

# Rotorua Dog Training Club



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

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**Thank you to those who have Paid the 2021-22 year membership subs. 👍**

**Subs were due on 1<sup>st</sup> April. We would love you to continue being a financial member,** supporting the club and accessing training and/or competing opportunities.

Only \$70 individual membership  
\$95 family membership  
Please pay the membership subscription fees into the RDOC club account 38-9017-0289569-00 and include your name and "subs" as reference.

Members are able to enrol in one or more classes with most classes only costing \$25 for 8 weeks - which is huge value.

Those who joined in Term 1 or 2 do not need to renew their membership.

Dear Members,

The recent AGM had a new committee appointed with a mix of experienced and new committee members.

Thank you to those who were able to attend and a HUGE thanks to all those willing to volunteer for the club, be it as a trainer, helper or committee member.

The club also discussed the proposal to change the name, replacing the word 'Obedience' with 'Training' to better reflect the clubs function and objective. This was passed and we are now officially the Rotorua Dog Training club. Check out the last page for the names of the committee and office holders. Each newsletter we will provide a brief on each person so you know who is steering the club on your behalf.

The club hosted the recent Agility Ribbon Trial at Bennets Road. This was a successful event enjoyed by many. Thanks to all those who assisted in some way.

What has the committee been up to this last month or two?

- Building improvements to allow better utilisation.

- Trainers meetings to be set up
- Health and Safety plan to be reviewed
- Standardisation of information to Week 1 CG Basic class.
- Name change of club and subsequent action plan.
- AGM and new committee first meeting
- Working to develop a plan of goals and aspirations to enhance the club for the benefit of members. We will keep you updated on this and be asking for member input via a survey at some stage.
- Identifying the need for some process documents i.e. complaints policy, dangerous dogs, trainer application for club funding to attend external courses, etc
- All the usual business that a committee must attend to.
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**Tradesmen, engineers, quantity surveyors – we would love to chat to you to assist us in exploring opportunities to upgrade our club rooms. If you have any of those skills, we would love to talk to you please. Please phone Kim on 021 926 937**

# AGILITY – How to Get Started

Contributed by Wendy Statham

Agility is a FUN sport to play with your dog, it builds a fantastic working relationship with your dog, improves your bond and lifts fitness levels.

Any dog can do agility, from Chihuahuas to Dobermans and everything in-between. The best way to get involved is to join a local club, RDOC has a pre-foundation agility class for dogs under 12 months or who need to build basic skills, and then a foundation class which takes dogs up to being able to run a short course.

Agility courses comprise jumps, tunnels, weaves and ‘contact gear’ such as a dog walk, a-frame and seesaw.

How can you practice this at home? Surely buying all that equipment is costly? Not at all! My first agility dog learnt to weave with garden canes stuck in the ground, his jumps were sticks balanced on buckets and flower pots. His first tunnel was a cardboard box that he learned to run through and his first contact gear was a plank on the ground. He learned to jump through a hoop when I borrowed one of my partners mountain bike tyres. Be inventive and see what you can make from equipment you have lying around.

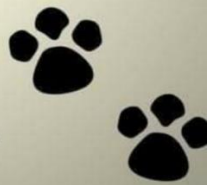
How early can you start agility and what skills are essential to get started? Dogs shouldn’t do too much jumping before they are 12 months old, however there are LOTS of things you can do to get your dog ready to start agility, and skills that your dog can learn before they start officially learning to do agility:

- A good wait is essential, teach your dog to wait and then run to you and reward with a toy or treats, or wait before they go through doors/have their dinner
- Play games with your dog and teach them tricks such as a hand touch, spin left or right, run around an obstacle.
- Build your dogs confidence by playing games in lots of different places.
- Teach your dog to be calm on a bed, then take that bed to different places and see if they can still be calm.



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

— Orhan Pamuk, My Name is Red



Wendy Statham – my love of dogs started when I was very young despite my parents not allowing me to have one of my own. I used to walk my grandma’s jack russell terrier whenever I could. Fast forward to 2008 and I moved to NZ (Wellington) from the UK; it took me a few years but finally I was settled enough to adopt my own terrier cross, Harry, and my dog training journey started. In 2019 my partner and I moved to Rotorua; we now have 4 very individual rescue dogs, two of these currently compete in agility. My passion is to help everyone to have fun with their dogs, and I currently lead the foundation agility class, where the aim is to have fun with your dog, and maybe learn some agility on the way!

Wendy is one of the club committee members voted on at the recent AGM and has a background in accountancy and risk management.



Figure 1 Dawn Williams

I am an Optometrist, originally from Wales. I emigrated to New Zealand with my partner in 2006, following my love for travel, nature and the great outdoors.

I first joined the Club in 2007 when I 'borrowed' my friend's border collie, Jazz. She had done some agility with her owner so I was playing catch up!! At the same time I began volunteering half a day per week at Rotorua SPCA, cleaning the dog areas and walking/spending time with the dogs. Over the years I have fostered many beautiful puppies and adult dogs.

A dog came into our life in 2008 unplanned! We named him Blacky. After showing him how to play (and how not to bite me when he got excited!), he loved to work with me and we became best friends. We did some elementary obedience and competed in Paws n Music, but we especially loved Agility.

Blacky passed away in 2011. Two years later a very thin little puppy quietly climbed onto my lap at the Shelter one day. We decided to adopt her and named her Peppa. Peppa is now 8, but still very much our baby girl, and she still loves to learn new things. We have competed in both Agility and Obedience. More recently, we are enjoying Scentwork and Tracking.

I have been a Committee member for nearly 10 years. I was a foundation and senior agility instructor from 2015 to 2019, and have also been involved in CGBasic instructing. I have been Show Manager for two Rotorua Agility Ribbon Trials.

I am currently Club Training Coordinator and a CGBasic assessor.



Figure 2 Kim Poynter

My skill set is predominantly governance and business with a strong interest in education. I have had dogs all my life and my young dog Ricco and I are enjoying the journey of being part of the club.

My background as a Registered Nurse was in Neonatal ICU then into Aged Care, owning and operating a number of facilities around NZ as Managing Director. Along side that, as a consultant and advisor to both the private and public health sector it kept me busy for 28 years. Quality management, auditing and education was my particular interest to improve the outcomes for those we cared for and their families.

As a founding member of the Rotorua honey bee club, I have completed the role of President for 11 years and enjoy teaching and supporting members. I have served on 3 National Boards in the apiculture industry for a number of years and been part of a small team arranging national conferences for up to 1500 delegates. My national board involvements have just finished, allowing me time and energy to devote to the Rotorua Dog Training Club.

I am enjoying my role as instructor for CG Basic, as a CGBasic assessor and now as President for the club.

My hobbies include beekeeping, our dogs, growing our own food and assisting the community in a number of ways.

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 Obedience Club'**

And take a look around our website

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

Email for training:

rotoruadogtraining@gmail.com



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