

# Rotorua Dog Training Club



DEC  
JAN  
2022-3

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

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Dear Members,

Each newsletter I put in a short summary of what the club's general committee is covering. A lot of the time it is just the boring stuff that makes the wheels turn but we also do some more interesting things which is what I try to update you on.

- There are 3 sub-committees working currently: agility, obedience and a training sub-committee.
- The agility committee are working on achievement level assessments for progression through the classes and has just run a Ribbon Trial on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec
- The Obedience committee is working on all the details and planning for the clubs Championship Obedience show to be held 28<sup>th</sup> to 30 January at Rerewhakaaitu Domain, something all club members are welcome to rock up and watch at some time over the weekend.
- The Training sub-committee is doing a lot of work on identifying how to improve our system and curriculum for the entry level. Along with this, it has been identified that our volunteer trainers who put in so much time and effort could be looked after better so the committee has moved some improvements in that area – [see the next page!](#)

The club puts funds from each Basics class into a training fund started in honour of Helen Bearn, so it is called the Helen Bearn account. These funds are available for members to apply for to assist with attending external courses. We had 3 trainers attending the DogsNZ Domestic Dog Training conference in early December. – see next pages for more details on that.

The club owns the top story of the clubrooms and leases the bottom story and footprint from the council. I am pleased to say that after some months, we have now secured a further 10-year lease with a clause including that we may look to extend the footprint for a covered training area in the future. The committee is also working on having plans drawn up to change the layout on the ground floor to provide a) more storage for gear b) an indoor area that classes can use thus providing 2 spaces both upstairs and down and c) a decent toilet accessible from inside the building. The preliminary work has been completed. The next step is to have the plans done in more detail so that we can get them costed to assess affordability and whether it is appropriate to purchase the ground floor from the council. The progress and details to date will hopefully be ready for our discussion at our AGM next year.

So as you can see, there are lots of meetings and lots of progress on top of running the club and many committee also being trainers and or holding an office for the club.

**So, a HUGE SHOUT OUT AND THANKYOU to all our committee.** 😊

**The RDTC committee wishes you all a safe and happy holiday season.**

Kim Poynter,  
Editor and President

Well done!



Jamie Savage and Max attended their very first SSANZ Ngatea Nosework Trial. Well done for achieving two Novice qualifying certificates and his Novice dog title!

## Obedience Update from Terri.

We currently have 5 in our competitive obedience class

Dawn is actively competing, and Hannah has done her first show competing in Elementary at Taupo show obtaining a 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbon (awesome work)

Have encouraged all the class if possible, to come to either Taupo or Cambridge show so they can get more of a feel for an obedience show. Great to see Christine and Koko in Taupo and Emma and Kea may look to come to Cambridge Classes will run through to 14 December, and I will look to start up again early January with the hope of getting some more of the class ready for Elementary at the Rotorua Obedience Championship show on Auckland Anniversary weekend.

## 3 New Ways to support our Trainers –

It has long been recognised that our volunteer trainers need support. There is always more demand than there are trainers and the time, energy and commitment is high. Training for multiple terms a year is hard going and having a break in the coldest part of the year for 6 weeks will be worth trying in the 2023 year and seems successful at

some other clubs. This gives a rest for those trainers who train for 3 or more terms a year.

Having a head trainer for each code, will ensure that trainers have a point of contact for their code for support and who will be able to work on development of the code, training for their trainers etc.

As a way of recognising the trainer's input, the trainers will have access to attending a free class for their dog for each term that they train a class for the club.

## Domestic Dog Training Conference

Three of our trainers (Louise Sanford, Kim Poynter, and Lynn Murray) attended the weekend conference in Wellington. From that, we will be arranging for a First Aid course for Dogs to be facilitated by a Vet which all members of the club will be able to attend. Keep an eye out for details on that which will be advertised next year.

We also had some great information on canine body language, avoiding conflict between dogs and dog training principles. We are working on getting that information available to members so that you can all benefit if you would like to.

## Building Your Dog's Toy Drive

From: [www.earthbornholisticpetfood.com](http://www.earthbornholisticpetfood.com)

Is there anything better than having a blast and playing with your dog?! Not all dogs are born with a high toy drive, but that doesn't mean you can't work on building it up! My rescue dog Winston didn't always love playing with toys, he mostly liked to carry them around and sleep with them. So how do you build up that love for toys in a dog that it doesn't come naturally for? Keep reading along to learn some games to try playing!

### Play Only Toys

For this you try having toys that your dog only has access to while he is playing with you with it. Once that playtime is over, the toy goes away and isn't played with again until you bring it out to play together. This will help [build that play connection](#) between you and your dog.

### High Value Rewards

To initially build interest, try using an extremely high value reward. Anytime your dog shows interest in the toy, reward. For example, if you are starting to build a fetch drive in your dog, start by doing a short throw. Even if your dog doesn't bring it back or even completely get it. If they show interest in your throw, reward them! Slowly add more stipulations to the reward, like once they are

really showing interest, change your rewarding until after they pick up the toy you threw, then move to rewarding when they bring it back.

## The Two-Toy Game

Once you find a toy your dog seems to like, get two of them and start on the two-toy game. This will help build drive and help if your dog doesn't seem to bring a toy back after you throw it. Throw a toy in one direction. Once they get it, show them you have another toy and throw that one in the opposite direction. Eventually the hope is that the dog will completely bring the first toy back in your direction and drop it while they pass you to chase the other toy.

## Restrained Throws

This is one of my favorite drive building exercises, not just for toys but when working recall, agility, etc. To do this exercise with a toy you will hold onto your dog (restrain them) and throw the toy. While still holding onto them, ramp them up with excitement. Our excitement builder is "ready, steady". I will say that a couple times to build the pressure, and release him to go get the toy. That built up excitement really helps drive them to whatever it is you threw.

## Tug Drive

My dog is not a tugger, and this has probably been the hardest to work on for us. I highly suggest investing in a real fur tug, even a [flirt pole](#) to help really engage that prey drive. Start by dragging the toy in front of your dog, if they show interest then let them have the toy. The biggest thing with starting to learn to tug is that the dog needs to think they can beat you and "win" the toy. Once they start tugging, keep "giving" it to them after a couple tugs to keep building up that drive. The more your dog thinks they're winning the more they will want to play in the future.

## Short Sessions

The KEY to learning anything new is to keep your sessions short. Even just minute long sessions to start out can be so beneficial. A lot of dogs with low toy drive can lose the initial excitement very quickly, which we don't want. So, by keeping the sessions short you are leaving them wanting more and finishing the session with them still interested instead of disengaged.

Building up a drive in your dog can be a long, slow process. Don't get discouraged and always keep at it. There will be times you bring out the toy and your dog will have zero interest in it—that's okay! Put it away and try again later. Take your time, like mentioned earlier, and keep sessions short at first. It may take months and months to get the drive that you want, but watching your dog learn to love and and your bond grow will make it all worth it! Playtime with your dog should be fun for both of you, so get down on your hands and knees, get excited, show your dog you love the game just as much as you want them to!

### Ashley Ono, Rose, & Winston

Ashley and her two rescue dogs Winston and Rose live in Arizona. They love to get outdoors and explore all over the state. You can follow along with their adventures on their Instagram [@desert.duo](#).



# You're Probably Not Washing Your Dog's Bowl Enough

And according to a new study, it's putting their health at risk.

BY [IODI HELMER](#)  
JULY 18, 2022



Ana Luz Crespi / Stocksy

You wouldn't dish up your dinner on a dirty plate but you're probably pouring your dog's kibble into a bacteria-laden bowl.

"Previous studies have found medically important and potentially pathogenic bacteria...that bacteria can be shared or spread around the house," explains Dr. Emily Luisana, a veterinary nutritionist and author of a new study on pet parents' food handling and hygiene practices. "The bacteria that's harboured in our pets' bowls may not stay there."

Despite the potential health risks to pets and their owners, Dr. Luisana's research showed that 22 percent of pet owners washed their dog's food and water bowls once a week while 18 percent washed them less than once every three months (or not at all).

The study also showed that less than 25 percent of dog owners washed the scoops used to dish out the food or washed their hands before and after feeding their dogs, which also increases the odds of spreading bacteria like MRSA, salmonella, and E. coli — and less than five percent of participants admitted to not knowing there were federal guidelines that include recommendations for washing pet bowls.

Dr. Luisana found that washing your dog's bowl after every meal — yes, *every* meal — is an important practice when it comes to protecting your pet from exposure to potentially harmful bacteria.

As part of the study, 417 dog owners were divided into three groups: Group A followed the Food and Drug Administration guidelines for pet food handling and dish hygiene; Group B followed FDA guidelines for pet and human food handling and dish hygiene; and Group C continued their regular feeding and food handling practices.

Based on food dish swabs, there were significant decreases in bacteria in the pet food bowls in groups A and B compared to group C. “As washing the bowls demonstrated a significant reduction in bacteria, we can safely assume that infrequent washing was a contributor to bacterial growth,” she says. The results held true whether dog owners fed wet or dry food or used bowls made of plastic, stainless steel, or other materials but Dr. Luisana admits that a larger sample size could change those findings.

Integrative veterinarian Dr. Karen Becker, believes that pet parents who feed kibble may have a false sense of security about the cleanliness of their dog bowls. In an [article](#) posted on Mercola’s Healthy Pets website, Dr. Becker said, “Those pet parents may not realize that while dry food doesn’t leave the same obvious mess behind as canned and raw or fresh food, it’s just as likely, and even more likely in some cases, to be contaminated with salmonella, E. coli, or other types of bacteria. So, while the bowl may look clean after your pet eats his dry food, to safeguard the health of human family members, it’s just as important to wash kibble bowls, as it is to wash bowls used for moist diets.”

To further reduce exposure to toxins, Dr. Becker suggests using food safe 18-gauge stainless steel, porcelain, or glass food and water bowls. Plastic, she explains, can degrade over time. Separate [research](#) found that salmonella, E. coli and other harmful bacteria that could make pets and people sick, was more common in ceramic and plastic pet food and water dishes than those made from stainless steel.

Whether you feed your dog kibble or canned food or serve their dinner in stainless steel or plastic bowls, Dr. Luisana suggests following the FDA guidelines for the safe handling of pet food which include:

- Washing your hands before and after handling pet food and treats.
- Washing pet food bowls and scoops with soap and hot water after each use.
- Using a scoop or spoon, not the bowl, to dish up pet food.
- Storing pet food in its original bag.

“The FDA recommendations, at first glance, can seem like a time-intensive to-do list...the key to following the FDA's recommendations is just like any good habit, set yourself up for success and make it part of your routine,” Dr. Luisana says. “Keeping dog dishes clean...can help reduce risk [and] small changes like having multiple pet bowls can make a big difference in our ability to stick with it in the long term.

Jodi Helmer is a North Carolina-based freelance writer who shares her home with an embarrassing number of rescue dogs and relies on four feral cats to patrol the barn. When she isn’t refilling food and water dishes, Jodi writes about animals for *Scientific American*, *Sierra*, *WebMD*, *AKC Family Dog*, *Living the Country Life*, and *Out Here*.



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## From the Dunbar Academy

If you're like most dog owners, you rarely give your dog enough time to get comfortable in new environments. A lot of dogs are very attuned to their environment and when they go to a new environment they need time to take it all in. If you don't give your dog time to take it all in, they are not going to be able to focus on you, and you won't be able to train them.

Here's a simple test you can use to see if your dog has gotten sufficiently used to a new environment. Stop moving and stand still and watch your dog. If they are looking around intently, they are still taking in this new environment. When they look at you, it means they've taken it in and they're ready to move on or pay attention to you.

You can also turn this simple act of stopping, standing still, and waiting for your dog to look at you, to train an automatic Watch Me behavior that your dog performs whenever you stop walking, or even slow down. This can be super useful for reactive dogs as it gives you an easy way to redirect their attention onto you and away from other things in the environment

The club has some great books in the library which you can find upstairs in the club rooms. No charge for this members only service.

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COMMITTEE: Jamie Savage (Training Co-ordinator), Jo Klein, Julie Cowell, Wendy Statham, Terri Robson and Kimberlea Lemon.

Check out our facebook page under '**Rotorua Dog Training Club**'

And take a look around our website which has lots of information for those starting out with their dog along with copies of newsletters.

[www.rotoruvadogobedience.org.nz](http://www.rotoruvadogobedience.org.nz)

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