

Rotorua Dog Training Club

Oct/Nov
2021



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

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Dates to Diary

14th November- Club Fun Day 10am-2pm



27th Nov – Train the trainers education

12th Dec – Fun Nosework trial fundraiser for Vada's contact Sue Williams

22nd-24th Jan- Obedience show at Rerewhakaaitu

Dear Members,

The committee missed a face to face meeting in September due to Covid restrictions however progress has continued.

- *Quotes received for building a covered area for training. Application for funding made.
- * Inside the club the photos and signs have been removed and walls washed in preparation for painting and new curtains.
- * Photos will be scanned so that they can potentially be added to the web site to show our heritage.
- * Exterior of the building and roof have been professionally cleaned.
- * Dog beds/stations purchased for CG Basic classes.
- * Planning and meetings by two sub-committees for the Obedience and Rally-O (26th and 27th March) shows next year to be hosted by the club.
- * Another train the trainers education day, this time on reactive dogs has been planned.
- *Fun Day planning for 14th November with demonstrations, have a go opportunities, games and a Sausage Sizzle. Everyone will be invited to join in the fun and games or just watch.
- *All the other usual activities of the committee to ensure the club functions.

Wishing you fun dog times,

Kim,

Editor and President

CLUB FUN DAY – ALL WELCOME!
14 November 10am – 2pm

Scentwork – find that food!

Have a go at

Handy dog course

Rally – O

Agility

Bobbing for sausages (dogs only!)
Sausage Sizzle

Lets take a look at OBEDIENCE.....

Scent Work Classes.

*Does your dog dream of being an airport detector dog
or a police dog finding the contraband?*

Does your dog need a new hobby?

Canine Scent work is an exciting new sport for dog lovers. It is based on MPI detector dog search work with dogs being taught to identify and find odours in a fun way in several “real life” situations. Sue Williams has been running classes at Rotorua Dog training club since 2019.

Dogs are taught to identify a specific odour, in this case Cedarwood, (as per DogsNZ rules for Scent Work classes) and fun searches are set up for the dogs to find articles containing the selected odour. The DogsNZ test days are run in 4 parts, container searches (indoor and outdoor), indoor room searches, outdoor area searches and vehicles searches. The searches are timed and the fastest correct search wins the trial. Dogs must indicate where the odour has been hidden and the handler calls the “alert” to notify the judge that the odour has been found. Rules can be found on the DogsNZ website under the Scent work button in the search bar.

Classes are held at the club most terms and while no previous experience is necessary dogs need to have done some good basic work before starting, they must like food and want to work to get it, and be good around other dogs and people.

Come and try these fun Nosework detector dog classes and find the hidden inner detector dog in your pooch. The courses will concentrate on the wonderful world of dog scent discrimination with “detector dog” type exercises and “real life” scenarios.



INTRODUCING MORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.....

Committee member Sue Williams -

I have been involved with training dogs since 1969 when, as a child handler, I started at my local dog obedience club with the family pet German Shepherd and this led me to a lifetime of dog related sports and activities. Initially my focus was on obedience and after many places in all levels of competition, it became obvious to me that the old style training wasn't right so in 1990 I went back to University to learn about dog behaviour and specialist training, qualifying in 1993. I was a "crossover" trainer and saw the huge changes in dog training from the old style "aversion only" training to "praise and correction" training and then onto "positive only" training. I have always been active in clubs both as a trainer and a committee person and also did private behavioural consultations.

In 1988 while living in Orewa, I started Hibiscus Coast dog training club with 2 friends to meet the local need for dog training and spent many years there in all club roles, the club is now one of the most successful clubs in NZ.

I became an obedience Judge as well as a competitor, had a brief involvement with agility, then sled racing and heelwork to music with my malamute, then into trials training involving tracking with Stella, my NZ heading dog. I achieved CDX, UDX, WDX and TD tracking titles and went on to represent Zone 2 at the 2005 National Dog Training Assembly as the senior tracking dog in the team that won the coveted Sarelle Cup that year.

A long involvement in taking classes at all levels has seen me gain a wealth of experience with dogs and owners alike, I have been overseas to attend several APDTA seminars taken by greats such as Ian Dunbar/Pat Miller/Anna Lil Kavam, Steve White and many others. Steve White being the head of NYPD dog scent work and a specialist on tracking and canine detector nosework. This led me to starting up Nosework classes under the Noseworx brand as fun hobby classes for pet people.

My other passion is gun dog training and I am currently the secretary of the Rotorua Gun Dog Club and have trialled my spaniels and now my Labrador Macy in retriever trials.

I believe training should be fun and easy for both dog and handler. Currently I am on 2 DogsNZ Judges panels, am a life member of 2 DogsNZ clubs and a member of the Association of Professional Dog Trainers NZ, and the Dog Trainers Association of NZ.



Heads Up.....
Fun Tracking class coming in Term One!!

Committee Member, Julie Cowell –

My name is Julie Cowell and I am a committee member with the Rotorua Dog Training Club. I have served on the committee for a number of years, filled in as Secretary for 18 months and am a Life Member of the club. I am retired but spent most of my working career in the Accounting field. I have been an instructor at the club for approximately 10 years.

I have been around dogs all my life. There was already a dog in my household before I was born and in my young days always had a dog with me even if they weren't mine!! My mother kept telling me to take them back to where I found them, but I insisted that "they just followed me home".

I took my first dog to training in 1975 which was a Cocker Spaniel called Suzie. I put her through basic training and after she died I was very keen to get another dog. I fell in love with the Rottweiler breed and got my first Rottweiler in 1988. I decided that this was the breed for me and kept on getting them, I am now on my 6th Rottweiler. I have put 4 of them through training with Rotorua Dog Training Club doing basic and also a bit of Competition Obedience and Rally-O with two of them. One Rottweiler (Penny) got to Novice in both competition Obedience and Rally-O, she also did a stint in Agility, her favourite being the tunnels and jumps.

I discovered CGC (Canine Good Citizen) which I thought would be great for my English Pointer who I had tried Agility with but without any success. She did get her CGC Foundation at the ripe old age of 14 years and was also a Pet Therapy dog with Canine Friends for 4 years. My previous Rottweiler (Penny) achieved CGC Gold (which I was very proud of).

I have always been interested in dog training and while doing basic training with Penny my instructor asked if I would be interested in being an instructor for the club. I jumped at the opportunity and ended up doing Level one instruction and never looked back.

While I had Penny I decided that she needed a companion and had assessed a Greyhound for Canine Friends (Pet therapy dogs). I was very impressed with the temperament of the breed and decided to get one to take on the job of Canine Friends and starting visiting Rest Homes with both him and Penny. Sunny spent seven years being a Canine Friend and Penny eight years.

I now have another Greyhound and an almost two year old Rottweiler who both will become Pet Therapy dogs. I am also keen to have another CGC Gold Rottweiler to prove that in the right environment they make great family pets. She is also very keen on Noseworks and tracking, the story continues.....



Figure 2 Penny & Sunny



Figure 3 Cindy

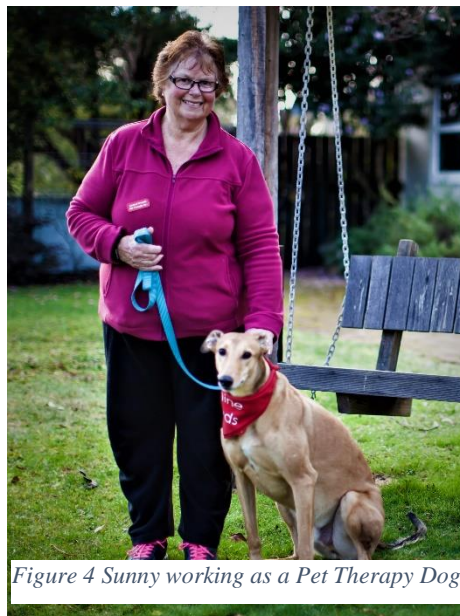


Figure 4 Sunny working as a Pet Therapy Dog



Figure 5 Amber



Figure 1 George

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Hi there,

Did you know that the most likely time a behavior falls apart is *after* we see first successes in training?

When we *think* our dog is catching on and *think* we can further advance a skill - and suddenly he is failing again!

The reason for this is not that your dog is stubborn or dumb - it is that you as the trainer probably were too greedy.

I will use Stays as an example, because they are a behavior with such an obvious progression (we can advance duration, we can advance distance, and we can add distractions).

But what I am about to tell you applies to any behaviors that you want to advance - whether we are looking at recalls or skills in agility or even counterconditioning practices near triggers.

A dog owner, let's call her Anna, is teaching her dog to stay. Her dog Fido caught onto the behavior and, for the first time, stayed for 10 seconds while she stepped 3 feet away from him.

I can guarantee that if Anna is an inexperienced trainer, the next thing she'll think is:

**Let's try 20 seconds
with me moving 10
feet away!**



Ahh, Anna. That's being a greedy (and ineffective!) trainer.

Instead of repeating what worked, and rewarding it to further ingrain the new skill, she wants to go faster and further. This is never a good idea! What I see way too often is that owners are teaching their dogs a new behavior, and once the dog got it right once or twice, they assume it's like ticking a checkbox - the dog can now do it, ok let's move on to the next step.

This totally ignores the amount of effort your dog has to make to get it right in the first place!

When they now advance the skill, it falls apart - because they are asking their dog for way too much. That's what greedy trainers do.

If the dog already gave 100% for the 10 second, 3 feet Sit Stay - then how could he possibly be able to do the 20 second, 10 feet Stay?

**The first few sessions of
working on a new behavior,
your dog likely gives close to
100% effort to succeed.**

10 second, 3 feet Sit Stay

**100%
effort!**



Only after your dog has repeated it for a while (this can mean multiple sessions), he will "get comfortable" in the new skill and not use all of his mental (or physical, in the case of a dog sport) capacities anymore:

After a few sessions, your dog becomes more "seasoned" at the behavior, and needs less effort to get it right.

10 second, 3 feet Sit Stay

70%
effort



And this is the right time to advance a skill! When your dog has capacities to add more difficulty (duration, distance, distractions or in case of reactivity - intensity of triggers).

Sometimes these concepts are hard to empathize with, because for us as humans (we know what "Stay" means) there seems to be little difference between a 10 second Stay and a 20 second Stay.

20 second Stay should be easy: It's the same as two 10 second Stays, right?

So let's use a metaphor that will feel more relatable.

You know what your dog can probably do really well? Run.

Unless you have a very geriatric dog or one that is currently injured, I would bet that everyone who reads this has a dog that can run much faster and further than them.

We'll turn the tables and assume that you are the one being taught how to run.

You hire a personal trainer, and start a couch to 5k program. It's hard at first! After a few weeks, you finally run 20 minutes without pauses.

You are exhausted, you thought about giving up as you were running but didn't! You are really proud that you made it. Time to feel good about yourself and sit back, right?

But your trainer says:



Ok good. And now you will run **40 minutes**. It's easy! Same as 20 minutes, you just do it 2 times.

Do you go "What the heck?!?!"

Because you just gave 100%, right? It was all you got. You are tired. And there is no way you can further advance right now.

You already performed a new skill at the peak of your ability.

If your trainer pushes you further, he:

- is greedy and not very knowledgeable
- will make you fail!

Do you see the connection to trying to advance new skills for your dog as soon as he gets them right the first time?

The right moment to advance skills is when your dog no longer needs 100% of his brain/physical power to perform them.

Then, and only then, does he have the capacities to learn the next steps!

Today I wish that you can always recognize the effort your dog is giving you, and not fall into the trap of being a greedy trainer!

Steffi and the SpiritDogs





If you are sick or have
symptoms, stay home

Unite
against
COVID-19

[New Zealand Government](#)

**Be Aware and observe safe
Distances at training classes.**



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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.rotoruvadogobedience.org.nz

Email for training:

rotoruvadogtraining@gmail.com

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