

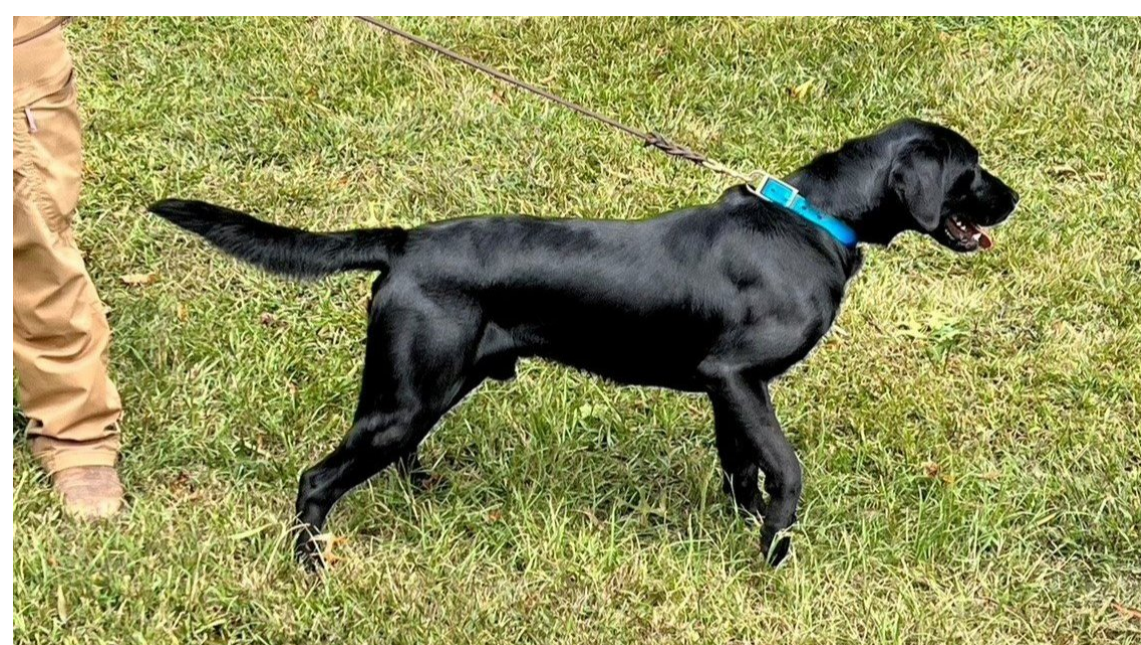


June 2023

AKC Detection Dog Task Force (DDTF) events and activities are in full swing!

The DDTF and Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP) are planning several exciting events. The first hands-on training seminar is scheduled for July at K2 Solutions, Inc. in Southern Pines, North Carolina. At this event, K2 Trainers and AKC Patriotic Puppy Program Manager Stacey West will conduct canine evaluations of participant-owned dogs to provide real-time feedback on the dogs' responses to various testing scenarios, via similar methods used by TSA evaluators. This is the first of its kind opportunity for PPP participants and we are thrilled to be bringing this experience to AKC Breeders. Participation in the hands-on portion of the program is limited to pre-approved PPP participants.

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### Medical Requirements for Green Detector Dogs: What you Need to Know

There are questions that every breeder and every trainer ask before having their first dogs evaluated for working dog contracts. "What do the tests look like?" "Which toys should I make sure the dog is good with?" And one of the biggest is related to medical testing: "What medical testing has to be done and when does it need to be completed?" As breeders, we know that OFA requires dogs to be 24 months of age before they will certify the results for hips and elbows, but many of the pups being tested are under 24 months of age. So, what do we do, and when should we do it? Let's break these requirements down through different periods of the cycle of a green detection dog so you can make informed decisions on the timing of health testing.

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### Law Enforcement K9s: The Crucial Value of Proper Training and Certification

The AKC Detection Dog Task Force was pleased to host Don Slavik, Executive Director of the United States Police Canine Association, in a recent webinar discussion on the value of Police K9s as a positive law enforcement tool for public safety in our communities, states and nation.

Police K9s deflect danger, protect their human partners, and detect scent in a way that is unmatched by any other law enforcement tool.

Mr. Slavik pointed out that, "Police K9s are the best mobile detection tool law enforcement can utilize. As we have learned in the past with many of our subject matter experts, 'quality education' for the handler is of the upmost importance." He emphasized the importance of experience and practice for K9 teams and noted that the demeanor of a handler and their ability to work as a team with their K9 directly impacts the dog's ability to learn and react in the field.

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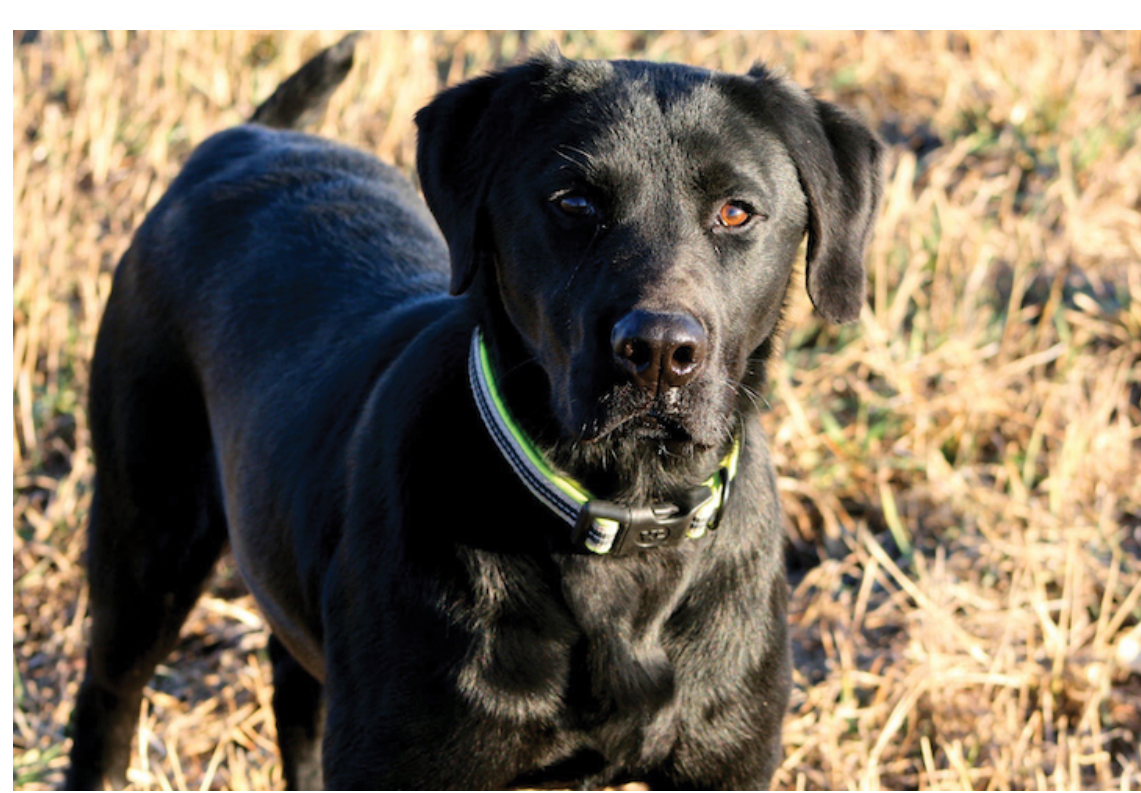
### AKC DDTF Webinar Series - Working Dog Veterinary Care, What Makes it Different?

You are invited to join the AKC Detection Dog Task Force for our next webinar on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 7:30 PM (ET).

The AKC Detection Dog Task Force is pleased to welcome Dr. Cynthia Otto, Founder and Executive Director of the Penn Vet Working Dog Center at the University of Pennsylvania ([www.vet.upenn.edu/WDC](http://www.vet.upenn.edu/WDC)), for an online discussion that will focus on aspects of communication with the team, cooperative veterinary care, preventative care strategies and potential hazards in the field.

Dr. Otto is a recognized leader in both research and practical aspects of developing high quality working dogs. She is a tenured Professor of Working Dog Sciences and Sports Medicine at University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and board certified in veterinary emergency medicine/critical care and canine sports medicine/rehabilitation.

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### AKC Patriotic Puppy Program Builds Confidence With New Course

Training dogs has been a way of life for Roxane Dutson since she was a teen. She taught the family dogs tricks and then became involved in competition through an obedience training group.

"My love for working with dogs became stronger as my husband and I got our first Labrador in 1996," Dutson says. "From there, I learned about retriever training, and my husband developed a passion for hunting."

Before long, the couple had a breeding program and a kennel devoted to producing Labrador Retrievers who excelled in the field. Despite their success, she felt something was missing.

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### Video Highlights AKC Detection Dog Task Force, Patriotic Puppy Program Work to Address Detection Dog Shortage

The American Kennel Club Detection Dog Task Force (DDTF) is pleased to introduce a new video highlighting AKC's efforts to address the crucial shortage of explosives detection dogs that protect against terrorist threats in the United States. The video presents a new look at the Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP), a pilot program that assists U.S. dog breeders affiliated with the AKC to develop, breed, and raise a sustainable high-quality source of "green" dogs that can be purchased by law enforcement for advanced detection training.

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### The Play Ideas Video

Many people ask, why can't I just throw the ball and create play? The answer is that you can, but it all too often leads to problems. Most people that want to throw for a reward will quickly add many rules to otherwise fun and easy play. The dog must heel or sit and wait for the throw, and then immediately return to the handler with the object and release the thing they just worked so hard for. These rules are created often for the ease and convenience of the handler/trainer and not to increase the dog's motivation. Play for young children and young dogs are defined by the lack of rules. Rules create a conflict between the dog's desire (the reward object) and the handler's desire (successful performance). For a detection dog the goal is to be obsessed with possession of the object - control can only be introduced when absolute motivation and arousal for the reward object have been achieved.

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