

DOG TAILS



An August Digest

August 2011 Newsletter

Fred's Pass Positive Dog Training Club Inc

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President	Sarah Baker	0417 773 095
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Treasurer	Kellie O'Dea	
Secretary	Ray Clarke	8983 2569
Members	Kirsten Leslie Alanna Opperman	

Training for 2011

New dog intake is **only** the first Tuesday of each month.

Our **Obedience / Pet Dog** classes are an 8 week course paid in full prior to the course. At the completion of a course you can either repeat the same course or if you are ready, move on to the next level.

All Tuesday classes can be pre-booked and pre-payment will ensure you a spot. Class numbers are limited, so please email the club or phone Sarah for more information and to book your class.

Beginners Agility training All Beginners Agility classes must be Pre-paid. To join beginner's agility you must have a reliable recall.

Obedience (Tuesdays)

Beginners	7.00 pm
Intermediate	7.00 pm
Advanced	7.00 pm
Pre Trial & Trial	8.00 pm

Training Fees	8 Week Course	\$ 60.00
	Yearly Fee	\$150.00

For more information phone Sarah on 0417 773 095

Agility (Thursdays)

TRIAL CLASS:

When you arrive at training:

- Please take the trailer out to the oval
- Please undo ropes and remove equipment from the trailer
- Please set up a course or training stations

There are plenty of courses available on the web. Try www.agilitycoursemaps.com or if you want specific help or exercises, try www.agilitynerd.com

All participants in Agility are **expected to help** with either the setting up or putting away of equipment. Please arrive early enough to tend to your dog's needs and still have time to assist or have the time to help after class.

Pre Trial & Trial	6.45 pm
Beginners	8.00 pm
Intermediate	8.00 pm
Advanced	8.00 pm

Training Fees

Per dog		\$ 5.00
Beginners	4 Week Course	\$ 20.00
Yearly Fee		\$150.00

For more information phone Fiona on 8983 2569.

Presidents Welcome

Hi Everyone

Since our last newsletter we have had 3 big weekends of agility, two fantastic trials of our own with judges Neville Cox from SA and Jenny Marshall from the ACT and also the Darwin Royal Show.....whew!.....it has been a busy month!

The courses presented by Neville and Jenny were all challenging but do-able and we had some fantastic runs with also some oh-so-close near misses with one bar down or just over time. The Royal Show environment brings a whole bunch of different conditions that our dogs are not used to at our regular trials, loud noise, crowds, sideshow alley, but most were unphased and performed admirably on the night. Of course the watching crowd finds it more entertaining when the dogs do the wrong thing and I'm sad to say that my dogs were able to keep the spectators laughing most of the time! Oh well, there's always next time :)

With so much in the news these days about the impending carbon tax and everyone thinking about their carbon footprint it's got me thinking...not about the ozone layer or global warming but about dog poo. I realise it's an unpleasant subject but I'd like everyone to have a think....What's your Canine Poo Print?? I'd like to say that I am pretty diligent about picking up after my dogs (no wonder they act like they own me and not the other way around!) and it's a rare circumstance that I am caught without a poo bag in my pocket, in my handbag, training bag or in my car. For me it's just a part of responsible pet ownership, however there must be many other people out there who own dogs and don't feel the same way because it seems everywhere I go with my dogs, there's lots of dog poo around.



OK, I admit, picking up dog poo is not my all time favourite activity on the planet but it's one of those necessary evils and if you've ever stepped on dog poo (and let's be honest, who hasn't) you'll know what an awful experience it is. Why is it that no matter how hard you try to clean your shoe, you just can't stop the smell?! Unfortunately, I have a funny feeling that, like lots of things in life, it's the neglectful few that ruin things for the many. So the next time you consider leaving a little doggy

"present" behind, please reconsider, pick it up and dispose of it properly.



Until next time, may the hounds be with you,

Sarah & Cooper the Brittany



August Notices

Next Trials

August is a BIG month of trials.

We have Kesley Court from QLD on the 6th & 7th for two **obedience** trials. If you think you might like to try CCD in the future, come on down and have a look.

Next we have the entertaining Eddy Szmelter from NSW, doing the full set – **Agility, Jumping & the games**; Snooker, Gamblers and Strategic Pairs. This trial is on Friday the 12th and Saturday the 13th.

On the third weekend we have the very helpful Mel Rhoden from WA for a **double Agility/Jumping** trial on Friday the 19th and Saturday the 20th August.

Please feel free to come along and watch or lend a hand.

Chocolates

Will you sell chocolates at your work???

Can you sell Cadbury snack size chocolates as fundraisers. A few boxes of these at your workplace is much easier than a day of BBQ'ing at a sausage sizzle! Please Participate! See any of the committee at training or give them a call, to organise your box or chocs.

Vaccinations

Every dog that attends training must be fully vaccinated. Please bring your vaccination certificates along with your 2011 membership forms to training. Help us to help you – let's protect all our dogs from contagious diseases!

Annual Membership Fees

\$20 Single, \$30 Double or \$40 Family per year

The Editor and the Club takes no responsibility for incorrect or misleading information appearing in articles in the newsletter.

Thanks to our Sponsors:

Sponsor of the Top Trialling Dog Award

Daphne sells Blackdog products & runs Puppy Preschool for pups from 8 to 16 weeks of age on Wednesday evenings in Palmerston. Please contact her for further details.



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If there is a heaven, it's certain our dogs are to be there. Their lives become so interwoven with our own, it would take more than an archangel to detangle them.

Pam Brown



Thorns may hurt you, men desert you, sunlight turn to fog; but you're never friendless ever, if you have a dog.

Douglas Mallock



The Bloodhound is the only animal whose evidence is admissible in an American Court of Law.

Titles Awarded In 2011

Novice Agility

Amanda and Ellie Mac
Cele and Poppy
Kerrie and Finder

Excellent Agility

Fiona and Ellie
Nicolle and Trey

Open Agility

Fiona and Inca

Novice Jumping

Michael and Jazz

Excellent Jumping

Fiona and Ellie
Sarah and Millie

Masters Jumping

Ray and Inca

Novice Snooker

Kirsten and Cooch
Nicolle and Trey

Excellent Snooker

Fiona and Inca

Novice Gamblers

Kirsten and Lucy
Nicolle and Trey

Excellent Gamblers

Fiona & Ellie

Novice Strategic Pairs

Amanda and Ellie Mac
Kerrie and Finder
Nicolle and Trey

Excellent Strategic Pairs

Fiona and Ellie
Ray and Inca

Congratulations to everyone!!!

TRAINING REMINDERS

From Susan Garrett's SAY YES Training

<http://www.clickerdogs.com/>

1. Work=play=work. All play is fun and so all work should be as well. If your dog makes a decision during play (example he grabs his toy without being invited to do so) you are reinforcing his right to make decisions during working with you as well (ahh, maybe I will chase the cat rather than practice A Frames right now!).

2. POSITIVE does not equal PERMISSIVE. This is the guiding principle of Say Yes Dog Training. You must be consistent. If a behaviour is acceptable at home (example the dog choosing not to lie down when told) it is also acceptable during work. Approach training and home life with a patient disposition and a strict application of what is and isn't acceptable. Training happens 24 hours a day 7 days a week; your dog is always learning regardless if you are actively training or not!

3. Behaviours are shaped by CONSEQUENCES. Be aware of what is reinforcing your dog. Review and alter your list of reinforcers as your dog grows up, especially the "activities that reinforce" section.

4. Use your RECALL, to evaluate your relationship with your dog. Be diligent at making improvements each day in the level of intensity your dog has for working with you. Work at building a better relationship with your dog rather than making excuses for his performance. Work with the dog on the end of your leash -- and turn him into a dog other people wish they had!

5. Be aware of what RESPONSE you are rewarding each time you give out a cookie or toy. What did you click—did you see eyes? Did you want to see eyes when your dog is performing that skill? What did you intend to reinforce? Does the dog know?

6. VIDEO at least one training session every second week. More if possible. If progress isn't as fast as you think it should be for one particular skill, video three or four consecutive training sessions of that one skill (each video clip should be no longer than 3-7 minutes). Review each video individually upon completion – then view and evaluate the entire series. What did you reinforce? Can you pick out why your session isn't progressing as fast as you would like? If you can't critique it yourself, ask a friend to review it with you.

7. THINK, PLAN, DO, REVIEW (Bob Bailey). Plan your work and work your plan. Time your session or count reinforcements so you don't train your dog to exhaustion. Do not begin to train until you have worked through your mechanical skills and planned where you will deliver your rewards. Keep your training session short! After each

session, write in a journal recording your progress and plans for future sessions. Do what will assist you reaching your goals; do not get wrapped up in "finishing as sequence or exercise". Do what is best for your dog!

8. MIX UP YOUR REINFORCEMENTS so that you are working with toys and food. Only offer a reward you know your dog will want. Once a reward is offered, do not accept your dog not taking it. You can use food to reinforce an attempt to play (or the other way around) but never use food to reinforce a dog that has declined the opportunity to play or decided to stop playing. What would you be rewarding? Of course you would have rewarded your dog for making the decision to NOT play with you (and remember work=play).

9. Whenever frustration sets in remind yourself that "YOUR DOG IS A MIRROR IMAGE OF YOUR ABILITIES AS A TRAINER". Only when you take ownership of your dog's shortcomings will you be able to turn them into attributes.

10. CLICK FOR ACTION REWARD FOR POSITION. (Bob Bailey) If your dog barks after each click and you feed them, what are you reinforcing? When initially shaping or re-training skills, it is important to deliver your rewards as soon as possible after the click (1-3 sec) – remember the reward reinforces everything the dog does between the time he hears the click and when receives his reward.

11. Train to IMPROVE YOUR WEAKNESSES. All of us tend to practice what we are good at, or the dog we find easiest to train, it is reinforcing for us. If there were exercises you felt uncomfortable with this weekend it could be a result of a weakness in your current training program. Be sure to work short sessions on the skills you are not as graceful at performing.

12. Bob Bailey attributes training problems to: timing, criteria or rate of reinforcement. Have someone observe your timing with your clicker, alter your criteria so your dog can succeed and keep your rate of reinforcement as close to 70% as possible.

13. Cheap responses once rewarded will always be lurking (Bob Bailey). Be aware of 'what else' your dog may be doing when you click him for a desired response (i.e., barking).

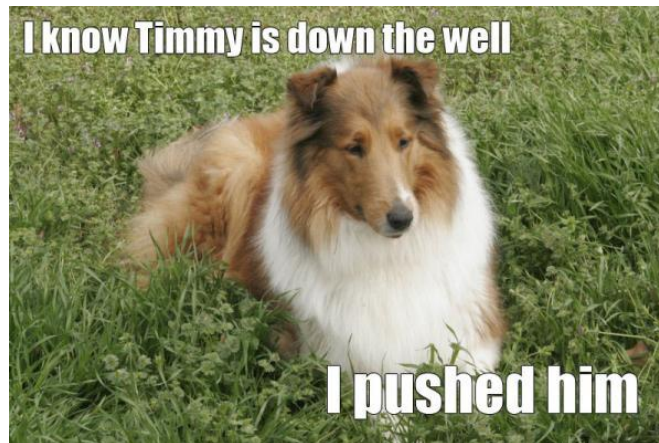
14. Are you a double L? (...a lurer & a lumpner) Your dog's lack of progress may be due to your not "splitting" the desired behaviour into small enough responses. Be certain you are returning the hand that delivers the treat back to starting position after each rewarded response. Work to create a "thinking" dog not a dog that needs to be prompted by you before he can begin his work.

15. YOU CAN'T HAVE SPEED WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING.

Got D.A.S.H.? If you are working many new environments and you start each session with the maximum amount of "D", the "S" will come once you have the "A" Do not try to make your dog be fast until he first understands how to be correct without prompts or lurers from you.

16. WHAT IS YOUR CRITERIA? Identify it, learn it, work it live it. Maintain criteria, ALWAYS. The easiest thing to do is to train a behaviour. It is a far, far more difficult thing to do to maintain your criteria for the life time of your dog. That is what makes a great trainer.

17. Don't ever ignore your dog while training. If you are getting further direction or clarification from an instructor, tug with your dog or, hold his collar & stroke him or put him into a relaxed position or in his crate. Whatever you do, do not finish an exercise and turn away from your dog to talk to an instructor; it shows a lack of respect for your canine partner. Your dog should always be recognized for his effort to work with you.



The difference between "trained OK" and "trained perfectly" doesn't really matter all that much to me. I once did a film with Lassie. When that dog got excited he jumped all over Rudd Weatherwax [Lassie's trainer]. Now that's the smartest dog in the world. If the world's best-trained dog can jump around to show he's happy then my dogs should be allowed to do the same.

Jimmy Stewart

2011 FPPDTC Trial & Event Calendar

Month	Day	Date	Trial	Judge
August	Saturday	6	Obedience	Kesley Court
	Sunday	7	Obedience	Kesley Court
	Friday	12	Agility & Snooker	Eddy Szmelter
	Saturday	13	Jumping, Gamblers & Strategic Pairs	Eddy Szmelter
	Friday	19	Agility & Jumping	Mel Rhoden
	Saturday	20	Agility & Jumping	Mel Rhoden
September	Friday	16	Obedience	Jill Kaldor
	Saturday	17	Agility & Jumping	Jill Kaldor
November	Tuesday	8	Xmas Party & Handler Awards	
	Thursday	10	Triallers Awards	

Remember to play With your dog today!