking a sample or a photo or by collecting the dog's vomit in a plastic bag.
2. When you reach the vet or helpline, provide as much information as possible, including:
 - The suspected plant and the time of ingestion.
 - Your dog's weight.
 - Any symptoms your dog is showing.
4. *Under no circumstances should you induce vomiting unless instructed to do so by the vet.* Specific plant poisons require specific treatments, and vomiting can make some cases worse.
5. Don't fall for the myth that dogs instinctively avoid dangerous plants. While it is sometimes true of animals in the wild, dogs have no ability to distinguish between safe and unsafe plants.

How to Read a Dog Food Label

By [Jan Reisen](#)

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We all want the best for our dogs, including nutrition. And anyone who has shopped for dog food knows, there are virtually unlimited options: Hundreds of brands with innumerable ingredients; wet, dry, and raw food; age-specific food; restricted diets, along with all sorts of advertising and marketing claims to decipher. The label is the best tool to use when you make a choice, but can often be hard to understand. We're here to demystify how to read a dog food label.

Dog Food Label Format

All pet food labels follow roughly the same format:

- Product and brand name or unique identifier.
- Quantity in terms of product weight, liquid measure, or count, depending on the formulation of the food.
- Guaranteed analysis, which specifies the amount of specific nutrients.
- Ingredients, which must be listed in descending order by weight.
- Nutritional adequacy statement, which must be backed up by testing that proves the food provides a certain level of nutrients. It may also include the life stages the food is appropriate for.
- Feeding directions.
- Manufacturer's name and address

Calorie statement

Now that you know what is listed, what does it all mean? Let's take them one at a time.

Product Name

Quick Tip: It's all in the wording.

There's more to the product name than clever marketing. The name will actually give you your first clue about the ingredients. Because so many pet owners base their buying decision on a specific ingredient, brands will try to highlight that ingredient in the product name. But it's all in the wording. The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) has

four rules:

- The 95 Percent Rule: At least 95 percent of the product must be the named ingredient, for example, "Chicken for Dogs," or "Salmon Dog Food," must include at least 95 percent of chicken or salmon, respectively. In addition, this main product must be at least 70 percent of the total product when counting the added water. According to AAFCO regulations, the remaining five percent of ingredients will be those required for nutritional reasons, such as vitamins and minerals, and small amounts of any other ingredients.



- The 25 Percent Rule: When you see products named "Beef Dinner for Dogs," "Chicken and Sweet Potato Entrée," or "Lamb Platter," for example, this is the 25 percent rule in action. If the named ingredients comprise at least 25 per-

cent of the product (not counting the water for processing), but less than 95 percent, the product name must include a qualifying term, such as dinner, entrée, or platter. Counting the added water, the named ingredients still must comprise 10 percent of the product. If more than one ingredient is included in a "dinner," the combination of the named ingredients must total 25 percent of the product and be listed in the same order as found on the ingredient list.

- The "With" Rule: When you see a dog food label, such as "Doggie Dinner With Beef," the "With . . ." ingredient need only be at least 3 percent of the product. Just the addition of that one word — "with" — dramatically changes the percentage requirement of the ingredient in the food and is a good reason to pay attention to the product name.

The Flavor Rule: According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), if the label says "Beef Flavor Dog Food," then "a specific percentage (of the

beef) is not required, but a product must contain an amount sufficient to be able to be detected.” In this example, the word “flavor” must appear on the label in the same size, style, and color as the word “beef.”

Quantity

Quick Tip: Don’t go by looks.

The quantity listed on the label tells you how much of the food is in the container. This may be measured by weight, liquid measure, or by count. Products can vary in density (think wet food vs. dry food, for example). So if you really want to know how much a product costs, do a cost-per-ounce or cost-per-pound comparison.

Guaranteed Analysis

Quick Tip: Look at the basic four: protein, fat, fiber, and water.

Many states have [regulations requiring the minimum amount of nutrients](#) a pet food must contain, as well as the maximum amount of moisture and crude fiber. Dog food labels must display the percentage of crude protein, crude fat, crude fiber, and water. For those who like to get really technical, there’s a detailed explanation of how the guaranteed analysis is calculated on the [FDA website](#).

If there are specific guarantees, such as that the food is low-fat, then both the maximum and minimum percentage of the item must be guaranteed. If a product claims to have vitamin or mineral supplements, there must be a guarantee of the amount the product supplies.

Ingredients

Quick Tip: Ingredients are listed in order by weight.

According to Dr. Jerry Klein, the AKC’s chief veterinary officer, the ingredients section is the most important part of the label to read. Ingredients must be listed in descending order by weight. Each ingredient must be listed individually, and, according to AAFCO regulations, [terms describing collective ingredients](#), such as “animal protein

products” are not allowed. In addition, ingredients must be listed by their “common or usual name.” The AAFCO has a [detailed list of ingredients](#), their common names, and what they contain.

A word about byproducts: While we may not want to eat them, byproducts are not necessarily a bad addition in dog food. They include parts such as the liver, which is rich in vitamin A. Other byproducts include blood, brains, bone, stomach, and cleaned intestines. Meat meal may also contain ingredients we consider byproducts. It sounds gross, but your dog might not agree.

Nutritional Adequacy Statement

Quick Tip: Look for the fine print on the side or back of the package.

Many dog foods claim to be “complete and balanced” or “100 percent nutritious.” These aren’t just marketing terms. Dr. Klein says, “The phrase means that the food has met specific government standards and provides complete and balanced nutrition for all life stages of adult dogs, as determined by AAFCO.” The food has to contain the proper amount and ratio of essential nutrients for the needs of a healthy dog. Often the nutritional adequacy statement identifies the life stage the food is appropriate for. AAFCO recognizes these stages:



- Gestation/lactation
- Growth
- Maintenance

All life stages

Some products are labeled for a more specific use or life stage, such as “senior” or for a specific size or breed. The [FDA says](#), “There is little information as to the true dietary needs of these more specific uses, and no rules governing these types of statements have been established. Thus, a “senior” diet must meet the requirements for adult maintenance, but no more.”

The nutritional adequacy statement must be in a standardized format, which makes it easy to compare products.

Feeding Directions

Quick Tip: *Feeding directions are guidelines, not regulations. Regardless of what the package says, consult your vet.*

This is pretty straightforward — the label tells you how much you should feed your dog. This is listed either by the weight of the food per pound or measure of food per cup. However, as the FDA says, breed, temperament, environment, and many other factors can influence food intake.

According to Dr. Klein, it’s also important to note the “sell-by” or “best-used-by” statement. He says, “Due to the nature of the ingredients used in all dog foods, including fats and proteins, the food can go rancid. Expired dog food offers less nutritional value and can grow harmful bacteria or mold that can sicken your dog.”

Deciphering the Descriptive Terms

There are so many new trends in pet food that it can be difficult to know exactly what you’re getting. Is “organic” the same as “natural”? What does “lite” mean? Is “grain-free” a good thing? Does my dog need “new proteins”?

Organic: There are currently no official regulations specific to the labeling of organic foods for pets, although the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is developing some. In the meantime, dog foods that claim to be organic must meet the ingredient, pro-

duction, and handling requirements of the [USDA’s National Organic Program](#) to be [considered organic](#).

In simple terms, organic dog food is defined the same way organic human food is:

- No artificial preservatives, coloring, or flavoring.
- No antibiotics or growth hormones in meat and meat by-products.

No or little fillers.

Is organic pet food better? The jury is still out on this. High-quality commercial dog food meets the AAFCO’s stringent nutritional guidelines and lists any type of fillers fairly low on the ingredient list. Sometimes dogs with sensitive stomachs do better with organic food, and some organic foods have beneficial antioxidants. Organic food is, however, more expensive. Frankly, it’s your call.

“Natural” is not the same as “organic.” The latter term refers to the conditions under which the plants were grown or animals were raised. For the most part, “natural” can be construed as equivalent to a lack of artificial flavors, artificial colors, or artificial preservatives in the product

Grain-free: There is [little veterinary science](#) to support the benefits of [grain-free dog food](#). That being said, Lisa Freeman, veterinary nutritionist and professor of clinical nutrition at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, has written that there’s a possibility that an increase in a heart disease called cardiomyopathy is “associated with eating boutique or grain-free diets, with some of the dogs improving when their diets are changed.” Some dogs actually do better with the high-fiber content of grains. Grain-free diets are also being reviewed at this time by the FDA because there is the concern of a possible link of certain dogs or breeds of dogs to Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM) — a type of canine heart disease that affects the heart muscle in certain dogs or breeds of dogs.

New proteins: No, they’re not really new. They derive from sources such as bison, kangaroo, rabbit, and other “exotic” animals. It’s tough to rate their benefits because they have different digestibility and nutrient profiles than the more common proteins. They may be suitable for dogs that have difficulty eating chicken, beef, or other meats.

Human-grade dog food: Defined as a food that is legally edible and approved as nourishment for humans, human-grade food is highly regulated by the FDA and the USDA. However, according to the AAFCO, for a product to be human edible, all ingredients in the product must be human edible and the product must be manufactured, packed and held in accordance with federal regulations in 21 CFR 110, Current Good Manufacturing Practice in Manufacturing, Packing, or Holding Human Food.

Also, human-grade dog food is not necessarily safer, tastier, or less expensive than high-quality pet food.

Lite, low-calorie, and low-fat: To use any of these terms, the food must have a significant reduction of calories or fat compared to standard pet food. The AAFCO requires that labels making these claims must show the percentage reduction in calories or fats and must name a product for comparison.

Cheat Sheet for Reading Pet Food Labels

You probably now know more than you ever thought possible about all those words on your dog's food packaging. This information should make you a better-informed consumer, helping you to choose the best possible diet for your pup. Here's a quick cheat sheet to help you remember all of this when you're standing in the dog food aisle:

- The ingredient listed first is the greatest ingredient in the food by weight.
- The sell-by date will help prevent you from buying food that may have gone bad.
- The guaranteed analysis tells you how much protein, fat, fiber, and water the food contains.
- The quantity of different products should be compared on a cost-per-pound or cost-per-ounce basis. The feeding directions are recommendations, not rules. Check with your vet.

*Labeling is regulated on the federal level by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which establishes standards for all animal food. Some states have their own regulations, which are often adopted from the regulations of the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO).