

Multi Award Winning Pet Trail Training comes to Kilsyth and Cumbernauld

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Photo shows Rachel Rodgers CAB with her dogs Maisy and Rico (her working pet trail dog who has successfully found and helped to return missing dogs to their owners)

Have you heard of pet trailing?

We wouldn't be surprised if you were to say "no!" as pet trailing is quite a rare activity with less than a handful of instructors in the entirety of the United Kingdom.

Pet trailing is where a team (usually an owner and their dog) are trained up to find a "missing" pet, most commonly a dog! While the majority of pet trailers do this just for fun and think of it as a giant game of hide and seek, some dogs go on to be professional Lost Dog Search dogs.



Umeko the Shiba Inu and her owner Corrina Bruce on their trail in Kilsyth park in May

Trailing has huge benefits for shy and anxious dogs but also for everyday pet dogs. Including: strengthening the bond between owner and dog, building self-confidence and motivation, and releasing the feel-good chemical dopamine.

Last month Rachel Rodgers, owner of multi-award-winning pet behaviour service, Nose to Trail brought the activity up to Kilsyth running what was thought to be Scotland's first ever pet trail session! Rachel is no stranger to helping owners with their lost dogs as her own dog Rico has successfully found a missing dog which resulted in him being in the finals of the Super Dog Awards!



Eliese de Rijk and her dog Maya on their first man trail in Kilsyth in May.

The session was a big hit selling out and with many more excited pooches on the waiting list. Not only that but one dog has already had success in helping to find a missing dog!

Eliese said "I went hiking up a couple of munros yesterday and one of my mums' wee dogs got trapped in an underground pipe, we realised she was missing and we were shouting for ages, but then I decided to walk back down the track to see if she'd retraced her steps to the car. Maya must've picked up her scent because within minutes of walking down the track, she started crying and pawing at the

ground, and it turns out she'd located wee Digger underground just like that!! Poor Digger was stuck in a pipe, very muddy and cold, and needed a helping hand out of the hole, but thankfully unscathed. So proud of Maya and really want to take her sniffing skills to the next level!!! Without her yesterday, I'm not sure how long it would've taken to locate Digger"

Due to the high demand, Rachel is back up in the area running more sessions in Kilsyth and Cumbernauld in just a few weeks' time!

Rachel specialises in working with dogs and using scent work techniques such as man trailing (lost "human" search – think hide and seek but for dogs) and pet trailing "lost dog search" to help dogs to overcome their behavioural difficulties. Scent work is key for dogs, who experience the world through their noses rather than their eyes! Sniffing releases dopamine, lowers the dog's heart rate and blood pressure and generally helps to calm and relax them! The type of dogs who may benefit are those struggling with difficulties like: separation anxiety, sound phobias, reactivity (barking, lunging and pulling on the lead) as well as other fear and anxiety based conditions.



Nervous boy Biscuit finding his "missing" human during a man trail

This could be the new hobby you have been looking for!

Sessions are suitable for dogs of all ages, breeds and temperaments and will be running in Kilsyth and Cumbernauld on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th of July. To book visit www.nosetotrail.co.uk or email info@nosetotrail.co.uk

Ends

Notes to Editor

Nose to Trail is part of the Canine School of Trailing. A company established by Rachel Rodgers and co-founder Marilyn Gilchrist. Trained by Markus Burkhardt from Austria, the duo are two of only a handful of dog trainers with the speciality of pet trail training in the UK.

Nose to Trail is a pet behaviour service run by multi award-winning clinical animal behaviourist Rachel Rodgers.

Rachel has a Master's degree in Applied Animal Behaviour and Training. She is a full member of the APBC – Association of Pet Behaviour Councillors and PACT – Professional Association of Canine Trainers.

Rachel currently splits her time between travelling across the UK with her two small dogs, Rico – a rescue from Portugal, and Maisy a Jack Russell cross Pug introducing other dogs to the magic of pet trailing and spending time in Cumbernauld with her partner, climbing a munro or two along the way.

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