

# LEAD



# LINES

Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County

MARCH 2022

## OFFICERS

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

## BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Nancy Honchar, Tracey Guiejka, Scott Adams Sr

## COORDINATORS

Rally Coordinator.....Steve Campbell  
Obedience Coordinator..... Nancy Honchar  
Tracking Coordinator..... Diana Johnson Ford  
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

## FROM THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

### Obedience Fix n' Go Pilot Program Status Update

By Companion Events Department on January 25, 2022

As you know, at the February 2021 AKC Board meeting, the Board approved a one-year "Fix n' Go" Pilot Program for Obedience that became effective April 1, 2021. At the end of the summer 2021, a survey of exhibitors and judges was conducted and provided the following information:

90% of the exhibitors that have used Fix n' Go with their dogs at trials said it has been beneficial as way to improve their future performances in obedience. 98% of the obedience judges who judged during the pilot felt that Fix n' Go was good for the dogs and it will have a positive impact on the sport.

The AKC Board VOTED to amend Chapter 2, Section 27 of the Obedience Regulations to make Fix n' Go a permanent enhancement to the sport of obedience at the end of the pilot program. This is a change to the Obedience Regulations and will become permanent on April 1, 2022. The amended language in the Regulations will be as follows:

#### Obedience Regulations – Chapter 2

Section 27. Training and Handling in the Ring. When a handler is using excessive verbal commands, this could indicate the dog is not under control and is not working with the handler willingly. The judge must determine if this dog should be released for a lack of control. The handler is not allowed to correct or discipline a dog and will be released from the ring.

When the dog's performance does not meet the handler's expectation, the handler may choose to use a "Fix n' Go" option once, which allows the exhibitor to immediately reattempt a single individual exercise. This allows the team to reattempt that one exercise, and then leave the ring. In a two-part exercise, the handler may choose only one part to reattempt. It is the handler's responsibility to tell the judge they are choosing to "Fix n' Go." Using the Fix n' Go option will result in a non-qualifying score (NQ). The handler may begin the reattempt from the start or at any point during the exercise.

The handler may choose to help the dog through the Fix n' Go exercise. Helping the dog may be accomplished using verbal encouragement, including additional commands and praise, and/or approaching the dog in a friendly/positive manner without touching the dog.

Harsh verbal and /or physical corrections will not be tolerated. If there is any determination of harshness by the judge, the handler will be immediately released from the ring.

Spectators form their opinion of the sport through seeing the action of the handler and the dog. Care must be taken to avoid any action that might reflect poorly on the sport.

**Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes – Via Zoom Meeting**  
**Monday, January 10, 2022**

**Board Members Present:** Betty Gansky, Steve Campbell, Fran Smith, Celeste Platte, Scott T. Adams, Sr., Nancy Honchar, Tracey Guziejka.,

Call to order at 7:00 pm by President Betty Gansky

**Minutes of General Meeting** – Motion to approve minutes of the General Meeting of November 1, 2021, as published in Lead Lines. First: Nancy Honchar. Second: Scott T Adams, Sr.

**Reports:**

- **Presidents** – Betty Gansky. Remember to clean up after your dog and to sanitize the table when you are done training. Agility premium is now out. It will be held at Ft Pierce at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds on February 4– 6, 2022. If you can volunteer, please go to the website and sign up. There is a link on page 4 of the premium.
- **Vice President** – Steve Campbell Access cards. An email is sent to each member when their access card payment is due.
- **Secretary** – Celeste Platte. Membership Renewals. Three members did not renew as they moved. Another member did not renew – cause unknown.
- **Obedience Trial Secretary** – Celeste Platte. Change of judge. The judge for the January 15 & 16 obedience trial had to cancelled due to family COVID-19. Luci Seeley has agreed to judge this trial for the club.  
MOTION: As a thank for Luci Seeley agreeing to judge at the last minute, a \$50 gift card will be given to her as a thank you. First: Linda Wood. Second: Scott T Adams, Sr. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Treasurer** –Fran Smith. Gave a report on the financial status of the club.
- **Obedience Coordinator** – Nancy Honchar. Upcoming scheduled classes are full. There will be a Show and Go prior to the Jupiter Tequesta trial of March 19 & 20.
- **Rally Coordinator**- Steve Campbell – The next Rally trial will be April 30 – May 1, 2022
- **Agility Coordinator** –Barbara Bounds. New agility classes scheduled. Five Classes still have openings.
- **Scent Coordinator** – Judy McPartland. Judy gave the profit from November 2021 scent trial. The next Scent trial is January 29 & 30, 2022. Volunteers are needed.
- **Tracking Coordinator** – Diana Johnson Ford –OTCPBC VST & TDU tracking tests were held on January 8 & 9, 2022. VST had 1 entry and TDU had 3 entries. There were a couple of OTCPBC members testing.
- **Webmaster** – Judy McPartland. Spoke briefly about the classes that have started in January and the results of website entries for the Obedience Trial January 15 & 16, 2022.

**New Business:**

**Board Election** – All Board members are returning from 2021. There were no other nominations. The Secretary cast a ballot electing the Board of Directors who are Betty Gansky, President; Steve Campbell, Vice President; Fran Smith, Treasurer; Celeste Platte, Secretary. At Large Board Members: Scott T. Adams, Sr., Nancy Honchar, Tracey Guziejka.,

**Honorary Members**—Betty Gansky read the names of people recommended for Honorary Membership in the club. They are Bobbi Blythe, Jeff Gansky, Ray Hookey, Ann Levy, Joe Wolak, Mirabelle Wrist, Erika Gueijka, Joan Bruno, Victoria MacVicar  
MOTION: To accept the above names as Honorary Membership as read. First: Celeste Platte. Second: Scott T Adams, Sr. Motion approved by membership

**New Members:** Second reading – voted into membership.

**Robin Landen** sponsored by Libby Vasiliou and Scott T Adams Sr.

1954 Kudza Road

West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Breed(s): Rottweiler

E-mail: robinlanden@att.net

Home: 561-434-4638

Cell: 561-313-8279

**Linda Morgan** sponsored by Nancy Honchar and Kathie Kryla.  
2005 Bedford Drive  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33403  
Breed: Brittany  
E-Mail: morganmae@bellsouth.net  
Phone: 561-459-9549  
Obedience, Agility

**Susan Venegas** sponsored by Libby Vasiliou and Lisa Brooks  
Venegas, Susan  
710 East Rambling Drive  
Wellington, FL 33414  
Breed: Aust Shep, Border Collie, McNab, Mixed  
E-Mail: 710rambling@gmail.com  
Phone: 954-288-5027  
Dock Diving, Frisbee, Nosework

**First reading of application for membership:** Alicja Zyzdryn sponsored by Barbara Bounds and Angel Andrews and Frances O'Sullivan, sponsored by Sandy Crechiolo and Kathy May.

Next General meeting will be held via zoom on Monday night April 4, 2022, at 7:00 PM

Motion to adjourn. First: Celeste Platte. Second: Linda Wood

*Respectfully submitted,*

*I am overwhelmed and much comforted by the outpouring of kindness from my OTC world. Thank you all for the notes, texts, cards and calls. I miss my Vera terribly. Oh, the places she took me, the lessons she taught, about training, love and life. She was brave, gentle, smart and funny. After all isn't that all anyone wants in a friend? I will miss her forever.  
My sincere thanks to you all.*

*Mary and Vera*

Per Board approval I sent Nancy Atkins a \$100.00 Visa gift card. She was the RV Coordinator & couldn't make it to the trial therefore she did not get a free entry. She did a LOT of work on this I thought it only fair to award her in some way. She did not want to get paid. This was her response to the gift card.

Betty

*Thank you SO much for the gift card, Betty and OTCPBC!*

*I really love working with you and it's always extra nice to feel appreciated.*

*Sometimes it's more work than other times, but we do what we have to do. You run a great trial.*

*Nancy*

## **Board of Directors' ZOOM Meeting**

**Monday, January 24, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Betty Gansky, Fran Smith, Celeste Platte, Scott Adams, Nancy Honchar, Tracey Guziejka. **Coordinators:** Judy McPartland, Barbara Bounds **Absent:** Steve Campbell

### **Reports:**

**President** – Betty Gansky – The lock box key was missing when the next instructor went to teach a class on Monday. Everyone that uses the box is reminded to use the key, then immediately return it and lock the box.

**Vice President** – Steve Campbell - ABSENT

**Secretary** – Celeste Platte. Defibrillator for the club. In 2021 the Board approved the purchase of Defibrillator to be installed after the building was painted. The unit will be purchased shortly.

**Treasurer** – Fran Smith: Sent Work trial checks to be deposited on Tuesday.

**Obedience Coordinator** – Nancy Honchar Classes are posted online. The basic classes are pretty much scheduled through the end of the year.

**Rally Coordinator** – Scott Adams for Steve Campbell said everyone seems to be enjoying the rally class.

**Scent Work Coordinator** – Judy McPartland. Scent Trial January 29 & 30. NACSW February 20. It will be an odor recognition test. Volunteers are always needed.

**Webmaster** – Judy McPartland: Rose Siebeneck is now posting the classes on the club calendar.

**Agility** – Barbara Bounds. Classes going well.

**Tracking** – Diana Johnson Ford – Absent

### **New Business**

**Secretary's Pay for trials.** On 2021-10-11 the Board approved payment to volunteer Trial Secretaries in the amount of \$50 per trial. After discussion, the Board agreed to let the motion stand.

**Volunteer Hours for New Members** – If the applicant earns more than the required 10 hours for membership approval, the additional hours will be credited to their yearly total of 20 hours.

### **Class Scheduling – Timeframe**

If a class has been scheduled, it will be posted to the website. Time the classes open to registration: Approximately six weeks before the start of class. Instructors will receive their class rosters at least seven days before the start of class.

**Ribbon Pricing** – The Board discussed changing from rosette ribbons to a more cost-efficient option. More research will be done and will be discussed at a future meeting. Only a small order of ribbons is needed for the balance of 2022.

**Railroad Ties** bordering the potty area. The railroad ties around the potty area are in bad shape with some having holes large enough to catch a dog's foot. Unfortunately, railroad ties are very hard to come by at this time. Tracey Guziejka found a dependable company that can replace all the ties (67 feet) with 6 x 6 x 8 retaining boards. These are pretreated pine lumber designed to stand up to the elements.

The company will remove and dispose of the old ties, place the necessary rebar, prepare the area, and install the new product. This can start the week of January 31.

**MOTION** to hire Hardscape Concept to replace the railroad ties around the potty area for the quoted price of \$3,571.40. First: Fran Smith Second: Nancy Honchar. Motion passed unanimously.

**Mirror Curtains** – It was agreed that the curtains placed on the mirrors could be left up if there was another trial schedule in two weeks or less. No more than two weeks between trials.

**Volunteer Hours for travel time** – The Board discussed including event travel time to the volunteer hours earned. This has been successful at other clubs resulting in more volunteers for events. The issue was not if travel time should be included, but at what distance would the calculations start. Proposed plans will be done and brought back to the Board.

**Pet Medic Packs** – The Board agreed that there should be Pet Medic Packs available for emergencies just as there are for human first aid kits.

**MOTION** to purchase four MyMedic Pet Medic. One will be in the building, one in the agility shed and two kept on hand. First: Celeste Platte. Second: Scott Adams. Motion approved.

**AKC Political Action Committee (PAC)** All of the money donated is used in a non-partisan way to recognize, keep in office, those officials who support purebred dogs and help protect against attacks from animal rights groups,. AKC covers the administrative costs of the PAC.

**MOTION** to donate \$250 to the AKC PAC. Motion First: Celeste Platte. Second: Tracey Guziejka. Motion Approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Celeste Platte, Secretary*



## **January 15, 16, 2022 Obedience trial**

What a wonderful group of OTC volunteers. It's always a pleasure to see so many people take time away from their weekends to work for the club. Scott Adams led the way from set-up Friday to clean-up Sunday with Table Steward Saturday and Sunday and Chief Steward the entire weekend. Bob Vence did the ring Saturday and Sunday with the help of Patsy Clouser and Bobbi Nettles. Frances O Sullivan, Alicja Zyzdryn, and Lynn Halpern handled check-in. Kim Corey and Linda Morgan helped with clean-up Sunday afternoon. Mike Edmonson and Keith Musbach handled awards all weekend. Mary Ann Hamzy gathered orders for lunches each day and Jeff Gansky graciously ordered them and picked them up. Betty Gansky did a bunch of pre-trial work and had awards, snacks and home-baked dog treats ready for the weekend. Besides her trial work Betty was rewarded for her training work by going High in Trial with Fate on Sunday. Trial Secretary was Celeste Platte. Judges were Luci Seeley and Carolee Boyles.

Thanks to all.

Joe Hamzy, Trial Chair

## **February Agility Trial**

We had another great trial in Ft. Pierce last weekend due to the help of ALL who pitched in to make this event such a smooth running success!

First I'd like to give a BIG thanks to our two terrific judges: Lisa Rieves & Jacqui O'Neill who did a GREAT job!

I'd also like to thank ALL of the members of the Treasure Coast Kennel Club for once again partnering with us & doing a TERRIFIC job! A VERY special thanks to Jen Young who keeps on top of EVERYTHING!

A special thanks to my Course Builders: Peter Liu, Barbara Bounds & Gill Chapman. It's always a pleasure to work with all of you.

To my Volunteer Coordinators: Chelsea Conklin, Slim Barker & Carol Perrella who managed to keep both rings well-manned at all times.

To Nancy Atkins: The RV Coordinator who somehow managed to do a flawless job even though she couldn't be there! Unbelievable job Nancy!

I'd also like to thank our Trial Secretary Lori Patterson & her assistant Tracy Hanna who thru their expertise kept things moving all weekend. Great job!

To Susan Minix who brought all of our ribbons back & forth to the trial in her RV. Thank you!

A very big thanks as well to my husband Jeff who worked tirelessly before during & after the trials all weekend!

I'd like to thank ALL the members of OTC who came & helped regardless of whether or not they were showing a dog. He proved to me that there is a lot of teamwork in our club & I greatly appreciated it.

Last but not least I'd like to thank ALL of the exhibitors who were non-club members who stepped up & helped out!

It was MY pleasure to work with all of you!

Betty Gansky  
President/Trial Chair



# BRAGS



I am so proud of these two Great Danes!

Three year old Evie attended her very first rally trial in November at OTCPCB and earned her Rally Novice title under Judges Carol Ann Klein and Nancy Watson.

Evie - IntCH NatCH Dark Water Original Sin RN FDC CGCA TKN RATI RATN

Freyja, at nearly nine years old, earned her AKC Scent Work Container Advanced title at the November OTCPCB Scent Work trial under Judge Lauren Walsh. She then went on to finish her AKC Scent Work Interior Advanced title under Judge Judy McPartland and earn two qualifying scores in Handler Discrimination under Judge Fran Smith at the January OTCPCB trial.

Freyja - IntCH NatCH KRW ABW Ride of the Valkyries BN RN SCA SIA FDC CGCA CGCU TKN

Mary Carson



Rockin KR Houdini has had a busy 2022. This amazing McNab pup made a gigantic splash coming into the new year by earning an invitation to the 2022 NADD Dock Diving Regional Qualifier, jumping a personal best of 28'10. In addition to Dock Diving, he earned his Interior Advance Scent Work title at the OTCPCB trial in January and in January/February he was fortunate enough to get into 3 NACSW NW3 trials and he earned his NW3 Elite title.

Susan Carroll- Venegas





# My Little Raleigh

## FCAT

In late January we drove up to New Smyrna Beach for a Fast CAT event. On the last run of the weekend, in very chilly weather, Raleigh surpassed the 1000 point mark for her first FCAT title!

She loves running down the track and her personal best is 19.55MPH.

Now Raleigh gets to run towards FCAT2!

**LAUREN WALSH**



# JEMS CASH MONEY

## MILLIONAIRE

### ELITE 3

Cash and I were lucky enough to compete at another NACSW Elite Trial on February 12th in Starke, FL.

We completed four searches finding 12 out of 16 hides, earning 71 points.

At this level you accumulate points towards titles and this trial brought us over the 650 points needed for Elite 3!

Next stop Elite Champion (1000 points).

**LAUREN WALSH**

My dog Foxmor's Blue Martini AKA "Blue" got two legs in novice Interior's.  
One more leg to go! And he his CGCA!

**ROBERT E MILLAR**



Fate's Brags from the Agility Trials 2/4  
-2/6 in Ft. Pierce, FL

Fate managed to Q in 6 out of 9 classes earning 2 blues, 1 yellow, 1 white, a Double Q & a Triple Q on Saturday. She also earned her Excellent Standard Preferred title & moved up to Master's Preferred on Sunday.

She's one dynamic little dog! I'm VERY proud of her accomplishments! Once again she was the only Yorkie at the trials!

Betty & Fate



Fate earns 6th UDX leg at the Indian River  
Dog show 2/26/22

I'm very happy to announce that Fate earned her 6th UDX leg with a 2nd place in Open B (197) & a 4th place in Utility B (191 1/2). 6 down & 4 to go!



On Saturday Jan 15th Fate earned 2nd place in Utility B with a score of 194 1/2. Due to her inept handler she NQ'd in Open B on Saturday. She was working a 197.

On Sunday her handler promised her to do better!

We Q'd in Utility again Sunday with a 194 1/2 (she seems to like the same numbers) & went in Open B earning a 197. She was called into the ring for a run-off in Open B. She won the run-off with a score of 197+ winning HIT & her 5th UDX leg. I could hardly believe it.

What a day!



On Wednesday, March 2, 2022, I was honored by the Davie Town Council for Women's Month. It was a truly humbling experience, and I was the choice of Mayor Judy Paul. I was recognized for my volunteer work in the community and my service with non-profit boards.

It was a very moving experience to be recognized in front of the Town Council, my family, friends and my oncologist, who is one special person and is responsible for the great strides I have made to fight this disease. I sported the bald, and received a proclamation in my name, a certificate of recognition, a gift from the town, and some sunflowers in honor of my Ukranian roots. The only one missing was Bo, but he gave me his support from afar.

I have not been able to train Bo as I would like, but I am truly blessed by the kindness, friendships and honors that have been bestowed on me. Some day soon, Bo and I will have bags, and we will be back volunteering for the club. Many of you send me cards, texts and well wishes, and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Linda Wood



### Aston had fun at the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach

County's AKC Scent Work Trial on January 30, 2022. Aston had two first placements in Handler Discrimination with search times of :20.72 seconds and :07.81 seconds respectively, with a maximum time of two minutes allotted for each search. Aston now has completed his Scent Work Handler Discrimination Novice Title (SHDN)! Not bad for my boy who will be 13 years of age in three months and still having fun.

Donna Kornmeyer



## Happy St. Patrick's Day!

## FOR SALE

NEW K9 Cart (from k9carting.com) looking for a home! Has never been used. If interested, contact Mary Carson (mary@darkwaterdanes.com).



OTCPBC Volunteer Hours				
Earned between 3/1/2021 and 2/28/2022				
Last Name	First Name	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours
Andrews	Angel	5/23/2021	1/30/2022	49.5
Asaro	Jean	11/28/2021	1/30/2022	31.25
Auer	Nancy	2/20/2022	2/20/2022	1.5
Becker	Robert	5/9/2021	2/6/2022	80
Blythe	Bobbie	2/20/2022	2/20/2022	1
Boychuk	Tricia	4/11/2021	12/5/2021	31
Brady	Lynne	6/20/2021	6/20/2021	7
Brav	Janet	2/6/2022	2/16/2022	2.75
Brown	Sandra	4/13/2021	6/26/2021	24
Bundschuh	Debra	5/30/2021	1/30/2022	76.3
Butcher	Marjorie	5/2/2021	7/25/2021	32.75
Carey	Kim	4/25/2021	2/6/2022	37.5
Carl	Lane	3/31/2021	12/31/2021	67.25
Carson	Mary	1/30/2022	1/30/2022	4
Caruso	Patricia & Anthony	12/19/2021	12/19/2021	6
Clouser	Patsy	1/16/2022	2/20/2022	30
Corey	Kim	11/28/2021	1/30/2022	9.25
Craig	Jane	4/11/2021	1/9/2022	27
Crechiolo	Joe	5/2/2021	2/6/2022	23.5
Crechiolo	Sandy	5/2/2021	2/6/2022	35.5
Czermann	Charlotte	5/2/2021	7/25/2021	36.75
DeMinico	Peggy	5/23/2021	11/21/2021	33
Edmondson	Michael Blair	11/14/2021	1/16/2022	32.5
Feigenblatt	June	10/31/2021	2/28/2022	23
Forgach	Marie	5/9/2021	2/6/2022	39.75
Gates	Sandra	4/25/2021	11/21/2021	55
Gomez	Janet	5/23/2021	6/13/2021	33.25
Gosnell	Mike	11/28/2021	11/28/2021	8.5
Halpern	Lynn	11/28/2021	1/30/2022	18
Hamzy	Joe	4/11/2021	1/16/2022	75
Hamzy	Mary Ann	4/11/2021	1/30/2022	45.25
Hohmann	Marti	7/25/2021	7/25/2021	20
Johnson-Ford	Diana	4/30/2021	2/20/2022	107.5
Jones	Karen	4/7/2021	1/9/2022	15
Kealey	Kathy	5/9/2021	2/6/2022	11

Klein	Carol Ann	7/18/2021	11/21/2021	37.5
Kornmeyer	Donna	7/25/2021	1/30/2022	66.25
Landen	Robin	1/10/2022	1/10/2022	5.75
Macchia	Mary	11/21/2021	11/21/2021	18
May	Kathy	4/1/2021	2/20/2022	58
McKennon	David	5/23/2021	2/20/2022	22.25
McPartland	Judith	3/31/2021	2/28/2022	217.5
Millar	Robert	5/30/2021	2/20/2022	34
Minix	Susan	4/7/2021	2/6/2022	62
Moore	Janet	5/30/2021	10/3/2021	28.25
Morgan	Linda	1/16/2022	1/16/2022	3
Musbach	Keith	11/14/2021	1/16/2022	32
Nettles	Bobbie	5/9/2021	2/6/2022	45.5
Parker	Dianne	3/31/2021	6/30/2021	8
Patterson	Lori	4/15/2021	8/31/2021	24
Pfeiffer	Darlene	11/28/2021	2/20/2022	22.25
Pichette	Helen	1/30/2022	1/30/2022	3
Ponga	Cindylou	6/6/2021	1/30/2022	46.25
Porter	Cynthia	4/11/2021	1/30/2022	29.75
Sedberry	Diane	4/30/2021	2/28/2022	67.25
Shadoin	Patricia	5/30/2021	10/3/2021	29.5
Siebeneck	Rosemarie	5/2/2021	2/28/2022	88.75
Smith	Lindsey	11/28/2021	1/30/2022	12
Taylor	Lorene	1/9/2022	1/9/2022	7
Taylor	Matthew	11/21/2021	1/9/2022	17
Trummer	Michelle	11/14/2021	2/6/2022	21
Vasiliou	Libby	6/13/2021	2/20/2022	59.25
Vence	Robert	5/23/2021	2/6/2022	92.25
Venegas	Susan	1/10/2022	2/20/2022	8.5
Walsh	Lauren	4/11/2021	11/28/2021	27.5
Weber	Lodge	7/18/2021	7/18/2021	12
Wetzel	Judy	5/2/2021	2/20/2022	42.5
Wood	Linda	12/31/2021	2/28/2022	20
Wright	Mary	3/31/2021	2/28/2022	124.25



# The Common Signs and Symptoms of Poisoning in Dogs

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT

Feb 25, 2022

Many dogs will get into anything they come across, from rat poison to dropped medication to antifreeze. And of course, that puts the dog's health at risk. Teaching a "leave it" cue to your dog can be a lifesaver, but you can't watch your pet every minute of the day. It's important to know the common signs of poisoning and how to respond in case your dog encounters something dangerous.

## Common Signs of Dog Poisoning

The symptoms of poisoning vary depending on the substance and quantity your dog has breathed in or eaten. There is no single sign that you can use to diagnose the situation. However, there are some common symptoms to watch out for such as gastrointestinal or neurological issues. The following may be signs of dog poisoning:

- Diarrhea or blood in the stool (either bright red blood or dark black tarry stools)
- Vomiting or loss of appetite.
- Seizures or tremors.
- Behavioral changes (lethargy or unsteady when standing or walking; hyperactivity)
- Bruising or bleeding (best found in areas of little or no hair, such as the gums, inside the ear flaps, and inside the groins)
- Finding of unusual material in a dog's stool, such as peculiar green or corn-like substances which might be rodenticide ingestion.

Poisoning can cause a whole range of effects within your dog's body. Some are immediate and others can have longer-term consequences like anemia or organ damage. Plus, some signs will be impossible to notice on your own like cardiac problems, such as an irregular heartbeat, or liver failure. That's why it's so important to take any noticeable symptoms seriously and consult your veterinarian immediately.

## What to Do in an Emergency

Obviously, every dog with diarrhea or vomiting hasn't been poisoned. There are a whole range of reasons for some of these symptoms. But if you have any reason to suspect poisoning, see multiple symptoms, or you've found your dog interacting with something dangerous, take immediate action. The faster you respond, the better the outlook for your dog. Here are the steps you should take:

- Stay calm and remove your dog away from the potentially poisonous substance.
  - Take note of the situation and your dog's symptoms.
  - Contact your veterinarian. Always have their number programmed into your phone. If it's after hours, contact the nearest emergency clinic or a pet poison hotline. Ask if you should come in immediately or induce vomiting at home.
  - If possible, safely collect any of the remaining potential poison or the packaging. If your dog has vomited, collect a sample. This will help the vet diagnose and treat your pet.
- Follow your veterinarian's directions completely. If they advise you to come in, go in as soon as possible.



# Pet Poison Hotlines

In the unfortunate event that you're unable to reach a vet clinic, there are a few emergency hotlines available. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is available 24 hours a day all year long for poison-related situations. Their phone number is (888) 426-4435, and a consultation fee will apply. There is also the Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 764-7661. They charge a \$59 fee per call. However, you can get lifetime access to the Pet Poison Helpline for only \$15 through AKC Reunite. Finally, there is the AKC Vetline which allows you to contact trained pet care professionals and licensed veterinary staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For only \$99 you get access for the life of your pet.

## Treatments for Poisoning

Your vet will choose your dog's treatment based on the substance encountered. That's why samples are so important. If possible, take a photo of the substance or label on your phone. If you don't know what poisoned your dog, be aware that your vet is not able to test for every possibility, but blood tests may help determine the source. Some poisons, such as anti-freeze and certain rat poisons, have antidotes, so whenever that's the case your vet will administer the antidote as soon as possible.

Your vet's main goal will be to prevent any further absorption of the substance into your pet's body. That might involve activated charcoal to absorb the poison from the stomach, the use of an enema (the injection of fluid into the lower bowel) to flush the digestive system, or gastric lavage (a tube passed into the dog's stomach to introduce water) to wash out the inside of the stomach. Your vet might also use medication to encourage your dog to throw up, known medically as inducing emesis.

Your vet might use diuretic drugs (drugs that encourage urination) to aid secretion of the poison.

## Common Poisonous Substances to Watch Out For

There are all kinds of substances that can poison your dog. Some are obvious like chemicals or insecticides, but others are safe for people and therefore often assumed to be safe for dogs. But dogs have a different metabolism, so you can't judge safety by human standards. Be aware of the following list of common dog poisons to avoid:

- Over-the-counter medication for humans like acetaminophen or ibuprofen.
  - Prescription medication for humans like blood pressure pills or antidepressants.
  - Prescription or over-the-counter medication for dogs when encountered at higher than prescription doses.
- Human foods that are dangerous to dogs like garlic, onions, or chocolate.
- Rat poison and insecticides like ant baits or slug pellets.
- Household products from bleach and other cleaners to batteries and antifreeze.
- Plants that are hazardous to dogs, like tulips or holly, either in the house or out in the garden.

