

December 2017



National Agility Link Association

National Agility Link Association (formed 1989)

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AGILITY THIS MONTH

By Karen de wit

A very merry Xmas to you all from NALA.

I am looking forward to easting some Xmas cake and pavlova yum!!

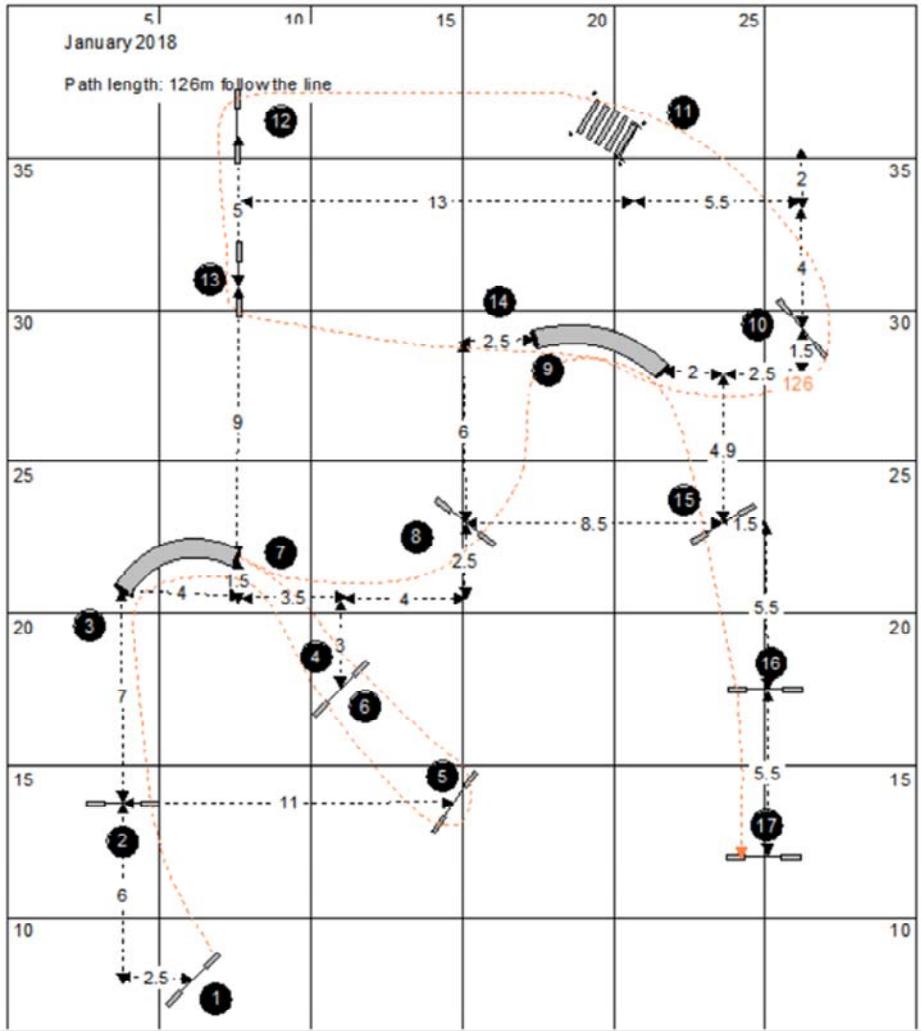
We hope you will have nice weather and be able to do all the things you want to do and spend time with all the people you want to see.

I will be busy with my children Nicola and Jonathan who are visiting over Xmas, and with Zeus the Samoyd while Nicola and Jade are away overseas.

I will also have some work to do on the heights review subcommittee. I hope you will all take some time to read the various articles we have uploaded on to the website as well as view the various possible height scenarios we will publish on the website. It is interesting looking at what they do overseas and I think we can do much better for ourselves by creating something specific to the NZ agility scene.

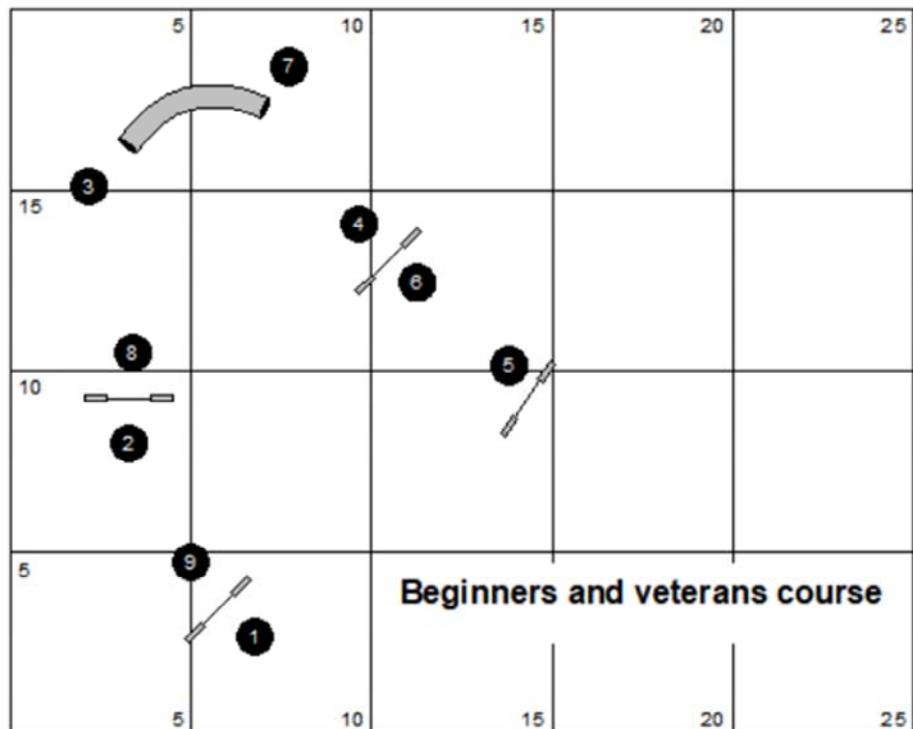


January Course

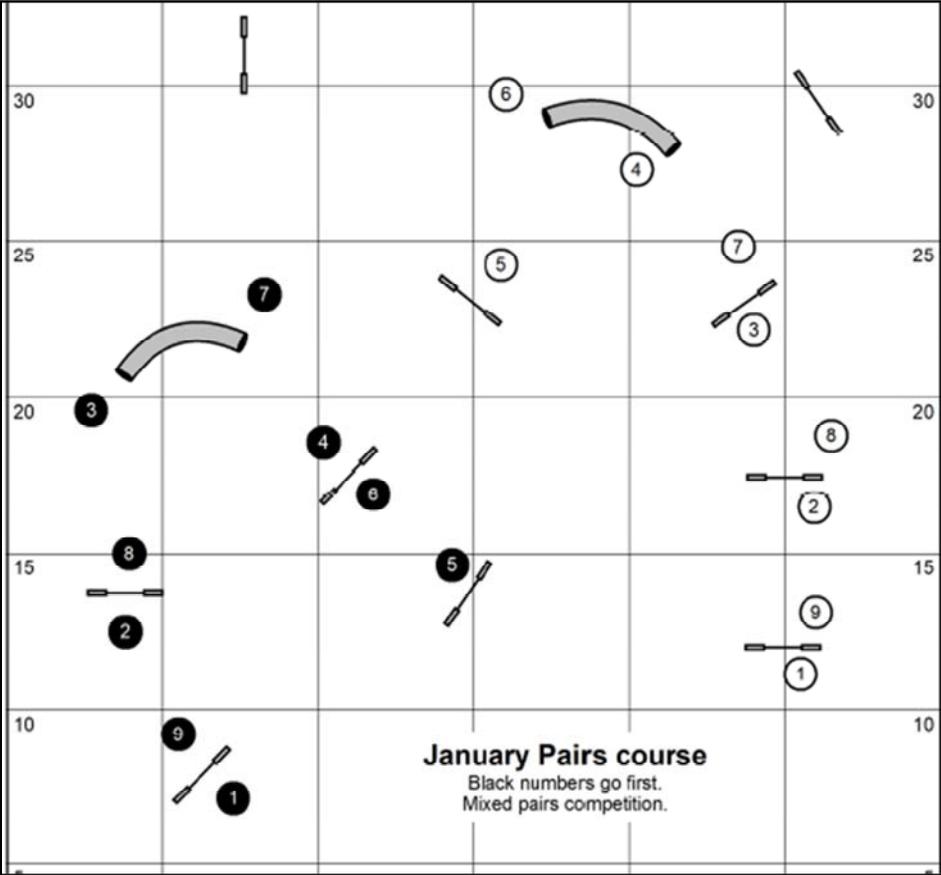


January 2018

Junior LINK handlers & Veteran dogs

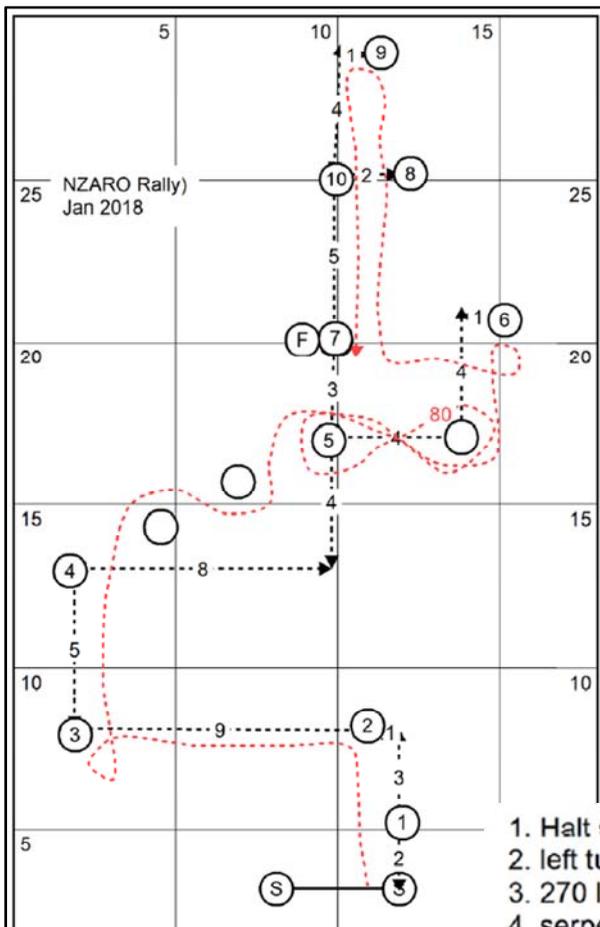


JANUARY GAME: Jumpers pairs



New Zealand Association of Rally-O

DEC 2017



If you have any interesting tips or articles about RallyO please feel free to share on this page E;
kpdewit@xtra.co.nz

You can find NZARO signs at
www.nzaro.webs.com

1. Halt sit (3)
2. left turn (6)
3. 270 left (100)
4. serpentine weave once (24)
5. NZARO figure of eight (N1)
6. 270 right (9)
7. right turn (5)
8. Call front finish right forward (13)
9. Left about turn (29)
10. Moving down (27)

Nov RALLY-O RESULTS.

Pl	Club	Team members	Score	Time
1	Upper Hutt	Jane Aukett & Holly, Peter de Wit & Sequel, Karen de Wit & Dee	100.0	205.011
2	Sunshine Whk	Helen Barnes & Cookie, Maria van Beek & Buddy, Trish Funnell & Bryn	100.0	231.240
3	Hawkes Bay	Chrissy Harris & Misty, Jackie Olley & Che, Jackie Olley & Scallywag	100.0	235.052
4	Canterbury COC	Kelly Walker & Gael, Kelly Walker & Kep, Helen Scott & Mac	100.0	239.950
5	Wairarapa	Nicky Detheridge-Davies & Rufus, Lynne Birkett & Bolly, Robin Gemmill & Birdie	100.0	255.090
6	Central ADTS	Mike Butler & Idol, Mike Butler & Toby, Jan Voss & Maple	100.0	258.520
7	Norwest	Marion Lines & Sam, Diana Munford & Woody, Karen Smith & Lottie	100.0	332.250

FLYGILITY COMMENT by Raewyn Saville

I WANT A CONFIDENT TRUSTING DOG.

As I have said many times in this column I don't care what my dogs and I do together as a game/job as long as we are both enjoying it.

Hunting, moving stock, searching for free range heneggs, Agility, Flygility, Retrieves of everything from buckets to dead bunnies and cell phones. All of it comes from a Trust bond between the dog and handler especially the formation of trust in the first two years of dogs' life. That puppy time is essential to the dog becoming a good confident worker. The ultimate in confidence is that the dog can work for anyone once it is fully trained.

What would I do to build the confidence I want in my new puppy.

* give him a safe small sleeping place where he doesn't have to watch his back and can fully relax knowing that he can grow and sleep uninterrupted.



* hand feed him for the first month at least, two months is better. I like my hand in my pup's bowl while he is eating to keep him comfortable and to let him know that I will not take his food away.

* when I take him to the vet for his vaccs or take him visiting before he is full vaccinated, I carry him everywhere. I hold him and talk to him quietly up close to his ear. When he meets his first new people he is in my arms. I always say never own a breed you cannot pick up. For Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Collies etc that period of time when you can carry your pup is going to be short so make use of the time every single day.

* make sure he is crated in the car so he doesn't rock around too much, that is a soft crate or a covered crate that doesn't allow him to be overstimulated by what is passing the windows of the car. Crate him a lot at Agility shows too, avoid too much exposure to strange spaces too soon.

* If you are going to puppy socialisation take him the first time in his soft crate and let him view the goings on from a safe place. If he gets upset, carry him out in his crate and gradually increase the time you spend at class till you can open crate door and he happily wanders out.(I have many dogs whose owners bring them following on from negative incidents at puppy socialisation . Same for doggy day care. Don't just drop your puppy and run. Take time to be there while your puppy gets used to the idea.

* If you are in an Obedience class or Puppy class or your dogs' first learning in a group and your dog is shaking and unsure, take him straight back to the car and sit with him. Never force your dog out of his car crate if he doesn't want to go. Lift his crate out onto the ground, open the door and let him come out on his own.



* Right from day one you own your puppy tell him what a 'Good Dog' he is all the time. Most dogs trained this way hear the word 'Good' and instantly make eye contact

with their handler. This is just the greatest start to a good recall.

* Play with your puppy and don't stop playing with him..... ever. Choose your game carefully, try to do a game that connects you to your puppy like a long soft plaited fabric toy that you can move along on the ground and he can play like a kitten, do not tug and mess on his teeth and jaw. Soft toys thrown short distances to get the pounce is good too. Pups retrieve really naturally.

* Never get angry with your puppy or dog in training he will never trust you again. If I see a really scared young dog I know it wasn't born that way so someone messed up big time.

Fear is the biggest enemy the dog faces when it is trying to learn. A frightening experience which is not taken care of by the handler has lasting negative effects on that dog's ability to continue to learn new things. I always say to my small dog handlers, if one of the big dogs goes nuts pick your baby up don't leave the poor thing on the ground to be run over and molested by some hooligan dog. If you have a bigger dog that you can't pick up get your eye contact get that treat food working and walk your dog on lead away from the trouble, walk towards your car and put your dog in there until chaos has subsided.

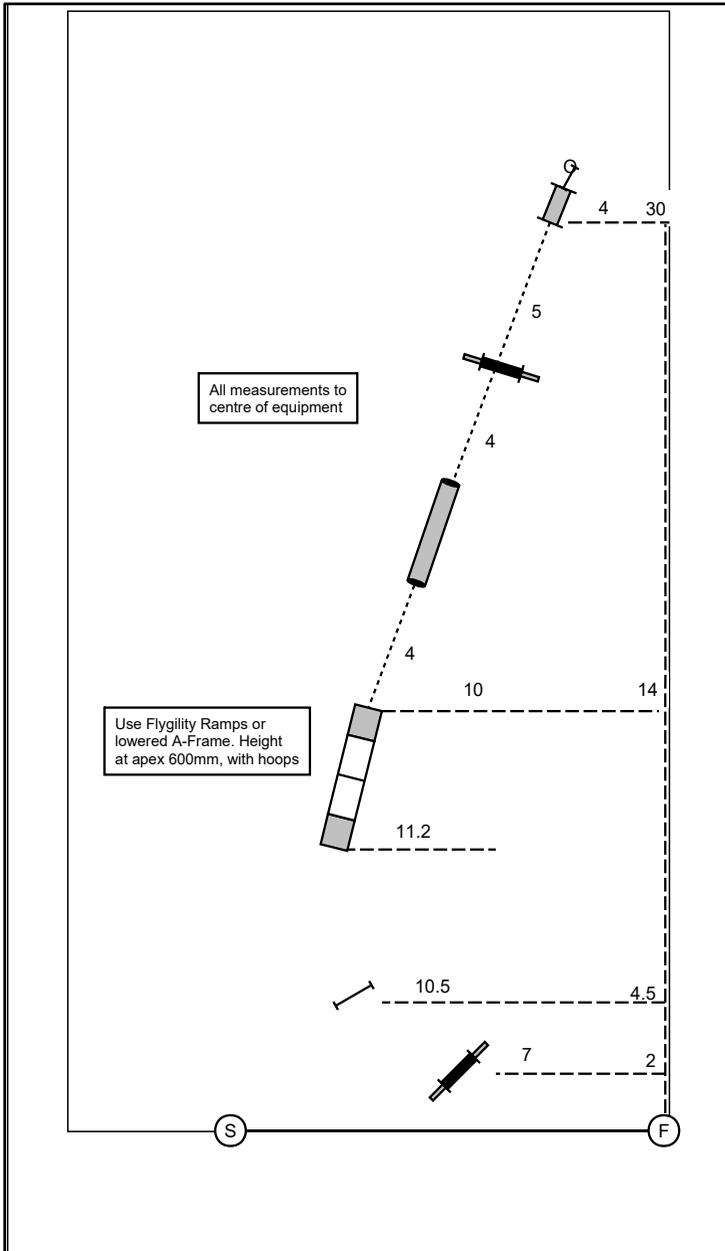
Many people blame other people's dogs for their dog being fearful of working around dogs. Never mind what other people do, it is what you do to keep your dog safe that counts. Your dog needs to know that he is priority one when strange things happen. Standing like a log while the errant handler tries to stop his crazy mutt from jumping on your precious pup is not going to cut it.

Have a really good plan to keep you and your dog safe from scary stuff when you are on walkies, at training or at the Vet. Do not hesitate to retreat when you know that you and your dog cannot handle any situation. Because believe me if your dog gets a whiff of your panic in the face of adversity and he knows you haven't the foggiest notion how to protect him, then he is going to take care of the situation and become a very difficult dog to handle, especially on lead. Handler inexperience and thoughtless actions are the cause of all fears a puppy grows up with.. If a young dog does not trust his handler, then who can he trust. If you make sure you are a kind loving protector, a strong leader and a happy playmate then life for you and your dog can go everywhere you want it to go. Whether that is Jumpers A or Flygility Champ or any of the other valuable jobs and games our dogs love to share with us.

I spend most of my lessons using equipment and the group environment to increase the confidence and lessen the fear of every dog. Once we have succeeded in doing that then the way forward is just fantastic.



Standard Flygility course



AGILITY RESULTS, November 2017.

Division1

Plc Team	Dog	Handler	Score	Total>
1 East BOP	Joy ADXG JDX	Tina MITCHELL	21.750	74.820
	Edge	Sue WHITWELL	24.440	
	Lucy	Trish BUSH	28.630	
2 Mt Maunganui one	Trix ADX JD	Hayley ANDREW	24.143	75.353
	Wish ADX JAX	Deb JACKSON	25.399	
	Sea JDX	Jan MURDEN	25.811	
3 Wairarapa	Jamaica ADXG JAB	Dianne REID	24.547	76.481
	Rusty ADXG SNX J	Stacie CLARK	25.913	
	Tasman ADXG JDX	Sharleen DRUMMOND	26.021	
4 Hawkes Bay	Q T Pi ADXG JDX	Sharon SIMONSEN	24.038	77.392
	Abby ADXG JDX SN	Lex CLARE	25.383	
	Echo AD JDX	Lex CLARE	27.971	
5 Mangawhai	Razzle ADXS CDX	Annette FLANNAGAN	24.340	77.590
	Breeze ADXS JDX	Annette FLANNAGAN	25.780	
	Faze	Lauren MEYERS	27.470	
6 Upper Hutt 1	Finn ADXG JDX JA	Karen de WIT	22.268	85.010
	Thane	Jorja MULHOLLAND	23.231	
	Ali ADXG JAB SNX	Peter de WIT	39.511	
7 Central HB	Izzy JDX	Joanne LITTLE	24.989	85.417
	Taku AD JD	Chris ROSS	30.103	
	Dot AD	Jill PAYNE	30.325	
8 Cambridge	Lilly ADXG JDS J	Robyn BRETTELL	26.185	94.484
	Spark ADXG JAG S	Julie McCONKEY	33.597	
	Poppy ADXG JDX	Cheryl PIERCE	34.702	

Division2

Plc Team	Dog	Handler	Score	Total>
1 Counties	Buzz ADXG JAB	Chris CHARLTON	22.323	74.102
	Peaches ADXG JAB	Chris CHARLTON	25.785	
	Bounce ADXS JDX	Marie WALES	25.994	
2 Selwyn	Chynah ADXG CDX	Sue NEALE	23.211	75.071
	Kemo	Steve TANSEY	24.432	
	River ADX JDX RA	Sue NEALE	27.428	
3 Huntly	Jack ADX	Gina NIELSEN	27.160	82.183
	Quilla JDX CCH	Kim ORLANDO-REEP	27.226	
	George JD	Dr John GATES	27.797	
4 Nelson 2	Lia JDX	Nartarsha GORRIE	25.834	85.947
	Fluke JDX ADXB F	Linley BARRETT	28.902	
	Truce	Linley BARRETT	31.211	
5 CCATS	Toffee ADXG JDX	Helen LAPPIN	27.116	85.965
	Halo AD JDX JAB	Helen LAPPIN	29.407	
	Bazil ADXG JDX J	Helen LAPPIN	29.442	
6 Mt Maunganui Two	Blaze JDX	Shelley STEWART	24.048	99.386
	Queen	Sue ANDRESEN	37.191	
	Finch JD RN	Elisabeth PROCTOR	38.147	
7 Sth Canterbury	Ziggy ADXG JDG J	Jenny D'ARCY	31.161	112.006
	Bella JD	Jenny D'ARCY	35.548	
	Penney ADXG JDX	Jenny D'ARCY	45.297	

Division3

Plc Team	Dog	Handler	Score	Total>
1 Tauranga 3	Snoop AD JDX	Bernice SHEARMAN	26.104	83.724
	Kobi ADXG JDG SN	Jocelyn JENSEN	28.598	
	Chilli ADXB JD	Bernice SHEARMAN	29.022	
2 Upper Hutt 3	Smudge	Erin MULHOLLAND	22.906	85.847
	Sky AD RA	Gillian CRUICKSHANK	30.494	
	Cameo AD RA	Gillian CRUICKSHANK	32.447	

3	Whangarei	Kobi CGCB AD JD Fleet Bilbo AD JD	Jo NICHOLSON Christine GILLESPIE Anne COZENS	25.260 32.848 34.542	92.650
4	Whanganui	3Ziggy JD Charlie Mikie JD	Bronwyn MORGAN Nikki WATSON Bill STEWART	36.410 39.320 44.570	120.300
5	Blenheim	3 Mindy Peppy Lady	Jennifer BULLAS-EVEREST Gillie SMITH Colin HARVEY	30.634 40.205 52.171	123.010

Division 4

Plc	Team	Dog	Handler	Score	Total>
1	Tokoroa	Vogue ADXG JD Zoe ADXG JD Rocky ADXG JAX F	Paul NEEDHAM Paul NEEDHAM Paul NEEDHAM	24.765 26.081 26.090	76.936
2	Tauranga	4 Ayla-May Fern JD Luna	Cherie SAUNDERS Jocelyn JENSEN Tania GREENWOOD	27.214 31.883 35.629	94.726
3	CHB Orange Roughies	Cricket ADX JD Black Lace JD Whio	Brooke LITTLE Jo-Anne STEED Kay GRIFFITHS	28.398 33.946 35.308	97.652
4	Dog Sport Rotorua	Boston Jessie James JD Sophie	Christine HUTCHINGS Christine LONGTON Debbie TRIMBACH	31.070 33.610 34.750	99.430
5	Hawera	4 Moss JD JD Joey CH Monty	Diane HAYDON Kirsten PIERSON Carol GALLIERS	36.333 44.562 54.824	135.719
6	Nelson	4 Jessica Tyson Mitzi	Bodil SHAND Gail BRAMLEY Dot PARSONS	39.743 44.408 54.918	139.069

Getting the most from your sports dog!

This entry was posted on January 14, 2016 by Tom Mitchell.

There has been a paradigm shift in sports dog training over the past five years. This shift is significant, not only from the perspective of what can be achieved from sports, performance and working dogs but the high welfare standards that can be maintained and even promoted and enhanced in these dogs as compared to companion dogs.

This shift is one from a focus on developing the specific behaviours involved in the sport, whether that is stopped contacts in agility or a send away in obedience, to harnessing the mental and emotional potential of the dog. This is achieved through:

- balancing arousal and stress levels,
- developing a bombproof dog
- teaching the individual how to learn, and
- arming the learner with foundation skills and concepts that will allow them to succeed later down the line when tackling sport-specific behaviours.

A term that I use a lot in my training and behaviour work is that of “peak learning and performance”. This is a fundamental concept to this shift in the way we train our dogs. This peak learning and performance headspace should be a goal of every trainer, competitor and sportsperson, as this is where our dogs demonstrate optimum ability to learn and then perform what they have learnt, whether that be in training or in competition.

“If we get the headspace right, the rest is easy!” - Tom, absoluteDOGS & BEHAVET

It is a product of balancing arousal - too little arousal and the dog may be termed “unmotivated”, “disinterested”, “unresponsive”; too much arousal and the dog may again be termed similar things!

I like to look at arousal as a bucket that gets filled. At a certain point, the amount of arousal in the bucket is ideal and results in peak learning and performance. Any more and the dog enters overarousal, any less and the dog is learning or performing to the best of their ability. It's important to note here that both good stress (like playing with you, doing an agility run, etc.) and bad stress (being worried by the dog barking over there, becoming scared of the tent flapping, etc.) pay into the bucket in the same way! In training and competition, maintaining the ideal amount of arousal in the bucket is challenging - these are exciting and complex environments! There may be dogs barking, people cheering, tannoys, mum or dad madly playing, agility runs going on, the noise of dogs running through tunnels, etc. To add to this dilemma there is also the journey to get to training and competition, where, again, your dog is presented with the exciting anticipation of arrival and the subsequent game but also potentially scary things like dogs out of the window, cars zooming past, motorbikes, etc.

With this new understanding in mind, you can see how the focus of training should shift from simply teaching contacts, weaves, etc., to focussing on achieving the peak learning and performance head space and the rest becomes so much easier and more consistent!

One thing that is invaluable in achieving this is working to reduce any stressors that could pay into the bucket. We should be looking to:

1. Change the emotional response of our dogs to things in the environment. For example, training your dog a positive emotional response to separation can have a significant impact on how they perceive other things in their training and competition environment (Fig.). The same would apply to the car journey too!². Generally reduce their stress levels by

utilising tools that will bring the bucket down in a more general way. Key to both of these focus points is training and behaviour modification; however, when working with dogs, adopting an approach that considers the whole of the animal to enhance what we can achieve with them is seriously exciting. The use of Pet Remedy products facilitates the two key points above: altering the emotional response to the complex and often scary environments our dogs find themselves in, and generally reducing their stress levels (emptying some of the arousal from the bucket). Pet Remedy works alongside the brain's natural 'messengers' called neurotransmitters, which work by telling the nerve receiving the message either to calm (via GABA pathway) or get 'fired up'. In times of stress, whether positive (agility training or competition) or negative (reactivity, anxiety, fear) stress, the nerves get over stimulated; furthermore, once overstimulated they take time to calm down! Here are three key places where the concepts discussed are useful in training and competition:

1. Travel. The use of a pet remedy atomiser in the vehicle, coupled with providing a calming positive experience in the way of training (for example, providing filled kongs for the dogs), will ensure your dogs do not arrive at a training or competition event with their arousal buckets already half full!

2. Navigating a training or competition environment. Keep this to a minimum - there is no purpose of walking your dog around a busy training or show environment if not training or on the way to a ring other than to pour a huge amount of arousal into the arousal bucket and push them into overarousal and beyond the point of peak learning and performance. With this in mind, utilising pet remedy calming spray (can apply to harnesses, your clothing, crate bedding, the leash, etc.) and providing your dog with a positive calming

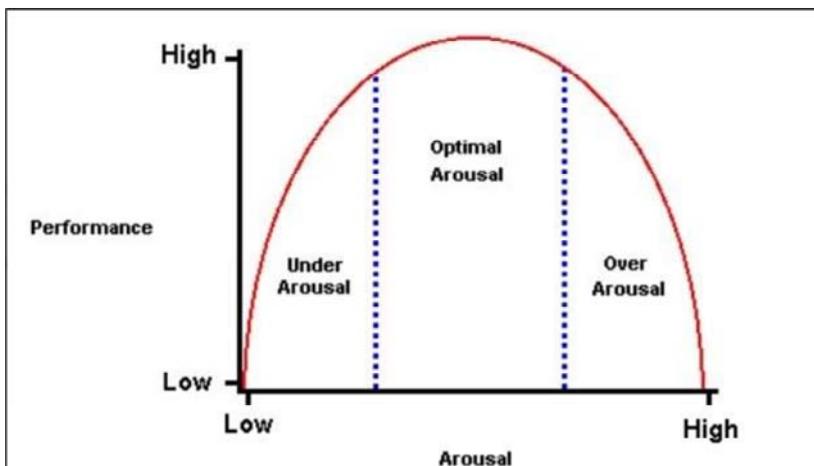


activity to occupy them with, e.g. chin targets, shoulder targets, heelwork, leg wrapping, etc., is invaluable in achieving the most from your dog and your partnership.

3. Finally, emptying some of the bucket after a run. The absolute goal to achieve success in competing with your dogs is, after a run, to bring them back down to calmness; otherwise, we find ourselves in an ever-spiralling, arousal-soaring mess where, as arousal becomes higher and higher, it becomes harder and harder to bring them back down. Returning your dog to a crate, utilising a pet remedy spray/diffuser/atomiser and working on calming games such as simply rewarding calmness with food will ensure that you and your dog don't fall into the spiral and don't have to wait a whole week between successful runs for the arousal levels to return to normal!

This exciting shift in focus in developing sports and working dogs is seriously exciting. It has led to a rethinking of just what can be achieved with our dogs, and, I suspect, we will be realising more and more just what our dogs are capable of over the next five years with this paradigm shift in mind.

This entry was posted in Dog Pet Advice, Tom Mitchell on January 14, 2016 by Tom Mitchell



FLYGILITY RESULTS – STD

1	Ball fighters	31.070	Fd CH Echo FDCH Blaze ADXB Meg	Nichola COLE Lynda CUMMINS Nichola COLE
2	Wairarapa 2	31.359	Brazil ADX JDX PhamTim Rusty ADXG SNX J	Dianne REID Ana WORKMAN Stacie CLARK
3	The Working rules	32.090	Bounce ADXS JDX Cougar AD JDX Strike	Marie WALES Marilyn LAMBERT Di STEPHENS
4	Feildabull	33.380	FDCH Fya ADXB JD Niko ADXG JDX Shadow FDX	Lynda CUMMINS Sandra MOHEKEY Nichola COLE
5	Dog Sports Rotorua	133.650	Sophie Jessie James JD Boston	Debbie TRIMBACH Christine LONGTON Christine HUTCHINGS
6	Wairarapa 1	35.221	Blast ADXG Jamaica ADXG JAB Tasman ADXG JDX	Ana WORKMAN Dianne REID Sharleen DRUMMOND
7	Hawkes Bay 1	37.222	Cherchez JD Misty CGCG ADX J QuBa ADXS JDX	Jackie OLLEY Chrissy HARRIS Colleen O'CONNOR
8	North Shore	39.590	Chica ADXB JD FD FD GrCh Dash Meg	Barbara CONNAUGHTON Kay UNGEMUTH Debbie NILSSON
9	Selwyn Stars	41.590	Pippin Zuki ADX JDX Jock ADXB JD	Sue NEALE Darren JOHNSTON Carole LOGAN
10	Taranaki Harlequins	42.276	Gympie JD RN Grace ADX CDX JD Bella ADXB JDX	Laurel AUSTIN Sandra BANKS Lynn PILLETTE
11	B N R	42.824	Nifty Buzz ADXG JAB Roxy ADXG TCQ JD	Marie PEARMAN Chris CHARLTON Marilyn LAMBERT
12	Chb Midgets	44.510	Dot AD Jack ADXG JDX FD Taku AD JD	Jill PAYNE Chris ROSS Chris ROSS

13	Taranaki BeeGees	45.656	Dazzle UDX CD Willow JD GD AD Blue JD	Laurel AUSTIN Sandra BANKS Lynn PILLETTE
14	Excitabull	48.430	FdCh Pulse Tango JD FD FDCH Chloe ADX J	Sandra MOHEKEY Liz TOLHURST Lynda CUMMINS
15	Wairarapa 4	60.339	Jay Sam ADXS JDX Whizz ADX JD	Stacie CLARK Stacie CLARK Debbie PATERSON
16	mixed bunch	66.685	Jacques ADXG JDX Peaches ADXG JAB Smokey	Marie PEARMAN Chris CHARLTON Marie WALES
17	Dog Sports Rotorua 2	67.840	Bella Chip Molly	Leonie NEILSON Raewyn SAVILLE Sue WARRENDER
18	Hawkes Bay 2	75.591	Biggie CGCG RN Chester Toffee	Chrissy HARRIS Peggy SCOTT Rosemary WOOD
19	Wairarapa 3	92.252	Fern AD JDX Honey Misty JD FD	Dianne REID Stacie CLARK Sharleen DRUMMOND
20	Royal Mounties	128.030	Bess ADXG JAX Rojo JD Kahli	Dave SWINYARD Malcolm WARD Mandy WARD
21	Hawkes Bay 3	5555.000	Lace JD CGCB Nitro CGCB Treason JD	Chrissy HARRIS Gillian PETERSON Campbell LIST



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