



# North Saanich Dog Obedience Training Club

May-June 2019

## President's Message

Norah Shandley

### 2019 EXECUTIVE

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Norah Shandley

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Most people think about the end of the year in December but for us at NOSA it seems like the year ends in June when we wind up training. I always look forward to the summer break but I know that I'll also miss the classes and the comradery we have.

We held successful Rally, Obedience and Scent Detection Trials. Our executive is again complete – I can never thank Jane enough for holding things together last year and our newsletter has been resurrected. We wish all of our instructors (who are

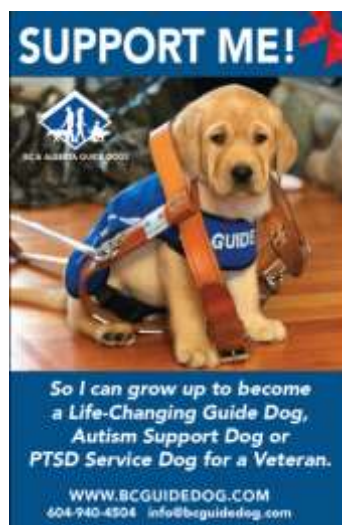
volunteers) a restful summer so you are recharged and ready for the fall session.

I know that all of the students will be practicing all summer and are going to knock your socks off in September!

If you are looking for summer reading material, check out "Awesome Obedience" by Hannah Branigan, The Culture Clash by Jean Donaldson and maybe my favourite; "Don't Shoot the Dog" by Karen Pryor. The last book isn't a dog

training book so much as a thought provoking book about training spouses, kids, roommates and anyone else you might have regular interaction with.

Finally, I encourage you most of all to enjoy your dog. Their lives are so short compared to ours, in no time at all we are in at a vet's office, heartbroken because we are told that "it is time". Play, laugh, and appreciate their quirks and silliness. You'll never regret taking them for one more walk...



BC Guide Dog Services continue to raise money by collecting stamps and metal tabs from cans (pop cans, tuna tins, etc.). Every contribution helps to graduate another special dog to be teamed with a sight impaired person, an autistic child or a veteran with PTSD. It's a life-changing miracle for the recipient. Read their stories at <https://bcandalbertaguidedogs.com/news-events/newsletters-reports/>

Bring your contribution of stamps and/or can tabs to NOSA training classes and they will be forwarded to BC Guide Dog Services.

Thank you for your support.  
Elizabeth Skaggs

## Meet the Breed



Today in Meet the Breed column we are splashing at the beach with Portuguese Water Dog, Potchki.

NOSA: Hey Potchki – good thing it is a warm day! It appears that the beach is one of your favourite places!

Potchki: Um...I AM a WATER dog! I love to swim and dive and play in the surf.

NOSA: Dive? Like the 10 metre platform?

Potchki: Sigh...Seriously – do you know nothing about my long existence?

NOSA: Not really – you are here to entertain and educate us!

Potchki: OK – well, my ancestors are from the Algarve region on the south coast of Portugal. We've been around since pre-Christian times. We were a big deal then – nearly sacred – anyone caught killing a "water dog" was handed severe penalties. The first written description of the Portuguese Water Dog is dated to 1297 and concerns a monk's report of a dying sailor who had been brought out of the sea by a dog which had a "black coat of rough hair, cut to the first rib and with a tuft on the tip of his tail".

NOSA: Wow! That is quite a history! What were you doing on the coast, besides hauling in sailors in trouble.

Potchki: We lived on boats and helped the fishermen catch fish as well as guarded the boat. We herded fish into nets, retrieved lost tackle or broken nets and took messages from ship to ship or from ship to shore. Obviously we had to be great swimmers and diving came in to play when we had to literally dive under water to retrieve fishing gear and to prevent the fish from escaping! Some of those land herding breeds think they are pretty hot stuff – I'd like to see them try to herd fish underwater! Now that is talent!

NOSA: I happen to know that you don't live on a boat... what do you do?

Potchki: It happens that my humans are awesome and do have a boat but we don't live on it. I earned my Junior Water Certificate when I was only 8 months old! Luckily for me my humans like the water almost as much as I do!

Out of the water, my human and I practice Rally Obedience – I'm working on my Rally Advanced! I've started doing scent detection too. I have to say that I really like it – kind of like smelly hide and seek! To top it off I've just started doing agility too – running around and jumping and going through tunnels – great fun!

Besides "dog stuff" I also work in an office sometimes with my human and apparently am a wonderful "breed ambassador". I think that means I mostly behave around other people, am really good looking and modest too!

*Continued on page 3...*



...Meet the Breed -continued from page 2

NOSA: You must be exhausted with that kind of schedule!

Potchki: Nope – according to the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America Breed Standard, “The Portuguese Water Dog is spirited yet obedient, robust, and of unexaggerated, functional conformation; sure, substantially boned and muscled, and able to do a full day's work in and out of the water.” In other words – you can't tire us out!

NOSA: What else can you tell us about your breed in general?

Potchki: According to the CKC breed standards, we are exceptionally intelligent (their words, not mine!) and a loyal companion. We immediately impressed North Americans with our willingness to turn in stellar performances in obedience trials. We possess a spirited disposition and are both brave and self-willed.

Our ideal height is 22 in (56 cm) at the withers for males and 19 in (48 cm) for females. Look for males to tip the scales at 42-60 lb (19-27 kg) while females will weigh in from 35-50 lb (16-22.5 kg). We have a non-shedding, non-allergenic coat may be either wavy or curly. The thick and profuse coat covers our whole body evenly.

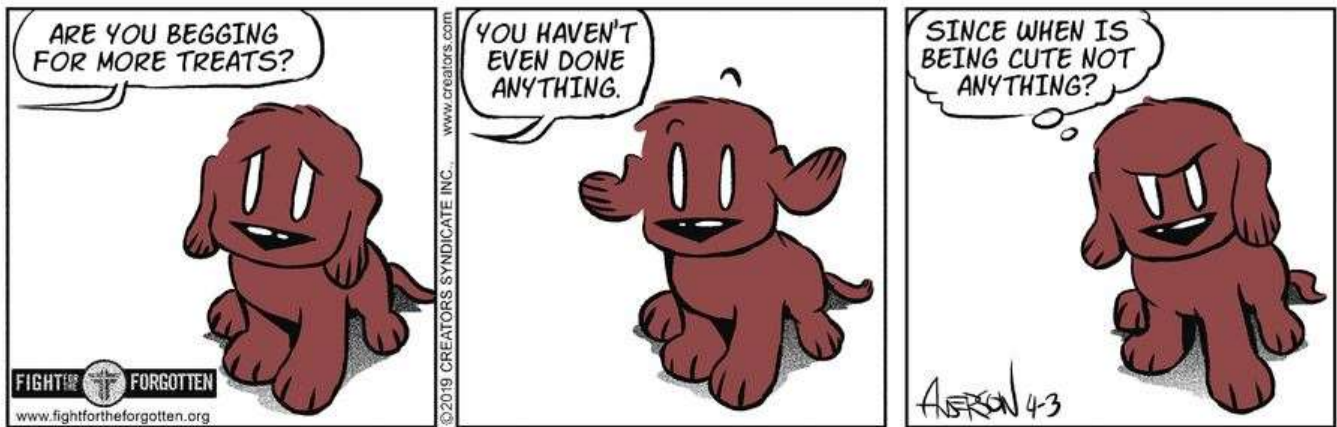
We can be black, white and various shades of brown. We can also be combinations of black or brown with white.

NOSA: Thanks Potchki! You've given up lots of information. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Potchki: Nope – enough with the sitting around – do you want to join me for a swim?

*Note: Potchki is Am/Cdn Ch. Freestyle Red Hot Chili Pepper RN. Bred and born in Farmington, Connecticut. Who's next? We'd love to hear from you. Please use the website contact form to have your dog interviewed!*

Dog Eat Doug by Brian Anderson for April 03, 2019



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## Upcoming NOSA Events

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** – NOSA General Meeting and Potluck – 6:30 pm at the RCMP Barn at the Saanich Fair Grounds (1528 Stelly's Cross Road)

Please bring a main course, salad or dessert to share, along with serving utensils Also plates, a cup and cutlery for yourself.

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>** - NOSA CKC Scent Detection Trial. This is a no-spectator event. If you'd like to see the trial please contact Norah with times you can volunteer. (president@nosa.ca)

**September 4<sup>th</sup>** - Fall classes begin. Ensure you are registered!

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** – No classes (Mary Winspear is not available to us.)

**October 20<sup>th</sup>** – NOSA & GVDOTC AIOC Obedience and Rally trials

For more information and links to trial posters, premiums and registration forms please go to our website: <http://nosa.ca/upcoming-events-and-club-dates/>

## Upcoming AIOC Club events

**June 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>** – NKC – Show and Rally Obedience

**July 14<sup>th</sup>** – AVKC – AIOC Obedience and Rally Trials

**July 20<sup>th</sup>** – NKC – AIOC Rally Trials

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>** – CRDFS CKC Obedience and Rally

**September 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** – NKC – CARO Rally Trials and Judge's Clinic

**Sept 28<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>** – FPO&TC CKC Obedience Trials

**October 5<sup>th</sup>** – COWN – AIOC Obedience Trials

**October 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>** – FPO&TC Tracking

For more AIOC events and information please go to: <http://aioc-vi.com/>

For all other dog events please go to: <https://www.canuckdogs.com/>

Dog Eat Doug by Brian Anderson for April 22, 2019



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## CKC Trial – April 20-21

Our CKC Trials at the Fairgrounds in April kept us all busy for the weekend. We had 2 full days of Obedience and Rally. Our 2 Judges Bruce Fraser and Karen Brearley did an amazing job of keeping the trials moving each day.

For the weekend we had a total of 105 Obedience entries (compared to 85 last year) and 59 Rally entries (103 last year). We had a total of 4 day of entries for the weekend!

High in Trial all four trials was Mary Shillabeer from Ladysmith (Cowichan and VIP Member). Second High in Trials were earned Louise Roberts (2X) (Cown), Shannon Hellyer-Gibson (GVic) and Maria Soto (Cown & VIP).

A huge thanks to all the Ring Stewards, who gave up their time to help out. It was most appreciated by Elaine Hobday and myself especially over the Easter weekend!



by



The concession brought in a total of \$162.43! Thank you to Judy and Dave Wallace for taking care of the kitchen for the two days and to all who donated food items.

Irene Copus did an amazing job of the Raffle, which brought in \$744.50 over the two days. Well done to everyone who donated!!! Everyone seemed to be very happy with their raffle prizes.

Many thanks go to Norah Shandley for organizing the Trophy Tables. Thank you to all those who donated money to the trophy fund. Norah will not be looking after Trophies next year so we are looking for a volunteer. Please see Norah if you are interested.

Thank you to everyone who came out on Friday evening to help with set up and take down on Sunday

after the trial. Your help was most appreciated. To make this CKC trial a big success it takes a lot of work to get everything to come together and we could not accomplish this without everyone's help.

Many thanks go to Bill and Karen Blair for all the behind the scenes work they do each year to make this Trial a huge success.

Respectfully submitted, Cherry



## Question Corner

**Obedience Trials** are meant to test the dog's suitability as a **good companion** at home, in the park and with other dogs. And a Trial is a series of tests that are to be passed in order of difficulty. Each level of tests (set by the judge), is to be passed three times to receive a Title. Oh... and you'll hear terms like a "**Q**" (meaning Qualified) or a "**leg**" (3 legs or passes to a title) when folks are talking about 'trailing'. Trials are a great way to give yourself a goal in training, have fun with your dog in preparing, learn where you would like to improve and...just meet like-minded folks!

The first class (or test) is called a **Pre-Novice** classes and the title received from three passes is a **Pre-companion Dog or PCD**. Pre-Novice is elective, so you aren't required to have a PCD to move to higher levels. You and your dog (one team at a time) will enter the ring and on leash, perform the same exercises as others in the class. You are then returned as a group for an additional test, performed while at a distance from your dog. The list of exercises for all levels are available in the CKC Obedience rules, available online.

The next level (and first required) is the **Novice class** incorporating additional challenges along with sits and downs (handlers at a distance) required for the group test for the title of **Companion Dog or CD**. And why are there different Novice classes? Well, enter **Novice A** if your dog hasn't achieved a CD title and the handler is the owner or immediate family who hasn't trained or exhibited a dog to a CDX level; **Novice B** class is a dog that hasn't achieved a CD title and the handler can be the owner or other person, no restrictions. And **Novice C** is for a dog that has earned the CD or higher titles, may compete indefinitely in this class and there is no title awarded.

The **Novice Intermediate class** introduces holding dumbbells (single bar, not metal) and jumps. The title...is **Companion Dog Intermediate or CDI**. And just a note that **jump heights** in Obedience are determined by the height and age of the dog.

The **Open class** introduces more involved retrieval as well as optional out of sight group exercises. Like Novice, it offers a variety of classes and competition is for the title **Companion Dog Excellent or CDX**. The differences are **the Open HA and HB** include the Out of Sight Group Stay exercises or you could choose the **Open 18A and Open 18 B** which includes Change of Positions and Group Sit-walk around. Similar to Novice, **the "A" level** is for dogs who haven't achieved the CDX and handled by the owner or immediate family who hasn't trained or exhibited a dog earning a UD (Utility) title

**Utility A or Utility B** introduces Scent discrimination, signal, direct jumping. Completion of the **UD title** in conjunction with the CD and CDX recognizes your dog as an **Obedience Trial Champion or OTCH**. **The OTCH or championship is presented in front of the dog's name whereas the titles are a prefix!**

*Many thanks to Jan Gillis for putting this information together! NOSA has copies of the CKC Obedience and Rally Obedience rule book for sale. The book is a great reference! See Gary at the registration desk!*



*Riveting bedtime reading!*



## Toby

I adopted Toby in summer 2015 as an approximately two-year-old shelter Chihuahua. At the time, I was looking for a hiking companion and a dog to try agility with. Shortly after adopting him, I realized something was off and Toby was diagnosed with a long-standing injury – putting our agility hopes temporarily on hold. In the meantime, I had a highly active little dog and I needed to find a low-impact outlet for all his energy (one that worked better for me than shredding books and chasing the cat, of course).

That year I signed up for an introductory nosework class thinking if it wasn't for us, it was only a six-week commitment. As you can probably guess, we kept going until we were through all the classes our instructor had available. We found NOSA in 2017, and I was thrilled there was a 9 p.m. nosework class – finally a time to train that fit into my erratic schedule! Toby loves our working group and we have learned so much from our instructor Marilyn as well as fellow classmates. In the last several months, Toby has earned his excellent, championship, and master championship titles through the Sporting Detection Dogs Association – the first chihuahua in the organization to achieve each title.

I'm happy to report that at the time of writing, Toby remains a healthy and active dog who has tried his paw at many sports. We dabble in a few, but nosework remains our first love. And most importantly, Toby is the best travelling companion, hiker, and snuggler I could ever ask for.

Heather Clifford



## Congratulations!

Jazz (*Ravinel Little Light of Mine RN*) earned her Rally Novice title at the GVDOTC trial in May!

Send us your pup's achievements! We are now looking for new achievements from current NOSA members from January 2019 onward!

Please send details and a picture to: [publicity@nosa.ca](mailto:publicity@nosa.ca)



## New CKC CGN (Canine Good Neighbour) Title Holders!

Congratulations to the following teams who earned their CKC Canine Good Neighbour titles in May at the GVDOTC trial!

Heather and Bellah, Sandeep and Jasper, Isabelle and Finn and Jane and Eevi



Bella



Finn



Eevi



Jasper



## Training Tips

I would have to say the one thing that I have learned is **patience**. Not all dogs learn the same way and you can't expect your dog to perform the same as your neighbour's dog or a previous dog you have trained. I have learned over the years to be humble and to enjoy each and every dog I've trained to different levels. They bring so much joy into our lives.

Always reward your dog's behaviour with positive reinforcement. Use, treats, toys, love and heaps of praise. Let him/her know when he/she is getting it right. Don't reward bad behaviour as it will only confuse your dog. Always end your training sessions on a positive note!

Our pets are all unique and if we take the time to watch and pay attention, they have so much they can teach us. It is so important to be respectful of your dog if he/she is feeling stressed over learning anything new. Always take a step back in training if your dog is not understanding your instructions. If you are having a bad day then delay training as tomorrow is a new day and you will both benefit from a little time away.

Submitted by Cherry Condrey

## Congratulations!



Leslie and Pippa won the Toketie Point Trophy for the top Novice A dog at our Spring session beginner graduation. Congratulations!



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