

bdoc newsletter

Belconnen Dog Obedience Club



Volume E3 Issue E4 JULY 2010

**president's note • treasurer's report
digby the flyball champ • flyball news
teaching a recall • agility update
agm news • lead selection
book review • health tips
training calendar**

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 Shives

Committee members

Dean Gardiner

Michelle Gilby

Ray Leckie

Anne Lewis

Kate Slater

Lucy Williams



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Cover photo: Ernie and Digby.

Photo supplied by Carolyn Shives and Ross Wilson

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

Next issue topics:

Training with small breed dogs. Ticks and Fleas revisited. Crate training essentials. Grooming tips. Email your contributions to news@bdoc.asn.au

Dogs having a run after the recent trials @ BDOC





president's report

by Barbara Brown

SESSION FOUR 2010

Welcome fellow dog lovers

I am sure you are all looking forward to Spring with warmer and longer days. It seems to make training your dog just that much easier and more fun. It is great not to have to rug up so much when walking and playing with them.

New committee

Well we have a new committee for 2010-2011. Thank you to all members who have volunteered to run BDOC for the next year. Their names are elsewhere in the Newsletter. A number of committee members are also instructors and this is a double dose of volunteering for which we owe them enormous gratitude.

The benefit of trials

BDOC has recently conducted both agility and obedience trials. Like everything, trials depend on volunteers and it was great to see a number of members who helped out with stewarding during the trials.

Trials are a very good way to see where your training is heading. When your dog just won't do that behaviour in class (even though he does it perfectly at home), it is pretty natural to feel some frustration. However, you will see the same thing happening at the higher levels in obedience trials.

This is why your instructors ask you to practice the behaviours you

are teaching your dog in different places and at different times. If you only practice in a certain place or time, your dog may learn to only do that behaviour in that place and at that time. So mix it up. Pick one or two behaviours each day and do them in different situations. When out driving, take your dog's mat with you and practice sending them to the mat wherever you stop. Practice your stays in the middle of a walk. Good dog trainers make training fun and popping training into fun times for your dog is the best way of strengthening those behaviours.

Even if you have proofed your dog in different situations, handlers do get stressed during assessment – whether this is during the Club assessment days or in a formal trial, and dogs can certainly sense this. So even with the best of training, sometimes the dogs make a mistake – just like us. I faced this at our recent BDOC obedience trial when my doggie decided it was all too much and lay down during her sit stay. Despite never having broken her stay in training, the

stress of a second trial in the day proved a bit much. Take heart – there is always another assessment day or trial and just keep making sure that training is something that both you and your dogs enjoy.

Ground renovations

We will be starting a major upgrade of our turf in Spring and we need to progressively close a section of the grounds. We will be fencing off a section at time so please take notice of the fencing and don't walk on the area under renovation.

Dates for your diary

Elsewhere you will see the notice for the date of the final year assessments, award presentations and free BDOC sausage sizzle – Thursday 25 November starting at 7.00pm. Please put this date in your diary now.

Happy dog training

Barbara





crunching numbers

BY MAKI KOYAMA, BDOC TREASURER

AGM ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

Not just numbers

I know that finance doesn't excite most people who attend annual general meetings (AGM). Personally, though, I find it quite fascinating how the figures depict the activities and dynamics of the Club of the past year.

My job, as treasurer, at every AGM, is to convey the stories these figures have to tell and here is an excerpt of my presentation at AGM on 25th August.

Big cash reserve at bank

We finished the 2009–2010 financial year with six-figure cash balance at bank, which is the second biggest in the past 4 years. Although we had more cash at the end of 2008–2009 FY, a lot of that was unspent grant money for Adult Community & Education project and rainwater tank installation. This year, we have no significant ear-marked funds in our bank.

Income Expenditure – Similar end results to the previous year

The total figures for income and expenditure were surprisingly similar to those of the last year. There was notable decline in the revenue from grants but the loss was made up mainly by the increase in member subscription.

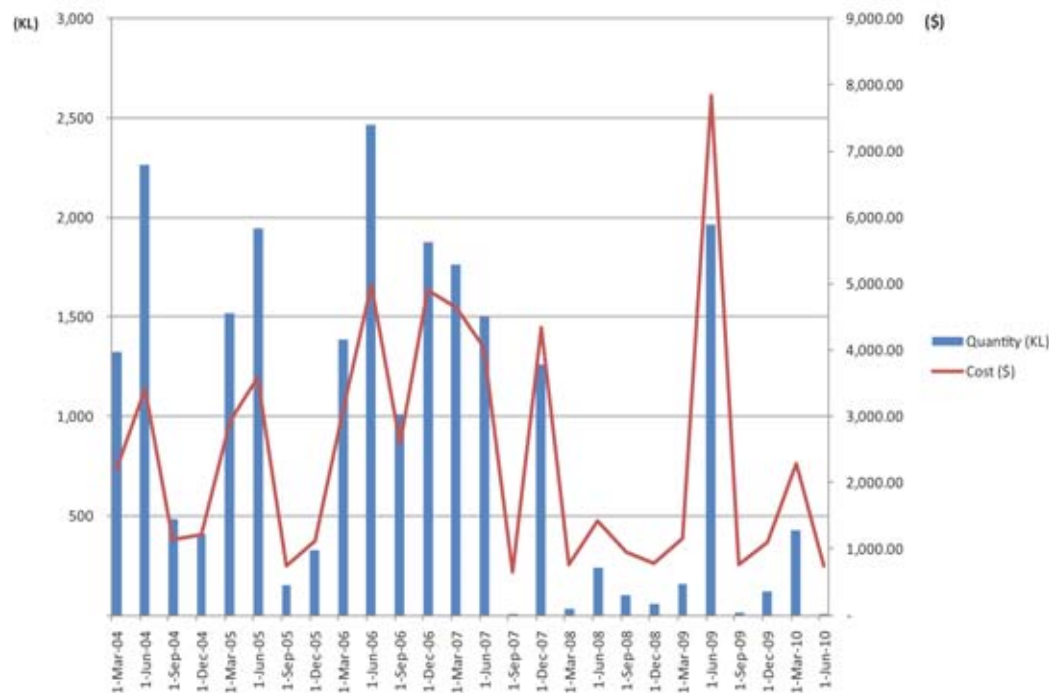
In expenditures, we spent significantly more for water, compared to the previous financial year. This, however, owes more to unusually low water consumption of the previous year (we know the reason for this but I'll spare you with details). Grasses on our grounds have suffered from the past few years of restriction and rising cost of water, we should be prepared to bear further increase in water cost in the coming years. The rainwater tank is now equipped with a pump and connected to the irrigation system. Canberra usually has average of five big rainfalls annually that fill up rainwater tanks. With this assumption, our 9 KL tank would provide 45 KL

annually, which will be useful for our grounds in desperate times but still not enough to make a big difference in our future water bills.

Our growing membership

The income figures show that we had significant increase in member subscription revenue but how does it translate to the number of our members? This year, for the first time, the number of new members (those who paid the Joining Fee) exceeded 300. We also had record numbers of members renewing (estimated as the balance between the numbers paying Membership Fee and Joining Fee) and the number of dogs in Obedience.

Water Usage





obedience news

BY BARBARA BROWN

SESSION 3 ASSESSMENTS

Session 3 Assessments held on Thursday 29 July and Sunday 1 August 2010

For the first time, Bronze level handlers and their dogs underwent their end-of session assessments under the Station assessment. This method has been used for Silver and Gold levels for the past year.

Instead of each team performing all the behaviours under one judge, we have five separate stations manned with instructors and the handler and dog teams visit each station. Two or three behaviours are tested at each of the five stations and handlers may choose the order in which they visit each station.

Congratulations to the following members who attained their Bronze Certificates:

- Michaela Andelova and Wilson
- Rachael and Gareth Blackall and Harvey
- Sally Burton and Barney
- Pattie Collins and Siri
- Matt and Philippa Cook and Sam
- Amy Gardiner and Chris Gould and Duckie
- Julie Grehan and Cassie
- Catherine Griffin and Frank
- Paul Guinane and Polly
- Katie Humphrey and Bart
- Susan Jabs and Sophie



BDOC members and their dogs who attained their Bronze Certificates

From left to right Sitting front row: Mitchell Slater and Kaizer, Chris Gould (Duckie), Grace Lam and Hoshi, Kate Slater and Batman.

Left to right standing: Amy Gardiner (Duckie), Barbara Brown (President), Paul Guinane and Polly.

- Iain Kinsella and Champ
- Ben and Hollie Knox and Knuckles
- Grace Lam and Hoshi
- Julianne Livingston and Kenny
- Emma Moss and Ava
- Louise Parratt and Tuna
- Nicole Russell and Mollie
- Kate Slater and Batman
- Mitchell Slater and Kaizer
- Claire Streatfield and Saxon
- Peter White and Clyde

Congratulations to the following members who attained their Silver Encourage Certificates:

- Wendy Proctor and Robbie
- Julianne Livingston and Riley

Congratulations to the following members who attained their Silver Certificates:

- Danny Gailbraith and Zaffe
- Janda Gooding and Bella

Happy BDOC members with their Bronze Certificates



Emma Moss and Ava



Iain Kinsella and Champ

OUR NEWEST CCD DOGS



Two BDOC members have gained their Community Companion Dog (CCD) titles for their dogs at recent obedience trials. You must get three qualifying scores to achieve this title.

Pictured from left to right are Poppy Maclean and Ieper, and Niccola Hardaker and Shandy. The next level they will be trying for is CD (Companion Dog).

Ieper is a Bouvier des Flanders and Shandy is a Welsh Cardigan Corgi. Both dogs are also training in agility with their handlers. Just goes to show that it really doesn't matter about the size or breed of your dog. You can do both obedience and agility with them and have great fun.

Congratulations to Poppy and Niccola on their success and good luck with your next obedience trials.



After class play time @ BDOC



obedience tips

BY PATRICIA LOOKER

GETTING YOUR DOG TO COME WHEN CALLED

Golden rules of calling your dog

DO:

- ▶ practise calling your dog often
- ▶ praise and reward every return
- ▶ call in a bright, friendly voice.

DON'T:

- ▶ call your dog to you and tell him off or punish him when he gets to you (*no matter how much garden he's dug up or how frustrated you are with him*)
- ▶ call your dog for something unpleasant like a bath, or medication (*call him, praise him, reward him and then take him to a different location for the 'nasties'*)
- ▶ think that you can ever stop practising this exercise (*you can practise less when he is reliable, but this is a safety exercise so make sure it works*).

Getting your dog to come to you when he's called is probably the most important exercise you can teach your dog. It keeps him safe – safe from running on the road, or into the path of an oncoming, not-so-friendly dog, or from running over a snake or other dangerous object. Apart from that, it's much more pleasant walking your dog if he responds promptly to your call, and the law requires you to have control of your dog in a public place.

This is an exercise where prevention is definitely better than cure. Once your dog has learned to ignore your call, you will have to do a lot of hard work to re-establish your leadership. For success, you need to practise a number of times every day calling your dog to you.

A young puppy will stay fairly close to you and keep 'checking in' of his own accord. Make sure you praise your pup and reward him with a tidbit, some gentle petting, or a game every time he 'checks in' so that he learns that being with you is where good things happen. When he is in the house or yard, as you see him turn to look at you, say his name, and call 'Come' in a bright, friendly tone. As he begins to move towards you, use your marker word, praise him 'Good boy' and repeat the cue 'Come'. When he arrives, give him a lot of praise and reward him with a tidbit, some petting, or a game. Make sure he comes right in so that you can touch him – you will want him to come close enough so you can attach his lead when he is sensible enough to be allowed to run free.

Choose a place that is safe and relatively free of distractions (such as your yard or house). Have a friend hold your dog, show your dog the food or toy you have, and then walk a couple of metres away. Face your dog and call him and at the same time your friend releases the dog. You may want

to crouch down and open your arms to make yourself a more friendly figure. Again, when the dog arrives, every time he arrives, praise and reward him. Keep tidbits and toys handy so that you can call your dog often every day and always have a reward at hand.

Once your dog is coming reliably in a relatively non-distracting environment, you should start practising when you're out for your daily walk. And, no, I do not mean that you should let your dog run free so you can call him. While your dog's on lead, say his name* and call brightly 'Come' and run backwards, praising your dog as he comes towards you and giving him more praise and a reward when he gets to you. If your dog knows how to sit on cue, it is a good idea to tell him 'Sit' as he reaches you – this will keep him steady.

As your dog learns to respond promptly you can up the ante. Call him when he has his nose in a smell or is distracted by an oncoming bike or person with a dog. And when this is under control, you are ready to move to a longer lead. Using a flexi-lead allows your dog to get further from you but ensures that you have the means to stop him running away. Go through the same routine. Say your dog's name and as he looks up, call him, praise him for moving towards you, get him to 'Sit'



Practise calling your dog often
Praise and reward every return
Call in a bright, friendly voice

GETTING YOUR DOG TO COME WHEN CALLED

when he arrives and give him plenty of praise and a reward.

Once he is reliable on a longer lead, you should choose a safe place that has limited distractions to go through the routine off-lead. Don't let your dog get too far away from you before you call, and make sure you praise and reward him for every return. If he ignores you, and needing more than one call is ignoring you, what then? Go back to the flexi-lead and do some more work where you can control the outcome. Until your dog comes when he's called, on the first call, he really shouldn't be running free.

If you give your dog some free running exercise at the club, you should use this time to reinforce

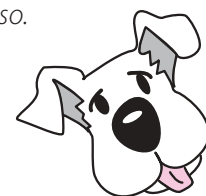
the come cue. Call your dog to you while he is running around, if you need to clap your hands and whoop and run away from him so that he comes to you full tilt to see what all the fuss is about. Make sure you praise and reward him well for his return and then give him the jackpot reward of being able to run off and play again. If you practise several calls each time and then release him to go and play again, he will not be so inclined to ignore you when you are calling him for a 'nastie', that is putting the lead on and taking him away from his fun.

Having a dog that comes to you as soon as he's called allows you to give him more freedom and to take

him more places, and makes the whole business of exercising your dog a far more enjoyable and safe experience. Don't be fooled, your dog is a dog, not a robot so no training is 100% reliable, and there are no short cuts. However, with daily recall practice, making sure this 'game' is a happy, rewarding one for your dog, you can be pretty certain that when you really need to recall your dog there's every chance that he will respond to you.

**Your dog should look up at you when you say his name. If he doesn't, you need to train him to do so.*

© Patricia Looker 2010





flyball champ

BY ROSS and CAROLYN

DIGBY THE FLYING WESTIE

An interview with Ross Miller whose dog Digby was awarded the Flyball Dog title in March 2010.

We have two dogs in our household, Ernie a small white dog who listens mostly to Carolyn, and Digby the West Highland White Terrier (Westie) who mostly listens to me. I also mostly listen to Carolyn as well.

Digby is a classic Westie who is very smart but has a well developed sense of self. Digby is very good at doing things when he wants too, which is not always when we want him too. Digby has a fantastic personality and manages to work quite a lot of things out for himself – including opening the car windows and sticking his head out while the car is traveling at 110km/hr.

Digby is a very friendly, personable dog and loves to meet and interact with other dogs. He is not intimidated by size and has been known to fell Labradors and Labradoodles in order to get them on the ground to play on his terms.

Digby was born in Tuross Heads in the Celticbrae Kennels as part of a litter of 4 dogs. Digby's litter arrived within a few days of another litter at the Kennel,



so when we took Ernie down to meet him, there were 8 puppies and another 5 Westies running havoc on the beach and in Patty's backyard. Patty had a very sound philosophy regarding the number of dogs she could have at any one time – for every new surf board her husband bought, she was allowed to have another dog. Digby comes from tough show stock with his mother qualifying as an Australian Champion in the year Digby arrived, and his father 25 points off that title.

Digby is now 6 but was 8 weeks old when we picked him up from Tuross. When we picked him up he was still small enough to hide from Ernie underneath the lounge.

Ernie made Digby feel very welcome on his arrival, so much so that the space beneath the lounge became a small haven

for Dig whenever he needed to have a rest or some quiet time.

I started what was level one, but is now beginners training with Digby in 2005 and managed to move through that stage in one session of training. We then moved onto level two (Bronze) which Digby enjoyed so much we went through that level twice. Moving onto level 3 (Silver), Digby decided that he would like to meet as many instructors as possible, working his way through about five or six sessions worth of instruction before finally deciding that he didn't need to do it any more (and passed the Silver exam).

We now play Flyball with the Belconnen Bullets, the BDOC Flyball team. Flyball is a relay race between two teams of four dogs. Racing side by side, one dog from each team must go over

four hurdles, trigger a flyball box pedal, catch (retrieve) a ball and then return over all four hurdles to the start/finish gate where the next dog eagerly awaits.

Flyball is a team sport. Each team consists of four dogs racing in each heat, plus up to two reserves. Reserves can be interchanged after each heat. There are between three and five heats to a race, and a team has to win a majority to win the race. Flyball encompasses all things that dogs love to do – jumping, catching, retrieving, competing and striving to please their owners.

We started Flyball training with Ernie in July 2006 but Digby spent the first few months on the fence watching as we worked to convince him that training wasn't all about rumbling with the other dogs – particularly with Murray the Lab. Digby started training more seriously in 2007, picking up the individual skills quite quickly but always deciding when he wanted to share them. Despite the fact that we have known that Digby could do a full run for quite some time, it has taken quite a while for him to decide that he was happy to do it whenever we have wanted him too. This has led to quite a few frustrating moments, both in training and in competition.

We started Flyball because we thought Flyball looked like a great way to spend time together and with our dogs. Flyball is a great sport because any dog can participate, regardless of breed, shape or size. Despite what some people may say, Flyball requires a higher level of

training and does not interfere with obedience training. In fact, Flyball has reinforced and solidified the disciplines and skills taught in obedience class (like focus and recall) and strengthened the relationship that we have with both of our dogs. Training to do Flyball is also a lot harder than obedience training. Flyball dogs love playing Flyball, so the noise at a Flyball competition, and indeed at training, is greater than most dog activities. This, along with the number of other dogs playing (and the infinite



play opportunities) makes Flyball a much more challenging activity than it may seem.

Digby loves being with other dogs and enjoyed both obedience training and continues to enjoy Flyball – both training and competitions. Digby loves spending time with us and as part of a pack. We have slowly watched Digby's level of enjoyment increase from simply coming out into the Flyball ring and hanging out with the rest of the team, through to

the huge smile of satisfaction and joy that we and the team now see when he makes it over all four jumps, gets the ball from the box and brings it back over the four jumps and across the white line to the huge cheers of the team and the crowd. The look on his face is pure pride.

Looking back at your training, is there anything you wish you had done differently? /What are the hardest things you have had to work on with ...

Looking back at our obedience training, the one thing I would change is how long it took me to realize that the reason Digby didn't want to sit and stay (or drop) was because the sun was in his eyes. It was remarkable what a difference it made when he didn't have the sun in his eyes anymore. One of the hardest things to work through was his inquisitive phase where everytime we were asked to do something he would either do the opposite, or he would start to do what was asked – but would then need to check that everyone else was doing it as well.

A few of the hardest things we have had to work on for Flyball has been convincing Digby that being in the ring doesn't mean its time to play with the dogs in the other team, that he doesn't have to run into the other lane to see what they are doing, that he can run down to the box to get the ball without me running next to him, and that just because the line steward is sitting down doesn't mean he has to sit with them as well.

ARTICLE CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



flyball updates

BY CAROLYN SHRIVES

THE BDOC BULLETS

The winter weather and human nature to travel somewhere warmer has seen only the hardiest of dogs and their owners make it to training and travel to competitions. The competition calendar has also been thinner with one of the Bullets favourite competitions cancelled this year. A small number of Bullets did recently make the

trip to Sutherland, where, despite the long day, a great day of racing was enjoyed by motivated enough to make the trip.

Sunset Claws Competition

The Belconnen Bullets hosted the Sunset Claws Competition on Sunday June 13, 2010. The competition attracted 18 teams

with teams travelling from Sydney (various clubs), Dapto, Ulladulla, along with Canberra clubs. The competition was split into five divisions, with divisions three, four and five running elimination racing at the end of the day to determine their division winners. At the end of the day, teams finished in the following order:

Div	Place	Club	Team	Best time
1	1	Paws 4 Fun	Paws 4 Fun	19.200
1	2	Mudd on the Paws	Muddy Again	18.899
2	1	Southern Cross Flyball	Southern Cross Pulsar	20.535
2	2	Canberra X Factor	Canberra X-citables	21.412
2	3	Southern Cross Flyball	Southern Cross Shooting Stars	21.530
2	4	Sydney ScallyWags	Sydney Scallywags	23.451
3	1	South Coast Dog Training Club Inc	Delinquent Dish Lickers	22.611
3	2	Belconnen Dog Obedience Club	Belconnen Speeding Bullets	22.489
3	3	K-9 Krusaders	K-9 Young & Old	22.794
4	1	Southern Cross Flyball	Southern Cross Quasars	23.392
4	2	Tuggeranong Dog Training Club Inc.	Tuggeranong Screaming Torpedoes	22.489
4	3	Canberra X Factor	Canberra X-tremes	26.334
7	4	non comp BDOC	Belconnen Chocolate Bullets	27.096
5	1	Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club	Sutherland Southerly Storm Force	25.663
5	2	Tuggeranong Dog Training Club Inc.	Tuggeranong Howling Torpedoes	26.162
5	3	St George Flyball Club	St George Kobe Slowbies	27.006
5	4	Belconnen Dog Obedience Club	Belconnen Rusty Bullets	31.526
5	5	Tuggeranong Dog Training Club Inc.	Tuggeranong Torpedoes	35.927

We would like to thank the following people for their assistance in organising and supplying equipment for the competition, in particular, Michelle Gilbey, Rhonda Cameron, Lyn Clyde, Caroline Pappas, Cassandra Butterworth, Jerry Lee, Ross Miller, Max Darvill, Nathanael DuBoulay, Ian McConachie, Vicki McConachie, Louise Sharp, Penny Campbell, Luke Foster, Sueann Shrives and all of the other Bullets. As well as the support we received from other flyballers, Kylie White, Trent Shepherd, Rosie Milton, Lesley Pothan and all at CDC who loaned the Bullets the equipment to set-up the ring.

UPCOMING FLYBALL COMPETITIONS

- 19/09/10 Holroyd Petfest (SYD)
- 03/10/10 Irish Flyball fling (Boorowa)
- 10/10/10 Dapto Flyball Comp
- 16/10/10 No Frill Flyball (Ulladulla)
- 13-14/11/10 FLYBALL NATIONALS (VIC)

A reminder to the Bullets that if you are interested in running at any of the upcoming competitions, please let Michelle know as soon as possible.



INTERVIEW WITH ROSS MILLER ABOUT DIGBY THE FLYBALL CHAMP

ARTICLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

One of the things that Digby has taught me is that preserving and being persistent with your dogs training is, while frustrating at the time, ultimately very rewarding. Digby and I have a better relationship because I have had to work so hard with him. So for people who are getting frustrated with their own dogs because they aren't doing what you want them too, particularly when you know they can, hang in there because it is possible to train a stubborn or difficult dog – just look at Digby.

One of the things that I love about Digby is that he has his own mind and that he is full of personality. Digby tells us when he wants to sit with us and when he doesn't – either jumping up on the lounge to sit with us or taking himself off to another chair to sit by himself. He will take himself off to bed when he's tired and will tell us when its time to play

or time to have a rumble. Digby truly has a great personality.

I don't think there are many things Digby doesn't love about his life. He loves to take his chicken wings out to the yard to age and marinade in the dirt for a couple of days before bringing them back inside, along with all of the dirt. He loves to spend the day sitting in the front window keeping an eye on the world and a watchful alert on the pesky cat across the road. He loves to play rumble with Ernie and to hide his toy kiwi underneath the bed. And he loves it when the car comes back at the end of the day and the ten minutes that we then spend on the bed having a scratch and a cuddle.

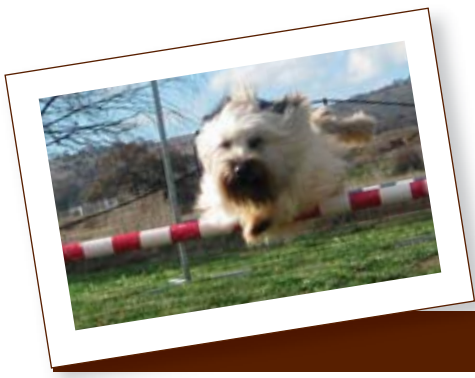
The only thing I think Digby would change about his life is the fact that people wont let him get to that pesky cat across the road and remind it not to come outside or across to his yard – afterall,

Westie's are hunting dogs.

Digby's celebrity is also on the rise and is known from Queensland down to Tasmania without traveling to either place. Digby received the following write up in the Australian Flyball Associations most recent newsletter.

"I do have to mention a certain West Highland White Terrier, the first in Australia to earn his flyball dog title at the Milton Muddies comp. Well done to Ross for showing dogged perseverance in training Digby. Digby is such a star, and all the Bullets are very proud of him. Digby is no longer the cheersquad, but a full crowd pleasing member of the team."
Lyn Clyde, ACT AFA Representative, AFA Flying Times, May 2010

For anyone interested in starting Flyball with their dog, please register your name and details with the BDOC office.



agility

BY CHARLIE GILES

AGILITY TRIAL REPORT

Agility Trial, Saturday 21 August 2010

The Club hosted a very successful and pleasant agility and jumping trial on Saturday 21 August.

Patricia Looker judged her first jumping trial at the Club ably assisted by Club members Lyn Moss (Marshalling), Kerry-Anne French (Leads), Jessica Sparkes (Timer) and Jenny Thistleton (Scribe).

Bill Almond from Wagga judged the agility ring assisted by Club members Susan Killion (Marshalling), Louise Sharp (Leads), Cass Skaife (Timer) and Cheryl Neal (Scribe).

A big thanks to all the Club members who helped out by stewarding. A number of the stewards are just starting out with agility training and it is very pleasing to see the newcomers helping out early in their agility careers.

Thanks also to the triallers who helped get the equipment out and set up early on Saturday morning before the trial started.

To top off a very pleasant day, Club members came away with some good results. Lucy Williams got Open agility passes with her Cavies Duke and Tina and

Masters agility passes with Min and Tina. Pam McDougall got an Open agility pass with her Kelpie Diemen, Geoff Woodman got a Masters agility pass with his Goldie Kayley, President Barbara Brown got a Novice jumping pass with her Kelpie Dazzle, Anne Lewis got Open and Excellent jumping passes with her Cocker Alvin.

Thanks to Elaine Temby and Liz Giles for writing up the quality cards and organising lunch for the judges and stewards.

Charlie Giles
Agility Trial Manager

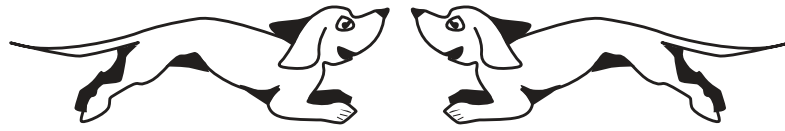


The 'after-trial' debrief



Pam McDougall after the trials

AGILITY: AROUND THE GROUNDS



Diemen and Jill



Jill directing Levvy during practise



Anne and Alvin practising



After trial rewards





book review

BY ANGELA HAGEDORN

POSITIVE DOG TRAINING

Book Review – *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Positive Dog Training (2nd Edition)*, Pamela Dennison

As with all the Complete Idiot's Guides, this book is very easy to read and understand. The 300-odd pages are packed with relevant information, clear exercises to practice and the knowledge needed to succeed, all in a well laid out and easy to follow style. The layout is very reader friendly with text in a reasonable size and widely spaced lines and paragraphs – teenagers would easily cope with this book given some parental assistance.

The book is set out in four Parts: Part 1 – Positively Amazing: What is Positive Training and Why Should I Use It; Part 2 – Lassie in the Classroom: How Dogs Learn and Communicate; Part 3 – Let the Games Begin! Positive Training in Action; and Part 4 – The Reality Show – Dogs and Your Lifestyle.

Each part contains around five Chapters covering basics such as Loose-Leash Walking but it goes the extra mile with chapters answering questions such as What to Do if Your Dog Makes a Mistake, and, Slots, Soda and Hawaii: Reinforcements.

Each chapter, is further divided into subheadings and issues – for instance, under Chapter 16

– Adding a Dog to Your Household, you will find The Bathroom is Outside and subheadings covering Knowing when to go and False Alarms and Accidents. This makes it very easy to revisit what you need to know at a particular time or stage.

This is more than just a 'how to' training book though, it gets into some of the really important 'life' issues including socialisation, learning to communicate, the effects of punishment, solutions to "bad" behaviours, kids and dogs and incorporating training into your life.

In the "Lassie in the Classroom" section, for example, "Instead of forcing ourselves on dogs, we can use these signs to entice them to come to us. A typical greeting can be following: ... While looking away, lick your lips and/or yawn Squat or kneel down, turning your body sideways to the dog..." These are very helpful when you are looking for more interaction with your dog and have resorted to calling his name 20 times before he will even look at you.

The Kids and Dogs section will be particularly useful to anyone with a dog in a family situation, even covering pregnancy and the different reactions a dog might experience. Some Do's and Don't's under this section include:

"Look for opportunities to reinforce the dog for tolerating rough handling by your kids".

"Never let your children overstimulate the dog. Running around screaming in a high-pitched voice can actually stimulate the prey drive. It's not fair to ask the dog to be calm under those circumstances unless you systematically desensitize him to screaming kids. Put the dog away if you're too busy to train him at that moment to accept the children".

The pages are also speckled with 'Doggie Data', 'Canine Caveats', 'Pooch Pointers' and 'Muttley Meanings'. These little boxes provide additional information to the topic: DD's are case studies of real dogs and people along with interesting facts, CC's provide warnings, PP's training tips and MM's give simple definitions for technical terms.

It's easy to get caught in the trap of thinking that if your dog is frantically wagging his tail, then he's deliriously happy. A frantically wagging tail is just that – frantic. (Yes, even if your puppy is a lab.) It's a typical puppy submissive behaviour, showing stress. It's one way that a subordinate puppy approaches an adult dog. He's saying, "Please don't kill me, I am so cute!" (Canine Caveat, Pg 132)

Todd's dog Jesse hated to be handled in any way, but loved tennis balls. By lightly touching each and every body part before throwing the ball, over the course of a few months, Todd was able to groom and pet Jesse. In fact, Jesse learned to love petting so much that not only was Todd

able to handle his dog, but their entire relationship changed for the better. (Doggie Data, Pg 199)

Each chapter ends in a pop quiz and a nice summary titled 'the

least you need to know'. There are limited pictures in black and white.

The most profound part of this book is on the Side Effects of Punishment. If you really want to know how you are affecting your dog with every bad word, jerk

of the lead or forcing them into position, just read this section. You will start to see a whole new range of non-verbal communications in your dog – from a 'tight' mouth as a sign of stress to eye avoidance – and learn how you are causing this meltdown. These side effects are often seen in 'traditionally' trained dogs, but hardly ever with positive training methods – even when undertaking a difficult task.

(My own 'cross-over' dog Rosie still panics at the word heel because she remembers this being paired with a being pulled in to 'get her in position'.

Armed with my positive training

knowledge, I retrained the exercise as a 'With' and have never uttered 'heel' since. Like many other positively trained dogs, she often decides to come and walk in the heel position when we're out off-lead walking simply because it has become a nice and

rewarding place to be rather than one where you are constantly harrassed and reprimanded!)

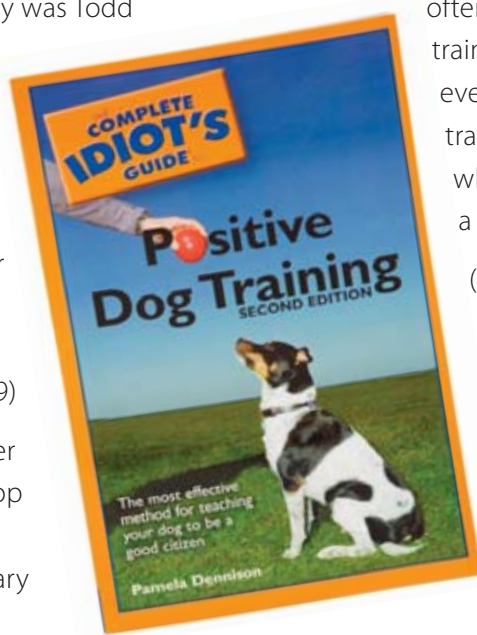
Your dog soils the house in your absence. You come home and yell at her. Of course, she has no clue why you're punishing her. So she learns that "homecoming" is a stressful and fearful time.

Maybe you're from the school of thought that advocates "don't punish unless you catch her in the act." If so, you then lay in wait for her to soil the house and then whammo! You punish the dog. What has the dog learned then? To be afraid of you and to run and hide and soild behind the couch where you can't see her because eliminating around you is dangerous. (Doggie Data, Pg 46)

I thoroughly recommend this for anyone new to the dog world and/or positive training but also as a valuable resource for anyone with some questions still left unanswered.

Clicks and Treats xxx

Angela Hagedorn
BDOC Instructor



This is Princess. You can meet her and Ray at the BDOC Shop



Ray – that is not your Princess!



questions

ANSWERED BY OUR RESIDENT AGONY AUNT

CHOOSING A LEAD

Dear Agony Aunt

There are so many different leads available, what sort should I get? – Strung Out

Dear Strung Out

As you have pointed out there are many, many different types of leads and it can be a confusing process. However, regardless of your dog's age, there are just two things to consider – keeping your dog (and others) safe and what you will mostly be doing with your dog.

The first point, keeping your dog safe, is the most important. This means having a lead strong enough to hold your dog. While a 3kg dog will easily be held on a piece of string (well, almost), holding onto an exuberant bundle of fluff when it wants to go somewhere is another matter.

1. Anchor the ship: Your lead should have a place for you to grip firmly, securely and comfortably. Most leads have a closed loop at the end that your hand can pass through and then grip the lead. Just holding the handle in your fingers will be fine until your dog sees a "....." (insert object of your choice – cat, dog, bike, open door) and then he will be gone. So make sure you have a safe anchor point by having the handle around your wrist and then grip this in your hand/fingers. For most right handed people, the stronger right hand will be used as the anchor point, with the left hand

used as the 'working' hand to play with the dog's position at their left side. However, if it is more comfortable for you to have your dog walk on your right, then that is okay as well. Even in obedience trialling there is no requirement to use one side or the other. You might even want to teach a walking position on both sides so that he always walks on the side furthest from the road!

2. While nylon is light, having a thin piece of nylon pulled through your hand at speed hurts and can even cause deep cuts and burns. It only takes a dog racing forward a metre to do some damage, so make sure your lead has some good padding and depth!

Similarly, chain leads are uncomfortable and unwieldy. Their only good use is to tie up a dog who would chew through a normal lead in 3 bites or less. (If your dog chews/bites/mouths the lead while walking, simply 'mark' when he stops, i.e., lets go of the lead) and toss him a treat – he will very quickly end this behaviour.)

Material matters: As you will also need to have your other hand on the lead it's important that the material is comfortable to grip. Your other (or 'working') hand will need to hold the lead

to help keep him on the correct side, to reduce the dog's area and prevent lunging or circling if there are other dogs nearby and to prevent either of you from tripping over excess leash.

3. Quality is quintessential: Look for quality fittings. Metal is far stronger than plastic, pressure points should be reinforced and any clips should be easy for you to open and close. Ensure that the material is robust enough to take everything thrown at it – cotton will soak up water and stay wet so isn't ideal for summer water fun or winter rain, stitches and seams should be reinforced and the whole should be solid enough for the size of your dog.

The second consideration was "what will you be doing with your dog?" This might have more than one answer, for example, walking, running and obedience classes. You might find a one fit solution or you might need a couple of options in your toolbox.

If you're doing a lot of walking, a good length of lead is important. Having a 75cm obedience trialling lead will make going for a walk an unpleasant experience for both you and your dog. Remember being in a three-legged race as a kid? It's not only awkward but very tiring because you really

have to concentrate on both your movements and someone else's. That is the equivalent of the 'heel' position or a short lead to a dog – it can never get out from underfoot and constantly has to worry about getting bumped and keeping in position. This is very hard work for any more than a short spell, and particularly hard for young dogs. Like the three-legged race, heeling or close walking should only be asked for in short bursts, like coming up to a road or passing people or obstacles. If your dog is never comfortable when walking with you, guess what? He won't want to walk with you. He will try to get away from under your feet and you will be constantly reprimanding him for 'pulling'. Give him some room and then set some rules like stopping when he does pull.

So the rule of thumb is to have your dog walk in comfort at least a metre from your side. Remember we've also set up our anchor hand with the lead across our body and held in the other hand, so that's already half a metre used up. If the dog maintains perfect position the whole walk, i.e., keeping at your pace, 1.5m should work. However, there are the inevitable slow downs to sniff, the prance forward to see that cute little Papillion up the road, the speedy Gonzales Border Collie or the slowing down senior citizen. Throwing in another 30cm will mean less stops for pulling and more walking fun for both of you. So hold the lead up against you to get an estimate – and look for something around the 2m mark for walking pleasure.

Leads with clips on both ends are also fantastic to use with haltis – simply clip one end to the flat collar and the other to the halti – it's easy to unclip



the halti when behaviour is calm and clip it back on when there are other dogs around and more control is needed.

You might now find that you have an issue when you come to class and you find yourself, your dog and others tangled in 2m of lead. You may choose to buy a second slightly shorter lead (1.3-15m) but there are also a variety of adjustable leads available. Some have extra loops sewn along their length with a clasp at either end of the lead so you can very quickly change the length while others work on a sliding mechanism similar to an adjustable collar.

While the standard lead should see you through most situations, there are a number of other options available that can add different elements to your activities:

Extendable leads: These take some getting used to and are definitely only for one hand walking (grabbing the nylon cord on these babies is a definite no no). The dog is able to move away and close without you having to worry about taking up lead slack and it provides a lot of sniff freedom. They are also great for teaching recalls, but not so great in a class environment where thin nylon is likely to get wrapped around other dogs.

Bungee leads: These can be fixed around your waist and have some stretchability due to elastic being sewn into the

nylon outer. Great for run or on the bike. These are not a good choice for dogs that lunge as even grabbing the lead half way still allows significant movement because of its elasticity!

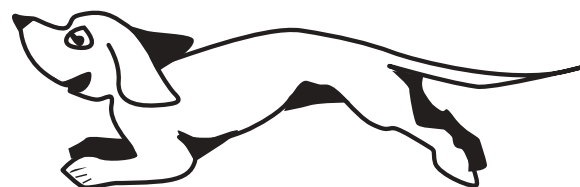
Long lines: Clip one end to the collar, anchor the other on yourself, and let your dog sniff around. These are usually cotton and very light so the length will just follow the dog. Great for recall practice, but only for use in open space (such as an oval). You can pick up a long line (lunge line) from any horse outfitter in varying lengths – 6 to 10 metres is a good length.

Importantly, long lines, elastics and retractables will not work with any style of pressure point head collar or harness (haltis, etc) as they always put some level of 'pull' at the point they are affixed. While neither you nor the dog are likely to notice this with a collar, it will be enough to put constant pressure on a head collar or harness and confuse the dog.

Whatever lead you decide on, don't forget to implement the basic principle: **pulling means you stop.**

Don't leave your dog tied up out of sight for more than a few minutes – it doesn't take long to get tangled and possibly cut off circulation!

You're now ready to go get your perfect lead – to add the perfect collar and find out how to put it all together, have a read on 'Walkin the Dog' in the December 2009 Newsletter available on the BDOC website.





bdoc awards

BY BARBARA BROWN

CAPPY AWARD

Cappy Award 2010 (for the most valuable contribution of a member who is not on the committee)

This year the Committee received two nominations for the Cappy Award for 2010. Both members have been outstanding in their contributions for 2010 and we have two recipients this year.

Ross Miller

Ross has been an integral member of the Belconnen Bullets Flyball team for many years. He has routinely performed the role of the Bullets boxloader and would be the only Bullet who could tell you which dogs were left and right handed within the team without the help of their owners.

Throughout this time, Ross has also undertaken the maintenance and creation of a vast array of flyball equipment. He has kept the flyball boxes working, built jumps and backboards. He has selflessly carted equipment over our grounds and

throughout the ACT for training, competitions and demonstrations on behalf of the Bullets, and assisted others train their dogs above training his own dog.

Ross's efforts have also extended beyond our club, frequently helping other clubs, (both local and from further afield,) run their teams by box loading, ball shagging (picking up the slobber covered balls), stewarding, and packing down the ring at the end of a days racing.

More recently, Ross undertook the Obedience Instructors course and is now taking obedience classes, in part to share some of the lessons he has learnt with others handlers who also have dogs packed full of personality like his own dog Digby.

Pauline Murphy

Pauline has been an obedience instructor at BDOC for many years. She has taken all levels of classes throughout her time and teaches many times each year.

This year, in addition to a full commitment of classes, Pauline has made a particularly valuable contribution to the activities of BDOC. With the introduction of the Canine Companion Syllabus we needed new certificates for our newly named

Beginners, Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Pauline volunteered to design the new certificates and the result is admired by all.

This year, the Committee also agreed to award long service certificates for BDOC instructors. Again, Pauline not only volunteered her skills in preparing superb certificates but individually printed a personalised certificate for each long serving instructor.

Pauline has taken many classes this year as well as organising the Beginners and Bronze Games for assessment days. She has instructed in the BDOC 2010 Instructors Obedience course and has mentored our new instructors. She has also been of great assistance by spending many additional hours of her own time assisting members with specific problems and issues.

Most recently, Pauline has taken on the role of Editor of the BDOC Newsletter and we have had many congratulations on the new look and standard of this publication.

Pauline and Ross have undertaken all of these tasks in a selfless manner and neither seek the thanks of those around them in doing them. Their contribution to BDOC has been large and the Committee is honoured to name Pauline and Ross as joint recipients of the Cappy Award for 2010.



Shirley Stewart (centre), the Cappy Award winner for 2009 presented the awards to Ross and Pauline

NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2010-2011



The new committee was elected at the AGM on 25 August 2010.

Your committee is:

President:

- Barbara Brown

Vice President:

- Elaine Temby

Treasurer:

- Maki Kayoma

Secretary:

- Caroline Pappas

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer:

- Carolyn Shrives

Committee members:

- Dean Gardiner
- Michelle Gilby
- Ray Leckie
- Anne Lewis
- Kate Slater
- Lucy Williams



BDOC SESSION 4 ASSESSMENT

Assessment times for session 4, 2010

Thursday 23 September 2010

- ▶ Beginners Games start at 7.00pm
- ▶ You and your dog will have a great time showing some of the behaviours you have learned while playing games with class mates. Prizes for everyone. Certificates will be given out at the end of the games.
- ▶ Bronze assessments start at 7.00pm
- ▶ Silver assessments starts at 7.30pm
- ▶ Make sure you have a copy of the Assessment Information for Handlers for your level. It details what you need to bring and what you will be doing during your assessment.
- ▶ CCD and Novice trialling run-throughs start at 6.00pm.

PLEASE make sure you have a copy of the Assessment Information for Handlers for your level. It details what you need to bring and what you will be doing during your assessment

Sunday 26 September 2010

- ▶ Beginners Games start at 9.00am
- ▶ You and your dog will have a great time showing some of the behaviours you have learned while playing games with class mates. Prizes for everyone. Certificates will be given out at the end of the games.
- ▶ Bronze assessments start at 9.00am
- ▶ Silver assessments starts at 9.30am
- ▶ Gold assessments starts at 10.00am

PLEASE make sure you have a copy of the Assessment Information for Handlers for your level. It details what you need to bring and what you will be doing during your assessment.



health issues

BY PAULINE MURPHY

GETTING THE MEDICINE DOWN

Medicating a dog can be a tricky operation, but there are a few methods that can help.

Pairing the medication with a positive experience; using a skilful confident method and introducing a new, strong-tasting food can make the process less stressful for you and your dog.

Instead of calling your dog to come to you, (and risk pairing a recall with a negative experience), go and get your dog. For the same reason, don't medicate your dog on its mat – the mat should be a place where only good things happen.

VARIOUS METHODS

METHOD 1.

Placing the tablet in food.

- Give one piece of tasty food **without** a tablet in it.
- Immediately give another piece of food **with** the tablet enclosed inside.
- Follow up straight away with another treat **without** a tablet in it.
- Repeat until all the required dose is delivered.

Don't let the tablet sit in the treat for too long as some tablets are bitter and the taste can quickly spread into the treat leading to treat refusal.

There are some 'wonder treats' that work for this: sardines; chicken seasoning; roast chicken (particularly the skin) or cheese slices. Just watch the treat selection for fat intake.

Make the whole procedure a 'non-event'. Treat it as a training session. Get the dog to sit or shake-a-paw and reward that with the medication-laden treat.

METHOD 2.

Confident handling to open the dog's mouth and insert the tablet.

- Hold the dog firmly.
- Tip the dog's head back.
- Open its mouth.
- Pop the pill to the back of the throat (in the middle of the tongue), behind the last teeth and push the pill as far down the throat as you can.
- Close the dog's mouth and hold it closed.
- Stroke the throat of the dog to encourage swallowing.

Alternatively: Close the dog's mouth immediately and blow on its nose to stimulate swallowing. Once you have seen or felt a swallowing motion, you can release your pet. Watch for a 'spit-out' or vomit! Rare, but it has happened.

You can purchase a 'Pill Popper' if you don't want to put your hands inside the dog's mouth.

METHOD 3.

Teaching the dog to catch a treat.

First, teach them to catch a treat by slowly tossing UP a treat (small enough so that they won't choke on it and big enough for them

to see it) into the air and when your dog sees it they will snatch it before it hits the ground. This may take a little while for your dog to get this trick so keep on practicing by tossing up treats.

Once they have got the 'catch' concept, you can throw medication-laden treats to them and they quickly gobble them up in order to catch the next treat. Alternate between tablet-free treat, then tablet-laden treat followed up quickly by tablet-free treat.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

ORAL LIQUIDS

- Draw the liquid into a sterile syringe or sterile eye dropper and insert the nozzle into the corner of the dog's mouth (behind the last tooth in your dog's closed mouth).
- Slowly squeeze out the contents, a little at a time.
- Stroke the dog's throat to encourage the dog to swallow.

CONSULT YOUR VET

Talk to your vet if you are having difficulties. They can demonstrate 'Method 2' for you.

Some people crush tablets or open capsules. This is NOT a recommended procedure. Particularly if the tablets have a shiny coating. **DO NOT** crush them, as they are meant to travel some way into the gut before being broken down.



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 obedience, agility and flyball instructors for giving up your time in Session 4.

Thank you to:

Barbara Brown, Cliff Brock, Garry Campbell, Jill Campaign, Meryl Causebrook, Elan Chesher, Lyn Clyde, Jenny Drake, Sally Druhan, Di Easter, Charlie Giles, Ange Gintings, Madelaine Graham, Angela Hagedorn, Niccola Hardaker, Lesley Hayes, Sandra Johnston, Susan Killion, Ivana Leonard, Patricia Looker, Pam McDougall, Poppy McLean, Ross Miller, Pauline Murphy, Gabrielle Myer, Cheryl Neal, Caroline Shrives, Laurajane Smith, Shirley Stewart, Suzanne van Strien, Julie Rebbeck, Werner Roth, Joycelyn Taylor, Jenny Thistleton, Dai Thomas, Lucy Williams, Geoff Woodman.

MEMBER'S FEATURE PHOTO



Jemima Lewis NOT watching television

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 25 November
7.00PM (end of Session 5)

There is NO Sunday assessment/
games day for Session 5.

Assessment and games are
all conducted on Thursday
25 November starting at 7.00pm.

We also present our annual
awards and there is a free
sausage sizzle for everyone.

Please mark this date
in your diary now.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Send your articles and photos
directly to Pauline
via news@bdoc.asn.au

NEXT ISSUE we are planning
a 'small dog' feature. Your
contributions are welcome.
Send in your training tips,
tricks, stories and photos to
news@bdoc.asn.au

TRAINING HELP?

Our Resident 'Agony Aunt' is here
to help with training and equip-
ment issues. Email your concerns
to: news@bdoc.asn.au

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 <i>Assessment Day</i>	1 Aug <i>Assessment Day</i>	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 5

Canine Companion and Obedience Trialling classes

Assessment days for Session 4 (the one you are now in) are Thursday 23 September and Sunday 26 September.

Session 5 commences on Thursday 7 October and Sunday 10 October.

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.

