

# UK General & Booking Information Newsletter for John Rogerson

Hi Everyone,

I am frequently asked by those who book me to give outlines of the courses that I do. Those of you who know me well know that I simply turn up and do whatever you want me to do to suit your audience. Sometimes it is difficult to plan ahead. For example, if I am asked to do a Search and Rescue course but when I arrive few of the dogs can be safely let off the lead I have to adjust the way that I teach. Similarly, sometimes the level of behaviour knowledge is high enough so that we can do some more advanced behaviour exercises, even on a foundation course. In short, whatever you ask me to do there will inevitably be some adjustments that I have to make.

SO tell me what you want – from tracking to competitive obedience, from minor behaviour problems to the most severe aggression problem, from the technical, theoretical approach to how a dog learns to simply teaching the dog to do what you want, and I will do my best to deliver. And yes, I do workshops on competitive obedience, basic agility gundog training, protection training (police or military only) and anything else that involves training dogs. You draw up the outline or choose one of mine from below and send it to me via E Mail. If there is a problem with any of the subject matter I will get back to you.

Remember that you can tailor make your course to suit what people want. You could start with a two day Dog Behaviour Foundation course, and two days Puppy Development making four days in all.

My wife, Judy, travels with me and where possible, we like to stay with a real person rather than checking into a motel. So if you have a spare room we will be quite happy and this will also help to keep your costs down.

We pay for our own meals until the evening before the seminar starts – you pick up the tab, for me, for the duration of the seminar including the evening on the final day – I pay for Judy's meals and my own meals after that. Don't worry, we are vegetarian who eat dairy, eggs, fish and shellfish but don't eat a lot! I usually only drink water when I am working and do not drink any caffeinated drinks. Other than that I am quite normal.

Many people find my style of teaching – well – different! I start on time – usually a little ahead of time. There are no morning or afternoon breaks! Lunch is just 30 minutes. The reason behind this? From experience if we have a fifteen minute break in the morning and afternoon sessions plus one hour for lunch, working on 9.00 – 4.00 basis it gives participants just five and a half hours of time for their hard earned money. Of course I could work 9.00 – 5.00 and give an hour for lunch and breaks during the AM and PM sessions but, over a four day course people get too tired and benefit from the extra hour to relax in the evening (latent learning time). Plus if participants get an hour for lunch ***I don't*** so I am going to be working through my lunch break whatever happens!

**Which course should I book?** All courses are designed as standalone which means that you can choose any of the courses or even design your own by choosing from the list and then deciding how many days you want to fill with each subject. For example you could choose two days of Puppy Foundation, two days of the Canine Behaviour Foundation and four days on Aggression. Read through this brochure and find the course that best suits your needs and simply fill in the booking form, sending it off with the correct deposit and Judy will get back to you with a choice of dates.

**What can participants expect to gain from the course?** In addition to a rare insight into the canine mind they should also expect to gain complete, up to the minute knowledge on both training techniques and behaviour therapy, which is vital for people either engaged in, or contemplating entering, the field of applied canine behaviour and training. All courses are designed to give an extensive and in-depth understanding of the subject matter and are limited to a maximum attendance of 40 students in order to give maximum time to individual needs. Note that this number is reduced to 30 for all five and seven day courses and is reduced further for the 21 day course and most dog training/handling courses.

All students should receive a certificate of attendance on the satisfactory completion of the course.

**4 days Puppy Development** is a course that should be of interest to anyone studying the subject of applied canine behaviour as it looks at how puppies develop into young adults. It covers all of the developmental stages and also includes: Nature Vs Nurture; Environmental influences; The behaviour of the mother; Altruistic behaviour; Innate and learned behaviour; Significant traumatic experiences and Premature conceptual learning. Puppy training and socialisation are also covered in depth. We also telephone breeders to gain an insight into where our population of 'problem' dogs come from!

#### **4 days Canine Rehabilitation**

This is an in depth course that is of particular interest to anyone involved in rescue work. This course has been run as an in house teaching course by most of the leading animal charities in the UK and covers dog behaviour as applicable to adoption centres. It gives a fascinating insight into applied canine behaviour as it handles some of the issues facing rescue centres. Due to legal reasons it is becoming increasingly necessary for staff to temperament test dogs prior to homing. Most of the temperament tests used in this country and now adopted by UFAW (Universities Federation for Animal Welfare) were pioneered by John Rogerson, so who better to teach you these techniques. The course focuses on rehabilitation of problem dogs and will involve hands on work with dogs. This course is not only of interest to those currently working in a shelter environment but is also of benefit to trainers and behaviourists who regularly work with rescue dogs.

#### **4 days Canine Aggression**

This is a course that picks up where other courses stop. This is not a course for beginners as the problems of aggression are covered in some depth. A good background in practical handling and training would be helpful prior to attending this course. Although designed as a stand alone course it is ideally suited to those students who have experience in training and handling difficult dogs. On this course we use carefully selected dogs as examples of different types of aggression towards people and other dogs.

#### **5 days Training and Instructing**

This course, covering module C of the British Kennel Club dog trainer and behaviourist accreditation Scheme, aims to show appreciation of the complexities involved in teaching, widen experience, understanding and knowledge, increase range of teaching methods and learning styles, show understanding of the many aspects common across areas and encourage self assessment, reflection and improvement.

This is a course that is **essential** for anyone who is either instructing or about to begin instructing in training classes. It is also essential for anyone engaged in canine behaviour therapy as it examines training techniques which may be used as part of a behaviour modification programme. The course correctly examines all of the issues involved in the modern reward based training systems, so misunderstood and abused by many instructors practicing today. Both learning theory and practical applications are taught to students who will be working with rescue dogs during the course. There will be an opportunity experience how dogs are judged under competition conditions and to put the rescue dog that you will be working with on this course through the British KC good Citizen scheme.

#### **4 or 5 days Dog Behaviour Foundation course**

The emphasis is on dog behaviour on this course which is designed to give a sound understanding of how and why dogs do what they do. Essentially this is a theory only course which acts as a solid foundation for anyone contemplating a career in Canine Behaviour therapy and training as well as giving those professionals a better understanding of both the canine and human mind. On this course the emphasis will be on dog behaviour problems and their treatment. This course is the perfect partner to the practical courses available with John.

This course covers all aspects of canine behaviour and aims to ensure a broad base to enhance knowledge of dogs, show understanding of human and canine psychology, show recognition of limitations of professional advice, show appreciation of constructive team work in the best interest of the dog, and promote responsible dog ownership. Subjects covered are: Organisations within the dog world; Legal responsibilities; Living with dogs; Dog behaviour; How a dog learns; Minor, moderate and severe behaviour problems not involving aggression and how to train the owner.

#### **Four day course outline – Tracking, Trailing, Searching**

Maximum 14 dogs and handlers each day and 8 spectators.

This can be adapted to suit. You could, for example just have four days tracking workshop etc. You can have one day of each, such as one day tracking, one day trailing and one day search and rescue, or you can have all one kind of tracking.

Tracking to recover lost property – police style and British Working Trials style.

Getting started – how to teach a dog to track a person and recover lost or hidden property (firearms, clothing etc). Starter tracks and track laying: Effect of wind and terrain on tracks: Straight line tracks: the first corners: Free tracking: tracking on harness and line: Line handling: indicating lost property: Age of tracks: Cross tracks. Variable surface tracking.

Requirements: dogs can be any age from 8 weeks to 4 years. You will need a TRACKING harness (not a walking harness!) and 25 foot tracking line, A bag containing five different types of food rewards, five different toys that the dog enjoys playing with and lots of enthusiasm. Dogs need no formal obedience training and do not need to do a recall as they will be on a harness and line or collar and lead at all times. It is also important that they are fine around people that they do not know! (no aggression problems please).

Trailing - Search and rescue to find a missing person– straight line starter tracks: reading the terrain: cutting corners: track ages: location of victims; pursuit tracking: night time tracking exercise.

In addition to the requirements above you will also need to bring a flashlight (a headlamp is best) plus two lightsticks and a means of attaching them to your dog's harness.

Searching – to find a missing and hidden person (victim, criminal, lost child etc) Teaching an indication – barking, passive indications, commuting. The first steps in training a good search dog: developing memory: increasing drive: finding buried victims: quartering the ground: Controlling the dog at a distance: Directional control: Night time search exercise.

Dogs MUST be over six months old with an instant recall when running free and have good temperaments around people and dogs. You will need to bring a bag containing five different types of food rewards, five different toys that the dog enjoys playing with. You will also need to bring a flashlight (headlamp) plus two lightsticks and some kind of jacket for your dog to wear that will hold a lightstick.

Times are:

Day 1 – 9.00 am-4.00 pm

Day 2 – 9.00 am-1.00 pm plus night session

If you want to book four days tracking, trailing, or search and rescue, you can have one or two night sessions. Times for the night sessions can start when it is completely dark and end when we finish!

### **Seven day and Ten day Trainer/Behaviorist courses**

Both courses use shelter or 'volunteer' dogs for the practical training sessions. For the first five days the dogs are trained for the British Good Citizen silver and gold test and will be put through a mock test on the fifth day of the course. There are also many sessions on behaviour problem solving and participants will be required to work in small groups for the many interactive sessions. Day six and seven are spent training dogs for more specialised tasks which will largely exploit each dogs natural abilities. The practical sessions are complimented with lectures on the theory of learning and different approaches to solving many behaviour problems. In short, you get the best bits of the Puppy Development course, Behaviour Foundation course, Aggression course and Welfare course plus all of the practical training. Students on this course are also given projects for the evenings! This course runs from 9.00 – 4.00 plus some evening work (usually about one to two hours)

### **21 day Dog Trainer/Behaviourist Course**

As I have only a very limited number of students that I can take on this course (16) I need to ensure that everyone is at about the same level so that individuals do not get left behind. This means that students who are accepted on the course will already be conversant with training procedures, have a good understanding of the various competitions that are available as well as having knowledge of the AKC good citizen test. It is vital that all students have demonstrated past ability to train their own dogs to a good standard.

**The first phase** of the course looks at basic training both in theory and in practice and students will either be working with dogs from a local rescue or selected 'clients' dogs. On this phase of the course we will look at approaching many problems from a training perspective. How can you have a dog that is dog or people aggressive when outside the house if it is trained to: sit when told, walk correctly on the lead and come when called?? Because we will be working with the more 'difficult' dogs (ie. Not their own) it will allow students to develop better personal handling, training and communication skills. I have always believed that if YOU cannot handle a dog and get it to behave in a particular way then it will be impossible to teach the OWNER to carry out any behaviour modification procedures. There will also be lectures to supplement the practical sessions and some self study in the evenings. Students will work in small groups of four to discuss various related topics and then have the opportunity to put their theories into practice.

**The second phase** of the course begins to focus on behaviour problems and will look at diagnosing and modifying bad behaviour. On the practical training side students will be shown how to train dogs for very specific and specialised tasks, some of which will take place outside in public. Students will again be working with 'problem dogs' some of which will involve handling and attempting to modify aggressive behaviour. To supplement the practical and theoretical sections there will also be a great deal of self study.

**Phase three** takes a more in depth look at behaviour counseling and instructing owners. For this phase students will be seeing owners who are having both training and behaviour problems with their dogs. There will be in house group consultations (groups of four), on site behaviour consultations (groups of four) plus reports and programmes to write out for owners to follow. Students will also be required to deliver a short lecture to a selected audience.

### **So what do I need from your students?**

I need to know a little about their own dogs, tell me about the one(s) they have now and the ones that you have owned in the past. Tell me about any problems that they currently have with their own dogs and what standard they are trained to. Have they ever attended dog training classes as a student, assistant instructor, instructor? What are their dog (s) like out in public? Does their dog come when called etc? Remember that if they cannot do it with their own dog then it is unlikely that they will be able to successfully train a 'problem' dog in the time allowed on the course. In order to go to advanced levels of training and then on to behaviour problem solving it is essential that all students on this course are conversant with training techniques. I do not want to spend lots of time and hold others back by having to go over how to train a dog to walk correctly on the lead, come when called and stay when told! This is

covered on my 5 day training and instructing course and is far cheaper than attending a twenty one day course!

How about their ability to handle and read dogs?

Have they ever worked (even as a volunteer) at a shelter taking dogs out of kennels or as a dog walker? Do they handle dogs on a regular basis maybe as veterinary technician or even a breed show handler?

What do they know about the various specialized training tasks that dogs can be trained to do such as Guide dogs, Hearing dogs, Therapy dogs, Search and rescue, Assistance dogs for the disabled, Police dogs, Drugs dogs, Military dogs etc.. And what about competition training? Are they familiar with Obedience trials, Tracking tests, Agility, Flyball, Gundog trials, etc.

I believe that there is no better training available for students who are seriously interested in setting up a dog training/behaviour consulting service, all they need is some prior experience of training, a basic understanding of how a dog thinks, some handling experience, a huge amount of enthusiasm, three weeks of free time **and the ability to get along with others and work in a small team.**

The course runs from 9.00am until around 9.00pm with very little time to do anything other than talk about dogs eat and sleep!