What is Nose Work?

Nose Work…

is a dog sport that mimics professional detection dog work in a way that provides a safe, positive environment that allows dogs to use their natural talents. Companion nose work dogs are taught to search independently, and handlers learn to read the dogs' communications.

Nose work is a sport that anyone can pursue. Many of the dogs active in nose work are assistance or therapy dogs, reactive dogs, or otherwise active dogs who need a job. Handlers who participate range from people interested volunteer or semi-professional scent detection work, to people who just want to provide their dog with an outlet for extra energy.

K9 Nose Work™ by ARL Dog Sports

Introduction to Nose Work (Four 1-hour classes)

This introductory session will introduce your dog to the sport of canine scent work and introduces you, the handler, to the ways that your dog communicates scent movement and the location of the scent source. Each week will allow your dog to experience new scent scenarios and build problem-solving skills. Along the way, you'll learn how to read your dog's body language, and how your body language communicates meaning to your dog.

Classes use NACSW® methods, which were developed by professional detection dog handlers and are suited for companion, sport, and working dogs alike. Dogs will search for high value treats or toys during this introductory session. Each class is limited to four dog-handler teams. One dog will search at a time, allowing for individual attention. Dogs not actively searching must stay in facility-provided crates or owners' crates or cars when not working.

Whether you want to explore a new activity with your dog or want to compete in scent detection competitions in any venue, this class will build a strong foundation for your dog, emphasizing drive and independence.

About the Instructor

Ann Roseberry Lincoln is the owner of ARL Dog Sports and has been an NACSW® Certified Nose Work Instructor since 2017. She has trained six of her own dogs in canine scent detection, using NACSW® methods. She has coached many competitive teams, and many others who just want to enjoy scent detection work at home with their dog. If she had a tail that she could wag, it would wag every time someone told her about a moment that brought them joy when performing a search with their dog.

Although Ann hated physics in college, she is fascinated by odor movement. Her formal education is in biology, chemistry, and environmental science, and by day she conceals herself as a mild-mannered data scientist. This scientific mind and sense of curiosity helps her to break down odor problems for both dog and handler to succeed and understand the problem and solution. Ann also has a strong background in positive reinforcement training and dog behavior, having graduated from the Marin Humane Society Advanced Dog Training Academy in 2001. In addition to nose work, Ann trains her dogs in sheep herding, another sport that relies on the dog's natural abilities.

For more information, please email Ann Roseberry Lincoln at ann@arldogsports.com.