

Introduction to Nose Work

The Introduction / Foundation series is a four part program. Before moving onto the next level, teams need to have completed the prior class.

1. **Introduction to Nose Work**

Here we start the game and the building of hunt drive. We utilize a primary reward (food) for the dogs to start. Its a natural rewarder and highly motivating.. We start with boxes and use those boxes to build problem solving skills and begin to transition to “objects” still using the box as the context clue of the game.

2. **Nose Work Foundation**

In this class we build on foundation skills of using nose over eye, problem solving and driving for their reward. Handlers begin to observe behaviors that highlight what type of problem their dog is solving. More object and non-object searches, exteriors and vehicles are introduced.

3. **Introduction to Odor**

In this session, odor is introduced and we build value of that odor. Food is still a primary, however, odor is paired with the reward to build the value. We take a step back and allow the dogs to be successful in their searches and return to box work, simple problems both inside and out of the facility.

4. **Odor Foundation**

Building value in odor is still present, but now teams are presented with problems that are more complex as we work on foundation skills preserving drive, hunt, endurance and success.

During the Introduction/Foundation series, handlers are learning through observation of a dog's body behavior language, learning of independent search, are working on rewarding their dogs and handling both on and off leash.

Once a team has completed the Introduction/Foundation series, they may move on to higher level skill classes.

There is no rush to complete the Introduction/Foundation series. Some dogs greatly benefit from repeating a level - they may have other challenges they are working through and giving your dog the gift of time and working at their pace is a fundamental training philosophy of Nose Work.