

APRIL/MAY 2022

PENINSULA PAWS

THE PENINSULA DOG FANCIER'S CLUB NEWSLETTER



PICTURED: Shinjiru Saffyre Gem "Gemma", bred and owned by Cindy Keen, takes Winners Bitch, Best of Winners, BOBOH for her 4th major at the PDFC Annual All-Breed Show

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/25** FitDog Walk
Illahee Preserve, 10:00am
- 4/28** General Club Meeting
Clear Creek Community Center, 6:30pm
- 5/2** FitDog Walk
Fort Ward State Park, 10:00am
- 5/9** FitDog Walk - Location TBA
- 5/16** FitDog Walk - Location TBA
- 5/23** FitDog Walk - Location TBA
- 5/26** General Club Meeting
Clear Creek Community Center, 6:30pm



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SCENTWORK

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

PDFC's most recent round of Scentwork classes is off to an excellent start. We've seen huge improvements in the skill and teamwork of our returning dog-handler teams, and are looking forward to growing alongside our new Novice teams! As always, a huge thanks to our club's dedicated Scentwork instructors.

FRED HELPERS SEMINAR

AUGUST 5TH FULL DAY SEMINAR

AUGUST 6TH - 7TH DEMONSTRATIONS/WORKSHOP

Fred Helpers is a retired police narcotics detective who began handling and training detection dogs in 1982. Fred established the Canine Detection Services Kennels in 1984 and trained drug detection dogs for police agencies in the Pacific Northwest. He has trained hundreds of detection dog teams in the United States, Australia, Canada, and Brazil. Fred has also trained detection dogs for insects, natural gas, and accelerants. Fred is a Certified Nosework Instructor (CNWI), judge, and certifying official for the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW), plus he gives seminars and workshops for handlers in the US, Australia, Canada, and Sweden.

This seminar is for everyone who has a dog and is interested in how dogs use their nose to detect odors. This seminar will cover the areas of Canine Olfaction, how the canine nose works, scent discrimination, factors effecting odors and utilizing your knowledge of Odors and Olfaction in the field of K9 detection and the sports of K9 Nosework® or Scentwork.

WORKING AND AUDITORY/VISUAL SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE WORKSHOPS ON THE 6TH AND 7TH!

REGISTRATION OPEN MAY 1ST @ [PDFC.ORG](https://www.pdfcc.org)

SPRING 2022 SCENTWORK CLASS SCHEDULE

SCENTWORK I

(Novice)

Mondays 5:30PM

SCENTWORK II

(Novice/Advanced)

Mondays 6:30PM

Thursdays 9:30AM

DID YOU KNOW?

Scent detection dogs are crucial to the agricultural industry. Over 100 Detection dogs work with the USDA to identify invasive and infectious insects, plants, bacteria and fungi that could negatively impact the country's food supply and native species. Good dogs!

MEMBER BRAGS: DOG SHOW EDITION



Shinjiru Dragonfyre "Corra" Winners Bitch for a major. She is owned by Kate Mangubat, Pocholo Mangabat and Cindy Keen.



Red Blend's Fiery Passion "BabyReese", owned by Jeanette Paulus Cookson, celebrates 1st and 2nd place wins alongside her family.



Troutcreek Phantom CGC RI BN, owned by Barbara Gihring, showing off their wins at the WSCS Rally Specialty in Olympia the same weekend.



Quinncreek's Champagne Taste "Corky" scored a 195 in Novice B and High Scoring Dog in the Regular Obedience classes during her first ever OB weekend.

THANK YOU

Our sincerest gratitude to all of the club members, exhibitors, community members, and volunteers that helped to create this year's amazing All-Breed show. Thanks to your hard work and dedication, PDFC can celebrate yet another successful year of bringing dog fanciers together for a weekend of incredible opportunities and unforgettable memories.

POISONED CUES

WHAT THEY ARE & WHAT TO DO

ARTICLE BY SASSAFRAS LOWREY, CTDI COURESY OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Do you have to repeat your cues before your dog does what you ask? Have you ever wondered if your dog is really understanding what you are asking for, or in a moment of frustration wondering if your dog is just blowing you off?

Dogs aren't just ignoring your cues for the sake of being difficult. If your dog isn't doing what you have asked, it's likely that either the distraction level is too high, the cue hasn't been clear enough, your dog isn't sure what you want, or your criteria for the cue was unclear and has become meaningless or "poisoned."

POISONED CUES

"Poisoned cues" is a term used to describe a cue that has lost all meaning to your dog. Poisoning a cue can occur if a verbal cue is introduced but not fully reinforced and so the dog simply doesn't understand what behavior you want.

Poisoned cues can also happen if you teach a behavior but then the cue fails to be reinforced accurately by you or other people in the home and over time the behavior can become sloppy or unclear. If you regularly find yourself repeating a cue before your dog responds, it's likely your cue is at risk of being poisoned.

A common example of how this can happen is with a dog's recall. Do you find yourself saying "come! come! Come! COME!!!" with increasing volume and urgency as your dog continues to sniff the grass, and then maybe, eventually comes over to you? Your dog has learned that "come" only means "come" the fourth (or more) times you say it, or the cue has become completely meaningless to your dog, and they likely have no idea what behavior you want.

Poisoned cues can happen accidentally even with ►

experienced trainers. This often happens because:

- You pushed too quickly with training something, and the dog never fully understood what the behavior was
- The desired criteria for the behavior is not clear to the dog (or sometimes even the handler)
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The verbal cue can also lose meaning due to overuse and underperformance. The easiest example of this is asking your dog to sit and when your dog doesn't sit the first time you use the cue you just keep repeating "sit, sit, sit, sit, sit." If you have to continually repeat a cue, your dog probably doesn't understand it.



FIXING POISONED CUES

If you find yourself realizing that one (or more) of your dog's cues are inconsistently being performed and have likely been "poisoned" there are a couple of options for helping you and your dog to communicate more clearly with each other.

The first option is to go back and retrain the behavior and cue the way you did previously, and the second option is to start over by reteaching the behavior with a completely new cue. It can sometimes be much ►

easier to start over using a new/different verbal cue. So instead of "come" you could transition your recall to "here." To do this you'll want to start over from the very beginning and teach the behavior the way you would if your dog had never learned this skill. As you are reteaching you can slowly introduce your new verbal cue as your dog begins to master the skills, again in the same way that you would if you were teaching the behavior for the first time.

If you know that your cues got poisoned not because of your own training, but because you have family members who used the cues incorrectly, inconsistently, or didn't give your dog a high enough rate of reinforcement, the best option is to try to get everyone on the same page with training. However, if that's not possible another option is to retrain the cue but not share that information with your family. For example, you may want to retrain your dog's recall onto a cue that you use in obedience or other sports instead of the cue your family will continue to use for the vague idea of a recall cue from the yard that your dog (hopefully) eventually responds to. As long as your family doesn't start using your newly taught and reinforced recall cue you shouldn't have a problem your dog will continue listening to you and ignoring your family using the old cue.

PREVENTION

The best strategy to protect the integrity of your cues is consistency and high rates of reinforcement. It's helpful (if possible) to get your family, dog walker, dog sitter, and anyone who regularly spends time with your dog all on the same page about what cues your dog knows and how they should be reinforced with praise, treats, and/or playing with toys. It can be helpful to have a list of common cues posted in a central area of your home like a corkboard or written on a whiteboard.

One of the challenges that people often face is that they will assume their dog understands more than they do about the specifics of a particular cue which can lead to the cue being poisoned. To avoid this, be sure to take your time while training, practice cues regularly, and if your dog starts to miss the cue go back to the last step your dog was successful and work at that level for a while before continuing with the skill. Taking your time as you are teaching new skills to your dog will give your dog a strong foundation and help prevent cues from becoming inconsistent or getting poisoned in the future. ●

HOMEMADE TRAINING TREATS

With all of the fun activities us "crazy dog people" are up to, one thing is certain: we go through a LOT of treats. Save money and customize flavors by making your training treats at home!

TRAINING TREAT MOLDS



Although there are molds made specifically for dog treats, these "drop candy" or "mini round" silicone molds work like a charm, and are cheap and easy to find online!

Pro Tip: Oil the silicone mold before filling for easy removal. Make sure all the little cavities get greased - a light spray oil is great for this!

SIMPLE TUNA TREATS

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Can (6oz) Tuna in water
- 100 grams (about 1/2 cup) Plain Flour
- 2 Eggs
- Water (as needed for consistency)

Add all ingredients to blender or food processor and mix until completely smooth.

Add water as necessary for a smooth, "runny" batter consistency (think applesauce, not cookie dough). Pour batter over molds and use a spatula to scrape off excess batter.

Bake at 350 for about 20 minutes to create soft treats; for hard, crunchy treats, bake at 300 for 30 to 40 minutes.

Store in an airtight container and enjoy!