

Jersey Junior Dog Handlers Association



Newsletter, September 2016

WELCOME back to a new term at JJDHA training I am pleased say that Flyball and Rally are making a come back this term. Rally Obedience will take place at 8.00pm & here is a short description taken from the U.K. Kennel Club Site:

"Rally is the very latest dog sport to be recognised by the Kennel Club. It's fun and no matter what level you and your dog may be at it's easy to get involved and start training and competing.

"Rally involves you and your dog working as a team to navigate a course with numbered signs indicating different exercises to perform; think of it as a sort of 'obedience exercise obstacle course' including simple exercises.

"The course is set by the judge or trainer. There is no pause between exercises - you and your dog work briskly through the course without direction from the judge. You are encouraged to talk to and praise your dog during the performance. Any dog can get involved; your dog does not have to be a pedigree dog to take part."

Flyball will also be at 8.00pm with Zeff D'Ulivo-Rogers & here is an explanation taken from the UK Kennel Club site:

"Flyball is a competitive team sport which is run on a knockout basis. It first became popular as a sport in America and made its debut in the UK at Crufts in 1990. Flyball is a fun and energetic sport your dog will love.

TRAINING DATES

Fees due:

September 13th (marquee), 20th, 27th

October 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th.

November 1st, 8th & 15th.

November 22nd Annual General Meeting

"Two teams of four dogs compete at the same time, each using a parallel 'racing lane' down which each dog in turn runs, clearing four hurdles in succession before triggering a pedal on the flyball box.

"A tennis ball is then released which the dog must hold before returning over the hurdles to the start line. The first team to have its fourth dog across the finish line, with any part of the dog's body, wins the race. Each dog must cross the finish line before the next dog can start, and handlers aim to launch their dog so that it will cross with a returning dog just at the line.

"If a run is not completed correctly the dog must re-run at the end of the line (for instance if the dog drops the ball, misses out a hurdle or starts too early, if the ball-loader assists the dog, or the handler crosses the start line while their dog is running). Usually the best of three runs decides which team proceeds to the next heat but five runs are also sometimes used. Each team consists of four handlers plus a 'box loader' and some reserves, although teams often also provide stewards."

Class times for Tuesday evenings will be as follows:

7.15 – 7.45: Puppy Class

7.15 – 7.55: Bronze & Silver/Gold Good Citizen Classes

8.00 – 8.40: Flyball

8.00 – 8.40: Rally Obedience

8.00 – 8.40: Gold Good Citizen

7.15 – 8.40: Show Handling/Ringcraft.

We look forward to seeing old and new members & their dogs.

CHRISTINE MARETT

DISCOUNT

Don't forget you can get discount at the following pet stores by showing your membership card, The Pet Cabin, Animal Kingdom

www.jerseyjuniordoghandlers.co.uk

2016 COMMITTEE

President:

Christine Marett, 874708, 07797 740836

Vice-President:

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CO-OP NUMBER

The club's Co-Op share number is 325473, please use it if you do not have one of your own or you may wish to donate your dividend to us occasionally.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to Health and Safety issues flexi/extending leads are not permitted as a training lead at club.

Aversives in dog training - and why they're bad!

First of all, what do we mean by an aversive and what counts as an aversive? An aversive is something done to the dog that the dog finds unpleasant enough to prevent an unwanted behaviour from reoccurring. Aversives can be anything from a yank on the leash, choke chains, training discs, head collars and harnesses that work by pulling tighter on the dog when the dog pulls, citronella spray collars, electric shock collars, rattle bottles, water spray bottles, pushing, prodding/poking with a finger and hitting. The idea is to make the behaviour unpleasant enough to stop the dog wanting to repeat it. The main problem with this is that the punishment has to be severe and harsh enough the first time it is meted out so that the behaviour stops immediately and stops it from happening again. There is no way of knowing in advance how intense that initial punishment should be for each individual dog and the punishment also needs to be delivered at the precise moment that the unwanted behaviour is happening. One of the main problems with this is that it can lead to people gradually increasing the severity of punishment until it can reach quite abusive levels.

So, you might be thinking to yourself now that in the past you've used some of the aversives listed above and the behaviour stopped, so what's the problem? Well, the fallout from using punishment can be really tough for your dog and initially it may appear that the problem is 'fixed' and that your dog is fine but the behaviour may either reappear further down the line and it may be more severe than before or it may manifest in another form. What you're actually doing is simply suppressing the behaviour and not changing the emotion the dog is experiencing that led it react the way it did. Other risks from using aversive techniques include:

- Increasing the dog's fear or anxiety about the situation in which it is used, eg. training classes – a dog is going to have increased anxiety/fear about attending classes if those classes involve the use of punishment.
- Decrease the dog's ability to learn. Research has shown that punishment

impedes learning due to the anxiety/fear that it creates.

- The dog may associate other, coincidental events with a fear-provoking event, eg if a dog is shocked with an electric shock collar and happens to see a bearded man/girl with glasses/small child, for example, at the same time as the shock is delivered then they may associate that type of person with the pain they experienced and then become reactive towards bearded men or girls with glasses or small children.

- It can cause your dog to become confused as using punishment simply tells the dog 'No, don't do that' but doesn't teach them what would be an appropriate, alternative behaviour.

- Aversives can cause physical injury. A leash correction, for example, can cause laryngeal, oesophageal, thyroidal and tracheal damage.

- Using punishment on your dog can severely damage the relationship you have with your dog.

Just think for a moment....you're terrified of spiders and I lock you in a cupboard chock full of the big, hairy beasties. Every time you show any fear or concern about those spiders, I may hit you, shock you, squirt you with water or shout at you. Will that cure your fear of spiders? Or will it just make you think that I can't be trusted and that even though you're still terrified of spiders, you'd better not show that fear if I'm around? It's exactly the same for our dogs!

So what do we do instead of using aversives? Well, we show the dogs what the behaviour is that we want from them, we set them up to succeed and we reward that behaviour when they get it right, whether that be with food or toys (PS. Dogs generally don't rate verbal praise or a pat on the head as highly as we think they do!). If they're doing something we don't want them to do, like chewing the TV remote control, then we redirect them to an appropriate chew toy and then reward them when they chew the right thing.

Behavioural science has proven that there is no place for punishment in modern dog training! Remember that the more you reward the behaviour that you want, then the more that you will see it from your dog!

TRAINING TIPS

Make sure that you have some nice, tasty treats if you are training your dog with food. Your dog will work much better if the reward is worth having. Would you work for a dry biscuit or a chocolate biscuit?

Also please be aware of what your dog is doing at training. Not all dogs like other dogs in their personal space.

DIARY DATES

September 24th

Scent Course 2

September 25th

Scent Course 1

November 13th

Companion Show,

The Royal Jersey Showground,

Entries 1.30 for 2.30 start.

Judge Pedigree Dr Margaret Bayes MBE.

Fun class judge Steven Lafolley-Edwards.

November 22nd

Annual General Meeting, Christmas

Buffet & Raffle. 7.15pm in The Members

Room, The Royal Jersey Showground.

2017

January 14th: Show Handling

with Marina Scott.

Obedience Show

In July the club held its Limited and Open Obedience Show at Leoville rifle range. The UK judge was Carole West. The results were as follows:

Limit Show Class Winners:

Pre- Beginner & Beginner: Anita Le Masurier & Devonairs Clean Sweep.

Novice & Class A: Pat Hitchon & Patois Phizz

Class B: Carole Pearce & Tonkory Ginn-Fizz at Shalimar

Class C: Marcel Guibout & Bartonview Humbug.

Open Show Class Winners:

Pre-Beginner: Anita Le Masurier & Devonairs Clean Sweep

Beginner: Sheila Davy & Jess Le Soleil

Novice: Rosemary McFarlane & Jetril Dakota.

Class A & B: Gwen Davies & Patois Corbette

Class C: Wendy Wright & Foxbarton Black Velvet.