



K9 Nose Work®

"The purpose of K9 Nose Work® is to engage the dog in the game of nose work and to teach the handler how to read their dog and build a team relationship while having fun. Nose Work is a great skill to develop in the dog that can build the dog's confidence, reduce environmental sensitivity, and provide mental and physical exercise through teamwork with their handler." (Ron Gaunt, Jill O'Brien, Amy Herot - founders of www.k9nosework.com)

Turn your dog's innate (and sometimes annoying 😊) tendency to sniff into a directed activity and official dog sport!

Nose Work is a great way to let your dog be a dog and excel in an activity that s/he is naturally good at (sniffing, exploring and hunting). At the same time you will learn more about your companion's behavior and body language and admire his scenting skills. You and your dog will build a strong relationship based on mutual trust and communication, by enjoying a fun and "no pressure" activity together.

The official sport of K9 Nose Work™ was developed in 2006 by Amy Herot and Jill-Marie o'Brien, both professional detection dog trainers and handlers and Ron Gaunt, a former police dog trainer.

The exercises during the nose work classes are customized to each individual dog and will motivate your pooch to search for and "find" a treat or toy. Initially we will use card board boxes as hiding containers, later progressing to other environmental objects. We will then move on to exercises on accessibility, elevation, patterns and indications of hides and add increasing distractions. We will also coach you, the handler, how to correctly reward and recognize your dog's signals. As your dog becomes more proficient, we will use different inside and outside environments as well as teach him/her to check out the exterior of vehicles! In the odor classes, we will pair the hide (toy, treat) with an essential oil aroma (Birch, Anise, Clove) so the dogs learn to associate these unusual odors with their favorite treats or toys! Finally, your dog will be searching for these odors alone and gets rewarded by you, when he finds, indicates and stays at the odor source.

No prior "obedience" training is required! Nose Work is a low-cost activity with minimal planning and set-up requirements.

Nose work is a great activity for all dogs and people anytime and anywhere:

- **ALL breeds and breed mixes**

Every dog has his/her own hunting and sniffing style, and their sense of smell is by far superior to the human ability to detect odor (approx. 220 million scent receptors vs 5 million in the human nose)

All dog sizes and weights from Yorkie to Great Dane, from Pug to Puli
Canines love and excel at this activity!

- **Fearful dogs**

Triggering stimuli (e. g. new environment, scary objects, strangers, noises) are paired with a fun activity and a food or toy reward

Safe and controlled environment

Exercises customized to your dog

Builds confidence as the dog ALWAYS succeeds in this activity

No social pressure from other people and dog

Sniffing tires the body and calms the mind

- **Reactive dogs**

Minimal to no interaction with other people who observe from a distance

Only one dog is worked at any one time; no other dogs “in your face”

No leash pressure from handler

Sniffing/hunting can become more rewarding than reacting to a triggering stimulus

Safe and controlled environment

Sniffing tires the body and calms the mind

- **Active dogs**

Dogs can move freely off-leash in enclosed environments

Dogs are encouraged to make their own choices

Sniffing is a highly self-rewarding activity

Sniffing tires the body and calms the mind

- **Young dogs**

Short training sessions ensure focused attention

Exploring is a fun as well as physically and mentally tiring activity for puppies and adolescent dogs

Builds confidence

A great socialization tool

- **Dogs with physical restrictions and geriatric dogs**

Maximum mental stimulation with minimal physical movement

Deaf dogs and blind dogs only need their sense of smell to be successful

Safe and controlled environment

Exercises customized to your dog

Nose work builds confidence

- **“Lazy” people**

Enjoy watching your dog just like you watch TV; although you will have to get up and “change channels” from time to time (here: go to your dog and reward at source)

- **People with physical restrictions**

Minimal movement needed from handler

Other students and instructor can work your dog

Dog will be tired physically and mentally at the end of each class

- **Owners of reactive or fearful dogs**

Learn to relax in safe and control environment

Gain confidence as your dog works successfully through nose work challenges

Be in a “support group” with other dog handler
Be proud of your dog’s achievements in class
Learn to apply nose work in other environments

- **Anytime and Anywhere**

Work inside in any room or building – from bathroom to barn, from living room to garage
Work outside on any surface (e. g. concrete, gravel, grass, sand, dirt)
Urban, suburban, rural areas
Try your luck at vehicle searches
Work in any weather (if so inclined) and any time of day or night
Work with no, low, moderate and maximum distractions

- **Other benefits**

No to low cost activity; no expensive equipment required
Short training sessions that fit in anyone’s busy schedule
You can use your dog’s daily meals as hides
Up the ante according to your dog’s successes and experience

Prerequisites:

- Dogs are worked one at a time while other dogs are resting in their crates or cars until it is their turn. Dogs must be able to stay quietly in a crate or in a vehicle out of owner's sight when not working.
- Participants must disclose any aggression (including resource guarding) and reactivity issues prior to class. We reserve the right to decline working with a dog and/or asking a dog to leave the class without refund if we feel she/he is inappropriate or dangerous to the instructor or other students, or if the experience is detrimental to the dog's emotional well-being.

For more information about this new canine sport check out:

www.k9nosework.com

<http://thebark.com/content/k9-nose-work-0> (with video)

http://articles.ocregister.com/2009-02-27/housing/24671197_1_training-dogs-dog-trainers-dog-s-nose

www.nacsw.net (National Association of Canine Scent Work)