

# Paws Express



Newsletter of  
Alexandra & District  
Dog Obedience Club Inc

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

September 2022

## Welcome!



A very warm welcome to our newest and I will add our bravest members because they are joining us at a very, very cold time; well done.

We are already well into our training year and we are still receiving inquiries and bookings for classes. It is certainly heartwarming to know people in our community want to do what is best for their dog.

A big, big hug and pat on the back to our volunteer instructors and committee for climbing out of their warm beds every Sunday to ensure that classes can take place

## Committee Members 2022

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

## Life Members

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

## Honorary Members

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

## Instructors

Jeanne Roberts  
Barb Tanner  
Julee Hosking  
Ann Jelinek  
Pam Poole  
Jenny Hyland  
Sally Freeman  
Kat Howard  
Debbie Callaway

Newsletter: David Roberts

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

# Workshop Fun 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022



*Libby & Joy*



*Tennille & Pickle*



*Peter & Abbey*



*Trudie & Lola*



*Jamie & Barry*



*Faith & Candy*



*John & Sergie*



*Annicc & Nellie*

## Members' Competition 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### **Beginners**



1<sup>st</sup> Janine & Maxi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Frog & Chance, Equal 3<sup>rd</sup> Di & Poppy Peter & Abbey (absent).

### **Community Companion Dog (CCD)**



1<sup>st</sup> Joyce & Nessie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann & Zip, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jamie & Millie.

### **Rally Novice**



1<sup>st</sup> Jamie & Barry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul & Matilda (absent), 3<sup>rd</sup> Jeanne & Quinn.

### **Rally Advanced**



1<sup>st</sup> Jamie & Millie.



"This is how you do it". Michelle & Scully.

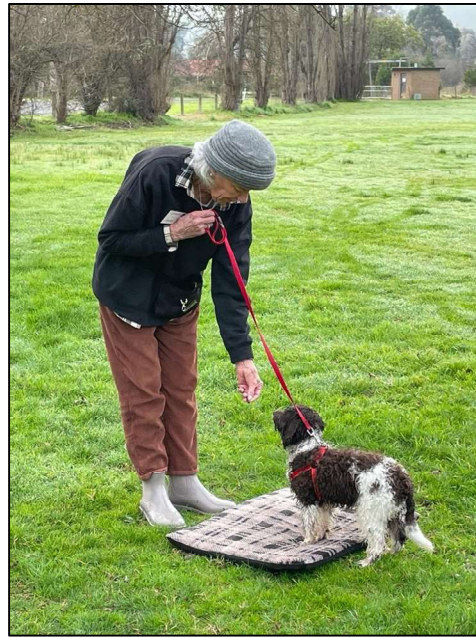


Lyn & Penny relaxing after class.

## Puppy Class Showing Great Focus



Julie & Coco



Joh & Melba.



Bella & James Bear



Jeanne & Quinn at the Workshop.



*"The most important rule is, have fun!"  
~Sally Marchant~*



*'Time spent with a dog is never wasted'.  
~Author Unknown~*



## HELPFUL HINTS FROM YOUR INSTRUCTORS.

To help you work with your dog and achieve a wonderful relationship with him/her each of our Club Instructors has chosen ONE essential element of training for you to think about.

Here then, are 7 things for you to consider when training your dog. They are all important and when taken together will ensure that you achieve success and you and your dog become wonderful lifelong companions.

### **Recall. (Julee Hosking)**

Getting your dog to come when you call it.

Don't let your puppy off lead (unless it's in a safe, enclosed area) till you have "nailed" the recall. Every time your dog comes towards you, use the word "Come" and lots of praise. If you have trouble with him not coming back, don't be angry with him when you finally get him – it will make him even less likely to want to come back to you. DON'T call your dog only at the end of the walk – DO call him and give him treats and/or praise randomly during the walk.

### **"Blue Tooth Connection". (Sally Freeman)**

For me it's the "blue tooth connection", focus before you start working, ensuring the dog is ready to learn. This combined with the accurate use of the YES marker and the reward. Lots of loud happy praise when the behaviour is exactly what you want! Curious puppies want to do the right thing but often get confused when treats rain down willy nilly and are not clearly connected to an accurate request for a desired behaviour.

### **Giving to Leash Pressure. (Ann Jelinek)**

Sadly, I still see too many handlers jerking at their dog's delicate necks! So, I suggest this exercise. With you dog on lead allow it to go to the end of the lead, apply smooth, gentle tension on the lead and wait.....as soon as the dog "gives in" and turns towards you, immediately reward with your marker word (e.g. "Yes!") and treat. Repeat walking in different directions. Reinforce each time your dog "gives in" to leash pressure. Only once the dog makes the choice to "give in" to leash pressure add distractions eg. someone walking by.

### **Trust, Respect, Bonding. (Barb Tanner)**

Training should always be a positive experience for your dog. Praise, treats, just a gentle pat, or all three, should

always be used. Reprimanding, yelling, pulling on the leash, are negative responses and should not be used. With positive reinforcement your dog will learn to trust and respect you and therefore bond with you. As humans, we respond to kindness and so will your dog. A gentle massage all over, as well as telling them how good they are and how much you love them, very day, works wonders.

### **Go On An Adventure Together. (Ann Laherty-Hunt)**

For myself I think one of the essential elements in creating a great relationship with your dog is to go on "adventures" together. By "adventures" I mean doing things out of the ordinary together. Such as walking them along the top of a stone wall, crossing a tree bridge or finding treats hidden amongst a pile of boxes/towels/rocks etc. You must be fully present with your dog and totally focused on them, because you need to be seen by your dog as the person with the answers, the person who helps them through the difficult parts. The person who "makes like a party" when they achieve what you are both doing together. And if they can't do what you want, will make it a smaller task and still "make like a party" when they succeed at that. This builds trust: it shows them that you've got them, and you will look out for them.

### **The Ping, Pong Game. (Jamie Laherty-Hunt)**

The puppy that you have brought into your life doesn't speak human and has not seen very much of the world when it comes to live with you. You are responsible for teaching it how to react appropriately to new experiences. A dog will always move away from fearful things (unknown things) and toward things it considers pleasing (food, shelter, reassurance). You can use that instinct to teach it how to speak human and behave appropriately. I like the "Ping, Pong" Game approach. Take the dog up to the edge of its comfort zone – where it balks/shies away – so that it feels slightly anxious and then immediately reward it by giving it treat, lots of praise and moving away from the stimulus that causes the anxiety. Repeat this allowing the dog to choose each time how closely it will approach the new object until eventually there is no fear, and the dog happily accepts the new object – or person! Don't be in a hurry, let the dog choose how long it will take before the fearful object, person etc is accepted.

### **Marker and Release Words. (Jeanne Roberts)**

A "MARKER" word is used as a signal to your dog that it has been successful, and a reward is on its way. It can be any word you wish but the two most common ones are "Yes!" and "Good". A "RELEASE" word is used to signal the end of the exercise and that it's time to play. The most common one is "Free!". I use "Yes!" and "All right!" (One to avoid is "Okay!"). Marker and Release words are very powerful tools in your training toolkit! Always use your marker word immediately your dog does what you ask e.g. "sit" and follow it as quickly as possible with a reward. Always follow your release word with a reward and a bit of fun.



# TRAINING TIPS

## SILENCE IS GOLDEN!

*“Don’t underestimate the power of silence. You’ll be surprised by what your dogs can accomplish if you give them a moment to think”.* Maddie Ross.

<https://beacondogtraining.com.au/blog/why-its-important-to-give-dogs-time-to-think>

As humans we use words as the principal means of communication so it’s only natural that we automatically want to use lots of verbal commands when we’re trying to get our dog to do something. We are always communicating verbally – although we also use our hands for emphasis and non-verbal communication e.g. sign language.

If you have ever been a student in one of my classes, I will have sometimes asked you to work with your dog in silence. Yes, no voice commands! There are two reasons why I ask my students to do this:

1. Silence helps to encourage the engagement and consequently the focus between you and your dog.

Words can be distracting. But, if you work in silence, then you will really engage with and focus on what your dog is doing, and your dog will be engaged with and focused on you. When you use a treat to lure your dog into a position e.g. a sit, you will be watching him very closely. You will be learning to read your dog’s

body language and he will be watching you, particularly your hands, as he works for his reward. (He is already an expert at reading your body language!).

You will slow down and give your dog time to think, to understand what you’re asking and to choose to do it. You are also laying a solid foundation for later training when you will be using hand signals to give your dog a cue to ‘sit!’

2. Silence helps prevent the overuse of verbal cues which can cause confusion and setbacks.

Have you ever been guilty of this? “Sit Fido” (Fido doesn’t sit) “sit Fido! Sit! SIT! **SIT!** Each time your cue gets louder and louder, sharper and sharper. Imagine your reaction if you were having difficulty learning something for the first time and your teacher kept shouting at you instead of simplifying the problem and giving you time to think and make a choice. You would panic and be unable to think, unable to learn and most likely would just stop listening and stop trying. The same applies to your dog.

By slowing down, being quiet and using a lure to teach the sit, rewarding the sit and then using the cue once your dog is accomplishing the task, you ensure success. You are giving your dog time to think, to choose to sit and to be successful. You are helping your dog to develop confidence in himself and in you and establishing a relationship which will make more complex tasks easy to accomplish.

Give your dog time to think and he will thank you and delight you by his willingness to choose to work happily with you.

Good luck and happy training.  
Jeanne



*“Choices give your dog confidence”.*

Lilly Clark



Sally & Zoe, Debbie & Nessie, Lyn & Penny, Ann & Millie, Frog & Chance, Jamie & Barry at the Workshop

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<b>31<sup>st</sup> July</b>	John Slattery & <i>Melba</i>
Lynne King & <i>Chicki Babe</i>	Karen Howden & <i>Chester</i>
Chantelle Roylance & <i>Meika</i>	Martin Howden & <i>Nudge</i>
Sharelle Armstrong & <i>Sultan</i>	Sandra and Bill McAlister & <i>Lucy</i>
Zoe and Bella Karditsis & <i>Bear James</i>	Rene Drysdale & <i>Scruffy</i>
Julie and Tony Newnham & <i>Coco</i>	Laura Tate & <i>Levi</i>
Lloyd Flaherty & <i>Kellie</i>	



Pam, Paul and Kat with Milo & Matilda at the Workshop.



Ann & Zip at the Workshop.

### **Alexandra & District DogObedience Club Inc.**

Training on Sunday mornings  
in Alexandra (except for  
public  
holidays, days of Total Fire Ban and  
abreak 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.