

Rotorua Dog Training Club



OCT
NOV
2022

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

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End of year Get Together.
Save the Date: Saturday 3rd December – keep an eye out for the details on the Facebook page.
Demonstrations of the different fun things you can do with your dog.



Dear Members,

The committee continues to meet monthly. There are a number of sub-committees that are working on show preparations and planning and the sub-committee for training is also doing a lot of work at the moment.

Term 4 is upon us already and an end of year get together on Saturday 3rd of December is planned. More information will be posted on the Facebook page. There will be some demonstrations which is great way for those wondering what some of the specialty codes are like, to have a look.

Once again, the club is providing a wide range of classes for the term with six CG Basics classes, two Level 2 classes, two CGC classes, Rally-O Beginners, Novice and Advanced, a Competitive Obedience class, a Fly-gility class, two Pre-Agility classes, Agility Starters, Foundation, Novice and Senior classes. In addition to that, the club has Scentwork classes a couple of times a year.

This is an amazing line up of classes for what is essentially quite a small club to provide and all the instructors are VOLUNTEERING their time and effort.

So, a HUGE SHOUT OUT AND THANKYOU to all our instructors. Without them, there would be no classes. Remember to give a word of thanks to them 😊



The wheels of the club only turn if people are prepared to get involved and being a club member is more than just rocking up to class. So if you can spare a little time to help out in one way or another, it is really appreciated. How? It may be assisting to set up or pack down the equipment, helping out with one of the many little jobs when a show is running, consider being on committee, if you have computer skills then there are a range of jobs to share the work, it may be becoming an assistant to a trainer to get onto a pathway to run an entry level class.

Give it some thought – you don't need to be an expert to lend a hand 😊

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

Kim Poynter,
Editor and President

Canines And Fireworks

Last minute tips to help your dog through the Fourth of July

(in our case the week of 5th November!)

By Karen B. London PhD, July 2018, Updated June 2022

There are a ton of things that you can do to help prepare your dog for the fireworks—those beautiful yet evil noisemakers that make many dogs hate the Fourth of July. The thing is, some require advance work, like playing tapes of fireworks and using desensitization and classical conditioning to help your dog overcome the fear of them, or discussing with your veterinarian whether medication would be appropriate for your dog.

If you haven't already taken steps to prepare your dog ahead of time, either because life has a tendency to happen or because you have just acquired a new dog, these in-advance solutions are just not an option, but that doesn't mean all hope is lost. I'm sure that you want your dog to come through to July 5th with as little psychological damage as possible, so what are your options? At this point, it is all about avoidance, management and damage control. That is, the best way to handle this wonderful (for most people) but horrible (for most dogs) day is to focus on just getting through it. Don't worry about trying to teach your dog anything or making long-term progress. Just try to protect your dog as much as you can. Specifically, that means:

Stay Inside.

Having a dog who fears loud noises or is even a bit uneasy about sudden bangs makes the Fourth of July a real threat to well-being. The best thing you can do for your dog is to keep her inside. Don't take her to any of the festivities or to places with crowds. It's just not worth the risk.

Create A Safe Space For Your Dog.

If your dog is happy in a crate, that is a great option. Covering it with a blanket can make it extra cosy, though if your dog objects to a change, revert to what is normal for her in the crate. Keep your dog in the most quiet and comfortable place possible, as long as she feels at home there. (Basements are great for quiet, but if a dog feels stressed and or as if she has been banished, putting her there can be counterproductive.) A room without windows is usually better than one with windows. In addition to choosing the room with care, do what you can to mask the noise of fireworks as much as possible. That may include closing all windows and doors, lowering any window coverings and adding ambient noise from a fan, a television or radio, or by playing music.

Stay With Your Dog.

Sure, you may have plans to go to parades, barbecues, and road races in addition to a fireworks display, but if your dog is really panicked, it would be a great kindness to stay home and keep her company. That can make it so much easier for many dogs to get through the day, but you have to

weigh your own needs and desires against those of your dog. If you stay home with her and there are still loud sounds that are stressing her out, do what makes her happy for as long as she can focus on that. Playing with her, giving her loving and attention, providing treats or giving her stuffed Kong's or great things to chew on may help her have a good day instead of a bad one. If she is too upset to engage in any such activity, hold her or comfort her in any way that seems to provide relief. It may cramp your style to be home, but it might really help your dog and be worth the trouble.

Do you have a plan for your dog this Fourth of July?



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*

Many dogs don't like to share food - and that's ok



most dogs need their own bowl

many dogs need distance between their bowl and another dog's

some dogs need to eat in a separate room without any other dogs

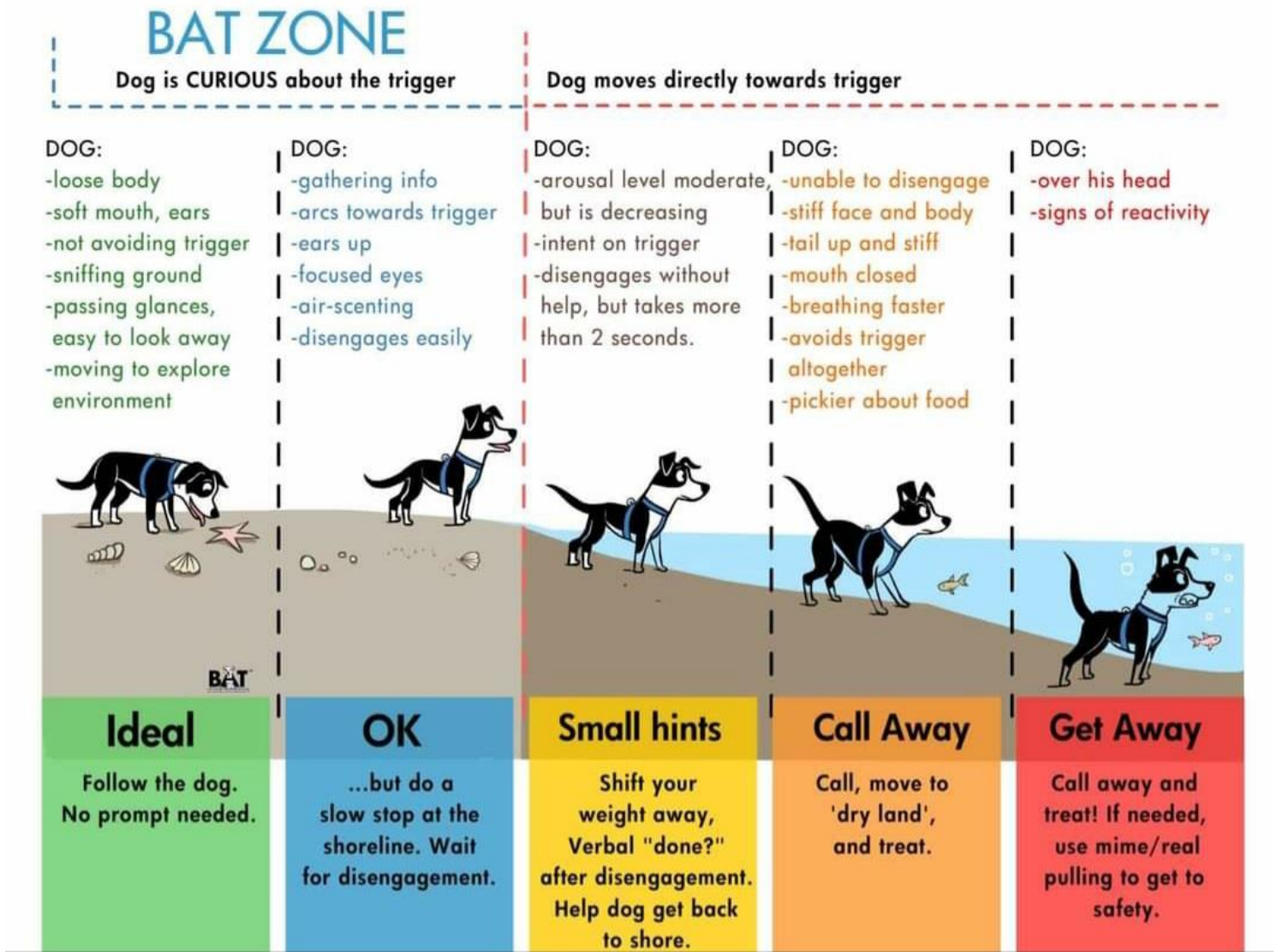
Never force your dog to eat too close to another one.

It will lead to resource guarding and potential escalations.



SPIRITDOG
Training

Dog's stress level is analogous to rising water level



The right breed of dog for you – what are the dogs natural attributes?
Reproduced from Stuff

Know your dog's job before adopting them, trainer says

Sapeer Mayron Jul 11 2022

CHRIS MCKEEN/STUFF

Every dog has a job. Some were born to run for miles, and others were destined for a slightly slower life. Knowing what job your dog needs is key to keeping it - and your family - happy.

Dog trainer Alex Schanzer has spent his career watching mismatched dogs long for their forever home after being handed over to shelters by unhappy owners.

He said when people picked out dogs based on impulse, they ran into the problems of sustaining that dog's best life, and it could end badly for everyone.

In the absolute worst case scenario, the dog wrecks property or bites someone, maybe even a child, out of frustration.

'High-drive' dogs like German pointers, Vizlas and border collies make perfect best friends, but they need much more than the average city-dweller can give them, Schanzer said.

"German pointers have become popular now which is great if you're a hunter, and you can give the dog that outlet, but I have seen people buy them because they like the look of them," he said.

"Vizslas are the same. They are known as Velcro dogs because they like to be with their owners, but they do need exercise."

People don't need lots of space, like Schanzer has at his Pukekohe home, or time to make their dogs happy.



CHRIS MCKEEN/STUFF

Alex Schanzer and his dog Tama. Alex is a dog trainer, with experience in urban search and rescue dog training.

One of the best things they can do is occupy their nose with scent games, Schanzer said. That tires them out much more than a run.

Scatter their feed on the lawn, or through a snuffle mat or slow feeder, which is a dog's bowl that looks more like a maze, he explains.

"They can smell 100,000 times better than we can, so something like that, it's such a good exercise, it feeds them, it allows them an outlet for that hunt drive."

While some dogs - like greyhounds or labradors - were perfectly content to laze at home all day while their owners are at work or out socialising, all dogs were at risk of depression without the right activities, Schanzer said.

Last week, Auckland Council reported that its three dog shelters across the city were nearly at capacity, and that they were desperate for people to come and adopt.

Trade Me reported that dogs were among the list of things people were looking to trade online now that lockdown is over: there had been a 36% jump in the number of dogs to adopt on Trade Me between June 2019 and June 2022.



CHRIS MCKEEN/STUFF

Alex Schanzer uses a "flirt pole" to entertain his dog Tama.

"Breeds come predetermined," Schanzer said. "Even if they have been crossbred, there are certain characteristics, depending on what they are, that are going to shine. They are also going to be the issues if they are not dealt with."

Schanzer specialises in helping owners understand exactly what their dog's shining attributes are.



CHRIS MCKEEN/STUFF

"Dogs are integral. They've been with us for 15,000 years," dog trainer Alex Schanzer said.

To know if your dog isn't getting the enrichment it needs, watch out for changes in behaviour, especially when you haven't changed their routine.

"But if it starts to defecate in the house where it never used to, starts to rip things up, starts to get snappy... People need to learn to read these behaviours."

Schanzer is an expert in training dogs for urban search and rescue. He would often head out to shelters to look for dogs he could train up for the job, and the types of breeds he saw filling those shelters broke his heart.

"There are always dogs there that you know are not going to get the home they need, but the shelters need to get rid of them," he said.

"These dogs go out, and you know they'll come back. Border collies, kelpies, Australian cattle dogs, huntaways. People will buy these dogs but they don't give the dog enough."

SAPEER MAYRON • REPORTER

