



**DECEMBER 2024**



Happy Holidays

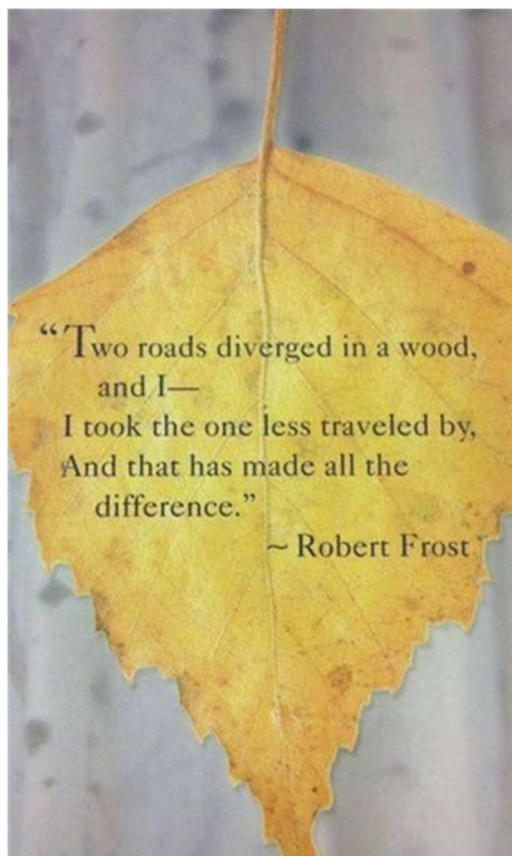
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**THE CORNER**

**Don't forget to pay your dues!**

**\$35/year for an individual**

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**If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Kathy Lewis.**

CORNER continued

## SAD NEWS



It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Sheridan who left us on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Susan and Bill, we are so sorry your boy had to leave you and is now with Bonnie over the Rainbow Bridge. He was such a good boy. He will be greatly missed.

## Guess who is in a commercial in December?



Did you guess??





## Quigley!

### From Jodie:

Watch your Maryland TV channels in December, for a Maryland Lottery commercial starring Quigley! In the Autumn, I got an email from a woman I used to train with in obedience classes. She works as an agent for animal actors! She had a client who was looking for a very large, light/white Wolfhound. Did I know anyone? (Haha!)

I sent her Quigley's photo, and a day later she asked for a profile shot, and headshots at various angles.

Then I waited! A few weeks later, she said the client needed video of him sitting on a sofa, and doing a sit stay with people walking by. I got those easily, but sending them turned out to be a different adventure!

A few weeks after that I got an email asking if he could sit in a car or sit on a park bench? I got those photos, and more waiting ensued.

A few weeks after that, I was informed that he had been chosen! We would film in October, near Baltimore. So now, more waiting. And more Questions. Was I ok with him in a moving vehicle? Would he wear a red collar? did I have a white blanket? Would he sit in a sports car?

Finally, a date was set! Filming would be October 9, in Baltimore. Ok! I rearranged my schedule to be off early that day. First, they said 5 pm.

Then 7... Then suddenly, they presented me with a storyboard and call sheet. I really couldn't understand the plot, but saw that Quigley would be sitting in a convertible, in a gas station. Cool! But the call sheet indicated an 11:00 "be on set"... 11 PM!! Yikes! I had to work the next morning! Well, I figured, we would be home by 1 or 2 am.

We arrived at location at 11 pm, as the cast broke for "lunch." Everyone met Quigley on their way to a midnight lunch of Chili and other Mexican food!

The gas station was staged with Christmas trees, fake-snow, and lights everywhere. A 1966 red Mustang convertible sat at one gas tank.

After lunch, they filmed inside, while Quigley and I met with the Assistant Director, and a remote Animal Safety Officer. She informed me of my rights as Owner (I could say stop at any time if I was uncomfortable with what he was asked to do.)

They put a red collar on Quigley, laid the white blankets on the seats, and put small boxes ("apple crates") in the floor wells. Then Quigley sat in the back seat, peering over the windscreen. He was SO CUTE!! the AD, the Animal Agent, and I stood just out of camera range, holding up treats (lots of cheese!) and yelling "Quigley sit! Quigley stay!"

After what seemed like hours, Quigley decided he was DONE! He lay down and refused to sit up again. We took him out of the car, gave him a drink and a treat, and tried again. This time, he was facing too far towards the Driver's side, so they asked me to move him. But (it was now 2am) he was finished. Nothing I did made him sit up. So, the Director decided he could "clean it up with post."

We were home by 4 am! I slept till 9, and was at work by 11.

I rushed to post pictures-and printed a copy to frame. Then the Agent said I had to wait. Ooops!

A month later, Quigley got a nice little paycheck - but my big hope is that he gets more work!

## **PVIWC Rescue Report** by Susan Montgomery

IW come into rescue for many reasons, the majority life events for the owner, seldom any problem with the hound. This year we have assisted other clubs in placing hounds in homes, but it wasn't until the week before Thanksgiving that we had hounds come into our club rescue.

We have two young hounds needing homes, a 3 yr old neutered male, and a 1 yr old intact female. Both have been vetted, microchipped, and are healthy. If you are interested in adopting, contact Rescue coordinator Susan Montgomery or fill out the application on the website.



Jameson is a 3 year old male IW, wheaten. 35 inches at the shoulder and currently 101 pounds. He was raised with other dogs, cats and children and gets along with all of them. He has a sensitive stomach, but is doing very well on Costco Lamb and brown rice kibble, plus a bit of canned food and supplements. He has a grade 1 luxating patella, which the vet just wants to monitor but means lure coursing is likely not the best for him. He has no other restrictions on activity though. He walks well on the leash and is mannerly in the house. Enjoys toys and chewing on antlers. He can be quite playful and will paw for attention and will gently take your hand in his mouth to show affection. Currently underweight, he is on a refeeding program and will need 3 meals a day for a while. Very food motivated and attentive, he would be very easy to teach tricks to. Shy with strangers, but will warm up quickly with cookies. A bit noise reactive, but getting better.



Mazikeen, or Mazy for short, is a 1-year-old female intact IW. 94 pounds, 35 inches at the shoulder and still growing. She has not yet had a season, and while we require she be neutered, it should not happen until she is at least 18 months to 2 years old. Mazy was rehomed because she was killing chickens, so no chickens please. She is fine with cats and other dogs, and with our horses. Mazy also requires 3 meals a day and is on the same Costco lamb and brown rice kibble and supplements. Mazy is very much a puppy! We are working on the jumping on people, chewing shoes, and counter surfing. She is very sensitive and a harsh tone will have her hiding and/or peeing. She is a runner and fearful, but after she bonds with a person, they become her safe space and she will run to you and hide. She requires a sturdy slip leash and a harness right now for walking, she will scramble and run if afraid. Secure fencing is a must! Mazy will need an experienced wolfhound home ready to deal with her leggy 95 pound puppyhood.

## **Fall Dog Grooming Checklist: How to Heal Your Dog Post-Summer**

By Jen Karetnick, Updated: Mar 26, 2024 **AKC**



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Some people lament the end of summer, holding on to the lingering warmth as much as they can, while others celebrate the arrival of cooler weather. Whatever your stance is, once autumn arrives, it's time to tend to your dog's post-summer grooming needs—from heat-damaged paw pads to insect-bitten skin and sun-bleached fur.

Check off these post-summer grooming tips to best prep your pup for fall.

## **1. Heal Your Dog's Hot Paws**

Did you spend your summer taking your dog to the beach or lake with you? Hiking with your dog? Or did you have them keep you company in the backyard? Hot sand, rocky ledges, and steamy pool decks can leave your pup's paw pads chapped, cracked, or injured. Even if your dog is sedentary or elderly and only gets outside for walks, sticky asphalt and scorching sidewalks can be heat hazards.

AKC S.A.F.E. certified pet groomer Tania Cocito, who personally owns two senior Pekingese, says prevention is key. "I'm a big believer in cleaning my dogs' paws after every walk," she says. "I use a simple, non-scented baby wipe followed by a dry towel."

If your dog's paws are already dry and chapped from the summer, however, slick on some petroleum jelly, then give them a chew toy as a distraction until it soaks in. Cocito also recommends a moisturizer made for dog paws to help soothe them. Balm for paw pads is a slightly pricier, but less greasy option that provides protection too, so it can be used next summer when hitting the sand or sidewalk, as well as during harsh winter weather.



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Should your dog's paw pads have actual cracks, Cocito advises applying antibiotic ointment or gel, then wrapping paws with gauze until you get your dog to the veterinarian. In the case of bleeding, red streaks, or pus, always let your vet treat the injury.



## 2. Soothe Skin Allergies

When plants and weather are changing outside, canine allergies often act up as pollen piggybacks into the house on your dog's coat. Allergic reactions that cause sneezing, irritated eyes, and congestion in humans, particularly during changes of season, might show up as skin rashes in dogs. To minimize the effects, bathe your dog weekly, or even every few days with a gentle, hypoallergenic shampoo. Make sure to rinse well to remove residue.

Cocito, who owns Tails of Enchantment In-Home Pet Grooming, says that dog allergies, which can last all year round, aren't caused only by pollen, but by other factors as well.

"Chemicals found at home, including those in perfumes, cigarette smoke, grass, plants, dust, and so much more, affect your pets internally by lingering on their fur," she notes. "They have dander, urine, fleas, and other things that they pick up whether out on walks or in the home."



*vichuda/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images*

These allergens then become airborne and attach to beds, carpets, furniture, and linens. To combat this, Cocito recommends regular dog grooming. "We brush, de-shed, de-tangle, bathe, blow out the fur, and trim the hair to eliminate some of these issues," she affirms.

Dogs with severe allergies to pollen or fleas often develop hot spots or rashes that ooze and develop scabs. Pets who bite themselves, lose their

fur, or develop swollen, red skin patches should visit the veterinarian, as these conditions might require treatment with medications.

### **3. Repair Sun-Damaged Coats**

“Just as it is for people, the sun can be very damaging on your pets’ skin and hair, especially if they stay outside for long periods,” Cocito says. “It will lighten the fur and cause skin damage.”

If your dog’s coat looks as faded and fried as your hair did after experimenting with too much lightening spray, don’t worry—the damage isn’t permanent. Those bleached hairs will eventually fall out and your dog’s glowing natural color will grow back in (just like yours did). But, there are a few ways to hurry the process along:

#### **Major Grooming Session**

Brush, brush, and brush some more to get all that dead hair out of the coat. If your dog has a double, long, or curly coat, use a slicker brush or shedding blade. In the fall, dogs shed more heavily to get rid of the summer coat and make room for a winter coat, so take advantage of this time to banish discolored hair. Frequent brushing will also distribute coat oils, making the hair look healthier and shinier.

#### **Color Shampoo**

Shampoos made for dogs with black, red, or brown coats can enhance those colors, restoring some of the lost luster. “For lighter coats, whitening shampoos are used, and for darker coats, black shampoo. Groomers also use finishing sprays that can protect the coat from further sun damage and contain sunscreen,” Cocito says.

#### **Oil-Based Conditioner and Coat Spray**

A good coat conditioner and/or coat spray can add a sheen that can make the hair look darker and richer.



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## **Supplements**

Some evidence suggests that fish oil can improve not just the quality but also the color of the coat. Some pet owners also swear by adding a tablespoon of olive oil or coconut oil to their pet's food. Talk to your vet before adding any supplements to your dog's diet.

## **High-Quality Dog Food**

You already know several reasons to feed your dog the good stuff. Better coat quality is one of them—and balanced nutrition may help restore it more quickly. Autumn is a perfect time to consider upgrading your dog food.

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## **Can I Wash My Dog With Soap?**

By Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz, Updated: Mar 14, 2024 **AKC**



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When it's bathtime, the best way to keep your pet clean is with products specially formulated for dogs. But what happens if you run out of dog shampoo? Can you use soap made for people on your dog?

### **What Can I Wash My Dog With?**

Dog shampoos made with detergents work best on canine skin. They support the dog's skin without irritating it, and they don't disrupt the skin's pH balance. The pH scale measures acidity or alkalinity. A pH of 7.0 is considered neutral. Depending on size and breed, a dog's skin pH ranges from 5.5 to 7.5, while human skin pH tends to range from 4.0 to 6.0.

Because soap tends to be alkaline, or higher pH, using soap instead of detergents to bathe your dog could raise the pH of your dog's skin and disrupt the protective natural acid mantle of your dog's skin. When purchasing dog shampoo, check the label to make sure the product is pH-balanced especially for dogs. Natural skin moisturizers, including vitamin E or aloe vera, can be soothing bonuses.



Quality dog shampoos are sometimes more expensive than others, but a little goes a long way. Even after a wash and a repeat, a bath doesn't need a lot of soap suds to get the job done.

Manufacturers recommend using only a tiny amount of the product mixed with water. Prepare a fresh mixture of diluted shampoo every time you bathe your dog. Then, dispose of any leftover shampoo to avoid bacterial growth.

When shopping for canine shampoo, you'll find many types for hypoallergenic conditions or formulas specifically created for oily, dry, or long coats. If you're unsure which dog shampoo to buy, ask your breeder, veterinarian, or groomer for recommendations.

### **Can I Wash My Dog With Human Shampoo?**

"You can, but after a couple of shampoos, you'll notice the dog's coat is dry, itchy, and dull," DiMarino says. People shampoo is formulated to replenish the outer layer of human skin according to human pH levels. "One or two baths won't hurt the dog, but if you use people shampoo too frequently, the coat will lose its luster." Some human shampoos also contain artificial additives, dyes, and perfume, which can irritate your dog's skin and cause allergies.



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### **Can I Wash My Dog With Dish Soap?**

Is dish soap a permissible option for dogs? "No. Dish soap used to clean food bits off dinner plates and to scrub off your pots and pans is not an

option,” says Teri DiMarino, President of the California Professional Pet Groomers Association. “This product’s job is designed to cut grease.”

Canine skin contains natural oils that maintain sufficient hydration to keep the coat soft and lustrous. Dish soap gets rid of oils on the skin, but a dog’s coat needs those natural oils. And while dish soap manufacturers may advertise their wash-up liquid’s gentle nature, this degreaser can irritate a dog’s skin.



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If dish soap accidentally winds up in a dog’s eyes, it can cause irritation. Many dish soaps produce a large volume of lather, which also takes time and effort to rinse thoroughly.

But if your dog has a flea infestation, washing them with dish soap can be a helpful first step. Dish soap has been used to remove oil from the feathers of rescued wildlife, and the chemicals in it are effective at killing some fleas on dogs. However, dish soap doesn’t repel or prevent dog fleas from returning, and it’s not a viable long-term strategy for managing these parasites. A more effective way to deal with a flea-infested dog is by washing them with a dog- or puppy-safe flea shampoo, grooming fleas or eggs out of their coat with a flea comb, or applying an age-appropriate flea-killing product.

### **Can I Wash My Dog With Baby Shampoo?**

Mild baby shampoos with neutral pH levels may be effective for hairless or short-coated dog breeds. Baby shampoo doesn’t tend to dry out the skin and is gentle enough to use when bathing puppies. It can also soothe irritated skin. Just as you would with canine shampoo, be sure to

thoroughly rinse your dog to remove all of the suds. Follow up with warm towels for drying or a canine dryer on a low setting.

## **Dog Cleansers for Itchy Skin**

If your dog is scratching up a storm, ask your veterinarian or groomer about a medicated shampoo. Medicated dog shampoo can come in various types, both over-the-counter and prescription, depending on its formulation and ingredients. Some medicated dog shampoos are antiseptic, anti-fungal, anti-itch, or designed to control oil production, all depending on what the issue with your dog's skin and coat may be. Some newer formulations may help address allergy symptoms by reinforcing the skin's natural barrier. Your vet and your groomer can help you decide what's best for your dog's individual case.

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## **Avoid a Sticky Situation: How to Get Sap Out of Dog Fur**

By Gemma Johnstone, Updated: Oct 18, 2022 **AKC**

Sugary tree sap can be the bane of a dog owner's life during the spring and early summer when it flows most freely. This super-sticky substance is notoriously tricky to remove from fur. Plus, scratchy pine needles and other debris can get glued to it, turning your dog's coat into a matted, tacky, uncomfortable mess.

Thankfully, you don't need to avoid your daily woodland dog walks at this time of year. You've likely got all the tools you need to get sap out of your dog's fur at home. And, if you act fast and come armed with treats, it doesn't have to be a task you and your dog dread.



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## **Why is Sap a Problem for Dogs?**

It's not just the uncomfortable matting that makes removing sap from your dog's fur a priority. Some tree saps, like pine sap, can be mildly toxic to your pet. Sap can cause itchy hotspots, rashes, or even allergic reactions if left to linger. If your dog tries to get the sap off their paws, they can further irritate their skin or develop granulomas from excessive licking.

While sap is unlikely to cause serious problems, avoiding sap ingestion removes any risk. Depending on the tree type, licking sap can lead to stomach upset, vomiting, lethargy, drooling, or lack of appetite. If your dog displays any of these symptoms after ingesting tree sap, consult your vet.

## **Steps for Sap Removal**

Don't put off sap removal. The longer it sits in your dog's fur, the more likely it is to cause irritation, tummy troubles, or messy matting. Check your dog over after every tree-lined walk, and, if you need to rid them of syrupy attachments, be ready with tons of their favorite treats or a tasty food-filled chew toy to distract and build positive associations. Here's how to get sap out of dog fur.

### **1. Soften the Sap**

Hard sap is problematic and painful to remove from fur—you can only cut it out in this state. If the blow dryer doesn't horrify your dog, using it on the



lowest setting can soften the sap, making it easier to separate from fur. Ensure the dryer isn't too close or too hot for your dog's delicate skin.

## **2. Apply Oil**

Pet-safe oil-based lubricants are your best friend for getting sap out of dog fur. They help further soften and loosen the sticky substance. Vegetable or olive oil are the most common secret ingredients, but you can also try smooth peanut butter (your dog might try to lick it, so make sure it is xylitol and sugar-free), soft butter, or mayonnaise.

Thoroughly work a generous amount of oil into the affected fur with your fingers. If your dog is calm and patient, massaging it in for a few minutes gives it a chance to really work its magic. For dogs with sensitive skin, you could purchase a tree sap removal product specifically formulated and tested for pets.

## **3. Break Up the Sap**

Slowly and gently work the sap out using your fingers or, better still, a wide-toothed comb. Have a paper towel on-hand to wipe up loose pieces of sap. If the sap isn't coming off freely, don't tug. You'll hurt your dog, and they'll understandably be less accommodating the next time you need to tackle this task.



Artranq/Getty Images Plus

Be patient, and don't expect a large glob to slide off straight away. You might need to add more oil, especially as chunks come off in bigger pieces.

#### **4. Pay Particular Attention to the Paws**

Paws are the most frequent victims to fall foul of sap attachment. They're also the trickiest spot to remove it from. If you're struggling to work the oil in between fluffy toes and paw pads, try using a soft bristle toothbrush.

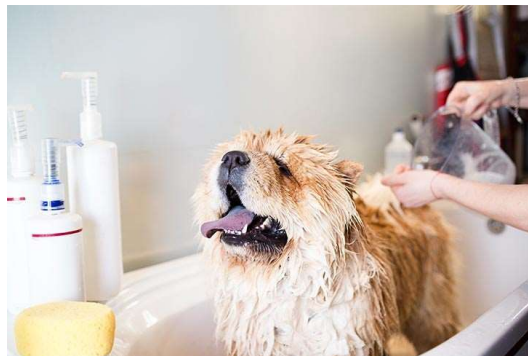
#### **4. Cut Out the Stubborn Stuff**

If you've had several oil slathering sessions and some sap doesn't want to budge, you might need to admit defeat and cut out a small patch. Where possible, use blunt-tipped pet grooming scissors.

Be extra careful when trimming off sap stuck close to your dog's skin. Your local groomer or vet can help if you don't feel confident or your dog isn't keen.

#### **5. Give a Cleansing Bath**

After all the sap is out, you still have to contend with a greasy pup. They'll need a bath with warm water and dog shampoo to rinse out any remaining sap residue and oil. Focus your lathering efforts on the slick fur and be ready to do a couple of rinses.



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#### **What Not to Do When Getting Sap Out of Dog Fur**

Steer clear of astringent solvents, chemical detergents, petroleum products, and alcohol. They're harsh on sensitive skin, not good for your dog to lick, can irritate eyes, and won't always break up the sap the way an oil-based substance will.

## How to Prevent Sap Getting Stuck in Dog's Fur

There isn't a miracle solution for avoiding sap sticking to your dog's fur. Keeping the hair around the paws trimmed short means big globs are less likely to get attached.

If you have a sap-producing tree in your yard, you could also try fencing off the area immediately around it during peak sticky season.

### MARYLAND IRISH FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 8, 9, 10





**FAIRIE-FOLK FAMILY FEST NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**





# **Is Your Dog Noise Sensitive? Sources of Anxiety You May Not Even Notice**

By Harriet Meyers, Published: Feb 29, 2024 **AKC**

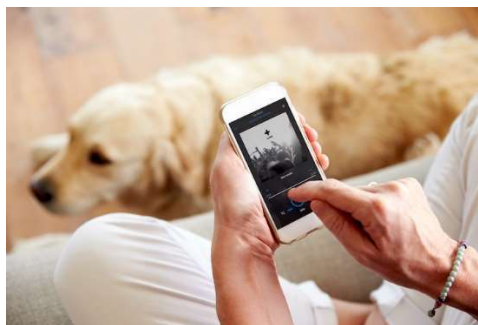


Richard Unten/Moment Open via Getty Images

Home sweet home may mean peace and quiet to you. But to your dog, the same home could sound like a marching band. Dogs hear many high-frequency noises that are undetectable to the human ear and may cause them to feel stressed. A study of 13,700 pet dogs showed that noise sensitivity was the most common trait to cause anxiety in dogs, showing up in almost one-third of the dogs.

## **What Is Noise Sensitivity?**

“Noise sensitivity describes a dog who is fearful or startled by environmental noises,” explains Dr. Stephanie Borns-Weil, DVM, DACVB at Tufts University’s Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. “To avoid confusion, it would be better described as fear of noise. When a dog is severely frightened and/or has a tough time recovering from exposure to noise, I would call it noise phobia.”



monkeybusinessimages

Most adults hear sounds up to 20,000 Hertz (HZ). Dogs, however, hear sounds that reach frequencies as high as 47,000 to 65,000 HZ. We don't know for sure why dogs and some other mammals are sensitive to high-pitched noises. It's possible that their hearing evolved to strengthen their ability to locate where these sounds are coming from, which is especially important when hunting prey.

### **Causes of Noise Sensitivity**

The U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine conducted research on the effect of noise sensitivity. They found that dogs were more likely to have a strong, anxious reaction to high-frequency, intermittent sounds, such as smoke detector warning beeps, than to low-frequency continuous sounds, such as microwave humming. Their research also showed that some owners underestimate noise fearfulness in their dogs.

Dr. Jill Goldman, a certified applied animal behaviorist, found that sound sensitivity varies for each dog. "Certain dogs of different ages or breeds may react to a variety of sounds. A dog's health can affect his audible range and reaction to noise," she says. "Prior experience and exposure also make a difference – when a young dog is exposed to a sound and the initial exposure isn't traumatic, they can become habituated or desensitized."

Most of us have high-frequency sounds in our homes, yards, and neighborhoods: electronic doorbells, smoke detectors, microwave ovens, vehicle backup alerts, carbon monoxide test beeps, Roombas, electric fences, insect zappers, ultrasonic rodent deterrents. "Many dogs don't like the sound of vacuum cleaners, nail guns, electric drills, loud blenders, and high-efficiency washers that have a loud spin cycle," says Dr. Borns-Weil.



## **Signs Your Dog Is Anxious About a Noise**

Understanding your dog's changes in behavior and body language will help you recognize when your dog is having a difficult time with a particular noise in their environment.

"The intensity of the dog's fear determines the response. If the fear is mild, the dog may seek out the owner or a safe space (like under the bed) and may show a low body posture with tail down or tucked and ears retracted or may engage in yawning or lip licking," Dr. Borns-Weil says. "A very fearful dog may tremble, cower, try to escape from the house, urinate or defecate, pace, pant, drool, and have a rapid heart rate."

The AKC Canine Health Foundation warns that the more often a dog is exposed to frightening noise, the more intense their phobic response will be. Seeking shelter and trying to escape are common reactions.

## **Some Dogs React to Noise, Others Don't**

"All dogs are at risk of being startled by a loud and unexpected noise, like a fire alarm. Most dogs are resilient enough to recover from experience and do not generalize the fear to other sounds," according to Dr. Borns-Weil.

"However, some dogs will generalize and associate one sound that frightens them with other sounds," says Dr. Goldman. For example, for weeks after a lasagna overflowed in my oven, causing the kitchen smoke detector to beep, my dog asked to go outside each time she heard me turn on the oven.

Researchers have concluded there may be a genetic component to noise sensitivity, which often begins in very young dogs. Other studies report that dogs may react fearfully to noises they experience with trauma, noises they've seen other dogs react to fearfully, or sounds that generate a strong reaction from their owners. There also appears to be a correlation between a lack of socialization and noise sensitivity.





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## How to Help Your Noise-Sensitive Dog

When dogs react fearfully to household noises, their health, safety, and quality of life may be affected. "It's important for caregivers to understand and be sensitive to why this dog has a problem – to consider where the dog has been," Dr. Goldman advises. "Has it lived a very sheltered life and not been exposed to a variety of auditory experiences?"

Dr. Goldman recommends these steps to bring relief to a noise-sensitive dog:

- **Talk to a veterinarian:** Visit your dog's veterinarian first to rule out any underlying medical factors. When a dog is in pain, they may react fearfully to sounds that don't typically cause anxiety.
- **Pay extra attention:** If you observe a pattern of behavior, find out what's happening at this location that might be causing it. It's often easier to change your environment by removing the source of the noise, than to modify your dog's fear-based behavior.
- **Work with an animal behaviorist:** Behavior modification that involves desensitization and counterconditioning can help the animal accept the sound, but it's a very delicate process and doesn't work with every dog.
- **Start early:** Puppies who hear gentle recordings of loud sounds and receive treats can learn to associate those noises with positive outcomes.

- **Provide the dog with a safe place to go:** Whether it's a crate, closet, or under the bed, make their go-to spot as insulated and welcoming as possible. Offer a calm space and train the dog to relax and go to their safe spot.
- **Try calming or anxiety-care products:** Noise-cancelling headphones or an anxiety vest or jacket, such as a ThunderShirt, can help to soothe your dog's stress. In both cases, the dog should be conditioned to relax with them before a fearful situation occurs.
- **Give anti-anxiety medication:** In severe cases when a sound can be isolated, medication prescribed by a veterinarian and used on a short-term basis may help when used in conjunction with behavior modification.

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## **Why Is My Dog Better Behaved at Home?**

By Sassafra Patterdale, CPDT-KA, CTDI, Updated: Mar 26, 2024 – **American Kennel Club**

You've probably had one of those moments when you're sure that you taught your dog a cool new trick and then you go to show someone, but your dog doesn't do it. Why is it that dogs are better behaved at home? For example, they may do something perfectly at your house and then seem unable to perform the same thing while at the park or in training class.

### **Better at Home**

It's frustrating, and even embarrassing, when it feels like your dog performs certain behaviors more consistently at home versus when they're

out in the world. Dogs are highly situational, so just because your dog knows how to do something well in one place doesn't mean they'll automatically be able to perform the same skill somewhere else. The "better at home" phenomenon is very natural and normal.

When you're at home, your dog is likely relaxed, calm, and comfortable. They know where they are and what is going on around them. In this familiar space, your dog can focus on learning new and challenging skills. When you take the skills elsewhere, your dog may need extra support to learn how to do this trick in a new environment.

### **Pay Attention to Distraction Levels**

Just like you wouldn't ask a kindergartener to do calculus, you want to make sure that you're asking your dog to perform skills that are appropriate for their age and training level. Always start teaching new skills in areas with low distraction, which gives your dog the ability to focus. Once your dog knows a behavior in a low-distraction environment at home, you can start to work on that skill in more distracting environments, like a park or training facility.

When you're training in a more distracting environment, you'll want to bring out the higher-value training treats. Be prepared to lure or help your dog out more during the first few repetitions of a trick or cue. This reminds your dog that this is the same skill they've already mastered at home.



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Learning something new is hard, so until your dog has a solid mastery of a skill, it will be very challenging for them to perform it somewhere

distracting. Try to set your dog up for success by putting them into training situations where they can be successful with their current level of skill.

### **Look Beyond Stubbornness**

Dog training requires a lot of patience. It can be easy to get frustrated or discouraged. Many people mistake a dog's lack of understanding — or inability to focus amid distractions — for stubbornness.

But if you're asking your dog to perform a specific behavior and they aren't doing it, chances are, the dog isn't refusing to comply. Rather, it's likely that the reinforcement rate (how often you reward your dog) is too low, the distraction level is too high, and/or your dog doesn't yet fully understand the skill and isn't sure what you want.

Dogs want to please us and they want to learn new things, so a refusal to perform a behavior should be carefully considered. If you're asking for the behavior in a new area, or with new distractions present, your dog may be unable to perform because what you're asking for is too complicated to do in a distracting environment. That said, if your dog suddenly stops performing a skill they know well in familiar environments, they may be experiencing pain or discomfort. In this case, it's a good idea to schedule a thorough evaluation with your vet.

### **Intentionally Increasing Distractions**

We all want our dogs to listen to us anywhere, but that doesn't happen overnight. It's important to slowly and intentionally increase the level of distraction. Think about what is most distracting for your dog. For some, that might be the sight of other dogs or being near people, while other dogs might struggle to focus most when near a barbecue or small animals like squirrels. And for some dogs, it will be all of the above.



Slowly build up your dog's comfort and familiarity with a trick, skill, or behavior. They'll eventually become proficient and confident when performing a specific behavior with the current level of distraction. From there, the goal is to increase the distraction level until they can perform that skill anywhere, regardless of what's happening.

A slow progression might involve starting to teach a new skill inside your house, then moving to your backyard (if you have one). From there, you might move in front of your house (where there might be more things going on), then a quiet neighborhood street, and then finally moving onto training in a park, or another area with more of the distractions that are hardest for your dog. If your dog struggles to perform a skill in a new area at any point, just take a (literal) step back and increase your dog's distance from the distractions before trying again.



Some people will say, **"It's just a dog,"** but it's not just a dog. A dog becomes your best friend, the one who's always there when everyone else is too busy. They're the comfort when life gets hard, the one who sits with you in your lowest moments without asking for anything in return. They're the companion who makes you laugh after a long day, even when you don't feel like smiling.

Your dog becomes your protector, always alert, always ready to keep you safe, even when you don't realize it. They're your walking partner, your daily reminder to step outside and breathe when the world feels overwhelming. They're the keeper of your secrets, sitting by your side while you vent about things no one else will hear.

A dog can become your family, the constant in a world that changes too fast. They're not just there for the good times, but for the moments when everything feels like it's falling apart. They're the one who looks at you with love, no matter what kind of day you've had. It's never just a dog—it's a piece of your heart, your companion in ways that words can never fully capture.

R M Drake 🍂

Artist Credit : Lucy Almey Bir

## **How to Get Your Dog Used to the Vacuum Cleaner**

By Kylie Ora Lobell, Updated: Mar 26, 2024 **AKC**



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Is your dog scared of vacuums? Maybe it's a familiar routine: whenever you turn your vacuum on to clean your home, your dog goes scurrying away. They might even hide under the table for protection from this loud and frightening device.

However, with the proper training and desensitization, you can help your dog get comfortable around vacuums.

## Why Dogs Hate the Vacuum

Your dog hates the vacuum for one simple reason: it's scary.

"Look at it from your pup's perspective: they are loud and move around willy-nilly and change the appearance of whomever is operating them," says Jessica Gore, CPDT-KA, a founder and pup educator at Competent Pup in Los Angeles. "Most owners are not taking the time to properly teach their pup about a novel stimulus, the vacuum, so the default is usually fear."

Dogs may also perceive that the vacuum is coming toward them, specifically. "For example, the dog is lying on the floor, [and] the vacuum is turned on and used in a motion towards him on the floor," says Dr. Crista Coppola, PhD board-certified applied animal behaviorist. "The dog may then jump on the couch, and the person proceeds to vacuum right up to the couch edge. The vacuum is also rarely paired with anything good because the owner is vacuuming and no one is paying any attention to the dog."



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## Training Your Dog Not to Be Scared of the Vacuum

If your dog behaves erratically around vacuums, there are steps you can take to make them feel more comfortable. According to Russell Hartstein, CDDBC, CPDT-KA, and founder of Fun Paw Care, LLC, this would involve associating positive reinforcement with turning on the vacuum. "You would desensitize and counter-condition a dog to a vacuum if they are scared of it," he says.

- First, introduce the vacuum in a controlled environment at a very low volume or a great distance from your dog.
- Then, pair the sound of the vacuum with the highest food reward. Do this several times until your dog's reaction changes from unsure and concerned to happy or excited, says Hartstein.
- After you get that cheerful response, gradually increase the volume of the vacuum in small increments, and repeat.

### **Starting at an Early Age**

Coppola suggests incorporating play into desensitizing your dog and working with your dog at an early age.

“The prime time to expose a dog to something new is during [the] socialization period, [which is approximately] three weeks to three to four months of age, depending on individual and breed,” she says. “During this socialization period, dogs are most accepting of new stimuli (and social partners). A great way to introduce the vacuum is to start with the simple presence of the vacuum in the room while you engage the dog in something fun. Ideally [you’d use] play, but [you can also use] fun training and/or high-value treats.”

If your dog shows signs of being uncomfortable, you’ll need to reduce the intensity of the stimulus, which is the vacuum, says Coppola. “Move farther away, stop moving, muffle the sound, turn [it] off, etc. And then continue to play at the intensity the dog was comfortable,” she says.



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## **Are Some Breeds Less Sensitive to Noise?**

Typically, whether a dog is scared of a vacuum will depend on prior experiences and exposure during the socialization period.

However, some studies suggest certain breeds are more sensitive to noise levels. Coppola points out that in one study, which looked at noise sensitivity in 17 different breeds, Boxers, Great Danes, and Chinese Crested dogs “had lower frequencies of fear caused by noise,” according to the study. Noises were more likely to scare female dogs than male dogs. Neutered dogs also had higher odds of being afraid of noises than intact dogs.

“Some would also posit that hunting breeds (i.e. gun dogs) have been selected for less noise sensitivity as well,” says Coppola.

## **Working With Your Dog**

Pet hair vacuums are a great way to keep your house clean and low on allergens. With the right training, you can peacefully vacuum your home without scaring your dog. If you’re having any trouble, then finding a professional trainer could prove helpful.

“Teach your dog that vacuums are safe and fun,” says Gore. “Hiring a positive professional trainer can help you desensitize and counter-condition your pup to their ‘scary monsters.’”

## **Dog Training Ideas for Busy People**

By Sassafra Patterdale, CPDT-KA, CTDI, Updated: Oct 08, 2024 **AKC**

Don’t have a lot of time to work with your dog? That’s okay—with small intentional training sessions, you can still make big progress. Even if you have other commitments, you can spend a few minutes a day intentionally working with your dog to achieve your training goals. Here’s how to do it.

### **Make the Most of Time You Have**

Instead of being frustrated with the time you have available to train, make the most of the limited moments you have to practice the skills you’re

working on. It takes only a couple of seconds to cue, praise, and reward your dog for doing many behaviors.

Every interaction we have with our dogs is an opportunity for them to learn something new. You don't need to have structured training sessions to have a big impact on their understanding. Practicing a cue or trick with your dog while you're getting ready in the morning, between answering emails, or while you're watching TV is a great way to build training into your daily routine. Plus, it doesn't require you to carve out a lot of time.



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## **Set Small Goals for Training**

To make the most of limited training time, have a clear sense of which skills you want to work on. Homework from a training class can help you structure weekly training goals, or you can pick a skill that you know you'll need for the dog sports you want to compete in.

If you aren't sure what to work on, pick a trick or two or some basic obedience skills that you have been lax on teaching or refining. The goal itself doesn't matter. It's about the process of setting one, so you have a plan that will help you be consistent with your training. You can write the goal on your calendar or put it on a sticky note on your fridge so you're reminded of what you and your dog need to work on. Having goals can help you get the most out of limited training sessions by keeping you motivated and organized.

## **Incorporate Training into Your Daily Routine**

If you're feeling discouraged about not having enough time to train with your dog, it can be useful to reframe that conversation for yourself.

Instead, think about the time you do have and make the most of it. Your dog will be grateful for any intentional time spent working together.

Here are some ideas for incorporating training into small moments during your day:

### **Mealtime Games**

One of the best opportunities to work with your dog when you have limited time is to turn meals into training time. As you're prepping your dog's bowl, take a few minutes to practice some skills. You can ask your dog for a few cues you have been working on or give them a quick refresher of tricks they know well. You can also begin training for new tricks or behaviors. Make it a challenge to see how many tricks your dog can do in a short period of time.



Ekaterina Bondaretc/Getty Images Plus

### **Door Manners**

An easy way to incorporate small training sessions with big outcomes into your day is to use your dog's regular potty breaks as an opportunity to practice door manners. Anytime you open your door—to take your dog out, when you get home, or when you're getting the mail—it's a great opportunity to work on polite behaviors like not darting through the door until being released. You can use this moment to practice sit, down, stand, or other position changes with your dog before going outside. Keep treats on you or stored next to the door so you can reward them for polite door manners.

### **Recall Skills**

One impactful skill you can work on anytime during a spare moment with your dog is recall. If you call your dog's name, it's important for their safety that they come. If you keep dog treats stashed through your home, you can call your dog from different places when you're between calls, doing laundry, cooking dinner, or watching TV in the evening. Practicing recalls from different areas in your house will help your dog work on listening to the direction of your voice and find you wherever you are. Just don't forget to have treats ready to reward them!

### **Keep Training Equipment Accessible**

If you're working on a particular training skill that requires props, try to find ways to keep them easily accessible and ready to use. For example, if you're working on proofing your dog's weave pole entries, leave your weave poles set up in your backyard, hallway, or living room. When you're taking your dog out or just have a few spare minutes, you can quickly practice sending your dog to the poles from different approaches without having to set up a big training session.

### **Loose Leash Walking**

Anytime you take your dog outside is an opportunity to practice leash manners. Even if you have a fenced backyard, you can put a leash on your dog and practice a little bit of loose leash walking for part of your time outside. That way you can work on these skills even if you don't have time to take your dog on a long walk that day.



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## **Consistency Is Key**

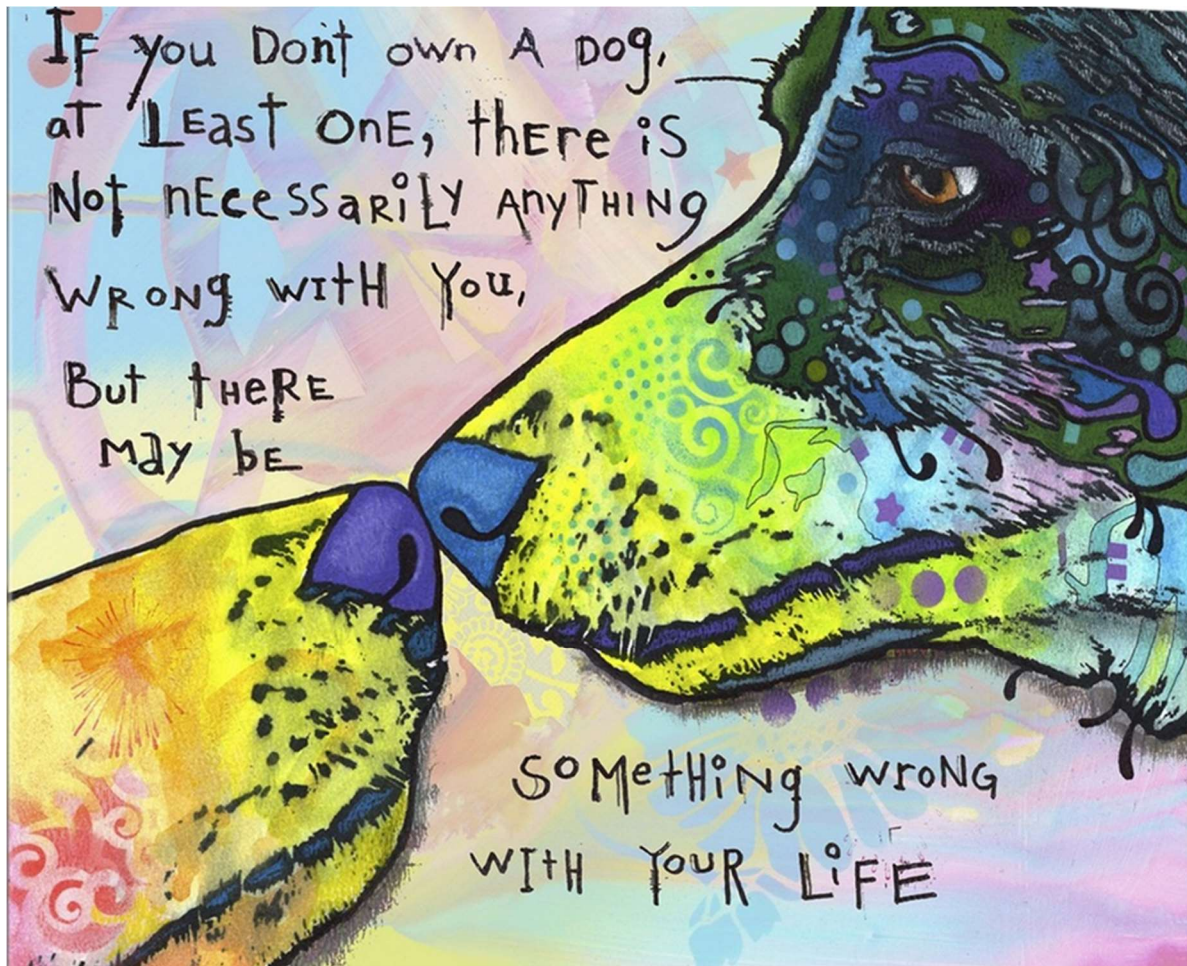
A key to a dog successfully mastering new behaviors and skills is consistency. If you and your dog just go to class once a week and don't practice at home between classes, it will be hard for them to quickly learn skills. Taking a few minutes a day to consistently work on skills will help your dog learn and polish new behaviors. Consistency means practicing and training regularly, but it doesn't require having large amounts of time to focus on training.

## **Small Training Makes Big Impact**

It might feel like everyone you know has more time to work with their dog. But, that doesn't mean that the time you do spend working with your dog isn't valuable. Your dog isn't comparing you to other dog owners, so you shouldn't either! Your dog values quality time playing and training with you and will enjoy that time, no matter how much or how little you have that day.

In fact, sometimes small training sessions are more successful than longer ones. It can be tempting to work on a skill over and over again until you and your dog get it just right. But your dog will often feel burned out as a result.

When we're training, the goal should be to always end training sessions on a positive note before your dog feels tired or frustrated. It's also important to end each training session with your dog feeling engaged and wanting to do more. Short training sessions spread throughout the day — instead of one big training session — naturally keep you goal-oriented and your dog engaged and enthusiastic about learning.



## **Gettysburg Hound Walk November 24<sup>th</sup>**

Article and some of pics will be in the winter edition of Harp and Hound.

PVIWC celebrated the holiday season with a social walk, the 1st of our new "Fit Dog" program. We chose the beautiful and historically significant site of Gettysbu!rg battlefield for what we hope is the first of many such gatherings.

11 humans and 9 hounds gathered at Devil's Den, and walked up to the "Irish Brigade Monument." Hounds ranged from puppies to 5 years old. The weather was perfect for the hounds; a warm late November day, cool enough for a light jacket for humans, and brightly sunny.

While there, we posed for photos with park visitors and many members took the iconic "hound at the monument" photo. Club member Adam Wine, who volunteers at the Park, pointed out spots of historical interest. We plan to add future Fit Dog walks for social and health benefits to human and hound. Jodie







# DoodleHatch Interactive Art Museum

## Podcast Filming, November 30<sup>th</sup>

The DoodleHATCH tv show is a streaming, YouTube/Patreon show dedicated to educating and entertaining children in grades one-to-five. The show is modeled based on Sesame Street with costumed humans and puppets. It teaches Math, Reading, Phonics, Emotional Health, Animals, Science, Physical Health, Dance, Music, Arts, and Crafts.

Quigley and Orlaith are part of the "i Episode" along with Jodie and I. The hounds were filmed today, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>! The filming was done in segments and will be spliced together. First, we talked about Irish wolfhounds, then we were asked questions by two young people, Oliver and Miriam. Miriam, Orlaith and I posed to show how big a wolfhound is and then Quigley did some tricks with Jodie.

The folks at DoodleHatch were lovely and quite welcoming. The art museum is women owned and Leigh Anderson, the chief owner, was quite lovely. I for one, will be going back! Note, Leigh is a dressmaker! She has some lovely items for purchase, think fairie costumes. She most generously gifted Jodie a top and she gifted me with a beautiful, summer dress!





## PVIWC List of Meeting & Events 2024

March 2023	<u><a href="#">St. Patrick's Day Parades and Festivals</a></u>
March 31&April 1	<i>Specialty Harford County Equestrian Center, Bel Air, MD</i>
April 12&13	Dills Celtic Festival, Dills Tavern, 237 Baltimore St, Dillsburg, PA
April 20&21	Tell-Tale Steampunk Festival Pikesville, MD
April 21	<i>Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Carolinas Specialty</i>
April 27	Southern MD Celtic Festival
May 4	Annapolis Irish Festival, Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, 1450 Crownsville, MD
May 4&5	Faerie Festival Marshy Point
May 19	<b>Show Wrap Up Meeting</b>
May 20-22	<i>IWCA National Specialty 300 Checkerboard Loop, Gray Summit, Missouri</i>
June 8	Carroll County Celtic Festival, Westminster, MD
June 9	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
June 15	Penn Mar Irish Festival, Shrewsbury, PA
June 21-23	Celtic Fling <i>(with a concert on Friday night)</i> PA Renn Faire grounds
August 11	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
August 17	Oakenmist Ren Faire Howard County Fairgrounds
Aug 31 & Sept 1	Virginia Scottish Games
September 15	Fun Day
September 21-23	PA Renn Faire
October 6 & 7	<i>Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Delaware Valley Specialty</i>
October 20	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
November 2	Lá Gaeilge (Irish Day), 1190 Progress Dr, Front Royal, VA 22630 <b>CANCELED</b>
November 8-10	Maryland Irish Festival, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD 21093
November 16	Fairiefolk Family Festival, DoubleTree by Hilton 1726 Reistertown Rd, Pikesville, MD 21208
November 17	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
December 8	<b>Holiday Party hosted by The Montgomery's, 800 River Rd, Sykesville, MD at 1 pm</b>
December 14	<b>Druid Hill Winter Solstice 5-Miler, 1 Safari Place, Baltimore, MD 21217</b>
December 27	<b>Military Bowl Parade, Annapolis, MD</b>

Dates, Time, or location to be determined and subject to change on some events.

**Need Volunteers to Host meetings.**

## **In Summary:**

### **December 8, Sunday - PVIWC Holiday Party**

hosted by Susan and Bill Montgomery  
800 River Rd, Sykesville, MD

Susan will make turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes. She has asked that we bring appetizers, sides or desserts.

**No wolfhounds please.** They have some rescues they are fostering at this time. We would like to do a **cookie exchange**. We did one last year. Anyone that wants to participate **bring at least a dozen cookies**. *If you bring cookies, you will leave with cookies.*

**December 14, Saturday - Celtic Solstice 5 miler at Druid Hill, Baltimore.** This is an early morning event. You should **arrive around 7:30 am**. We help start off the race. The wolfhounds are now **expected to hang around for photographs** with the participants. Depending on the weather but we are usually out of there by noon. The event provides us an area with a canopy. All you need to bring is you and your wolfhound. There are vendors and food provided.

**Link:** [Celtic Solstice Five-Miler](#)

**December 28, Saturday - Military Bowl Parade Annapolis.** Starts at 2 pm. This parade is on a Saturday this year.

The parade starts at the City Dock, Annapolis and ends at the Navy-Marine Corps Stadium. Parking somewhere in the middle is usually the best. You want to be there and lined up at least an hour before the start. We should get some more details closer to the event.



Dear Friends of the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club,

The Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club's (PVIWC) Specialty is scheduled to take place March 30-31, 2025. Every year members, friends, and exhibitors financially contribute to sponsor trophies and ribbons, either in whole or in part. It has been through these generous contributions that the PVIWC specialty is a success.

Many individuals contribute in various ways: some work up front under the main tent; some work behind the scenes to ensure the rings, tables and tents are up for the shows and help breakdown the same, after the final show; some make donations to the raffle; and some through monetary donations. On behalf of the PVIWC, I express great appreciation to past contributors.

I ask you to consider sponsoring or making a financial donation to this year's general trophy fund. Your donation(s) will help sponsor the trophies and ribbons this year. There is no such thing as a donation too small.

To contribute, please complete the enclosed form and send it along with your financial donation (check payable to PVIWC) to:

Christina Buckner  
PVIWC Treasurer and Show Secretary  
1348 Sycamore Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403

Your donations for the 2025 Specialty are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bañales Thackston  
PVIWC Trophy Committee

**Ribbon and Trophy Sponsorship Specification and Guide**

Sponsorship of First in each class-\$18.00

Sponsorship of Third in each class-\$12.00

Sponsorship of Second in each class-\$15.00

Sponsorship of Fourth in each class-\$10.00

**Or Sponsor** the entire class for \$50.00

\_\_\_\_\_ 6-9 mo. Dog    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 6-9 mo. Bitch    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 9-12 mo. Dog    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 9-12 mo. Bitch    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 12-15 mo. Dog    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 12-15 mo. Bitch    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 15-18 mo. Dog    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 15-18 mo. Bitch    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Novice Dog    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Novice Bitch    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ AOH Dog    1 2 3 4

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\_\_\_\_\_ Bred-By Dog    1 2 3 4

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\_\_\_\_\_ Am-Bred Dog    1 2 3 4

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\_\_\_\_\_ Open Dog    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Open Bitch    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Veteran Dog    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Veteran Bitch    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Stud Dog    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Brood Bitch    1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Obedience - \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Rally - \$50

**Trophy Sponsorship/Mementos to Challenge Trophies Donation**

\_\_\_\_\_ Best of Breed            \$125  
\$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Reserve Winners Dog

_____ Best of Opposite \$50	\$115	_____ Reserve Winners Bitch
_____ Best of Winners \$30	\$100	_____ Bred-By-Exhibitor Dog
_____ Winners Dog \$30	\$100	_____ Bred-By-Exhibitor Bitch
_____ Winners Bitch \$40	\$100	_____ Best BBE
_____ Am-Bred Dog \$30	\$30	_____ Am-Bred Bitch
_____ Open Dog \$30	\$30	_____ Open Bitch
_____ Best Puppy \$30	\$75	_____ Veteran Bitch
_____ Best in Sweeps \$50	\$75	_____ BoS to BI Sweeps

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Name Phone

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Address E-mail

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City, State Zip

**To secure recognition in the Premium/Catalog, donations must be received no later than 14 November.** Please make known the class you wish to sponsor in preferential order. All attempts

at accommodating your request will be made. If you have no preference place an "X" in the no preference box.

First Choice Class Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Choice Class Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Third Choice Class Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preference:

No

Feel free to contact Christina Buckner via e-mail at: [ckallay@verizon.net](mailto:ckallay@verizon.net)