



**November December 2016**



***CHRISTMAS IS COMING .....***

THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE CANINE  
OBEDIENCE CLUB  
OF TOWNSVILLE INC

**COMPANION DOG MAGAZINE**



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## 2016-2017 OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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Patron: Cr Jenny Hill, Mayor of Townsville

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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

It is magazine time again and Diane is as usual applying pressure for a President's report to be added to the mix in her publication. She never gives up, and as a result, does a great job at motivation to ensure that her push to come up with an informative up to date wrap for the club every two months is not in vain. Thanks Di and hope all the members keep thinking up articles to add in, such as the introduction of my beautiful Liver spot girl "Asti" to my home and future involvement in club training and sports, which should have given me a pass on the following report but apparently not.

Club trials are at an end for the year, and with temps rising and the days getting longer it is now cool swims time and AC comfort season. This year's awards night will once again be held at the Kirwan Bowls Club venue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December and I look forward to seeing a good roll up and support for the trialling members as they receive their official recognition for the years' efforts. Renate will be happy to take attendance requests for the event and I hope many of the new Registered Handlers and members in our classes consider attending for what is a great evening in a comfortable environment and share some Christmas cheer.

Last Tuesday night I witnessed what was a very special and rare sight. I was out in the paddock stacking chairs from Diane's class when on my return to the clubhouse I had a marvellous view of nine dogs lined up in down stay with all the handlers 15 meters away, and not a soul was moving. Kirsten was the Instructor and was also aware of the special event and seized the opportunity to grab a photo of a great display of trust from the large group. Very inspiring stuff and a pleasure to witness.

Training is underway in Intake 4 and all classes are working well. Jens and I are loving our group with some real steady efforts from what are surprisingly well behaved class members {canine} and interested human companions. I am hoping the predicted early wet does not impact on our Tuesday night classes, but if it includes heavy drought breaking rain then bring it on and we will just have to do our best and work around the weather.

Many thanks as always to all members for your help and support for the Club and please remember to start rounding up some donatable goodies to add to the lucky door prize basket this year, and purchase your tickets early so you don't miss out on winning back your donated items. Best idea is to donate good quality items that you would love to win back!

See you in the paddock, Noel McPherson.



## 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.



**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'?

### 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.

### OBEDIENCE, AGILITY & TRACKING TRIALS

The 2016 trialling season has come to an end and that means it's Title and Perpetual Trophy presentation time to congratulate and acknowledge dog and handler team achievements in Rally-Obedience, Obedience, Agility, Jumpers, Endurance, Tracking and Track and Search. Come and join us at the Kirwan Sports Club on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December for the Club's Christmas Breakup with presentations, guest speaker, Trivia Quiz and good food, drink and company. All the details can be found on Page 8.

### 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 7 November 2016** followed by **Monday 5 December 2016**. 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.

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ARE COMING !!

And that means party food, alcohol, fireworks – all things that don't mix well with your dog. Don't give or leave Christmas treats within reach of your dog as they can make them quite sick. This includes fatty left-overs, cooked bones, chocolates, nuts, and grapes. Fireworks at New Year's Eve are a delight for us, but terrifying to dogs. Make sure you have them well secured if going out to enjoy the festivities. If staying at home don't make a fuss over them if they become frightened as your good intentions will actually increase their distress rather than reduce it. Read more further in the mag.





## 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 September-October 2016

Training is about to ramp up with our last PDT intake for 2016 getting underway last month. Classes were full and oversubscribed but a number of the new attendees were not available to attend the Introduction night, so have withdrawn and or transferred to January 2017.

Intake 3 ended with approximately 50% of the 24 new handlers being upgraded to Intermediate. Intermediate had a great result with 70% upgrading meaning eight have moved to Advanced (Class 3). Class 3 had four out of eight upgraded to Class 4 Pre-trialling. A good follow on with quite a few putting in the time and effort to work up through the classes.

As for all previous intakes, quite a few cease coming to training in the Beginners class for various unknown reasons over the 9-week program. This is a waste of our limited training resource, and difficult to combat not knowing the reasons. The recent “Making Dogs Happy” two-part series on ABC’s Catalyst gave a great rap and promo for positive reinforcement and the all-important canine body language observations, which hopefully might help some to see the benefits of positive reinforcement laid out in a visual media, and give a better understanding of what the training is about.

I have passed the series link to my recently completed Intake 3 Beginners Class to review having just finished the course, and included the link via email for the series to my new class for Intake 4 to review before starting so they can appreciate what is ahead of them and hopefully provide incentive.

Change has also been afoot after the recent Steve Courtney Workshop, and while I enjoyed the seminar the training methods put forward are miles apart from what is currently the format for PDT, and are I believe applicable predominantly for one on one focused high level working and competition dogs with handlers to match. It is unsuitable for 80% of the dogs and Guardian’s that sign up for Pet Dog Training in a group scenario. Most having no understanding of dog behaviour or how to build a bond and develop understanding between the two.

This is why we implemented and run PDT, and that is where I believe as a Club we are the strongest and most useful to the Townsville dog loving public. Class 3 (Advanced), Class 4 (Pre-trialling) and Thursday nights are ideal for the new work and those with experience and interest, and this is currently the case with lots of enthusiastic teams working on the new techniques.

No doubt debate will continue, and more volunteers will come and go and the club may temporarily suffer as a result with limited instructor numbers, but as long as I am the Training Coordinator and have a core group of volunteers willing to front up and do their very best at helping wherever possible to teach canine appreciation for those who need help, then volunteering at the club to run classes will continue regardless of numbers.

Thanks to each and every volunteer, for your support and I extend an open invitation to the public and members who are prepared to lend a hand for Townsville canines, to join us and offer your time to assist/instruct on Tuesday nights.

See you in the paddock.

**Noel McPherson, Training Co-ordinator.**

## CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC

### 2016 CHRISTMAS PARTY AND BREAKUP

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016  
From 6.30pm – Dinner 7.00pm



**KIRWAN SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB**  
\*\* Newly refurbished re-opened 12 months ago! \*\*  
**BAMFORD LANE, KIRWAN**

Come along to our end of year presentation night  
Guest Speaker : Mr Frank Bebernitz, Regional Inspector, RSPCA Queensland  
Trivia Quiz  
Trophy and Title presentations  
Great Food and Company!

**Cost - \$35.00 ea**  
**Instructors and Committee Members free**



### Menu

#### Main

**Roasted pork & crackling with traditional gravy & apple sauce**  
**Asian style honey sesame seed chicken / Bombay mild beef curry**  
**Lemongrass scented coconut rice / Steamed garden veg / Roasted rosemary potatoes**  
**Baked dinner rolls & butter / Potato bacon salad /**  
**Creamy sundried tomato & pesto pasta salad / Market green leaf salad**

#### Dessert

**Pavlova topped with tropical fruits**  
**Assorted cheesecake**

**\*\*\* RSVP to Renate by Tuesday 22 November 2016 \*\*\***



### CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Our popular Christmas Hampers will again be raffled this year,  
and we need you to help fill them up!  
Donations gratefully received of quality homemade  
or purchased human or dog items.  
Please leave in laundry basket in clubhouse or with ladies at canteen.



**Tickets on sale now until drawn at Christmas Party Break Up**  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 - Winners will be notified if not present**

**Tickets : \$1.00 each - Available from Clubhouse on training nights or at Christmas Party**

## CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC

### LAST TRAINING NIGHT FOR 2016 IS A FUN NIGHT !!

**TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2016**  
**7.30 – 8.30pm**

Come and join us for an hour of fun and games to celebrate the end of another year of training.

Dress yourself and your pooch up in your finest Christmassy gear  
to set the theme for the night.



#### Prizes for :-

Christmas Dress Up Theme

**Note : Dress up *after* class, not before!**

#### Join us for some fun with :-

Potato and Spoon Race  
Obstacle Course

**Free nibblies available and drinks on sale**



**COCT Inc Committee Members and Instructors would like to wish everyone  
a Happy and Safe Festive Season.**

Remember to incorporate some basic training during the break,  
even if during your daily walk.

Give your dog the day off on Christmas day – he will  
appreciate it just as much as you!

Classes resume Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 with the Introduction Talk for new beginners only.

All classes then start the following Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

For those who would like to continue with some practice there will  
be an Instructor or two available on most Thursday nights between  
6.30pm – 7.30pm, weather permitting, at no charge.



## CHRISTMAS FOODS YOU SHOULD NEVER GIVE YOUR DOG

Christmas is a great time of year and should be fun for all the family, dogs included. Many of us are already aware of some of the potential toxic foods our dogs can come across and take steps to avoid them. However, the festive period is one where we often introduce all manner of exciting items into the house that we don't normally have. Some of these things can be potentially harmful to our dogs and it's worth knowing some of the common pitfalls.

Below are a few of the most common Christmas poisonings. It goes without saying, if in doubt contact your vet and they will be able to advise you

**Grapes** Exactly why and how these are poisonous to dogs is unknown and the exact volume needed to cause symptoms is difficult to predict. Some dogs will eat one or two grapes and become seriously ill but others can eat many of them without apparent signs. The only way to be safe is to keep them out of reach of your dog.

**Christmas Pudding, Christmas Cake and Mince Pies** These Christmas fancies are bad for dogs for a number of reasons. Firstly - they are jam-packed full of current raisins and sultanas. These are all a variation on the 'grape' and as such have the same serious health risks. It is common for them to ingest far more 'grapes' in this form than they would fresh grapes because there are so many packed into these cakes and they are smaller. Secondly - they are full of fat, suet etc which can often give them severe stomach troubles, vomiting etc but also, more worryingly high fat meals are one of the high risk factors leading to pancreatitis. This can be a very serious and costly disease to treat. Thirdly – they are usually laced with large amounts of alcohol which can cause many of the symptoms of intoxication seen in people.

**Chocolate coins and other choccy decorations** Most people are aware of the dangers for dogs from eating chocolate and take steps to avoid leaving any near their dogs. However, it is not uncommon for people to forget about the chocolate coins or decorations and leave them in an irresistible location. As well as the dangers of the chocolate the actual wrapping foil can be problematic as they work through the gut system.

**Bones** At this time of year we often cook far more meat joints than usual and this normally results in many more bones lying about. Once cooked all bones become brittle and splinter easily. This can lead to larger fragments getting 'stuck' causing obstructions but also smaller pieces can cause gut irritation and perforation or even just difficulty toileting.

Most people avoid the initial pitfall of your dog 'borrowing the bones off the work surface' only to get caught out later on by putting the deliciously tasty smelling carcass/bone into the bin where it gets raided in the night. Make sure you dispose of the string from any meat joints as this can be a tempting toy for your dogs and could be harmful if ingested. The best thing is to take it straight outside into a sealed bin.

*N.B. Birds (turkey/chicken/goose) are all hollow boned animals and as such these bones will splinter either raw or cooked and so must never be given to your dog under any circumstances.*

**Macadamia nuts** Within 12 hours of ingestion macadamia nuts can cause dogs to experience weakness, depression, tremors, vomiting and hyperthermia (increased body temperature). These symptoms tend to last for approximately 12 to 48 hours, and as with all the other food groups mentioned if you suspect your dog has consumed macadamia nuts note the possible quantity consumed and contact your vet.

**Alcohol** We tend to use much more alcohol in our cooking this time of year and so even normal titbits can be potentially problematic over the Christmas period. As it is for people, alcohol is also intoxicating for dogs and can cause similar unpleasant side effects.

If your dog does get into mischief and consumes any of these then the first thing to do is contact your local vet for advice. Often the quicker treatment is sought the easier and more successful the treatment.

**Please note: This advice is not a substitute for a proper consultation with a vet and is only intended as a guide. Please contact your local veterinary practice for advice or treatment immediately if you are worried about your pet's health - even if they are closed, they will always have an out of hour's service available.**



## DOGS AND FIREWORKS DON'T MIX

Across Australia many annual celebrations may involve fireworks, and here in Townsville we have our fair share of festivals with fireworks, and the biggest of them all, New Year's Eve, is just around the corner.

Unfortunately, many animals are terrified by firework displays which can indirectly pose risks to their safety by causing them to take flight and try to escape the loud noises. Dogs in particular may be afraid of fireworks (and thunder), and many try to run away, sometimes injuring themselves in the process. Many of these dogs can end up several kilometres from home. Dogs have been known to jump through plate glass windows to escape loud noises, and easily jump over, or dig their way under fences that would normally contain them.



### What can I do for my dog?

Below are some suggestions and precautions you can take to keep your dog safe and reduce his stress and anxiety during firework displays. The same advice can be used with thunderstorms.

- Prepare early. If you know there is going to be a celebration in your neighborhood start planning now.
- Take your dog out for exercise before the fireworks start e.g. reasonably long walk, then after a couple of hours you can feed a meal. A tired and well-fed dog will likely be less anxious during the night. If you can, stay home to be with your pet.
- Let your dog be with you and try to be calm and normal. Avoid fussing over your pet excessively but try to engage them in normal activities such as playing. Reward your dog for their calm behaviour, rewards include giving dog treats and their favourite dog toy.
- Close the curtains, pull the blinds and turn on the lights to mask the flashes of fireworks. Create a comfortable hiding place and allow your dog to go there to feel safe, put on some music or the TV to help mask the noise outside, and distract your dog with games and food.
- Give your dog a comfortable 'bolt hole' for him to escape to. This might be a crate or even a cupboard that makes him feel safe, but leave the door open so he is free to come and go when he needs. Confinement can cause panic.
- If your dog finds an area of your home where he is comfortable, like under your bed, do not pull him out. Let him go to where he feels safe and secure and leave him there.
- Turn on a fan or air conditioner to mask the bangs outside.
- Invest in a Thundershirt, a natural solution to your dog's separation anxiety, fear of loud noises, and travel. The Thundershirt is a proven method that improves symptoms of anxiety in pets. With its patented design, the Thundershirt uses gentle hugging to calm your dog, applying constant pressure that helps calm most dogs if they are anxious, fearful or overexcited. Read more about it here [www.luckypet.com.au/thundershirt-for-dog-anxiety.html](http://www.luckypet.com.au/thundershirt-for-dog-anxiety.html)

- Dogs that panic can choke themselves on a collar or lead, so never tether your dog during these times and never use a check chain to restrain your dog.
- Make sure your dog is wearing his collar with identity tag attached, that they are micro-chipped and your contact details are up to date on the microchip register. Dogs are known to turn into Houdini's when they are terrified and will do anything to get away from loud sounds.
- Direct supervision is important to help prevent injury or escape. If you cannot supervise your dog on the night consider making alternative arrangements so your dog will be supervised by a responsible person directly or consider boarding your dog so they will be safe.
- Do not walk your dog outside when you know there is an event in your neighborhood or leave him out in your back yard.
- Talk to your vet about the treatment options available for managing noise phobias - ask them about temporary calming treatments that can be given prior to an event.



## A Puppy's Christmas

It's the day before Christmas  
And all through the house  
The puppies are squeaking  
An old rubber mouse.



The wreath which had merrily  
Hung on the door  
Is scattered in pieces  
All over the floor.



The stockings that hung  
In a neat little row  
Now boast a hole in  
Each one of the toes.

The tree was subjected  
To bright-eyed whims,  
And now, although splendid,  
It's missing some limbs.



I catch them and hold them.  
"Be good", I insist.  
They lick me, then run off  
To see what they've missed.

And now as I watch them  
The thought comes to me,  
That theirs is the spirit  
That Christmas should be.

Should children and puppies  
Yet show us the way,  
And teach us the joy  
That should come with this day?

Could they bring the message  
That's written above,  
And tell us that, most of all  
Christmas is love.

*[Anonymous]*



## FIVE THINGS TO DO WHEN YOUR NEIGHBOUR COMPLAINS ABOUT YOUR DOG

By Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA

The natural thing to do when someone complains about your dog is to get defensive. “My dog? Causing a problem? How dare you?!”

You can’t assume your dog has been a saint all day just because he’s asleep when you get home. Don’t go there. Defensiveness exacerbates hostilities, escalates tension, and encourages your neighbour to make a mountain out of what you perceive to be a molehill. Remember, it’s all about perception, and your neighbour’s perception is his reality. Instead of being defensive, try these things:



**1. Listen.** Unless one of you plans to move, defusing the situation beats all-out war. Set defensiveness aside, and listen to what your neighbour says. Assume there’s some nugget of truth to his complaint. You need to find it, so you can figure out what to do with it. He says your dog barks all the time, underneath his bedroom window, and wakes him up. That may be an exaggeration, but chances are your dog is barking some of the time, especially if you leave her out in the yard, or if she has free backyard access through a doggie-door.

**2. Empathize and Apologize.** Without admitting guilt, empathize with your complainer. “It must be frustrating to have to listen to barking dogs when you’re trying to sleep.” Be sincere. Tell him you’re sorry he’s being disturbed by barking. Reassure him that you don’t want your dog to be a nuisance, and you want to help find a solution to his concerns. Ask him to bear with you while you work on the problem. Bake him chocolate chip cookies.

**3. Investigate.** Ask questions that won’t make your neighbour defensive. “Is there a time when it’s most annoying?” “Are there other dogs that are barking too?” “Other than giving up my dog, what would make you happy?” Set up a video camera or voice-activated tape recorder to document your dog’s activities when you aren’t home. Alternatively, take a day off and watch your own house from a distance to see what goes on that might make your dog bark. It is imperative your dog can’t hear your approaching vehicle, so park far enough away so he can’t hear it, then walk. Check the neighbourhood to see if there are other dogs whose barking might be blamed on your dog. Ask other neighbours if they hear your dog, and if so, when and how much.

**4. Be Legal, Be Considerate.** Make sure your dog is currently licensed, and obey all local animal control laws. Maybe your neighbour is complaining because your dog runs loose and he feels threatened (even though you know your dog is a pussycat), or because you don’t clean up when you take her for walks. Those are legitimate grounds for complaint (as is excessive nuisance barking) even if your dog is a pussycat. You don’t want animal control to find you in violation of anything. Obey leash laws and scoop laws, and respect your neighbour’s discomfort with your dog – don’t let her off-leash even if you’re just walking out to your car. If she runs over to happily greet him, you’ll fuel the fires.

**5. Take Action.** Make changes to accommodate your neighbour and protect your dog. If his complaint is early-morning noise and she’s barking when you let her out at 6:00 am while you shower, alter your routine. Get up earlier and go out with her. Let her eliminate, then play with her. Keep her quietly occupied rather than leaving her to find her own entertainment. If it’s random throughout-the-day backyard barking while you’re away, bring her in and close the dog door. She doesn’t have to be outside all day. If things get ugly, leaving her out unattended exposes her to great risk from an irate neighbour. If necessary, pay someone to let her out for a noon potty break. If the complaint is about barking even when you are home, behavior modification is in order. (See “[Modifying Your Dog's Barking Behavior](#),” WDJ July 2007). If it’s something other than barking, determine how you can modify the situation to mitigate the problem. Some examples:

**Your dog charges the fence. Your neighbour fears for his children’s safety. Make the fence solid, or put up an inner fence so there’s an “airlock” between dog and kids, or secure a double layer of sarlon or shade cloth to the fence to block his view.**  
**Your dog came over and attacked his dog. You think your dog was just playing, but whatever. Vow that your dog is never off her leash in your neighbourhood. Even just walking to your car.**

Keep your neighbour informed of your efforts to address his concerns. Document your actions in a journal in case you do have to face animal control. Ask your neighbour to let you know if he sees improvement – and document that. Save receipts for anything you buy to modify your dog’s environment. If you see your neighbour deliberately antagonizing your dog, document that with a video camera. Keep your dog safe. Be considerate. Keep baking chocolate chip cookies.



## UPCOMING STARS



*Left* : Renate Linder sent in this photo of her Belgian Shepherd Groendael 'Dixi' and her Rally Obedience Advance Qualification Card, the third one required to gain her Title 'RA'.



*Right* : Border Collie 'Pearl' gained her Rally-Obedience Novice Title (3 qualifications) in just three trials making owner Judy Forbes-Faulkner pretty proud.



Shenanigans with Toy Poodle 'Red' and his owner Linder King during September's Jumpers Novice Trial. He decided that it would be much more fun to turn the agility course into a race track and see how many laps he could run around it, with Judge Eddie Szmelter looking on. After a couple of minutes of hilarity (for observers, not Linda), Red was brought back to order with Linda lining him up at the last jump and getting him to successfully navigate it and return to her to finish on a positive note. He is a great little character and no doubt will return next season to try again.



## *A GRAND OLD LADY NAMED BOOKA*

Booka was bred by COCT member Lucy Joynson from Woodstock. She was one of two left in a litter of exciting little Kelpies when I bought her.

Booka was a joy and was by far the best dog I ever owned. Early in her obedience work she gained her CD in three trials and then her CDX in three trials.

She was then introduced to Tracking where she excelled and only failed one test on her way to Tracking Champion. I decided to indulge her in Track & Search which proved a little more complicated before she went on to gain her Track & Search Title.

Her Endurance Test and Title, run over twenty kilometres, was a remarkable event in so much that she found it no more than a walk in the park. After her first eight kilometres and during her rest break she was let loose to run and run she did, around and around in circles to the other competitors' amazement, most stopped to look at the mad Kelpie racing around in the Ingham Show grounds. The last two legs of the endurance test was covered with such ease by Booka and she was marvelled by many as being a dog of outstanding physical condition.

After Tracking she was introduced to Obedience again where she competed in UD gaining her Title in five runs, this was followed by competing for her Obedience Championship which she gained in eight tests. The requirement was five qualifying scores over 185 and must have three first places.

Agility was a great learning curve for her and she gained Masters in Agility and Jumping, this was all before games came onto the agility scene. Booka went into early retirement soon after this phase as there were no new challenges - she was only three and a half years old. A few years later she was brought back to agility to compete in the new Games program, acquiring her Strategic Pairs Masters along with a host of other levels in the games section.

About this time my wife Dawn and I commenced travelling in our caravan around many parts of Australia. Booka has done the big loop right around Australia through all states, and this year she accompanied us through central Queensland for a period of eight weeks.

She is still very healthy and walks around two kilometres each morning, her hearing is nearly gone but sometimes I believe it to be convenient hearing! She turns sixteen years old on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 and is a Grand Old Lady of the Dog World.

**Mal Holland**





Mal Holland with Australian Kelpie Booka, celebrating her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday  
on 2 November 2016



## *And the New : Introducing ....*

My new young girl "Asti" who arrived from her birth home town of Bunyip in Victoria on the afternoon of Friday 21 October 2016. She is very full on and interested and has settled in really well with Addy and Pasco.

She is 9 weeks old, a liver spot female, and obviously very cute!

**Noel McPherson**



If you are interested in purchasing this Agility Equipment please contact  
Cathy O'Shea on 0409 486 047.

## DOG AGILITY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE



\$450 O.N.O  
0409 486 047



## PET DOG TRAINING UPGRADES

### TERM 3 2016

#### BEGINNER to INTERMEDIATE

Name	Dog's Name	Breed
Kelly Hemmett	Hugo	Staffordshire X
Rachel Reese	Dellyn	Welsh Springer Spaniel
Keliena seaton	Chief	Jack Russell Terrier
Deb Jeacle	Harvey	Spoodle
Erin Lee	Lilly	Border Collie
Adrian Wood	Rocky	Australian Shepherd
Sonya Tanks	Hadley	Labradoodle
Kate Dorman	Max	Golden Retriever
Aaron Hughes	Zara	Kelpie/Cattle dog X
Samara Siganto	Spark	Staffordshire Terrier X
Debbie & Terry Dodd	Lino	German Shepherd
Claire Dixon	Molly	Great Dane
Aiden Cunningham	Maverick	German Shepherd

#### INTERMEDIATE to ADVANCED

Handler	Dog's name	Breed
Lucille Robinson	Chilli	Labrador X
Daniel Robson	Dozer	American Staffy X
Georgina Turner	Boston	American Staffordshire
Tania 7 Bruce Bernhardt	Max	Border Collie X
Paul Slatter	Chillie	Australian terrier
Andrea Coleman	Rasta	Australian Cattle Dog
Jamie Toyer	Odin	Border/Kelpie X

#### ADVANCED to LEVEL 4 PRE-TRIALLING

#### \*\*\*\* GRADUATES – CONGRATULATIONS ! \*\*\*\*

Handler	Dog's name	Breed
Julie Beets	Zeus	German Shepherd
Renate Linder	Dixie	Belgian shepherd
Greg Chapman	Zara	German Shorthaired Pointer
Pat Fittler	Scooby	Jack Russell

**CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC**  
**DOUBLE OBEDIENCE, AGILITY & JUMPERS / SINGLE RALLY-O TRIAL**  
**FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> & SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Friday 23rd September 2016****OBEDIENCE Trial 1 : Judge - Barbara Murfet**

UDX	Competitor	Dog's Name	Score
1st	Silke Weyland	Aska	167
<b>UD</b>			
1st Q	Andrea Wohlhunter	Shelby	174
2nd	Silke Weyland	Aska	162
<b>CDX</b>			
1st	Andrea Wohlhunter	Shelby	168
2nd	Kirsten Nilson	Duke	165
3rd	Renate Linder	Lilly	140
<b>CD</b>			
1st	Sharon Daniels	Bosun	51
<b>CCD</b>			
1st Q	Julie Doig	Zoe	98
2nd	Bronwyn Mullins	Zacc	82
3rd	Carolyn Lynn	Kelly	61

**Saturday September 24th 2016****RALLY- O - Judge : Barbara Murfet**

RM	Competitor	Dog's Name	Score
1st	Meade Oswald	Caesar	84
2nd	Renate Linder	Lilly	73
3rd	Andrea Wohlhunter	Shelby	72
<b>REB</b>			
1st	Meade Oswald	Caesar	72
2nd	Julie Doig	Zoe	64
<b>REA</b>			
4th Q	Kirsten Nilson	Pip	91
<b>RAB</b>			
1st Q	Kirsten Nilson	Pip	82
<b>RAA</b>			
1st	Carolyn Lynn	Kelly	65
<b>RN</b>			

All withdrawn

**AGILITY TRIAL 1. Judge : Jody Brown**

ADM	Competitor	Dog's Name	Time
1st	Sharon Daniels	Bosun	75.41
<b>ADX</b>			
1st Q	Lauren Moore	Spritz	42.18
2nd	Trish Williams	Cue	42.45
<b>ADO</b>			
1st Q	Lauren Moore	Spritz	40.8
<b>AD</b>			
1st Q	Lynn Moore	Lift	40.8
<b>JUMPERS TRIAL 1. Judge : Eddy Szmelter</b>			
<b>JD</b>			
1st Q	Lynn Moore	Lift	20.37
2nd	Judy Forbes-Faulkner	Pearl	40.49
3rd	Silke Weyland	Aska	18.09
<b>JDO</b>			
1st Q	Lauren Moore	Zippy	29.1
2nd Q	Trish Williams	Cue	30.05
3rd Q	Lauren Mootre	Spritz	30.11
<b>JDX</b>			
1st Q	Trish Williams	Chilli	24.74
2nd	Meade Oswald	Caesar	38.34
<b>JDM</b>			
1st Q	Lauren Moore	Lacey	36.36
2nd Q	Lauren Moore	Spritz	36.7
3rd Q	Lauren Moore	Zippy	37.64
4th Q	Trish Williams	Cue	38.11

**Saturday September 24th 2016 (CON'T)****STRATEGIC PAIRS GAME & AGILITY : Judge - Eddy Szmelter**

SPDM	Competitor	Dog's Name	Time
1st Q	Trish Williams	Cue	59.44
1st Q	Andrea Wohlhunter	Shelby	59.44
<b>SPDX</b>			
1st	Tricia Williams	Chilli	73.26
1st	Meade Oswald	Amber	73.26
<b>AD</b>			
1st	Lynn Moore	Lift	45.76
<b>ADO</b>			
1st Q	Lauren Moore	Spritz	55.41
<b>ADX</b>			
No qualifiers			
<b>ADM</b>			
No qualifiers			

**JUMPERS TRIAL 2. Judge : Jody Brown**

JDM	Competitor	Dog's Name	Time
1st Q	Andrea Wohlhunter	Shelby	21.72
2nd Q	Lauren Moore	Spritz	23.67
3rd Q	Tricia Williams	Cue	25.02
<b>JDX</b>			
1st Q	Tricia Williams	Chilli	18.16
2nd	Renate Linder	Lilly	57.97
<b>JDO</b>			
1st Q	Lauren Moore	Zippy	21.96
2nd Q	Tricia Williams	Cue	23.81
3rd	Tricia Williams	Chilli	19.57
<b>JD</b>			
1st Q	Lynn Moore	Lift	19.22

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL 2. Judge : Barbara Murfet**

UDX	Competitor	Dog's Name	Score
Withdrawn			
<b>UD</b>			
1st	Andrea Wohlhunter	Shelby	153
<b>CDX</b>			
1st Q	Meade Oswald	Caesar	188
2nd	Renate Linder	Lilly	103
3rd	Kirsten Nilson	Duke	87
<b>CD</b>			
1st	Judy Forbes-Faulkner	Rose	148
2nd	Sharon Daniels	Bosun	92
<b>CCD</b>			
1st	Carolyn Lynn	Kelly	84
2nd	Bronwyn Mullins	Zacc	79









Agility competitors with Judges Jody Brown and Eddie Szmelter (*middle*) after presentations for the September trial, the last one for the 2016 season.



## RALLY OBEDIENCE



## 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 2016	7.00pm	Obedience	Coral Pethers
Saturday 30th July 2016	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 2016	7.00pm	Obedience Rally O	Keith Millington Kathleen Millington
Saturday 27 August 2016	2.00pm	Agility, Jumpers, Snooker - all levels	Keith Millington
	7.00pm	Obedience Agility, Jumpers, Strategic Pairs - all levels	Kathleen Millington Tim Fairchild
Friday 23 September 2016	7.00pm	Obedience Rally O	Barbara Murfet Barbara Murfet
Saturday 24 September 2016	3.00pm	Agility, Jumpers - all levels	Jody Brown
	7.00pm	Obedience	Barbara Murfet
	7.00pm	Agility, Jumpers, Strategic Pairs - all levels	Eddie Szmelter

*ALL FINISHED ....*



*SEE YOU IN 2017 !!*

### 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

***ALL FINISHED ....***



***SEE YOU IN 2017 !!***







# MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE !!



# THE END