



**March April 2017**



***HAPPY EASTER***

THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE CANINE  
OBEDIENCE CLUB  
OF TOWNSVILLE INC

**COMPANION DOG MAGAZINE**

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Patron: Cr Jenny Hill, Mayor of Townsville

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Plus positions above marked with an \*

## 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	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 January-February 2017

#### Noel McPherson

Welcome back to all members for 2017, good luck in your endeavours for the trailing year in Obedience, Agility, Rally-O, Tracking and Track and Search. Lots of events coming up and as always lots of club training nights and opportunities to sharpen your training and discuss alternatives with likeminded members. Make the most of it and offer your services to help run and coordinate the events and teach newcomers the ropes.

The year is off to a flying start with an Instructors meeting late January followed by the first intake of new handlers for Pet Dog Training for the year. A tracking meeting has been held to discuss rule changes being considered nationally; lots of behind the scenes work from Renate who never has a breather with Treasurers duties; Judy sorting trialling programs and adjustments along with Club Secretary duties of correspondence etc; and Janette ramping up and coordinating tracking classes.

All this vital background work is fitted in with work/ life and dog ownership duties and is a credit to them for planning the year well in advance and still ticking over with their own goals. Diane this round is having a much deserved and needed breather, so she can concentrate on her husband Rod and give him the help he needs, all the best to both of you and get well Rod.

The training report has indicated a continuing downward trend on volunteer numbers to help the training classes we offer. The classes are a double-edged sword : we help people train, and teach new members to work with their dogs which introduces new people into the club and highlight what we can offer. It also is our only stream of revenue. Thanks to past members and volunteers' involvement and efforts over the last 40 years, the club has modest savings and can operate comfortably. With costs rising and revenue reducing, this is a limited resource. We need help to run more classes or develop an alternative income stream. Something needs to change for the better and soon, to enable the club to operate at its current level. The club is too important to not act - please consider.

See you in the paddock,  
Noel McPherson, Training Co-ordinator

## 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.

**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.

**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 want advice on, 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!

## Frisbee Training !!

Second Monday of the month at 6:30pm with sign in at 6:15pm.

Financial COCT Members or Registered Handlers can have a trial night for just a \$5 training fee.

To continue you will need to become a TOADS member. Dog sport approved discs for sale on any training night at the club house.



## 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 2017 from the 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'?

### **RALLY-OBEDIENCE TRAINING - Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.00–8.00pm**

Heatley Park Training Grounds. Cost : \$6 per night.

This workshop will cover the basics of Rally Obedience known as Rally O, including :-

- 🐕 What each Rally O sign means and how it is negotiated on the course.
- 🐕 Each individual sign will be explained and demonstrated including where and how each is approached and negotiated.
- 🐕 What skills you and your dog require before entering Rally O competitions.
- 🐕 How Rally O courses are designed and what is required for each level of the sport from Novice (on lead) to Masters (off lead and the most advanced form)

This workshop is suitable for handlers and dogs who can do basic heeling, sit, stand and stay and a return to heel.

If you are interested please e-mail me at [judyforf@bigpond.net.au](mailto:judyforf@bigpond.net.au) or phone 0427725982 as I require numbers for the information handouts. Handlers are to provide a method to restrain dogs while not working them, ie a crate.

Check the flier on Page 8 for an insight to Rally, plus some photos taken at a recent training session.

### **OBEDIENCE RING TRAINING – Starting Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 from 6.00pm**

Mal Holland and Cathy O'Shea have offered to assist with obedience ring training on alternate Thursday nights.

Mal Holland will train handlers the first Thursday of the month starting March 2nd from 6:00 pm. Mal will start with the CCD and CD dogs and work up through the levels as required. Cathy O'Shea will train handlers on the 3rd Thursday of the month starting on March 16th at 6:30 pm using the same format. This training is offered free to Membes and Registered Handlers wishing to do trial practice with the proviso that all handlers attending either help set up or pack up and offer their assistance as ring stewards. So take advantage of this great opportunity to learn the tricks of becoming ring savvy. The normal Thursday training for all handlers wishing to trial in obedience and Rally O will also be on offer every Thursday at no charge providing handlers assist in set up or pack up.

### **FORREST MICKIE ENGAEMENT DVD NIGHT – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm**

Janette Cussons has kindly offered Club Members and Registered Handlers the chance to watch a Forrest Mickie DVD. Forrest Mickie is an international level sports dog trainer and the DVD is about foundation work and mechanics. This would be an excellent opportunity for new handlers to see methods used in training their dogs for high end competition or to use in every day situations. This information night would be suitable for handlers in Intermediate classes or above who want to keep their dog motivated and enthused with a goal of furthering their training to Class 4 and eventually trialling. The DVD goes for two hours, so there will be intermission after the first hour with free nibbles and cold drinks on sale. All attendees are asked to bring a plate of nibbles to share on the evening. If you are interested in viewing this DVD contact Janette on [janette\\_cussons@gjames.com.au](mailto:janette_cussons@gjames.com.au) or Judy [judyforf@bigpond.net.au](mailto:judyforf@bigpond.net.au) to register.

### **OBEDIENCE, AGILITY & TRACKING TRIALS**

The 2017 trialling season begins Friday/Saturday April 7-8<sup>th</sup> with a single Rally-O, double Obedience & Agility Trial followed by Tracking and Track & Search Trials Friday-Sunday April 14-16<sup>th</sup>. Check out all the details on dates, times and Judges at the back of the mag. If you are interested in Trialling or would like to offer assistance in any way, shape or form we would love to hear from you. Have a chat to your instructor or anyone at the Clubhouse to find out more.

### **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 meeting is **Monday 6 March 2017** followed by **Monday 3 April 2017**. We would love to see you there! If you would like to help in any way, no matter how small, it would be very much appreciated.



## 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 pups 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.



There is a neat app called Dog Decoder that contains interpretations of 55 different body language postures, divided into Emotional States, Greetings & Friendly, Calming Signals, Stress Signals, Prey Drive/Play and Space Invaders, which deals with defensive stance, aggression etc.

The different categories are colour coded to make it quicker to identify the one(s) you want when scrolling through them. Tap on the required posture, and it will show a cartoon displaying the body language in question.

Tapping on "INFO" button will give you a written explanation of what is going on in the picture, and tapping on "DETAILS" will show the original picture with pointers showing what to look for.



It costs \$5.99 and available for both iPhones/iPads and Android type devices - just look for it in the relevant app store.



## **Training Report January-February 2017**

It had to happen eventually - we finally lost a training night due to wet weather. It was of course Week 1 so Week 2 was full on for information overload. Good luck to the dedicated Instructors and hope they all shape up quickly.

Intro night was well presented and fairly trouble free until the last 15 minutes when young Zoe who had been taunted all evening by the resident possums in the store room during the intro talk, had her chance to break free. The outcome was sad for the possum and ended as do most domestic versus native animal encounters. It was a good reminder for dogs being on leash in the park and it is a risk whenever dogs are free that they will do what they do best, being built for following and predicting animal movements with very keen eyes and moving fast to intercept. Thanks to those close by reacting quickly and separating them, then whisking the possum off for help.

There were a few last minute no shows and cancellations from attendees in both Beginners and Intermediate which has now settled the classes back to a comfortable size and given the instructors some breathing space. There is of course nowhere near enough Instructors and support assistance to handle demand for training at the club, which is the same as always but it is getting progressively worse this year and we need help. With the dedicated Instructors available we can just run 3 Beginner classes and 1 Intermediate class, Kirsten doing class 3 and a single assistant. Step forward if you can offer time and want to put back into the club, we need offers of ongoing consistent help to deliver quality training. Come and make yourself known I would love to hear from you.

It was a mile stone for the club to hand out the first round of digitized TAHG's for Intake 1 of 2017, and only 3 attendees asked for a printed copy, so that saves a huge amount of paper and time and will prove economic over time.

Enjoy the Summer.

Thanks, and see you in the paddock.  
Noel McPherson. Training coordinator.

## RALLY-OBEDIENCE TRAINING

**WHERE** : Heatley Park Training Grounds.  
**WHEN** : Thursday March 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd 7.00–8.00pm  
**COST** : \$6 per night for Members / Registered Handlers

This workshop will cover the basics of Rally Obedience, aka Rally O, including :-

- 🐾 What each Rally O sign means and how it is negotiated on the course.
- 🐾 Each individual sign will be explained and demonstrated including where and how each is approached and negotiated.
- 🐾 What skills you and your dog require before entering Rally-O competitions.
- 🐾 How Rally-O courses are designed and what is required for each level of the sport from Novice (on lead) to Masters (off lead and the most advanced form)

This workshop is suitable for handlers and dogs who can do basic heeling, sit, stand and stay and a return to heel.

Handlers will have to provide suitable means to restrain their dogs while not working them, ie a crate.

If you are interested please e-mail me at [judyforf@bigpond.net.au](mailto:judyforf@bigpond.net.au) or phone 0427725982 as I require numbers for the information handouts.

***Judy Forbes-Faulkner, Secretary COCT and Rally-O Judge***



*Above : Judy and her Border Collie 'Frodo' navigating the Cone Spiral*





Above : Renate Linder and her Belgian Shepherd 'Lilly'



Above : Linda King and Miniature Toy Poodle "Red" approaching a Rally-O sign



Left : Meet D'Arcy, a toy poodle x toy terrier. As of February 2017 he is 8 months old and starting to learn Obedience Trialling. He is a great little dog with lots of personality and we hope to have lots of fun trialling together.

**Linda King**

# RALLY-O IS FUN !!

## WHAT IS RALLY-O?



Rally Obedience, or "Rally-O", was invented by Charles (Bud) Kramer of the USA and has spread to countries all around the world. Rally-O trials officially started in 2012 in Australia and our club has trials throughout the year. Rally-O practice will be offered every second Tuesday night of the month from 8.00pm-9.00pm, so stick around after class and have a go. BUT – if you wish to compete the dog needs to be at a standard where he can heel on a loose lead, sit automatically and stand/drop on command!! So make sure you practice not only in class but at home too.

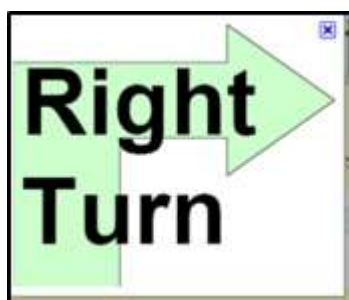


### Great Introduction to Obedience

Rally-O is a wonderful introduction to the sport of obedience for dogs and owners, an opportunity for veteran dogs to remain active, and a chance for shy or anti-social dogs to get ring experience without worrying about being examined by a judge.

### No marching around in silence

Many dogs enjoy this change from the usual silent heeling of traditional obedience as their handlers can clap hands, talk, whistle (even sing!) to them throughout the entire course without penalty. Those who participate in agility trials will recognize the pre-class "walk-throughs" and the challenge of working with their dog partners in an almost dance-like flow from one station to another. Rally-O combines characteristics of sports car racing, dog agility, and traditional obedience into a new fun sport.



### Features of Rally-O

- \* each dog and handler, known as a team, is timed
- includes 12-24 stations depending on the level of participation, and
- is scored by a judge who watches for a smooth performance as well as skill in following the directions at each station.

### Levels of difficulty:

- \* **Novice** with on-leash exercises that demonstrate the dog's understanding of basic commands such as sit, stay, down, come and heel position;
- \* **Advanced** a set of exercises performed off-leash that includes at least one jump; and
- \* **Excellent** a more difficult off-leash course that includes at least one jump and demonstrates more precise skill and coordination between the dog and handler.

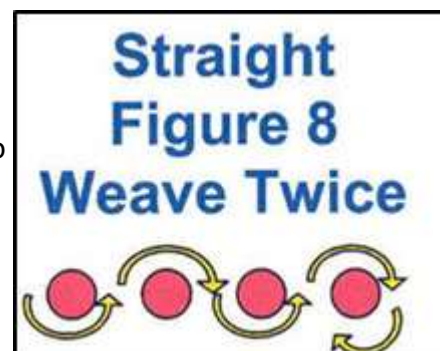


## What is the link with Agility

- \* Courses are designed by the judge and are different in every trial.
- \* Exhibitors receive a course map from the judge and can walk the course without their dogs prior to the start of the class.
- \* Judges design their courses by choosing from many exercises that are put together that direct handlers and dogs to perform specific exercises in a specific order.

## Signs describe what you must do

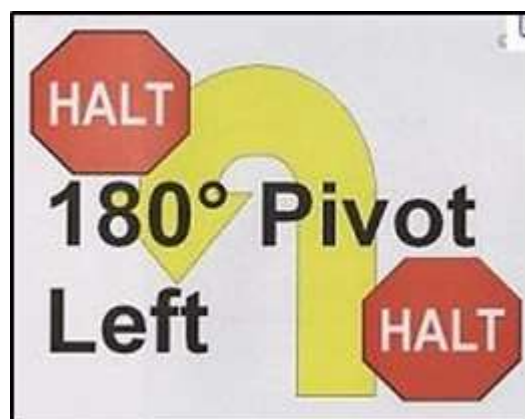
- \* A sign at each station gives instructions to the dog and handler.
- \* Each team must execute the station's particular task within two feet (600 mm) of the sign but not past the sign. With the exception of the two step to the right signs that are executed past the sign.
- \* Once the judge gives the command "forward," the dog and handler complete the course on their own without further commands from the judge.
- \* Handlers may not use treats or toys in the ring, but may do anything else to encourage their dogs at the novice and advanced levels except physically touch them or make corrections with the leash. Any treats or toys must be left no closer than 5 metres from the ring.
- \* Encouragement is allowed at the excellent level but handlers cannot pat their legs or clap their hands as they can in novice and advanced classes.



## Types of Signs

Signs instruct teams to do, for example:-

- \* go fast or
- \* go slow,
- \* to halt (dog must sit at heel),
- \* to make turns and circles,
- \* to reverse direction,
- \* to do a sit-stay-recall,
- \* or to follow other basic obedience exercises.



## Scoring

- \* Each team has a starting score of 100 points..
- \* Points are deducted for such faults as missed or incompletely performed stations, touching the dog, leash corrections, etc. The dog has to heel on loose lead, sit automatically and drop & stand on command!
- \* Team are ranked from the highest to the lowest score (i.e., fewest number of faults wins first place)
- \* If two teams achieve the same score, the judge determines the placements according to the time recorded for each team's course completion.



## How do I get involved?

The Club will hold Rally-O practice the second and fourth on Tuesday nights from 8.00pm-9.00pm, PLUS every Thursday night from 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome to stay and have a go. The cost is included in normal Tuesday night's fees and is \$6 on Thursdays.



### **What do I do if I want to compete?**

All dogs regardless of breed can compete in obedience, agility, tracking and endurance, but you need to join Dogs Queensland (CCCQ). There is a combined joining fee plus annual fee to pay for either single or joint membership, visit their website [www.dogsqueensland.org.au](http://www.dogsqueensland.org.au) for all the info you need to join.

Once that is done and you receive your annual membership card you can compete in any trial in Australia and gain titles and even championships in these fields – but the main thing is to enjoy being active with your dog.



Check out the [Photo Gallery](#) on our website for some images on this event, and register to attend the Rally Training Course being held in March – see details in the What's Happenin' section on Page 5.





## 2016 COCT OBEDIENCE WORKSHOPS

2016 saw the COCT Inc host / run two Obedience Training Workshops for current and new members to obedience trialling. While limited handler spots meant not all current trialling or hopeful trialling club members obtained a working spot it is hoped that those who did will be generous in sharing their new and or refreshed skills and knowledge to help others at the trialling or pre-trial level.

### Steve Courtney – Training in Drive.

The first workshop was with Steve Courtney from K9Pro in Sydney. This was a small workshop run for current instructors and trial members. This workshop was run over two days and in two parts. Day 1 involved instruction and learning about the system of training Steve has developed and teaches called “Training in Drive”. While working with each dog it turns out there where some very food motivated dogs and for the right “food” – what the dog saw as rewarding – what they would do was fantastic. Likewise for the toy and prey driven dogs learning how to use these objects correctly to reward and play with the dogs also saw some fantastic work as a result.

After working on the Saturday with our own dogs, Sunday saw an additional 5 dogs and their handlers come along to join in on the learning experience. All participants got to watch and identify the rewards that were high to these dogs and how to incorporate the food / toy reward into training (see photos below).





Above everything – have fun with your dog!





*Above : Handlers and their dogs with Steve Courtney and Rebekkah Chin (kneeling centre in front)*

### **Andrea Wohlhuter – Core Obedience Concepts.**

Andrea Wohlhuter from Cairns Dog Care and Training instructed the second workshop. Andrea and her Belgian Malinois Shelby are a very familiar sight in the Obedience, Rally-O and Agility rings of clubs not only North Queensland but across the state in general.

Auditing as well as handler spots meant not only current trialling and pre-trial club members but also interested upgrades from PDT Class 3 and Class 4 attendees gained much from Andrea's skills and knowledge.

The Workshop started with a theory session. Following this session each handler with a working dog spot stepped up into the spotlight with Andrea working and instructing each handler and dog on a specific area they needed to work on. This included the recall, focused heeling, focus in general, how to play with toys (rewards) for obedience, to name a few. The work in these sessions was individual and came from the information provided by each handler on a pre-workshop questionnaire developed by Andrea.

Over the course of the 2 nights each dog was worked several times with each session building on the previous. Questions were encouraged, with lots asked and answered. Some of the concepts or skills not familiar to the participants were ably executed by Andrea and Shelby giving everyone, be they handler or auditor, the knowledge that these skills are possible and how to commence teaching them.

At this Workshop the majority of the dogs were at the obedience level of pre-trial of CCD and CD level with a lone few CDX.

#### **Where to go from here?:**

While both workshops were aimed at improving our teaching of obedience for the trial ring of both our own and others dogs to me the **BIG TAKE HOME MESSAGE** from both workshops **WAS** and this is applicable not only to formal dog sport training but also to the current Pet Dog Training is:

- 🐾 Focus,
- 🐾 Engagement,
- 🐾 Make training fun,
- 🐾 Work with your dog,
- 🐾 Be important to your dog,
- 🐾 Reward, reward, reward.....

While on the subject of rewards. ***The reward has to be what the dog sees as rewarding NOT WHAT you as a handler think your dog should be rewarded with.*** These maybe very different. Rewards come as food, toys, play, affection, time... Know what is rewarding to your dog.

Lastly, we all need to improve our dogs' engagement and focus on us. As Craig A Murray (Specialist Dog Trainer) said at a workshop I attended in Cairns a few years ago : ***"be gold not plastic to your dog - be the most exciting thing out for your dog. Make your dog want to work with and for you not the person across the paddock"***.

Throughout the year I hope to bring a few updates on how the dogs (and handlers) are working with their new and or improved skills. One thing I can safely say is already there is improvement out there and there are a lot of dogs and handlers having way more fun out in the training paddock.

Debbie Schmidt.









*Above : All lined up patiently awaiting their turn at learning exercises in focus, recall, rear-end awareness, dumb-bell*



*Above : Andrea explaining to participants the importance of engaging with your dog through a game of tug*



## Sparky the retired explosives dog

Anzac Day 2016, and a four-legged ex-digger marched alongside other war veterans in Ulverstone in Tasmania's north-west for the first time.

Sparky the explosives detector dog spent nine months in the Uruzgan province in Southern Afghanistan, from May 2011 to February 2012, an area known for its heavy Taliban presence. The dog's role was to find explosive devices, ammunition and weapons, track enemy fighters, and provide companionship to soldiers at the base.



Sparky took part in the Ulverstone Anzac Day march and service this year, much to the delight of the 3,000-strong crowd. Vietnam veteran Tony Young said the Ulverstone veterans were proud to march alongside Sparky.

"She's a brilliant animal, very intelligent, very aware, always on the go, always sensing what could happen and what may happen around her," he said. "She's still got that ability to do what she used to do."

"The sacrifices animals have made is incredible and they don't get the recognition so to have Sparky here makes people aware that animals are veterans."

### Sparky flees from Afghanistan ambush

Sparky was recruited to the Australian Army in 2010 as an explosives detector dog. After several months of training and assessment in Australia, Sparky was deployed. Alongside handler Sapper Mark Worthington, Sparky spent nine months on the ground.



On August 1 2011, Sparky was helping assess an area for explosives when the patrol was ambushed by Taliban fighters. Sapper Worthington was pinned down by heavy fire and was unable to recall Sparky, who fled into nearby cornfields. Despite their best efforts, the Australian soldiers were unable to find Sparky and returned to base without her.

Mr Young said the dog found its own way back to base eight hours later.

"I think it was the Afghan army that actually found her and she came back to base and I think she'd walked something like seven kilometres," he said. She was given a rest day and returned to combat the following day. During her nine months in Afghanistan, Sparky successfully detected weapons and explosives devices and saw many more days of conflict.

#### **Retirement to Tasmanian farm**

After returning to Australia, Sparky spent several years as a training dog and was retired in September 2015. Mr Young said Sparky now lived with an Afghanistan war veteran in Ulverstone.

"They have a farm where they take her ... and she likes the wide open spaces, chases the tractor around and so she's not confined to a backyard," he said.

Working dogs have been used by the Australian military since 1918 but it has only been more recently that dogs have been specifically trained to find explosives, ammunition and weapons.

They are highly valued for their sense of smell and hearing, which is far superior to that of humans. Despite the dangers of the job, only three dogs have been killed in conflict since 2007.

### ***LEST WE FORGET – ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL 2017***





### Ingredients:

- $\frac{2}{3}$  tsp bicarbonate of soda
  - 1 Tbsp boiling water
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup desiccated coconut
  - 4 Tbsp golden syrup
    - 1 cup plain flour
    - 1 cup rolled oats
- 2 egg whites, lightly beaten
  - Pinch of salt

### Method:

- Preheat the oven.
- Mix the oats, flour, salt and coconut together.
- Heat the syrup just enough to make it runny.
- Mix the soda and the boiling water together and add to the syrup.
- Add the mixture to the dry ingredients, then add the eggs and beat till well combined.
- Mould spoonfuls of the mixture into balls and place onto a baking-paper covered cookie slide or press into a well greased slice tin, and bake in the oven for 20 minutes.
- Leave the biscuits on the tray or in the tin to cool for a few minutes to allow them to crisp before transferring to a cake cooler.
  - Store in an airtight container.

\* Makes 12 Biscuits

## 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 a veterinarian see your pet 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.

**Note** – the article above is for general information only. Always consult your Vet for professional advice



### Ground Sniffing is a DISPLACEMENT BEHAVIOR

Displacement behaviors are normal behaviors displayed out of context. They indicate conflict and anxiety.

The dog wants to do something, but he is suppressing the urge to do it. He displaces the suppressed behavior with something else such as a lick or a yawn. The uncertainty of the situation causes conflict for the dog and the displacement behaviors are a manifestation of that conflict. The dog may want to bite a child who takes his bone, but instead he bites furiously at his own foot.

Source: <http://www.petprofessionalguild.com/dogbodylanguage>

### WHAT TO DO:

Dogs do not learn well when they are stressed. Give them MORE SPACE away from the trigger so they can relax. Use food, games, or play to create positive associations, and to help them feel safe or unanxious. If you have a reactive or predatory dog, whenever your dog chooses to DISENGAGE from the trigger by SNIFFING THE GROUND, he should be REWARDED heavily.

Illustration ©2016 Lili Chin

USEFUL REFERENCES: [www.doggiedrawings.net/educational](http://www.doggiedrawings.net/educational)

## Does My Dog Love Other Dogs?

**Just like people, dogs have different levels of tolerance for other dogs.**

As a dog matures, he or she will often quite naturally become less social and tolerant. There are many developmental changes that happen between sexual and social maturity, and most dogs will continue to display these changes until two to three years of age. Proper facilitation of dog-dog introductions and friendships can change your dog's sociability for the better over time, and bad experiences can quickly make things worse. Good leadership and direction is important to set your dog up for success with their species.



### DOG SOCIAL

I generally LOVE all dogs, even the ones who get in my face and do rude, annoying stuff. I am either a PUPPY or a VERY SOCIAL ADULT.

\*Most puppies start here



### DOG TOLERANT

I get along with most dogs. I am generally tolerant of rude behavior, and stay pretty calm on leash. I'm cool and relaxed, and have good communication skills.



### DOG SELECTIVE

I have dog friends but am picky about new dogs. Seeing unfamiliar dogs when I am on leash is really stressful. I don't cope well with some types of dogs or styles of interaction. I need human supervision, positive guidance, and proper introductions.



### DOG AGGRESSIVE

NOPE. Not into other dogs. If I have to select 1 or 2 dog friends, I am super sensitive around them too, and may act like a jerk when triggered. I need extra management and patience from my humans, whom I love more than dogs!

**A dog's social tolerance changes over time and is flexible and manageable!**

#adoptdontshop #respectfordogs

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Source: [paws4udogs.wordpress.com/2017/02/16/understanding-dog-dog-sociability](http://paws4udogs.wordpress.com/2017/02/16/understanding-dog-dog-sociability)



## CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC

### 2017 OBEDIENCE AND AGILITY TRIAL CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	TRIAL	JUDGE
Friday April 7 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Obedience	Cathy O'Shea
		Rally O	Roel Wittkamp
Saturday April 8 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 pm	Agility all levels	Roel Wittkamp
		Jumpers all Levels	Heather Northover
	7:00 pm	Agility & Strategic Pairs Game, all levels	Heather Northover
		Jumpers all levels	Roel Wittkamp
		Obedience all levels	Cathy O'Shea
Friday April 21 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 pm	Agility, Jumpers, Snooker Game, all levels	Judy Forbes-Faulkner
Saturday April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	4:00 pm	Rally O all levels	Judy Forbes-Faulkner
	7:00 pm	Obedience UDX and UD	Bob Bruce
		Obedience CDX, CD and CCD	Trish Williams
Friday May 5 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Agility, Jumpers, Gamblers, all levels	Tim Fairchild
Saturday May 6 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 pm	Rally O	Judy Forbes-Faulkner
	7:00 pm	Obedience UDX and UD	Bob Bruce
		Obedience CDX, CD and CCD	Trish Williams
Friday May 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Obedience	Wendy Hanna
Saturday May 20 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Agility & Gambler Game, all levels	Jane Caulton
		Jumpers all levels	Michael Cowman
	4:00 pm	Rally O	Wendy Hanna
	7:00 pm	Obedience	Wendy Hanna
		Agility all levels	Michael Cowman
		Jumpers & Strategic Pairs Game, all levels	Jane Caulton
Monday July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2:00 pm	Agility, Jumpers & Snooker Game, all levels	Tim Fairchild
	5:00 pm	Rally O	Heidi Christoffel
	7:00 pm	Obedience	Mal Holland
Friday July 21 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 pm	Agility, Jumpers & Gambler Game, all levels	Roel Wittkamp
Saturday July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	4:00 pm	Rally O	Roel Wittkamp
	7:00 pm	Obedience	Roel Wittkamp
Friday August 4 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Obedience	Cheryl Williams
		Rally O	Heidi Christoffel
Saturday August 5 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Agility & Gambler Game, all levels	Annette Gneil
		Jumpers all levels	Jake Blight
	4:00 pm	Rally O	Heidi Christoffel
	7:00 pm	Agility and Strategic Pairs Game, all levels	Jake Blight
		Jumpers all levels	Annette Gneil
		Obedience all levels	Cheryl Williams
Friday September 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 pm	Obedience	Keith Millington
		Rally O	Kathy Millington
Saturday September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3:00 pm	Agility & Gambler Game, all levels	Jody Brown
		Jumpers all levels	Keith Millington
	7:00 pm	Agility & Strategic Game, all levels	Keith Millington
		Jumpers all levels	Jody Brown
		Obedience all levels	Kathy Millington

DATE	TIME	TRIAL	JUDGE
Friday September 29 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Obedience	Roel Wittkamp
Saturday September 30 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 pm	Agility all levels	Roel Wittkamp
		Jumpers all levels	Tim Fairchild
	7:00 pm	Obedience	TBA
		Rally O	TBA
		Agility & Strategic Pairs Game, all levels	Tim Fairchild
		Jumpers all levels	Roel Wittkamp

### 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 2017 TRACK & SEARCH AND TRACKING TRIAL CALENDAR

**COST : \$20 per entry (includes breakfast)**

**Entries close 14 days prior to the trial**

**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED**

Contact Trial Secretary Judy Forbes-Faulkner for further information  
Mobile 0427 725 982

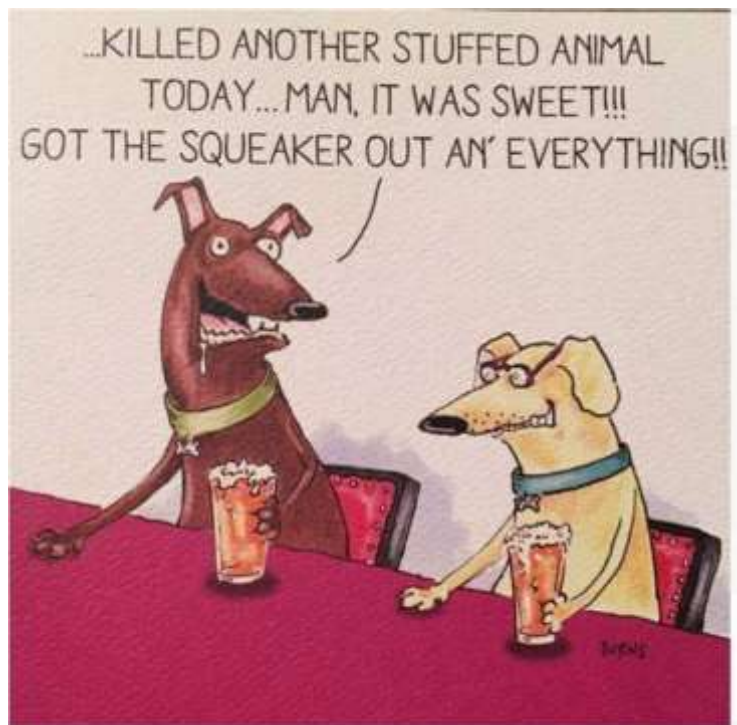
### NOTES FOR COMPETITORS

- 🐾 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 6:00 am, start 6:30 am**

Date	Trial	Judge	Location
Friday April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tracking	Mal Holland	Black River Road Alice River
Saturday April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Track & Search	Roel Wittkamp	Verbeena Court Annandale
Sunday April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tracking	Debbie Schmidt	Black River Road Alice River
Sunday April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tracking	Roel Wittkamp	Black River Road Alice River
Saturday May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Track & Search	Rosemary Sehl	Verbeena Court Annandale
Sunday May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tracking	Rosemary Sehl	Black River Road Alice River
Sunday May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tracking	Carolyn Lynn	Black River Road Alice River
Saturday June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Track & Search	Mal Holland	Verbeena Court Annandale
Sunday June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tracking	Grant Glover	Black River Road Alice River
Sunday June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tracking	Carolyn Lynn	Black River Road Alice River
Saturday July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Track & Search	Coral Pethers	Verbeena Court Annandale
Sunday July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tracking	Coral Pethers	Black River Road Alice River
Sunday July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tracking	Mal Holland	Black River Road Alice River





# IT'S STILL HOT!



# THE END