



**"SUNSHINE ON MY SHOULDERS..."**



**AUGUST 2023**

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No Speaker in August**

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**September Speaker!!  
Sherry Buchbinder,  
& Ambassador Doc-Barker  
Founder, President and CEO  
Barker Dog Foundation,INC.**



Please Mom, can't we keep doing Nosework and Rally?



**This is what I want to be doing!**

**Joni Hensche and Snickers**



**Members and member guests come to the meeting on September 11, in the Equestrian Lounge. Doors open for refreshments at 6:00 and the meeting is at 6:30.**

## What is the Challenge? President's Message

### Pam Miller

I hug and kiss and train and walk my dogs, but do I listen to them? One thinks, how do you listen to your dog when they don't talk!

I often wonder how many signs they are giving me that I am not "listening" to. For instance, why does Jazzy continue to pee, every once in a while, on the rug under the kitchen table? I thought she was doing it when no one was home and she couldn't get out. So I put up a gate in the office so if she peed it would be in there...and no pee EVER. Then this morning, she peed on the pillow on the couch next to where my brother, David, sits! This was a first!! What the heck is going on?? She has a doorbell that she rings all day to get in and out of the house. She KNOWS how to ask to go out to go pee. Yet, here it is...pee on a pillow.

So, I have to ask myself, what is she asking for, or needing? Dogs do things to get what they want. Obviously, she wants something she is not getting. Could it be that I have not been home at night much, from doing overnights at other peoples homes, and maybe she wants me back in my bed cuddling with her?

Or, maybe we have been taking care of Matt, a cute pug, too often lately and she is jealous? You can find Matt often sitting right next to David, on that very pillow, when he stays at our house. So she took back ownership??

I know she can hold her pee and I know this is about SOMETHING...I just don't know what it is. I will be "listening" for more clues from her until I figure it out. It's a challenge, but isn't that what relationships usually are? Why should a relationship with a dog be any different?

That makes me think about Tailwaggers. I have a relationship with Tailwaggers as a group, as well as



*Angie, Nan and Ed Bullard's dog.*

*The Challenge: for Angie, Ed and Nan to be best friends. Isn't that the challenge for all of us with our dogs? See the feature article, on the next page, to glimpse how that is accomplished.*

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with the many individuals that make up the club. The club with it's many parts is a challenge. To oversee all those parts takes some time and effort. Yet it's the individuals that are in the club that really made the club what it is and my relationship with them has been a blessing. The board's willingness to do their jobs without fail is unbelievable - and the volunteers who make each of the divisions run smoothly and show up time after time to do their part is terrific. Even the people who support the club by their memberships and those that come to the meetings make the challenge worthwhile and fun.

We will soon be looking at another year with another election, renewed memberships, and many jobs for volunteers. Some volunteers for these positions will be the same and some new. Time to give some thought as to what you, each member, wants to contribute to the club's life and what kind of challenge you want to embrace. When people do what they want to do, a challenge is invigorating and fulfilling.

See you in September!

## Featured Article

Key Laurence  
*Learning About Dogs*



### the invitation

by Sarah Owings | Jan 1, 2019

What my dogs have taught me about connection. Connection starts with invitation, no strings attached, no pressure to please. We humans usually have to restrain ourselves to get this right the first time we meet a dog. It is so easy to overwhelm with too much of our own need to be loved. Too much eye contact, too much touching, too many demands. In my experience watching many humans attempting to make friends with dogs, all this primate fussing mostly pushes connection away.

Connection invites curiosity. When you quiet yourself, it's like giving a gift. This gift comes back ten-fold that first moment a dog freely expresses — on her own terms — when she's ready to learn more about you.

Connection thrives in the absence of expectations, a precious freedom that fills the space between two beings when there is no agenda, no time limit, no "have to get it done." This was the hardest lesson for me to learn.

Even my desire to be a good trainer got in the way sometimes. My dogs have had to teach me, over and over, that they are not here in my life to be "fixed." They are not here to be manipulated, or molded to fit my ego—even when all my ego wants is what I think is best for them. What I think is best for them means nothing if they have no say in what that is.

The day I learned to accept my dogs for who they are—every single part of them—not just the behaviors I wanted more of—was the day they truly began to thrive.

The opposite of connection is the mindset of command, the mindset of do-what-I-say-or-else. Many teaching and learning relationships find imprisonment here—no matter how "effectively" the "training" is done. From the mildest nag of a repeated cue, to the harshest jerk on a chain, when what you've signaled is backed up by command, there is no way around it, what you are really teaching is self-defence, i.e. how to do the bare minimum needed to survive.

A command mindset shuts down curiosity. It shuts down acceptance. It makes invitation a lie. A command-mindset cuts you off from the very things that make connection possible. Calluses form. Walls and bars go up. There is a reason dogs are masters of avoidance, using "calming signals," like wandering away to sniff. We blame them for the disconnect, call them "stubborn," or "unmotivated," but really should look first at what we've locked away in ourselves.

When we can open up to connection, our dogs are almost always willing to meet us half way. Connection is asking questions. The most successful teaching and learning sessions with my dogs these days, the most joyous in fact, are filled with questions.

- Are you ready to join me in this game?
- How is this behavior for you?
- Comfortable?
- Fun to do?
- Would you like a different reinforcer?
- What else do you need?

I am astounded at how many different ways my dogs tell me what they want and need. Equally astounding is just how quickly their wants and needs fluctuate from moment to moment.

For years I've done my best to be a good listener, but feel I'm only just now starting to develop observation skills nimble enough to keep up.

# Tailwaggers Happy'ngs

## General Meetings

**August 14th**

**No meeting in August.  
Relax, Stay Home and Cool off!**

**September 11, 2023**

**Sherry Buchbinder, ADA Ambassador**

General Meetings are the second Monday of every month, unless notified differently. We meet in the Equestrian Center lounge at 6:00 for refreshments and 6:30 for the meeting.

## Special Events

**October 13**

**Wine Tasting /Dinner and Silent Auction**  
Tehachapi Wine and Cattle Company

## Agility Division

### Agility Workshops:

Agility Playdays: September 23  
October 21

Contact Gary Hill, 480-216-8488, or Lucy Radike, 661-904-3379, to sign up and or more information.

## K9 Fitness Division

### WalkAbouts - New Time

This is a weekly event on Fridays at **7:00**. Meet at the Nature Path by the ball field. It's a wonderful way to connect and meet new TW friends while socializing and exercising our dogs. You can join us with or without a dog.



Ginger resting on a hike.

## Training Division Events

### NEW TRAININGS!

#### Meg and Molly's Training Academy

A six-week series began on Monday, May 15 and ended on June 19. Offerings included AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy training, AKC Good Canine Citizen/Obedience and Rally training. The dates for the next series of classes will be announced soon. For more information, or to sign up for up-coming trainings, text/call Molly Mackin at 818-512-9836.

### NOSEWORK SERIES

#### Rebecca Barocas, Competitor and Trainer in Nosework for over 10 years.

Rebecca is holding the second 6 week Nosework Series beginning Friday, August 4th. Contact Rebecca at 661-435-1194 to sign up or for more information.



## Therapy Dog Division

### Happy Hounds and Friends Reading Program





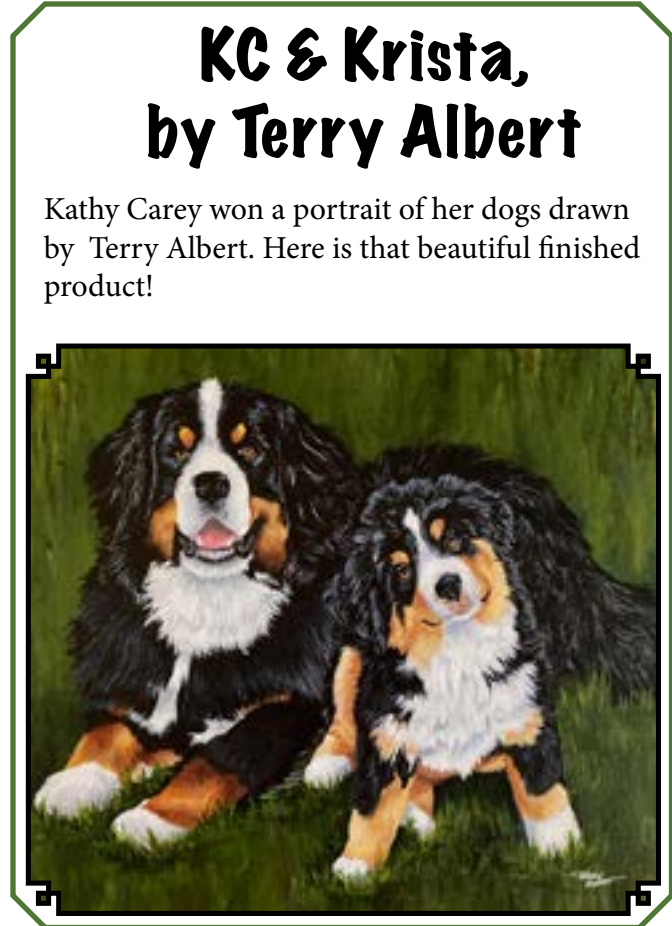
Guy Munday, with Iona, reading with a family.



Joni Hensche, with Snickers in the middle, reading to a child.



Lauren, Snickers and Joni reading with a child at the Whiting Center.



## KC & Krista, by Terry Albert

Kathy Carey won a portrait of her dogs drawn by Terry Albert. Here is that beautiful finished product!

**Dog Park Division**

**One Amenity that is going to the Dogs...AND THEY LOVE IT!**

**By Jeannie Alvarado, Dog Park Liaison**



Bringing Eddie home that first day I knew I wanted to do something different about how I raised him compared to our other dogs. Bear Valley Springs has so many amenities to choose from and one was of special interest to me, now that I had Eddie. The Dog Park, and I couldn't wait to take him there. The first time we ventured to the Dog Park, I was a little apprehensive but all the dog owners that day assured me that the dogs were friendly, and they were. Some were three times as big as Eddie, since he was a puppy, but all the dogs greeted him with tails wagging. The owners were very attentive to the dogs as they played together. They were all concerned about safety but knew the importance of socializing their dog with other dogs they might meet throughout their life time. They were happy to have a place to meet up with other dogs and owners. Since that day we continue to use the dog park, meeting new dogs as well as their owners.



I remember the night in 2011 when the BVSA Board approved to have a Dog Park. I remember too, that there was standing room only at this meeting. Most of us couldn't wait to see this happen. At this time I no longer had my Winston, but knew I would get a another dog one day and was happy he would have a place to run freely and meet other dogs in a controlled environment.



This Dog Park exists because of the many people who supported this amenity. Dogs were given a place to play and run free which was especially important for the many dog owners who do not have an area for them to play and run.

Speaking for all our dogs and dog lovers, I feel we need to identify those people who have worked so hard for establishing the existence and maintenance of our BVS Dog Park. We appreciate everything you all did and do for our pups.

There are so many people behind the scenes who supported and dedicated their time and money to make this happen. BVSA who voted for the park, TW Board Members, dogs owners, the BVSA Maintenance Department, Tailwaggers' members and locals who donated time and money to see this through for our family's furry friends.

*Continued...*

## Dog Park

Many Tailwaggers members and local residents donated the funds for the Agility equipment, the surrounding trees, the Dream Shed and the TW sign. Past TW Board members had the dream to add these items and made it a reality. TW members update the TW Bulletin board at the park and the announcement board at the Market to keep everyone informed of upcoming trainings, guest speakers, and other related messages pertaining to our area. If we haven't told you "thank you," I would like to now.



Our TW members and daily users of the park show up and donate their time to rake up fox tails after the weeds are mowed by maintenance, cleanup after their dogs (and other dogs!), bring various types of balls for the dogs to use, and don't forget that ball tosser which so many dogs just love. Someone even dropped off a table for use at the park.

Dog Park users are very observant of their dogs while in the park and are always ready to take control of the situation if needed. They continue

to notify the BVSA maintenance department on structure issues such as broken gates, fences and water line issues that need attention to keep the area safe. Recently one member actually fixed the small gate area lock so our little ones wouldn't escape and the bigger ones wouldn't interrupt their play time.

The BVSA Maintenance Department continues to help maintain the Dog Park. Over the years they have mowed both dog parks, repaired and replaced fencing to re-enforce animals not digging and pushing through the bottom of the fence. They have repaired the Bulletin Board, locks on the gates, and refilled our doggy bags to help keep the park clean. They even laid concrete by the water area, so our little furry 4 legged friends stay hydrated and somewhat clean. This year, before the rainy or cold season starts, a layer of small rock material will be placed at the entrance of the gates to prevent mud issues.

Although there will always be those dog owners and BVS residents who may not see the need for this park, I believe I speak for other dog owners, in saying we feel we are lucky to have the option of a dog park for our 4 legged family members to go to - to play, socialize and or just run.

When I say "Eddie, let's go to the park," I can see the sparkle in his eye and I can not stop him from running to the door, getting his leash and ball and waiting, sort of patiently, for me to get the truck keys. I have learned so much from going to the dog park from other dogs and owners. I have actually become calmer around large dogs, especially Pie.... and a particular pit bull, Willow, who is one of Eddies' many girlfriends.

On behalf of all dog lovers - I just want to say a very special "Thank You" to all the people who have helped make this Dog Park Special for all our dogs, past, present and future, giving them a happier life while they are with us. You will forever be in our hearts for giving your time, money and support to our furry family members.

# General Meeting Minutes

By Diana Munday, Secretary  
 Monday, June 10, 2023

The doors opened at 6:00 with refreshments.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by the President, Pam Miller. She reminded people about the Tailwaggers dog walks, and our upcoming therapy dog event to be held at the Whiting Center. Mary Thompson shared about the “Happy Hounds and Friends Reading Program”. She asked Jeannie Alvarado the state of our dog park. Jeannie said it’s much better with very few fox tails.

Pam talked about our current, and our upcoming dog training classes with Molly Macklin. The new classes are not yet scheduled, with dates to be determined.

She informed the group that there will not be a general meeting in August. But we will return in September.

Lucy asked the group if there would be interest should we host a wine tasting and silent auction at one of the nearby wineries. There was a lot of positive feedback and interest. Pam asked everyone to think about things they may have to donate to the silent auction.

Kathy Carey shared the artwork of her Bernese Mountain dogs done by Terry Albert. Kathy was one of two winners of our fundraiser.

Rocco Spinelli was introduced as our guest speaker. He started out by showing the group a 5 minute video on canine CPR. His second video showed us the items we should have in a small “to go” container for our dogs in case of a disaster such as a fire or earthquake. Most of the items were on the video, but Rocco said we can find a better list in his book, AAA Survival which can be purchased through Amazon.

The top of the container should have the following label:

- Owner Name
- Dog Name
- Vet Name/Number
- Dog Meds
- Sponsor (not in same town)

Molly Mackin and Bob Tebbe shared an experience they had with their dog who ate a large quantity of heart pills. They let us know the steps that must be taken when you have to deal with Poison Control and the importance of having their number on hand, 800-222-1222

Three door prizes were given away and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,  
 Diana Munday, Secretary

## Treasurers’ Monthly Report

**July 2023**

By Jeannie Alvarado

<b>Checking Account Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$6,084.08</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership	30.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Newsletter expenses	150.00
Membership Refund	30.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>180.00</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$5,934.08</b>
<b>As of July 30, 2023</b>	







## What About Bunny?

What follows is an interview with Alexis Devine who has taught her dog Bunny to “talk” using over 102 words on her button board.

***New Beginnings in 2022—an Exclusive with Alexis Devine (@whataboutbunny) Apr 04, 2022***

Alexis Devine, or [@whataboutbunny](#) on Instagram, calls in from Tacoma, Washington at nine in the morning. With her yellow Carhartt beanie and copper hair, she’s a spot of sunlight in an otherwise overcast February. Bunny’s nowhere to be seen—until our conversation is interrupted by Bunny’s surprisingly loud roo roos (as Alexis calls them). Alexis pans her camera to show us the black-and-white sheepadoodle barking at the window. “It’s just Dad, Buns!” Alexis exclaims, and Bunny seems to understand. Bunny shakes off as she walks past the camera—I’m told this is a self-regulating behavior indicating a personal “reset” by Ashley, who’s one of the researchers attending the call.

Now at two and a half years old, Bunny is considered to be mature. This much is obvious by the presence of her poodle sibling, Otter, who’s eight months old and in the throes of dog adolescence. “He’s like a chaos demon,” Alexis says as Otter noses his way into the camera. “Him and Bunny are going to be super chill together when they’re older, but right now he’s a terrorist.” Alexis laughs and Otter trots offscreen again.



We talk about how Bunny’s vocabulary has changed over the course of the past year—Bunny is now at an astounding 102 words. These days, Alexis has become much more intentional with adding new words to the soundboard. “We’ve been introducing them more slowly. We’ve added a ton since this time last year, but in the past six months, we’ve only really added one or two words.” The latest words include BELLY, OTHER, WORD, and FEEL.

These words seem so abstract to me that I can’t help feeling impressed—Alexis tells me she added OTHER WORD in hopes that “if Bunny is trying to communicate something and I’m guessing at what she’s trying to say, she could use the word OTHER to tell me that I’m not right instead of immediately getting frustrated.” I ask if Bunny has used OTHER in this context before and Alexis says she has, but that it can still be confusing. “It’s hard because I’ll guess a word that’s on the board, and if it’s not a word she’s already familiar with, then it’s hard to know.”

Alexis is thinking about adding the word BORED next—offering yet another option for Bunny to express her displeasure.

*Continued...*

## What About Bunny?

When I ask Alexis why she's become more intentional with adding new words, she mentions that, even for herself, differentiating the locations of 102 words on the board can get a little tricky. The bizarreness of the conversation we're having really sinks in and Alexis grins. "This sounds really funny now that I'm saying it out loud, but it's awkward if you're trying to have a 'conversation' with your dog and you can't find the words you need."

I glance at a picture of Bunny's board and have to agree—the board's bigger than Bunny herself. "It's one of the reasons why I'm excited now that FluentPet has the solid-colored tiles that appeal to how dogs perceive color," Alexis says. "It'll make it a lot easier for her to understand groupings and remember where individual buttons are."

Alexis also gives excellent advice for teachers when it comes to modeling, or showing your learner how to use the buttons. "It's important for the teacher to be well-versed on the word locations—not only for the words that are of high value to your learner, but also the words that are used less. If you want them to be used more frequently, they have to be used more by you."

When our conversation turns to other developments in Bunny's (and Alexis') life, Alexis brings up the biggest change for both of them: [the arrival of a new dog five months ago](#). Here, Ashley steps in to commend Alexis on how well Otter was introduced to the household (keeping the two dogs separated but in the same living space was a vital part of the early process).

"It was important for us to set the stage for positive lifelong interactions," Alexis says. "At first, it was overwhelming to Bunny, and she didn't use the buttons much at all. But as they acclimated to each other, they developed a sweet, if sort of sibling rivalry-esque, relationship. She's using the buttons more again and as Otter has grown bolder in

the environment, he interrupts her with his own buttons. So that's been a huge change in how she uses them."

Bunny isn't alone in this behavioral shift. Many of our learners tend to use their buttons less when they're adjusting to new situations. However, the majority bounce back—and Bunny's no exception, even though Otter can still be a bit of a distraction.



All of us laugh when Alexis recounts Bunny's early reactions to Otter. "Shortly after we brought Otter home, there was a lot of WHY and UGH. Like, hello, WHY is he running around like a Tasmanian devil? [WHY is he humping a pillow?](#)" But like between all siblings, there's a reluctant love underneath that indignation. "Bunny finally started letting Otter be 'predator' while they play. She'll roll over and put her legs up and he'll chew on her neck and growl. It's really sweet—it means she trusts him. Especially as a reactive dog, to put herself in a vulnerable position was huge. Now that's the way they always play, she's like you wanna play?—" Alexis tilts her head and mimics flopping over "—bite my neck."

*Continued...*

## What About Bunny?

I ask Alexis if she's noticed herself paying more attention to her dogs' body language. Buttons are one way to communicate, but dogs also naturally express nonverbal signals with their body. Alexis is thrilled with this question. Apparently, the study of applied canine ethology, or the science of dog behavior, has become her special interest.

"I'm on a learning journey right now—it's like I'm in school, I spend four to five hours a day studying. I have like twenty courses open in my browser right now, and I'm completely overwhelmed by them. It's wonderful."

She goes on to mention how stressful things were when Bunny was younger. "Having a reactive dog is very challenging and even a little traumatic for a number of reasons—like feeling guilty that it's your fault, which it's usually not." Bunny has always been somewhat anxious even as a puppy, and she was also Alexis' first dog. As a result, Alexis has spent much time learning how to advocate for Bunny's best interests, whether that's through managing a stress-free environment for Bunny, self-studying, or taking a professional course online.

It's evident that Alexis' bond with Bunny runs much deeper than a shared interest in button communication—Alexis invests hours in learning Bunny's language as much as Bunny learns hers.



We discuss some behaviors Alexis has learned to look out for: "lip licks and whale-eye, where her eye is toward the trigger and her head is away so you see the whites—both stress signals. We always love to see loose, floppy body language...I'm constantly analyzing her behavior." Bunny interrupts our chat to offer some doggy kisses, and at Alexis' redirection, settles beside her for the remainder of the call.

Alexis speaks with such animation about applied ethology that I find myself swept up in the topic as well—with Ashley's input, we talk dog behavior for some time. Alexis even goes to dog parks alone to observe how other dogs play to better understand their behavior.

Communication is a two-way street that requires equal parts listening and speaking, and it's apparent Alexis and Bunny have a genuine, underlying desire to understand one another. The respect and adoration Alexis holds for Bunny is positively overflowing.

I once again have the impression that @whataboutbunny's success and virality does not derive only from the abilities of a clever sheepadoodle. At the end of the day, it's the immutable companionship and love between human and dog that moves us, a story as old as time.

# Mission Statement

The BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club is dedicated to responsible dog ownership/guardianship. We are a body of people who care about their dogs and want to be with like-minded responsible people who feel the same. We are committed to sharing and learning. The club will provide experiences through education, training, fun events and social activities. It is designed to improve handler skills and be an information center for owners presenting issues and subjects based on our members' needs.

The club will provide support for local rescues in Kern County.



## Board Members

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Pam Miller  
661-203-5725

**Treasurer**

Jeannie Alvarado  
661-917-1915

**Vice President**

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661-904-3379

**Secretary**

Diana Munday  
951-733-3909

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**Newsletter Editor/Communications**

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A Volunteer Series

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Small Wildlife Rescue  
Facebook: Bear Valley Springs Snake Guys

Text or Call

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Chris Budge 661-972-4320	Craig Swinars 661 821-0968
Key Budge 661-972-4328	

# 2023 BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Mail to: Tailwaggers Dog Club,  
29800 Jamaica Dunes Dr.,  
Tehachapi, Ca 93561

Annual Dues: \$30.00. Make checks payable to: BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club.

Please print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Tract & Lot \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

May we publish your name, phone numbers and e-mail address for club use? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide family members' names. Give the current ages and birth dates of your children who may be participating in Tailwaggers' activities. \*\*All minors must be accompanied by and under the supervision of a parent or parent-designated adult (in writing) while attending or participating in Tailwaggers' activities.

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The BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club exists to represent canine interests in BVS, to promote responsible, informed dog ownership, and good fellowship of dog owners and BVS residents, to promote fun dog-related activities, including training, to improve and maintain dog-related facilities within BVS, and to support local canine rescues. Membership is open to adult property owners and residents in good standing with the Bear Valley Springs Association (BVSA).

**ACCIDENT RELEASE:** My signature below hereby releases the Bear Valley Springs Tailwaggers Dog Club and the BVSA and all persons connected with these aforementioned groups from any liability/responsibility for any loss/injury/damage to either myself, my family, my dog(s)/or my equipment while I am/we are participating in, assisting with, or working on any event/activity sponsored by the BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club. Pursuant to Section 305 of the BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB By-laws, all adult family club members signing below hereby agree: (a) to take physical and financial responsibility for any dog under my custody or control; (b) that if participating in any BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB event with a dog that is not my own, they shall be liable for damage or injury inflicted by any such dog(s); and (c) that the Board of Directors or designated Event Coordinator or Trainer of BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club has the right to exclude any aggressive, unruly, or unmanageable dog and their handler from any BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB event. All adult family club members signing below further agree to sign and maintain on file with BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club a current year's Waiver, Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk form.

ALL adult family club members must sign.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Parents must sign for minor child)

Tailwaggers Office Use Only

Dues Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash/Check# \_\_\_\_\_

1 of 2

Liability release/waiver signed: Yes\_\_ No\_\_

## BEAR VALLEY SPRINGS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB

### WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY EVERY CLUB MEMBER

All club members must sign this form. Please read and be certain you understand the implications of signing. In consideration of my participation in activities arranged by BEAR VALLEY SPRINGS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB (BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB), I hereby release and covenant not to sue BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB, its owners, shareholders, directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, and lessees and their successors from any and all present and future claims whatsoever, which the undersigned and any of them and the heirs, representatives, executors and administrators thereof, or any other persons acting in behalf, or on behalf of their respective agents, have or may have resulting from ordinary negligence and inherent risk of my participation in any activities or arrangements and the use of the facilities and equipment of BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB and Bear Valley Springs Association (BVSA) and Bear Valley Community Services District (BVSCSD), including but not limited to any loss, injury, damage, illness, sickness, or liability sustained by me while on or about the premises of the BVSA, the BVSCSD, or the BVS TAILWAGGERS DOB CLUB.

Express Assumption of Risk Associated with CANINE-RELATED ACTIVITIES. I, whose name and signature appear below, do hereby affirm and acknowledge that I have been fully informed of the inherent hazards and risks associated with canine activities and sports, including training, showing, competitions, exhibitions, events, meetings, play days and other activities. Inherent hazards and risks include but are not limited to:

1. Risk of injury from the activity and equipment utilized in canine activities of all kinds is significant including the potential for permanent disability and death.
2. Possible equipment failure and/ or the malfunction of my own or other's equipment.
3. My own negligence and/or the negligence of all others, including employees, agents, independent contractors or representatives of the BVSA, BVSCSD, and BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB, including but not limited to operator error.
4. The propensity of a canine (dog) to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury or death to the participant or others or their dog(s) regardless of the dog's previous training and past performance.
5. The inability to predict a dog's reaction to sound, movements, unfamiliar environment, objects, persons, or animals.
6. Propensity for a dog to bite, fight, run, scratch, make unpredictable movements, jump, push or shove without warning or apparent cause.
7. Collars, harnesses, leashes and other equipment may loosen or break, which may result in accident, injury or death.
8. The domesticated animal may also react in a dangerous manner when condition or treatment is considered hazardous to the welfare of the animal.
9. The potential for a participant or others to fail to exercise reasonable care, or take adequate control when engaging in a domesticated animal activity, including failing to maintain reasonable control of the animal or failing to act in a manner consistent with the person's abilities.
10. Broken bones or severe injuries which may result in severe impairment or even death.
11. Pursuant to Section 305 of the BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB By-laws, I agree to take physical and financial responsibility for any dog under my custody or control; that if I am participating in any BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB event with a dog that is not my own, I shall be liable for damage or injury inflicted by any such dog; and that the Board of Directors or designated Event Coordinator or Trainer of BVS Tailwaggers Dog Club has the right to exclude any aggressive, unruly, or unmanageable dog and their handler from any BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB event.

I understand the description of these risks is not complete and that unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury, illness, or death. I agree that immediately prior to participation in any activity arranged for me by BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB I will inspect the facilities and equipment to be used and if any defect is apparent I will not use the facility or equipment and I will notify the management of the BVS TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB of the defect.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER, RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING THIS WAIVER, RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Any person under the age of 18 years must have a parent or guardian co-sign this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_