



FEATURES

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FOUNDING STATEMENT

The aim of the APDTNZ is to give credibility to affiliated members and confidence to the public for all dog related issues by encouraging and supporting the continuing education of members.



APDTNZ K9 Nose Work Conference presenter: Jill Marie O'Brien

Co-Founder National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC® and K9 Nose Work®

WHAT IS K9 NOSE WORK?

K9 Nose Work is the specific term used to describe the canine scent detection activity developed to give companion dogs and their people an easy way to learn and apply scent detection skills for fun and enrichment.

In K9 Nose Work, dogs learn how to search for a specific (aka target) odor or odors. However, this is not required, as dogs will enjoy the game at any level that suits the individual needs of the dog and goals of their human counterparts.

K9 Nose Work is an activity that uses real--world environments and can be done almost anywhere dogs are permitted. Every search has the potential to be a dramatically different and a highly stimulating experience for both dog and handler just by changing hide placement, time of day or searching under different weather conditions. The game is very easy for any person to do with their dog. Simple changes to the environment become interesting puzzles for the dog and a great way for busy companion dog owners to meet their dog's physical, mental & emotional

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The APDTNZ 'Nose' Issue
Conference 2014 Information
Registrations Open Now!

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needs.

Some of the many benefits of K9 Nose Work are:

- Dogs easily burn mental & physical energy
- Dogs engage their natural ability with limited human control to develop independence and confidence
- Searches can be done anywhere you can take your dog
- No prior training is required and no obedience is needed; creates greater accessibility to more dogs and people
- Dogs work one at a time without the presence of other dogs. This has made it possible for socially challenged dogs to enjoy the activity when unable to participate in other types of class activities
- Shy or fearful dogs build confidence and overactive dogs put their energy into productive search activities (they use their nose regardless, this gives them a safe environment to do so)
- Stronger bonds between dog & handler develops as handlers learn to observe, understand, and trust their dog; and in return the dog learns to trust their person

In the activity as well as the sport, K9 Nose Work introduces dogs to four different search elements: containers, interiors, exteriors, and vehicles. Later stages of K9 Nose Work introduce advanced detection and handling skills to teams. Dogs are exposed to a myriad of complex search scenarios, while continuing to condition their foundational skills. Handlers sharpen their observation skills and learn when and how to take action during a search to support their dog's independent success.

THE TRAINING METHODOLOGY

Any dog can find success at K9 Nose Work no previous training is required. The training methodology is designed to reach the greatest number of dogs tapping into their natural hunting instinct (in a controlled and safe way), developing independent problem-solving skills, and building broad and solid foundational scent detection skills that will enable them to successfully face new and greater challenges in K9 Nose Work, and beyond.

All K9 Nose Work dogs begin the game by searching for a primary reinforcer/reward (toy or food). The K9NW environment is designed to allow the dog to investigate and explore without handler interruption or influence. Recent research is showing that voluntary actions are very reinforcing and K9NW taps into this phenomenon. The goals during the foundation stages are to develop the dog's desire to hunt, increase stamina (physical and mental), and strengthen skills for searching in many environments without the risk of failure, distraction or disinterest in the search. This is essential in giving handlers time to learn how to observe the dog and to understand the dog's natural changes of behavior that become key in building a solid working relationship between dog and handler.

The emphasis will always be on creating learning experiences for the dog and supporting his independent problem solving, not commanding him to perform a series of tasks in a predetermined manner, but free him up to connect with innate tools often suppressed by everyday life. K9 Nose Work is all about the dogs and celebrating their amazing abilities.

K9 Nose Work is designed to be a lifelong activity with endless possibilities for fun and learning. We use structured learning opportunities to build for the teams' skills that are valuable in the search environment and in real-life/everyday experiences.

Learning Objective:

- Building handler observation skills
- Understanding the importance of boxes (context for starting game)
- Why we start the dog on primary and don't jump right to odor
- How to move the search beyond the box
- Searching the elements: containers, interiors, exteriors, and vehicles
- To build handler observation skills



**Register early
and SAVE!**

Registrations open
from 1 March 2014 at:
www.apdtnz.org.nz

Early Bird registration for 3 days
(before 16 April 2014)

\$350 Members
\$450 Member + Dog
\$450 Non-Members
Non-Member + Dog, Not Available

Full Rates for 3 days
(after 16 April 2014)

\$425 Members
\$525 Member + Dog
\$525 Non-Members
\$625 Non-Member + Dog

Accommodation at the Conference

You will be responsible for booking your own accommodation, the following is a list of motels close the Silverstream Retreat that will have accommodation available. Please do not leave organising your accommodation until last as the APDTNZ cannot guarantee availability. Let the owners of the accommodation know if you are bringing a dog.

Silverstream Retreat (dogs allowed but limited accommodation available unless sharing)
04 5629080

Trentham Motel on the Park (dogs allowed in the car)
04 5288635

Harcourt Holiday Park (allowed in the car possibly in unit in a crate)
04 5267400

Hawks Inn Motel (dogs possibly allowed in the rooms provided they are in crates)
04 5286130 or 0800 500838

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- Leash connects behind the head, instead of under the chin, so:
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Further information available from Marg Marshall,
quin.turoa@xtra.co.nz

My daughter in law has this to say about her Boxer cross's NewTrix™ head halter: "Tui is so much more relaxed and easy to walk now. She loves her NewTrix™ collar and so do we."



See them at the 2014 Conference

Association of Pet Dog Trainers NZ



Local Talent Development

In recent times the APDTNZ Membership has discussed the idea of fostering local 'talent' as possible speakers for future conferences. The APDTNZ Committee has come up with the following format which has been tried in Australia with success.

The Committee would like to implement the following format for the 2014 conference:

- Members and non-members are asked to submit an abstract of no more than 1 A4.
- The Conference Committee decides which abstracts will be allowed to take the stage.
- Abstracts need to be in line with the APDTNZ Code of Ethics.
- Chosen presenters get 10-12 minutes to speak and 3-5 minutes for questions.

There will be no remuneration for speaking. Topic ideas: Case Studies, Bach Flowers, Kids and Dogs, Bite Prevention etc.

Deadline for abstract submission 1st May 2014.

Please send your abstracts to:
education@apdtnz.org.nz

The APDTNZ Newsletter is now available in hard copy. If you would like to receive the next newsletter by post please let Tracy our membership co-ordinator know by sending an e-mail to:
membership@apdt.org.nz

APDTNZ - Books & DVDs & Thunder-shirts for sale		Original price	Discount	Freight	Total mail out cost
When Pigs Fly - Training Success with Impossible Dogs	Killion	25.35		6.00	31.35
Animals at Play	Bekoff	25.35		6.00	31.35
Click A Trick Cards & Clicker	Pryor	15.50		6.00	21.50
Learning Games	Laurence	45.00		6.00	51.00
Reactive Rover	Moeller	70.00	10%	6.00	69.00
A Trainers Guide - Teaching Reactive Rover Classes	Moeller	90.00	10%	6.00	87.00
An Owners Guide to On Leash Dog Aggression	Moeller	45.00	10%	6.00	46.50
Thinking Like A Dog	Penn Vet	50.50	20%	6.00	46.40
APDTNZ Black Vest	M	35.00		6.00	41.00
APDTNZ Black Vest	L	35.00		6.00	41.00
APDTNZ Black Vest	2XL	35.00		6.00	41.00
Thundershirt	XL	59.00	20%	6.00	53.20
Thundershirt	M	59.00	20%	6.00	53.20
Thundershirt	S	59.00	20%	6.00	53.20
Thundershirt	XS	59.00	20%	6.00	53.20
Thundershirt	XXS	59.00	20%	6.00	53.20

Grab a BARGAIN! We have stock left from the last conference and would like to shift it, buy now, some with generous discounts before it is all gone!
 Contact treasurer@apdtnz.org.nz to secure your items.



ASSOCIATION OF PET DOG TRAINERS NEW ZEALAND Inc
2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE 31 May—2 June 2014
Silverstream Retreat, Lower Hutt
Nose Work® with Jill Marie O'Brien

3 days packed with information & trade show!
Mark the dates in your diary NOW!

Lunch & tea-breaks provided

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 Non-Member + Dog N/A

Full Rates for 3 days
 (after 16 April 2014)
 \$425 Members or
 \$525 Member + Dog
 \$525 Non-Members
 \$625 Non-Member + Dog

Registrations open from
 1 March 2014 at:
www.apdt.org.nz

APDTNZ introduces Nose Work to New Zealand
 Limited dog and handler places available!

Conference Topics Include:

- Introduction to K9 Nose Work
- Canine Olfaction as applied to K9 Nose Work
- K9 Nose Work's as enrichment for rehabilitation programs
- Transition to out of boxes and novel containers
- Behavioural benefits of K9 Nose Work
- Leash Handling and handler skills
- On-going skill building
- K9 Nose Work Shelter Project
- Vehicles and Exteriors
- Introduction to Odour



LIBRARY BORROWING RULES

- Only Financial Members of APDTNZ may borrow from the APDTNZ library.
- There is no borrowing fee but to cover postage and packaging within New Zealand there is a charge of \$8.00 or \$13.00, depending on size, this includes the cost for returning the books. The Librarian will advise you which charge applies to your choice of books. This charge is payable with your request. Should any item be damaged or lost, the member will be required to pay replacement costs.
- Only 2 books or a total of 4 disks may be borrowed at a time with a maximum borrowing time of **one month**.
- There is a late fee of \$5 per week per item for overdue items. Please include the fee when you return overdue items.
- Please ensure that items are returned in the courier bag provided and covered with bubble wrap. Do not use sticky tape on the bubble wrap so it can easily be re-used.
- To borrow items please contact the librarian with your request at librarian@apdt.org.nz
- When you receive confirmation that your choice of books is available, you can send a cheque, **made out to APDTNZ** to:
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37 Turoa Road,
Wanganui 4500
Or direct deposit to 03-1503-0398799-00
account name: APDTNZ Inc, please provide your name and the word "library" as a reference.
- Only when payment is received will the books be sent out.
- When ordering please identify all items by author and title, and provide the librarian with your name and full address including postcode.
- Please do not ask the librarian to make a selection for you.
- The list of items available to be borrowed is on the APDTNZ website www.apdt.org.nz or can be posted if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope to the librarian. Or it can be emailed to you. Contact librarian@apdt.org.nz
- Where appropriate, due to either the inability to replace, or the cost of replacing goods, (such as some books & videos) APDTNZ will use Express Post to post such items out to members. Loans from the library of such items will need to be returned by Express Post, as determined & advised by the Librarian.
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MAKING SCENTS

By Pat Miller

Humans have taken advantage of dogs' incredibly keen sense of smell over the ages for such uses as hunting, tracking lost and fugitive humans, and more recently, the detection of bombs, narcotics and other contraband. It's well known that a dog's nose is many times sharper than our own – estimates range from 10,000 to 100,000 times superior to ours, with a far greater number and variety of scent receptors in their noses, more neurons linking the nose to the brain, and a greater proportion of their brains devoted to smell.

We accept this without question, as we routinely utilize our dogs' sense of smell to locate tennis balls we toss into deep grass in the dark; find treats and toys we secrete around the house; ourselves, when we play hide-and-seek in the woods; select the "correct" fetch stick out of a pile of similar sticks; and in Utility Obedience, retrieve the one item out of several that has been handled by the owner. Our dogs, if they ever thought about it, would have to conclude that we humans are seriously disabled in the nose department – we couldn't even begin to come close to duplicating the feats that they accomplish even without training!

We are really only just starting to realize the nose work training possibilities. In addition to the now familiar uses for a dog's nose talent, trainers and researchers are finding increasingly diverse ways to make dog noses work for humans.

In 2002-2003, biologists in Russia trained dogs to help monitor a threatened species of tiger, the Amur Tiger, through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The research team trained two dogs, not just to track tigers in general, but to actually identify individual tigers; one to 96% accuracy, the other to 89% accuracy.

Other modern uses for dog noses include mold and termite detection; searching out desert tortoises in the U.S. (another threatened species); locating an invasive, non-native noxious weed in Montana; sniffing out the deadly brown tree snake in produce shipments from Asia; detecting cancer cells in human urine; and finding missing pets. Intrigued by the possibilities, we contacted the trainers of some of these dogs, to learn more about these innovative programs:

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Carole Schatz, CPDT, San Diego, California, is the Training Director for the Scripps Clinic Canine Detection of Cancer Study. Cancer detection is a relatively new field for scent work, still in the research phase. As could be expected, several trainers we spoke with indicated a strong interest in pursuing this field.

According to Schatz, the Scripps study will attempt to teach 12 dogs to alert to an odor signature in the urine of patients with prostate and breast cancer. One of these dogs is her own 22-month-old Goldendoodle, Josie. Josie is already a certified Assistance Dog and a registered Therapy Dog.

Kathy "Kat" Albrecht, Clovis, California, is a former police detective, search-and-rescue manager, and search dog trainer/handler-turned pet detective. She is also the founder of Pet Hunters International, the worlds first pet detective academy; and Missing Pet Partnership, a non-profit organization that provides pet-search training and conducts research into the behavioral patterns of lost pets. Albrecht began her career as a pet detective when injuries sidelined her from police work. She is also the author of "The Lost Pet Chronicles," a non-fiction book about her pet detective work.

Hal Steiner, Bozeman, Montana, is the owner of Rocky Mountain Command Dogs, a company that provides basic training services and also specializes in scent work. Steiner trains dogs for bomb, narcotics and assistance dog work, seizure alert, and now... knapweed detection. Steiner was contacted in 2003 by Kim Goodwin, a rangeland noxious weed specialist with Montana State University. She asked if he could train dogs to detect knapweed in the field, and Steiner agreed to give it a try. He selected Knapweed Nightmare, a Rocky Mountain Shepherd, a breed he developed himself, to be the test dog for the project. At completion of the training and testing, Nightmare was finding the non-native invasive plant with a 95% success rate. He has sold her to the University, which is now seeking funding to continue their knapweed detection and eradication work.

David Latimer, Vincent, Alabama, owns FSI K9 Academy. In addition to training bomb, arson, narcotics and tracking dogs, Latimer trains dogs to detect water leaks, mold and termites. He uses small to medium-sized dogs such as Beagles, Rat Terriers and Border Collies for mold and termite work. Most come from local shelters and rescue groups; some are donated.

What Kind of Dog?

According to Dr. Myers, all dogs have noses good enough to do scent work. Trainability is an important quality (just because a dog can do scent work doesn't mean he will), and for some kinds of work, size and coat length may determine suitability in addition to the dog's interest in doing the job.

Dogs selected for the Scripps study include Josie the Goldendoodle, a Border Collie mix, Corgis, a Chihuahua mix, a Boxer, a Bernese Mountain Dog, an Italian Greyhound, German Shepherds, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, and an Aussie/Cocker mix. Schatz recruited the trainers for the program several months ago, and the dogs are all personal companions of the selected trainers.

In contrast, Steiner uses a specialized breed of dog that he created specifically for scent work purposes. He developed the Rocky Mountain Shepherd over decades, from Czech border patrol stock and hybrids of the red European wolf, and uses this breed almost exclusively for his scent work, although he does occasionally rescue dogs of other breeds that might be suitable for his purposes.

Latimer prefers small to medium-sized such as Rat Terriers, Beagles and Border Collies for mold and termite work; they fit better into some of the confined spaces where their quarry is sought. Most come from local shelters and rescue groups; some are donated – they rarely purchase dogs.

"We look for dogs who have what I call a strong 'work ethic,' says Latimer. "I want a dog with a high hunt drive and a high energy level coupled with a strong desire to please their handler. In addition, we look for dogs that are non-aggressive toward people and other animals."

One of Latimer's handlers is currently working with a female Beagle mix that she found, pregnant, alongside a busy highway.

Albrecht, too, follows the eclectic approach to scent dog selection for her pet detective work.

"Dogs best suited for MAR work are fixated on one of three things: cats, treats or other dogs," she says. "For cat detection dogs we look for dogs who absolutely pine for kitties and give a physical response (tail-wiggles, butt-wag, etc.) when they detect a cat's scent. For specific scent dogs, we want dogs who will fixate their attention on a piece of hotdog and do anything for that hotdog, ignoring all distractions. For trailing dogs, we look for the "dog park" type of dog who loves to play with other dogs."

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Since Albrecht's goal is to develop a system to train a massive corps of certified MAR K9 handlers around the world, she keeps an open mind about breed possibilities, reassuring potential handlers that many breeds, including mixed breeds, can be trained in MAR work. Dogs should be at least six months old and no older than eight years to enter the MAR training program. There are some limitations, however. According to Albrecht, pug-nosed dogs (Pugs, Boxers, Pekinges, etc.), toy-sized dogs (Chihuahuas, Teacup Poodles, etc.) or giant breeds (Great Danes, Irish Wolfhounds, St. Bernards) are just not appropriate for MAR work due to their physical limitations.

Training Methods and History

While scent dogs are trained primarily with methods that focus on positive reinforcement, there is considerable variation as to how that operant principle is applied.

Cancer detection is a very recent newcomer to the canine scent detection field. Still in the experimental phase, Schatz will be participating in the first double-blind medical research study in the world in cancer detection. A medical study in England concluded in October of 2004 that sixpet dogs did successfully alert to the urine of patients with bladder cancer. Most of the dogs in the Scripps program will be trained with a clicker to alert to the banana-like scent of n-amyl acetate, which will initially mark the urine containing cancer cells. When a dog can demonstrate that he has learned the difference between "normal" urine and urine with cancer cells (scented), the n-amyl acetate is phased out, leaving the dog to distinguish between normal urine and urine with unscented cancer cells.

In between training sessions, the cancer detection dogs live normal lives, or as Schatz says, "They are all pets."

Phase 1 of the knapweed eradication program, also in experimental stages, was successfully completed and field tested in the fall of 2004, with Knapweed Nightmare proving that dogs can detect low densities of the invasive plant much more efficiently over large areas than can humans. Steiner, while still using primarily positive training methods for the scent work, takes a different approach from Schatz with his dogs. From the time Steiner's professional working dogs are born, they never "play" the way a companion dog might.

"She's not a pet; she's not played with," Steiner says of Nightmare. "We start with basic obedience training, using some corrections there if necessary.

Then using "game theory," we addict the dog to a certain type of toy, in Nightmare's case a towel or piece of plastic tubing with knapweed wrapped inside. When she's not working, she's in her pen."

Handlers praise the dog – no food rewards – when she reacts to the scented toy. Steiner then secretes the toy in progressively harder hiding places, and Nightmare finds it by following the scent. As she becomes proficient, the trainers add distractions, to teach her to stay focused on her task.

The Rocky Mountain Shepherd was also trained to indicate her finds by digging at a spot of knapweed for 10 seconds so the Global Positioning System attached to her collar could mark the location of a knapweed find.

"You don't want bomb dogs digging aggressively at a package of explosives," Steiner chuckled, "we want them to indicate finds gently. But Nightmare needed to stay in position for 10 seconds, and the easiest way to get her to do that was to encourage her to find aggressively, by digging at the spot for a bit, then moving on. Humans come check the spot later, to confirm the find."

Latimer tells us that dogs have been doing termite detection for at least 20-25 years in the U.S. Mold detection developed originally in Europe, probably some ten years ago. Latimer uses positive reinforcement, and acknowledges the importance of timing when rewarding desired behaviors. He also subscribes to what he calls "fair and just discipline" as a part of training dependable working dogs.

Among other training exercises, Latimer uses a "scent board." This is a piece of 2x4 with eight, 4-6 inch sections of PVC pipe attached vertically, secured with screws to the board. Each section of PVC is capped with a screw-on cap to conceal the contents. Each cap has 3-4 small holes drilled through the center to release the scent. The target odor – termite or mold – is placed inside one or two of the pipes, and distracting odors are placed in several of the other pipes. The dog, in order to earn a reward, must correctly identify which pipe or pipes contain the target odor. According to Latimer, anyone could use a scent board to train their dog to identify a chosen odor.

Albrecht says that the use of dogs specifically for finding lost pets goes back to the 1970's, when a Bloodhound handler in Texas used his dogs to search for missing dogs. This trainer reportedly died in the early 1980's, and while an occasional search dog may have been used for this purpose

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since then, no one has attempted to do it on a large, formal scale until the MAR program was created.

For cat detection dogs, Albrecht conceals crated, gregarious, dog-friendly cats in bushes, and rewards dogs for responding to the scent of the cat. Dogs are reinforced for giving a physical alert to the presence of the cat, then encouraged to run back to and jump on the handler, then do a “re-find” by taking the handler back to the crated cat, where they are rewarded. The reward in this case is treats plus the opportunity to play with the uncrated harnessed and leashed cat.

For the specific scent training, Albrecht uses a clicker to teach dogs to search for treats by sniffing a sterile gauze pad that contains the matching treat scent. She progresses to hiding baby food jars with various scents, and uses the gauze pad to teach “smell this smell, find this smell.”

Her dog-trailing dogs are trained using a modification of the method used to train bloodhounds to follow the scent trail of a human, substituting a scent article with scent from a “target dog” – a dog used to lay the scent trail. The reward for the dog-trailing dog is to play with the dog at the end of the trail.

Success Stories

The Cancer Detection and Knapweed Eradication programs are too new and experimental to provide any miracle success stories. We'll have to watch for future stories as these programs develop.

Latimer likes to tell about one of his handlers who was called to do a real estate purchase inspection on a lake house, and had the dog alert on an area outside the home.

“Upon investigation,” Latimer relates, “the handler found that extensive termite damage had been cosmetically concealed prior to his arrival. Apparently another company had found the termite infestation on an earlier inspection, and the homeowner tried to conceal it from the handler in order to get a termite clearance letter. The handler had no doubt that he would have cleared the house if his dog hadn't alerted.

Albrecht's favorite story included the participation of her cat, Yogi, as an impromptu pet detective. As Albrecht walked out of her house one morning, she noticed her cat sniffing a spot in the road, unusual for Yogi, who was normally terrified of the roadway.

That evening, when Albrecht's neighbor Andrea

mentioned that her cat, Rocky, was missing, she remembered Yogi's unusual behavior. Her Weimaraner, Rachel, was a retired cadaver dog, and Albrecht thought that perhaps she might enlist the dog's aid by having her look for blood in the roadway. Rachel squatted and urinated on the road – her somewhat unorthodox alert indicating that she'd found decomposing blood or tissue. Her find told Albrecht that the cat was injured, not just lost or stolen, which prompted her to suggest the owner focus her search within the cat's territory.

“Sure enough,” says Albrecht, “Andrea found Rocky under his deck, one back leg hanging by a thread, but alive. Rocky is now a happy three-legged kitty who was saved because of his curious neighbor cat and a trained search dog.”

As these programs gain momentum, and as trainers develop more new programs that use our dogs' incredible sense of smell, we will no doubt hear of more exciting ways that dogs prove their value to us even beyond their already invaluable role as beloved companions. We can't wait to hear more amazing success stories. Most exciting is the comment of many trainers, that “any dog” can do scent work. That means you and your dog can do it too! Remember, if it has a scent, a dog can be trained to find it. The possibilities are endless.

What You Can Do

Consider training your dog for scent work just for the fun of it. Give you and your dog a new job to do to keep you both out of trouble. If you find he has a knack for it, you might just end up participating in exciting new research, or saving lives as lost pet detectives.

Peaceable Paws LLC
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www.peaceablepaws.com

Pat Miller is a Certified Behavior Consultant, Canine (KA), Certified Professional Dog Trainer (KA) and past president of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (US). Miller offers group good manners classes, private training and behavior modification services, dog training workshops and trainer academies at her Peaceable Paws 80-acre training facility in Fairplay, Maryland, where she and her husband Paul live with their four dogs, three-and-a-half cats, six horses, three chickens, and a pot-bellied pig. In addition, Miller presents seminars and workshops around the world on a variety of training and behavior topics. She has authored six books on dog behavior and training: “The Power of Positive Dog Training,” “Positive Perspectives,” “Positive Perspectives 2,” “Play With Your Dog,” “Do-Over Dogs,” and “How to Foster Dogs.” Miller is training editor for The Whole Dog Journal, also writes for several other publications, and is currently on the Board of Directors for the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers. www.peaceablepaws.com

Canine Enrichment Games: Nose Work

by Terry Long, CPDT-KA

“Find it! Find it! Find it!” “Sniff, sniff, snort, sniff, sniff, snort, pant, pant, pant, sniff.”

The game

K9 nose work, or fun nose work, tests a dog's ability to use his powerful sense of smell to locate a specific smell amidst the backdrop of many others. Although handlers take their dogs to group training classes to learn the game, only one dog is worked at a time. As a result, this is an ideal sport for dogs who are shy or reactive around people or dogs. It is also ideal for people looking for a sport that is less physically demanding on their dogs and isn't populated by over-the-top, high-arousal dogs (and handlers).

At the beginning levels of training, dogs are encouraged to “find” their toy or treats in a simple cardboard box. Lavish praise, the toy, and treats reward the dog for his efforts. Later, the toy or treats are hidden in a box among other empty boxes, and the dog is rewarded for finding the box that conceals his prize possession.

Once the dog gets hooked on the game of “find it,” an essential oil such as birch, anise, or clove is added to the box, along with his toy or treat. A minuscule amount of one of these essential oils is placed on a very small cotton swab. The dog is rewarded for sniffing the container to indicate his find. This stage is called “pairing,” to describe the stage at which both the treat and the oil are placed in the box. Later, the treat is removed and the dog searches for the odor alone, and the treat or toy reward is delivered after he shows he has found the box with the odor.

As dogs learn to play the game, handlers learn how to closely observe their dogs so they know when their dog has found the scent. This “indication” behavior is an important part of the training process since handlers will use their individual dog's behavior to start rewarding their dog for “indicating” their find. Amy Herot explains why this is important. “We want the dogs to first learn to enjoy hunting without much handler intervention. Many handlers want to teach their dogs a particular way of ‘indicating’ a successful search—such as barking or a sit—very early in the game. We prefer to take ‘control’ out of the game in the early stages. This frees the dog to just play the game. Later the handler, from keen observation, can shape the dog to offer a particular behavior that demonstrates he has found the

scent. As a trainer, this is one of the most satisfying things about teaching nose work: People learn to pay very close attention to their dogs; they become masters of observation.”

The difficulty of the game increases as the scents are hidden out in the real world in bushes and stairwells and, in vehicle searches, the wheel wells of parked cars and trucks.

There are several levels of competition which are described on the National Association of Canine Scent Work's web site (see Resources).

History

The sport of canine scent work is the brainchild of three trainers with experience in training detection dogs for narcotics and explosives. Ron Gaunt was a police dog trainer for 12 years and now runs a private security firm. Amy Herot is a professional trainer and certified detection dog handler and trainer, and Jill-Marie O'Brien is also a certified detection dog handler and professional dog trainer.

Their collective experience training their own dogs, as well as professional detection dogs, convinced them that companion dogs would benefit from the mental and physical stimulation provided by using their natural sense of smell in a very directed way. (See the sidebar, “The birth of a sport.”)

The initial classes they created quickly filled. Soon, there were long waiting lists, even though additional instructors became certified and other locations added. Over the years, more and more trainers sought to become certified instructors across the U.S.

In 2009, co-founder Amy Herot said that keeping up with demand was difficult. “One of the biggest challenges for expansion is ensuring the quality of instruction and preventing the dilution of the basic concepts. It's most important to us that the sport is always fun for the dog (and the human).”

For more information about how to host a seminar or how to become a certified instructor, send an inquiry to info@k9noseworks.com.

Nose Work Dogs' Attributes

The most attractive thing about this sport is the broad array of dogs that can do it. In essence, if your dog has a nose, he can play this game! Although certified search and rescue and detection dogs have a very demanding job, fun nose work does not place the same physical demands on the

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dog or handler. Amy Herot describes the difference between fun nose work for companion dogs and police detection work:

“Fun nose work incorporates elements borrowed from skills that we work on with detection dogs without it being detection dog training. Although nose work shares similarities with detection, there is much more that goes into a detection dog. Really, odor is the easiest thing. The mental and physical ability, stamina and stability for dogs to endure long and difficult searches are a big part of detection work. These dogs must be highly driven, uninhibited and focused on their work all the time. The training is very technical, regular, requires dedication, documentation, certifications, and brings with it great liability and pressure for the handler and/or owner. Many companion dogs and even sport dogs share the basic sniffing skills of a working dog, but aren't really suited to live that life. K9 nose work allows us to tap into those skills without pressure and to provide a great outlet for the dog's natural abilities.

“We have Pugs, Whippets, Shepherds, Labs, Shih Tzus, Huskies, Dobermans, Chihuahuas, Beagles, Jack Russell Terriers, some of which are top nose work competitors. Certainly, the traditional dogs come to mind: German Shepherd Dogs, Bloodhounds, and Labradors. The skills do come naturally to most of them. Other breeds, however, just need the opportunity.”

Handler Attributes

This sport requires a human team member who enjoys the simple pleasures of seeing their dog have a good time, without all the equipment and more complex training that is required in many of the other dog sports. The most strenuous part of the sport is running behind or along with your dog as he is working a scent.

Equipment & Supplies

Rewards — Both toys and treats can be used. In the initial stages of training, dogs are encouraged to find a favorite toy or treat bag.

Target Odors — Small bottles of the target odors (essential oils), small cotton swabs, and containers into which the scented swabs are placed are all that is required. These materials can be purchased online from a variety of sources. (There is a link at www.nacsw.net.) Individual supplies are available, as well as a full kit with everything to get started.

Expenses

This is a relatively inexpensive sport.

Essential Oils —All materials are provided in the introductory classes. A student who chooses to continue training might want to purchase his/her own materials. A full kit with three essential oils and cotton swabs is only \$35.00.

Classes — Six-weeklong classes run \$95-\$150.00 depending on where you live and the structure of the class (the number of students, how often the class meets, facility fees, etc.)

Entry fees —Trial fees vary by the level of the competition (NW 1, NW2, and NW3), area of the country, and facility fees. In the U.S., average entry fees run \$75 - \$125.00. There is also a one-time NACSW membership registration of \$30.00.

Training

Introductory classes focus on building enthusiasm in dogs for finding their toy or treat bag, hidden in

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**Deadline for contributions to be
included in
Issue 20, Apr/May/June 2014
1st May 2014**

APDTNZ Advertising Policy

- APDTA will not advertise training services or courses.
- All material in the newsletter must be in line with the APDTNZ Vision and Mission Statements and the Code of Ethics
- Placement of material in the newsletter is at the discretion of the Editor and the Committee
- No paid advertising is accepted
- Members may place merchandise ads free of charge in the newsletter, but must include a discount for members
- Events may be advertised in a maximum of 5 lines
- Positioning of ads is at the discretion of the Editor and Committee
- The publication of any advertising material does not constitute the endorsement of the APDTA for the event of merchandise.

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an obvious place such as a cardboard box. A lot of praise and generous rewards are used to encourage the dog to continue to use his nose to find the treasure. Continuing classes leverage the dog's understanding of using his nose to find "target" scents such as anise, birch, and clove. At the beginning, the target scents are in easy-to-find locations and as skills develop, they are hidden in more difficult locations.

People whose dogs are fearful or reactive around other dogs find that fun nose work classes are a rare opportunity to take their dogs to a class. That's because one dog is worked at a time, which allows each dog to concentrate on the task at hand instead of other often overwhelming environmental factors. Ramona Audette, a professional trainer in Southern California, was so thrilled with her own dog's experience in fun nose work classes that she went on to become a certified nose work instructor (CNWI).

"I did not realize the impact fun nose work would have on my dog. I was hesitant to enroll him in the class because of his fear issues. Because there would be no other dogs around him and he didn't have to engage with anyone but me, I thought, 'this might work.' There is such a difference in him today after his involvement with the fun nose work class. His confidence has soared. He loves doing it.

"I have since become a Certified Nosework Instructor and have been able to see the same results with other dogs. I have seen a Corgi and an English Bulldog go from not wanting to leave their owner's side and be afraid of a box used in the introductory class, to leaving their owners to go put their head in a box to make 'their find.'"

Levels of Competition

Currently, dogs as young as six months can compete, and there are three levels of competition. You can download a complete rule book from www.nacsw.net.

NW1—Dogs earn points for each search for the target scent of birch in each of four locations with maximum time limits assigned to each location: 1) several cardboard boxes in a row (on leash); 2) a room in the interior of a building (on or off leash); 3) 1000-sq. ft. exterior area (on leash); 4) up to three vehicles (on leash). There are a total of 100 points possible; 90 points are required for an NW1 title.

NW2— At this level, dogs must show proficiency with searching for either birch or anise, distractions

are added, and the locations become larger and more complex. There are a total of 100 points possible; 95 points are required for an NW2 title.

NW3— At this level, dogs must show proficiency with searching for birch, anise, and/or clove. There are multiple distractions at this level, and one of the rooms in the building can be without scent (a decoy so to speak), and the locations become larger and more complex. The vehicle search includes five vehicles. There are a total of 100 points possible; 100 points are required for an NW3 title.

One must first qualify to enter a competition by passing an Odor Recognition Test (ORT) for each odor (birch, anise, and clove). Passing an ORT ensures that dogs are truly ready to enter a competition. Due to the rapid growth of the sport, there are usually more people who want to compete with their dogs than there are spots available. On both the East and West Coasts of the U.S., waiting lists for some levels of competition reach 50 teams vying for a coveted spot.

How to get started

In 2009 when I originally wrote about this new sport, nosework could be found in only five states in the U.S. (California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico, and Washington). Now, the sport has spread across the country and into other countries as well.

Is This Sport for You?

This is a sport for just about everyone. It is easy on the handler, easy on the dog, inexpensive, and doesn't require a lot of equipment. You're hooked as soon as you see your dog's face when he realizes that he will be rewarded for using his nose.

Reflections of the Founders

K9 nose work is arguably one of the newest dog sports to be added to the seemingly endless list of sports created by people who thought, "Hey, my dog loves doing this; I bet other dogs would, too."

This is exactly what inspired Amy Herot, CPDT, to team up with her two of her training partners, Ron Gaunt and Jill-Marie O'Brien to create fun nose work classes and, later, the sport of canine scent work. The three trainers were convinced that nose work was one of the best ways to mentally and physically stimulate dogs, many of whom have behavior problems because of lack of stimulation.

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It all started several years ago when Amy became interested in training her own dogs in professional detection work. After a lot of long hours and hard work, Amy's first dog became certified nationally as a narcotics detection dog. She was hooked. She went on to train and certify several other dogs in both narcotics and explosives detection. She learned a lot from professional detection trainers Ron Gaunt of Travel'n Man Dogs (Covina, CA), Rodney Spicer of Gold Coast K9 (Oxnard, CA), and Andy Jimenez of Falco K9 (Brea, CA).

Amy, Ron, and Jill-Marie O'Brien started teaching classes in Long Beach, CA, trying out the concept of teaching nose work to companion dogs. It took off with a bang. Developing exacting standards for competition came as a natural evolution of teaching those classes.

Amy remembers the early days in 2007:

"The sport idea came later. In the early classes, dogs had been searching for objects (toys, Kongs, food, etc.). We had been toying with the idea of teaching dogs a particular scent in order to advance those classes by making the "hides" smaller and, therefore, more challenging. (It gets difficult to find places to hide a large, stuffed mallard duck without dog and handler seeing it.) We considered some sort of oil, like anise, as that has been used for evaluating detection dogs' ability to work a novel scent, but we hadn't settled on anything yet.

"About that same time, I had the opportunity to experiment with the concept while in Seattle during a John Rogerson Instructor's course. He had invited me to teach the scent discrimination portion of the course and wanted to introduce the concepts of training a dog on odor. All of the dogs in the course were just out of the local shelter and during their three-week stay were exposed to a crash course in tracking, agility, obedience, and nose work. Handlers not only had to get the dogs interested in searching, but had to train them on an odor and pass an odor-recognition test. John likes to challenge people to be creative in their training and to accomplish a lot in a short time. What I witnessed in that course—because of the speed and intensity of training—was a spirited, competitive edge to the nose work that confirmed our thoughts about where we could go with the training in our classes. It proved a good testing ground for using odors with companion dogs and for leveling the playing field in terms of what the dogs were searching for. You can't really have a competition if one person is hiding a treat bag of hot dogs and the other is hiding a stuffed pink bunny rabbit, but

a cotton swab with a dab of oil eliminates that problem.

"When I returned to Los Angeles, Ron, Jill-Marie, and I talked about the construct for a class to introduce the dogs to odor, which opened up the possibilities for competition and much more advanced handling and skill building for the teams. Those next set of classes helped build the elements we now use in competition for the nose work titles. As handlers got more involved and interested in nose work, we had to keep adding challenges like exterior area searches and vehicle searches.

"The original purpose of the class, whether dogs are hunting for food or odor, was to have fun. Watching dogs hunt—and watching the light bulb go on for them that they are allowed to hunt—is a beautiful and inspiring experience. I know this to be true every time I witness a dog searching in class. You can hear a pin drop because the observers are watching and listening so intently ... often followed by rousing applause when the dog

Jesse's Story: Sniffing out Confidence

Jesse was a 4-year-old Rhodesian Ridgeback mix when Lezle Stein enrolled him in a nose work class in 2007. Stein is a professional dog trainer and also spends countless hours volunteering with rescue organizations, working with dogs to help them overcome fearfulness. Jesse was afraid of men, children, and new places. He also suffered from separation anxiety, scaling 6-foot fences and breaking through windows in his attempts to cope with this anxiety disorder. Stein's hope in enrolling him in the nose work class was to build his confidence.

"I spend a lot of time in the rescue world working with emotionally damaged dogs. Amy Herot explained that nose work can be an excellent 'rehab' for nervous or fearful dogs. They develop confidence, overriding their fears by going back to what comes naturally for them...using their nose! And we make sure they always succeed."

When Stein first enrolled him, Jesse was too terrified to do anything except cling to her side. Especially terrified of men, Jesse would panic if Ron Gaunt, one of the trainers, came closer than 10 feet.

"I really would never have guessed how much nose work could improve Jesse's life. When he first started, he had zero confidence outside of my house. His way was panic avoidance and running away so nobody could approach him. He would

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never bite; he would just shake and sweat and pull to get away. He is really a different dog today. He visits with all the class members and is willing and wanting to leave my side to find the scent.

“Amy was so careful and caring to help Jesse and me succeed. The process is slow and methodical in building confidence, but always fun and always with a win at the end. He understands the game and enjoys it now. His separation anxiety has also gone away. And he can say ‘hello’ to men now as well.

“It is a joy beyond words to see any dog, of any breed, awaken their nose and use it to the degree they can. It’s mind blowing how incredible their ability to smell is, and I still think we have a lot more to learn about that. As a rescue person, I will continue to rehab dogs using their nose.”

And the icing on the cake? Jesse went on to compete as part of a team on two separate occasions. One team took home a first-place blue ribbon and another team took third place.



Mattie’s Story: Anxiety Relief

Mattie is a 2-year-old female Australian Shepherd/Cattle Dog mix who loves everybody, but was tearing up Janice Delaney’s home shortly after bringing her home at six months of age. In an attempt to stop Mattie’s destructiveness, identified by her trainer as separation anxiety, Janice enrolled her in obedience and agility classes. It wasn’t until Janice enrolled then 13-month-old Mattie in fun nose work classes that her behavior at home improved.

“Nose work was a great overall experience,” Janice recalled. “Mattie loved it and just came into herself. The training was very well done from beginning basic box drills to being able to compete in trials. Amy Herot and her colleagues were won-

derful at understanding Mattie’s separation anxiety issues and allowed her to be in the building where she could watch me but not distract the other dogs from searching. The best part of it all is that Mattie no longer suffers from separation anxiety and has a whole new level of confidence.”

Janice found the nose work so much fun that she went on to advanced levels of training and entered Mattie in trials starting in 2008. Mattie won her NW 1 title on June 7, 2009, and will compete for NW 2 in August.

Of special pride to Janice is that Mattie is a recipient of the Harry Award, which was established in 2008 in honor of Harry and his relationship with handler Penny Scott-Fox. Harry was entered in the inaugural nose work trial, but died from a rattlesnake bite just days before the trial. The Harry Award is awarded to “the most outstanding rescue dog that demonstrates extraordinary ability and spirit in nose work,” emphasizing the relationship with the handler and the teamwork (www.nacsw.net/titles/harryaward.html).



Silent Auction of your books at the Conference



Do you have books that you would like to sell? Are you looking for a specific book, but have not

been able to get your hands on it so far? You might find it at the APDTNZ silent book auction table at the Conference! Bring in your books you would like to auction, we will bring all the necessary paperwork!

Ask the Trainers: Solutions for Classroom Challenges

Jamie McKay, CPDT-KSA

Ask ten trainers a question and you'll get ten different answers!

This month's challenge was contributed by Janet Flanagan, CPDT-KA

Here's a challenge I face in group classes: the handlers who don't praise their dogs enough and/or don't grasp the concept of "catching your dog doing something right." Although we emphasize the importance of positive reinforcement and literally teach how to verbally mark desired behaviors, there often seems to be a handler or two in class who doesn't communicate with his or her dog in this way. Maybe they're not verbal or demonstrative people to begin with; maybe they're nervous or distracted, or maybe they just don't see the need. I feel like I'm constantly shouting, "Now! Praise your dog now!" I worry that I'm nagging and/or embarrassing my students. What do other trainers do?

Janine Allen, CPDT-KA

Explain the behavior to be taught (e.g., down) and define all the parts of the behavior that can be rewarded (nose down, bent legs, crouch, etc.). Tell the students to measure out 15 treats and start a timer for one minute. Challenge the students to use up all 15 treats (one at a time) before the minute is up.

Allison Hartlage, CTC, CPDT-KA

When I am struggling to help clients to understand the importance of communicating with their dogs, I find it most effective to use a human analogy. Typically I address the group as a whole instead of calling out the individual – I find this helps people to be less defensive. I begin by praising the group for something they are doing well. "Great job separating your click from your reach into your treat pouch!" Next I might say, "When things aren't going well at work, how many of you would prefer that your boss list everything you aren't doing well, without any instruction or guidance as to how to do something correctly?" Usually, no one raises a hand. "Wouldn't it be more helpful and comfortable for you if they showed you what TO DO, instead of what NOT TO DO? Our dogs are the same way. In order for them to know what we'd like from them, we have to show them. Reinforce them for doing what you like, instead of telling them about everything you don't. Additionally, would any of you go to work for free? I didn't think so! If we wouldn't, why should our dogs? Let's make it worth their while, guys! When they do

something we like, offer them something they like! It's amazing how quickly we'll see results with these simple strategies."

Next, I might make things simpler for the person. Does she seem overwhelmed? If so, could you tether the dog safely and get the leash out of her hands? Could you lend her a treat pouch, provide her with better, more motivating food, break things into simpler steps, or substitute a verbal reward marker for a clicker? All of these simple changes could make a world of difference to someone struggling.

Most importantly, find out what's holding these clients back! Do they disagree with using food as a reinforcer, do they feel overwhelmed during training classes, or are they unclear about the instruction? If they came to class with another person, ask them to work together. Maybe they'd prefer to receive feedback from their husband, wife, son or daughter, instead of the instructor. To put it simply, we can't help if we don't know what to help them with.

Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KSA

Praising the dog in time and enthusiastically enough to keep the dog motivated can really be hard for some folks. If they can't be as enthusiastic as I'd like, I ask them to give the dog a jackpot of exactly five (or even ten) little treats, one at a time. That isn't noisy, and everybody can do that without feeling embarrassed. For timing, I help by clicking for them a couple times while they deliver the cookie to their dog.

If a client's dog starts barking or whining when I am explaining a new exercise I either walk closer to the dog or remain where I am and start tossing cookies for the dog when he is being quiet, demonstrating to the owners the frequency of the reward, before the dog barks again. This prompts other clients to start tossing their dogs cookies, and the owners of the vocalizing dog start tossing cookies to their dog when he is quiet and attentive before I can.

Abby Harrison, CPDT-KA

I mention when we are first working the dog in a class or in the home the study about videotaping professionals and non-professionals. I summarize it and say, "Basically, they found that the professionals reinforced much more frequently than the non-professionals. Think about it: If I reinforce every 30 seconds and you are doing it every two or three minutes, who is your dog going to pay attention to? The take-away is that you need to be a really good slot machine for your dog."

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If that isn't helping (enough), I demo rapid reinforcement with a student's dog, then a second dog and finally with the dog of the student who I feel could reinforce more frequently. I get the dog excitedly responding to me and then hand the dog back. I tell the group that this is what you want your dog to look like. For the rest of the class, I keep an eye on that student so I can reinforce him when I see he has increased the reinforcement level by even just a little. Yes, it is glacial, but it is change in the direction I want to go (slot machine, remember?).

If that still doesn't seem to help, I ask the student after class what he thinks is slowing down the reinforcement rate. If he doesn't seem to know, I let him play the dog and I mimic the two different reinforcement rates so he can feel the difference for himself. I do that in private, as I would not want to embarrass the student.

Mary Ann Bourgeois, CPDT-KA

I do a couple of things to get people on board for praising their dogs. We spend part of one session on teaching "yes" as a marker ... usually when the owners see how quickly the dog responds to the marker (for example walking away and turning on a dime when it hears "yes") they understand the power of the marker. The other thing I do is ask each individual to show the group whatever exercise/behavior we are working on, telling everyone they will get a turn alone, and that by noticing what is happening with each individual pair they will help that pair and learn for themselves. It is amazing how fast they notice tight leashes and the lack of praise. Since usually every pair makes some sort of error ... equal levels of mistakes seem not to cause anyone to feel singled out (although I held my breath the first time).

Laurie K. Scible, BS, ABCDT

It may be that the owners have not received enough praise in their lives, so rather than just keep telling them to praise, I may model or demonstrate using their dog and ask them what praise word may be comfortable for them to say, and I use that word in the demonstration. Then I praise the owners every time they praise the dog. Giving praise to the owner is just as important as giving praise to the dog.



*The APDTNZ
Newsletter—a great
read*

Code of Ethics for Association of Pet Dog Trainers New Zealand

As a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers New Zealand I will:

- Make the long term welfare of the dog of primary importance bearing in mind the needs of society.
- Employ only humane, dog-friendly techniques in the training of dogs and I shall develop and apply training programs in line with the APDTNZ's mission of advocating dog-friendly training. Refer to Appendix 1 (Source APDT UK Code of Ethics).
- Please also refer to Appendix 2 AVSAB Position Statement: http://www.avsonline.org/avsonline/images/stories/Position_Statements/Combined_Punishment_Statements.pdf and Appendix 3 Delta Professional Standards for Dog Trainers <http://www.deltasociety.org/Document.Doc?id=374>
- Promote conscientious dog ownership and incorporate what it means to be a socially responsible dog owner into training programs.
- Promote a nurturing human/canine relationship between owner and dog.
- Treat all dogs and clients with respect, taking into account their physical and emotional well-being and respecting clients' wishes regarding the training of their dogs.
- Continue professional development by reading relevant material, attending conferences, workshops and seminars, and pursuing other education opportunities in order to provide a service based upon sound scientific principles and current best practice.
- Be honest and trustworthy in my dealings with clients.
- Refrain from giving guarantees regarding the outcome of training, because there is no sure way to guarantee the cooperation and performance of all parties involved and because the knowledge of animal behaviour is incomplete. This should not be confused with a desire to guarantee client satisfaction with professional services.
- Represent accurately the source of any information and disseminate to clients and members of the public.
- Respect the confidentiality and privacy of clients.
- Be respectful of colleagues and other professionals and not falsely condemn the character of their professional acts.
- Not advertise myself as a member of the APDTNZ Inc or use the logo of the APDTNZ without prior approval of the Association.
- Not represent myself as a spokesperson for APDTNZ Inc without prior approval of the Association.
- Refer any and all suspected medical problems to a veterinarian before beginning or continuing a relationship. The relationship between dog trainers and vets must be cooperative for the benefit of dogs and their people.
- Perform services to the best of my ability within the guidelines of this code of ethics.

Appendix 1

There can never be a definitive list of equipment and techniques that the APDTNZ does not endorse. The following list gives examples of some of the equipment and training methods which are covered by the Code of Ethics not to be used as training tools in a dog training class:

- Pet corrector – emits a hiss of cold air
 - Dog stop – emits a high pitched sound
 - Remote controlled spray collars
 - Automatically triggered spray collars
 - Antibark collar – emits spray directed onto dog's skin (including new product jet master)
 - Training discs
 - Liquid sprays
 - Loud noises – inc. rattle cans/bottles/chains/keys
 - Throw stick/chain
 - Strong smelling substances – inc. smelling salts/bite back
 - Any electronic training collar
 - Any check/choke chains, prong or spike collar
- Punitive methods not to be used in a dog training class:
- Pinching – ears/feet/toes
 - Hitting
 - Biting (of dog)
 - Alpha roll
 - Any manhandling that causes pain or discomfort.

Alteration

This code may be altered by the committee of the Association provided that the proposed alteration is notified to all members and their comments requested and duly considered by the committee.

PetTech First Aid classes offered by Rhiannon Taylor from Complete Canine Care with a whopping 30% discount for APDTNZ members! Normally \$149 but for APDTNZ members only \$105. Visit www.pettech.net.nz



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Auckland Kelston: June 15th
Auckland Greenhithe: June 29th

Auckland Howick: May 17th
Wellington Newtown: May 24th
Auckland Glenfield: June 21st

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"Thank you Rhiannon for a fantastic course, so much valuable information and so wonderfully presented. Fiona and I left fizzing knowing that we made the right decision registering for the course and walked away knowing we can provide first aid care without any hesitation. You are a brilliant Instructor and we are actively telling anyone we know with animals that it is an "essential and most useful day in class" to come along to. Thank you for the privilege of attending yesterday." - Tina Jones



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*For classes held by instructor Rhiannon Taylor #1692