

# Paws Express



Newsletter of  
Alexandra & District  
Dog Obedience Club Inc

September 2023

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

---

## WELCOME!



Dear members, well with our training year drawing rapidly to a close there are some dates to keep in mind. First up our very important Annual General Meeting at 10.00am October 29th at our training ground Briggs Oval. All classes for that day will be at 9.00am followed by the AGM and a delicious morning tea supplied by committee. Election of our committee takes place at this meeting so very important for members to attend. We are looking for some new faces on committee so please step up and join us, voting forms will be available soon.

The Alex show and our Breakup day are another two club events, you will be advised on these closer to time.

It always makes my day to see members and their gorgeous dogs arrive each Sunday ready for fun and learning. Thank you all for choosing to join us and we hope you will continue next year. Onwards and upwards.

REMEMBER HAVE FUN  
Barb Tanner

## Committee Members 2023

Barbara Tanner (President)  
Julee Hosking (Vice Pres.)  
Debbie Callaway (Secretary)  
Geoff Hyland (Treasurer)  
Jeanne Roberts  
Ann Laherty-Hunt  
Jamie Laherty-Hunt  
Shane (Frog) Freat  
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(Hons)  
Mike Hosking  
Chris Chester  
David Roberts

## Instructors

Jeanne Roberts  
Barb Tanner  
Julee Hosking  
Ann Jelinek  
Pam Poole  
Jenny Hyland  
Trudie Brooks  
Debbie Callaway  
Joyce Turner

*Newsletter: David Roberts*

Join the Alexandra & District Obedience Club on Facebook

<http://www.alexandradogclub.org.au> ph. 0456583611

## MEMBERS' COMPETITION 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023



Janene and *Maxie* QC, 1<sup>st</sup> Rally Novice



Bronwyn and *Saffie* 2<sup>nd</sup> Rally Novice



Jenny and *Maggie* 3<sup>rd</sup> CCD and 3<sup>rd</sup> Rally Novice



Joyce and *Nessie* QC, 1<sup>st</sup> CCD



Trudie and Lola, QC, 2<sup>nd</sup> CCD

---



Is that all you've got?

*“Dog training often fails because people expect way too much of their dog and way too little of themselves.” -Bob Bailey*

*EDITOR'S PICS OF THE MONTH*



Can Your Dog Do This?



More than 570 Border Collies gathered at a park in Adelaide, to break an unofficial world record for a charity fund raiser (*ARY News*).



## TRAINING TIPS

### CUES, MARKER WORDS and TIMING.

Cues, Marker Words and Timing are terms you will all have heard as they are frequently used in Dog Obedience. But what exactly are they? Are they important and if so, how important are they? The simple answer is YES. They are all very powerful tools which can help make the difference between you struggling with a dog that ignores you and developing a strong relationship of trust and understanding with your dog.

#### **CUES.**

There are several different things that act as a cue – a word, a hand gesture, a whistle, or even just an event like picking up your phone and car keys. Some cues we deliberately teach our dogs like the words “Sit” and “Down”, some our dogs figure out for themselves e.g. when you pick up their lead they get all excited because they know it is time for a walk!! How many cues has your dog taught itself?

Verbal cues, words, are sounds the dog recognises and responds to, they are also called “commands” however, I prefer the term “cue”. I’m asking my dog to perform a particular behaviour not ordering him to do it. Some common cues we are all familiar with are “Come”, “Heel”, “Sit”, “Wait”, “Stay”, “Drop” and “Stand”.

Cues can also be a hand signal or a whistle, or any combination of these. The most frequently used combination is a verbal cue paired with a hand signal. Poisoned cues, or cues that have an unpleasant experience associated with them, are a common reason why a dog doesn’t respond to an owner. You ask your dog for a behaviour – “Come” – and then do something your dog perceives as unpleasant – a trip to the vet or stop a wonderful run in the paddock. You have poisoned the “Come” cue and your dog could decide not to respond to it in future. Always follow up with a treat and/praise and make it a pleasant occurrence. Another common one, you ask your dog to Sit – it does it – you reward with a treat and/or your voice – and then pat it on top of its head (no dog likes this!). You have just “poisoned” the reward for being a “good boy”. The treat and/or praise is enough.

A cue should only be used once. If you ask your dog to sit, only say it once. If you say your dog’s name “Fido”, only say it once. Repeating it over and over – sit! SIT! SIT! Or Fido! FIDO! FIDO! It becomes a white noise which your dog tunes out while ignoring you.

#### **MARKER WORDS.**

A marker word is a tool that communicates to the dog that what they are doing in that exact moment is the right thing. A marker should be followed by a food reward.

Marker words allow the learning of desired behaviours to be established quickly in conjunction with a food reward. They give the dog the opportunity to offer the correct, desired behaviour for a food reward.

You get to tell the dog “Great Job!” with marker training and food rewards.

We use a marker word because it is a positive way of teaching, and it is fun for the dog and the dog’s owner.

There are three forms of marker words: “Continuing Markers” eg. “Yes!” (“Great Job” but we’re not finished yet) and “Terminal Markers” eg. “Free!” (Job over let’s have some fun!).

Then there are “Correction Markers” eg. “No!” or “Uh! Uh!” (Not happy with that let’s try again).

- “Yes!” works like a clicker or event marker.
- An event marker “marks” the moment the dog responds to a cue.
- A marker is a stimulus or bridge. The dog knows it will receive a food reward.

#### **TIMING**

*“Timing, the difference between making it better or making it worse.”*

*~Rolf Weber~*

Improving your timing when you train your dog can help increase the speed at which it will learn. Dogs live in the present which means that it is essential we time any reward, praise, or correction at exactly the right moment.

The more precise you can be with timing your marker and reward the more beneficial your training will be. You will increase the rate/speed at which your dog learns.

Timing is critical to mark a behaviour, it must occur at the same time the behaviour occurs. You have less than 1 second to react for your dog to associate your response to its action. Poor timing can result in poor learnt behaviour e.g. You ask your dog to sit – it does – you mark that “Yes! – however as you go to give the reward your dog stands up – you give the reward – you have just rewarded the stand, not the sit!!

#### **FINALLY.**

Cues, Markers and Timing are all intrinsically linked because having clear cues and great marker words is only part of the equation. Without precise timing they have little power, while together they can make working with our dogs a rewarding and fun experience.

Ref: Nate Schoemer, Hayley Bergman, Michael Drayton.



*"Every dog learns at a different pace,  
so be patient and make learning fun.  
Always finish each training session on*

*a good note and make your dog feel good with plenty  
of praise" ~Victoria Stillwel*



## **RECIPES**

Try these delicious, healthy alternatives to store bought ones!  
Your dog will love you!



### **1. PUMPKIN DOG BISCUITS.**

#### **You will need:**

2 ½ cups rice flour  
½ cup mashed pumpkin (easiest way is to cook it in the microwave)  
2 eggs  
2 tablespoons of milk powder.  
pinch of dried parsley.  
Pinch fine sea salt (optional)

#### **Method:**

Preheat oven to 180 degrees.  
Mix together eggs and pumpkin, add milk powder, parsley and salt.  
Gradually add rice flour until you have a thick dough.  
Turn onto a lightly floured (rice flour) surface and knead until smooth.  
Roll out into a sheet and cut into shapes.  
Reform and roll out until all the dough is used up.  
Cook for 15 – 20 mins, then turn them over and cook for a further 15 -20 mins.

### **2. SARDINE TRAINING TREATS.**

#### **You will need:**

1 tin of Sardines  
1 egg  
Rice Flour

#### **Method:**

Preheat oven to 180 degrees.  
Mix sardines, egg and enough rice flour to make a "doughy" mixture.  
Line a baking tray with some baking paper and spread the mixture as thick/thin as you want it.  
Bake for about 15 minutes each side – depending on your oven.  
Stores in fridge in airtight container for about 2 weeks.

### **3. DOG BISCUITS**

#### **You will need:**

1 ¾ cups wholemeal flour  
1 cup cornflour  
1/2 cup grated carrot  
4 tbs oil  
2 beef stock cubes  
½ cup water  
1 beaten egg

#### **Method:**

Roll out thinly. Cut into shapes. Bake at 170°C for about 30 minutes.

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS



<b>6<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Emma Boardman & <i>Daisy May</i>
Mick and Alison Doyle & <i>Maverick</i>	Chris and Theo LaGarde & <i>Cooper</i>
Michael and Piper Rooney & <i>Orion</i>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> September</b>
Rebecca Parth & <i>Maisy</i>	Ben and Peter Geldart & <i>Max</i>
Libby Swanton & <i>Maisy</i>	Vicki Combridge & <i>Flossie</i>
Lacey Oakley & <i>Pippa</i>	Sandice McAuley & <i>Harley</i>
Dee Bradbury & <i>River</i>	Adam Skupien & <i>Sammy</i>
Andelys Games & <i>Jet</i>	Shannon Stevenson & <i>Toby</i>
Terry Nicholson & <i>Poppy</i>	Leigh Jowett & <i>Sash</i>
Hayley Catterpan & <i>Nacho</i>	Beryl Lowe & <i>Holly</i>
Jennifer and Piper Rooney & <i>Crusoe</i>	Caitlyn Clavarino & <i>Woody</i>

