It's that time of year again! Parties, good company, good food and family gatherings. While enjoying this time with your fur kids, don’t forget to be observant of their physical condition and behavior. Subtle, and some not so subtle signs, may be warnings of trouble brewing.

The following is Kevilee’s account of Haddy’s agonizing journey from near death to diagnosis. I second everything here! I also had experience with a dog that didn’t exhibit typical Valley Fever symptoms, yet she had it! I always ask for a VF test if I notice my pup is a bit off and - sometimes the titer is negative – but in some cases the fungus could still be lurking. It can be the same for humans. I had it. Titers came back negative but I was eventually diagnosed with the insidious VF culprit. CM - Editor

November 2-3, 2019 – Old Pueblo Training Club Obedience & Rally Trials.

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Last January, my Haddycakes began yelping randomly. Maybe only a couple of times a day at first. When I would just touch her face or shoulder. After a few days, it became several times a day, so we took her to the emergency hospital. We did a Valley Fever titer, but the vet seemed certain that the problem was a pinched nerve. We went home with a bottle of Gabapentin. The titer came back negative and after a few days, all seemed good.

**SYMPTOM #1: unexplained, random pain or yelping.**

A few weeks later, she seemed off to me but nothing I could describe. She was okay, yet...

We spent thousands of dollars. We spent a LOT of time at the vet’s. Her weight was down to 60 pounds. The Valley Fever titers kept coming back negative. We got a varying diagnosis in the beginning, depending on the day. We even had one vet suggest Wobbler’s disease. Wrong. Her kidney numbers were very elevated. Her fur was dry and had all fallen out save some of the undercoat. She slept all the time. She was dying. The visit results from 2 vets were always the same – do blood work and wait.

And then, her right eye seemed to have gotten something in it. Redness and the third eyelid would cover it sometimes.

**SYMPTOM #2: Uevitis. Valley Fever can creep into many of your dogs organs, including the eyes.**

**Lesson #1: NEVER be afraid to make a scene in the waiting room if you are not getting the care you need for your dog.**

I went back to doc’s. In the waiting room and in tears I let the receptionist and everyone else know that my dog was dying, and nobody was doing a damn thing (insert bad language) to help her. I explained that we needed a Sonogram, and nobody was going to be available in time. She went to the back and came back with this advice which I am passing on to you: Go to emergency – Ft. Lowell has a Sonogram machine. Tell them you don’t need an internal specialist, just a Sonogram. Send the results here to be read.

Haddy and I arrived at Ft. Lowell emergency at 7:15AM the next morning. And stayed the day. We were there so long that one of the exam rooms became “Haddy’s”. We had more blood work, more urinalysis, more radiographs and finally the Sonogram. We found Uevitis with loss of sight in the right eye, Kidney Disease/Renal Dysplasia and signs such as lesions on her lung, but no proof of Valley Fever.

My vet ran more blood tests a couple of weeks later in order to see where the kidney levels were and suggested that we consider a cortisol test as well. He also gave her about 2 months to live if we kept on this same rate of decline.

*Valley Fever — Get Educated and Stay Watchful!*
He was curious about Addison’s disease. Addison’s is not a common disease and GSDs are not pre-disposed to it. Just the same we ran the test. Her kidneys were not doing well but Cortisol level was only a point 5! The results of the full Addison’s test came back positive. Of course.

Addison’s is associated with the Adrenal glands. It controls the hormones that you need to live. It can also mimic many diseases and we were hoping that it was causing her kidney values to be high, even though, In reality they could be okay. It is likely that due to the Addison’s and Kidney Disease, her body wasn’t able to fight the Valley Fever, resulting in Negative Titer.

Be aware that Valley Fever disseminates to other parts of the body. In Haddy’s case her right eye, her joints in C3 and her left rear leg. Not all dogs do the coughing thing that everyone says is an early indicator so, if your dog is having unexplained discomfort, is off his food or is just acting wonky for a few days in a row – get the titer done. Do a general blood work up on your dog annually. Even if nothing seems wrong as it gives your vet a baseline to go by in the event your dog starts displaying symptoms and comes back with a negative titer.

Here is my take on all of this. Listen to what your gut tells you about the health of your dog. If you think he or she is off, then they are probably off. Tests don’t always tell you what is really going on. Valley Fever testing is just a titer to see if your dog is producing antibodies to fight the fungus. What if your dog is not fighting back? What if your dog has more than one thing going on? Not all our dogs will fit into the medical model provided to the vets to use. If your dog is symptomatic, even though the titer comes back negative TRY the Fluconazole. It won’t hurt if VF isn’t there but if your dog improves then maybe it’s just the ticket.

Watch your dog move. Is there something that seems not quite right? I study my dog’s movement all the time. It was her odd painfulness and her off movement that got us started on the path of finding out all the other things that are wrong with her, including Valley Fever. Don’t just wait around thinking it will magically get better. It may not. Valley Fever can be transient throughout your dog’s body.

Be willing to cause a ruckus! Fight for your dog. Don’t let the system make you and your dog wait too long to get treatment. Ask Questions! You may ask something that will get the vet thinking out of the box. They are human. Help them to be able to get their heads around the entirety of the situation.

Educate Yourself! There is a LOT of information out there about all the things dog health related. I spend literally hours and hours on the internet reading about everything that is wrong with my dog. The best ways to help her. It helps to have a little knowledge under your belt when you are later dealing with the veterinarian.

And most of all, don’t give up on your dog. Haddy is holding steady at 66 pounds. We are treating her for all the things including Valley Fever EVEN WITH A NEGATIVE TITER. She shows
no pain anymore and her fur coat is better – indicating that she does indeed have VF. I may only have her for another 6 months or maybe God willing another year but, we are getting through this together.

Here are some helpful links on Valley Fever, Renal Dysplaysia and Addison’s Disease.

https://vfce.arizona.edu/valley-fever-dogs/symptoms


http://www.addisondogs.com/addisons/

https://wagwalking.com/condition/renal-dysplasia

Our S.T.A.R. Puppy Program for the fall session is off to a great start! I am pretty darn happy to get involved with the training program again and got very lucky with the puppies that are in the class – they are all wonderful!

We will be working on achieving all the goals for the AKC STAR Puppy Certification but in addition the handlers will learn about Marker training and a myriad of other training tools. By the end of the first class, all the puppies were demonstrating socialization skills and, in all honesty, it looks as though leash handling will be a breeze for this group.

Kevilee Watterson – GSDCSAZ Treasurer/Training Instructor

Tricks for Treats
Our annual Specialty Shows and All Breed Rally Obedience Trials are only 6 months out! We already have a great judging panel for each event. This year we are going to hold 2 Specialty Shows on Saturday and 1 on Sunday and of course a Beginner Puppy event for each Specialty. There will be an obedience and rally trial each day, and we hope to offer CAT runs with the Copper State Basenji Club and hoping for a day of Barn Hunt Intros and fun runs! Wow, we are going to be busy!

The Friday events are still in planning – the AKC has a new all-breed temperament test and it is quite possible that we will offer testing on the Friday before the show, along with our usual obedience and rally Show and Go, and if space and time allows maybe a scent work match. And of course, PIZZA!

We haven’t decided on a show theme yet, but a Patriotic idea is being considered. We are hoping for more suggestions and a vote at the next meeting.

There has been conversation about placing an ad in the December GSD Review to promote our show, this also needs to be voted on at the next meeting. Kevilee Watterson has volunteered to put an ad together for us and get it submitted.

The information we have so far has been posted up on the website at [www.gsdcsaz.org](http://www.gsdcsaz.org)

If you would like to volunteer to be on the ‘show team’, i.e. run the raffle, help with setup/breakdown, work with hospitality, steward, drive judges….etc. please contact Theresa at [sundancerlabs@aol.com](mailto:sundancerlabs@aol.com)

Stay tuned! More information that needs your consideration will be coming as the dates grow nearer!

*Theresa Tuttle – GSDCSAZ Show Chair/ Training Instructor*
Breakng News! Kevilee, Theresa, Maria and Carol are approved ATT Evaluators!

Mary Burch, the AKC Family Dog Director, announced the new AKC Temperament Test (ATT). The ATT is open to all breeds and mixed breed dogs. The following is from Mary’s description sent to AKC Obedience and Rally judges and CGC Evaluators:

**About the AKC Temperament Test (ATT)**

The temperament of any dog is an important characteristic. Temperament is a dog’s natural predisposition to react a certain way to a stimulus. The AKC Temperament Test includes test items in the following six categories: social, auditory, visual, tactile (touch), proprioceptive (motion), and an unexpected stimulus. Under each of the six categories, there are four choices of test items. On every test, dogs will be tested on three of the four choices.

The ATT, a noncompetitive, pass-fail test, will screen for fear, shyness, inability to recover, and lack of cooperation. Desired traits are that the dog will be emotionally stable, inquisitive, appropriately social for its breed, biddable and recovers from a startling situation in a reasonable amount of time.

**Earning the ATT title**

Dogs must be at least 1-year old to take the ATT test and dogs who do not pass the test may retest when ready. Dogs who pass the ATT twice under two different evaluators may earn the ATT title and list the suffix, “ATT” after the dog’s name.

**Holding the ATT Test**

ATT tests can be held by any AKC licensed or member club in conjunction with AKC events such as dog shows, trials, or it can be a stand-alone test. Clubs must apply to hold the test and it will appear on the AKC Event Search website. Clubs may start applying on October 1 for events to be held on or after November 1.

**Who can do testing?** The evaluators for the ATT will be specially trained AKC Obedience judges, Rally judges and AKC Approved Canine Good Evaluators. The ATT Evaluators will complete four educational modules and will take an online test through AKC’s Canine College.

The modules include: 1) an Overview of Temperament and the ATT, 2) watching a video of the ATT in action, 3) reading the ATT Evaluator Guide, and 4) Assembling Your ATT Test Materials.

**Becoming an ATT Evaluator** Qualified individuals interested in becoming an ATT Evaluator can apply starting September 3rd. Complete information about the ATT including Evaluator information, resources and the application form can be found at www.akc.org/akctemptest. Questions can be emailed to akctemptest@akc.org. ATT evaluators will appear on the AKC Judges Directory website.

Between September 3, 2019, and December 31, 2019, there will be no cost for AKC Obedience judges, Rally judges or CGC Evaluators to become approved as ATT Evaluators. Beginning on January 1, 2020, there will be a fee for taking the online test.
AKC Trick Dog Performer Titles

Three Chihuahua mixes – members of the GSDCSAZ – lol – achieved AKC Performer Trick Dog status. Martini and Machito performed their skit “Lost and Found in the Desert.” Emma Jay demonstrated her skills in “Emma Jay’s Excellent Day.” Awinita (‘Nita) at 15 yrs. old assisted her stepsisters by cheering them on and playing the part of a retirement community resident in “Emma Jay’s Excellent Day.”

Machito saving exhausted Martini in “Lost & Found In The Desert”

Emma Jay celebrating her “Excellent Day”

Machito in “Lost & Found In The Desert”

Machito & Martini Celebrating their Safe Return

Retired ‘Nita waiting for Emma’s Visit

Sneaky Martini in “Lost & Found In The Desert”

Carol Madeheim Editor

www.GSDCSAZ.org
Bev Porter with her “Bevy” of fur kids!

Meet the Board – Club Show Secretary

The Show Secretary is well known for her ability to remain cool, calm and collected. A puzzle mastermind who interacts well with other breeds, collecting and sorting through mounds of paperwork while creating complex publications under rigid deadlines. Responsible for smooth operations amid the background chaos. Here is Show Secretary Beverly Porter and her Long Coat German Shepherds (Lea, Zeus, Jazzy, Skye, Maggie May) and Papillons (Houdini, Tori, Dixie, Kimi Merlin).

Text submitted by Maria Swarts – GSDCSAZ Secretary
TUCSON'S FIRST AKC SCENT WORK TRIAL

I am pleased to share that the German Shepherd Dog Club of Southern Arizona will be hosting Tucson's first AKC Scent Work trial October 13, 2019. We are over the moon excited to bring this popular sport to the Tucson area. Scent work mimics the art of dog scent detection, think Police K9's or those really cool bed bug sniffing Beagles.

For the club's first trial we have decided to offer a low entry Novice only one day trial in an effort to provide a highly enjoyable experience to our handlers and dogs. AKC encourages spectators! We cordially invite anyone interested in the sport to come on down and check out the trial. Strike up a conversation with a volunteer and see if this is a sport you'd like to try.

To our volunteers: Thank you a million times over for all the support, dedication and direction needed to get this huge ball rolling!

To our first handlers: Good luck, have a blast playing with your dogs, and TRUST THE DOG!

Our next Scent Work trial will be a two-day trial offering all Odor division elements for Novice and Advanced — January 11 & 12, 2020

Jenny Hamilton — GSDCSAZ Training Director/Instructor
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 January, February, March 2020 issue:**

**December 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