

Paws Express

Newsletter of
Alexandra & District
Dog Obedience Club



September 2021

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

Welcome!



Julee & Jeanne

Lockdowns and ongoing restrictions have certainly put a dampener on our gatherings and 30 year celebrations but I say onwards and upwards. With this training year almost over let's look forward to a wonderful year next year and we will celebrate then.

Jeanne our obedience co-ordinator and Julee our Vice President are the amazing team who tirelessly work on keeping our classes running no matter what they have happening at home. While the rest of us come and go as committee, instructors and ordinary members they are constant. Their passion for and loyalty to the club deserved to be noted as part of our 30 years and last week they were presented with a token of the club's appreciation.

My one wish is that you all, dear members continue to attend and enjoy our training sessions and that we don't have any more lockdowns.

Happy bonding with your dogs.

Barb Tanner

ADDOC President

Committee Members 2021

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

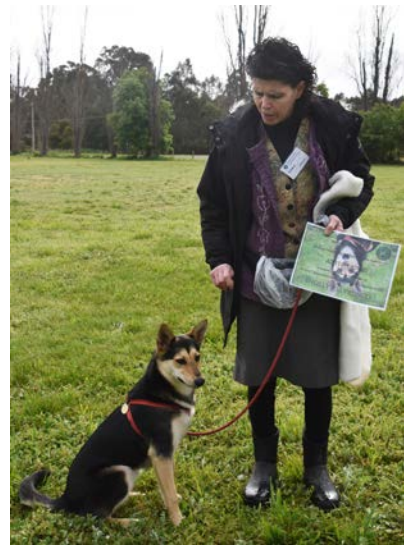
Jeanne Roberts
Barb Tanner
Julee Hosking
Ann Jelinek
Pam Poole
Jenny Hyland
Ann Laherty Hunt

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

Congratulations to Graduates Foundation to Level 1



Tim & Brax



Grace & Lucy



Frog & Chance



Kat & Odie



Jenny & Joe

Congratulations to Graduates

Family Companion Certificates



Robyn & Bonnie



Faith & Candy

No instant magic but great rewards with practice

Dog training is not easy but we try and make it fun so it is worth it in the end.

Every now and then dog owners don't want to continue their training after just a couple of lessons. Usually this is because they get frustrated as they feel that their dog is not behaving 'properly'.

For the instructors, this is sad.

Participating in lessons taught at dog club and continuing that training at home, even for only a few minutes a day, really pays off.

Eventually you will achieve that magical bond with your dog, but it does not happen with just one or two lessons. It is all about having lots of patience, perseverance and playing games with your dog.

Our dogs give us patience and love, so we need to return that by helping them live their best lives.

Julee



Welcome to new members

Cameron & 'Ziggy' (G.S.P)
Natalie & 'Belle' (G.S.P)
Jeanie & 'Lucy' (Border Collie)
Mark & 'Daisy' (Border Collie)
Jim & 'Terry' (Jack Russell)
Sally/Tennille & 'Picket' (SchnauzerX)
Peter & 'Abbie' (G.S.P)
Rita & 'Oblong' (English Springer)

Joanna & 'Russell' (Jack Russell)
Janene & 'Maxi' (Red Heeler)
Jill & 'Felicity' (Toy Poodle)
Stacey & 'Bailey' (Schnauzer X)
Sue & 'Baz' (Border Collie)
Stephanie & 'Scout' (Jack Russell)
Laura & 'Feddie' (Kelpie Coolie X)
Robyn & Bonnie/Hamish (BCollies)



Training Tips

Games are great!



How we teach our dogs is just as important as what we teach them.

From the moment you bring our new puppy/dog home, you imagine walks in the park; play dates with a friendly dog; going to the beach; visiting family and friends. Laughing and sharing a happy life together.

Six months on and reality sets in. Your new puppy/dog won't come when called; jumps up on visitors; pulls on the lead and ignores you and you don't have time to take it for a walk EVERY SINGLE DAY! You become stressed, worried and overwhelmed by it all. Does this sound familiar? I'm sure many of you can relate to this. I know I can!! What to do??

Here at ADDOC we believe that using Positive Reinforcement as your training method can help turn this around and that if you combine this with PLAYING GAMES and having FUN you have a winning formula.

Why play games and have fun?

Games build a strong bond with our dogs

- We all have an inbuilt desire to play with our dogs. Tossing a stick, a ball or a frisbee are old favourites. Something humans have been doing with their dogs for centuries! This is quality time spent with our dogs where they want to be with us and co-operate with and interact with us in a positive way.

Games are simple and easy to teach

- Most dogs love to chase (fetch) something; most dogs love to play tug. You can use these simple games as a learning tool.
- The fetch game can build a strong recall and also help with impulse control – how to wait until told to “Fetch It”.
- Tug is a fun game in itself which can also teach impulse control – how to be gentle when it comes to using their mouth.
- Neither of these games are difficult to understand or teach.

Games are a pathway to success

- You're training your dog, even if you don't realise it. There are several recall games which dogs love to play. I have used a couple of them with my young dog and think the results are amazing. They are “Get It!” and “Tornado!” (See end of article for how to play details).
- You can reinforce good behaviours and have fun all at the same time.
- Nothing in dog training happens overnight but with games you will be having lots of fun with your dog along the way, and more importantly you will achieve the result you are hoping for.

Games provide motivation for you and your dog

- You are motivated because it's relatively easy and you will enjoy yourself.
- You will have the satisfaction of doing something positive and pro-active with your dog.
- Your dog will be motivated because it loves to be doing something with you and it is FUN!

Games provide physical exercise

- You may have heard the saying: “A good dog is a tired dog”? Dogs need physical exercise each day, and if those needs aren't met they can get into trouble by developing destructive habits (such as chewing – usually something very special to you – or digging) to pass the time.
- If your timetable limits how much time you can spend walking your dog, then games like tug, fetch and frisbee are physically tiring for dogs and a couple of quick sessions a day can provide your dog with plenty of exercise.

Games provide mental stimulation

- Often overlooked, mental exercise is just as important as physical exercise.
- Mentally stimulating activities or “Brain Games” are a fun way to enrich your dog's life.
- Dogs love nose work games and you will have fun watching and learning how amazing their sense of smell is and how they use their noses. Two that I have uses are “Hide & Seek!” and “Treasure Hunt”.

Games relieve boredom

- A bored dog – one with nothing interesting to occupy itself – will look for ways to create its own entertainment, which often involves undesirable behaviours such as excessive barking and running the fence or chewing up your shoes.
- If you have played games that physically and mentally exhaust your dog then it will be content to relax and wait for your next session together.

Games relieve stress

- Yes, it's true! Games can relieve stress for both you and your dog.
- When you arrive home tired and maybe fed up after a tough day at work, your dog will be delighted to see you and full of enthusiasm. Even if you feel that the last thing you want to deal with is a dog who is delighted to see you: Stop! Choose a game and spend 15mins relaxing and laughing with your dog. It's the best pick me up I know of!!!!

To sum up: **PLAY IS POWERFUL! FUN IS FABULOUS! SUCCESS IS SWEET!**

Ref: So Much PETential; Kathy Kawelec: Cognitive Dog Training: “Puppy Leaks”.



Training Tips Games are great!

continued....



Fun games to play with your dog

RECALL GAMES

1. Get It!

- Show your dog a tempting treat.
- Toss it a short distance away – you can use the cue “Get It!”.
- When your dog comes back looking for another treat, repeat the above.
- Don’t treat when your dog comes back - you want it to learn that the faster it returns to you the quicker it gets to chase after another treat!

2. Tornado* (Similar to “Get It!” but faster).

- Throw one piece of food away from you, as your dog runs back towards you and gets close to you, lure them around your body, 360 degrees with a piece of food, and throw another piece of food away again.
- Try going in each direction around your body.
- *Note:* Once my dog knew how to play this game, I introduced the cue “Come!” in a happy voice + the cue “Around” with a hand signal to send him around my body either to the left or the right.

IMPULSE CONTROL GAMES

1. Mouse Game*: Loose or off lead, no verbal cues.

- Have your dog sitting.
- Place a few pieces of food on the floor or in a bowl nearby.
- If the dog moves towards the food, cover it with your hand.
- Wait for the dog to back off and maybe sit.
- Remove your hand and say “Yes” and/or use a clicker, releasing the dog to the food OR give treat, say “Yes” enthusiastically and/or use a clicker.
- Mix these 2 reward actions up, be unpredictable.

2. Tug Switch*

- Initially use 2 similar tugs.
- Play with tug 1, stop moving that tug and start moving tug 2. The dog should drop tug 1 and start playing with tug 2.
- You can play this activity on the move, so the dog is leaping from one tug to another.
- Introduce cue “Switch” to change tugs.
- Introduce different tugs.
- You can throw tug 1 out (or a frisbee) when the dog retrieves and returns, throw tug 2 or frisbee 2 out. Have fun!

* adapted from and with acknowledgement to “Absolute Dogs”.

NOSE WORK GAMES

1. Hide and Seek

- You can play this game inside or outside and use either a favourite toy or hide yourself.
- Using a favourite toy: get your dog to sit and “wait” (you might need a helper at first).
- Go a short distance away and hide the toy in an easy to find spot.
- Return to your dog and say, “Where is it?” “Find it!”
- When your dog returns with the toy make a fuss and give lots of praise, then do it again.
- As you play this game, over time, gradually make the toy more difficult to find. (I would have a special toy which I only use for this game).
- Hiding yourself: get your dog to sit and “Wait!”.
- Inside: Go into another room and hide, then call your dog.
- Stay very quiet and when he finds you make a big fuss of him.
- Outside: wait until your dog is busy, and not watching, then duck behind a tree, or around a corner, then call your dog.
- Stay very quiet and when he finds you, make a big fuss of him.
- Be creative with these games, you are only limited by your imagination.

2. Treasure Hunt

- Get a small bowl of treats.
- Scatter them about all over the lawn and then watch your dog have fun finding all the bits.
- If you really want to tire your dog out, do this with their breakfast OR dinner, and scatter their dry dog food all over the lawn for them to find – and time how long it takes them to find it all. (Another Instructor told me it took her dog 40mins!) That’s a lot of mental and physical exercise all at the same time!!

I hope you and your dog have fun learning these games. Look for more games and how to play them in our next Newsletter. Let me know which ones your dog loves the best!

Happy game time!

Laughter is the best medicine for you and your dog!

Jeanne



“The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him, and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too”.

~Samuel Butle

Club Activities

Club Competition



Rally Novice - 1:Trudie & Lola, 2:Kat & Milo, 3: Paul & Matilda

CCD

1. Kat & Milo
2. Debbie & Nessie
3. Debbie & Toffee

Rally Advanced

1. Debbie & Nessie
2. Ann & Zip
3. Debbie & Toffee



Trudie & Lola



Barb & Level 4 Class



Leo with Freddie

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.