



The Howl

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Striving For The Betterment of the German Shepherd Dog

www.GSDClubSD.org



MACH GSROC's Chelsea Morning MXS, MUS, MXP, MJP, XF at the German Shepherd National



Thea Reed, far left, and Chelsea Morning with their Top 20 rosette.

Socialization/Obedience Workshops Start Up Again In January

The last Socialization/Obedience Workshop of the year was held Saturday, Oct. 22, at San Dieguito County Park in Del Mar. Trainer Dale Proctor led the group in initial socialization, followed by a group walk and then the obedience section.

After taking a hiatus for the holidays, the workshops will resume on the fourth Saturdays of the month, starting January 22, at 1:30 pm. The location stays the same—the lower level of the San Dieguito County Park.

The purpose of the Workshops are to learn ideas that make owning a German Shepherd a pleasure, said Barbara Resnick, club secretary. "Since the Workshops began in June we have seen some amazing results," she added. "With Dale's wonderful help, these sessions are fun and educational. And we are looking forward to further developing the program in 2017."

Thea Reed and Chelsea Morning Invited To Top 20 Preferred Agility Invitational

Thea Reed and MACH GSROC's Chelsea Morning MSX, MJS, MXP, MJP, XF attended the German Shepherd Dog Club Nationals in Gray Summit, MO, as one of the Top 20 agility teams in the country. They were invited to the Annual Top 20 Preferred Invitational held Oct. 11 after the regular competition was completed.

"It is truly amazing that she made the list as we have not been trailing since March 2016 due to my knee injury," Thea said. "Good little shepherd girl."

Fall General Meetings

General Meetings will be held Oct. 26, and Nov. 16 at Coco's Restaurant, 1280 W. Valley Pky., Escondido, by the I-15 exit. Come at 6:30 pm if you plan to order dinner. The meeting starts at 7 pm. *Please email Joanne in advance if you plan to attend so space can be reserved:* jofishman18@gmail.com



Scenes from the last Workshop of the year at San Dieguito County Park.



German Shepherd Dog Club
of San Diego County, Inc.

President Joanne Fishman
Vice President Alice Cox
Secretary Barbara Resnick
Treasurer Dr. Gloria S. Rice
At Large: Larry Resnick, Gale Taylor,
William Tischler

Study Shows Dogs Process Speech Similar To Humans

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - "Super, well done," her trainer says, and Maya, a Hungarian golden retriever, happily holds up her left paw, responding to the praise. Maya works with a group of Hungarian researchers at the Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest, who have scanned the brains of 13 dogs, finding that dogs process words and intonation to work out messages similarly to humans.

The study showed that dogs, like people, use the left hemisphere of their brain to process words, and a right hemisphere brain region to process intonation. Praise activates dogs' reward center only when both words and intonation match.

"We showed dogs praise words and non-praise words, in both praising and non-praising intonation, and we found that dogs just like humans can

separately process word meaning information ... in the speech signal and intonational information," lead researcher Attila Andics of the Department of Ethology told Reuters. And they do it in a way that is similar to how it is done in the human brain," he said, adding that the research was unique because how animals process human speech has not been analyzed this way elsewhere.

In the research, 13 dogs of different breeds, including border collies, golden retrievers, a Chinese crested dog and a German shepherd, were trained to lie completely motionless in an MRI scanner for seven minutes so that researchers could measure their brain activity while they listened to words from their trainers.

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("Speech" continued)

"The reward center in dogs' brains became activated for praise words in praising intonation but not for any of the other three combinations," Andics said, adding the new findings could lead to examining whether dogs can differentiate between speakers and meaningful sentences.

"But also beyond linguistic stimuli, whether they are really happier to hear some types of sounds than other types of sounds. Are there music they like more than other music? We now have an objective measure by looking at the reward center to answer these types of questions," he added.



To Your Dog, You Are Your Scent

By Alexandra Horowitz

Alexandra Horowitz is the author of "[Being a Dog: Following the Dog into a World of Smell](#)," from which this piece is adapted. The views expressed in this commentary are her own."

One of the cheeriest genres of YouTube video compilations is that of dogs greeting soldiers returning home. Whether their owner's deployment was long or short, the dogs erupt into that singular, irrepressible doggy celebration: bounding, tails wagging maniacally, rolling on their backs, whimpering and grinning, weaving between the soldier's legs. There is little doubt the dogs remembered, loved and missed their people.

In some of the videos, though, this recognition is at first in doubt: As the (often-uniformed) person arrives or enters the home, the dog barks, approaching guardedly, tail down and ears back. They do not know this person. But then comes a magical moment of transformation. Watch the nose. Each dog lifts his nose in the air, catching a whiff on the breeze. Or sniffs one offered hand, then the other. In an instant, the stranger is transformed -- into the person the dog knows and longed to see.

We all know that dogs are good at smelling. Just how good has only recently come to light.

Enabled by their cooperativeness and responsiveness with people, dogs are now earning a reputation for their scent-detection work. No less than the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) described the detector dog's sniff as "sui generis", a tool unlike any other.

Every visitor to an airport sees explosive-detection dogs; cross a border and you'll meet a drug dog sniffing at your tires. Police dogs are ubiquitous. But detection dogs (known in various dog circles as sniffer dogs, detector dogs, or working dogs) detect much more than explosives and drugs. The limit of application of the dog nose to finding something is thus far defined more by the limit of our imagination than by its ability. Our imagination has proven much more fertile of late. To date, dogs have been trained to detect not just explosives, but landmines and accelerants. By smell alone, dogs find illegally imported guava, illicit cell phones in prison, imported shark fins in suitcases, termites, fire ants and bed bugs. Some dogs smell for environmental contaminants at industrial waste sites, and others find the smuggled tusks and horns unfairly removed from their elephant and rhinoceros hosts.

By scat alone, dogs can [pinpoint](#) the hard-to-find Puget Sound orca; [track populations](#) of black bears, bobcats, and bush dogs; they gather data on bird strikes in wind farms and dairy cows in estrous. There are now dogs [detecting](#) their owners' falling glucose levels and imminent seizures; others have sniffed out cancer volatiles on peoples' skin, urine, and breath.



("Scent" continued from preceding page)

Provided there is an odor (and just about every substance has one), dogs seem to have the ability to smell out almost anything. Thus, dogs detect us. Tracking, trailing, search-and-rescue, and scent-identification dogs pursue the missing, escaping, lost or dead -- the criminal, confused, unseen or unlucky. The smell of person is so strong that dogs can follow it over time, through water, after the person is long gone, and even after the thing the person touched has actually blown up.... Dogs have been trained to find drowned people. The odor of decomposition rises to the surface of a lake or other still body of water and some dogs can even track in flowing stream or river water....Avalanche-rescue dogs have found people buried under 24 feet of snow: The person's scent travels to the surface and the dog, after some digging, alerts there. In the Netherlands, Germany, Poland and other countries, [courts](#) have sanctioned evidence from scent-identification line-ups.

To your dog, you are your scent. By constant exposure to each other, you are essentially training dogs on the particular bouquet of you, which is a special mix of oleic, palmitic and stearic acids; they can notice if any of the ingredients in the mix are a few micrograms more or less....You'll notice your spouse's smelly socks the moment after they are removed in the bedroom: That's around 40 cubic meters of very socky-smelling air. The dog knows if someone's removed his socks in a room bigger than the gargantuan vehicle assembly building at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, made to put the space shuttles together. So any dog in the 3.7 million cubic meters of Space Center would be alert to sweaty astronauts.

Given their sensitivity to the presence, absence, or change of an odor, dogs essentially smell time passing. The past is underfoot; the odors of yesterday have come to rest on the ground. And here, too, smell gives pet dogs a message about their owners.

The odors we leave around our homes when we leave lessen reliably as the day wears on. As we are gone, our home smells less of us. If we were able to sneak one of our well-used gym shirts into our homes halfway through the day, we might succeed in resetting the dog's clock as to when to expect us home. Knowing the importance of smells in general -- and my smell, in particular -- to my dogs has changed our lives together. In the morning they sniff me awake; I let them lick (a way for them to absorb molecules for smelling). When I return home from a trip, I reach down to greet them -- and let them smell me back. Now I even take a sniff of them myself. What I would do to see the world they smell.