

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 21

9 a.m.-11 a.m.
General meeting at
Fairway Center
Arizona room.
Vote on By-Laws

Presentation by
Jennifer from
Sun Valley
Animal Shelter



Volunteer
opportunities



Adoption
procedures



Website

TRAINING SCHEDULE

February 11, 9 a.m.-
12 p.m. Fun Match
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BFDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

No Board Meeting
this month.

Skelli Dedmon,
Bruce Grounds,
Co-Presidents

Laura Palmer,
Vice President

Juanita Braemer,
Secretary

Judith Wallick,
Treasurer

John Stevenson,
Diana Barnum,
Members at Large



PAW PRINTS

Best Friends Dog Club of Sun City

February 2006

The Co-Presidents' Corner

by Skelli Dedmon and Bruce Grounds

Your newly elected Board Of Officers is devoted to securing the future of this club, while offering training programs with dedicated instructors, and protecting you and your dog while on RCSC Property.

This club is about "having fun with dogs" and we want that to be the main focus. The rules and regulations are for every member to abide by. Any member who displays inappropriate behavior will be held accountable for their actions.

We are fortunate to have so many wonderful members who appreciate the hard work of those who volunteer to serve. Please be part of the solution and assist in any way you can to help the club achieve its objectives.

Unfortunately growing pains do happen with each change in executive boards. Your present board is determined to work in a positive manner with all issues that might arise as the club continues



to grow in membership.

This is especially true in our club for two reasons: We deal with dogs and hu-

mans each with minds of their own. Because of that fact insurance regulations will be stricter to ensure a safe environment for all.

We have determined that there are many responsibilities and issues that need to be addressed. One person as director of training is not feasible. We are in the process of establishing a committee with a chairperson who will be handling the curriculum and standard of training for recommendations to the board and final approval.

We welcome members' positive thoughts regarding this change so we can meet the needs of our "Best Friends" only club in Sun City that addresses these needs.

Sincerely,

Skelli and Bruce

Join The Fun Match

The next Fun Match will be held on Saturday, February 11 at the dog yard on the corner of 107th and Peoria. The time will be from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Obedience will be the first event and agility will follow.

Times for all following events are approximates, since it is unknown how long each event will take to complete.

The cost is \$2.00 per dog for the first event and \$1.00 additional for the second event.

Any dog competing in obedience or agility **MUST** have completed at least one beginning class presented by The Best Friends Dog Club. Because of possible liability, there can be no exceptions to this rule.

Please join us for the fun time with your dogs!

BFDC has its own bulletin board on the north end of the Dog House by the training yard at 107th & Peoria. It is updated the first of each month and is a showcase of our activities.

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (To license your dog)

West Valley Animal Care Center

2323 S. 35th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009
(35th Ave/Durango)

602-506-PETS

Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 6
Sat 11:00 a.m. to 5:30
Sun 12 p.m. to 4

Adoption Center
Tues-Fri 11 a.m. to 5
(Closed Mon.)
Sat-Sun 10 a.m. to 4
<http://www.maricopa.gov/p>

Know anyone in the club who is having a difficult time in their life?

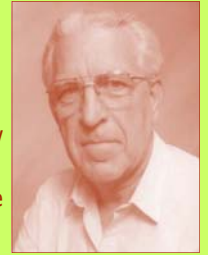
Call Linda Smith, "Sunshine Person," and let her know. She will send a card. We as club members want to be helpful to one another when in need.

623-974-2500
aztopknot519@cox.net

"My goal in life is to be as good of a person as my dog already thinks I am."

Unknown

In My Opinion, By Dr. Dan Rice



Q: What is Valley Fever?

A: Valley fever or Coccidioidomycosis is a fungal disease of dogs and PEOPLE and the fungus is prevalent in virtually all desert areas. The causative microscopic organism can live for dozens of years in spore form. Some research claims the spores remain viable for hundreds of years. A fungus is a plant and fungal spores serve about the same function as plant's seeds. Spores remain alive in a latent state, in a dry area, and cause no problem unless they invade a nice, warm, moist host's body. High temperatures seem to have no effect on the spores' life, so the desert is a great place to find them.

The disease is spread by INDIRECT contact with infected dogs. That is, if an infected dog defecates, coughs, or sneezes, the spores can be released from its body into the environment and the area remains infested for future dogs that visit the area. Coccidioidomycosis spores love to hide in dry, dusty areas that are commonly used by dogs from all walks of life during all seasons. In other words, an Arizona rest-stop dog-exercising area is perfect.

When a susceptible dog is exposed to a valley fever fungus-spore, the spore begins to grow, reproduce, and may cause disease within the dog (and presumably in humans). The disease may cause respiratory distress, the signs of which are coughing, nasal discharge, lethargy, and anorexia (appetite loss), which are the same signs seen with a bacterial or possibly viral pneumonia. The fungus may affect the infected dog's bones and joints (such as elbow, knee, hip, etc.), in which case the dog may have signs of intermittent or chronic lameness much the same as a sprain, arthritis, or possibly an injury.

Valley fever is diagnosed by x-rays and/or laboratory blood tests and is treated by a loooooong course of expensive anti-fungal medicine. The patient may seemingly recover only to suffer relapse. Treatment and cure always require long term therapy and some dogs don't respond and a few don't survive. Prompt diagnosis is critical because the disease often mimics other conditions, which mask the real culprit for an extended time. The worst case scenario is probably a dog under other stress that is exposed to this disease.

Meet Betty Mariotti

You may not know her name but you will if you plan to sign up for obedience or agility training with the Best Friends Dog Club. Her name is Betty Mariotti and two days per week you will find her in the dog arena located at Fairway.



Betty came to the club as an instructor for beginning agility which has evolved into 3 levels of skill and difficulty. All of the dogs and

handlers in agility are a product of the diligence it takes to work together as a team.

This session of classes Betty has added obedience at the intermediate and open levels. No matter what class you decide is right for you she will give you the best chance at being successful. But only if you continue to work with your dog and let them know who's the boss! She stresses that one hour per week will never produce desired results. Training must be included in our daily lifestyles for the benefits to be noticeable. So yes, there is homework!

Betty's experience dates back to 1985 and includes several titles such as CH, CD, CDX, PT, HT, NA, and NAJ. She attends seminars and A.K.C. Competitions on a regular basis to enhance her knowledge and training techniques.

The Best Friends Dog Club is lucky to have her as one of the instructors.

These Treats Make The Grade— The Human Grade

Here is a dog cookie recipe made with all human grade ingredients, from Marian von Hanstein (club member). Her dog Barkley approved this message:

- 1-1/4 cups water
- 1-1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1-1/4 tbsp. Baking powder

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix water and peanut butter in a large bowl until smooth. Combine flours and baking powder in a separate bowl, then gradually stir into wet bowl. Knead dough by hand, adding small amounts of water if consistency is too dry. Roll onto a lightly floured surface; cut treats into any desired shape. Bake on cookie sheet for 15 minutes; cool for several hours before storing.

Good Luck!

Marian

**Visit our beautiful
and paw friendly website
<http://www.bestfriendsdogclub.org>**