

# MISSION EMPAWTHY NEWSLETTER

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March 2025



MISSION EMPAWTHY, LLC



## Welcome!

Thank you for signing up for our newsletter. We hope you find some useful tips and tricks and learn a little something along the way!

In this issue, we share some exciting news with you, introduce you to our friends at OSF Baseball & Ohio Sports Complex, discuss some potentially life-saving information for your canine companion, and fill you in on some educational events that are upcoming as well as some fun facts!

## Upcoming events!

**FREE EVENT!** Join us at the Willoughby Hills Public Library (35400 Chardon Rd. Willoughby Hills, OH 44094) on **March 18, 2025** from 6-7PM EST for a free presentation and demonstration on the power of positive reinforcement dog training! Registration is required:



Visit us at  
[www.missionempawthy.com](http://www.missionempawthy.com)  
and follow us on Instagram and Facebook!





## Have you heard the big news!?

The **Lake County Captains** minor league baseball team has recently announced our very own Mokoro as their new Bat Dog for this season!! Starting April 10th, 2025 Mokoro will become their MVP - "Most Valuable Pup." Mokoro will be fetching the baseball bats at home games on Thursday night home games.

To prepare for this role, Mokoro has been in Spring Training with our friends at **OSF Baseball** over at the **Ohio Sports Complex** in Willoughby. Owners and founders, Tim McCoy and Frank Desico, have been gracious enough to allow Mokoro to not only practice with their amazing teams in their climate controlled indoor baseball facility, but these wonderful coaches have also involved Mokoro within their batting and pitching practices to give Mokoro as much real life experience as possible!

Mokoro has been having an absolute blast learning the behavior chain of "watch the bat drop, run to the bat, pick the bat up by the barrel, hold the bat, turn around, and run back to Victoria, then drop the bat." She returns to a small treat reinforcer, but also to a quick play session with her favorite tug toy.

She's been practicing working on this behavior chain with lots of different kinds of distractions to ensure that she's ready for opening night. Her confidence is at an all time high, and her tail has not stopped wagging ! Most importantly we want to make sure that her welfare, well-being, and enjoyment of the game are at the absolute forefront of this work. The moment it's no longer fun for her, is the moment we will hang up our helmets!

### OSF Baseball & the Ohio Sports Complex

OSF Baseball is a premier travel baseball program in NE Ohio. Their focus is on true development of baseball players to bring next level approaches to instruction and development of players.

Ohio Sports Complex is a 5,700 sq. ft. turf indoor facility located in Willoughby, Ohio. This affordable location offers space available for Team Practices, 1-on-1 Training, Group Fitness Classes, Events, Parties and more. Two retractable batting cages for tee work, front toss, coach-pitch or player-pitch live at-bats, etc. Various Training and exercise equipment is available for usage. They even offer venue rental for your next event!

<https://www.osfbaseball.com/>  
<https://ohsportscomplex.com/>  
(440)-299-8029





## It Pays to be Prepared: know the signs of canine choking

There's a reason we have a rule at our house that the dogs must eat while we're home and they don't free feed at their own will.

Ziva, our powered-sugar-faced-twelve-year-old-Great Dane, had just finished eating breakfast when she wandered into the living room. I looked up and immediately knew something wasn't right. At first I thought she was reverse sneezing, a common condition also known as paroxysmal respiration, in which the "airflow is inward and the opening (glottis) to the windpipe (trachea) is closed. The dog will typically be in a standing position with the neck extended, the head tilted backward, and the elbows pointing outward." (reference: <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/riney-canine-health-center/canine-health-information/reverse-sneezing>) However, in this case, it didn't appear that air was getting in or out of our aged girl.

Luckily for our sweet girl, I had taken a pet first aid class years ago, and flashbacks to training immediately kicked in. I was able to quickly remove the obstruction in her throat and found that she had been choking on 4 pieces of kibble that were lodged in her airway.



**We highly recommend talking to your veterinarian about what to do in the case of canine choking and to take a pet first aid class to know the proper procedures and practices for this type of emergency.**

Believe it or not, there *is* such thing as the canine Heimlich maneuver and it does differ between large and small dogs.

Dogs choke on food, toys, and objects a lot more often than you might think. Statistics from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) indicate that roughly 200,000 dogs a year in the US experience choking emergencies.

The good news is that choking is preventable. Do your best to reduce the risk of choking in your canine companions with the following:

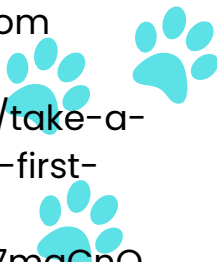
- Do not allow your dogs to eat unsupervised
- Regularly inspect your dog's toys and discard any toys that have become damaged, cracked or have loose pieces
- Choose safe toys and make sure they aren't provided toys that splinter or break into small pieces



- Pick toys that have at least two holes in them; it helps to prevent suction by allowing airflow
- Always supervise playtime and toy chew-time
- Keep all small objects, medications, and other choking hazards out of reach from your pup
- Most importantly, act fast in the case of choking. Ensure to familiarize yourself with the signs of choking, and how to perform the Heimlich maneuver and how to remove an obstruction from your dog's airway

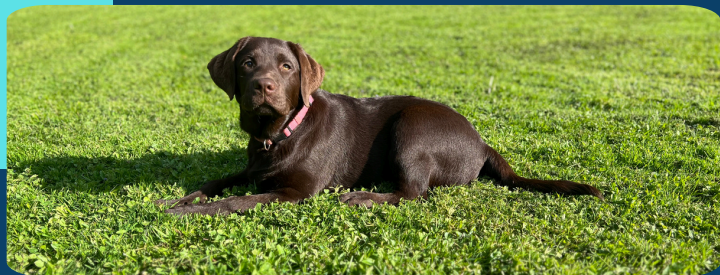


Here are some the signs from redcross.org  
 ([https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/resources/learn-pet-first-aid/dog/choking?srsId=AfmBOopPtKmKQfI7maCnOQYQFIU\\_FteZEMtOfAv2CJ438I6maVAsv\\_Qz](https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/resources/learn-pet-first-aid/dog/choking?srsId=AfmBOopPtKmKQfI7maCnOQYQFIU_FteZEMtOfAv2CJ438I6maVAsv_Qz)):



- Dog stops breathing
- Anxiousness or acting frantic
- Blue or white gums
- Loud breathing sounds
- Pawing at the mouth
- Struggling or gasping for breath

I hope this article helps prevent some issues in your home!



## Did you know?

“Basal breeds” are known as dog breeds that are considered to have a relatively ancient lineage and have changed very little over time. Some examples include: Basenjis, Afghan hounds, Chow chows, Shiba Inus, Salukis, Akitas, and one of my favorites, the New Guinea Singing Dog.

New Guinea Singing Dogs, also known as *Canis lupus hallstromi*, are found in the highlands on the island of New Guinea in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. While they may look very similar to the Australian Dingo, as they are closely related, they have a few distinct features. The first of which, is what gives them their name. Instead of barking, they have an unusual “yodel” as a vocalization. They are also one of the few breeds in the world who are known to climb trees!

