



**March April 2016**



THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE CANINE  
OBEDIENCE CLUB  
OF TOWNSVILLE INC

**COMPANION DOG MAGAZINE**

# Contents

**Cover Photo :** *Taking a well-earned break after an early morning of setting practice tracks - Trainee Judges Debbie Schmidt (far left) and Carolyn Lynn (second from right sitting on the ground); and helpers Janette Cussons and Julie Doig.*

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## OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Patron: Ewan Jones MP Herbert

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## COCT INC LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. D. Dobson (deceased)	Dr. R. Taylor (deceased)
Mrs. A. Tunstal	Mrs. V. Litster
Mr. E. Morris	Mr. B. Woodward
Mrs. C. Woodward	Mrs. E.K. Greenwood
Mr. P. Litster	Mrs. H. Taylor
Mr. D.R. Greenwood	Mrs. S.M. Fielder
Mrs. A. Annesley (active)	Ms D MacIntyre (active)
Mrs C O'Shea	Ms Judy Forbes-Faulkner (active)
Mr Mal Holland (active)	Ms Renate Linder (active)
Miss A. Dobson (PH.D)	Ms Louise Ashworth

**The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor  
or committee members of the COCT Inc.**

All Office bearers, committee members and instructors of the Canine Obedience Club of Townsville Inc. are unpaid volunteers who give freely of their time in an effort to help you to train and trial your dogs.

General monthly meetings held first Monday of the month February to December at 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting held first Monday in August

Executive Committee meetings held as called by Secretary

**Club Web Site:** [www.coct.com.au](http://www.coct.com.au)



Canine Obedience Club of Townsville Inc



## Canine Obedience Club Townsville Inc

### President's Report

### Noel McPherson

Come on winter! Canines and Humans alike are feeling the heat this summer. Even in the cooler evenings the humidity has made it uncomfortable for training.

Soon enough it will turn and that will herald the 2016 trailing season and busy times for competitors and organization staff for the club. Judy has a very full dance card as both Club Secretary and also Trial Secretary whilst continuing her judging role and ongoing training. Thanks Judy, you do a great job and are an invaluable asset to the Club and Dogs Queensland.

Those on the Committee are all overworked and the need for some new helpers in all roles is needed to keep the club on track and bringing fresh ideas to the fore, so please offer your time.

The tracking crew are on "track" "track" for the start of the season, and thanks to potential new tracking judges Deb and Carolyn the club will be able to offer some variety and new energy in the judging line up for the years to come. It will be a great advantage to have local judges to observe and adjudicate the competitions and also be available to help neighbouring clubs build their tracking programs, so Nth Qld wins in

the long term. Thanks to both Mal and Janette for keeping the fire burning and working hard in the background.

Diane has been busy filling the treasure chest with prizes ready for this year's winners, and also lining up the next static presentation at the Aitkenvale Library where she will show case the club and the work we all do for the Townsville canine world.

Renate is keeping a handle on income and expenses and making sure that the club is insured, the lights come on and the hundreds of other purchase related issues are taken care of, so when you grab a cold drink give a thanks to Renate for making it happen.

Pet Dog Training is going very well with all classes well under way and a bit more control being exhibited by attendees, thank goodness. Intake 2 is filling fast and I have a strong suspicion that Dalmatian's will be the dog of the month!!

Good luck and thanks to all volunteers.

All the best for April Fool's day!!

Cheers

**Noel McPherson, President**

## REGISTERED HANDLER OR CLUB MEMBERSHIP ??

When you sign up for obedience lessons you have the choice of joining the club as a Registered Handler or Club Member.

Most handlers will choose to join as a Registered Handler which allows you to attend classes each week and participate in any external Club activities ie RSPCA's Million Paws Walk or Townsville City Council's Pet Expo.

However, if you wish to become more involved in the Club by taking on an Office Bearer or Instructor position, or participate in competitions, you will need to be a Club Member.

You can change from Registered Handler to Club Member at any time with no additional fee, so if you would like to do so please see the ladies at the clubhouse on Tuesday night.

### Registered Handler

- 🐾 Receive emails on upcoming club activities
- 🐾 Participate in Club demonstrations eg RSPCA Million Paws Walk
- 🐾 Attend our Monthly General Meetings held the first Monday of each month (but are not entitled to vote, submit or approve motions).

### Membership

- 🐾 Receive emails on upcoming club activities
- 🐾 Participate in Club demonstrations eg RSPCA Million Paws Walk  
\*\*\*\*\* PLUS \*\*\*\*\*
- 🐾 Attend our Monthly General Meetings held the first Monday of each month, and are entitled to vote
- 🐾 Receive notification via letter of Annual General Meeting
- 🐾 Nominate for a Position as either Office Bearer or as part of the Executive Committee (see inside page of magazine for Positions). You need to be a financial member for a minimum of three months before nominating for a position.
- 🐾 Eligible for Title and Perpetual Trophies if competing in trials.

If you do not renew your Registration or Membership you can no longer attend training or club events and your name will be removed from the Club's email list.

.....

*Don't make the mistake of treating your dogs like humans,  
or they'll treat you like dogs*



## Just Briefly ....



**Keep up to date with the rules for**  
Obedience, Rally-O,  
Agility, Endurance and  
Tracking

as issued by the ANKC.

They are free to download from their website  
<http://www.ankc.org.au/Rules.aspx>

**Club T-Shirts are available from the Club Shoppe** on Tuesday night. They are made from a durable cotton material, great for wearing to training, at trials to fly the Club's colours, and will last forever!

Cost - \$46. Also available at very reasonable prices are cloth webbing leads, martingale collars, treat bags and bags of treats.

**Back issues of the magazine** can be downloaded from our website [www.coct.com.au](http://www.coct.com.au)  
Catch up on articles you may have missed on trials, behaviour, training and feature stories.



**The Club Library is open the first and fourth Tuesdays** of each month. We have small but interesting range of books suitable for the beginner to the advanced handler, so come into the clubhouse and have a chat to our Librarian Sheila about what you can borrow. There are no fees, and books can be borrowed for a fortnight.

**Have you enjoyed your classes, love dogs, and would like to help others train theirs?** The club has openings for several Trainee Instructors.

The minimum requirement is that you have completed basic training and have had some trialling experience, or have been an Instructor in another club.

You will be paired with an experienced instructor who will take you through week by week theory and practical on how to teach handlers to train their dogs.

All instructors are volunteers who started off just like you – taking a dog through classes, graduating into Class 4, and then becoming interested in the training program.

To find out more ask to talk to Noel, our Training Co-ordinator.



## Calling all Class 4 handlers !!

Handlers who have graduated from Class 3 are welcome to continue their training in Class 4 from 8.00-9.00pm on Tuesday night.

This Class is less structured than Classes 1-3, but can be used to start learning new obedience exercises like heel off lead, change of position, broad jump, and retrieving the dumb bell or just keep skills up to date.

It is a great way to keep your dog active, socialised, and mentally stimulated.

Feel free to let your Instructor know what you would like to learn on the night as classes are quite flexible.

### Flyball training is on the

first and third Thursday from 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Perfect for ball mad furkids and heaps of fun for all.

For more info ask Renate or Judy at the Clubhouse on Tuesday nights.

Cost : \$5.00 per week



**Thursday night training is a great opportunity to have one-on-one training with an experienced instructor. If you have a particular problem that you are having difficulties with, want to prepare for entry into a competition or simply want to take advantage of an extra night's training you are welcome to attend.**

Training commences around 6.30pm for about an hour, and after your session with the instructor can practice more on your own. It's free!

### HOW DO I GET INVOLVED WITH COMPETITIONS ??

All dogs regardless of breed can compete in obedience, agility, tracking and endurance, but first you need to join Dogs Queensland (CCCQ). There is a joining fee plus annual fee to pay for either single or joint membership.

#### PEDIGREE DOGS WITH PAPERS

Download the Application Form for New Membership 2013 from Dogs Queensland website <http://www.cccq.org.au/New-Member-Information.aspx>.

#### CROSS BREED AND NON-PEDIGREE DOGS

Download and complete the above form for New Membership PLUS the Associate Register Form <http://www.cccq.org.au/Member-Forms.aspx> – scroll down to Registrations and select Associate Register (AR). Up to two (2) dogs may be registered to a membership with the initial registration, with any subsequent registrations to the membership, to be dogs eligible for registration on the General or Limited Registers. Members who subsequently wish to register extra dogs that have been acquired under special circumstances or from a registered welfare organisation may apply for dispensation to do so. All applications for registration are to be accompanied by a certificate of de-sexing from a veterinarian.

# WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?

## 2016 PET DOG TRAINING CLASSES

Registrations for Term 2 Beginners Pet Dog Training have been steady and there are only a couple of spots left, so if you know anyone who is thinking about signing up they need to be quick! The Introduction Talk for new Beginners commences Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.00pm sharp.

Intermediate, Class 3, Class 4 and Repeat Classes all start the week after at 7.00pm Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Look forward to seeing you all there!

## RALLY-O TRAINING

Rally-O training is held the SECOND and FOURTH Tuesday February to December from 8.00pm, and every Thursday from 6.00pm to about 7.00pm. Come and see how much fun this new dog sport is. All are welcome to have a go, and the cost is FREE for Thursday nights.

## TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS ...

Our 2016 trialling season begins in April, so it's getting closer! Check out the Trial Calendar at the back of the mag for dates, events, and judges. If you think you are ready for trialling have a chat to your instructor or members of the Committee who will give you some advice on how to get started.

## AITKENVALE LIBRARY DISPLAY

Our Club will have a display at the Aitkenvale Library during the month of April showcasing all of what we do from training to obedience, agility, tracking and endurance trials. Hopefully it will inspire library patrons who are also dog owners to look further into how to train their dogs.

## 2016 RSPCA Million Paws Walk

**Sunday 15th May 2016 at Jezzine Barracks 7.30am to 11.30am. Walk commences 9.30am.**

Our Club has participated and supported the RSPCA for more than a decade, and this year we will be there again with a static display and obedience demonstrations. Looking forward to a good turnout of club members for the Walk, help with the displays and participate in the obedience demo. Everyone is welcome regardless of the amount of training.

It is expected that more than 20,000 people and their dogs will walk in Queensland to show their support for animals in need. Million Paws Walk is a great day out for the whole family where you will be treated to entertainment, stalls, delicious food, competitions, giveaways and a whole lot more!

Regardless of the breed, size or age of your dog - everyone is welcome - as long as they are fully vaccinated, friendly and well socialised. No four legged friend? No problem! Even those without pooches are welcome to join in the fun. Money raised through online fundraising, merchandise sales and activities on the day will help to provide essential care, veterinary treatment, food and shelter for more than 15,000 dogs that RSPCA Qld cares for each year. Every dollar you raise will make a big difference and will assist us in reaching our goal of \$600,000. Sign up today to help give another dog a second chance at a happy life.

Register online before 14 May to take advantage of ticket price savings...and then start fundraising to help fight animal cruelty! As an added bonus this year, if you register online and create a fundraising page, we will send you a **FREE** RSPCA frisbee for your pooch! Click here to register <http://www.millionpawswalk.com.au/queensland>

## COME AND BE INVOLVED !! CLUB MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the Clubhouse at Heatley Park. Everyone is welcome to attend if you would like to contribute, offer help or just find out more of what goes on in the running of your Club. Next two meetings are **Monday 4 April 2016 and Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016**. We would love to see you there!



## DID YOU KNOW ...



**Superdogs are made, not born...** those who have just purchased a pup or are considering one, have a read of this article. It provides in-depth advice on what to do and especially, what *not* to do in the vital first weeks of a pup's life that can influence its behaviour into adulthood. Dogs with little human or other dog contact in their first three months typically don't make good pets, so this guide is invaluable for potential owners.

Click on this link <http://www.caradobe.com> then drill down through Articles Index / All about Puppies / Super Dogs are Made, Not Born.

At 28 pages long the article is too large to include in the mag, so please download your own copy to read. There are also other interesting articles on Housebreaking your Puppy; Kids, Puppies and Dominance; and Creating a Strong Bond with your Puppy.



**Why does my dog snap at the air?** Nothing gets a dog owner's attention like 42 canine teeth "biting" at the air in front of him.

If those teeth are attached to a playful pup, getting your attention may be precisely his goal.

A dog who's feeling anxious may also snap at the air as a warning. Typically, he'll appear tense — hair standing on end — and snap as a way of saying, "Back off, I'm feeling threatened." If you continue to approach, chances are that the next snap will bite down on more than just air.

### When It Could Be a Medical or Behaviour Issue

If a dog snaps at the air, and he's not feeling playful or threatened, it may be an indication of a neurological or behaviour problem.



Some people use the terms "fly biting" or "fly catching" to describe canines that appear to be nipping at an invisible fly, instead of directing their snapping and licking at a person. Repeated episodes of fly catching may be a sign of seizure activity, which can often be controlled through medication.

### Boredom

Other dogs air snap out of boredom, if they don't get enough exercise or stimulating play. This can turn into an obsessive-compulsive disorder. Additional exercise and food puzzles may help to eliminate the behaviour, but medication may be needed for severe cases.

### Consult Your Vet

If you're not sure why your dog is snapping at the air, consult your veterinarian. If it's associated with aggression, you'll want to work with your vet or a certified trainer to resolve the problem as soon as possible — and nip that behaviour in the bud.

## Training Report

2016 is off to a busy start with a 100% full intro night on January 19<sup>th</sup>, and all classes full and well attended on the Australia Day holiday. It was excellent to see that so many people made the special effort to be there despite the oppressive humidity. Thanks to all the volunteers for turning up to help at intro night, and also Tara from the council. It all went very smoothly with good interest and involvement.

Classes filled steadily over the break with only a handful of people disappointed in not being able to train this round and having to wait until April. Many leave it until the last minute not realizing that the classes we run have a good name and fill quickly. The next intake starting in April already has approximately six fully-signed up teams so the Beginners course will fill very quickly.

Intermediate is very well attended with only 1 spot available in the 8.00pm class left available, and a great turn up on the Australia Day for Class 1. Judy was also pleasantly surprised with her class of 5 attendees on night 1 of Class 3, and to top the night of it was really good to see a big class made up of mostly instructors lined up for stays in class 4 and then working in the park and ring for Level 4.

I did not make allowance for repeats in beginners this round due to lack of instructor numbers primarily, and the fact that after such a long rest over Christmas many do not return to have another go at training, and so far none have returned, which takes the pressure of finding room in the existing classes.

We had a very good turn up at the instructors meeting on Saturday morning in mid-January down at Rowes Bay along with our canines. Thanks to all for coming down, and really appreciate the input and ideas that were put forward. Main focus was on the TAHG and its user friendliness which certainly needs work as we all agreed with most beginners not bothering to read the info and train from the book. All the info is in the manual and really useful as a reference tool for instructors, but a bit heavy going for newcomers. The plan is with help and input from all of us to simplify and better layout sections of work in the TAHG.

Class 3 also needs a rework to make it into 9 week training course format and a TAHG covering the outcomes needed to aim for Obedience trailing combined with experienced trialing Instructors.

Thanks as always to the main driving forces behind the club for your continued help, and all of you who give of your time on behalf of the club at training to help dogs, and in your day to day lives interacting and promoting responsible pet ownership around the town.

**Noel McPherson**  
**Training coordinator**

## **SUNDAY MORNING**

Today, 28 February 2016, was not just another Sunday morning for the team from COCT Inc tracking group as it started bright and early around 5.00am with several members fussing around getting their dogs & gear packed to be out at Alice River by 5.45am. Our two Trainee Tracking Judges Carolyn Lynn & Debbie Schmidt, supervised by Mal Holland, along with helpers & trial trainers Janette Cussons, Julie Doig & Renate Linder were all chaffing at the bit to get started before the north Queensland heat would overtake us a little later in the morning.

Today was the fourth practical workshop alongside two theory sessions & numerous homework assignments that the four girls have undergone since December 2015. Debbie & Carolyn are the Club's two nominated Trainee Tracking Judges who come under the tuition of their Mentor Mal Holland. Appointed by the controlling body the CCCQ or Dogs Qld, each girl had to qualify under the Controls & Guidelines with first having trained a dog to the level of Tracking Champion.

The ultimate goal for Debbie & Carolyn is to reach the Title of Tracking Judge by the end of July 2016. Much blood, sweat & possibly a few tears have already been spent. The support has been provided by Julie and Janette acting in the roles of stewards, track setters & track layers. Then of course there is always morning tea provided by Janette & the girls, always a welcome break to chat & learn from each other before heading home. Few are aware of the time & sacrifice required by all the support team providing the effort to make the working forums a success.

North Queensland has been in dire need of qualified Tracking Judges and soon this should be a reality. Finally, we have two mature women with the desire and ability to become a Tracking Judge, their ages are just right as the north will get many years' service from Debbie & Carolyn. To date their enthusiasm has been heart-warming and as long as the Mentor's sense of humour holds out all should end well.

The two Trainee's make themselves available by providing help & training to the other members, Julie, Janette & as of today Renate. Each is required in role playing by being a steward and track layer as well as providing dogs for the Trainees to shadow judge. By sharing and helping each other it has been possible to have a willing working team, all contributing to help each other along the tracking road to success.

During the cooler months starting in April the tracking season will begin in earnest with each Trainee having to shadow judge, set tracks, become Trial Manager's and general dogs' body for other out of town judges, all who will provide written reports on their abilities or shortcomings.

Good luck girls - it's a hard road ahead but a worthy and rewarding one when you get there.

Mal Holland

*Right* : Zoe the Staffordshire Bull Terrier homes in on the tracklayer (Mal) with handler Julie Doig & Trainee Judge Carolyn Lynn bringing up the rear.



*Above* : Carolyn Lynn with Australian Kelpie Kelly at the start of the training track over 600 meters in the early hours of Sunday morning





*Above* : German Shepherd Jax powering down the track with handler Janette on end of leash & Trainee Tracking Judge Carolyn following



## Tracking Champion Bossface Mackenzie 'Kenzie'

Tracking Champion was not where I saw Kenzie as a 9 week old pup. Tracking - what is tracking?? The plan was to give obedience trialling a go. Well, lots of things in life don't go to plan. Injury and outside people influences during her second fear period changed a happy-go-lucky puppy in her happy world to a pup that saw the world as a fairly scary place, and nothing was changing her opinion of that world at the time.

As a 13 month old pup Kenzie backed into a metal stake, lacerating 1 of 2 arteries and 4 of the 5 flexor tendons leading to her right hind foot. Luckily she was found before a fatal haemorrhage occurred. Emergency surgery in the middle of the night (of course, she had just eaten), 6 weeks of immobilization, leg in plaster and crated to stop movement of the leg – and only allowed out for toileting and on a lead! All up nearly 3 months to full recovery. Not bad I guess considering the vet prognosis was basically all bad the night of the injury.

So scary world meant no obedience trialling, despite a lot of work to try and give it a go! Next plan? All Kenzie wanted to do after this was go for a walk with her nose to the ground. Can we put this to use? March 2013, and with some great assistance from a few of the tracking handlers Kenzie started tracking training where she learnt to put her nose to good use and track. In May 2013 she entered her first tracking trial for an Excellent Pass at a T1. So tracking was Kenzie's thing. She still saw a lot of the world and its people as scary, so with the help of an amazing dog behaviourist at the end of 2014 we went to work making the world a happy place for Kenzie. This did wonders for her confidence, and suddenly Tracking Champion looked possible because the track layers no longer scared her while hiding in the bush.

The only real disruption to Kenzie's tracking were the Brahman bulls on the Mackay tracking ground, the only place she never had success. Bulls milling around the start flag and coming up to her as she was to start; bulls stampeding across the start as we were 5 minutes from starting; and finally the bulls that slept along the first leg of the track and covered the track with bull pee and poo.... total sensory overload for her. Through this, then about 600m along this track in a gully with swirling winds and the cross tracks. Kenzie came back from the end of the tracking lead to a perfect obedience sit at my side and looked up at me, eyes pleading as if to say "It's all too hard - can you help me???"

Kenzie gained her Tracking Champion title in Cairns with an Excellent Pass in a paddock with dry pasture so high all I and the judge could see for maybe half of the track was the tips of her ears as she fought her way through the grass. The only time she stopped was to indicate the articles and then the tracklayer also hiding in that long grass. Trust your dog when tracking - there was nothing but grass and more grass on that track.

Kenzie ended the 2015 tracking season with a Pass at her first attempt on a Track and Search track 1, so I have high hopes for her doing well in this next level of tracking.

**Debbie Schmidt**



## LOOK WHO'S GROWN INTO THEIR SPOTS AND DOTS ....



Remember the photo of those tiny, just-born Dalmatian pups in the last edition of the Companion Dog? Well here they are a couple of months later, resplendent in their dots and spots, and have just experienced their first car ride to the beach. I reckon they are keeping Noel and Therese on their toes as they start to explore their world! They all have new homes ready to go to across the State as well as locally, and I'm pretty sure we will see some of them at the club grounds attending Beginners Pet Dog Training . Here is what Noel said about their trip :-

"The photo was the pups' first beach visit and they stayed in the back of the car while my other two Dalmatians, Mum Addy and Pasco, enjoyed some beach fun and swimming. Interest level was very high and as the photo shows it was a pretty popular outing. I took food treats along and made a huge fuss so their first car trip was positive and interesting. The second car trip was equally as interesting but included vaccine injections along with microchipping and vet checks, and that is why the first trip was so important and reinforced that car trips are high value. In the end the vet trip was not even slightly stressful as Mum Addy and I were present along with Kimberly from Palms Vets, and we took our time and lure treated for distraction at critical times and kept the whole affair low key and calm. I had also done a fair amount of table work with all the pups leading up to the vet visit, so it was not new. It went very well with not so much as a whimper or backing up from any of them. A very positive experience."

## HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE !!

Easter – the time of chocolate, Easter egg hunts, gatherings and short holidays. Yes, Easter is almost with us and this year it's early, with Good Friday on 25 March and Easter Monday 28 March 2016. However, during this long weekend, several of our canine & feline buddies will be put at risk, which could result in an emergency trip to your vet and costing \$\$\$\$\$. Dogs are opportunistic feeders, and if they can get hold of something they will! Another good reason to teach your dog the exercise 'Give' and 'Leave It' in Beginners and Intermediate Pet Dog Training.

### Some things to think about:

Have you considered what could make your pet sick?

Do you know when/if your regular vet clinic is open over the Easter period?

Do you know where the after-hours vets are located?

### COMMON EASTER DANGERS

#### Easter Egg Hunt

If you are planning an Easter Egg hunt, make sure your pets do not have access to the area and count to make sure all eggs are found before allowing your pet back into the hunt area. Many pets will eat the hidden treasures and unfortunately the theobromine & caffeine found in chocolate can make your pet very sick.

#### Sugar Free Lollies

Xylitol the artificial sweetener found in many chewing gums and sugar free lollies is toxic even in small doses to companion pets. Ensure that you know the ingredients in any lollies around the house, and most importantly keep them out of your pet's reach.



#### Easter Lily

These pretty flowers are often included in floral arrangements. The Easter lily can cause renal failure in cats if chewed (all parts of the plant are toxic).

#### Easter Grass

The paper or cellophane nesting material that comes in many Easter baskets poses a problem if swallowed. It could cause a linear foreign body, resulting in intestinal trauma or intestinal intussusception (a condition where the intestine telescopes in on itself).



#### Foil Wrapping

Not only is the chocolate egg dangerous, the foil wrapping they come in can also pose a problem. Some pets may eat the wrapping, which can become a dangerous intestinal obstruction

#### Hot Cross Buns

Hot Cross Buns are delicious and no Easter would be quite right without them. However, as they contain sultanas, avoid feeding them to your pets. Unfortunately Sultanas, Grapes and Raisins contain an unknown toxin that can cause kidney failure in some dogs. This fortunately has rarely been seen in Australia.

#### When to see your vet

If your pet has chewed, swallowed or potentially chewed/swallowed any of the above, it is vital your pet is seen by a veterinarian immediately. You should take your pet to the vet if he/she is unwell. Don't wait for your regular clinic to re-open as even a delay of 24 hours could put your pet's life at risk.



**Symptoms of Pancreatitis include:**

Lethargy	Fever
Depression	Dehydration
Reluctance to eat	Cardiac arrhythmias
Vomiting	Diarrhoea
Abdominal pain	

**Symptoms of Chocolate Toxicity:**

The more cocoa that is in the chocolate the more toxic it will be. Cooking chocolate is seven times more toxic than milk chocolate. Seen within hours of ingestion :-

Excitability	Increased heart rate
Tremors or shaking	Vomiting
Diarrhoea	Seizures
DEATH	

**Symptoms of Intestinal Obstruction:**

Abdominal pain	Praying position
Reluctance to eat	Vomiting
Shock	Depression

**Symptoms of Easter lily Poisoning**

The entire plant is toxic. Cats are particularly susceptible to poisoning.

Vomiting	Kidney failure
Off food	Depression
No urination	

**Symptoms of Xylitol Poisoning**

Seen within 30 minutes and up to 12 hours

Vomiting	Depression
Difficulty Walking	Seizures
Liver Failure	DEATH

**Symptoms of Sultana/Grape/Raisin toxicity**

Depression	Vomiting
Pain	Diarrhoea
Off food	Increased drinking or urination

**BUT** – your dogs don't have to miss out, they can still have their very own Easter Egg Hunt. It's just a nose-work game, but heaps of fun. Here's how to do it :-

Let your dog see you get some treats. Cheese and kabana are good for dogs new at this game. Dried liver, apple pieces or commercial treats can also be used. With your dog out of sight, hide the treats around the house or backyard. Remember, if your dog is new at this game put them in easy spots for them to find.

Let them out, and say the word 'Find'. Help dogs new to this game by setting them up to succeed – it has to be fun, remember! Stand close to the treat, point to it, and say 'Find'. As they get the idea to use their nose and become more proficient, simply say 'Find', and watch how excited they get as they sniff around! Give lots of excited praise each time a treat is found.

**Important** - When the last treat has been found say 'All Finished' so they know the game is over, don't walk away as that will leave them in a state of high excitement and then confusion. The game can be played again a couple of minutes later, but always remember to say 'All finished' while spreading your hands out in front of them so they know it's over.

## TOAD DAY OUT

Toads are toxic and many a pet has died from poisoning. Toads love dog food, so never leave uneaten food out overnight. (Dogs should never be allowed to 'graze' on their food. If it's not eaten within a few minutes remove it).

### How does Cane Toad poisoning occur?

When a dog mouths a toad the toxin is released as a sort of slime from behind the neck and 'sticks' to the gums & tongue of the pet. The toxin in the 'slime' is rapidly absorbed by the dog across the membranes of the mouth. Symptoms depend on the amount of toxin absorbed and the length of time from when the pet was exposed to the toxin. Initially the dog will drool or froth, then may develop muscle tremors which progress to seizures and possibly cardiac arrest.

### Signs of Cane Toad Poisoning:

Profuse salivation, drooling and/or frothing from the mouth.  
Pawing at the mouth.  
Disorientation.  
Muscle rigidity or spasms.

Very red and slimy gums.  
Vomiting.  
Shivers and/or tremors.  
Convulsions or seizures.

### First Aid Measures:

- Call your Vet and advise them of the toad poisoning incident.
- Hold your pet's mouth down toward the floor and using paper towel wipe the inside of your pet's mouth.
- Thoroughly wash the mouth out for 10-15 minutes using a slow trickling hose or tap, have water flowing from the side of the back teeth with the water draining out through the front of the mouth. Avoid water going down the throat or into the lungs.
- Using a wet cloth, gently and thoroughly wipe the gums, tongue and roof of the mouth for 10 minutes rinsing the cloth out after each wipe.
- If your pet settles down after wiping and rinsing the mouth out, keep them confined for a few hours and monitor them closely.

### When to seek veterinary attention:

In mild cases, these first aid measures is all that will be necessary, but you should watch your pet carefully for a few hours after contact with the toad. If there is any worsening of symptoms, such as disorientation, shivers, tremors or muscle stiffness you should seek veterinary help immediately.

### OPERATION TOAD DAY OUT

Townsville City Council is holding their Operation Toad Day Out on 20 March 2015 at Riverway which aims to humanely reduce Cane Toad numbers in our local habitats. Join the fight against the toad's invasion of North Queensland. Capture as many toads as you can alive and unharmed, the day before the event, before bringing them to Riverway on the event day. There are prizes for the biggest and heaviest toad, and the heaviest load of toads!

### Categories include:

Largest total weight of toads – Individual under 8 years      Largest total weight of toads – Individual over 8 years  
Largest total weight of toads – Collected by a Family      Largest total weight of toads - Community or School Group  
Single largest toad - open to all ages from above nominations

Enjoy free entertainment including face painting and fairy floss, plus educational talks on various invasive species, toad racing at 9.30am and 11am, as well as Fight 4 Flight NQ Birds of Prey including a predatorial bird display. There will also be a sausage sizzle, coffee cart and ice cream van on site for food purchases.

[Register online](#)

[Toad Day Out Tip Sheet](#) (PDF 1MB)

**Learn more about the enemy!**

[Read about Cane Toads on the Australian Museum and watch a video to help you identify the cane toad](#)

[Download a Cane Toad Fact Sheet from the Department of Environment website](#)



## SIX SIMPLE WAYS TO IMPROVE THE BOND WITH YOUR DOG

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/6-simple-ways-to-improve-your-bond-with-your-dog>



*There are easy ways to build a stronger bond with your dog, including small changes in your daily routine.*

As the saying goes, dogs are our best friends. But maybe it doesn't feel quite so buddy-buddy between you and your dog. Perhaps you are constantly frustrated because your dog ignores your commands, or is always getting in your way when you're doing chores around the house, or doesn't cuddle like you wish he would. What these and other issues often come down to is how bonded you are as a team. This bond isn't something that automatically happens as soon as you bring a dog home. It also isn't static. It's something that takes work to build and can grow over time. If you want to have a dog that is more attentive to you, here's how to start.

### **1. Study up on dog body language**

Have you ever had a great friendship where one of you does all the talking? Likely not. A real friendship requires talking and listening by both parties, a two-way communication that allows each to know what the other is thinking and feeling. As two highly social species, both dogs and humans have intricate ways of communicating with others. However, we humans tend to dominate the conversation with our dogs. We have an expectation for them to understand everything we're asking of them, yet we don't always put equal work into finding out what they're asking of us. But we can.

Dogs tell us vast amounts of information through body language. From the more obvious cues like how high or low a tail is held, how quickly it is wagging and in what direction, or how they're holding their ears, to the more subtle language held in the shape of their eyes, the angle at which they're holding their body to something, or the tenseness of the corners of their mouths, are all words written on a billboard for us to read.

If you want to build a better bond with your dog, the first place to start is to study how dogs communicate with their bodies. You can then better understand what your dog is trying to tell you, and when you start listening, the two of you will get along much more easily.

### **2. Get to know your dog's likes and dislikes — and respect them**

Just like humans, individual dogs have their personal likes and dislikes. Some dogs enjoy cuddling while others prefer to have space. Some adore a game of fetch while others would rather play tug. Some love to learn new tricks and some would rather just go on a walk. Some dogs enjoy affection of all kinds, including hugs, but many dogs barely tolerate, or even flat out dislike being hugged and is a potential safety issue. There are many things we humans assume dogs enjoy when really, they are just tolerating it.

Knowing your dog's individual likes and dislikes, and then respecting them, is the key to connecting with your dog. If you pay close attention, you may find that your dog doesn't like the hugs you give her. But she does really love being scratched behind her ears. By realizing this, you can swap out the hugs for ear scratches and your dog will recognize that you're someone far more enjoyable to be around because she won't have to suffer through the things she dislikes and will readily receive the things she does.

But this goes beyond the right kinds of affection. By recognizing that your dog loves playing a certain game, or a certain type of toy, you can use these preferences to your advantage in training. Maybe your dog is more food-motivated than toy-motivated. The best reward is the one your dog wants the most and will work the hardest to receive. So figuring out what your dog likes and dislikes is also part of getting the most out of your training sessions.

### **3. Train your dog every day**

One of the best ways you can improve your connection with your canine companion is to work on training every-day using positive reinforcement. Exercising your dog's brain to learn something new and providing rewards for successes is a great way to increase trust and joyful experiences between you and your dog.

Training happens every day whether you're aware of it or not — every walk, every interaction with other dogs or people, every interaction with you is essentially a form of training, of shaping your dog's perception of the world and behaviors, good or bad. So make a conscious effort to get the most out of these moments. You can work on a new trick or even practice old behaviors to freshen up on them. When you go on walks together, make them interactive, asking your dog to sit at every corner, to change direction with you randomly, to change the side he walks on, to change his pace to match yours as you slow down and speed up.

However you choose to work on it, be sure that some form of active training with positive reinforcement happens each day. You'll notice a distinct difference in how much attention your dog pays you, and how much more fluidly you interact.

### **4. Set up your dog for success**

Having effective training sessions, and a dog that trusts you, is dependent on setting your dog up to be successful when you ask him to do something. For example, asking your dog to do a difficult trick and withholding rewards until he gets it right only increases the amount of frustration you both feel and decreases the amount of fun your dog has in trying to do what you ask. Instead, break a trick down into small, accomplishable pieces that your dog can build on, and reward your dog for each successfully completed step.

Setting your dog up for success goes well beyond training and into every-day life. Think about how your dog might view or react to a situation, and if it will be positive or negative. Take steps to reduce the possibility of negative consequences. For instance, don't leave the food bin unattended with the lid off and expect your dog not to dive in face first the second you leave the room. Or on a social level, don't push your dog to interact with another dog or person who he's clearly uncomfortable with, which could lead to a fight or a bite and a loss of trust in you to protect them.

Know your dog's preferences and limits well enough to determine what situations he can and can't handle. Then modify the situation the dog is in to be one that he'll handle with flying colors. Making the effort to help your dog have successful interactions with you and others will increase your dog's confidence as well as his trust in you as a strong and safe leader.

### **5. Be the source of all life's necessities and goodies**

If you want your dog to hang on your every word, then you want to be the sole source of all life's wonderful things, including food and toys. If you are free-feeding your dog, put away the food bowl. If toys are scattered around the floor or in a place a dog can get to easily, hide them in the closet. These things are rewards that are earned, and your dog is going to be much more attentive if you are a walking goodies dispenser.

When it comes to food, have your dog work for snacks and meals just as he works for treats. For meal times, prepare your dog's food but have him wait a few minutes, or ask him to do a few tricks before giving the OK for him to dive in. This creates a connection in your dog's mind that working with you earns access to that delicious food. For play time, pull out toys for special play sessions, reserving tug-o-war, fetch, hide-and-seek and other games for when the two of you play together, or as a reward during or after training sessions.

When you are the provider of all life's good things, your dog will look to you — and listen to you — much more readily. This will help so much with getting and keeping your dog's attention when you need it.

#### **6. Spend one-on-one time every day**

Speaking of special play sessions, make sure you spend time focused on just your dog every day. This doesn't include walks when you're distracted on your phone, or in the yard when you're gardening and your dog is wandering around smelling things. One-on-one time is 30 minutes or more of time spent playing brain games, grooming, going on an interactive walk, even talking with your dog.

This is a great time to practice reading your dog's body language, to gauge his energy level to see if he needs extra exercise, and to build on all you've done to help grow and solidify the connection and trust you have with your dog. Plus, it's simply quiet, stress-free time for you to enjoy with the company of your four-legged friend.

Dogs are a social species just like humans, and time spent focused on each other will increase the connection you share, which benefits both of you.

# THE TRUE STORY OF ODDBALL

Have you seen the movie Oddball? If you have you'll know it is a down to earth Aussie movie about a Maremma trained to protect the last few penguins just off the coast of Warrnambool. If you are ever in Warrnambool go visit the Maritime Museum where the stars of the show are now living and educating visitors of their role in conservation protection. Rod and I saw them last year when we were there and they were doing a very good job of protecting some sheep in their paddock!

*Diane MacIntyre, editor*

*Story below By Emily Bissland from ABC, Open South West Victoria*

If you've seen the trailer for the new Australian film Oddball then you know about the extraordinary tale of how a maremma sheepdog came to be guarding a small colony of penguins from fox attack. Well, Oddball is a real dog, those penguins really do live on an island just off the coast of Warrnambool, and it really was a local chicken farmer called Swampy who came up with the initial idea. The penguins were down to numbers as low as six due to fox attack, and the dogs have saved them and protected them so well that there are now 150 on Middle Island.

One of the real life characters not portrayed in the film, yet integral to the Middle Island Project, is Dave Williams. Don't get me wrong, Dave doesn't mind one bit, and we all know it isn't a documentary. But this is a good chance to tell Dave's story. If it wasn't for Dave, the Middle Island Maremma project would never have come about, and locals of Warrnambool who know his part in the story are really proud of him.

Dave is known around Warrnambool as the Maremma Man. In fact when I got my own maremma, Peppa, people kept asking me, "Have you met Dave Williams? He's the maremma guy" and "You should give Dave a call, he's the maremma man, he knows everything about those dogs". I didn't know about the Middle Island project at this point and couldn't understand everyone's steadfast belief in this man as the 'maremma guru'. Little did I know.

Dave first encountered Maremma's when he was working on Swampy's free-range chicken farm, washing eggs as a part-time job during university.

## **The Middle Island Maremma project: How it came about**

Swampy (Allan Marsh) had successfully been using the Maremma to protect his flock of chickens from fox attack for years. Dave fell in love with a particular puppy in the litter that came and sat at his feet one day. He swapped a week's wages for her, and called her Ester. While (attempting) to train Ester, he quickly realised the unique qualities of these dogs. They can be quite difficult to train if you don't know a lot about them. They are wolf-like in their independent thinking and their naturally protective instincts mean that they bark during the night to ward off predators.



As Dave tells it, one day he and Swampy saw a shocking image and article in the local paper - a pile of dead penguins that had been mauled by foxes that had swum across the 1km stretch of ocean to the island. Swampy remarked that what they needed was "to get a coupla maremmas on that island".

The idea took seed in Dave's quick-fire mind. His dad was a wildlife officer trying to combat the issue of the foxes and Dave was studying ecology at Deakin, so he decided to write up the proposal as a

university assignment. With assistance from his dad and Swampy, they put that proposal forward to the State environment body as a memo, and eventually he and Swampy presented the proposal to Warrnambool City Council.

Incredibly, after a long period of consultation and deliberation, the Council supported the idea. They didn't have many other options, as fox baiting clearly wasn't working and the penguin colony was on its last flippers. The first dog to be sent out onto the island was Swampy's faithful dog, Oddball, who had been protecting chickens for years. Dave took her out to the island and camped with her for about a week when she first started, just to make sure she and the penguins got along.

Oddball was just there as a trial, and the trial was successful, so eventually Dave was engaged to train a number of dogs up for the exact purpose of protecting the penguins on the island. It took four years and quite a few dogs to get it right: as Dave says, they learnt as they went along, they made mistakes, they were trying something no one else had done.



Williams says Oddball's first encounter with the penguins was incredibly smooth. 'When we all sat out there at night waiting for the penguins to come up on the island we were all shaking in our boots wondering how it would go really because that was the big unknown. A couple of penguins came up and saw the dog and just snuck back down again but then one confident one just strolled straight up and old Oddball went to give it a sneaky sniff on the backside and the penguin gave it a squawk and went for her nose. Oddie popped to the side and the penguin continued on, so it was really quite uneventful I guess,' he says.

Eventually, Dave worked out the perfect balance and successfully trained a pair of dogs who were humanised enough to be approachable by more than one animal handler, but independent enough to live on the island without much human contact. In many ways, Dave has been integral to the existence and success of this project.

### **Dave Williams and his Bandicoot Bodyguards**

If you were to go out on a guided tour to Middle Island today, you would meet Eudy and Tula, the guardian dogs that have successfully protected the little penguins for 6 years now. It was Dave who trained them up, but it won't be Dave who takes you on the tour.

Dave has moved on and is working on an even more ambitious project with Zoos Victoria. He is developing a bandicoot protection program at Werribee Safari Zoo, using Maremmas to protect eastern barred bandicoots from extinction. He is currently training three Maremmas for this project. One is an ambassador dog, Albus; he is the good-looking face of the project, the one people can meet and pat. Two other dogs are the actual bandicoot guardians. They now live with a flock of sheep at Werribee Zoo and are slowly being introduced to the smells of bandicoots. People aren't allowed to meet them, to ensure they can concentrate on their jobs.

Later down the track, the bandicoots will be moved into the large outdoor enclosure to co-exist with the dogs and the sheep. The hope is that the presence of the dogs will ward off predators such as foxes and wild cats, but won't upset the bandicoots. The sheep are just there to keep the dogs company, because bandicoots aren't very sociable and are nocturnal.

It is no surprise that Dave has continued to work with Maremmas and native animals. The man seemingly has no fear of failure as he has so much confidence in the ability of this breed of dog to do their job of protecting other animals. He also has a long-held love of nature and dogs. "I did my first dog training course when I was 10, my dad's been a wildlife officer since I was 16," says Dave. "I think I'll always be doing something like this, I'll never be done!"

Click on this link <https://vimeo.com/138938630> to hear David Williams story on his research and training Maremma's to protect the bandicoots.



## CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC

### 2016 OBEDIENCE AND AGILITY TRIAL CALENDAR

#### ENTERING TRIALS

Preferred method of entry for trials is through K9 Entries.

Click here to read how to do so <https://www.k9entries.com/using.php>

Open Agility offered on all trials

DATE	TIME	TRIAL	JUDGE
Friday 1 April 2016	7.00pm	Obedience Rally O	Cathy O'Shea Roel Wittkamp
Saturday 2 April 2016	3.00pm	Agility & Jumpers all levels	Roel Wittkamp
	7.00pm	Obedience	Cathy O'Shea
	7.00pm	Agility, Jumpers, Strategic Pairs - all levels Agility, Jumpers	Heather Northover Roel Wittkamp
Friday 15 April 2016	7.00pm	Agility, Jumpers, Snooker - All levels	Judy Forbes-Faulkner
Saturday 16 April 2016	7.00pm	Obedience (Judges Training) Obedience (Judges Training) Rally O	Bob Bruce UDX UD CDX Tricia Williams CD CCD Judy Forbes Faulkner
Friday 29 April 2016	7.00pm	Agility, Jumpers, Gamblers - All levels	Barbara Murfet
Saturday 30th April 2016	7.00pm	Obedience (Judges Training) Obedience (Judges Training) Rally O	Barbara Murfet UDX UD CDX Tricia Williams CD CCD Brabara Murfet
Friday 13 May 2016	7.00pm	Obedience Rally O	Judy Forbes-Faulkner Heidi Christoffel
Saturday 14 May 2016	1.30pm	Agility, Jumpers, Snooker - all levels	Judy Forbes-Faulkner
	5:00 PM	Rally O	Heidi Christoffel
	7.00pm	Obedience Agility, Jumpers, Strategic Pairs - all levels	Mal Holland Roel Wittkamp
Monday 4th July 2016 Show Day	2.00pm	Agility, Jumpers, Gamblers - all levels	Judy Forbes-Faulkner
	7.00pm	Obedience Rally O	Judy Forbes-Faulkner Judy Forbes-Faulkner
Friday 15 July 2016	7.00pm	Agility, Jumpers, Snooker - all levels	Roel Wittkamp
Saturday 16 July 2016	7.00pm	Obedience (Judges Training) Rally O	Roel Wittkamp Roel Wittkamp
Friday 29 July 2015	7.00pm	Obedience	Coral Pethers
Saturday 30th July 2015	1.30pm	Agility, Jumpers, all levels Gamblers, all levels	Brian Platts Roel Wittkamp
	5:00pm	Rally O	Coral Pethers
	7.00pm	Obedience	Coral Pethers
	7.00pm	Agility, Jumpers, all levels Strategic Pairs, all levels	Michael Cowman Roel Wittkamp

DATE	TIME	TRIAL	JUDGE
Friday 26 August 2015	7.00pm	Obedience Rally O	Keith Millington Kathleen Millington
Saturday 27 August 2015	2.00pm	Agility, Jumpers, Snooker - all levels	Keith Millington
	7.00pm	Obedience Agility, Jumpers, Strategic Pairs - all levels	Kathleen Millington Sarah Crane
Friday 23 September 2016	7.00pm	Obedience Rally O	Barbara Murfet Barbara Murfet
Saturday 24 September 2015	3.00pm	Agility, Jumpers - all levels	Jody Brown
	7.00pm	Obedience	Barbara Murfet
	7.00pm	Agility, Jumpers, Strategic Pairs - all levels	Eddie Szmelter

### Why Title A Dog?

Not just a brag, not just a stepping stone to a higher title, not just an adjunct to competitive scores, a title is a tribute to the dog that bears it, a way to honor the dog, an ultimate memorial. It will remain in the record and in memory for as long as anything in this world can remain. Few humans will do as well or better in that regard.

And though the dog itself doesn't know or care that its achievements have been noted, a title says many things in the world of humans, where such things count.

A title says your dog was intelligent and adaptable, and good-natured. It says that your dog loved you enough to do things that please you, however crazy they may have sometimes seemed.

And a title says that you loved your dog, that you loved to spend time with it because it was a good dog, that you believed in it enough to give it yet another chance when it failed, and that, in the end, your faith was justified.

-Sandra Mowery

## **CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC 2016 TRACK & SEARCH AND TRACKING TRIAL CALENDAR**

**COST : \$15 per entry + \$5 Brekky each day**

**Entries close 14 days prior to trial**

**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED**

**Contact Trial Secretary Judy Forbes-Faulkner for further information**

**Ph 07 4772 5982 or Mobile 0427 725 982**

### **NOTES FOR COMPETITORS**

Fields restricted to 8 per trial

Handlers restricted to no more than 1 entry in a trial unless less than 8 entries

Ballot to be held if more than 8 entries per day

Entry fees refunded to balloted dogs

**All trials - vetting 6.00am, start 6.30am**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Trial</b>	<b>Judge</b>	<b>Location</b>
Saturday 9 April 2016	Track and Search	Roel Wittkamp	Verbeena Court, Annandale
Sunday 10 April 2016	Tracking	Rosemary Lahz	Black River Rd, Alice River
Sunday 10 April 2016	Tracking	Roel Wittkamp	Black River Rd, Alice River
Saturday 7 May 2016	Track and Search	Deb Lamprecht	Verbeena Court, Annandale
Sunday 8 May 2016	Tracking	Deb Lamprecht	Black River Rd, Alice River
Saturday 11 June 2016	Track and Search	Mal Holland	Verbeena Court, Annandale
Sunday 12 June 2016	Tracking	Grant Glover	Black River Rd, Alice River
Sunday 12 June 2016	Tracking	Mal Holland	Black River Rd, Alice River
Saturday 9 July 2016	Track and Search	Annette Dobson	Verbeena Court, Annandale
Sunday 10 July 2016	Tracking	Annette Dobson	Black River Rd, Alice River





**IT'S STILL HOT -  
KEEP COOL !**



**THE END**