



What is Canine Nose Work?

Canine Nose Work is a dog sport developed in 2009 by three people in California who trained dogs professionally to search for drugs and explosives. They took the work their dogs were doing and created a sport for dogs. Dogs start by searching for food or a toy and graduate to searching for specific essential oils (sweet birch, anise and clove). All training is positive.

Why Nose Work?

It's fun for your dog. Dogs love to sniff and Nose Work is a game where they sniff as much as they want and get rewarded for it.

It takes little training. You aren't teaching your dog anything - you are setting up searches and watching him/her learn. No special equipment is needed and you can practice anywhere. In 10 minutes you can set up 4 or 5 hides and make your dog's day.

Benefits of Nose Work.

- High-arousal dog that lacks focus: Dogs learn to focus when doing nose work blocking out all external stimuli.

- High-energy dogs: The game is mentally and physically stimulating. After class your dog is more tired than if you had taken him on a two hour jog.

- Non-athletic dog: Each dog works at their own pace - fast or slow.

- Older dog: Helps them stay young and active.

- Fearful or anxious dog: In nose work dogs learn to work independently and always win. Fearful dogs become more confident and anxious dogs become less stressed.

- Physically challenged dog: As long as they have a nose they can play the game.

- Reactive dog: Only one dog searches at a time, so the dog can have fun even if they don't play well with other dogs. Please let your instructor know if your dog has this problem so classes can be set up to make it safe for everyone.

- No obedience training/ not good off leash: In this sport all work can be done on leash and obedience training is not used.

Relationship with your dog.

Your dog has spent all his life listening to you and trying to understand what you want him/her to do. Nose Work changes the game-now you have to watch your dog and try to understand what he/she is communicating to you. Now he/she is the leader and captain of the team. This role reversal will bring a new dimension to your relationship and give you new respect for his incredible abilities.