

Rotorua Dog Training Club



AUG
SEPT
2022

Promoting responsible, enjoyable canine companionship through positive training
from pets to competition

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Agility Show 1st time experience
- Inspirational Quotes
- Choose Words Wisely
- Indoor Scent Games
- How to Walk a Human

• Calling All Champs

• Situations Vacant

“Dogs do speak,
but only to those
who know how to
listen.”

— Orhan Pamuk, 'My Name is Red'



Dear Members,

The committee continues to meet monthly attending to all the items to keep the wheels turning and make some improvements. There are too many to list here, but one of those has been the development of 3 policies to provide some structure. These are Sale and Purchase of Equipment, Sponsorship and Handling of Club Funds policies. These will be added to our web site shortly under the Our Club, Club Rules tab.

The wet weather makes it more of a challenge to run classes but wet weather is great time to teach tricks! Thanks to all those who attended the Trainers meeting. Some good stuff happening in that space.

Have fun with your dog, 'cause that's what its all about.

Kim Poynter,
Editor and President

CALLING ALL CHAMPION DOGS

If any club members have had a champion dog since 2014 please email Louise at rdocsec@gmail.com as the club wishes to update the Champions in the clubrooms.

Please share your dogs name, their champion title and what year it was achieved.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Trainee/Support Show Secretary – the club is looking for someone who has reasonable computer skills to train to do a Show Secretary role.

An outline of the role is available and the time commitment is not huge. We would really like to have a few people able to do this so that the role can be shared and support provided when needed.

There are not a lot of shows and knowing the details of a code (that is Agility or Obedience or Rally-O) is not required. You don't even need to have a dog!

If you would like to contribute to the community and have good organisational skills and reasonable computer skills, we would love to hear from you.

There is nothing to lose by giving it a try!

Please contact Kim on 021 926 937 or email the club.

AGILITY CHAMP SHOW – April 2022

From a first-time competitor

While it wasn't my first agility competition – it was my first time competing at our club show. For the 2021 show I was a helper – mainly scribing a number of events. It's hard to explain how valuable it was attending a show and helping. I was a member of the foundation class that year and along with Emily McLay we went along to help for the weekend. We learnt a lot about how a show is run, saw the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes and be part of a really great atmosphere which meant when we were ready to compete we knew what it was all about. I'd really encourage people to give some time to help make our shows a great success.

This year's show was just as awesome as the previous year with a few added nerves. Wendy – show manager, had put in hours and hours of time to make the show a great success. It ran very smoothly. It still ran in covid restrictions, so we weren't allowed more than 100 competitors. This meant many couldn't attend what is arguably NZ's best show (no bias here at all).

Ring managers Jo and Emily had both rings running like clockwork, happy helpers, judges and competitors.

As a relative newbie to the agility scene the support we get from our club and agility community is a real heart-warmer. Wendy is always willing to walk a course with us to go over any handling queries we might have – all while running 3 dogs and being show manager. Then there are our fellow club members always cheering you on or giving you words of encouragement. Someone videoing your runs and there to have a laugh when you make silly mistakes. Many of the judges are always willing to offer words of advice or help point out where improvements could be made.

Gloria Parkinson's baking was yet again a hit – people from all clubs rushing to the kitchen to ensure they don't miss out. Doing things like baking for a show are valuable fundraising for the club.

At the end of the very hot first day, after setting up the courses for Sunday, a bunch of us headed to the lake to take the dogs for a swim. One of us even jumping in with the dogs.

The annual BBQ is very popular, with club members cooking in the kitchen, the perfect end to a fun day.

Holly won her 3rd ribbon – a 2nd place in Jumpers C and it was a great feeling to be receiving it from our trainer at the club.

Sunday we were back competing with a foggy start to the day. Another smoothly run day, with lots of get work from handlers competing.

If you can, why not try helping out at one of our club shows!

Here's to our club dogs that won ribbons over the weekend:

**Dara – handler, Pam Masters
2nd Jumpers C 500**



**Holly – handler, Louise Sandford
2nd Jumpers C Small**



**Willow – handler, Wendy Statham
3rd Place Starters 500**



**Delta – handler, Wendy Statham
2nd place Novice 600**



**Ziggy – handler, Wendy Statham
2nd place Jumpers B 600**



Submitted by Louise Sanford

Inspirational Dog Training Quotes

When Kim our president asked me to put something together for our newsletter I decided to find some inspirational dog training quotes

Below are 10 motivational dog training quotes which resonated with me.

I hope next time you are out training your dog or helping someone else train theirs, that at least one resonates with you too 😊

- Dog Training is a never ending process of evolving
- Training for compliance is not the same as training for motivation
- Your dog is not being a problem... Your dog is having a problem understanding you.
- Dogs do speak but only to those who know how to listen
- Train the dog in front of you
- Be the most interesting human your dog ever met
- Timing...The difference between making it better or making it worse
- Just because a dog doesn't give you the response you are looking for does not mean it is a hard dog
- Your dog is doing the best it can with the information you are providing it
- Reach deeper during training and find a way to connect with your dog from the heart, not from a leash and a collar

Thanks to Terri Robson for submitting this article. Terri teaches the entry level Obedience classes.



Image courtesy of Carroll County Veterinary Clinic/Instagram

Scent Work

Scentwork is calming for a dog, they love it, they can all do it and its fun. Its also a great way to exercise your dogs brain on those wet and stormy days. Thanks to Sue Williams and Kimberlea Lemon who are running a Scentwork class for the club this term.

The members of our club are also to be able to join into the Tokoroa club scentwork training which is often held in Te Teko, just this side of Whakatane. There are a few club members who travel there on Sunday training session dates.

If someone has done no introductory work to odour, then we are happy to do some one-on-one training before the day begins, and then they can join in.

Any questions to Maree at tokoroascent2021@gmail.com.

Check out the facebook page Tokoroascent2021 for more information and lots of interesting things to increase your knowledge on this interesting topic.

From the American Kennel Club –
Indoor Scent Games for Dogs

By [Sassafras Lowrey, CTDI](#)

Sep 01, 2021 | 4 Minutes

Key Points

- Dogs experience much of the world around them through their sense of smell.
- Scent games allow dogs to channel their love of sniffing while also enriching their minds.
- Nose-based games are a great way to keep your dog mentally stimulated indoors.



Dogs experience much of the world around them through their sense of smell. On walks, and at home, our dogs constantly take in information with their noses that humans never even notice. [Scent games](#) allow dogs to channel their love of [sniffing](#) while enriching their minds.

The aim of these games is to teach our dogs how to tell us what they smell. Also, for us to learn to read our dogs and trust they are correct. Some scent games can even be played in small indoor spaces like a living room. When you find yourself stuck inside with your dog, games are a great way to keep them [mentally stimulated](#).

Getting Started With Scent Games

Scent games are fun for dogs of any age, including puppies and older dogs. In everyday life, we often [hurry our dogs along](#) when they stop to sniff. But in these games, we want them to understand that sniffing is encouraged. An easy way to introduce your dog to scent games is to set up a search for something immediately motivating for most dogs – food.

Muffin Tin Puzzles

This is a fun introductory [scent game](#) that requires only a few items which you might already own. All you need is an empty [muffin tin](#), 12 [tennis balls](#), and some [smelly dog treats](#) that they love.

- Put treats into a few of the muffin tin holes and cover them with tennis balls.
- Next, put tennis balls into all of the other empty muffin tin holes.
- Give the “puzzle” to your dog and let them explore by moving the balls to find the treats hidden underneath.

Each time you play, change the location of the treats so your dog needs to use their nose to find the treats.

Editors note: There are plenty more games in the rest of the article online.

Choose Words Wisely When Talking About Dogs

6 ways the language we use to discuss our dogs matters

By [Karen B. London](#) PhD, June 2021

Reproduced from The Bark.

Listen in at the dog park and you're likely to hear all kinds of words used when people talk about their dogs. By tuning into what they're saying, you can get a pretty good idea about the way they view their dogs, and what kind of relationship they have with them. Here are some terms to listen for, and what they may be saying about the speaker's unconscious perspective toward dogs.

What we say matters, full stop, and the language we use when talking about our dogs informs and reveals our connections with them. It also reflects our views on

the structure of that connection. Our words show how we view the world, what has value for us and what doesn't. Because words are powerful, we must take care when wielding them—including when it comes to discussing dogs.

1. “Cue,” not “command.” In old-style dog training, people issued commands and expected their dogs to obey. The modern approach is to give the dog a cue to let him know what we want him to do. When a dog didn't comply with a command, he was considered disobedient and was perhaps punished. In contrast, when a dog doesn't respond appropriately to a cue, it's easier to acknowledge that he might have misunderstood it, or been distracted.

What's the difference? Cues offer dogs opportunities to perform behaviors for the possibility of reinforcement, while a command offered the possibility of being punished if their response was not what was desired. The change from saying “command” to saying “cue” doesn't produce this change in perspective—it simply reflects it.

2. “Confused,” not “bad.” When dogs don't do what we want or have asked them to do, it isn't unheard of to hear them described as bad, disagreeable or even stupid. Using derogatory terms to describe a dog who is unsure about what we want puts all the blame on the dog and none on us.

It's far better to consider them “confused” or “uncertain”—to consider that the dog wasn't able to be successful in that moment out of confusion, uncertainly or insufficient training rather than to slap on a negative label after an undesirable response.

What's the difference? Suggesting that there was a barrier to success for our dog (such as a distracting smell or a lack of training in a particular context) as opposed to calling the dog bad, stubborn or resistant shifts our viewpoint from the dog giving us a hard time to the dog having a hard time. It's also a good way to reframe our interactions with our dogs and to increase our empathy with them.

3. “She” or “he,” not “it.” Many times, animals are referred to by the pronoun “it,” the same word we use for inanimate objects like chairs and washing machines, which is pretty impersonal. Using a gendered pronoun (“he” or “she”) makes it more personal, acknowledging that the dog is an individual, living being.

What's the difference? Using a gendered pronoun better reflects the close relationship and the emotional connection we have with dogs. When I was in graduate school, I was taught that if an animal has a name, it was appropriate in

scientific papers to refer to that animal as he or she, but if not, “it” was the proper term. That meant that animals in lab colonies were generally referred to in more personal terms than those in the wild. I’m happy that today, almost everyone uses a gendered pronoun rather than the impersonal “it.” As “they” becomes a more common pronoun for both individuals and for groups, it also carries the more personal connotation even though “they” is used for both living beings and inanimate objects.

4. “Mix,” not “mongrel.” There are a lot of terms for dogs who do not belong to a specific breed. Some people consider the term “cross” appropriate for the dog who has [two purebred parents of different breeds](#), and use “mix” or “mixed breed” for dogs whose ancestry includes more than two breeds. Both of these terms are descriptive and many consider them neither positive nor negative, but simply factual. However, “mongrel” and “cur,” which reference dogs of unknown or highly diverse ancestry, are considered to be derogatory.

What’s the difference? Using terms for dogs of complex or unknown ancestry that imply anything bad about such dogs is problematic since it suggests some dogs are inherently inferior or less valuable than other dogs. Interestingly, “mutt” used to be considered a rude way to refer to a dog who was not a purebred, but the term has been elevated to one of affection and respect. In fact, many use the term with the most positive of connotations. Again, language matters!

5. “Well-trained,” not “compliant/obedient.” When people talk about a dog who is compliant or obedient, there’s an implication that the dog is responding to force or power, neither of which is helpful in a loving relationship. On the other hand, if a dog’s behavior is admirable and the explanation is that the dog is well-trained, that conveys a much more positive feeling.

What’s the difference? Saying that a dog is well-trained suggests that the dog has learned a lot, and that someone has taken the time and effort to teach the dog how to behave. It is so much more pleasing to think (and say) that the dog knows what to do and does it rather than to assert that the dog is being coerced to act a certain way.

6. “Partners,” not “masters.” People who still refer to themselves as their dog’s master are viewing the relationship quite differently than people who call themselves their dog’s guardian, pet parent or best friend.

What’s the difference? The idea that dogs work for us is not the same as the notion that they work with us. There is a big difference between being teammates or partners with your dog and being your dog’s master. How we describe the

relationship between ourselves and our dogs is an indication of how we think of that relationship.

Language matters when we're talking about our dogs. Let's choose our words thoughtfully and enjoy the benefits of more loving, more caring relationships with our canine companions.

Karen B. London, Ph.D. is a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist and Certified Professional Dog Trainer who specializes in working with dogs with serious behavioral issues, including aggression. Karen writes the animal column for the Arizona Daily Sun and is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Northern Arizona University. She is the author of six books about canine training and behavior, including her most recent, *Treat Everyone Like a Dog: How a Dog Trainer's World View Can Improve Your Life*

HOW TO WALK A HUMAN A Dogs Guide

Humans need exercise. If they don't get it they become "chubby". It's up to you to save them.



1. Allow your human to tether themselves to you. This keeps them from wondering off or running away.
2. Your human probably needs breaks. Be considerate and stop and sniff often.
3. Bark frequently. Humans have a short attention span.
4. When you go to the bathroom, walk away. If you have trained your human correctly, they will pick it up.
Good aerobics.
5. Periodically drag your human as fast as you can. This is called interval training.
6. Do not allow your human to shorten the walk. They are being lazy. Sit in protest if you must.
7. Once you are home, allow your human to remove their tether, then lick their face many times. This is positive reinforcement for a job well done.

