



# CANINE COPILOTS, LLC

“BONDING THROUGH TEAMWORK”

November, 2017

## Greetings!

Hello all! This is exciting for me to do. This is our first Canine Copilots Official Newsletter. As with all things, I like to do something and then improve it as we go. This way you all can take part in the growth of Copilots and feel like you had a part of growing something great by the time it is great.

In this newsletter we will list upcoming events, recap the last few events, answer questions and put the spotlight on teams that are doing extraordinary things.

The Upcoming events block will be on page one. We will list clinics and workshops and as best we can upcoming ORT's Trials, and volunteer opportunities.

I would love to have some guest writers as well. If you have a topic that you think everyone needs to hear about, e-mail me and I will see where we can fit it into the newsletter. It is important to hear what those that are out trialing or fun nose working are thinking. As you may all know, I don't always see things the way everyone else does and I want to make sure all of your questions are answered.

We will also have guest instructors writing for you to read as well. This will give instructors and students alike a chance to learn from everyone and build a bigger arsenal of tools for your training.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you for being a part of the Canine Copilots Family! It is truly a great thing that I get to work with all of you and I look forward to more in the future.

Jacy

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **NACSW National Invitational**

3-5 Nov-West Springfield Mass

### **Intro to Elements Clinic**

18 Nov-VHC, Springfield VA

### **Nose work Trial Massachusetts**

24-26 Nov

### **Workshop-Philadelphia PA**

2-3 December

### **VHC Intro to Travel Class- VHC Springfield VA**

16 Dec 17

Please check out the NACSW website for upcoming trials and volunteer opportunities.

Volunteers are vital to the success of the sport and are always needed and appreciated.

[www.nacsw.net](http://www.nacsw.net)

## Team Spotlight!

### Team Scoop and Laura Perron

This edition of the Team Spotlight we will be exploring the Nose Work career of our first National Invitational invitee. This team has been working with Canine Copilots since late 2011 and came with a natural talent. I would love to say that I am solely responsible for their success but I can't. Scoop and Laura Perron came to us with so much natural talent that it was actually pretty easy to train them. Scoop was working air currents like a pro and Laura had the right mind set to allow him to do what he does best and just have fun. Together they have been a true success story from the start.

Laura adopted Scoop in April of 2003 from FOHA when he was 9 months old. She wanted a dog to do stuff with and I think she found that dog. Laura and Scoop did agility until he was sidelined because of a shoulder injury. After his retirement from agility he tried his hand at farming, Rally Obedience, and went to school to become a lawyer because he has the gift of gab. In 2011 Laura took him to Nose Work class, and he fell in love!



Since 2011 Scoop and Laura have participated in 33 trials ranging from NW1 to Elite. They have amassed six 1<sup>st</sup> finishes, three 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, and seven 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes, received one Pronouncement ribbons. They have also competed in Element trials where they received Level 1 and 2 in Containers, and Level 1 in both Vehicles and Interiors.

Scoop and Laura have competed at the Elite level 12 times and have a cumulative score of 957.1 points towards their Elite Championship. They have taken 1<sup>st</sup> place twice, 2<sup>nd</sup> once, and 3<sup>rd</sup> three times. This is in a field of the best nose workers in the country. They had a qualifying score of 92.5 to receive their Nationals Invitation and will be competing on November 3-5 in Massachusetts with the 50 top teams in the United States.

Good luck Laura and Scoop, have fun and Happy Sniffing!

### Quote of the day

"I should have listened to Jacy"

Roz Ferber

## Trainer's Corner

The first trainer's corner will feature Jacy Kelley (Me, because I am the boss!).

I want to talk about pairing. If you have attended a camp or other workshop recently you may have heard someone say "pairing is not remedial", "you never stop pairing," or answer a tough training question with "pair the hide." I am asking you to trust that these answers are NOT given because we don't know the real answer to your question.

What pairing does is gives your dogs more incentive to complete a task that may be more difficult then what they are used to or when they are a bit stressed or nervous. Remember that in the wild, Birch has no value to our dogs. They can't eat it or play with it. They will never need to run from it or mate with it. With this in mind, ask yourself why they will go to it if they are not comfortable? Pairing that unimportant odor with their primary motivator will likely draw the dogs through a tough environment to the source.

The next valuable thing pairing does is to apply the reward at the source. This builds the expectation of payment at source every time. How this improves your nose work game is every time your dog recognizes odor in the environment they will hunt for it and go to source to receive their reward. If you are relying on hand delivered rewards only the dog may start to get almost all the way there and turn to the handler for payment. This is due to us being human. We become a bit lazy in our reward placement and we are way too slow to get the reward delivered on time and on location to reinforce the dog going to source.

So, in short, pairing makes the dog want to get to source, builds expectations on payment on source, makes the dog want to wait at source until rewards are given and is much more fun for the dogs. It does not mean you dog is not any good at nose work or has forgotten what the target odor is. It is an effective training tool that helps build and clean up your nose work game.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please feel free to share this on groups or with others that may find it useful.

If you have a question that you would like to see answered in future editions e-mail them to [info@caninecopilots.com](mailto:info@caninecopilots.com) and if you are interested in writing an article for the newsletter contact us with a topic and we can discuss it with you. Thanks again and have a Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Happy Sniffing!

Jacy

