

Rotorua Dog Training Club



Feb
March
2023

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

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The goal is not to get the dog to do things, it is to ensure they want to do things 😊

The word NO is not a cue. It does not tell the dog what to do. Instead give the dog a cue for an alternate behaviour that is not compatible with what it was doing. i.e. if the dog is jumping up, it cannot do that if you have asked the dog to sit. Remember to reward the behaviour you wanted and got!

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.

- No meeting held in January with so many of the committee away.
- Building update: there was an increase in power supply costs for the connection charge due to the building being on 3 phase. At our cost, this has now been changed to single phase.
- A building company is currently pricing an estimate for possible changes to the bottom story following the receipt of the plans.
- Efforts have gone into show planning for the Obedience show which ran well despite the weather complicating things.
- AGM – once the accounts are reviewed, a date will be set giving 4 weeks notice in writing which will be advertised.
- Acceptance of new members which is part of our clubs rules.
- Training Sub Committee – Jordan Coulson has been arranged to provide an education day on 1st July. A First Aid course for dogs is also being arranged.
- The club now has a code of conduct and is working on a complaints policy.
- CGC assessments for Foundation and Bronze are being organised. Dates to be determined.
- The lawn contractor is now working with the club to time the cuts to better meet our needs – hopefully.
- The club is hosting a Rally-O show on 25th and 26th March at the club's grounds in Bennet St. Going to watch a show (which is on your door step) is a great way to see if that code is something you may like to have a go at.
- Term One classes organised with many oversubscribed. It's a great problem to have but the club could do with more trainers. We now have extra Rally-O classes running and a wait list for the Basics training.
- The curriculum and lesson plans for the Basics training is currently being worked on in preparation for new trainers coming on board.

Grateful thanks to all those who assist to make the wheels turn.

Kim Poynter,
Editor and President

🏆 JUMPERS CHAMPION 🏆 Aneeda Flying High, Delta ❤️❤️ Huge congratulations to club member [Gloria Parkinson](#) who's dog Delta has made Jumpers Champion in Agility. Delta's final challenge was awarded at the Tokoroa Champ Show in January. Let's celebrate our new club champion and acknowledge the many hours of training and dedication that has gone in to achieve this prestigious title.



Rotorua Dog Training Club Championship Obedience Show – Lake Rerewhakaaitu

By Hannah Hope

A three-day event, lots of rain, and lots of prizes.

Weather warnings across the country and Auckland was already flooding. Saturday morning event officials called a meeting and with competitors still keen to ride out the weather and have some fun while doing so, the decision was made to make a ring in the hall connected to the club room. Some competitors were sceptical as to how the new ring set up would work and although competitors were faced with a range of new challenges everyone made it work. With a very limited warm up zone and echoey hall, the dogs adapted and

gave it their best shot. We had helpers drying the floor with towels and others keeping the rising water levels away from the club room.

Saturday was a later finish at 6pm with only one ring feasible but had some great results, Hannah & Rollo came first in elementary and have now won out of that class and moved into beginners where they got a 4th. Dianne with Royal in Test B placed 5th on the first day as just a warmup of what's yet to come for them.

Sunday provided the same challenges with the weather coming and going we were able to have a couple of tests outside, the Test C dogs did exceptionally well during the scents among the rain and wind. Dianne and Tana in Test C placed 5th Dianne and Royal came first in Test B, Dawn and Peppa had a good run in Novice and placed 3rd, and Hannah and Rollo getting 2nd in Beginners.

Monday, we saw brighter days and somewhat dryer as well which was lucky as camp-goers were running out of dry clothes. The final day of the show was able to be held in the outside rings that had remained perfectly set up just waiting to be used. I think the dogs all enjoyed being out in the fresh air and the grounds stayed above water which was a bonus for the down stays. Hannah and Rollo came 2nd again with their best run of the weekend just shy half a point off first place. Dianne and Royal took out 1st place in Test B (she won 2 Test B's) which qualifies them into the top-grade Test C. Dawn did a lovely training run in the ring with Peppa on the last day keeping it nice and fun.

Anna Herzog a world-renowned competitor, trainer, judge came and did judging over the show after her obedience camp seminars around New Zealand. It was a real pleasure to have her at our show and display some of the New Zealand talent.

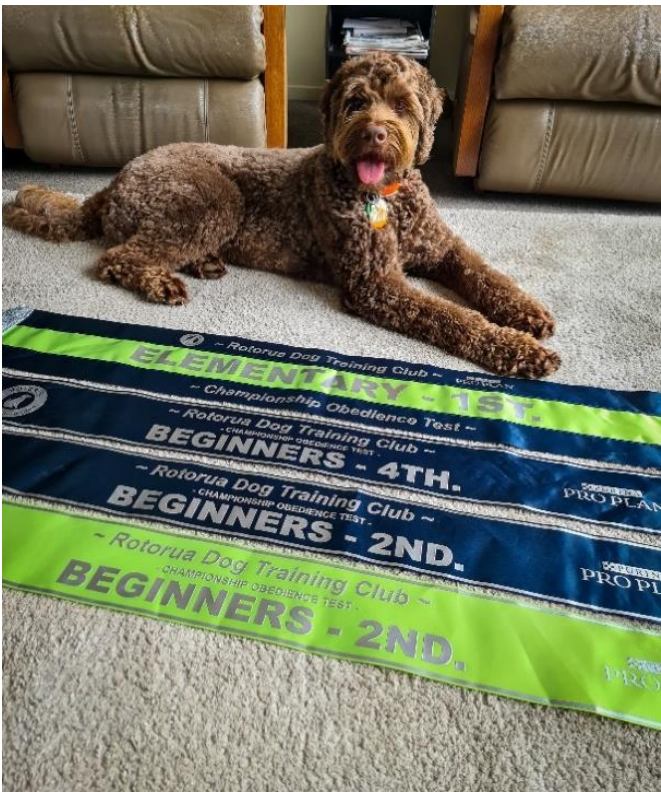
Peter came out and served some amazing lunches for the judges which went down a treat, wraps and hot soup on the Saturday to warm everyone up, followed by some delicious deserts served over the weekend. A big thanks to those who made a dish. Nachos and Salad on the second day and homemade rolls on the last day which were a great travel snack for those heading home.

This weekend showed some real perseverance from competitors and showed how adaptable the dogs are working in new different environments with new challenges.

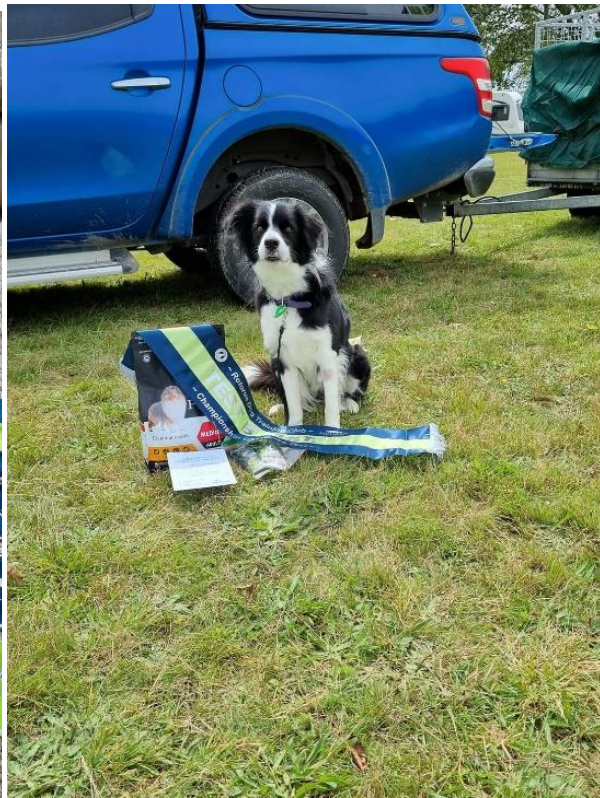
Jo was a great show manager and kept the ship afloat over the weekend even though her style of ring usually includes some jumps and a tunnel here and there.

We have a lovely competitive obedience class through the Rotorua club with our Trainer, Terri. They are such a supportive bunch, focusing on precise obedience skills, working together as a team with your dog building connection, communication, and trust. Having lots of fun putting the training to the test getting some cool ribbons to show all that hard work and meeting some really cool likeminded people.

Big thanks to your show sponsor Purina Pro Plan not only for the amazing prizes but also for our lovely makeshift red carpet style runway made from the cardboard boxes.



Rollo



Palladium Being Royal



Dawn and Peppia standing in the middle of the line-up.

From: Steffi and the SpiritDogs

Training with toys instead of food.

The easiest and most accessible reinforcer is **food**.

First things first:

Food is a **primary reinforcer**. This means it has innate reinforcing qualities. We do not need to teach our dogs to eat and to enjoy eating. From the day they come to us, they find food rewarding.

(By the way, this does not mean they can automatically take food in any situation. If they are stressed, scared, in pain, very excited, etc., they may refuse food.)

Toys, on the other hand, are **secondary reinforcers**.

We need to teach our dogs how to play with and enjoy certain toys (i.e., how to catch a frisbee). Secondary reinforcers can be just as powerful as primary reinforcers (money is a very powerful secondary reinforcer for humans).

BUT: They need a certain "education period" first. For example, a baby doesn't care for money in the least!

Lick Mats

If you're not already utilizing lick mats, you should absolutely try them out as part of your dog's routine.

The repetitive motion and sensory feedback from licking is very relaxing for your dog and it will help them in multiple ways:

- **Over-aroused dogs** that are highly stimulated by everything in the environment can calm down by focussing on their lick mat (also for example at group classes! I show this in the video below)
- **Reactive and anxious dogs** can relax with their lick mats after a threshold experience
- **Dogs that are over-excited at certain times** of the day (such as before a walk) can calm down and wait patiently by licking

And the best thing about lick mats?

They are **affordable** and **reusable** - you can even use your dog's regular food on them (if you feed kibble, simply soak it and spread it).

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.

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