Summer Heat presents dog lovers with some real challenges! Dedicated dog walkers are up and at ’em at 4:00 – 6:00 am! Any later and it’s just too darn hot. Of course we always hope for summer rains, but after monsoon season starts, we no longer have claim to the “dry heat”; now we can sweat too! But training, exercise and play still need to happen for our furry friends. A retreat to the indoors is a possibility; many activities need very little room. Here are some suggestions for summer time doggy fun:

**Trick Training** – You can even earn AKC trick dog titles! Check the AKC website.

**Scent Detection** - Get ready for trials – or just play find the treat or find the human. Check for indoor scent detection (aka Nose Work) training opportunities on our Facebook and website.

**Games & Food Puzzles** (a ton on Amazon)

**Doggy Pools. Human Pools** for doggy paddling and diving

**Visits to Indoor Pet Friendly** stores, malls, restaurants

**Obedience, Conformation and Rally Training**. How much room do you really need to practice stand, sit, down, come, stay, turns, pivots, etc.? Hallways, corners, and walls can be ideal barriers to shape straight sits, turns and back up.

**Escape to the mountains and lakes**

So – No excuses – you can still have fun and work with your dog even at 110º! On the other hand - you could just lie on the floor (or on the couch if permitted) with your buddy and zone out with some good movies like maybe “A Dog’s Way Home.”
We extend our condolences and deepest sympathy to Kevilee Watterson and her family on the passing of her beloved and dear father, Roger E. Schaich, April 8, 2019. Love and Hugs from us all dear Kev.
Hello again folks from Jenny and Buddy! We hope you are enjoying the Spring weather and some nice long walks before Summer sets in. Have no fear! We’ve got some ideas to keep people engaged and active with their pups during the summer, stay tuned.

And now to some thoughts on training: What do most people say when we ask why did you join this training class? “Well my dog needs to listen to me, and not just at home”. So the fancy words for what you want from your dog are ENGAGEMENT and GENERALIZATION. Your goal is to have a dog willing to be an active participant in the relationship in lots of different places with lots of different distractions.

One of the training methods we teach in the Focus and Foundations class is Marker Training. This is a clear non-confrontational communication system between you and the dog. Once you have mastered loading a marker word, and understand how to work below threshold for the desired behavior the possibilities are endless.

This system of training starts with classically conditioning your dog’s marker word or clicker noise to a high value food item, toy or praise. Once the dog has really grasped the value of their marker word, we switch over to operant conditioning. We allow the dogs to “use their brains” and offer us a behavior which we then positively reinforce with our marker word within a second of the behavior occurrence. Because they know the marker word means good things are coming, we can delay the actual reward up to 5 seconds. We can then also negatively reinforce the wrong behavior by using a word like Whoops or Nope, withholding the reward and asking for the correct performance of the behavior.

So now you’ve got your dog trained to sit in your nice quiet living room and the first time you give the command or hand signal, they reliably perform the behavior 90-100% of the time. Wahoo. So we walk into the backyard. Your dog smells the fresh air, his potty spot, the dog in the next yard over and a bird flies overhead. ACK! He’s not sitting when I ask.

This is the part when you need to start training the behavior for generalization. Think about asking for the behavior in different environments. Don’t always ask your dog to sit directly in front of you, maybe stand to the side. Change up the lighting (night, day, football field lights with flying bugs). Consider distractions in the form of smells, other dogs (far, close by, walking or playing), other people (standing walking or running), loud unpredictable sounds like sirens or trains. Then maybe start waiting to reward the behavior a little bit longer (asking for duration).

Ok, are you excited? Do you want some help refining these skills and learning what’s possible with your dog? Sign up for our FOCUS AND FOUNDATIONS class.

P.S. I want to take a moment to thank my fellow instructors for volunteering so much time, energy and passion to this training program. You all have done amazing things for this club and taught responsible dog ownership to so many handlers. I’m proud to call you all friends and “co-workers.”

Jennifer Hamilton – Training Instructor/Training Director

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Meet the Board

Text submitted by Maria Swarts - Secretary

Show Chairman

The Show Chairman has the ability to juggle many tasks, deal with all board members, and works well with a variety of other breeds. A positive attitude, willingness to work hard, and the tenacity to see things through are desired traits in this breed. Here is Show Chairman Theresa Tuttle and her two Labradors, Basenji, and Corgi.

Club Secretary

The Club Secretary was developed in the Western United States and was recognized by the club in 2016. They are independent thinkers and need early training and socialization to make them reliable partners in club activities. Originally bred as meeting facilitators, they are also valued for their strong organizational skills. This is Club Secretary Maria Swarts with her Finnish Lapphund Cosmo.

Training Director

As the name implies, the Training Director excels in a variety of dog sports such as Rally, Tricks, and Scent Work. The Training Director was developed from several small companion breeds and because of her agreeable nature, she is a suitable addition to any club board. Here is Training Coordinator Jenny Hamilton and her All American Buddy.
What? Why would you read to a dog? Do you teach them to read? (Wish we could for Rally Signs : )! But no, the dogs don’t read or learn to read. Rather this program provides a relaxed and “dog-friendly” atmosphere, which allows children to practice the skill of reading. Many of the children participating in this program have difficulties reading and they are often self-conscious when reading aloud in front of other classmates.

The dog is non-judgmental. The child relaxes, pats the attentive dog, and focuses on reading and reading improves because the child is associating reading with something pleasant. One child said “This is better than recess!” Some kids say they will go home and read to their own dogs or other pets too.

Children choose a book from the library collection, or bring their own. They are given a number, so they know when it’s their turn, and spend the next 5-10 minutes or so reading to a calm, attentive dog. Some children, too young to read, will bring a picture book to show the dogs while explaining what the picture shows. One little girl (4 years old) made her own picture book titled “Going to the Vet.” Fortunately, it was a happy and positive experience for the dog!

Parents also enjoy the program - lots of smiles and picture taking! Frequently a mom or dad with toddlers will hold them on their laps while they help them identify pictures in a board book. The reward? “You can pet the dog!” And some good family time too.

Dogs trained for this program must first be certified by a recognized therapy dog program. Those pictured here are certified by Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD). This ensures that the dog has good basic obedience, is calm, accepts distractions in a variety of environments, is clean, healthy and has all vaccinations recommended by their veterinarian.

Schools also frequently request therapy dogs to help kids who have difficulty reading in the classroom. School sponsored Literacy Nights provide a variety of literature–based activities including reading to attentive therapy dogs.

Unfortunately, not all children are comfortable around dogs. Some children that have not had an opportunity to be with dogs, or had a bad experience with a dog, have a fear of them. As a child gradually interacts with a therapy reading dog, they begin to relax, learn how to interact with a dog, and in time, overcome their fear.

This program is of course, geared to helping the children. But, there are benefits for handlers, too. It gives these volunteers an opportunity to give back to the community. By helping children become better readers, volunteers are helping them to become better students, and in the future, productive citizens.

Carol Madeheim – Editor/Production & Design

With permission from Wheeler Taft Abbett Library

With permission from Wheeler Taft Abbett Library, ATD and family
Discover the Lure of Lure Coursing

The American Kennel Club has a new event that allows all dogs to discover the excitement of lure coursing and now GSDCSAZ offers CAT runs at its yearly specialty!

The Coursing Ability Test (CAT) is for any dog of any breed, including mixed-breeds, as long as it is at least 1 year old and individually registered or listed with AKC. To pass the test, a dog running alone must pursue a lure, completing the course with enthusiasm and without interruption within a given time.

Dogs that pass the CAT three times will earn a Coursing Ability (CA) title. Ten passes and a dog earns a Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA) title, and 25 passes results in a Coursing Ability Excellent (CAX) title. Licensed lure coursing clubs may hold CATs in conjunction with a licensed lure coursing trial or as a standalone event.

The first Coursing Ability Tests debuted with five days of action from Feb. 23 to 27 in Calhoun, Ga., in conjunction with lure coursing trials hosted by the Bluegrass Coursing Club and the Greyhound Association of North Georgia. There were 158 CAT entries over the five days with a 75 percent qualification rate.

Lure coursing often requires no training. Many dogs see the lure move and immediately want to chase it. Some dogs need some practice and some coaxing, but eventually, with repetition, they will get it. If your dog has already displayed a pretty strong prey drive by being attracted to squirrels or wild birds or other small animals, their chances of liking the lure are higher.

For those of you who plan to give the test a try with your dog, we offer the following tips:

• Make sure that your dog is physically healthy and in good shape to run a course. If you are not sure, make an appointment with a veterinarian to get an opinion.

• Take your dog to a practice to introduce your dog to the lure or make your own lure for practice. If you cannot get to a practice, you can try to play tug with your dog with a plastic bag or another type of lure pole. This is like what is used to play with a cat, but on a dog level. You can get a type of plastic lure and attach it to a springing pole and have your dog practice chasing it around your yard or a nearby park, on leash, or course.

• For the test, bring lots of fresh water, a strong, soft leash, and maybe a portable crate if the lure field is a long way from the car.

• Handlers should wear comfortable shoes and be physically able to hold and release their dogs, as well as catch them.

• Teach your dog the command “Come.” If you don’t have control over the dog when it is just lying around the house and not fully aroused, you will have a heck of a time trying to catch them when they are super excited about the lure and running loose.

Dogs small and large will enjoy coursing!

Theresa Tuttle – Training Instructor/Show Chairperson

www.GSDCSAZ.org
This bears repeating so - It’s that time of year again! The scaled critters are out and among them are some venomous species. **Rattlesnakes** of course are of the greatest concern. Some dogs have an instinct to give these reptiles a wide berth; some do not. If your dog smells a rattlesnake chances are he or she may be intrigued to investigate. Several rattlesnake avoidance trainings in Tucson are teaching dogs that their curiosity about rattlesnakes is definitely not a good thing; they should leave them alone and head the other direction.

The **Sonoran Desert Toad** (AKA Colorado River Toad) is a toxic amphibian that may also be dangerous to curious pups. The parotid glands along the sides of the neck produce a toxin that causes hallucinogenic and neurological affects on dogs. Below are links to several websites of organizations and that offer snake and/or toad avoidance training:

Humane Society of Southern Arizona:  [www.HSSAZ.org](http://www.HSSAZ.org)

Sublime Canine:  [https://sublimek9.com](https://sublimek9.com)

Twin Peaks Veterinary Center:  [http://www.twinpeaksvet.com](http://www.twinpeaksvet.com)

Ruff House Dog Training:  [http://www.ruffhouse.biz](http://www.ruffhouse.biz)

*Photos from personal collection
Carol Madeheim, Editor/Production & Design*
Submission Guidelines

Articles

- Related to or about German Shepherd Dogs, other breeds or mixes.
- In easily edited digital format – MS Word DocX, Rich File Text. **No PDF.**
- If possible – but not necessary - in the font Arial.
- Provide links to other articles. Provide credit if summarized from other sources.

Photos

- JPEG format. Medium to high resolution.
- Identify subjects in photo and credit photographer. (photo release forms?)

Suggested Topics

Club Events, Calendar, Meeting Minutes, Health Info for dogs, Training, In The News, Breeder Info, Whelping Box, Responsible Dog Ownership, Dog Friendly Places (restaurants, hotels, etc.), Rainbow Bridge, Brags and Wags, Doggie Spotlight.

Send submissions to sonoraqwest@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions for the August, September, October issue:

July 10

Items submitted after this date will be in the next issue.

Material submitted is subject to copyright laws if not a member’s own work.

The e-newsletter committee reserves the right to edit contributions for length & language and which articles will be included in each issue.
The German Shepherd Dog Club of Southern Arizona, Inc. is dedicated to the promotion, protection and improvement of the GSD through education, training and sound breeding practices.

We also work to benefit our community by providing training programs that are open to dogs of all breeds.

We believe that through training, it is possible to reduce the number of dogs that are surrendered to shelters.

Each year we host AKC sanctioned Obedience and Rally Trials along with a German Shepherd Dog Specialty Show.

President – Steve Watterson
Vice President – Cathy Gray
Treasurer – Kevilee Watterson
Secretary – Maria Swarts
Directors
Robin Crehan, Beverly Porter, Candi Colson
Show Chairman – Theresa Tuttle
Training Director
Jennifer Hamilton
Newsletter - Carol Madeheim

German Shepherd Dog Breed Standard

General Appearance

The first impression of a good German Shepherd Dog is that of a strong, agile, well muscled animal, alert and full of life. It is well balanced, with harmonious development of the forequarter and hindquarter. The dog is longer than tall, deep-bodied, and presents an outline of smooth curves rather than angles. It looks substantial and not spindly, giving the impression, both at rest and in motion, of muscular fitness and nimbleness without any look of clumsiness or soft living. The ideal dog is stamped with a look of quality and nobility—difficult to define, but unmistakable when present. Secondary sex characteristics are strongly marked, and every animal gives a definite impression of masculinity or femininity, according to its sex.

For the complete standard see the AKC website:
https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/german-shepherd-dog/

Photo and text from AKC Website