Denver Samoyed Association

SAM-O-GRAM

November 2026

WHO WE ARE

OFFICERS
President
Martha Lageschulte 303.929.9064

Vice President
Linda Kitzman 303.794.7136

Recording Secretary
Pam Buhl..... 303.915.1725

Corresponding Secretary
Tammy Linnert 303.908.4541

Treasurer
Terry Walb 303.204.1453

BOARD
Tamara Barach..... 614.753.8531
Dan Elvera 720.344.4562
Lorrie McAllister..... 720.308.2019
Sue Wangerin..... 720.879.8741

COMMITTEES
Agility
Terry Walb 303.204.1453

Awards
Kristi Schopfer 303.838.9848

Cheer
Donna Dannen 303.670.8053
Tamara Barach..... 614.753.8531

Colorado Legislation Liaison
Pam Buhl..... 303.915.1725
Lorrie McAllister..... 720.308.2019

FastCAT
Tammy Linnert 303.908.4541

Hospitality
Linda Kitzman 303.794.7136
Tammy Linnert 303.908.4541

Information Technology
Cathy An..... 443.610.2348
Lori Elvera..... 720.344.4562
Tammy Linnert 303.908.4541
Lorrie McAllister..... 720.308.2019
Elizabeth Walker 714.280.2384

Local Specialty '26
Lori Elvera..... 720.344.4562

Local Specialty '27
Cheryl Martin 970.396.1811

Sam-O-Gram
Martha Lageschulte 303.929.9064

Social Media
Pam Buhl..... 303.915.1725
Lori Elvera..... 720.344.4562

Denver Samoyed Rescue
Sue Wangerin..... 720.879.8741

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We will be voting for a Sweepstakes judge for DSA June Concurrent show at the November meeting!

Nominations for 2027 Concurrent Specialty Sweepstakes Judges

Andrea Dunkle
Pat Griffin
Brandy Howard
Connie Rudd
Chris Stewart
Linda Kitzman

Meeting Date and Location for September Meeting!

November 16, 2026
6:45 pm – 8:30 pm
Natural Grocers Denver
Colorado Blvd and Evans

DSA Special Board Meeting -
Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Zoom

Meeting called to order 7:05 pm

Present: Martha Lageschulte, Linda Kitzman, Terry Walb, Tammy Linnert, Pam Buhl, Dan Elvera, Tamara Barach, Sue Wangerin, Lorrie McAllister.

Special Meeting to discuss the AI Transcription software and hardware as tools to aid the Recording Secretary in the production of accurate meeting minutes.

Dan Elvera presented his findings on the different software and hardware available. He used a speaker/microphone he purchased at the September General Membership meeting along with Otter.Ai software. The free version of Otter AI limits the recording to 30 minutes, so we would need a subscription to this software costing approximately $100 per year.

For the October General Membership meeting Dan would like to try a different microphone-speaker combo (one that Lorrie McAllister uses) with Otter,AI software. In November he will try the microphone/speaker that is best with a different software called Summary AI. Summary AI software does not limit the number of minutes that it records for free. This will allow comparisons between 2 speakers and 2 software services before any decisions are made.

At the September meeting, Otter.AI provided a good summary of the meeting as well as a transcript. Members who spoke were represented as “Speaker 1, Speaker 2,” etc. depending on when they first spoke in the meeting. This was preferred over identifying them by name.

Dan provided the transcript and summary of the September meeting to Pam Buhl, the current Recording Secretary, and Pam confirmed they would be valuable for new recording secretaries and help ensure complete and accurate minutes.

When a decision is made to move forward on the purchase, all equipment and software will be owned by DSA for all future Recording Secretaries to use.

Discussion included the length of time the complete transcript needed to be kept, and the consensus is that after the meeting minutes are approved, the transcripts can be deleted. Since zoom meetings are summarized by AI now, and DSA previously used a cassette recorder to record meetings, the board does not feel that members will object to recording the meetings but that will be discussed.

Pam, as current Recording Secretary, and Dan Elvera were tasked with reviewing the Recording Secretary job descript to update the job description to include new tasks should when we go forward with this process.

The Board tabled discussion until after the new hardware and software are tested at the November meeting. Dan will report back with the November meeting results.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Pam Buhl, Recording Secretary



DSA October Membership Meeting - Monday, October 19, 2026

Natural Grocers Wheat Ridge

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm

Present: Pam Buhl, Terry Walb, Tammy Linnert, Greg Linnert, Lori Elvera, Dan Elvera, Martha Lageschulte, Tamara Barach, Julie Morris, Linda Kitzman, Kent Cherne, Rodney Martin, Cheryl Martin, Rachel Paulson, Cathy An, Valerie Passmore, Lorrie McAllister, Joe Trojan, Shanan Streweler, Samantha Streweler, Joe Morris.

President asked for September 2026 Minutes to be approved. Approved

President: Martha Lageschulte

No report.

Vice President: Linda Kitzman

No report.

Recording Secretary: Pam Buhl

No report.

Corresponding Secretary: Tammy Linnert

No report.

Treasurer: Terry Walb

General Fund $26,244.46

Rescue $9,161.23

CD $26,762.64 (matures 11/13/26).

Board: Tamara Barach, Dan Elvera, Lorrie McAllister, Sue Wangerin

No report.

Committees

Agility: Terry Walb

Everything is on track for January.

Awards: Kris Schopfer

No report.

Cheer: Donna Dannen & Tamara Barach

Cards were sent to Shelley Ferland for her illness, and Deb and Gabe Castro for the loss of their dog. A card was sent to Rodney and Cheryl Martin for the loss of their Elkhounds. Donna also sent Joe Trojan and his parents Tim and Cathy a card for the loss of Joe's Grandmother, Frances Trojan. Frances was well known in the Samoyed community, having bred and shown Samoyeds since the 1970's under the Mithril Kennel name.

Colorado Liaisons: Pam Buhl, Lorrie McAllister

AKC and CFDCO are hosting 2 seminars Friday and Saturday after BIS judging at the Colorado Springs Kennel Club Shows to present information on possible upcoming legislative issues and how we address future negative legislation and promote purebred dogs. The presentation will include a discussion of bills passed in neighboring states that we could see here in Colorado in the future. All are welcome to attend these seminars.

Concurrent Specialty: Linda Kitzman, Pam Buhl

Still waiting for approval letter from SCA. Judge voting will be under New Business.

FastCat: Tammy Linnert

The contracts with Harmony and the park are complete and the AKC application is approved. Dates are February 27th and 28th. Set up will be on Friday the 26th. Please plan on helping with set up if you can, and volunteering for the weekend.

Historian/Librarian: Pam Buhl

No report.

IT: Cathy An, Lori Elvera, Tammy Linnert, Lorrie McAllister, Elisabeth Walker

The IT Committee will be bringing outstanding items to the Board at the November board meeting.

Hospitality: Tammy Linnert

Holiday Party planning is on track. It will be Sunday December 13th, 2026. Details to follow.

Local Specialty 2026: Lori Elvera

Worked through some issues with Dogzbit while on the road to the Nationals. Premium list is now online at Dogzbit's website. The contract for the ring equipment rental is being sent. The Saturday Banquet sign up closes the same day as the entries close, Wednesday, November 4th. Don't forget to sign up for the Banquet! If using coupons for the banquet you can bring them to Tammy at the November meeting. Wear your favorite Derby Dress and Hat for the banquet. Special "virgin" mint juleps will be available.

The hospitality and grounds committees need to prepare.

Local Specialty 2027: Cheryl Martin

No report.

Sam-O-Gram: Martha Lageschulte

Need articles and items by first of month.

Social Media: Lori Elvera, Pam Buhl

Lori and Pam are trying to keep our pages active. Reminded members that they can also post themselves.

Rescue: Sue Wangerin

No report.

Old Business

CD for General Fund:

Last month Terry was asked to research the potential for investing a portion of our General Fund money in a CD. She found that PNC bank CDs are different than the former First Bank CDs in that the length of term determines the interest rate, not the amount invested. The interest rates are as follows:

New interest rates:

4 months $1000.00 or more 3.45%; apy 3.50%
8 months $1000.00 or more 3.69%; apy 3.75%
13 months $1000.00 or more 4.17%; apy 4.25%

The low balance per year of our General Fund account over the last few years:

2026: 19,662
2025: 10,391

2024: 13,127

For liquidity purposes, it was decided that Terry also investigates Money Market accounts and their interest rates, so further discussion on investing General Fund money is tabled until the November meeting.

The Rescue CD matures in November 2026, and the current rate is 3.44%. We discussed splitting the amount between 2 CDs, one long term and one shorter term. After the information on the money market rates is obtained, a more informed discussion can be held and a decision made about investing.

New Business

Nominations for 2027 Officers and Board: There were no nominations from the floor.

2027 Concurrent Specialty:

A vote is needed for the judge at the 2027 Concurrent Specialty. The judges on the Flatirons Kennel Club panel who judge Samoyeds are Rick Gschwender, Carl Liepmann, Dana Cline and Ann Roth. A vote was taken and the top vote recipient was Rick Gerschwender. Carl Liepmann was second. Mr. Gschwender will be contacted to see if he will judge our specialty, if he declines, Mr. Liepmann will be contacted.

We also nominated Sweepstakes judges for the 2027 June specialty. We will vote on these judges at the November meeting. Nominated judges are as follows:

Andrea (Drea) Dunkle

Pat Griffin

Brandy Howard (Burke)

Connie Rudd

Christine Stewart

Linda Kitzman

There was a discussion that in our initial conversations debating offering a concurrent specialty that we talked about not offering any trophies, just rosettes. For 2026, the board approved collecting trophy donations for the major trophies at a lower amount than what is collected for the November independent specialties. In 2026, both rosettes for the major wins and trophies were offered. Some members feel that collecting donations for the concurrent specialty negatively impacted the trophy donations for the 2026 November specialties and the pros and cons were discussed. The question of whether trophies should be included for the 2027 concurrent specialty was brought to a vote.

Motion 26-019: Move that for the 2027 concurrent specialty we ask for sponsorship of the major win trophies that we had in 2026, offered through the Denver Samoyed Association store. Pam Buhl made the motion and Linda Kitzman seconded. Motion passed.

The subject of offering Junior Showmanship at the 2027 concurrent specialty was raised. Junior Showmanship was not offered last year at the concurrent specialty. DSA will see if there is a judge on the current panel who can judge juniors for us and if not we will find a local judge who can judge our junior showmanship classes. We then voted on whether to offer Junior Showmanship at the 2027 concurrent specialty.

Motion 26-020: Move that Denver Samoyed Association offers Junior Showmanship at the 2027 Concurrent Specialty. Pam Buhl made the motion and Tammy Linnert seconded. Motion passed.

Additional discussion included asking for an earlier start time for the specialty and more time between the specialty and the all-breed show. Linda will discuss with the Flatirons show chair these requests and request reserved specialty parking in the lot closest to the rings.

The Columbine Norwegian Elkhound Association, Inc. asked if they could also hold their regional specialty at the Pavillion on Saturday. Their entries are smaller, and Denver Samoyed Association agreed that if Flatirons KC and Onofrio agreed to place another show ring at the Pavillon that there should be no interruption of our shows.

Barks 'n' Growls

Happy Birthday to Lori Elvera, celebrating her birthday at the DSA Meeting!

Kent Cherne: Becca and Buzz both earned their FCAT1 titles at the Evergreen KC shows on September 6th, 2026.

Julie Morris: Tracy, Catalina's Life's a Dance. also earned her FCAT1 title at the Evergreen KC shows.

Rodney and Cheryl Martin: Savannah Martin was Best Junior at the SCA 2026 National Specialty showing Sue and Gary Bost's Tripper because her girl, Charity was in season.

Savannah also finished Kathy Smith's boy Loki by going Reserve Winners Dog at the National.

Hoss earned a BPUP Group 2 at the Arapahoe Kennel Club shows his first time in the ring and had fun showing at the Nationals!

Lori Elvera: Miles earned an AOM at the 2026 National Specialty.

Terry Walb: Travis earned his FCAT at the Arapahoe KC shows.

Lorrie McAllister: Keena, Wintersong's Keen on RTE 66 had a great trip to Kingsport TN and the SCA National Specialty. At the Regional show on Sunday Keena was 2rd in puppy Sweeps under judge Heidi Nieman, and 2nd in her regular puppy class under judge Mardee Ward.

At the National, Keena was 3rd in puppy sweeps under judge Pat Griffen and 2nd in the regular puppy class under judge Jan Cherne.

Rachel Paulson: Carly was bred and if pregnant she will be due the same weekend as the November Specialties.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

Pam Buhl, Recording Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT, ENDING 10/31/2026

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance	$ 26,537.51
Income	
Agility Trial	$ 12,276.00
Concurrent Specialty Income	$ 1,814.99
FastCAT Income	$ 7,497.25
Local Specialty Income	$ 5,599.25
Membership	$ 682.36
PayPal Income Shipping	$ 23.00
Ways & Means	$ 566.67
Total Income	$ 28,459.52
Expenses	
Agility Expense	$ (9,614.78)
Bank Charges	$ (18.30)
Charitable Donations- 4H	$ (75.00)
Cheer	$ (39.00)
Concurrent Specialty Expense	$ (1,985.58)
FastCAT Expenses	$ (860.18)
Holiday Party Expense	$ (250.00)
Hospitality	$ (60.88)
Insurance	$ (600.00)
Legislation	$ (100.00)
Local Specialty Expenses	$ (6,683.31)
local Specialty Payment Fee	$ (1.50)
Microchip Inventory	$ (112.00)
PayPal fees Concurrent Specialty Grooming	$ (17.70)
Paypal fees Concurrent Specialty Trophies	$ (35.75)
Paypal fees Dues	$ (34.07)
Paypal fees Local Specialty T- Shirts	$ (112.55)
Paypal fees Specialty Dinner	$ (8.21)
Public Education	$ (91.14)
State Periodic Report	$ (25.00)
Summer Social	$ (194.02)
Taxes	
- Tax Prep	$ (500.00)
Treasurer	$ (70.20)
Treasurer Expense	$ 5.24
Website Expenses	$ (1,652.40)
Zoom Subscription	$ (185.45)
Total Expenses	$ (23,321.78)
Ending Balance	$ 25,933.60

RESCUE FUND

Beginning Balance	$ 9,656.59
Income	
Donation to DSR	$ 5,148.50
Fundraiser	$ (224.00)
Transfer from CD	$ 21,642.82
Total Income	$ 26,567.32
Expenses	
Charitable Donations	$ (1,250.00)
DSR CD	$ (5,000.00)
Microchip Inventory	$ 112.00
Transfer to CD	$ (21,642.82)
Veterinary Services	$ (396.96)
Website Expenses	$ (98.40)
Total Expenses	$ (28,276.18)
Ending Balance	$ 9,161.23
TOTAL	$ (1,708.86)


DENVER SAMOYED
Holiday
BRUNCH
&
AWARD BANQUET
DEC 13 2026
10am - 1pm
FOX HOLLOW GOLF COURSE
13410 W MORRISON RD
LAKEWOOD, CO 80228
PAY AT DSA STORE BY 12/3
$15 per ticket
Contact Tammy for Questions: icefire10@msn.com

Denver Samoyed Assocation's King Soopers/City Market Grocery Fundraiser Program

Did you know that everytime you shop at King Soopers or a City Market location, you can be making DSA money without any expense to you? You continue to add up rewards points and DSA gets a percentage of your purchases. And it really adds up!

PLEASE NOTE: You must have an Email to proceed

1. If you shop at King Soopers: Go to www.KingSoopers.com/CommunityRewards

If you shop at City Market: Go to: www.CityMarket.com/CommunityRewards

2. Click the "Enroll Now" link.

3. If you already have an online King Soopers/City Market account setup, then:

a. Enter your Email Address and Password.

b. Click the "Sign In" button.

c. Go to Step #4 below.

If you DO NOT have an online King Soopers/City Market account setup:

a. Click "Create an account" link located under the Sign In buttons (see image below).

b. Enter your Zip Code.

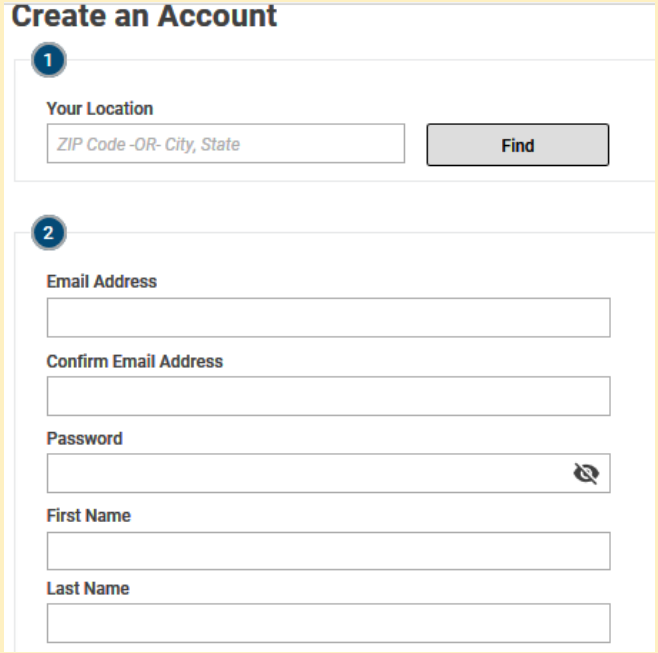
c. Enter your Email Address.

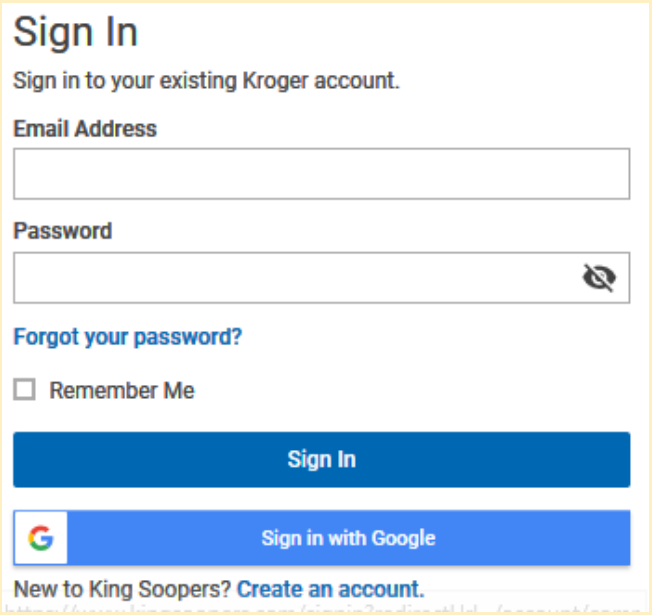
d. Enter your Email Address again to confirm the email address entered.

e. Enter a Password. It must have at least 8 characters, with at least 1 letter, and 1 number.

f. Enter your First Name.

g. Enter your Last Name.



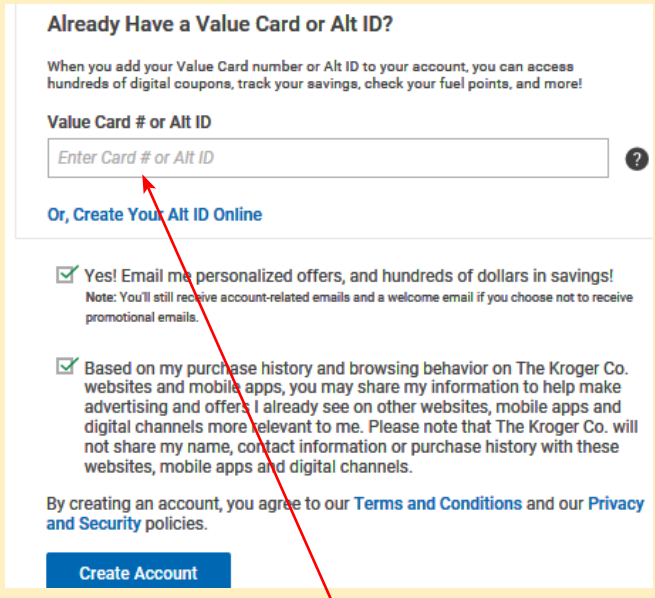


If you already have a Sooper Card/Value Card:

i. Enter in the Value Card # field, the 12 or 13-digit card's number that appears on the back, left, bottom corner of the card, below the bar code.

ii. OR Enter the 10-digit phone number that you previously associated with the card.

iii. At the checkout stand, give your card to the cashier to scan, or swipe your card on the credit card machine, to receive the 'Value Customer' discounts on your bill.





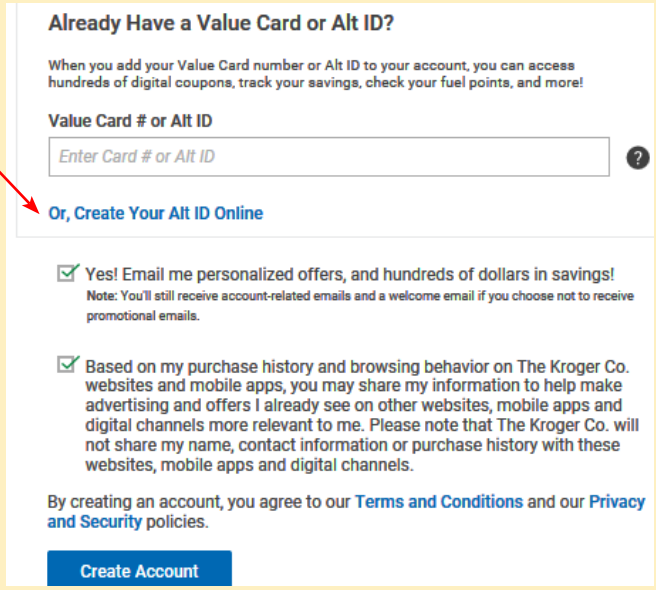
If you DO NOT have a Sooper Card or Value Card:

- Click the link “Or, Create Your Alt ID Online”.
- Enter your 10-digit phone number (numbers only, no dashes or parenthesis)

iv. At the checkout stand tell the cashier your 10-digit number or enter it on the credit card keypad, to receive the Value Customer discounts on your bill.

i. Read and check/uncheck the two checkboxes, as you desire, about receiving email offers or sharing your purchase history.

j. Click the “Create Account” button.



4. Link the Denver Samoyed Association to your Community Rewards account:

a. Enter “Denver Samoyed” in the “Find an Organization” search field

b. Click the “Search” button

c. The Search should show this result containing:

Denver Samoyed Association, Inc,
120 Western Sky Circle, Longmont, CO 80501

d. Click the “Enroll” button that displays inside the square

e. The system will then display the message: “You have been successfully enrolled in Community Rewards” and the Donation Summary will indicate DSA as the organization name that you have specified to receive the donations from your purchases.

6. Email Terry Walb – DSA’s treasurer: starburstsams@gmail.com – to let her know you have completed your enrollment.

Every time you use your Sooper Card or Value Card at the checkout stand to receive grocery discounts and earn fuel points, DSA will benefit from your purchases! The Kroeger Community Rewards program will mail a check quarterly to our club.

DENVER SAMOYED RESCUE

DSR Fundraisers:

Microchips - $20 for members, $35 for non-members. Cost includes chip and enrollment fee.
To make an appointment: Pam Buhl, 303.915.1725; Linda Kitzman, 303.794.7136; Pam Arnold 719.337.3686

Librela™ – Underlying Development Research And Adverse Events Associated With Use

I recently attended a two-day seminar hosted by Prairie Dog Pet Mercantile, a pet supply store in Spokane, Washington. One keynote speaker was Dr. Judy Morgan, DVM, CVA, CVCP, CVFT, CVTP, a nationally recognized author and veterinarian certified in acupuncture, food therapy, and chiropractic care for dogs, cats, and horses. She said Librela's underlying approach had first been studied in humans but failed in clinical trials and was never marketed. She characterized its later veterinary use as an effort by "big pharma" to recover its research investment.

After hearing of the devastating loss of a Samoyed attributed to Librela, I recalled her comments and began researching the topic. I wanted to share my findings with fellow Samoyed owners because I believe pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics can vary by breed. Every treatment requires weighing the risks and benefits for the individual animal, yet busy veterinarians may not fully explain a new therapy's risks. My research showed that Librela was not developed as a human drug, although its approach to blocking pain originated in human research.

Origins in human research

Librela (bedinvetmab) blocks nerve growth factor (NGF), a protein involved in sending osteoarthritis pain signals to the brain. Pharmaceutical companies spent years developing anti-NGF monoclonal antibodies for human arthritis. Pfizer, which formerly owned Zoetis as its animal health division, developed a leading candidate called tanezumab.

Why human treatments were not approved

Some people receiving tanezumab in clinical trials developed rapidly progressive osteoarthritis (RPOA), which involves accelerated joint damage and bone collapse. The explanation presented here is that pain suppression allowed patients to place excessive strain on already damaged joints. These safety concerns led regulators, including the FDA and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), to reject or halt approval of human anti-NGF treatments.

What makes Librela different

Because NGF blockade relieved chronic pain, scientists adapted the approach for veterinary use. Librela is a canine-specific monoclonal antibody engineered from canine proteins to be accepted by a dog's immune system; it is not a human formulation. Its feline counterpart, Solensia, uses feline proteins.

The debate in veterinary medicine

Joint damage observed with human anti-NGF treatments has led some veterinary researchers to question whether Librela might also accelerate joint deterioration in dogs. Zoetis and veterinary regulators maintain that its benefits outweigh its risks for dogs. Librela remains a widely used arthritis treatment under close monitoring.

In September 2024, the FDA published a Standard Adverse Event Review for Librela (https://www.fda.gov/media/184483/download?attachment). Its post-approval findings are summarized below.

Reported post-approval events (2024)

These findings are based on adverse-event reports submitted after Librela's approval. Not all events are reported to the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine. The reports cannot reliably show how often events occur or establish that Librela caused them.

The following body systems and events are listed in descending order of reporting frequency:

- Neurologic: ataxia, seizures, paresis, proprioceptive deficits, and paralysis.
- General: anorexia, lethargy, and recumbency.
- Renal/urinary: polydipsia, polyuria/pollakiuria, and urinary incontinence.
- Gastrointestinal: vomiting and diarrhea.
- Musculoskeletal: muscle weakness, muscle tremors, and lameness.

Some reports identified death, including euthanasia, as an outcome of these events.

The review also recommended informing owners about adverse reactions that may follow Librela administration.

It can be difficult to distinguish a medication's side effects from changes related to age, other medications, or general organ health. Some members of the Samoyed community reported benefits from Librela for their older dogs; others described very different experiences. What I find curious is many of the events reported associated with the use of Librela are not related to the issue of rapidly progressive osteoarthritis which caused the similarly developed drug in humans to be abandoned. It would be interesting to discover what the drug's impact is on other organ systems, such as the renal and gastrointestinal systems.

Each owner must weigh the risks and benefits for their own dog and, if choosing Librela, watch closely for adverse effects. In our culture, we often look to a pill for a cure for us and our animals, but as shared by Sting – "I never saw no miracle of science that didn't go from a blessing to a curse". Being our Samoyed's knowledgeable, best advocate can help us walk the balance between risks and benefits.

Medical terms used

Term	Plain-language meaning
Ataxia	Poor coordination or unsteady movement.
Anorexia	A reduced or absent appetite.
Diarrhea	Watery or loose stools.
Euthanasia	Ending an animal's life humanely, usually to ease suffering.
Lameness	A limp or trouble using a limb normally.
Lethargy	Unusually low energy or tiredness.
Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs)	Proteins made in a laboratory to act like the immune system's natural antibodies.
Muscle weakness	Decreased muscle strength.
Muscle tremors	Uncontrolled muscle shaking or trembling.
Paresis	A partial reduction in strength or ability to move.
Paralysis	An inability to move voluntarily.
Pharmacokinetics	The study of how a human or animal body affects a drug over time - what the body does to the drug.
Pharmacodynamics	How a drug affects the body - what the drug does to the body.
Pollakiuria	Frequent urination in small quantities.
Polydipsia	Unusually high thirst or water intake.
Polyuria	Passing unusually large volumes of urine.
Proprioceptive deficits	Trouble sensing the position of the limbs.
Recumbency	A lying-down position, sometimes accompanied by trouble rising.
Seizures	Abnormal brain activity that can cause stiffening, jerking, changes in behavior, or loss of consciousness.
Urinary incontinence	Unintentional leakage of urine.

Compiled and written by Cheri Hollenback. Reprinted with permission.

