



I would like to introduce myself; my name is Nicolle Smith and I have been a part of the dog world for over fifteen (15) years. Starting with my first dog 'Trey' at DODC - trialling in Obedience and then onto Agility. I joined the DODC Committee, and I am now the current Club President. I can also be found instructing the rewarding baby puppy class at DODC. I have been a Member of the Trials Advisory Subcommittee (TAC) for over 5 years, and this is my first year as the TAC Chair.

It is with great pleasure that the TAC would like to congratulate Michelle Clements on being accepted into the Judges Training Scheme (JTS) for Trick Dog Tests (the newest dog sport discipline). Congratulations also to Klayton Robb for being accepted into the JTS for Retrieving Ability Tests for Gundogs (RATG) and Trick Dog Tests. Unfortunately, we have recently said goodbye to Klayton who has accepted a fabulous job offer in Tasmania, and we all wish him all the best in his next endeavour.

Due to illnesses and relocations, it has been a tough year for Dogs Sports in the NT as we have had to adjust with losing five (5) locally based Trial judges. The TAC takes this opportunity to thank Chavonne Carroll for her judging and instructing commitments, but due to ongoing illness, unfortunately, Chavonne has had to retire from her judging roles. We would also like to wish Carmen Sinclair a speedy recovery from ongoing health issues and we look forward to Carmen returning once she is fit and able.

One of the biggest shocks to hit the Dogs Sports community was the sad and sudden loss of Sue Dwyer. A huge wealth of knowledge lost the impact of which will be felt across the NT. The TAC would also like to thank Reg Dwyer for the contributions that both he and Sue made to Dog Sports in the NT. I am sure that our entire small community will agree with me that Reg and Sue will be deeply missed and on behalf of the NT Trialling community, all the best in the future Reg, we wish you safe travels and know that one day we will surely cross paths again.

We have all had to make changes due to COVID-19 of course - to ensure the health and safety of all those that compete in all areas of Dog Sports, but luckily, the Territory is in a unique position and this, fortunately, meant fewer restrictions than other areas of Australia. The TAC is optimistic that the coming year will see trialling start again and we have all our fingers crossed that interstate Judges will be able to get across our border with ease. I would like to personally thank all of our Members for adhering to the COVID-19 restrictions and precautions set out by clubs - your cooperation has been greatly appreciated.

Training and trialling have recommenced at both DODC, Palmerston Gundog Club and Fred's Pass Positive Dog Training Club, and so far, numbers are looking good - must be all those COVID puppies coming to training? Fred's Pass Positive Dog Training Club will soon have some amazing new lighting at their grounds, something that we all know has been long overdue.

This year will see the first-ever Trick Dog Test held in the NT – tentatively scheduled to be held in July, not long after the Royal Darwin Show (pending COVID-19 of course). There are plenty of keen members and their dogs' ready, training, and eager to start along the Tricks Dog Test journey. We wish everyone the best of luck and keep training!

As you know our beloved Dogs Sports and Clubs cannot continue without the amazing people who volunteer their precious time to help out, not only the Trial clubs but the entire, wider dog community. Thank you all. We are always short on volunteers and would love to see new people come and join in the fun. If you are interested in volunteering in any aspect of the Dog world please, come and talk to us! We NEED you!

Happy trialling and training - kind regards,



Nicolle Smith | DogsNT Trials Advisory Subcommittee Chair.