

bdoc newsletter

Belconnen Dog Obedience Club



Volume €3 Issue €3 JULY 2010

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bdoc details

Membership renewals now due

If you joined BDOC in 2009, then your annual membership subscription for 2010–2011 is now due and needs to be paid before 31 July. **After that date, renewals incur the joining fee.**

Renewal forms can be downloaded from the website (www.bdoc.asn.au) and posted with your cheque or money order, or you can pick up a form from the office and pay by card.

Support your club and pay your membership now for another year of dog training classes.



Newsletter contributions

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

BDOC COMMITTEE 2009–10

President and Acting Secretary

Barbara Brown

Vice-President

Elaine Temby

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Maki Koyama

Committee members

Sally Berridge

Rhonda Cameron

Dean Gardiner

Michelle Gilbey

Nicola Hardaker

Ray Leckie

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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.

note from the president

Welcome fellow dog lovers.

Welcome to all our new members. Those of you in Beginners classes deserve a special pat on the back for having your first experiences of dog training classes during the Winter months. Luckily, classes are such an enjoyable time for both you and your dogs, that rugging up and training during cold weather makes it worthwhile. At least we don't have to train on snow like dog owners in the really cold climates. Also, just think how you will enjoy classes once the worst of the Winter weather is over.

First some housekeeping

As you can see, the new intersection is progressing well. The final intersection will make coming into and leaving the club grounds much safer so it is worth the discomfort of the temporary arrangements. The planned extension of Morisset Road through Gungahlin to the Federal Highway has now been bought forward with the planned completion due at the end of 2010. This will mean a change of entrance for BDOC. The likely scenario is that we will have a shared entrance with the radio station a little further down Morisset Road. As this will be further away from the new intersection, it will be safer for us. However, we will now have to endure more road works around the Club this year.

Membership

Also, remember that for members who joined in 2009, your membership dues for 2010–2011 are due. You can pay at the office or download the membership form from the website and post it in.

Email addresses

if you have changed your email address, please make sure that you let the office know. This is especially important if you are registered for receiving the gate entry code.

Volunteers needed

Do you enjoy working with people and giving some of your time to volunteer groups? Please think about joining the BDOC Committee. The Committee changes at the AGM on the 25 August and we need some new blood to lighten the load. Committee work is simple and entails taking on the responsibility of a particular task and helping out in the office (either a Thursday night or Sunday morning) for a couple of times each session. It is enjoyable and you will get that warm fuzzy glow from helping other people. Recent research shows that people who do volunteer lead healthier and happier lives! So maybe this is the time for you!!! Like other BDOC volunteers, Committee members pay significantly reduced membership rates.

Community companion dog title

While writing this note I heard that two of our members gained their third pass and thus their dog's CCD title at a trial last weekend. CCD after a dog's name means the dog has gained their Community Companion Dog title. This is the first of a series of Obedience titles possible to achieve with your dog. To gain the CCD, you and your dog are formally tested by a judge on the specific exercises (behaviours) of heeling on lead, stand for examination, formal recall, and both sit and down stays. You must gain three passes under at least



two different judges to achieve the CCD. Beginners have started on this road in our Community Companion classes and are or will be teaching their dogs the basics of these behaviours – where the 'position to be' is next to your leg, accepting a pat from a 'stranger', coming to you when called while on a lead, and staying quietly for a few seconds. As you move up into Bronze and Silver classes these behaviours are strengthened and lengthened. Who knows, maybe you will get hooked on working and having fun with your dog and you too will end up with a CCD dog!

Finally, All the behaviours we teach our dogs are just a series of tricks. Each one has to be learnt in small pieces so don't push your dog too fast, too soon. Some dogs learn faster than others so don't be intimidated if other dogs in your class seem to learn faster than your dog. Just keep YOUR focus on what you are teaching at the time and on YOUR dog. If you keep your practice session short but practice often, success will come sooner than you think. Above all, have fun with your dog.

Happy dog training

Barbara



mini wins major!

An interview with Lucy Williams whose dog Mini (Cavregis Marilyn Merlot ADX, ADO, JDX, GD) was awarded the BDOC Agility Dog of the Year for 2009

Tell us a little about yourself and your dogs.

My interest in obedience training started in 1978, when I acquired my first Cavalier to show and was looking to improve my handling in the show ring. My Fiancé' and I became members of ACT Companion Dog Club, then situated in Fyshwick, that's when my love of training (and breeding) dogs became a life long passion. My eldest daughter and I joined BDOC in about 1993 when looking for a closer place to home to train our dogs. Over the years I've trained numerous Cavaliers that gained obedience titles, breed championship titles, and then started training dogs for agility trailing in 1985. Mini is my seventh agility trained dog. Since 1994 I've qualified as a licensed breed judge, completed an obedience judges course, and more recently have been studying to be an agility judge.

Where did you get Mini?

Mini is from our eighth generation of home bred Cavaliers, brother of Cavregis White Knight, from one of our home bred bitches Ch. Cavregis Chardonay, ADX, JDX, GD.



What kind of training did you do with Mini in the first year?

Almost nothing! (Perhaps I shouldn't have said that?!)

When did you start your agility training at BDOC? /When did you start training Mini at BDOC?

I started to bring Mini to the club for socialization when she was about eight months old, and then at fourteen months started agility training with her in class. So, very little formal training when she was young, apart from an occasional sit, stay and come!

When did you start trialling her in Agility?

She was entered at her first trail at 18mths and one day of age in Novice Agility when she first qualified and placed. (NB You can start trialling a dog at 18mths of age.) Mini has since trialed in two National Agility trials, one in Melbourne and the other in Perth and now well on her way to her second Masters Agility Dog Title.

Looking back at your training, is there anything you wish you had done differently?

Possibly would recommend a little more formal training earlier on, but generally not really.

What are the hardest things you have had to work on with Mini?

She can turn very quickly, unlike her brother, so I have to take that into account when handling her!

How would you describe Mini?

Manipulating!

What are the things you best love about her?

Her quirky personality!

What are the things Mini best loves about her life?

Don't know, I asked her, but she has declined to give an answer.

Happy Trialing, Lucy.





agility intake

There will be an agility intake on Wednesday 11 August 2010. This will be the final intake for 2010.

If you are on the waiting list, you will be contacted by email or phone but if you haven't heard by the beginning of August, then contact us again either by email or by calling into the office.

There are still some places available. If you aren't on the waiting list and would like to begin agility at BDOC and have some great fun with your dog, then email BDOC (bdoc@bdoc.asn.au) or come into the office and register.

Just a few things to remember:

- ▶ Your dog needs to be 14 months old to start agility;
- ▶ You should have some control over your dog (you should be mostly able to call it to you if there aren't too many distractions);
- ▶ Agility is a physical sport for both handlers and dogs and you must be prepared to move with your dog;
- ▶ Beginners agility classes are held on a Wednesday evening from 6.30pm so you need to be able to come on that night of the week.



Angela and Rosie CCD

Cheryl and Jet CCD

Congratulations to our newest CCD dogs and their handlers

On Saturday 3 July, 2010 Angela Hagedorn and Rosie CCD, and Cheryl Neal and Jet CCD, qualified in their third ANKC trial for the CCD (Community Companion Dog) title.

Congratulations to both handlers. It is wonderful to see that the time spent in training their dogs has been so successful.



winter workouts

Dog Training Homework tips by Patricia Looker

Don't want to spend too long outside?

Too dark to train?

Well, actually there's really not much excuse for not 'training' your dog, despite the short days and low temperatures. The skills you and your dog are learning in class are designed to help your dog become a well-adjusted, responsive, manageable pet not just a dog who can perform various actions on cue in class or at some special 'training spot'. Everything you do, or don't do, with your dog is actually training him, so you need to be alert to the opportunities you have to reinforce the behaviours you want and replace or extinguish the ones you don't want.

Use of the 'sit' cue

When you come home and your dog leaps around with excitement, use your 'sit' cue to get your dog stable enough to be greeted. While we encourage you to give your cue only once, in this situation, when your dog is overjoyed to see you again, you may have to give your cue a few times until your dog understands that you really aren't going to pat him until he sits. (So that's 'steady for pats' practised.) Each time family members come home or visitors arrive, practise 'steady for pats'. (It's often easier



to put your dog on lead before the visitors are allowed in if he's really exuberant. That way you can stop him getting to the visitors to jump all over them while you repeat his cue, mark the correct response and get your visitors to greet him as his reward. And make sure your visitors don't 'rough him up' and undo his lovely, steady sit.)

Now that greeting your dog is over, it's time to take him for a walk (even a short spin around the block will help him settle for the evening). Get your dog to sit steadily while you put on his collar and lead. Quietly praise him while you 'dress' him and then release him towards the door or gate as his reward. Get him to sit and wait/stay again at the door/gate and wait until you tell him he can

walk through. The reward here is access to the great outdoors.

Loose lead walking

While you walk you are practising walking on a loose lead. Sometimes you may reward him with a treat and then moving on, and sometimes his reward is just moving on again, or getting to check out 'stuff'. Every so often while you're walking, and especially before crossing roads, cue your dog to sit or down, mark his correct response and give him a treat while you tell him what a good dog he is and then give him an extra reward by moving on again.

'Come' when called

The other thing to practise while you're walking is his recall. Say his name, and then cue 'come' and move briskly away from him. Mark and praise him for moving towards you. As he 'catches' you, cue him to sit and then mark and reward your clever dog. At first you practice in situations that have low levels of distractions for your dog. Once he's good at that, you practice with higher levels of distraction (discarded Macca's wrappers, other dogs still at some distance, kids playing), and when he can do that you make it even harder.

winter workouts

Having a reliable recall is a must if your dog is to enjoy any freedom. The only way to get a reliable recall is to practise frequently. I try to do at least five recalls every time I take my dogs out and every time they come they get a small food reward and then the jackpot reward of being allowed to run free again or at least go walking on a loose lead.

Greeting strangers

If you meet people who show an interest in patting your dog, practise your 'steady for pats' exercise. If you meet other dogs try to practise your controlled greeting exercise, although if the owner of the other dog has little control then it's difficult for you to practise this properly. (You could try passing on your knowledge so that next time the doggie greetings will be a bit less fraught!)

Vet check

So now you've got back home and your dog sits steadily to get in the gate/door and to have his lead removed. You might want him to be steady to do a quick 'vet check' just to see that he hasn't got any grass-seed, little pebbles or the like in his coat or between his pads.

Stay and go (release)

If he is allowed in the kitchen while you prepare his food, get him to do a down-stay while he watches you. Make sure you can watch him too so that you are sure he's stayed in the down position. Praise him and release him before you



pick up his bowl or he'll break his stay. He needs no other reward than the anticipation of his dinner. Before his bowl is put down for him to tuck into, get him to do a short sit-stay, or a quick trick with dinner being his reward.

Time to chill out on the mat

Now it's time for your dog to be calm and stay out of the way while he shares time with his family. This is what 'on your mat' is all about. (His 'mat' may be a mat, a rug, a cushion, some kind of dog bed, or a crate – it's a place to call his own where he chills out.) Make sure you put a toy or two on his 'mat' to keep him occupied, and put his mat where he can see what you're doing. Remember he's spent probably eight hours of the day on his own while you

were at work, so don't deny him your company now you're home. He doesn't have to be a nuisance though – 'on your mat' allows him to share your companionship without being a pest. If your dog is still fairly young, make sure you take him out for a toilet break during the evening.

If you're prepared to be a little more interactive with your dog during the evening, you could learn some new tricks or practise getting really quick sits, downs and stands to your cues.

So despite the limitations of the winter weather, you can still practice the majority of your 'dog training exercises' just by carrying on with your life!

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BDOC obedience dog of the year for 2009



An
interview
with
John Riley
whose dog
Lily was
awarded
the BDOC
Obedience
Dog
of the
Year
2009

Tell us a little about yourself and your dogs.

Sally and I moved from Sydney to Canberra in 2004. Whilst I'd had dogs when I was younger, in recent years we'd been living in inner-city areas and unfortunately didn't have space for dogs. Moving to Canberra we gained house and yard space, and bought our two weimaraners, Lily and Gus, within the first 12 months of being here.

Where did you get Lily?

Lily, and her half brother, came from Greydove Kennels in Castle Hill, a north-western suburb of Sydney.

How old was Lily when you got her and how long has she now been with you?

Lily was about 16 weeks when we picked her up. I would have liked to have brought her home at 12 weeks, but we were going through a bit a protracted process in replacing one of our boundary fences that needed replacing before the yard was secure for a dog. She turned five last March.

How did she settle in with the rest of the household?

Because she had already been weaned for about four weeks, she settled into the household pretty quickly. She slept in our room for the first couple of nights and then transferred to the family room

(now Lily and Gus' bedroom) quite happily after that. We hired a house-sitter, who happened to be a former vet nurse, to be with her all day for company for the first week while we were at work. We picked Gus up the following weekend, and they had each other's company during week-days after that.

When did you start training at BDOC? When did you start training Lily at BDOC?

We started in puppy classes in August 2005, when she was five months old, which was our first involvement with BDOC.

How did she take to group classes?

Lily was always very happy joining in her group classes. She was pretty distracted at first, as you'd expect from a young dog, especially a young weimaraner, but started to get her mind on the job quickly enough.

How long did you spend at each level?

From memory, we moved through level 1 and 2 in one session each, then took two sessions to get through level 3, and I can't remember if we took one or two sessions to pass primary companion (in the old syllabus language). We then joined the CCD/Novice trialing class where we remained until Lily gained her CD title.

BOOC obedience dog of the year for 2009

When did you think about doing Obedience Trialling with her?

When we were going through the early levels, I didn't really know anything about obedience trialling. I think it was while we were in primary companion, with Anne Lewis instructing, that Anne told me what it was about and suggested we should give it a go. We had our first attempt at a Community Companion Dog trial after a couple of sessions in the novice trialling class, when Lily was about 22 months old. It was an absolute disaster, but fortunately it's been onwards and upwards since then... albeit on a very jagged trajectory.

Looking back at your training, is there anything you wish you had done differently?

I wish I had concentrated more on loose lead walking, and then some more on loose lead walking, and again some more on loose lead walking. While she does do very nice formal heel work, when out for a casual walk she's always tended to pull into the collar to get to every elusive smell. Part of being a gundog possibly, but I do think I just didn't put enough early effort into loose lead training... and it can make all the difference between a walk and a really pleasant walk.

What are the hardest things you have had to work on with Lily?

Apart from loose lead walking, the biggest issue I tend to have with her is helping her overcome her nerves in the trial ring, which is difficult, as I have trouble overcoming my own. I really need to take her to a greater variety of crowded places and train in close quarters with lots of surrounding activity. There's no question that a dog's social adaptation and confidence benefits greatly from as much environmental variety as you can possibly (and gradually) expose it to.

How would you describe Lily?

My shadow. She just constantly follows me around the house, around the yard. Wherever I am, she's right behind.

What are the things you best love about her?

As above, her absolute devotion, even when I don't deserve it. I know most of us think of our dogs similarly, but she is the sweetest, most loving little creature you could possibly hope to have.

Also, whilst we've had some difficult issues in the trial ring to deal with, her willingness to please and work as a team in training is very endearing and rewarding.

What are the things Lily best loves about her life?

Apparently... me, but also Sally, long walks up the Pinnacle and Mount Painter Nature Parks chasing myriad scents, and weekend family sleep-ins on our bed... two adult people and two adult weimaraners on a queen size bed... very squeazy.



alice petersen

Alice is one of BDOC's longest serving instructors. At last year's presentation evening she was awarded a long service award for 25 years of obedience instructing. Alice recently celebrated a milestone (80th) birthday which has prompted me to compile an article about her and her dogs. Some of you would not be aware of the achievements Alice has reached in dog training. Information has been contributed from a number of people, particularly Bernhard – Alice's husband, Jill Campain, and Barbara Berce, both long time friends and training companions of Alice.

Alice has been owned and loved by a number of dogs prior to entering the world of obedience training/trialing. She had a border collie as a child in Scotland; then when living in Cowra, a Cocker spaniel 'Gypsy' who was unfortunately lost very early from snakebite; followed by a Dachshund called 'Rum' who liked to look at himself in the children's wading pool. Following the family's return from a few years in Germany came a Doberman named 'Heidi' who needed special care as she had been previously mistreated, however she became a beautiful companion and watchdog. Around the same time there was a much-loved Siamese cat called 'Sprinkle'. After Heidi and Sprinkle, Alice and Bernhard

were without animals for some time until 'Pip' came along in 1979.

Pip 'Tullamore Moonstone AOC' was a Golden Retriever. Alice took him to obedience classes at BDOC and achieved CD (Companion Dog) in 1980, CDX (Companion Dog Excellent) in 1981, UD (Utility Dog) 1982, TD (Tracking Dog) 1983, TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent) on 16 October 1983 when he became Australian Obedience Champion. In those days a dog had to have a TDX title as well as its UD (highest level of obedience in those days) in order to become AOC. You can see Pip's picture on the BDOC Dog of the Year wall.

In 1983 Pip and Alice achieved the rare honour of achieving the Highest Award from the Tracking and Rescue Dog Club of NSW. They earned not only the tracking dog award but Alice received the Laurie Lennon memorial trophy for the tracking Handler point score. This was no mean feat as Alice had to travel to Sydney for each tracking trial. 3am starts to get there for the 7 am check-in. Pip earned both his TD & TDX titles in one winter season, something that is not often achieved. In addition Pip was the first dog Alice had ever trained and for the Tracking Award she was up against Sydney trialers who had trained dogs before and had the benefit of classes. There were no tracking classes in the ACT region, so Alice

bought the best tracking book she could find. She read it from cover to cover and then just went out and very successfully trained Pip.

Pip was the sire of Pete 'Palfrey Pip's Pride' who was owned and trained by Con Williamson – a past President of BDOC for many years. Pete and Con achieved remarkable success in the obedience ring. Pete's picture is also in the clubhouse.

Bodie 'Brymist Moonflash UD TD' and also Pip's son was Alice's next obedience dog. He achieved his UD in 1988 and his TD in 1989. Bodie was very handsome and a character and Alice says he liked to swagger into the obedience ring and show off!



Alice and Kilian, 2009

Bodie also has his photo on the wall of fame in our clubhouse.

Then along came Rurik 'Aust Champion Albrecht Anwalt CD' a Standard Schnauzer. Alice showed Rurik to his conformation title 'Australian Champion' in 1993. Rurik also earned his CD and Bronze Dunbar medallion. Dunbar medallions are awarded if a dog is registered purebred with a conformation show championship as well as an obedience title. Rurik was very exuberant and was known to sometimes heel in the obedience ring like a yoyo!

Ruschka 'Saginor Phantom's Gift' another Standard Schnauzer was the next dog to join the family. Ruschka is the Petersen's current 'housemanager' always wanting to know what is going on and supervising all activities in the home.

Kilian 'Aust Champion Saginor Kilian CDX' is Alice's current 'trailing' companion. He is a black and silver Miniature Schnauzer who Alice also showed to Australian Champion title in 2005. Kilian earned his CD in 2004 and CDX in 2005 as well as his Bronze and Silver Dunbar medallions and is currently having fun with Alice working on UD.

There are many amusing stories Alice has told about her experiences in the trialing ring and from her tracking escapades, some of which can't be repeated here. However, courtesy of Jill, here is one which we are sure she won't mind sharing:

"One of the interesting things about tracking is that you need to find out-of-the-way places to lay tracks. If other people happen to be in the vicinity they are often suspicious of what you are doing there. Walking around, dropping things and hiding behind bushes! On one occasion Alice reports that she and Bernhard arrived back at the start of the track to find two policemen circling their car with guns drawn. Obviously a suspicious abandoned car! It took a while for Alice to convince the policemen that it was all perfectly harmless. And knowing Alice's hospitality, she probably offered them a cup of tea and introduced them to Pip."

Alice's recipe for liver treats:

- ▶ 500 gm pureed liver
- ▶ 3 eggs
- ▶ 1 cup cornmeal or polenta
- ▶ 2 cloves garlic
- ▶ 3 cups plain flour

Mix and put into a lamington tin. Bake one hour 200°C. Cut into wedges and freeze if needed.

Bernhard reports that Alice's training motto is '*Positive does not mean Permissive!* I also remember a saying Alice told me very early on; '*Don't complain – Train!*' Alice is a very consistent and kind trainer. She has always been very methodical and has mapped out a plan of what she wants to achieve. Some of us have enjoyed the privilege of having Alice as an instructor and mentor over many years.



Alice and Bodie, 1987

Congratulations Alice on your birthday and achievements. It would be great if we could all follow your example and still be in the obedience trialing ring at 80 years of age! Alice has a wonderful husband who has shared in and contributed to her success by being tracklayer for tracking training and helping to run Alice through her obedience exercises. As Alice doesn't drive, Bernhard has taken her to training sessions; to BDOC to teach her class; to committee and instructor meetings; to obedience and tracking trials and dog shows (and everywhere else besides).

Anne Lewis, Jill Campain

Barbara Berce and of course

Bernhard Petersen

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



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

A huge thank you to all our instructors and instructors-in-training who took or are taking classes at BDOC in Sessions 2 and 3, 2010.

Thank you to:

Michelle Abramovic, Barbara Brown, Cliff Brock, Cassie Butterworth, Garry Campbell, Paul Cartwright, Meryl Causebrook, Elan Chesher, Lyn Clyde, Sally Druhan, Andrew Gibbs, Charlie Giles, Ange Gintings, Madelaine Graham, Angela Hagedorn, Niccola Hardaker, Lesley Hayes, Susan Killion, Anne Lewis, Ryan Jenkins, Anita Langford, Hanna Lesley O'Neil, Patricia Looker, Pam McDougall, Poppy McLean, Pauline Murphy, Gabrielle Myer, Cheryl Neal, Laurajane Smith, Neera Stephenson, Shirley Stewart, Suzanne van Strien, Julie Rebbeck, Werner Roth, Joycelyn Taylor, Jenny Thistleton, Dai Thomas, Lucy Williams.

BDOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Make a note in your diary now

The 2010 AGM will be held in the BDOC Clubhouse on Wednesday 25 August commencing at 7.30PM

Come and join your fellow members and applaud the recipient of the Cappy Award. This award is awarded to 'the most valuable club member of the year who is not a committee member' and is awarded at the AGM each year. This award can only be awarded once to a member.

Supper will be provided so you can have a gossip with other members at the conclusion of the meeting.

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

It is with regret that we will be farewelling Sally Berridge, our newsletter editor for the past 18 months. Sally will soon be leaving the ACT and moving to Victoria. Sally has been a valued member of the committee for the past two years and we wish her well in her new home.

Pauline Murphy has volunteered to take over the role as newsletter editor and will be most grateful for information or advertisements from members. (Financial members may place advertisements for free in the Newsletter). You can send your articles and photos directly to Pauline via new@sbdoc.asn.au

MEMBER FEATURE PHOTO



Gabrielle Meyer and Charlie at the heeling workshop for instructors

dangerous signs!

Being tied up and then left alone can be frightening for a dog. There is no clear correspondence to let them know you will be back.

No surprise really that a frightened animal that cannot escape may well bite in retaliation to a perceived threat. Their options are so limited – flee or fight. Can't flee, so fight it is!

Please don't tie your dogs up outside the clubhouse and leave them. They can panic and are helpless. If you must leave your dog tied up, ask someone to stay with your dog while you take care of business.

The front of the club house is a high traffic area. Totally unsuitable for leaving dogs tied up and left alone.



NEVER leave your dog tied up on a head collar. If the dog tries to flee they can seriously and permanently damage their necks. If you chose to tether your dog, always on a flat collar, *never* on a head collar.



If one of these dogs becomes reactive to anything in the environment, then the other dog is the one in trouble. Note how the leads are tangled. Just this constraint is enough to start an argument between the dogs and if neither of them can get away the outcome could be serious.

don't leave your dog tied up and left alone



weighty issues

How does your dog's weight measure up?

If your dog is overweight you are diminishing both its longevity and its quality of life. Those big brown eyes will always want 'more' and for many dog breeds, no matter how much food you give them, will still want more. Have a daily measured allowance and stick to it.

Wet or dry food? Dry food is better than wet food for keeping the teeth clean and the premium brands offer many benefits including better skin and hair condition and less flatulence.

Weight for active sports. To undertake agility training your dog needs to be in the 'Ideal' weight range. If the instructors deem your dog to be overweight your dog will not be able to participate in agility classes. This is to ensure your dog's joints, bones and ligaments are not damaged.

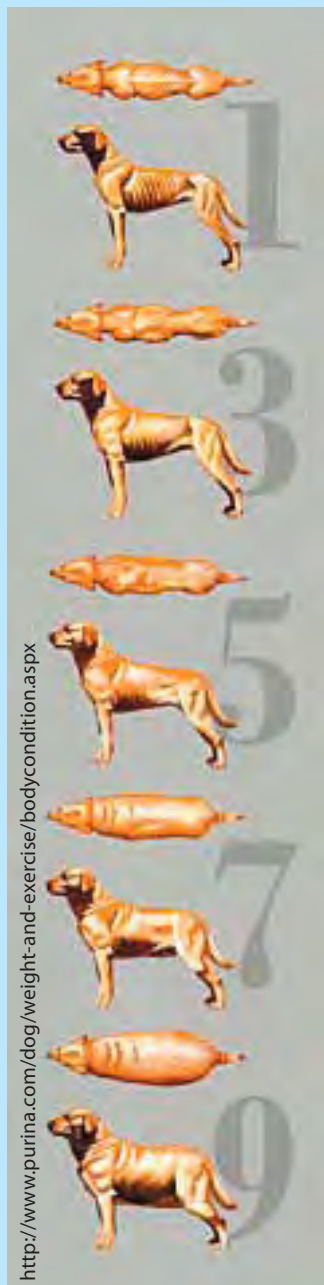
Advice. If you are unsure about your dog's weight, the amount or type of food to feed your dog, your vet is the most qualified person to advise you.

Too thin

1. Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.
2. Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.
3. Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist.

Ideal weight

4. Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.
5. Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed.



Too heavy

6. Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.
7. Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.
8. Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distension may be present.
9. Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.



BDOC session training dates 2010



	Session 1 (8 weeks)		Session 2 (8 weeks)		Session 3 (7 weeks)		Session 4 (8 weeks)		Session 5 (8 weeks)	
	Thursday	Sunday	Thursday	Sunday	Thursday	Sunday	Thursday	Sunday	Thursday	Sunday
Week 1	28 Jan	31 Jan	8 April	11 April	17 June	20 June	5 Aug	8 Aug	7 Oct	10 Oct
Week 2	4 Feb	7 Feb	15 April	18 April	24 June	27 June	12 Aug	15 Aug	14 Oct	17 Oct
Week 3	11 Feb	14 Feb	29 April	2 May	1 July	4 July	19 Aug	22 Aug	21 Oct	24 Oct
Week 4	18 Feb	21 Feb	6 May	9 May	8 July	11 July	26 Aug	29 Aug	28 Oct	31 Oct
Week 5	25 Feb	28 Feb	13 May	16 May	15 July	18 July	2 Sept	5 Sept	4 Nov	7 Nov
Week 6	11 Mar	14 Mar	20 May	23 May	22 July	25 July	9 Sept	12 Sept	11 Nov	14 Nov
Week 7	18 Mar	21 Mar	27 May	30 May	29 July Assessment Day	1 Aug Assessment Day	16 Sept	19 Sept	18 Nov	21 Nov
Week 8 Assessment Day	25 Mar	28 Mar	3 June	6 June			23 Sept	26 Sept	Thursday 25 November Assessment night for all, Annual award presentation, BBQ	
No training	Thursday 4 March Sunday 7 March Thursday 1 April Sunday 4 April		Thursday 22 April Sunday 25 April		Thursday 10 June Sunday 13 June				Thursday 30 September Sunday 3 October	
Public Holidays	Tues 26 Jan (<i>Australia Day</i>) Mon 8 Mar (<i>Canberra Day</i>) Fri 2 & Mon 5 April (<i>Easter</i>)		Monday 26 April (<i>Anzac Day</i>)		Monday 14 June (<i>Queens Birthday</i>)		Monday 27 September (<i>Family and Community Day</i>)		Monday 4 October (<i>Labour Day</i>)	

Session 4

Canine Companion and Obedience Trialling classes

Assessment days for Session 3 (the one you are now in) are Thursday 29 July and Sunday 4 August.

There is no break between Session 3 and Session 4.

Session 4 commences on Thursday 5 August and Sunday 8 August.

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.

