

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024



A full term of training, tests, awards & success for ODTG members

WELL DONE To all our handlers and their dogs!

PUPPY PASSES

Jessica Bellamy Pippa
 Jenny Hollis Baz
 Gerda Verbruggen Ailsa



END OF TERM PROGRESS TESTS

MONDAY cont'd

Beginner 1

1st Margaret Harriss Buddy
 2nd Sue Cotton Bonnie
 3rd Jane Odling-Thomas Missy
 4th Tracy McCluskey Rosie



TUESDAY

Starters

1st James Belding Baxter
 2nd Terry Wait Murphy



Beginner 1

1st Holly Van Driel Egg
 2nd Lisa Brett Pedro
 3rd Ellie Sandieson Millie
 4th Joy Stickley Boudie



Beginner 2

1st David Young Walter
 2nd Natalia Tait-Bower Woody



Novice/Advanced

1st David Oliver Molly
 2nd Troy Rowe Rosie
 3rd Philippa Hind Marlon
 4th Fiona Vernon Willow



MOST IMPROVED HANDLER AND DOG

Monday

Puppy Jessica Bellamy Pippa
 Starter Sue Cotton Bonnie
 Beginner 1 Warwick Hoddy Clemy
 Beginner 2 Jane Odling-Thomas Spud
 Novice Sue Austin Asher
 Advanced Jeanne Davies Lottie

Tuesday

Starters Catherine Taylor Margot
 Beginner 1 Lisa Brett Pedro
 Beginner 2 David Young Walter
 Novice/Adv Fiona Vernon Willow

Beginner 2

1st Warwick Hoddy Clemy
 2nd Pauline Angus Ciccone
 3rd Jane Odling-Thomas Spud



Novice

1st Chris West Stormy
 2nd Gill Peppercorn Immy
 3rd Sue Farrenden Tango
 4th Tracey McCluskey Presley



Advanced

1st Sylvia St-A-Hubbard Merry
 2nd Jan Brockhurst Tig
 3rd Sophie James Busby
 4th Tracy McCluskey Ziggy



Photos available on request

MONDAY

Starters

1st Kevin Agnew Wild
 2nd Becky Squibb Ralph
 3rd Kathy Lanigan Goose



10 Facts about Dogs

1. Their sense of smell is at least 40x better than ours

The area of cells in the brain that detect different smells is around 40 times larger in dogs than humans. This means that your dog can pick up on way more smells than we ever could. This is why dogs are often used to sniff out people, drugs and even money!

In fact, a number of our own hero hounds were awarded PDSA medals for their noses! Arms and explosives search dog Buster was awarded his PDSA Dickin Medal in 2003 for his remarkable service in Iraq – he located a large amount of weapons and explosives linked to an extremist group, saving the lives of many civilians and service personnel.

2. Some have such good noses they can sniff out medical problems

Yup, medical detection dogs are a thing. Because their sense of smell is so great, some dogs can be trained to sniff out medical conditions. They are used to diagnose a particular condition or to alert their owners if they need more medication. Some are even being trained to sniff out Covid-19!

One of these incredible dogs is Medical Detection Dog Pal who was awarded the PDSA Order of Merit. Pal played a vital role in diabetic owner Claire's life by alerting her of changes in her blood sugar. If not caught in time, these changes could have killed her.

3. Dogs can sniff at the same time as breathing

Dogs rely a lot on their sense of smell to find food, potential dangers, and friends, so needless to say they sniff a lot. Their noses are designed so smells can stay in their nose while air can move in and out of their lungs at the same time, which means they can breathe freely and still work out what that smell is!

4. Some dogs are incredible swimmers

So, not all dogs like water, but the ones that do tend to be pretty good swimmers (but again, not all are so always keep an eye on your dog in case they decide to take a dip out and about).

Newfoundlands are so good in the water that for years they've been used as water rescue dogs. In 2016, a brave Newfoundland called Whizz was awarded the PDSA Order of Merit for saving nine people from the sea over his career as a water rescue dog

5. Some are fast and could even beat a cheetah!

Most dogs could easily outrun a human – they're built to run and chase! The fastest breed of dog by far, though, is the [Greyhound](#). These speedy sight hounds can reach a top speed of 45mph within seconds of starting to run

'But how does this beat a cheetah?' we hear you ask. Well, while a cheetah can get up to almost 70mph, they can only keep this going for around 30 seconds. Greyhounds, on the other hand, could easily run at speeds in excess of 35mph for seven miles. So despite the cheetah's head start, they'd soon overtake!

6. Dogs don't sweat like we do

While dogs do sweat, don't expect them to be getting damp armpits any time soon. Where humans sweat watery liquid to cool down, dogs produce a pheromone laden oily substance that us humans can't detect (dogs know it's there because of that great sense of smell). The only place that dogs sweat like us is on their paws, so instead they pant to cool down. This is why it's so important to [keep your dog cool on those warmer days](#) to make it easier on them.

7. Your dog could be left or right-pawed

There have been a few studies around this and it turns out that just like us, dogs have a preferred hand (well, paw) to lead with. You can find out whether your dog is left or right-pawed by giving them their favourite toy or interactive game and seeing which paw they use to help them first.

8. Along with their noses, their hearing is super sensitive

We all know dogs can hear much higher frequencies than us, but did you know they can also hear further? Generally, dogs can hear much softer sounds than we can, so they can hear things that are much further away.

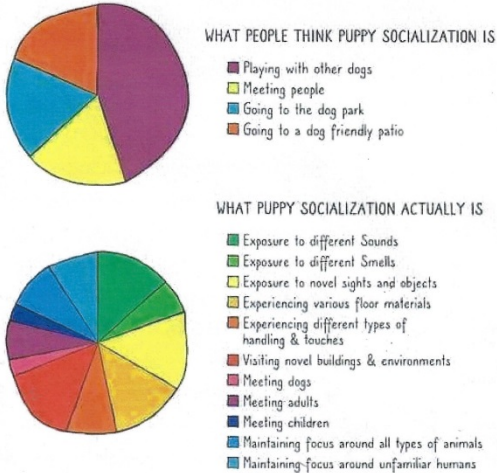
This is another trait that makes them great search and rescue dogs. While they will mainly use their nose for tracking, their hearing can also be a real help (especially as they get closer to whatever they are looking for!). Dogs like K9 Killer who was awarded the PDSA Gold Medal for helping to track down Rhino poachers, are excellent at tracking using both smell and hearing. [Read more about K9](#).

9. Dogs have 18 muscles controlling their ears

If you have a dog, you might notice that their ears move around a lot. They actually have around 18 muscles responsible for moving their ears. These help them to change the direction of their ears slightly to hear noises around them better, and play a really big part in telling us how our dogs are feeling. A lot of a dog's body language is expressed through what their ears are doing so a dog's ears are vital in helping them communicate both with us and other dogs.

10. Dogs are about as intelligent as a two-year-old

Studies have shown that dogs can learn over 100 words and gestures, which puts their intelligence and understanding of us on a par with a two year old. However, dogs are much easier to train than a two year old! They're used for all sorts of jobs. from military roles to assistance dogs, because they're both clever and extremely loyal animals.



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HOW DO I BECOME A DOG TRAINING INSTRUCTOR

Despite the best efforts of Canine Organisations, there are still no qualifications that must be held before you can legally call yourself a Dog Training Instructor. However, in the UK there are formal courses and examinations that can be taken and the following will give you an indication of what is available.

The Kennel Club Accredited Instructor Scheme

The Kennel Club have established an examination system supported by the Qualification and Curriculum Authority. The scheme is hard work and fairly academic, but the study involved is very rewarding. There is also a practical class assessment, on teaching at two levels of handler ability. There is no time limit and it is relatively inexpensive, paying an annual fee.

The British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers

Founded in 1974, originally envisaged as providing training and standard qualifications for Security Dog Handlers. It rapidly changed to running courses for Dog Training Instructors in Competition, Pet Obedience, Agility and Working Trials. There are four levels of Membership and Certificates are awarded following a successful week long practical course and a successful assessment.

The Pet Dog Training Instructors Course

This course was founded in 1955, and concentrates on the skills needed for training pet dogs. The examinations largely consist of scores for the candidate's work during the week and whilst teaching sample classes for given periods plus answering questions appropriate to the level entered.

Online Courses

There are many Online Courses and seminars available but these tend to be theory based with little practical 'teaching a class'.

OVING DOG TRAINING

We are looking for Trainee Trainers and would be pleased to hear from anyone in the Club who would like to look at the options. We will cover In House Training and financially support external training courses. Please contact either Veronica or Ruth for further information.

will be regularly updated. Go to:

www.ovingdogs.com

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