

Scent Work Expert Georgia Edwards, MD

Georgia Edwards, MD, is a longtime Bouvier owner, member of the Bouvier Health Foundation Board, a CBdFC member and a Certified NoseWork Instructor(CNWI).

Georgia has had Bouviers for 30 years, wanting a strong deterrent dog in the home after a robbery. Equally important was having a dog with a rock-solid temperament to grow up with her son, and enthusiasm and vigor for whatever activities the family took on. Having known and been impressed with the versatility and manner of a neighbor's Bouvier for several years while living in Texas, the family researched the breed and breeders, and added a Madrone Ledge puppy to the household, soon followed by an adult rescued Dutch import Bouv.



Over the years, she titled dogs in herding, carting, obedience, agility, nosework, and Schutzhund. A remarkable experience led to her interest in nosework.

In 1995. While still in practice as an oncologist in California, her dogs, which were certified therapy dogs, often accompanied her to the clinic. One day Gandolf, (Ch Madrone Ledge Othello of Fogbank, VBCh, TDI, CGC, HCT, NA, TAN) focused on a particular new patient, with the patient's permission, he sat by the patient, leaned against her legs, looking at her face, while sniffing — behavior the dog had not exhibited before.

Unfortunately, the patient had a large breast cancer. When her cancer went into remission, Gandolf lost interest in her, but each time she relapsed, he acted that way again. The patient anticipated the unhappy diagnosis, "I don't want a CAT-scan. I had a dog-scan." Over the next five years, Gandolf correctly identified each of five patients who were seen at a breast cancer-screening site with advanced cancer. Thanks to Gandolf, Georgia developed a particular interest in canine scent abilities.

Upon moving to Whidbey Island for a pre-retirement job for her husband at UW Medical School, Georgia retired (mostly) from medicine, and (of course) welcomed a new puppy into the household. There was a dearth of dog sports on the island, but during basic obedience classes, she met Miriam Rose and began nosework classes with her and instructor training with Ron Gaunt, one of the founders of the National Association of Canine Scent Work.

In 2010, Georgia received certification by the National Association of Canine Scent (NACSW) work as a Certified Nosework Instructor (CNWI). Her nosework Bouvier, Hawkeye, has served as a "demo dog" at several Seattle Kennel Club shows promoting nosework, and he is the first Bouvier to hold a competitive scent-detection title. He continues his own training, joined by his daughter, Leda. Georgia currently teaches beginning through advanced nosework at the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District in Langley, WA. She hosts and judges trials for several nosework organizations and does introductory presentations on K9 nosework to community groups.