

bdoc newsletter



Belconnen Dog Obedience Club

Volume 64 Issue 63 AUGUST 2011



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GROUND USE ETIQUETTE

- ▶ Use of the grounds is reserved for financial Club members and their financial dogs who are attending regular classes (at least 75% of the classes). BDOC does not offer ground use only memberships.
- ▶ No use of grounds during scheduled class times, when a trial is in progress, or when the grounds are otherwise booked. See the notice board for scheduled class times in obedience, agility and flyball.
- ▶ Training takes precedence at all times – do not allow your dog to distract others.
- ▶ Do not enter a yard already in use without first checking with the current occupant.
- ▶ Limit your use to 10 minutes if others are waiting.
- ▶ Handlers must always have their dogs under control and be able to recall the dog at any time.
- ▶ Do not permit your dog to run along the fences.
- ▶ Do not leave your dog unattended.
- ▶ Always remove your dog's faeces immediately from the grounds and dispose of them in the bins provided. This includes the car parking areas.



bdoc details

BDOC COMMITTEE 2010–11

President

Barbara Brown

Vice-President

Elaine Temby

Treasurer

Maki Koyama

Secretary

Caroline Pappas

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Carolyn Shrives

Committee members

Dean Gardiner

Michelle Gilby

Ray Leckie

Anne Lewis

Kate Slater



OFFICE HOURS

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Sundays 9–11 am

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Newsletter contributions

CONTRIBUTIONS (photos, stories, advice) ALL VERY WELCOME! If you have information and/or photos you would like included in the next newsletter, email your material to the editor (Pauline) news@bdoc.asn.au



PHOTO: TONY TURNER

BDOC members attended a workshop at ACT Companion Dog Club which featured Kamal Fernandez from the UK.



president's report

by Barbara Brown

Hello to all members and welcome to our new members who have joined us for Session 3.

Congratulations to everyone who has braved the cold of this winter and continued training their dogs. It certainly has been a real test of how much you care for your dog when you bundle up, leave your warm house and leap into the car for a session of pooch training. Of course our dogs just love to be with us and visit their friends for a night out – they don't mind if it is cold and frosty and as someone said to me – that warm and fuzzy feeling kept me warm!

Thanks to our devoted volunteers

We do owe a huge vote of thanks to all our instructors and assistants who leave their own dogs at home to help you understand how to train your dog. As they are all volunteers, this is truly a labour of love in Winter.

I have managed to get to a number of agility trials in NSW over the past few months. These trials are often held on council owned ovals and it has again brought it home to me how lucky we are to have our own dedicated grounds and clubhouse. However the maintenance of these assets and the management of members are all undertaken by our volunteer members so please think about helping in some way, however small.

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 August at 7.30pm in the Clubhouse. This is your club so please come to the meeting. You will meet other members and can have a chat after the brief meeting while you enjoy a cuppa. A number of current committee members are once again standing for the committee as well as a number of members who have not previously held committee positions. However, if you would like to assist your club by coming onto the committee or volunteering some of your time on one of the special work groups then please email me at bbrown@webone.com.au.

Impending trials

BDOC is hosting an Agility Trial on Saturday 20 August and an Obedience Trial on Saturday 27 August. If you are interested in obedience trialling or agility, these trials are a great way to see high level performances in these sports. You do have to leave your dog at home as the grounds are brimming with those dogs competing in these sports. But do come along for a visit.

Pauline has once again prepared a newsletter brimming with information about club activities and I hope you enjoy the articles.

Barbara



obedience seminars

BY JILL CAMPAIN & ANNE LEWIS

Anne Lewis and I were fortunate to attend two very interesting obedience seminars within a few weeks of each other.

The first one was at Albury in May. It was organised by the Albury and Border Kennel Club and featured Sue Hogben from Western Australia. The second one was organised by ACT Companion Dog Club and featured Kamal Fernandez from the UK.

Both presenters are very successful dog trainers. They have very similar ideas as both acknowledged the excellent work of the iconic trainer, Bob Bailey from the USA. Bob Bailey was frequently quoted as were

Susan Garrett and Greg Derrett.

Sue and Kamal stressed the need to plan your training and to picture in your mind what you are trying to achieve. Break the behaviour into very small components and reward with a motivator that 'floats the dogs boat!' They both used games extensively to make training fun for you and the dog as well as to train particular behaviours.

Kamal tended to allow the dog plenty of time to work out a problem where as Sue tended to set up the environment so that the dog was quickly able to make the correct choices and earn rewards.

Sue had a very interesting technique for handler to think about 'How to train the opposite of what you want'

This idea was very entertaining and gave great insight as to why some dogs lag when we think we are training them to be at our side!

Sue and Kamal both have wonderful energy and enthusiasm for positive training. Both seminars were well worth attending and I would certainly recommend that you go along to their seminars if the opportunity arises.

Jill Campain

See page 6 for more comments about the Fernandez workshop



PHOTOS: JILL CAMPAIN

BDOC members attended a workshop in Albury conducted by Sue Hogben



LEFT TO RIGHT: Elaine with Haylen and Hope, Anne with Alvin, Alana with Coco, Patricia with Kinya and Raglan.

COCKER CONSPIRACY

On Saturday, 23 July the annual NSW obedience teams match day was held at the Blacktown Canine City Centre beautiful, but soggy, grounds at Glendenning. In this event NSW clubs nominate teams of obedience triallers who compete against each other for the honour (or headache!) of organising the next year's match day.

Each team must consist of five separate dogs competing at four different levels. Most teams comprise members of NSW obedience clubs but some teams are made up along breed lines. There were nine breed teams this year including Border Collies, Golden Retrievers, Poodles, Boxers and Bearded Collies. For the past couple of years the NSW Cocker Spaniel Society has also entered a team. Cocker Conspiracy 2011 consisted mostly of BDOC triallers – Elaine Temby with Haylen (WATERVAAL WINFREY KONEXSHUN) doing CCD, Anne Lewis with

Alvin (WATERSMEET IM HARRY CDX AD JDX SPD SD GD) and Patricia Looker with Raglan (Ch Robmond Pantheon Blue CD) both in Open, and Patricia's Kinya (OC Kingsway Double Jeopardy AD JDX) in UD. Elaine also took Hope (ACIJAY NEVER LOSE HOPE) as a reserve. Alana, our team member competing in Novice, comes from Newcastle. We also roped in Liz Giles to do our stewarding duty for us – thanks Liz, you did a great job.

We all competed in different rings against fifteen to twenty other dogs. It was Haylen's very first time in the obedience ring, but you wouldn't have known it – he performed with blithe confidence ending up with a very nice score and 3rd place in his ring. Alvin and Coco (Alana's lad) had a few hairy moments in their performances but overall put some good scores on the board and ended up coming 5th and 10th respectively in their highly contested rings. Kinya, who had

been brought out of retirement to participate, revelled in being back in the ring and showing the youngsters just how it should be done ended up 4th in her ring. Raglan, well the less said the better, he got totally distracted by the smells on the breeze and the activity and ended up coming a sad last in his ring – needless to say he's in the dog house!

Overall Cocker Conspiracy came a very creditable 10th place out of the 32 teams that competed on the day. Amongst the nine breed teams competing we placed 4th. With so few cockers competing in obedience it's always a challenge finding dogs at the various levels so we were pretty pleased with our performance. And we had a great day getting together with our cocker mates and enjoying the bottle of wine that is traditionally given to each team at the beginning of the day. A very civilized way to trial!

Patricia Looker



obedience seminar

MORE COMMENT BY BDOC ATTENDEES

Thank you to all BDOC members who supplied comments about the Kamal Fernandez workshop. It was obviously inspirational, therefore we have included further comment on this this event.

I spent a recent weekend at a Dog Training workshop run by a great British dog trainer called Kamal Fernandez. I got so much out of it, both for my own training and competing with my dog, but also for the obedience classes I teach.

The first key point, I got out of his workshop;

1. Dogs are masters of body language. It's the primary method of communication that they get from us, and when training at a beginners or a higher level, we need to be conscious of what information we are giving our dogs with our body position, feet and speed. One of the simple exercises he got us to play was a game of 'Simon Says', in which we had to give our dogs a verbal sit command while our hands were in different positions. Most dogs were happily following

the cue while our hands were on our heads, shoulders and hips, a few started to lie down when people put their hands on their knees, and a lot went into a down when their handlers put their hands on their feet.

Why is this? Well, of course, when we first teach puppies a down, we usually lure them, leaning over, and using a reward in our hands to get the pup/dog to lie down. When asking a dog for a drop/down, most of us will still lean forward if we aren't certain the dog is going to do it. If we don't generalise this enough, and make that our dog understands the cue properly and not just the body language, our dogs will often go into a down when we lean down over them (like when we touch our toes!), despite what other cues they get!

So if your dog isn't obeying a cue, think about your body language – is it different to usual? At home, do you sit on the floor with them, sit in a chair, or even have them up on the furniture with you? What part of the message have you changed?

▲ Nicola Hardaker

The most valuable thing that I took away from Kamal's workshop, was the power of play. Playing with your dog builds a dog's desire to interact and work with you. It helps build a dog's confidence and drive, which are fundamental tools for training.

Training a dog to do a specific task does not have to be a serious affair. Kamal used several games during our workshops which had clever names like 'eye spy', 'give us a clue', 'chase the rabbit', 'musical chairs', 'good-cop, bad-cop', 'catch up', 'beat ya', 'food circle' etc. Every single one of these games was a cleverly disguised way of teaching a dog a specific task, or was designed to build drive and motivation.

I am now using these games when training my own dogs, and they love it! All my silver level students this session, thoroughly enjoyed playing some of these games, and they all had fun, while achieving great results.

▲ Gabe Meyer

I was lucky enough to book a private lesson with Kamal following the workshop. This was his very last session in Canberra on Monday afternoon and I took Pepper, my two year old Border Collie (my 10yo Border, Rosie, had been with me for the two days of the seminar which was absolutely insightful). We went over a number of things covered during the two days so I could get everything clear in my mind, and also make sure I was doing it correctly with my dog (the way different dogs move and behave can require different training solutions).

The most useful for me was working on the 'D' to position

Pepper next to my leg. The D concept is imagining you are at the top of the D – for left heel position, and for right heel position. To get the dog to come in straight you initially lure it out in a wide arc (the belly of the D) and then when you're arm is as far behind you as it can go, draw it forward and this should bring the dog in straight.

Now, Pepper has been a 'bum out' dog for a long time which is why I hadn't done much heel position with him better not to do something than to do it badly. I found that when I started the D, he was still not coming in straight. Kamal instantly pointed out that I needed to go back further a taller D if you will, even put my leg back a little for balance if I had too. Then at the bottom of the 'D' I had to pause to allow him time to swing his hinny in, before drawing him up beside me. Once I got myself in order, this worked a treat.

I haven't over practiced this (or bored him to death) – in the six weeks since Kamal's visit. I've probably asked for this 100 times per side over eight or so practice sessions with a week or two break in between (having a break often increases learning when you come back to it!). While training I had treats in the hand ready to dispense on a click but didn't use it in front of his nose as a 'lure' after the first session (and it was smoked chicken and pork crackling – you want good effort you need to offer good payment!) I very much liked that Kamal was into lots of rewards to teach behaviour (however, he did note that I often pay for

things that I shouldn't and really should increase my criteria a little faster, I have worked on this too!). Pepper is now able to reposition himself to left or right heel on a small finger swirl – he literally rams himself against my leg! I am now using this same positioning motion as I start left and right sideways moves – with Pep maintaining distance and position.

Kamal is a brilliant observer and problem solver and I am fortunate to have been able to attend the workshop and have a private lesson. A big thank you to Tony Turner for organising the workshop!

▲ Ange Hagedorn

Whilst not fortunate enough to be able to fill a vacancy for a private lesson, I was lucky enough to be able to host Kamal for dinner along with four other dog mad ladies. After harassing Kamal with questions about whether I should get a Belgian Malinois or a Border Collie, I had my first of a series of small but wonderful moments of clarity which occurred over the weekend.

Kamal was referring to a dog's heirarchy of reinforcements and how I should be able to list them from 1 to 10 in order of which was most powerful. Whilst I could only think of tennis ball, Kong donut, tug and chicken (my dog is primarily toy motivated) Kamal suggested I broaden my ideas of reinforcement to consider things like clapping, spins, tactile play and even the opportunity to go sniff. Kamal went on to say I needed

to have a clear understanding of the effect that each of the reinforcements had on my dog. For example food generally puts dogs in a thinking mode, toys such as tugs are better when speed or excitement is in order.

Finally Kamal reminded me of the importance of where you deliver the reward, and the effect this will have on your future training. Dogs that are learning the down position may be best rewarded whilst they are in the down position; not allowed to jump up in front of you and then be rewarded. On other occasions you may want to toss the reward. If say, you are having trouble teaching a dog to drop on recall Kamal suggested throwing the reward from a hand above your head. This could become a cue for the dog to stop, and eventually a cue to drop.

To summarise what Kamal said about reinforcements – don't just give your dog the same pieces of Schmacko or hotdog all of the time. Use a broad range of rewards, understand the effect of each reward and think about how you are delivering the reward.

There is so much more to tell (reinforcement zones, transferring value and more about Belgian Malinois) but the best advice I can give you is to be sure to register for Kamal's seminar, should he return to Canberra again next year. I know I will be.

▲ Cheryl Neal

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR SAY

Got an opinion on this – or any other dog-related topic? Send your contributions to news@bdoc.asn.au





agility matters

by JILL CAMPAIN

**BIG
CONGRATULATIONS
TO SUSAN KILLION
AND BUSTER ON
GAINING THEIR
JD TITLE**

Congratulations to BDOC Club members who have obtained the following Agility titles.

Agility Dog Master (ADM)

Lucy Williams' Cavalier King
Charles Cavregis White Knight
(Duke) ADM ADO JDM GD SD SPD

Gamblers Dog (GD)

Anne Lewis's Cocker Spaniel
Watersmeet I'm Harry (Alvin)
CDX AD JDX GD SD SPD

Barbara Brown's Kelpie
Dazzle CD AD JDX GD

Jill Campain's Skye Terrier
Ch Skyeclan Destiny's Secret
(Levy) AD JD SPD SD GD



Sue Hogben in action. See the article on page 4 of this newsletter

NOTICE OF BDOC AGM 2011

The Annual General Meeting of the Belconnen Dog Obedience Club will be held on Wednesday 24 August 2011 at 7.30pm in the Clubhouse.

All financial members are urged to support BDOC and attend this meeting.

Supper will be provided at the finish of the meeting so come and have a chat with other BDOC members.



PHOTO: JILL CAMPAIN

THE GREAT SHED CLEAN UP

Thanks to Anne Lewis for organising *The Great Shed Clean Up Day* on the 4 June.

The purpose was to take everything out of the agility/flyball shed, clean the shed and equipment then put it all back again!

The shed is now clean and neat thanks to Anne and Simon Lewis, Danny Galbraith, Lyn Clyde, Cheryl Neal, Caroline Pappas, Jessica Sparkes, Barbara Brown and Jill Campain.



agility matters

by PAM MCDUGALL

Winter classes have continued on Monday and Wednesday nights only during session 3. On Mondays the experienced triallers trained with the newer novice triallers, whilst on Wednesdays the class catered for those a bit newer to agility.

On the trialling side, there have been the usual stories of glory and the one fault runs as well as the total 'mess up' runs. At BDOC. A ribbon agility trial was run in the evening on 18th July. During the winter months only the Novice. Excellent and Masters standards are run. In the milder months, an Open class which involves distance handling is run as well. The BDOC ribbon jumping trial in September which will run NEM standards. The ribbon jumping trial on our grounds in November will include Open.

The club is running an Agility and Jumping trial on Saturday 20 August. This will run for most of the day and usually attracts an entry from triallers from further afield than the local area. Charlie Giles is our trial manager and Lucy Williams, a recently qualified judge and BDOC member, will judge with Bill Almond. Charlie will be looking for stewards very soon. For anyone who is fairly new to agility, or who has a dog on the waiting list, it is a great opportunity to learn more about this exciting dog sport. Charlie's email address is gilesc@grapevine.com.au.

The rules for agility have recently seen some changes. Our see saws and collapsible tunnels (chutes) will need some surgery. There will not be changes before the August trial, but handler teams will have time to readjust to the equipment changes before they are mandatory.

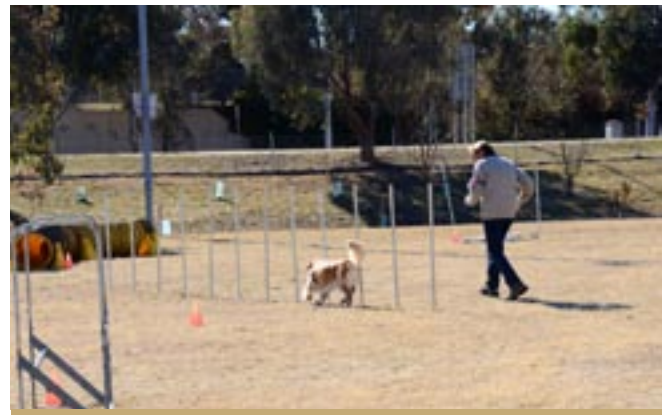
As usual, we thank all our instructors for their time and energy given to the classes and wish all competitors runs which give them and their canine partner some fun and a measure of success.

Pam McDougall

Three keen BDOC members entered the Agility and Jumping Trial at Tuggeranong Dog Training Club on 23 July. Lucy Williams (from BDOC) was the judge for all the Jumping events.



Jess Sparkes and Toby hit the contact on the scramble (A-frame)

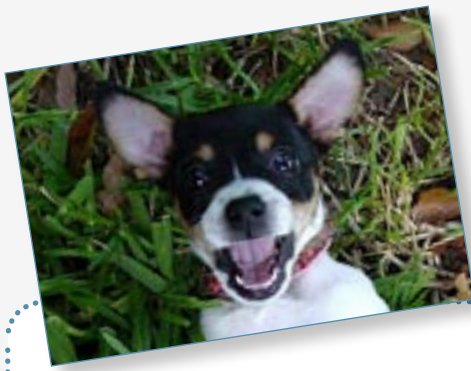


Geoff Woodman and Xanthe going through the weave poles



Barbara and Dazzle heading for the finish under the close eye of judge Lucy Williams

PHOTOS: BARBARA BROWN



canine companion classes

BY KATE SLATER

SESSION 2 PASSES

BRONZE

Nikki McLean and *Tessa*
Anita Kennedy and *Fergie*
Samantha Hoy and *Sophie*
Felicia Tracey and *Ruby*
Alison Lawrence and *Poppy*
Shirley Lamb and *Molly*
Ashley Black and *Coco*
Janine Hughes and *Tayla*

BRONZE

Daniel Berthon and *Malo*
Alex Mironov and *Shyla*
Phil Letki and *Doogle*
Joshua McParlin and *Ellie*
Denise Cowling and *Boston*
Rhiannon Coulton and *Obi*
Jenny Greenwood and *Bella*
Corrina Wiggins and *Patch*

BRONZE

Mimi and *Coco*
Damien Adler and *Bentley*
Julie McGowen and *Frankie*
Bev Obringer and *Cacher*

SILVER

Eleanor Donley and *Indie*
Kimberley Shrives and *Pia*
Antonella Sassu and *Charli*
Dan Montgomery and *Hoover*

Photo: BDOC instructors supported the RSPCA 2011 Million Paws Walk in May



PHOTO: AANGELA HAGEDORN



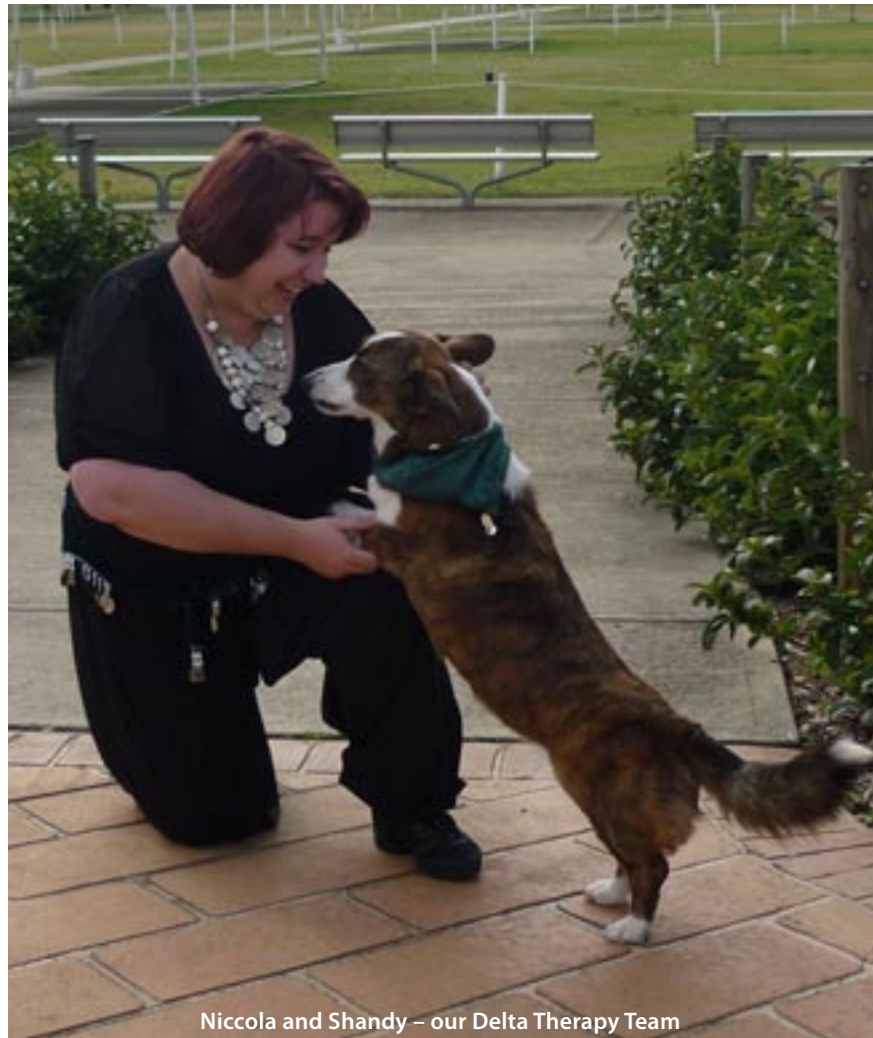
therapy dogs

by NICCOLA HARDAKER

Last year I made some inquiries about becoming a Delta Therapy team. I thought the idea of visiting the sick and the elderly to share my dog with them was a lovely idea. So at the end of last year Shandy, my Welsh Corgi (Cardigan) girl, and I travelled up to Sydney for the assessment day. The assessment was quite brief, including elements such as a check on very basic obedience skills, like walking nicely on a leash, as well as how well the dog reacted to being in a noisy crowd and around equipment like wheelchairs and crutches. Given that it's important for you and your dog to work as a team, you are encouraged to talk to and reassure your dog during the exercises.

We passed with flying colours and a few weeks later returned for my (human only) training day. We covered some basic components designed to help us when visiting hospitals and aged care facilities, and got some inspiring presentations from existing therapy dog handlers on the joy they bring.

Recently Shandy and I were assigned to our facility, Bupa at Aranda, and we're making fortnightly visits there on Tuesday afternoons. Shandy has been wonderful with the residents, and it's truly lovely to see their faces light up when they spot Shandy



Nicola and Shandy – our Delta Therapy Team

coming through the door. Some of them already remembered her and were greeting her by name, with huge smiles by the second visit.

Many love to pat her, running their fingers through her fur quietly,

while others are already asking to see her do tricks. We hear stories about the dogs they've owned before, and what they liked to do together, but I'm largely just the person on the end of the leash, escorting the star of the show, Shandy. It's a hugely rewarding

thing to do with your dog, if you can spare a few hours on a regular basis. If you're interested in finding out more about being a Delta Therapy Team, feel free to ask me when you see us around the club, or contact our local Delta representative, Annie Kenning on: Mobile: 0431 585 702

Email:

canberra@deltasociety.com.au

or visit the Delta website at:

www.deltasociety.com.au/home



obedience trial news

by PATRICIA LOOKER

Congratulations to:

Anne Lewis and her Cocker Spaniel, Alvin

(Watersmeet Im Harry CDX AD JDX SPD SD) on attaining their CDX title

BDOC March Trial – Open

180 points and 1st (and title pass)

TDTC April Trial – Open

170 points and 1st

Charlie Giles and his Tibetan Terrier, Ruffy

(Ch Tybeterr Break the Ice CCD)

BDOC March Trial – Novice

187 points and 2nd

Gabrielle Myer and her Poodle x Spaniel, Charlie CCD

BDOC March Trial

Charlie won the prize for the highest scoring BDOC member in the Novice class. Charlie put on a lovely performance, but in the last exercise forgot how to do the drop at a distance. Better luck next time Gabrielle and Charlie.

Patricia Looker and her Cocker Spaniel, Raglan

(Robmond Pantheon Blue CD) on attaining their CD title

Albury March Trial – Novice

188 points and 1st

BDOC March Trial – Novice

190 points and 1st

TDTC April Trial – Novice

178 points and 1st



Werner and the boys (Marty and Max) relax at the CDC trial

Emma Osborn and her Australian Shepherd, Ava

(Brandyark Mists of Avalon)

on attaining their CCD title

BDOC March Trial – CCD

96 points and 1st

Ava also won the prize for the highest scoring BDOC member in the CCD class

TDTC March Trial – CCD

94 points and 1st

ACT Titles May Trial – CCD

93 points and 2nd

Emma Osborn and her Australian Shepherd, Ava

(Brandyark Mists of Avalon)

CDC June Trial – Novice

189 points and 2nd

Queanbeyan July Trial – Novice

186 points and 2nd

Poppy Maclean and her Bouvier des Flanders, Eepie

(Ch Ieper-Rilla vd Arkiv CD)

Queanbeyan July Trial – Open

190 points and 1st

Werner Roth and his Border Collie, Marty

(Ancrum Bend in the Road)

CDC June Trial – CCD

95 points and 2nd

Queanbeyan July Trial – CCD

96 points and 2nd

OTHER MEMBERS FLYING THE BDOC FLAG IN THE OBEDIENCE TRIAL RING ARE:

Jenny Thistleton and her Poodle X, Sassy, in CCD

Nicola Hardaker and her Welsh Corgi, Shandy (Ch Milnholm Carnival Queen CCD), in Novice

Cheryl Neale and her Kelpie cross, Jet CD, in Open

Werner Roth and his Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, Max (Fionavar Hawker Hunter CDX AD JD), in UD

If I have left you out of the Trialing News, my apologies. Contact me and I will include your achievements in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The next obedience trial to be held in the ACT region will be at BDOC on 27 August

If you want to see what obedience trials are all about, come and have a look BUT come without your dogs. Only competing dogs are allowed on the grounds on trial days.

OBEDIENCE TRIAL NEWS
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



Cheryl and Jet complete the first part of the distance exercise in Open.



Emma and Ava discuss their first Novice pass.



Anne's Alvin returns over the jump with the dumbbell in Open.



Raglan earns his third Novice pass.



Nice recall signal, Gabrielle and a lovely response from Charlie



Werner and Max lay the track for the seekback in the Utility class

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY P. LOOKER



revision of bdoc annual awards

At the end of year award presentations, BDOC honours members by presenting a variety of awards and trophies. The Committee has revised the awards for 2011, deleting some and adding others to make the awards more relevant to our syllabus.

We now have specific awards for those members training their dogs in the Canine Companion Levels (Beginners to Gold levels) as well as those awards for members training and trialling in ANKC dog sports streams.

The 2011 annual awards are as follows:

BDOC CANINE COMPANION LEVEL AWARDS 2011

BEST LADY HANDLER

This award is given to the lady who in the opinion of a majority of the Committee has shown dedication and commitment to the training of their dog and has made commendable progress as a team throughout the year. All ladies over the age of 17 years are eligible for this award provided the dog has been trained in any Canine Companion level during the award year and they are still a financial member of BDOC at 31 October of the year of presentation.

BEST GENTLEMAN HANDLER

This award is given to the gentleman who in the opinion of a majority of the Committee has shown dedication and commitment to the training of their dog and has made commendable progress as a team throughout the year. All gentlemen over the age of 17 years are eligible for this award provided the dog has been trained in any Canine Companion level during the award year and they are still a financial member of BDOC at 31 October of the year of presentation.

BEST JUNIOR HANDLER

This award is given to the junior member under the age of 18 years who in the opinion of a majority of the Committee has shown dedication and commitment to the training of their dog and has made commendable progress as a team throughout the year. Junior members of the Club are eligible for all other awards, but it is recognised that there may be difficulties when it comes to competing equally with adults. Hence all Club members under 18 years of age will be considered for this award provided the dog has been trained in any Canine Companion level during the award year and they are still a financial member of BDOC at 31 October of the year of presentation.

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

The award was introduced by the President in 1990 to encourage members to continue with dog obedience training after they have had a promising obedience dog which has been accidentally killed, or put down for medical reasons. (This does not apply if the dog has been destroyed for social purposes). The award is given only at the President's discretion. To be eligible the recipient must have been a financial member of BDOC since 1 July the previous year (eg. To be eligible for the 1990 Presentation Day award the recipient must have been a financial member since 1 July

1998) and the dog must have been trained at BDOC during that period. Members and Committee may nominate dogs for the President's final consideration at any time during the year

MOST IMPROVED DOG AWARD

A dog which in the opinion of the committee has had difficulty in the early stages of training but has gone on to achieve good results in later work.

CHAMBERLAIN AWARD (OR PERSEVERANCE AWARD)

This Award is presented to a member of BDOC who have a difficult dog and have persevered with training over period of year/s but never seems to achieve any great results. Not to be seen so much as a reward for perseverance but more as an acknowledgement and recognition of their dedication to the training of their difficult dog.

BDOC OBEDIENCE AWARDS ALICE PETERSEN TROPHY

This trophy is presented to a BDOC dog which achieves the single highest score at any ANKC trial during the year (1 November to 31 October) towards their CCD title. This score and trial certificate must be recorded in the Obedience scores file in the clubhouse. The dog must have been trained at BDOC and the handler a financial member of BDOC at the time of achieving the score and still be a member at 31 October of the year of presentation.

STEVIE/TESSA

PERPETUAL NOVICE SCORE TROPHY

This trophy was established by Barbara and the late Con Williamson to be presented to a BDOC Novice Dog, Bitch or Associate which achieves the single highest score at any official novice (CD) trial during the year (1 November to 31 October) towards their CD. This score and trial certificate must be recorded in the Obedience scores file in the clubhouse. The dog must have been trained at BDOC and the handler a financial member of BDOC at the time of achieving the score and still be a member at 31 October of the year of presentation. The Committee in office is to determine if, in their opinion, the highest eligible score is of sufficient merit to warrant special recognition for excellence and thus be worthy of this perpetual trophy. The Williamson's recommended that only scores of 190 or over be considered.

FORSVAR OBEDIENCE TROPHY FOR BEST OPEN DOG OF THE YEAR

The trophy is to be awarded to the dog with the highest total points scored in the Open Class (CDX) at any five official trials conducted anywhere in Australia during the period 1 November to 31 October. In the event that more than one dog qualifies for the award of the trophy in any one year, (i.e., scores are equal) each dog may have its name engraved on the trophy. At least three of the scores counted must be qualifying scores. Registered and Associate dogs are eligible. All scores counted are to be gained while the owner is a club member. All trial scores and

trial certificates must be recorded in the Obedience scores file in the clubhouse.

QUARRIEMAC OBEDIENCE TROPHY FOR BEST UTILITY DOG OF THE YEAR

This trophy is to be awarded to a dog trialling in the Utility Class who has achieved a pass, a UD title or, in the case of an already titled dog, has displayed a consistent performance during the award year. In the event that more than one dog qualifies for the award, the Committee in office is to determine which handler/dog team warrants special recognition and thus be worthy of this perpetual trophy. To be eligible the recipient must have been a financial member of BDOC since 1 July the previous year (eg. to be eligible for the 2009 Presentation Day award the recipient must have been a financial member since 1 July 2008)

OBEDIENCE DOG OF THE YEAR

This is the most prestigious award the Club can bestow in obedience. The criteria for this award are that the dog must have been outstanding in its performance in obedience trialling and brought credit to the Club; the handler must have been active in the Club and contributed towards the running of the Club during the year; the handler and the dog must have been a financial member for the whole year of the award; and the handler and the dog must have trained at the club for the whole year.

Recipients of the ODOTY shall not receive this award more than once.

BDOC AGILITY AWARDS **2011 AGILITY ENCOURAGEMENT** **HANDLER AWARD**

This award acknowledges a handler and their dog who have either not yet entered agility trials or not received an ANKC agility qualification but have shown dedication and commitment to the training of their dog and have made commendable progress. The interaction and relationship between the handler and their dog is an important consideration.

BDOC NOVICE AGILITY DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is for the dog that gains the highest places in its passes towards its ANKC Novice Agility and Novice Jumping titles. To be eligible for this award, the last pass of the second title must be gained in the period 1st November (of the previous year) to 31st October of the Award year, regardless of the year the previous passes were gained.

BDOC EXCELLENT AGILITY DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is for the dog that gains the highest places in its passes towards its ANKC Excellent Agility and Excellent Jumping titles. To be eligible for this award, the last pass of the second title must be gained in the period 1st November (of the previous year) to 31st October of the Award year, regardless of the year the previous passes were gained.

BDOC AGILITY DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD

This is the most prestigious award the Club can bestow in agility. The criteria for this award are that the dog must have been outstanding

in its performance in agility trialling and brought credit to this club; the handler must have been active in the club and contributed towards the running of the club during the year; the handler & the dog must have been a financial member for the whole year of the award; and the handler and the dog must have trained at the club for the whole year.

Recipients of the ADOTY shall not receive this award more than once.

BDOC FLYBALL AWARDS **2011 FLYBALL ENCOURAGEMENT** **AWARD**

This award acknowledges a beginner handler and their dog who have not yet entered a flyball competition but have shown dedication and commitment to the training of their dog and have made commendable progress. The interaction and relationship between the handler and their dog is an important consideration.

This award is determined by flyball coaching staff.

FLYBALL MOST IMPROVED AWARD

This award acknowledges a handler and their dog who are in their first year of racing competitively and have shown dedication and commitment to the training of their dog and have made commendable progress. The interaction and relationship between the handler and their dog is an important consideration.

This award is determined by flyball coaching staff

FLYBALL DOG OF THE YEAR

This is the most prestigious award the Club can bestow in flyball. The criteria for this award are that the dog must have been outstanding in its performance in flyball competition and brought credit to the Club; the handler must have been active in the Club and contributed towards the running of the Club during the year; the handler & the dog must have been a financial member for the whole year of the award; and the handler and the dog must have trained at the club for the whole year.

Recipients of the FDOTY shall not receive this award more than once.



Open comp place getters at QDTC – Dai Thomas and Bonnie, 2nd (NQ), Poppy Maclean with Eepie, 1st (190), Cheryl Neal and Jet (3rd NQ)



BDOC place getter group with Emma Osborne and Ava who came second (Q) in Novice.

PHOTOS: POPPY MACLEAN



PHOTO: PAUL & MEGAN WALTERS. AUSSIE POOCH MOBILE WEST BELCONNEN

grooming questions

Paul and Megan Walters of Aussie Pooch Mobile West Belconnen took time out to answer a few questions about dog grooming.

1. Where do you most frequently find knots in the dogs' coats.

Behind the ears, the back legs, and painfully on the abdomen where knots actually twist the skin when the dog walks..

2. For dogs that are 'hard to handle' do you have any tips.

Adopt a calm assertive manner. Take time to make them comfortable. It is important that you relax or the dog will pick up on your stress.

3. What could pet owners do (with their pets) to make your job easier.

Regular brushing to keep the coat in good condition and handling of the dogs feet so the dog is used to this when we cut the nails.

Also the dog will cope better while we wash it if the owner is relaxed.

4. Are there any products used (no brand names) that you wish pet handlers would NOT use

Organophosphates, any product with 'poison' on the label, human shampoos and detergents. They are harsh on the dog's coat and skin. There are a host of more natural products that can be used.

5. Are there any products used (no brand names) that you wish pet handlers WOULD use

Use the right grooming tool for the right coat.

6. Particular tips for looking after ears and eyes while washing dogs.

Small breeds tend to require eyes wiped daily with a baby wipe. This

will reduce tear stain and make cleaning of the area easier at bath time. For ears, keep the stream of water away from ear canal during the wash. Similarly, if using a dryer, keep the air flow away from the inner ear. To clean dirt build-up, again use a baby wipe.

7. Any tips on nail trimming are always useful.

If the nails are black just cut the tips as you can't see where the nerve is. If the nails are white, you can see the nerve which is pink. If this is cut, the dog will bleed and it will hurt. If this occurs, rub a cake of soap over the wound to stop bleeding. When trimming nails, hold the paw firmly. Confidence is a must as your dog will pick-up if you're nervous.. All our staff are trained to provide a complete service including nail clipping



happy feet

by ANGELA HAGEDORN

On Sunday 24 July five Canberra handlers and six dogs headed up to the Erskine Park Canine Complex in Sydney for their first ever Dances with Dogs (DWD) competition. It was a very early start (5.30am departure) however, the sunshine and t-shirt weather in Sydney more than compensated!

The comp was a double header, that is both a morning and afternoon session, with 22 entries in total. It was a great day for all, irrespective of placings, as we all came away having learnt something. It was also great to have so many from Canberra at the comp. DWD Canberra started just over a year ago (thanks to the hard work of Tony Turner at CDC) and we train in a pavilion out at the Queanbeyan showgrounds. We are a relatively small but very supportive group and have a great attitude towards training our dogs with positive motivation (believe me, there is no other way to teach dogs such a range of moves!).

DWD has two disciplines

Heelwork to Music (HTM) and Freestyle. In these there are several levels: *Starter, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Champion.* As with obedience trials, you need to gain 3 passes at each level to attain a 'title', except for Starters where you only need two passes. Judging is by a panel of three judges with 60 marks total divided evenly between:

- **Routine Content** – variation, difficulty, teamwork.
- **Technical Merit** – accuracy of moves and flow, quality of moves in respect of mistakes/refusals, willingness, (and for HTM only, accuracy of heelwork).



Musical Interpretation – choreography, routine concept, use of space and costume (costumes are only worth two points and dogs can only wear a decorative/co-ordinated neck collar or scarf and a buckle collar).

For Freestyle work you can choose to do just about anything in your routine. In HTM, 60% of your

routine must be in a heelwork position. But that doesn't mean 'heeling' at the left – the dog can be across the front of your body facing left or right, or similarly behind you, at your right facing forwards or backwards and at left facing forwards or backwards. That's eight different positions! It makes it a lot of fun to teach and really focuses on the dogs (and handlers) understanding of positioning.

Some of these heelwork positions can be seen in the pictures of my routines, along with some fun moves. Some moves just 'happen' when you are experimenting. When I was asking Pepper to go 'through' my legs, he decided to bounce up at my hand afterwards, so this became a whole new move and really adds some pizzazz. The hard part is coming up with new words for the 100 or so moves we have (and making sure they are clearly distinguishable!) along with me having to remember them all!

It's very useful to watch some other competitors. There are no end of postings on YouTube (all six of my videos have been posted – *just look for Adorn71*). We also have regular workshops in Canberra which are always great learning experiences. Over the past few months we have had Vicki Etherington, who has a great dance background, Loretta Rabbitt (of Loretta's Performing



PHOTO: ANGLEA HAGEDORN

Poodles – some of you may know Chloe from the Nissan X-trail Commercial) and Kamal Fernandez, who I have to thank for Pepper's emerging hind end awareness!

The biggest challenge was proofing our routines. We were in a new place (most of our dogs didn't even get a chance to go into the competition room before our first performance) and you compete facing the judges' table and audience – that's 20 or so people all sitting right outside a little lattice fence looking at your dog! This was without doubt the greatest challenge in keeping our dog's attention.

Rosie and Pepper qualified in all six of their routines. Rosie gained her HTM Starters Title and Freestyle Starters Title (1st place in both) and Pepper gained his Freestyle Starters Title (with one 3rd placing).

Fellow BDOC instructor (and travelling companion on the day) Niccola Hardaker and her Welsh Corgi, Shandy, also competed in the Freestyle starters (am and pm). In all, it was a great result for the Canberra troupe with many qualifying with at least one of their routines.

Unfortunately with six routines,

(and the accompanying six costume changes and having to amuse and prepare dogs in between) I didn't get to watch many of the other routines. Maki Koyama was kind enough to travel up just to video and watch – so at least I will be able to see the other Canberra performances. *A big thank you to Maki!*

Relaxing

For me the most valuable aspect was that I went out there being a little nervous and Rosie didn't give a hoot – and got even more relaxed as the routines piled up (something to be said for doing lots of routines – the later ones were definitely better!).

Rosie, from just lead pulls early on in her obedience career, won't go near me when we attempt obedience trial work. For two years she has never had a reprimand (not even a bad word) in training and yet the memory lingers! Luckily she just loves DWD and all the clicks and treats she can earn! I initially just took Rosie along to DWD to accompany Pepper. She will be 10 next month, had OCD in both shoulders and two

operations when she was just 12 months old and both her back flexor tendons ruptured just over three years ago, she has certainly become the star of the family! (Rosie also LOVES clapping, so this was such a positive for her at both the start and end of the routine.)

Obviously I was very happy with ribbons and trophies to boot. Not sure how long that will last once I have to dust them?. However, the real joy is working with Rosie and Pep – I have to stop myself OFTEN and just say, wow, haven't we come a long way! I mean, just over a year ago I had one 'heel' position, a spin in one direction and a rollover and a few cutsey tricks and the OB stuff AND a dog that wouldn't come near me in a ring – now, well, I have a garage wall full of posters with position diagrams just so I can remember to train and do everything! It was so gratifying to see Rosie soooooo happy. The only downside is that I spend about \$30 a week at the Belconnen deli on smoked meats!

So if you are looking for something different and as challenging as you want to make it, have chat to Niccola Hardaker, Maki or myself. If you'd like to give DWD a go the next beginners session starts mid-August.)

Happy training!

Angela (Rosie and Pepper)

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR SAY

Got an opinion on this – or any other dog-related topic? Send your contributions to news@bdoc.asn.au





pain is so close to pleasure - NOT

by ANGELA HAGEDORN

I was at the hairdresser the other day (bear with me, this is about dog training!), lying back at the basin getting my hair washed and enjoying the massage, then 'ouch', my hair got pulled.

I got an apology and relaxed back into the massage for a few more minutes, then 'ouch', another pull and another apology. However, now I couldn't relax anymore. I also couldn't enjoy the massage as I was tense and anxious. I was lying there waiting for the next pull. My entire focus was on waiting for the next bit of pain. Minutes ticked by, my anxiety was increasing, and I just wanted it to be over so I didn't get hurt again and could get away and relax.

Then I had a LIGHT BULB moment.

I have read over and over again that you shouldn't mix punishment with positive methods in your training – every worthy dog trainer from Karen Pryor to Kathy Sdao and Ian Dunbar will tell you this. However, while I understood the *scientific* reasoning for this and certainly appreciated the concept, I now realise my lack of personal experience had limited my understanding – I didn't 'feel it'.

My experience at the hairdresser really hit home – it didn't matter that 99.9% of the experience was nice, very pleasurable even. Those little moments of pain overrode my ability to enjoy the experience and I just wanted it to be over. But I am nothing if not polite, so I lay there tense and unhappy. I am sure this is something most dogs can relate to extremely well. One minute having treats put in front of their noses and nice words, the next getting yanked or yelled at or worse. It doesn't even matter if the 'pain' isn't particularly painful – my yanks were less than a split second and really hurt less than a paper cut – it is the distrust and state of constant fear and anxiety that arose that is the real issue.

Now think how many times you yank on your dog's leash or meet out other forms of punishment each day?

You also need to know that when you are chastising or punishing your dog it is REALLY hard for them to work out what they have done wrong. To them, punishment is just as likely to be a random (if often) thing that you do – their only recourse is to be anxious and nervous around you. I am sure I would have had half my hair pulled out to work out whether I had been lying crooked, maybe twitching my left foot, perhaps I was tapping a finger, was I tapping my finger too much, too

little, too high – shoot me now!

To train successfully using punishment is far harder than training using positive methods. The methodology is somewhat similar: mark incorrect behaviour (warn), pause (see if it stops), punish (enough to be a deterrent). If you can show me someone that punishes using the correct principles I will show you a flying pig.

However, unlike positive reinforcement where rewards will ultimately get more of the behaviour you like (even when you are a little inconsistent or your timing is sometimes off) with punishment you have to correct each and every unwanted component – that would mean every time your dog takes a step the wrong way or sits crooked (that might mean 20 x to get one correct sit) – and even when done correctly it takes a long time (if ever) for the dog to work out exactly what action is being punished AND to try to work out what it should do instead. It is, without doubt, a bad option with a lot of pain for little gain.

We have learnt so much over the past century on behaviour (and much more just in the past 20–30 years), that to fall back to such a caveman mindset of force and pack hierarchy is just criminal. Sure, a covered wagon

and horses gets you from a to b eventually but wouldn't you rather take the Landcruiser?

Punishment will more than likely leave you with a very anxious dog (and there are a lot of anxiety-related illnesses to hit you in the hip pocket), possible aggression because they are living in a state of anxiety, fear and anger (you know how you feel when the boss is always coming down on you), learning behaviours is far slower (this has been proven through too many studies to list), and your dog may just shut down from offering any behaviour at all, hoping to avoid making a mistake – what a nice way to live. Is this what you wanted from your relationship when you got your dog?

So you might now be thinking that you are *mostly* nice to your dog, but sometimes he needs a smack for jumping up or not sitting or whatever. Just re-read the first para of this article – **you CANNOT enjoy something when you are anxious, fearful or stressed.** That means your dog will not like working with you, he won't enjoy the training process and he will be looking to 'escape' either physically or mentally. Is this the state of mind you want when your dog is with you?

Many trainers (myself included!) get frustrated when on the grounds as they have a dog that works well at home and becomes oblivious at the Club. They might therefore be harsher with the dog trying to bully attention. However, this will just make the

dog like working at the club even less, increase avoidance tactics, and he may then direct this anxiety and anger to the other dogs around him. Sound familiar? We need to build up behaviours in an environment where the dog is able to focus on us and the rewards we offer – expecting more is like expecting a baby to get up and walk.

I recently watched a snippet from a PhD researcher looking at learning and behaviour. The footage was of a fairly young well adjusted dog who was clicker trained to go and touch a wastepaper bin – one bin was on the right and another bin on the left, returning to the trainer who was in the middle for the treat. The dog went to both bins on cue happily and easily, earning clicks and rewards. The trainer then 'hurried' the dog back from the left bin just a few times (tugging on the lead) and then did many more repetitions without the tug. However, this was clearly a punishment to the dog who, even after many positive only repetitions, no longer wanted to go to the left bin. He hesitated or went slowly and unenthusiastically and even tried going to the right side bin instead, which had only ever had positive associations. *That is how easily and quickly you can wreck a behaviour.*

On a side note, something else occurred to me during my light bulb moment which we often find happens to our dogs yet leaves us scratching our heads saying 'I don't know why he doesn't like

so and so'. On the 'pulling' occasion my hair was being washed by a young (to me anyway!) male. This in itself wouldn't ordinarily have mattered. However, 'many' years ago at another hairdresser I had my scalp burnt with a blow-dryer (not badly but it did hurt) by another young male hairdresser. So guess what? Now I have a PHOBIA. Yup. Me, a logical human, after two experiences, is likely to have a fit next time a young male hairdresser heads my way.

Now, I must point out too, that I am sure I have had numerous female hairdressers hurt me in the past, but my response comes down to the numbers. The difference is that I have had about 250 female hairdressers. So if 2 or even 5 had caused pain, that's still a very low percentage, compared to what I think would be 2 out of 4 or so male hairdressers. Luckily I am human and I have choices and can say 'no way Jose' next time a male hairdresser heads my way. If I was a dog I would likely cringe, try to warn them off and failing all else, bite. And we wonder why our dogs get 'sudden' phobias.

THE MORAL OF THE STORY:

Make sure your dog has hundreds of good experiences so he can shrug off the few bad ones that will happen and just make sure that you aren't the cause of the bad experiences!

Another component of this pain/pleasure cycle is one of *consequences*. Continuing with my life story (and no, I don't spend my entire salary on beauty treatments!) I was at the beautician having a rather painful

and unpleasant procedure (one of many offered by the 'beauty' industry) and when it came time to pay, I was quite delighted to hand over few hundred dollars. Why? Because it meant that the unpleasant painful stuff was over – paying signalled an end to discomfort and therefore gave me a happy emotional response. Similarly, I've had a massage where I've almost resented paying because it meant the end of an enjoyable experience.

It is ALWAYS the consequences – what comes SECOND 'infects' what goes before – for both us and dogs. What does this mean in your training? Don't give the treat before the yukky thing as this will infect backwards – worst case scenario is that your dog will 'dislike' food treats altogether – they become tainted because they've been associated with a negative emotion.

Training examples are:

'Come'.

Bad consequence: calling 'come', treating and putting straight in bath.

Good consequence: calling 'come' treating and putting in room for 5 minutes. Pick dog up and as uneventfully as possible put him in the bath. Once finished, several super yummy treats (can treat as well for good behaviour in bath) game of tug and lots of cuddles.

Putting on the collar.

Bad consequence: put on collar followed by session in learning to 'walk' with associated

confusion and yanks (by both dog pulling and owner pulling).

Good consequence: put on collar followed by dinner and collar removed immediately after; then after one week move to lead put on, throw treats with lead on unheld, etc.

Sit or down.

Bad consequence: 'sit' or 'down' then prodding and pushing the dog into position or physically correcting a not straight position.

Good consequence: lure 'sit' or 'down' once or twice, treat (or preferably mark and treat) and dog should very quickly repeat behaviour. If not straight move off and try again or set up in place where dog can be successful.

For non-training stuff (i.e., bathing, medicines, etc), do what you have to do, with as little fuss as possible. After the 'bad' stuff is finished, zip out your super yummy treat 'ooooohhh, look, yummy treat' to 'infect' backwards to the procedure. Try clipping your dog's nails – just one paw or even one nail to start, just before you present his dinner. The joy of the dinner afterwards will infect the emotion associated with the nail clipping process.

[AND FOR THOSE OF YOU IN BUSINESS, THE MORAL OF THE STORY IS THAT IF YOU HAVE A BUSINESS OFFERING PLEASURABLE EXPERIENCES, GET YOUR CLIENTS TO PAY UP FRONT – THEN THE PLEASURE (CONSEQUENCE) WILL 'INFECT' THE PAYMENT EMOTION AND THAT IS THE MEMORY THEY WILL TAKE AWAY. CONVERSELY, IF THE EXPERIENCE WILL BE UNPLEASANT, PAYING AFTERWARDS IS THE WAY TO GO.]

When you use positive training methods, particularly using the mark and reward method (i.e., click and treat), the treat *infects* the clicker which *infects* the cue – the cue becomes like a treat in itself. So when you say 'sit', the emotion that goes with that word is one of pleasure and contentment and happiness. However, just like with the hairdresser, throwing in one or two even minor corrections can poison a behaviour or a cue. 'Sit' followed by a yank or push will very quickly become an unpleasant word and rather than happening faster to avoid the punishment, the dog will more likely avoid doing the behaviour altogether.

As a communicator with another species, before you choose your course, at the very least know what you want to achieve, what your choices are and how to use them correctly and that they are based on sound science.

A couple of further reading links below:

<http://sciencedawg.posterous.com/effectiveness-of-aversive-v-reward-based-trai>
www.clickertraining.com/node/1469

Angela Hagedorn

Clicks n treats!

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR SAY



Got an opinion on this – or any other dog-related topic? Send your contributions to news@bdoc.asn.au



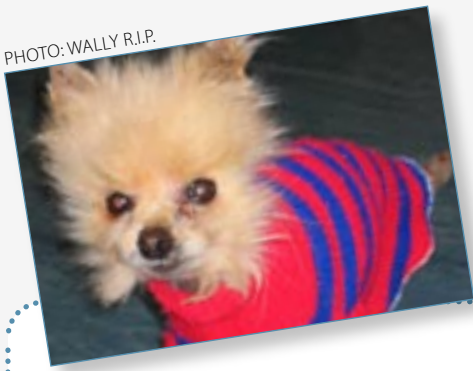
DEALING WITH THE DEATH OF A PET

"Pet owners all too often delay the decision to end a pet's life, because they just can't bring themselves to do it. We all wish our old pets would just die peacefully in a favourite spot in the sun, so that we don't have to make the decision to end it for them. It rarely happens that way however, and when it does, it may be that the pet has been suffering discomfort or distress for some time. Kinder perhaps to give them a last gentle kiss on the head, fondle their ears and let them slip peacefully away to wherever it is that all pets go at the end of this life."

Lorraine Hamilton

MANAGER, RSPCA LAUNCESTON TASMANIA

PHOTO: WALLY R.I.P.



pet death issues

by LORRAINE HAMILTON

Probably the hardest – yet kindest decision we will make for a pet in its whole life is when to let go, and ease the pet on its way when there is no real quality to life for that pet. We can prevent our pets suffering, and end their lives with peace and dignity and lots of love around them.

I have had many people say over the years that they couldn't possibly be with their pet when the vet was performing the euthanasia, yet that is exactly where they should be*. The pet knows and trusts them, and their presence is going to make the process much easier on the pet, if there is a special person there, holding their head, while they take their final breath. It is generally such a peaceful, quick, humane end to life. In fact, I think we owe it to our pets to be with them at the end*. I also think it is beneficial to the human – as much as it is such a hard thing to do, it allows them to see that the pet slips away quickly and with a last sigh, their suffering is at an end.

*[*If you can remain calm and not get upset then being present at the time of euthanasia will keep the pet relaxed, however if it is too upsetting for you, don't do it – you will upset yourself, your pet and the vet staff. Editor]*

All of us have said, at the death of a much loved pet, 'never again' – we feel that we can't put ourselves through the grief of losing another. But the fact is that most

companion animals do not live as long as humans, and so it is likely that we will love and say goodbye to quite a number of pets during our lifetimes. There are some things I want to say about that. Firstly, the grieving we go through at the end of their lives is the price we pay for the privilege of sharing our lives with them. That's as it should be. The time people need between losing a pet and bringing another into the home is very personal, and will be different for everyone. Some will need five years to 'get over' the loss and feel ready to have another pet, for others, the absolute best thing they can do for their household – the humans and other animals – is bring another pet in very soon. After 21 years with RSPCA I have seen thousands of pets in need of good, caring, responsible owners. None of them will 'replace' the recently lost pet, but they don't need to. They bring with them their own personality and special qualities, and they need someone to care for them. If anything, I always think it is a compliment to their recently deceased pet, that their humans enjoyed having a pet in their lives so much that they want to immediately open their homes and their hearts to another. Personally, I look at it now that I have loved and cared for my pets very well during their lifetime, have not allowed them to suffer at the end,

and I now have room in my home to give another pet a good life.

A mistake I have often seen people make, however, is wanting to adopt a pet from a shelter, because 'it looks just like Rover' (or Fluffy or whatever the case may be). This is not something I would advise, as it is unfair to place the expectation on a new pet coming into the house that it will be as wonderful as the pet they have lost.

Just as the humans in the house must be given the support to grieve the loss of their loved family member, so must the other animals in the home. Dogs, particularly, seem to feel the loss of their companion and must feel some confusion at what is often a sudden disappearance. If the dog does show signs of fretting, it's important to keep the household routines as normal as possible, and give the remaining dog a little more time and attention while he works through it. I had one cat that was particularly fond of our old dog that lived to 18.5 years. When the dog passed on, the cat curled his feet under his body and barely moved from the end of my bed for 2 weeks. There was no doubt that his world had suddenly changed, and he certainly grieved the loss of his friend. On the other hand, I have also known dogs who not only do not appear to grieve, but in fact seem to feel some relief, especially

if the relationship has been a little strained with competition for status in the household.

Often parents will attempt to protect their children from the reality of the pet dying. However, just as having pets in the home is a wonderful way for children to learn about responsibility and caring for another being, so too can they learn valuable lessons

about life, the concept of death and grief. Parents may help the children to understand their feelings by reassuring them that it is normal to feel sad at the loss of a pet. Planting a special tree or shrub in memory, making a special photo album to remember all the wonderful times they have had, having a little burial service or scattering of the ashes may all help, but most of all, parents

can show their children that they themselves are grieving the loss, and that it is okay and very normal to shed tears.

There are websites dedicated to pet loss these days, and a reasonably new one is www.ourwonderfulpets.com

Lorraine Hamilton,
Manager of RSPCA
Launceston, Tasmania

THE EUTHANASIA PROCESS

This is such a painful time for the pet owner with decisions and processes to work through. Hopefully this short outline will help you prepare for this stage of responsible pet ownership.

Definition of euthanasia: *“Animal euthanasia (Greek meaning “good death”) is the act of putting to death painlessly or allowing to die, as by withholding extreme medical measures, an animal suffering from an incurable, esp. a painful, disease or condition. Euthanasia methods are designed to cause minimal pain and distress.”*

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_euthanasia

Before the euthanasia

The TOUGHEST decision of all is deciding that the ‘time has come’. How do you know? Talk to your vet about this, discuss it with ‘dog-friends’ and watch your pet. (A short check-list included in this outline).

Once you have decided that the it’s time, you need to consider:

- ▶ Do you want to be present with the pet or not. Don’t feel you HAVE to. If it is too stressful for you, then it is probably less stressful for your pet and the vet staff if you are not present.
- ▶ Do you want other family members present during the procedure. Check that this is okay with the vet staff.
- ▶ Where do you want the euthanasia performed. At your home or at the veterinary practice.
- ▶ Sort out payment prior to the procedure.
- ▶ You may be asked for your pet’s weight (so they can adjust medication quantities).
- ▶ There may be a consent form for you to sign before your vet will proceed.

- ▶ Make a decision about cremation or burial of the body. Many veterinary hospitals work with companies that can arrange for individual cremation (and, in some cases, burial). Some owners may choose community cremation (sometimes called group or mass cremation). In both cases, the company will pick up your dog’s remains directly from the vet hospital. Alternatively, you may wish to bring your dog’s remains home so you can handle aftercare on their own.
- ▶ Backyard burials need to be thought through. They need to be deep enough so that the remains are not disturbed. Obviously if the premises are rented or for apartment occupants, these options are not available. Also, keep in mind that in the ACT there are service easements that run through properties. Check the service plans prior to digging.

During the euthanasia

- ▶ Take time to say goodbye. Generally, dogs live in the moment so keep things as ‘jolly’ as possible. You know how good your pet is at picking up your feelings.

THE EUTHANASIA PROCESS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- ▶ Your vet might prefer to administer a sedative to your dog prior to administering the actual euthanasia solution. This will allow your pet to be extremely relaxed and sleepy before the next step. It also mitigates in the animal any tendency for spasms and involuntary movements – such as leg jerks and eye twitches.
- ▶ Brace yourself for the next steps as the procedure is generally very, very quick.
- ▶ In dogs and cats, euthanasia typically involves the intravenous injection of a solution of pharmaceutical agents that will quickly stop the heart. In most cases, this solution is predominantly made up of a very high dose of pentobarbital or sodium thiopental, though some euthanasia solutions also contain phenytoin. The solution is coloured (green, pink or a purple tint).
- ▶ Generally, the most effective way to administer the solution is through a vein, usually in one of the front legs. Injection into a body cavity will work, but not as quickly. The euthanasia solution is then injected into your pet's vein, where it rapidly travels throughout the body.
- ▶ Within just a few seconds, your dog will become unconscious, experiencing no pain or suffering. Breathing will slow down and then stop over the next several seconds. Cardiac arrest will soon follow, resulting in death. Typically, death occurs within 30 seconds of intravenous administration.
- ▶ Your pet's legs may jerk and twitch. There may be a couple of exhalations and the pet may urinate or defecate. Do not be concerned if you witness these actions as the pet has died, it is not a sign of suffering.

After the euthanasia

- ▶ Once the solution has been fully administered, your vet will listen to your dog's heart to confirm death. They will let you know that your dog has passed on.
- ▶ Sometimes the vet may check the pet's eyes for the presence of reflex as well.
- ▶ At this time, your vet will probably step out of the room to give you a few moments alone with your dog. Stay as short or as long as you are comfortable with.
- ▶ If you are not taking your pet with you, after you leave your pet will be placed in a tough plastic bag which will be sealed. The body will then be moved to a refrigerated area until the burial or cremation is undertaken.

Grieving the loss of your pet

Grief is different for everyone, and there is no right or wrong way to grieve. Remember the good times you had with your dog. You may want to memorialise your unique and much-loved pal in your own individual way.

You can never replace the pet you had, but new rewarding and positive experiences await you – when you are ready.

PHOTO: LIZZIE R.I.P.



PET HEALTH CHECKLIST

If you feel your pet's health is declining then don't ignore it, observe your pet, talk to your vet and make some decisions based on the information you have gathered. The following should be viewed as a guide for this observation process; not an exhaustive list. Most importantly though, talk to (and listen to) your vet.

Observation check list

- Does your pet seem irritable, restless or confused?
- Has your pet lost its appetite or is it drink water excessively?
- Are favorite activities being avoided?
- Is the pet immobile?
- Can your pet clean itself?
- Monitor incontinence.
- Is your pet picked on by other animals in the home? This can happen when a sick or elderly dog becomes weak.
- Does your pet frequently stare into space or remain motionless in corners and is not easily distracted from this behaviour?
- Has your pet gone to unusual places to sleep or hide?

How can I tell if my pet is in pain?

- Excessive panting or gasping for breath
- Excessive licking at an area of the body
- A hunched spine
- Whimpering
- Trembling body
- Snappy when touched
- Reclusiveness
- Reluctance to move
- Food pickiness

If you're unsure of how much your pet is suffering, keep a daily record of good days and bad days. It's also important to ask your vet for the exact signs of suffering likely to be associated with your pet's condition or disease. A scale-based document can be found at www.homevet.com/petcare/documents/quality.pdf

Thank you to all vets and vet staff

Did you know that a study in the Australian Veterinary Journal published by Wiley-Blackwell found that vets are four times more likely to commit suicide as compared to the general adult population? Given the heart-wrenching tasks they perform for us, this sad statistic is believable.

I take this opportunity to offer a grateful acknowledgement to ALL vets AND veterinary staff. They make it possible for us to end our dear companions' suffering in a humane way. A global thank you to them on behalf of all animal owners.

Sources:

www.petsatpeace.com.au/faqs
www.dlook.com.au/pet-burial-and-cremations/act-southeastern-gearys-gap/canberra-pet-cemetery-304864
www.sciencealert.com.au/news/20082404-17228.html
www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/105081.php
Patricia McConnell in her book *'The other end of the Leash'*, p.216 gives an account of the end of life decision.





Bulletin Board

Financial members this is your space. You are entitled to place advertisements for free. Just email your requests directly to the editor: news@bdoc.asn.au

websites

Listed below are a few sites of interest. It would be great if readers could send in links to sites they like so we can share them. Email your contributions to news@bdoc.asn.au

MEN IN TRAINING

Kamal Fernandez
<http://brodyandco.blogspot.com/2010/06/obedience-seminar-kamal-fernandez.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYcO9YkWy00>

AGILITY

<http://susangarrettdogagility.com/2011/08/the-possibilities-in-dog-training/>

PUBLICATIONS

<http://www.dogwise.com>

PHOTOS

www.furfamilyphotos.com.au/html/event_photos.html

FACEBOOK

<http://www.facebook.com/AussiePoochMobileWestBelconnen>

YOUTUBE

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=P9Fyey4D5hg

ANKC RULE CHANGES

<http://www.ankc.org.au/Rules.aspx>

DOG OFF LEASH AREAS CANBERRA

<http://www.domesticanimals.act.gov.au/Home.htm>

REWARDS BASED TRAINING

<http://pawprintspettraining.com.au/2011/02/focus-workshop-with-sue-hogben/>

<http://sciencedawg.posterous.com/effectiveness-of-aversive-v-reward-based-trai>

FLYBALL NEWSLETTER

<http://www.flyball.org.au/FlyingTimes/documents/67FlyingTimesDec2010p1.pdf>

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE ALERTS

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/water_quality/blue-green_algae_monitoring

HOME DELIVERY OFFER

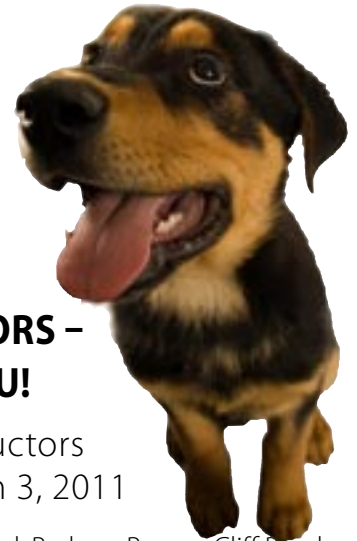
If you would like to have the bdoc newsletter 'home delivered', just make the editor aware of your email address by contacting news@bdoc.asn.au

THANK YOU BDOC INSTRUCTORS – WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

A huge thank you to all our instructors for giving up your time in Session 3, 2011

Thank you to: Michelle Abramovic, Jodie Boyd, Barbara Brown, Cliff Brock, Gary Campbell, Meryl Causebrook, Elan Chesher, Lyn Clyde, Jenny Drake, Sally Druhan, Charlie Giles, Ange Gintings, Angela Hagedorn, Niccola Hardaker, Patricia Looker, Ross Miller, Gabrielle Myer, Cheryl Neal, Emma Osborn, Caroline Shives, Laura Jane Smith, Suzanne van Strien, Jenny Thistleton, Dai Thomas, Kate Whackett, Peter White, Geoff Woodman.

Special thanks to all the class assistants also!



MEMBER FEATURE PHOTO



Plenty of love on show in this relationship – Sunday morning at BDOC

AROUND THE GROUNDS



A young dog who had just finished Sunday morning class in Session 3



A flyball participant waiting for a turn



Digby being Digby-cute



BDOC instructor Angela's Pepper turned two this year and got an unexpected birthday present! 'Can I sleep in it?'



Lyn helping train one of the beginner flyball dogs at the Interclub training day which raised funds for the RSPCA cupcake appeal



Nice focus Jodi



No Flyball report was supplied for this edition of the newsletter



After class romper stompers. Young dogs having a get together in the play pen at BDOC

BDOC Session training dates 2011



	Session 1 (8 weeks)		Session 2 (8 weeks)		Session 3 (8 weeks)		Session 4 (8 weeks)		Session 5 (8 weeks)	
	Thursday	Sunday	Thursday	Sunday	Thursday	Sunday	Thursday	Sunday	Thursday	Sunday
Week 1	3 Feb	6 Feb	7 April	10 April	16 June	19 June	11 Aug	14 Aug	13 Oct	16 Oct
Week 2	10 Feb	13 Feb	14 April	17 April	23 June	26 June	18 Aug	21 Aug	20 Oct	23 Oct
Week 3	17 Feb	20 Feb	28 April	1 May	30 June	3 July	25 Aug	28 Aug	27 Oct	30 Oct
Week 4	24 Feb	27 Feb	5 May	8 May	7 July	10 July	1 Sept	4 Sept	3 Nov	6 Nov
Week 5	3 Mar	6 Mar	12 May	15 May	14 July	17 July	8 Sept	11 Sept	10 Nov	13 Nov
Week 6	17 Mar	20 Mar	19 May	22 May	21 July	24 July	15 Sept	18 Sept	17 Nov	20 Nov
Week 7	24 Mar	27 Mar	26 May	29 May	28 July	31 July	22 Sept	25 Sept	24 Nov	27 Nov
Week 8 Assessment Day	31 Mar	3 April	2 June	5 June	4 Aug	7 Aug	Thursday 29 September Assessment night for both Thursday and Sunday classes		Thursday 1 December Assessment day for all, with Club BBQ and Awards	
No training	Thursday 10 March Sunday 13 March		Thursday 21 April Sunday 24 April		Thursday 9 June Sunday 12 June		Thursday 6 October Sunday 9 October			
Public Holidays	Wed 26 Jan (<i>Australia Day</i>) Mon 14 Mar (<i>Canberra Day</i>)		Friday 22 and Monday 25 April (<i>Easter</i>) Monday 25 April (<i>Anzac Day</i>) Tuesday 26 April (<i>as Easter and Anzac on same day</i>)		Monday 13 June (<i>Queens Birthday</i>)		Monday 3 October (<i>Labour Day</i>) Monday 10 October (<i>Family and Community Day</i>)			

Session 4 – 2011

Canine Companion and Obedience Trialling classes.

Session 4, 2011 commences on Thursday 11 August and Sunday 14 August 2011.

Assessment day for Session 4, 2011 is Thursday 29 September (for both Thursday and Sunday classes).

The first Beginners class is an intake talk **without dogs** but for all other classes, you will be training with your dog on these dates

Dates for Agility and Flyball classes are circulated separately to those undertaking these sports.

