

Paws Express

Newsletter of
Alexandra & District
Dog Obedience Club



November 2020

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

Welcome!

Well, what a year. *Annus horribilis* as Queen Elizabeth once said. By now I hope everyone has read their emails and Facebook posts; our AGM has been cancelled for the 29th November and will be held February 2021. Date to be decided.

My sincere apologies to all who are in our FCC 1,2,3 classes and classes 4 and 5. Restrictions on gatherings and group activities meant that we had to make hard choices about training. The younger dogs had to be our priority as early learning and socialisation is so very important as you all know and understand.

A big thank you to those members who were offered training classes and knowing how fortunate they were; attended faithfully each Sunday and followed our restriction rules without complaint.

To our wonderful instructors and committee who gave their time during this difficult period; a big warm hug and kiss. Volunteers with a ready smile and loads of patience. Thank you.

A special mention for Millie and Barry who made watching from the sidelines an absolute joy each Sunday.(they are Ann and Jamie's dogs).

May you and your beloved doggies have a wonderful Merry Christmas. See everyone next February.

Barb Tanner
ADDOC President

Welcome to new members

Janet/Brad & 'Smeagle' (Beagle)
Sally & 'Zoe' (Border Collie)
Kerry & 'Axle' (Labrador)
Kelly & 'Gypsy' (Bull ArabX)
Andrew & 'Loki'(GoldenRetriever)
Lyn & 'Ditto' (Labrador)
Catherine & 'Beau' (English Setter)
Marie & 'Monty' (KelpieX)

Neal & 'Tischa' (Fr. Beagle Harrier)
Phil & 'Oggi' (Whippet)
Lyndal & 'Lara' (Kelpie)
Allan & 'Trooper' (Border Collie)
Heather & 'Beau' (Brittany Spaniel)
Craig & 'Murphy' (Groodle)
Wendy & 'Skye' (English Springer)
Robert & 'Katie' (Field Spaniel)

Committee Members 2020

Barbara Tanner (President)
Bronwyn McFadyen (Vice Pres.)
Debbie Callaway(Secretary)
Geoff Hyland (Treasurer)
Ann Laherty-Hunt
Jamie Laherty-Hunt
Pam Poole
Jeanne Roberts
Julee Hosking
Fiona Mackey

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

Instructors

Jeanne Roberts
Barb Tanner
Julee Hosking
Ann Jelinek
Stephanie Brew
Ann Laherty Hunt
Jenny Hyland
Jamie Laherty Hunt

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

Club Training - Fun Activities



Daniel & Lena with
flirt pole



Leo & Freddy



Phil & Oggi



Di & Poppy



Lyn & Ditto

Club Training - Fun Activities



Allan & Trooper



Andrew & Loki



Daniel & Lena

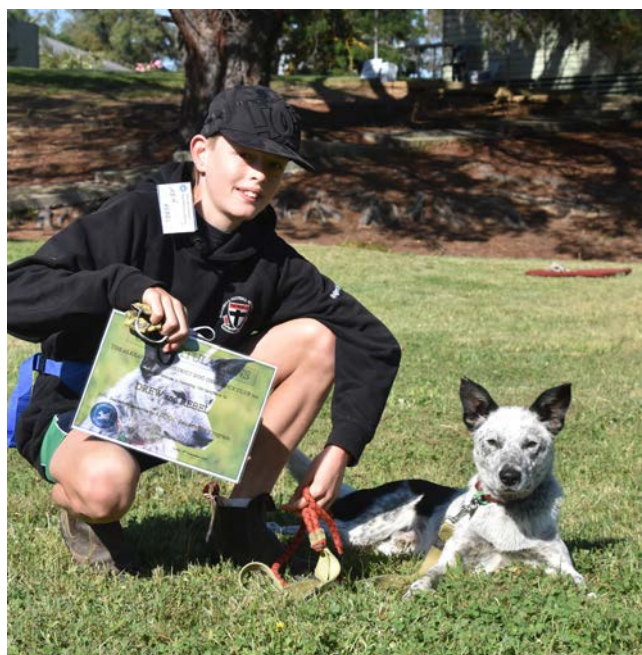


Craig & Murphy, Lyndal & Lara

Congratulations to Graduates - Foundation to FCC1



Joanne & Raffy



Drew & Rebel



Jamie & Barry

Stephanie Brew's dog training joy

I have always loved dogs, well animals of any kind. In fact I wanted to be a vet when I was younger but somehow ended up as a nurse!

My first dog was a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel called Kessa, she was the family pet but I was the one who had an interest in training and took her along to doggy school.

This was a long time ago, before I had even heard about clicker training or positive reinforcement training. I remember being uncomfortable about popping my dogs lead when teaching loose lead walking but unfortunately that is the way training was done back then. Anyway she learnt the basics and a few tricks but mainly was a wonderful family pet.

I knew that one day I would have my own dog but wanted to wait for the right time to welcome one into my life.

I spent years researching what breed I wanted and one day came across a picture of an Australian Shepherd. I thought they were the most beautiful dogs I had ever seen and when I started researching the breed thought that their personality and smarts were just what I was looking for.

My heart was set on a blue merle male, but as you know it can take a long time to wait for the right puppy. I spoke to lots of breeders and finally was on the waiting list to get one.

Anyway Ludo came into my life June 2013 and I was smitten!

I initially showed Ludo as I had become friends with the breeder and he was her second pick puppy in the litter and I thought it would be something fun to do. Ludo loved getting out and about but didn't really love the waiting around at the show's (can't say I blame him!). Anyway we did it for awhile and I also took Ludo to an obedience group where he picked everything up super quick. We did some Agility and general obedience. This was at a different club to ADDOC as I didn't know about it back then.

The more I started to teach Ludo, the more research I did about dog training. I became fascinated with positive reinforcement training as I loved encouraging my dog to think for himself and use games to educate.

I found some amazing positive trainers online and started doing some small courses to increase my knowledge. There is so many great positive trainers out there and heaps of free content on the net to investigate!

In case anyone is interested I highly recommend the following trainers:

Fenzi Dog Sports academy (FDSA) - www.fenzidogsportsacademy.com

Absolute Dogs - www.absolute-dogs.com

Karen Pryor - www.clickertraining.com

Emily Larlham - www.dogmantics.com



Steph & Georgie



Ludo

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Stephanie Brew's dog training joy

Time went on and Ludo really bonded with my husband as he was working from home and I was the one leaving to go to work each day.

Aussies are known as 'velcro' dogs as they often bond very closely with one or two people in their lives.

Anyway I had remained friends with Ludo's breeder and had gone down to visit and see some puppies she had (14 of them!). Whilst I was there I fell in love with a little black tri girl, she used to follow me around and we just clicked. So even though I wasn't really looking for another dog, the breeder asked if I would like to have her. I couldn't say no and it was the best decision I ever made. Georgie was made for me, we have such an amazing connection and is such an easy dog to live with. She gets along well with Ludo and I love watching them play together.

Of course I wanted to take Georgie to obedience training and by this time I had heard about the ADDOC from President Barb as we worked together at the Yea medical centre. In fact Barb was one of the first people to meet Georgie as I brought her to work when she was just a puppy!

So Geogie and I started coming to training at the beginning of 2016 and we loved it (still do)! Georgie excelled at training and was so much fun to teach, certainly helped having such good instructors.

We became interested in Rally Obedience after doing one of the fun sessions at the club. I started researching online and really liked the sound of it. Georgie likes me to talk to her and I thought she would find it easier than formal obedience when you have to be silent. Anyway we started giving it a go and she excelled at it. We both love it!

We only have two more passes before we obtain our Excellent title and then it will be onto Masters. Obviously Covid put all competitions on hold this year but we plan to start again next year.

I am also hoping to do some Trick competitions as Georgie loves to learn new tricks.

I love training my dogs and just having fun with them. Australian Shepherds are smart, loyal, funny, have the best bum wiggle and are pretty darn gorgeous. I can't imagine life without either of my two.

Steph, Georgie & Ludo





Training Tips



Why positive reinforcement training works “Kindness is Powerful”

There are many factors that contribute to the success of “Dog Training”. The important ones for me are: Knowledge, love, kindness, partnership, patience, consistency and enjoyment.

What “Dog Training” means, can also vary from person to person depending on what your end goal is. I enjoy competing in Retrieving Trials with my Golden Retrievers. So, I need to work towards having a dog who is a companion and wonderful family member as well as being able to work happily off lead, follow my directions and enjoy retrieving with me. But I start all my dogs “training” by following the principles I’ve mentioned above.

At our club we use Positive Reinforcement Training because we strongly believe this method is an effective way for our members to have fun with their dogs and achieve success. We use games and fun activities to make the training experience POSITIVE and ENJOYABLE for Members as well as their dogs.

Working with dogs or “Dog Training” has its ups and downs for both experienced and novice handlers!!

What is Positive Reinforcement Training?

Positive reinforcement teaching techniques use non-threatening methods to let your dog choose an action. Positive behaviour is rewarded, and good behaviour patterns are established within a friendly environment.

How does Positive Reinforcement Work?

If you give your dog a reward (praise, play, food, toys, etc) when he responds to you or offers an action or a behaviour that you like, then that behaviour is likely to be repeated.

Voluntary behaviour (or offering a behaviour) means your dog has freedom of choice over their actions, it means that they can decide what to do.

However, if an action has a consistent, predictable outcome (cheese happens every time your dog sits when someone approaches) then their behaviour will change accordingly. So, while they are free to jump up, run around, stand etc. because they love cheese they will choose to sit.

We will build the strongest relationship (bond) between us and our dog if we base it on cooperation and kindness rather than on human dominance and animal submission. Put simply, if your dog feels good about you, he will be happier, confident, better behaved and more inclined to respond to you when you ask him to do something.

Can I go wrong?

Of course, mistakes can happen. It’s possible to unknowingly, or accidentally, reward a behaviour we don’t want. Here are a couple of examples: If you reach down and pat your dog when he jumps on you, then your patting is reinforcing his jumping. Or, if you go to reward your dog for sitting and he stands as you give him a reward you are reinforcing a stand rather than a sit.

It is important to look at what behaviour your dog is offering, and if it’s something you don’t want then you should look at what you are doing which might be inadvertently reinforcing that unwanted behaviour. In the “sit” example above – make sure your reward is given quickly before your dog has the time to stand.

Finally

Training your dog is not a finite thing. As a human you will continue to learn throughout your life and if you don’t practice something (like riding a bike) you become rusty and not as good as you once were!

It’s the same for your dog. If you neglect to have him practice and forget to provide positive reinforcement as encouragement, then he will get rusty too! You will need to continue to work together for as long as your dog shares your life.

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Training Tips



Why positive reinforcement training works "Kindness is Powerful"

This means, that there are more games that you can learn to play with your dog and more time you will be able to spend together improving your relationship. So, have fun and enjoy playing with (training) your dog!

Good luck and happy training. Merry Christmas and Happy new Year to everyone. Let's hope 2021 sees us all back together working with our amazing dogs each Sunday!!! Jeanne



*"Never leave home without a kiss, a hug and an
"I love you".*

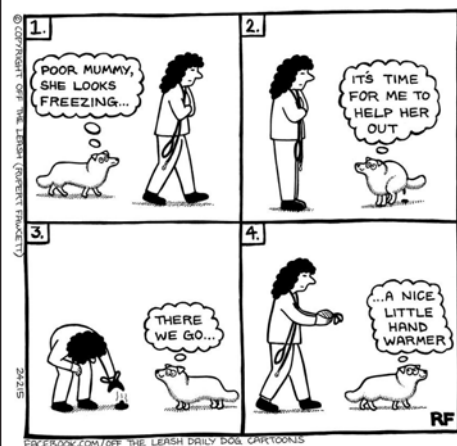
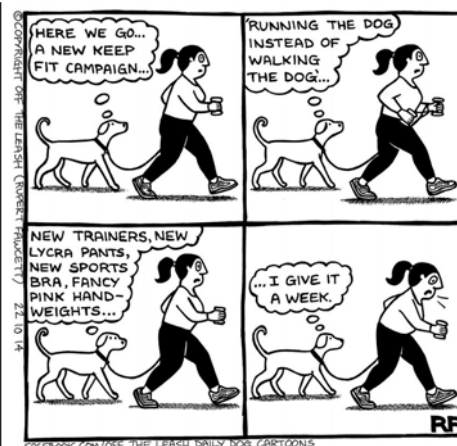
*Then remove the dog hair from your mouth as
you walk to the car!"*

References:

*What is Positive Reinforcement? Victoria Stilwell/
Positively.*

*Let's Talk Positive Reinforcement. New Dawn ABC.
Ursula Desatrik CPDT-KA-CP9C. So Much
PETential.*

Between-2-Pines Dog Training 2020



Be aware this Christmas



These are all poisonous or
harmful to dogs

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.