

# Rotorua Dog Training Club

DEC/JAN  
2021/2022



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

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Committee news
- About Canine Good Citizen
- Do dogs get board with easy training?

### Dates to Diary

- Term 1 enrolments open 9<sup>th</sup> January
- 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Jan- Obedience show at Rerewhakaaitu. Come and watch. All welcome



Dear Members,

here is a quick update on what has been happening.

Unfortunately our Fun Day in November was cancelled due to rain but will be rescheduled later in summer.

At the end of November, all trainers were invited to attend a course on Reactive Dogs to improve our knowledge and skills. This was an excellent course and was attended by 15 people.

The committee continues to meet monthly and some of the issues discussed in these last two months have included –

\* Security – we have had three incidences of willful damage to the building and lights. It becomes expensive and is a waste of club money as most damage costs under the insurance excess amount. It may be that we have to install security cameras.

**Can you help? The club requires 8 metal covers to be made to protect the electrical boxes with controls for our large park lights. Please ring me if you have the skills to make these and are happy to help the club out - 021 926 937.**

\*The application for funding for the covered training area was unsuccessful. Further applications will be made in the new year.

\* New FB page where members are able to contribute was established.

\*Planning for training classes for Term 1. Survey sent out for feedback on classes was generally positive with some good comments made which will assist trainers.

\*Sub committees for the Obedience show and Rally-O trial continue their planning.

\* Covid management plans for classes. The club will require all attendees to have a Vaccination Pass available for Term 1 classes. Some trainers will be using the Pass Verifier App and others will sight the pass. Scanning the QR code, maintaining distance and staying home if sick, will all continue.

\*All the other usual activities of the committee to ensure the club functions.

On behalf of the committee, we wish you, your family and your wonderful dogs, a safe and happy festive season.

Kim Poynter,  
Editor and President

*Photo insert: Ricco the Reindeer getting ready for Christmas.*

## Lets take a look at Canine Good Citizen.....

CGC is all about “Creating well-mannered dogs and encouraging responsible owners” and the purpose of the programme is to ensure that your favourite companion, the dog, can be a respected member of the community because it is trained and conditioned to act with good manners in the home, public places and in the presence of other dogs and animals.

It is a programme of 36 exercises over 4 levels – Foundation (12 exercises), Bronze (7 exercises), Silver (8 exercises), Gold (9 exercises) – that tests dogs in simulated everyday situations.

Dogs New Zealand (DNZ) has fully endorsed CGC and rewards dogs with the issue of a DNZ qualifying certificate.

Only dogs over the age of 12 months can sit the assessments but training can start at any age. Dogs can sit a maximum of 2 consecutive levels at any assessment but must pass the previous level before sitting the next level.

It is recommended that handlers and dogs attend a CG Basic class before going into a CGC Class.

CGC is all about creating a lasting bond with your dog and enjoying the process.

## Tracking Class

We hope to be offering the very popular “Tracking for Fun” course in Term one taken by Sue and Kimberlea. This course covers the basics of how to lay and run a track with your dog. All breeds are welcome however as we are using “live” finds your dog must be very good with people. You will need a harness and a long lead 3-5m for this class and plenty of treats your dog loves.

The course will run for 6 weeks and the last night will be a night track for extra fun. Look forward to seeing everyone... Look out on the club web site when enrolments for Term 1 open on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

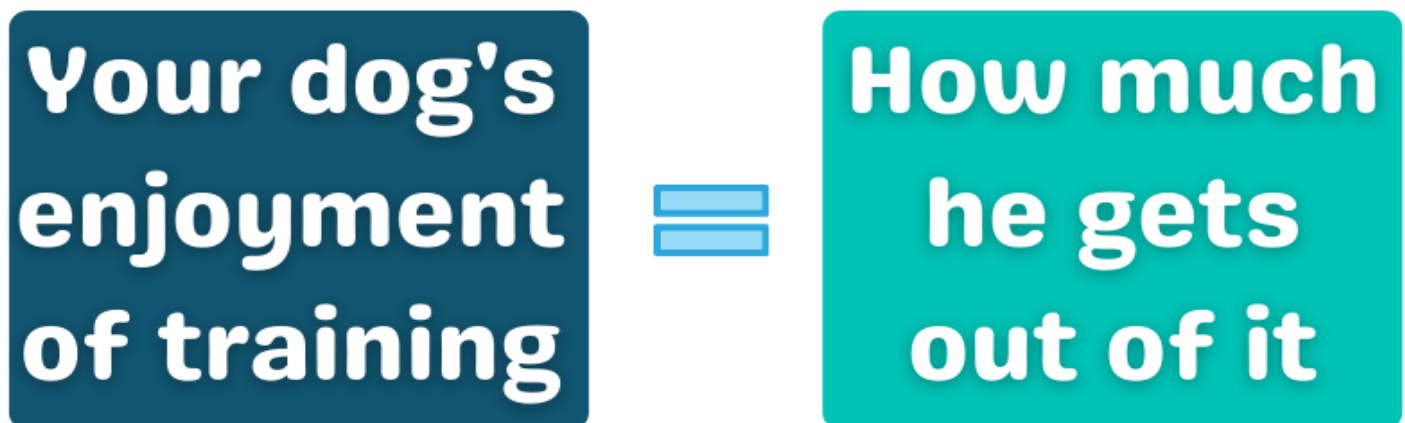




I often hear dog owners state that their dogs do not enjoy basic training and get bored with working on the "same old, same old" behaviors. This usually includes obedience skills like Sit, Down, Heel ...

On the other hands, these dogs often excel at working on "more complicated" skills like tricks or nosework or agility.

Why is this - and do dogs *really* get bored with some training objectives but not others?



Of course, how much your dog enjoys training depends on how much he gets out of it.

This positive outcome could be:

- toy play
- treats
- feeling "proud"/happy to get it right
- breed-specific instinct-based rewards (such as being allowed to herd for a herding dog, or being allowed to bite for an IPO dog)
- ...

Do not underestimate the power of the dog's pride/happiness when he is doing well.

If you are doing a good job training, you should know exactly what I am talking about:

The look of utter joy and happiness, tongue rolling out, eyes sparkling, every ounce of the dog eager to hear what comes next.



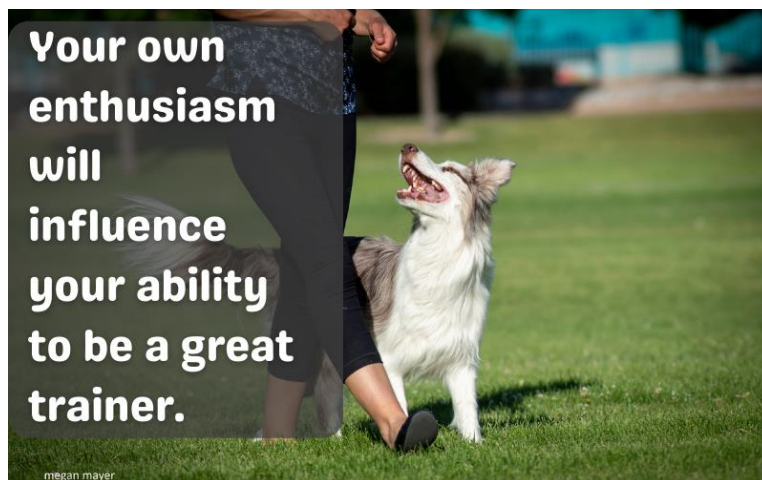
When owners are teaching their dog a skill that they find exciting themselves, they will be a lot more motivated and enthusiastic.

Over the years, I have taught a lot of different in-person classes (in addition to the online training). I have never seen an owner who was *not* motivated and excited in their first:

- agility class
- tricks class
- thinking games class

This is new and thrilling for owner and dog! The owners are so proud of their dogs for mastering even the very first exercise, and get out their phones to take pictures and videos.

I don't recall anyone ever taking a picture or video of their dog learning to not jump up or get into heel position.



If you cannot convince your dog that his heeling or Sit Stay is as awesome and phenomenal as his first agility course, well then why should he believe it?

You see what I am getting at here - dogs are not deflated and bored when we give them a task that's basic or too easy.

Dogs are deflated and bored when our own focus, timing & rate of reinforcement goes down. We are the ones who make training fun (or not). It's not the task, it's the trainer.

**It's not the difficulty of the task that determines how much the learner likes it. It's the outcome.**



If the outcome of practicing a Sit Stay is being reprimanded and the outcome of learning a new trick is a lot of praise and treats, then yes of course your dog will enjoy learning a new trick more.

I understand that as the human half of the team we do like teaching certain skills more than others. But if you want your dog to enjoy training *any* skill ...

**You just have to fake it till you make it.**

I promise that if you can teach a Sit Stay with the same enthusiasm that you go to your dog's first agility lesson with, your dog is gonna love that Sit Stay.

It's not our dogs who get bored - it's us. Let's make training any skill a party for our pups!

Today I wish you that you can always be an enthusiastic and rewarding trainer, regardless of what you're teaching!

Have a great day,

Steffi and the SpiritDogs



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A collection of black silhouettes of various animals. At the top left is a bird in flight. Below it is a dog sitting. To the right of the dog is a rabbit sitting. At the bottom right is a lizard.

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.

PRESIDENT: Kim Poynter 021 926 937  
VICE: Ann McSweeney 0272846128  
SECRETARY: Louise Sandford 0274154572  
TREASURER: Peter Franz 0211109304

COMMITTEE: Jamie Savage, Sue Williams, Jo Klein, Dawn Williams(Training Co-Ordinator), Julie Cowell, Wendy Statham.

**SCHEDULE OF FEES**

Obedience and Agility Introductory Classes - \$100 (this includes free membership for the balance of the current financial year and does not apply to the agility only beginner obedience classes)

Membership renewal: \$70.00

Family Membership: \$95.00

Fees for all financial members attending classes each term is \$25.00

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.rotorudogobedience.org.nz](http://www.rotorudogobedience.org.nz)

Email for training:  
[rotorudogtraining@gmail.com](mailto:rotorudogtraining@gmail.com)

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