

THE LOST COAST HOWLER



EDITOR - LAUREN WENDT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Journey We Share

As dog owners and trainers, we walk a path filled with both triumphs and trials. We know the thrill of success when months of practice shine in a single perfect run, and we know the sting of failure when things don't go as planned. Through it all, our dogs remind us of the true lesson: patience. Progress is rarely a straight line, and sometimes the greatest growth comes when we pause, breathe, and return to the basics—rebuilding trust, refining skills, and rediscovering joy in the simple connection between handler and dog.

As this year comes to a close, we carry with us the memories of victories celebrated and challenges overcome. Each high and low has shaped us, strengthened our bonds, and deepened our appreciation for the journey. And now, with a new year ahead, we are offered fresh opportunities—new goals to chase, new lessons to learn, and new moments of joy to share with our dogs and with each other.

Here's to patience, resilience, and the promise of another year filled with growth, laughter, and the enduring companionship of our four-legged partners. 🐶🌟

Love to you all,

Deb Lake
President, LCKC



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JOINS US!

NOVEMBER 18, 2025
MEMBER MEETING 7:00PM
HELD VIA ZOOM

Well it's the last newsletter of 2025! I wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season. I would like to encourage anyone with interest to consider writing articles about your favorite dog sport, an impactful trial, event or training experience you had with your dog(s) that we can share in the newsletter in 2026. On that note...

I recently spent 2 days with my former Disaster Search and Rescue team from Washington at training weekend they held in Santa Paula, CA. These are the types of dogs that respond to disastrous events like 9/11, the fires in Maui, hurricane Katrina, the floods in Texas, etc. So it is an absolute privilege and honor to work with these dedicated dogs and handlers to make sure they are as prepared as possible when they get the call out to go save lives or recover those lives lost.

And while the work they do is very serious and lives are at stake, there are many similarities to how these dogs are trained and the training for the sports that many of us do with our pet dogs.

Understanding what motivates your dogs, understanding the things your dogs inherently likes to do (which is often significantly influenced by their breed), how they best learn, and most importantly how to reinforce the behaviors you want and knowing what types of rewards they like.

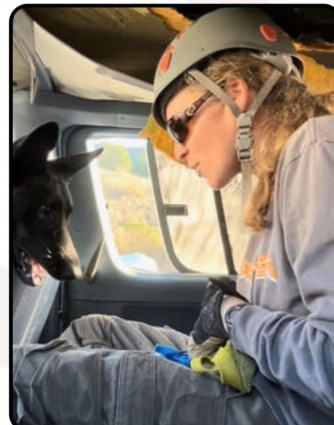
Even with the disaster SAR dog teams I was working with recently, knowing and understanding how to use a reward to reinforce a behavior is critical to getting the most out of training. And often owners are "rewarding" their dog but that reward might not be actually reinforcing the behavior they are intending.

So if you are training your dog and you are giving them a "reward" but you are not seeing an improvement in their behavior, your reward is likely actually not rewarding, and hence not reinforcing the behavior. Or there is not a clear path for the dog to understand what specifically they are being given a reward for.

So I encourage you all to routinely reevaluate just how motivated your dog is for the reward you have and how clear you are in communicating to your dog what they are being rewarded for. There are often small adjustments that can be made to increase the value of the reward without actually changing the reward itself. If you are using treats, what if you let your dog chase you to get the treat, what if you tossed the treat in the air for your dog to catch, what if you threw the treat for them to chase?

Play with your dog and experiment with a few of these things and see what gets them the most excited and motivated to work for the reward that you have. Happy training!

Lauren Wendt
LCKC Newsletter Editor



Getting ready to reward a SAR K9
with his favorite tug toy!

NEXT GENERAL MEMBER MEETING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2025

Reminder no club meeting in December

General member meeting will begin at 7:00pm

Meeting will be held via zoom.
Link will be sent out via the io group.

All members are welcome and encouraged to join!



\$15 individual and \$25 household/family

Checks can be mailed to:

Lost Coast Kennel Club

PO Box 6808

Eureka CA 95502

ANNUAL CLUB DUES

Check it off you to do list now before
the busy holiday season!

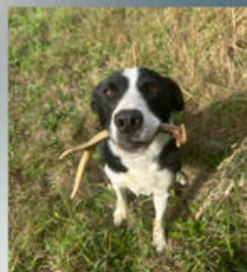
Details and payments <https://lostcoastkc.org/members-only.html>

NASDA

NORTH AMERICAN SPORT DOG ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE

- Friday: Intro to NASDA Workshop
- 3 Trials Saturday
- 3 Trials Sunday
- Urban Locating
- Shed Dog
- Lost Item Recovery
- Trailing & Locating



NOVEMBER
28, 29, 30TH

Location TBA

Follow My Nosey K9 on
Facebook for Updates

Contact Us:

707-845-3790

noseyk9@gmail.com

Seika and Hutch successfully passed and earned their AKC Novice Tricks Title on October 14th at 6 months of age by performing 10 tricks for AKC Evaluator, Tricia Morgan. Now onward to the next level. Submitted by Susan Hutchinson



Missy finally had some competition showing at the Central Point shows. She took best of breed at all three of the breed shows and also at the terrier specialty earning 8 Grand Champion points and 8 breed points. There were several ringside photos taken of her but they haven't been posted yet. I will share if there are some good ones. We are looking forward to bringing her home for the Holidays after the Woodland shows.

Submitted by Patty Mendes



Southern Oregon show, Nara surprised me by turning " on" in the Rally ring getting a 98 and 95 for her very first two legs.

Vinnie was as up against Harry again so we were happy with our selects and NOHS points.

And a fun time was had by all on Halloween!!!

Before we left town we got to go hunt in a planted trufflery. Nothing there yet...

Submitted by Sara Borok

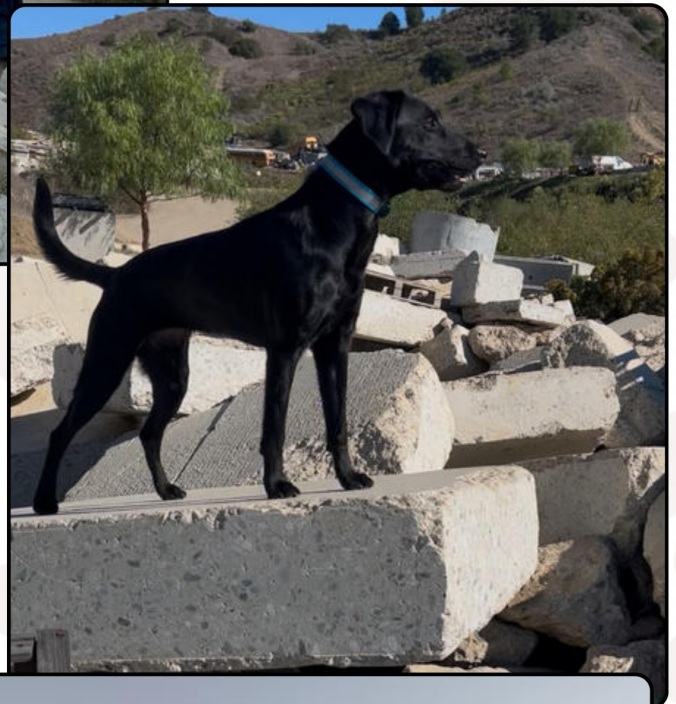
Zinnia and Phig attended the Harvest Moon Classic in October to trial in AKC Scent Work. Zinnia (who just turned 4) received 4 Novice Qs and 4 Advanced Qs including a 1st and a 2nd placement out of 16 attempts earning Novice Element titles in Exteriors and Buried, and completing her Novice Level title! Phig received 3 Novice Qs, 8 Advanced Qs and 2 Excellent Qs including two 1st, two 2nd and two 3rd placements out of 16 attempts earning Novice Element titles in Interiors and Buried, completing her Novice Level title, and Advanced Element titles in Containers and Exteriors! These collie girls also took home six additional Qs each in Fast CAT with Zinnia logging her fastest time ever on her first run!

Submitted by Kurt Pires



Jenna and I participated in the Pacific North West (PNW) Scent Work Trial in McMinnville, OR, over the weekend of November 8 and 9. Jenna achieved four qualifying scores, securing two in Excellent Buried, one in Master Containers, and one in Handler Discrimination Advance, where she earned her title in that element, accompanied by a first-place ribbon. Submitted by Susan Hutchinson

Finn, Wren and Archie traveled to Santa Paula, CA for a weekend of training at the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation (AKA Disneyland for working dogs). While these 3 are not disaster SAR K9s (Finn was as a youngster) Lauren was invited by her former SAR team to come assist with training. Rubbles piles, train cars on their sides, houses designed to replicate an earthquake...lots of fun things for these dogs to search! And for Archie as a 17 week old puppy this was a wonderful experience and she took on everything with confidence.



Submitted by Lauren Wendt