



SEPTEMBER 2019 EDITION

NOSEWORK NEWSLETTER

featuring a brief history of the sport, a vision for the future, and frequently asked questions!

written by Karen Shivers



an introduction to
KAREN SHIVERS

Hello! My name is Karen Shivers and I am the new program manager for Nosework, Obedience, and Rally Obedience. I am very excited about my new position with the United Kennel Club.

This first newsletter will give me a chance to introduce myself to you, provide some history about the Nosework program, and talk about what is in store for the future.

I am thrilled to be a part of this great sport!

Karen A. Shivers



A LITTLE HISTORY

I have been involved in training and competing in the sport of dogs since I was nine years old and have experience in a wide variety of activities with dogs. It started while interviewing for a teaching position – during my interview, I told the school’s principal about having once brought my Dobermans into the classroom for a genetics demonstration. Seeing the dogs come in, several students started whispering that they were drug dogs. Hearing this, the principal asked if I could bring the dogs with me to my new job.

I contacted a licensed Private Investigation and Detection/Police Academy that I knew of in the area and found out that the owner of the company had long been dreaming of having a drug dog on the school campus regularly. Who would have thought I’d get so lucky! This began my journey of training detection dogs. I became the first civilian to go through the training program and graduate, and the officers in my class couldn’t have been more supportive of my new endeavor.

“Nosework is a partnership between you and your best friend, where you rely on your trustworthy K9, because they know way more about this than you do!”

I went on to open my own Texas-licensed Class C Private Investigation/Guard Dog/Guard company under the name of Tactical K9 & Investigation. The longer I worked in the field, the more I came to appreciate the strength of the bond created between the dog and handler, because the handler must rely completely on the dog. The dogs I trained loved doing detection work and were so happy to “go to work” that I began to think about all the civilian dogs and handlers



that didn’t have the opportunity experience and enjoy this activity.

I investigated to see if there were opportunities like this available and found that there was a small group in California doing recreational detection work, but I had a vision for something bigger. I wanted everyone to be able to do this, and the competitive spirit in me wanted dogs to earn a title doing it. I also considered the Junior Handlers that could perfect a craft that could one day lead them to a career in K9 handling. What better way to be able to contribute to the growth of young people toward a profession I dearly love!

I contacted UKC and asked if they would be interested in adopting a Nosework program. Because of their working dog philosophy and family-friendly atmosphere, I felt that UKC would be the ideal organization to run the program I was imagining. After several discussions, UKC agreed to take on the program after a two-year trial period. The program was assembled over the course of a very labor-intensive year. Under the name United Nosework, over 1,000 titles were issued (later grandfathered in by UKC), new judges were educated, and countless new exhibitors were introduced to the sport. I felt my vision become reality when my Malinois, Soleil, was the first dog to earn the Elite Nosework title in 2014, only about a month before UKC officially adopted the program.

I am thrilled to be taking on a more involved role with UKC. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, suggestions, comments, or anything related to Nosework, Obedience, or Rally Obedience. As a former educator, I appreciate the importance of continuing to learn, develop, and do our best. I look forward to working with you all!



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Nosework is far from being a static sport. It is involved, growing, and becoming very popular. The addition of the Master Level in Handler Discrimination will help create dogs that work independently and are precise with their indications. The new changes for 2020 will allow everyone to compete at the level they are comfortable with, and earn level Championship, level Grand Championship, overall Championship, and overall Grand Championship titles in Nosework. In addition to the Master Handler Discrimination class, Handler Discrimination will see the addition of Titles of Distinction.

Currently, there are approximately 196 dogs in the world that are eligible to compete under the current rules for a Nosework Champion title and less than 10 who are eligible for the Grand Championship title. The new rules allow much more flexibility in earning both titles and will allow dogs to compete at any level indefinitely.

The change in Elite to an unknown number of hides gives the sport more integrity and requires a higher level of training and communication between dog and handler. The program is based on real detection work. By the time a dog and handler reach the Elite level, they should be able to accomplish the task.

Overall, during my observation of the growth of the program

and experience judging trials, one of the major problems I have observed is communication. Specifically, I see handlers unable to properly receive a communicated alert from their dog. This creates frustration and distrust between dog and handler. I would

encourage every handler to train a specific and defined alert or final indication behavior to improve this problem. This promotes an even stronger bond, a better understanding of the training required to be successful in a variety of situations, and a deeper trust between dog and handler. Training for a specific alert behavior from the beginning of your training program will help dogs become confident, independent workers that can clearly communicate when a target odor is found.

I am also working on the addition of a program that brings in Search & Recovery dogs for live find. My vision for this is a program that would set the standard

for those dogs certified in the field to do this work as a service to the community. My goal is to have the titles accepted as a real certification for dogs working in the real world. I would like to expand the program to include tracking and few other surprises along the way.

Happy Hunting!



FAQ

May I watch the upper levels so that I can see what I might encounter when I reach that level?

Exhibitors that do not have a dog entered in the level/class being judged may watch the runs if there is an available spectator area. If an exhibitor has a dog entered in a class, they are not allowed in the working areas of the trial until after they have run their search. If any exhibitor is found to be in the working areas prior to their run, they will be excused from the event and will be ineligible to run any dogs that day. This does not apply to Master Handler Discrimination – this is only class that all handlers can watch, regardless of whether they are entered.

Can someone else video my run?

Exhibitors may choose one (1) person to accompany them into the search area during the running of their dogs to video and/or photograph their performance. The person you choose to accompany you must follow the rules applying to being present in the search area. Any videos or photos are to be kept private until the completion of the trial and after placements have been awarded. If a club designates an official photographer, they may restrict other people from taking photos or videos in the search area.

What should I do if my dog ignores the container boxes?

If you are still within your allotted search time, you may go back

to the start line and begin again. You may step away from the line of boxes and reset your dog from there, you may take a pause and restart from anywhere within in the search area, talk to your dog, reassure your dog, and/or start over with a directed search, directing the dog to check every box as long as you do not physically touch any of the boxes. What you do not want to do is become frustrated with your dog. Sometimes, the shift from practice to a real trial environment can be stressful – you as a handler could become nervous, and the dog could be unsure of what to do. It is important to keep this new experience as positive as possible, since both handler and dog gain experience and confidence by doing. Encourage the dog to search but not to the point of frustration.

Can we run trials back-to-back through the levels?

If a club is running two trials on the same day, it is efficient to run some or all of the levels back-to-back. For example, if a club runs two container trials from Novice through Elite, the club would start with Novice Trial 1 and begin Novice Trial 2 immediately afterwards. When both Trial 1 and Trial 2 Novice Container levels were finished, Trial 1 Advanced would be next, followed by Trial 2 Advanced and so on. This is especially efficient because of the amount of movement required for the boxes. It is equally efficient with other elements and is an accepted way to run the trials.



Will my extra elite legs go towards the Elite Champion title after January 1, 2020?

Any extra legs earned in any level prior to January 1, 2020 will not count toward any Championship titles. Dogs that have earned at least one (1) qualifying leg in either the Master or Elite Full Trials will be grandfathered in as a Master Nosework Champion.

How do I earn Level Championships in 2020?

Dogs do not have to be an Elite Nosework dog to begin working on level Championships. For instance, once the dog has earned a Novice Nosework title, that dog may begin working on a Novice Nosework Championship. That dog may also be working on the Advanced title at the same time, so it could be entered in an Advanced Container class in the A class, to work toward their Advanced Nosework title, and the Novice Container in the B class to work toward the Novice Nosework Championship at the same trial. The same dog, once it earns the Novice Nosework Championship, may begin working on the Novice Grand Championship. Eventually, the dog could be entered in Superior A working on the initial Superior Nosework title, Advanced B working on the Advance Championship title after finishing the Novice Championship, and in Novice B working on the Novice Grand Championship. The new rules allow much more flexibility for dog and handler teams when earning titles.

May we re-cue the dog with a sample of our HD article during a search?

You may not bring out or carry a sample of your HD article during a search. The glove or article used for the search will be placed in the search container prior to start of the run. However, the dog could be given your scent from your hand at any time during the run.

Does my second dog have to be run in the B classes?

If you are trialing a second dog in the same level as your first dog, it is required that you have a second handler. If the second handler is not listed as one of the owners of the dog or is not a member of the owner's household or immediate family, that dog will be required to enter the B class. It is required that exhibitor own the dog when competing in the A class, but this is not a requirement in B.

Also, no licensed or professional dog trainer, Nosework instructor, or Nosework judge, regardless of the person's status as an amateur or professional, may compete in the A class. Any dog or handler is eligible to compete in the B class. Dog and handler teams may continue to compete in B indefinitely.

UKC UNITED KENNEL CLUB TEXAS CLASSIC



Friday, November 15 – November 17, 2019

All Events held at the Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center, 100 Grand Blvd, Longview, TX 75604
Superintended by United Kennel Club • Hosted by the United Dog Owner's Group

PRE-ENTRY DEADLINE DATE: Friday, November 1, 2019; 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Please go to the UKC website for complete event rules and additional show information ukcdogs.com/texas-classic

- 6 Licensed All-Breed Conformation Shows
- 6 Licensed All-Breed Altered Conformation Shows
- **6 Nosework Trials**
- 6 Rally Obedience Trials
- 3 Obedience Trials
- 3 Weight Pull Trials
- SPOT Evaluations