



Nose Work

K9 Nose Work® is a FUN new and rapidly growing sport that is now available in Las Vegas!

BY VERONICA SELCO

Inspired by their work with detection dogs, professional handlers Jill Marie O'Brien, Amy Herot and Ron Gaunt founded K9 Nose Work® and made the sport available for companion dogs. Designed for FUN and without the stress or responsibility of detecting illegal or life threatening substances, K9 Nose Work® is a low impact, yet physically and mentally stimulating activity that dogs love!

A great advantage of this sport is that it suits every kind of dog, and the activity requires no previous skill from the handler... *anyone can do it!*

Getting Started Dogs experience their world through their noses and rely on their olfactory senses to gather information about people, animals and objects. In training, we use the dog's sense of smell and natural desire to hunt

to play K9 Nose Work®.

Training begins in a controlled environment, indoors in a small group setting, where one dog is worked at a time, making it possible for nearly ALL dogs to participate: puppies, seniors, shy, reactive, sport and dogs with disabilities. The safety precautions allows the reactive dog to participate in a group class and channel it's energy, while also encouraging a shy or fearful dog to develop hunt drive without being inhibited by other dogs.



One box is designated as a reward box and used to hide the dog's reward, which is determined as being of high value by the dog. In most cases we start out with smelly food, but we will sometimes use a toy if that is what the dog prefers.

Using positive and motivational techniques to encourage the dog to get his reward from the box and creating an environment that is FUN helps the dog tap into his hunting instinct. The search area is a "NO OBEDIENCE ZONE". The dog is encouraged to be independent and retrieves his reward from the boxes. Additional reinforcement is offered by giving the dog more food or playing with the toy when his head is in the box. The dog and owner play as a team and the owner learns to read the dog's body language to indicate when the dog is approaching his reward.