

Paws Express

Newsletter of
Alexandra & District
Dog Obedience Club



June 2019

Patrons: Betty Tulloch, Doug Norman B.Sc.(Hons), B.Vet.Sc.(Hons)

Welcome!

Dear members,

Welcome to our new members and their bundles of joy.

Thank you for choosing to be a responsible dog owner within our community and choosing to attend our club for help in achieving the aim of having a well socialised and well behaved dog.

Since joining club with my dog Oscar, I have made many new friends for myself and him. I sincerely hope it will be the same for all of you.

Now that the colder, wetter and foggier weather is with us, it will be harder to make the choice of getting out of a nice warm bed to train but just remember your four legged love of your life deserves that devotion from you.

And as an afterthought, we who are your committee and instructors are all volunteers and if we can do it YOU CAN DO IT. Looking forward to seeing every club member every Sunday.

Happy training.

Barb Tanner, ADDOC President



**** Join the Alexandra & District Dog Obedience Club on Facebook ****

Committee Members 2019

Barbara Tanner (President)
Bronwyn McFadyen (Vice Pres.)
Deb Callaway(Secretary)
Jeanne Roberts (A/Treasurer)
Andy Cowan
Ann Laherty-Hunt
Jamie Laherty-Hunt
Pam Poole
Jeanne Roberts
Julee Hosking

Life Members

Betty Tulloch
Greg Tulloch (Dec)
Lynne Walter
Maggie Hamill
Julee Hosking
Bronwyn McFadyen

Honorary Members

Doug Norman B.Sc(Hons) B.Vet.Sc(Hons)
Doug Walter
Mike Hosking
Chris Chester
David Roberts

Newsletter: Ann Jelinek

Welcome to new members

Maree & River (German Shorthaired Pointer)
Jenny & Boris (Jack Russell)
Robyn & Jackie (Jack Russell)
Faith & Candy (Whippet/GreyhoundX)
Karyn & Harper (Border Collie)
Ashley & Daphne (Staffy X)
Sue & Toots (Tenterfield Terrier)
Jo/Cooper & Ceasar (German ShepardX)
Manuela & Saffron (Cavoodle)

Club Training fun - April 2019 workshop



Sue & Keith
with Baxter



Judy & Steve with Harley

Jude
with Teddy



Sophia & Jeane with Andy



Sally
with Willow



David with Bonnie

Club Training fun - June 2019 workshop



Karyn with Harper



Sue's Toots



Ashley with Daphne



Manuela with Saffron



Maree with River



Musical Mats



Faith with Candy meeting Pam, wheelchair and vacuums!

“ An Introduction to Tracking” workshop April 2019



Joyce with Nessie

Dogs have a natural ability to recognise and follow a particular scent, so tracking is a fun activity for you and your dog to try.

With dogs on a long lead and harness, they learn to follow a track previously marked by the handler (without dog) with small flags indicating each change in direction.

In the learning stage, treats are placed under the handler's socks or other items that the handler has worn or put their scent on. These treats and socks are spaced along the route.

Thanks to Fiona with Mack for introducing us to tracking.

Congratulations to Graduates

Transition to Family Companion Certificate



Christina with Gus and Emily with Pip

Congratulations to Graduates

Transition to Family Companion Certificate



April with Tovi



Jude with Teddy



Sally with Willow



Training Tips



STRUGGLING TO TRAIN YOUR DOG TO COME WHEN CALLED?

Ask Yourself These 3 Questions:

1. Are you repeating your cues?
2. Are your rewards boring, predictable or low value?
3. Do you practice when it doesn't matter?

I recently had to answer “Yes” to this question – I couldn’t guarantee that Quinn would come every time I called him and it was annoying and frustrating! I could definitely answer “No” to number 1, but what about number 2 and 3? Maybe I had some changes to make??? Smart dogs learn – coming when the humans call is no fun for me! And Quinn is smart.

Let’s look at each point:

1) Are you repeating your call?

Repeating your call cue teaches your dog that they can ignore the first few times you call. You will gradually have to repeat your call over and over and your dog just tunes you out. Therefore, only call once!

2) Are your rewards boring, predictable, or low value?

In other words, what you have must be much, much better than what you are asking them to leave. So, make sure you have really special rewards when your dog comes and not the same old thing every time! I am now making sure I have treats I know Quinn loves.

3) Do you practice when it doesn't matter?

To build a successful recall it’s crucial to practice when it doesn’t matter – otherwise the cue won’t work when it does matter. Practice in locations where your dog is capable of succeeding, and then slowly increase the difficulty by adding distractions. I’m working on this and it’s slowly making a difference. At home it’s pretty much 100%. However, when we’re out somewhere I have him on a 10m lead just so I can reinforce my cue by a slight tug on the line and then make a big fuss and reward him when he comes in to me.

Recalls from a distance are really important and one of the most difficult skills to teach your dog. Start small and go slowly. Quinn is improving all the time.

Good luck and happy training! Jeanne.

Ref: Madeleine Ross, CPDT-KA Beacon Dog Training

“Time spent with dogs is never wasted”.
~Author Unknown.



Congratulations to Graduates

Transition to Family Companion Certificate



Alana with Kobi



Lyn with Penny



Katrina with Milo

An "Introduction to Clicker Training" workshop - June 2019

I really enjoyed taking the Clicker workshop as I am a huge fan of this method of training. It is very precise and a lot of fun!

What is it?

Clicker training otherwise known as 'marker training', is an animal training method based on behavioural psychology that relies on marking desirable behaviour and rewarding it.

This type of learning is called 'Operant Conditioning'. - This is when an association is formed between a behaviour and a consequence.

The key to operant conditioning is to teach an animal that when he performs a behaviour we like he gets a reward that makes him feel good.

Clicker training is generally what is used to teach all types of animals. Need a tiger to give blood, dolphin to jump through a hoop, all done with clicker training.

Desirable behaviour is usually marked by using a 'clicker', this sound tells the animal exactly when they are doing the right thing.

Think of it as a snapshot in time. - You dog does something you like and the clicker is like taking a photo of exactly that behaviour.

A marker word can also be used, for the times that you don't have a clicker, but it needs to be a word you don't use all the time (like 'ok').

A clicker does work the best as the sound is always the same, black and white to the dog.

The clicker or marker word (I use 'yes' in a high pitched voice) provides a bridge between marking and rewarding the behaviour.

Dogs need to be rewarded within 1/2 a second, for them to associate the behaviour with the reward.

So it gives us trainers time to get the treat or toy out of the pouch! The dog knows when they hear the 'click' that whatever they were doing at that exact moment is what they were being rewarded for.

Very precise training tool!

- Get the behaviour
- Mark the behaviour
- Reward the behaviour

Need to remember that the click is ALWAYS followed by a treat and you only click ONCE!

Don't have to click and treat (C/T) forever, once the behaviour is understood it can go on a variable reinforcement rate. So a dog may do multiple behaviours for one click and treat.

Another thing that clicker trainers do, is that they wait until the behaviour is well understood before they put it on cue.

No point asking me to sit down in a language I don't understand. I would just look at you blankly. It is the same for your dog, they don't speak English.

Once the dog is consistently performing the behaviour, i.e 8/10 times, then you would say your cue, pause and then give your hand signal that you had been using.

After time the dog will understand what the verbal command means and you can fade out the hand signal.

To start clicker training, it is good to 'charge' the clicker:

To start have some yummy treats, a clicker and your dog.

Click, pause and reward your dog.

Do this 10-20 times, until when your dog hears the click they look to you for their reward.

Once they are doing this, your clicker is charged!

A game you can play at home to develop your clicker timing skills:

- * Bounce a tennis ball and click the moment the ball hits the ground. Or at the ball's highest point in the bounce. So just before it starts to fall.
- * Have a bowl and every time you click place one treat in the bowl. It takes practice to be able to mark exactly what you want.

Don't worry it is a very forgiving tool, what is the worst that can happen, the dog gets an extra treat!

Feel free to ask me any questions you have and happy clicking!

Steph Brew



Steph with Georgie

An "Introduction to Retrieving" workshop - June 2019

On June 19th we ran our very first "*introduction to Retrieving*" Workshop. 10 enthusiastic members and their dogs gathered to learn some of the basic skills required to teach your dog to retrieve.

Retrieving, or playing "fetch" with your dog is fun for both you and your dog. Your dog gets exercise for his body and his brain! And you both enjoy your time together and build a very strong bond.

The basics we covered included:

HOLD: Teaching your dog to take the dummy and hold it gently in its mouth on the cue.

GIVE: Releasing the dummy on the cue.

FETCH: Sending your dog to get the dummy and bring it back, sit in front of you and release it on the cue **Give**.

A couple of important tips:

1. Never chase your dog, then it becomes a game of "tag" instead of "fetch".
2. To encourage you dog to come straight back use a half way in your home or have your dog on a long lead.
3. Use a "happy" voice with lots of verbal encouragement and cuddles when your dog comes to you.
4. Some dogs will take to retrieving more easily than others, but all dogs can retrieve.

Success requires my 4 "P's" – PARTNERSHIP, PRACTICE, PATIENCE and PERSISTENCE!!

All the members and their dogs did a great job, particularly as they were all complete retrieving novices!

Well done everyone! Thank you all for coming along and I hope you had as much fun as I did.

Jeanne



Jeanne with Quinn

Congratulations to Graduates

Transition to
Family Companion Certificate



Jeanne with Quinn

Alexandra & District Dog Obedience Club Inc.

Training on Sunday mornings in Alexandra (except for public holidays, days of Total Fire Ban and a break over December & January).

Memberships - Due February (C5 vaccination certificate to be sighted)

Annual membership

1 or 2 dogs/1 handler (single) \$15.
1 dog/2 handlers (dual) \$20.
2 dogs/2 handlers (same family) \$15 each.

Cost per class \$3 -
\$21 per block of 7 classes paid in advance and is non-refundable.