

DOG TAILS



For dogs that nose good news

January 2008 Newsletter

Fred's Pass Positive Dog Training Club Inc

Postal - PO Box 1167, Palmerston, NT, 0831
Email Editor - fpkoc.news@yahoo.com.au
Website - www.fpkoc.org.au

2007 Committee

<u>President</u>	Sarah Baker	Ph:0417 773095
<u>Vice President</u>	Kellie O'Dea	Ph:0412 205872
<u>Treasurer</u>	Fiona Hoek	Ph:89832569
<u>Secretary</u>	Ray Clarke	Ph:89832569
<u>Committee Members:</u>		
	Chavonne Carroll	Tanya Reichstein

Training Times

OBEDIENCE (Tuesdays)

Classes for 2008 begin on 5th Feb

BEGINNERS	"Snoopy Class"	7.00pm
INTERMEDIATE	"Lady Class"	7.00pm
SOCIAL	"Tricks & Games"	7.15pm
PRE TRIAL		7.00pm
TRIAL		8.00pm

For more info please phone Jackie 8983 2561

TRAINING FEES \$5 first dog
 \$2 subsequent dog

AGILITY (Thursdays)

Classes for 2008 begin on 7th Feb

BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE	6.30pm
TRIALERS	7.30pm

Our agility intake night for new dogs is the first Thursday of each month. Before attending please phone Fiona on 8983 2569.

TRAINING FEES \$5 per dog

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$10 Single, \$15 Joint or \$20 Family per year

Presidents Welcome

Hi Everyone! And welcome to 2008! I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Years break. I am really looking forward with great expectation to the year ahead, and I hope you are too.

This is the time of year when many people make new years resolutions, and like me, I hope that somewhere on your list you've made a resolution to spend more time with your canine pal, whether it's going for a run at the beach, more training time or just playing together. Our classes start again in the first week of February and I'm hoping that lots of people will be raring to get out there and build that relationship towards creating a happy, well-behaved member of the family.

If you attended our Christmas party last year you would have also attended the Special General Meeting we held on the same night where members voted on certain changes to the constitution. The biggest change that was passed was a name change for the club and from now on we will officially be known as "Fred's Pass Positive Dog Training Club". This is very exciting for us and marks the end of an era but also moves us forward into the right direction for the future. Fred's Pass has embraced positive training techniques over the last 2 years like so many other clubs around Australia and we have had tremendous results with all the dogs that come to train with us. It's also that time of year when it's time to renew your membership and we are always looking for committee members and helpers for fundraising activities and trial events. If you would like to know more, please see your instructor or a committee member. We appreciate how valuable everyone's spare time is but even a couple of hours per month makes a tremendous difference to us.

Sarah and Cooper (the boisterous Brittany)

Reminders & Notices

Every dog, training with us, must be fully **VACCINATED**. Bring your vaccination papers to training and have it recorded. Help us to help you, protect your dog from nasty diseases.

Keep your dog restrained, on a lead and collar unless otherwise instructed. Thanks.

FUNDRAISING

Cadbury Chocolates

Do you or your work-mates enjoy a little pick-me-up when three-thirty-itis comes calling? Well, now you can get through the afternoon and help the club at the same time! Selling a box of delicious Cadbury Chocolates at your workplace is easy and provides vital fundraising dollars for the club. If you would like to help us out please contact Chavonne on 0412 116 987.

NOTE Fred's Pass Positive Dog Training Club takes no responsibility for any weight gain experienced during this fundraising activity.

MORE TRAINING MEANS FEWER PROBLEMS

The latest research from Monash University suggests the extent to which owners take responsibility for the training and socialisation of their dog is linked directly with behavioural problems.

The research suggests that if a pet has behavioural problems, it often has more to do with the attitude and actions of the owner, rather than the dog. This supports the argument that almost any dog can be well-behaved; it just depends on the quality and amount of training their owner provides.

Some dog owners have difficulty understanding their dog's behaviour and do not take the necessary steps to fully train it. As a result, the dog might understand basic commands but still not be a well behaved pet.

- Dogs Life Magazine, Jan/Feb 2008 Issue

Do you have a joke or article that you would like to see in Dog Tails? Do you have a business that you would like to advertise in Dog Tails? Or a topic you want to find out more about? You can either mail it to the post office box or email address, found on the Dog Tails letterhead and it should appear in next month's issue...

GARRARD'S
HORSE AND HOUND

Unit 2, 17 Benison Road, Winnellie
Phone Tanya on 8947 2856

From the Trial Table

2008 is rushing towards us before we have had a chance to get over 2007! Even in the break the club has been busy preparing for 2008. The club will be hosting at least one trial a month from April through to September. We are mainly having judges from WA this year and are hoping that some of their expertise and experience will rub off on us. WA is by far and away the leaders in the country when it comes to positive dog training and competing. I am really looking forward to every one of them arriving. This year we are doing something different and having a trial on a normal training night. For those of you who don't compete this is a wonderful excuse to come and watch and maybe think about competing yourself! After nearly 5 years of being the trial person at Fred's Pass I am handing the reins over to the very capable and lovely Chavonne (probably better known by her gorgeous and very clean black and white Aussie Shepherd). I'm sure Chavonne will welcome any help with open arms. We can always use an extra body at trials, helping out with raffles, selling drinks, being posts or helping change the height bars so please come and down and say hi and join in the fun!

This year also sees the debut of a new local judge. It's been over 10 years since we have had a new judge and this one has been trained by ACTCA, arguably the countries toughest on safety and course design. We are thrilled to have Daphne on board. As well as judging duties Daphne has offered to judge a mock trial for us each month at agility training. This will be offered to all agility club members from Intermediate class up. And look out for the newly vamped agility classes. A bit of a reshuffle in duties has allowed Sarah and I to come up with a bit of structure for our agility classes. Each month there will be a mock trial with the remaining 3 weeks structured to ensure as many skills as possible are learnt in class before you hit the trial ring. I'm really looking forward to starting training in 2008 and to seeing all my agility class back on Thursday nights - see you then!!

Fiona and Ellie (the big gsp)

Websites we like...

www.fpkoc.org.au
www.cleanrun.com
www.k9events.com
agilitynerd.com

Up and Coming Competitions

OT - Obedience Trial AG - Agility Trial
TT - Tracking Trial JD - Jumping Trial
GM - Games Trial RT - Retrieving Trial

MARCH 2008

1	AG/JD	Alice Springs Obedience Dog Club
2	OT	Alice Springs Obedience Dog Club
14	AG	Darwin Obedience Dog Club
29	OT/AG/JD	Darwin Obedience Dog Club

APRIL 2008

11	OT	Alice Springs Obedience Dog Club
12	OT	Alice Springs Obedience Dog Club
12	AG/JD	Alice Springs Obedience Dog Club
12	OT/AG	Darwin Obedience Dog Club
13	JD/GM	Alice Springs Obedience Dog Club
13	RT	Palmerston Gundog Club
25	OT/JD	Fred's Pass Positive Dog Training Club
26	OT/AG	Fred's Pass Positive Dog Training Club
27	AG/JD	Fred's Pass Positive Dog Training Club

Entries close 3 weeks before the show/trial dates. Good Luck!

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come along and watch the competition but remember to contact the Show/Trial manager if you want to take your dog along!

This month Garrard's Recommends....

KILTIX DOG COLLARS

Kiltix for Effective, Fast Acting Tick Control. Controls the Brown dog tick and the Bush tick as well as fleas. Kiltix is safe to use on your dogs over 3 months old. Will last 5 months on your dog. Just scrape the collar with a blunt knife to activate the powder before putting on, and each time after the collar gets wet. In stock now at Garrard's Horse & Hound for \$9.01.

Fundraising?? What's it all for??

I'm so glad you asked!! From time to time you may be asked, either in person or via email, to spare some time and help out with a fundraising activity for the club throughout the year. We were extremely busy with fundraising last year and we hope this year will be just as fruitful, however as a club member, you may ask, what's all this fundraising for and what does the club have to show for it?

Well, the club is currently saving up all it's pennies for a new SUPER-SHED! Our current shed out at the Fred's Pass grounds is not in a very convenient spot and so tiny we require a tetris expert to get all our gear stored away properly! It's also very old and always in need of repairs so, we would love to build a new shed, not only to house our current equipment but also store our agility trailer on a permanent basis. So, if you can help out with our fundraising efforts in 2008 we'd love to hear from you, even if you can only spare a couple of hours, we greatly appreciate your time and effort. Please see one of your instructors or a committee member if you would like to register your interest.

Thunder Anyone?

The wet season is here and with it comes the seasonal storms, and for the owners of dogs with a fear of storms it can be a difficult time. Some dogs will experience what we think of as a panic attack resulting in destructive behaviour, while others go into a flight mode to escape the perceived danger from the scary sky.

Storm phobias are not an easy thing to treat and take lots of time, patience and a process of desensitisation. Ideally, the best way to deal with storms is to start training as a puppy and if a storm is expected, then we as the guardians, need to associate the storm with something good. Naturally, if our dog is acting scared or nervous our natural reaction is to try and soothe, calm and cuddle, but this only reinforces the behaviour we are trying to prevent by essentially praising the dog for being afraid.

If you are home with your dog when a storm is approaching then grab some tasty treats and do some energized, positive training. Try some fast-pace loose-lead walking, changing direction every 8-10 steps. Treat often and try and be as happy and animated as you possibly can, giving your dog lots of praise. If you feel like a goose, then you are probably at the right energy level to distract your dog and take away their instinctive need to flee.

If you can't be home when a storm is pending then make sure you leave your dog in a safe secure place, a dog crate may be a good option instead of the back yard, depending on the amount of time you will be away. Any space provided for your dog should be clear of anything the dog can damage or damage themselves with, and leaving them an item to chew can aid as a stress reliever.

Signs of storm phobias in your dog may include, pacing, whining, hiding, shaking, excessive salivating and excessive licking of the lips.

If you have any concerns about your dogs storm phobia, see your instructor or consult a behavioural analyst.

- Urbantails Magazine, Summer 2008 Issue

**Don't forget...
If it's raining,
There's no training!**