

# CROYDON CAPERS

OCTOBER 2016 EDITION



Join us for  
FUN DAY  
Sunday 27 November



NEWSLETTER OF CROYDON AND DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB





# Committee of Management 2016/2017

**Croydon & District Obedience Dog Club Inc.**

**Registration Number A008190W ABN: 82 580 068 107**

**Clubhouse Telephone 9723 7194 Postal Address: PO Box 465 Croydon 3136**

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	Deb Smith		Vicky Desouza
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<b>Facebook Administrator</b>	Barbara Schubert &		Fiona Blake
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Eric Archer (Decd)	Melissa Foote	Pam Makepeace	Rita Thomas
Michelle Balzereit	Anne Gilbert (Decd)	Anne Mann	Roger Thomas
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Marilyn Bentrup	Kerry Grills (Decd)	Eddie Nissner	Wayne Tracey
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Brian Constable	Ingrid Krueger	Margaret Schaffert	John Williams
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October 2016 ©Croydon & District Obedience Dog Club Inc.

# President's Report



Hi everyone,

As we come to the last weeks of club for 2016 the weather is still inconsistent, dry one day, flash floods the next. The overall rainfall this year in our area has been more than double that of last year. This has meant a number of wet and windy Sundays, but the attendance of handlers with their dogs regardless has been most encouraging. With a significant increase in new members this year a number of instructors have taken on back to back classes for which the club is very thankful as this assists in reducing the number of dogs/handlers per class and also the waiting time for a class.

The state of the ground has certainly improved over the last few weeks with the council 'top dressing' with sand/soil and the next project they have for Silcock Reserve is 'sand slitting' the ground to improve the drainage in the coming weeks.

**Please remember that Sunday 27th November is the last day of training for 2016.**

**ALL training classes will be from 9:15 – 10:15 am.**

It is also 'Fun Day' where, with your help, apart from having fun we can also raise money to be donated to organisations such as Animal Aid and Blue Cross. Remember to bring some gold coins.



Full details of the Fun Day are shown on page 13.

We also collect non-perishable dog and cat food for these organisations. Drop off point will be at the BBQ up until and including 27th November. The club thanks you in advance for your generous support.

I would like to thank ALL volunteers for their dedication and commitment to CDODC: instructors, committee, office, bbq, shop and around the ground. A special thanks to those of you that undertake a lot of extra work away from club that keeps CDODC running. "You know who you are".

We at CDODC hope you enjoy the break over Christmas and look forward to your return to training on Sunday 5th February 2017.

**Merry Christmas Everyone**

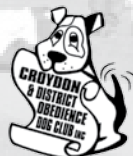
**Geoff Coleman  
President CDODC Inc**



## TRAINING RESUMES SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2017

This piece of paper belongs on your fridge.

Enjoy your summer break and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.





**I**t's hard to believe that this is the last edition of Capers for the year. We've certainly been challenged with the wet boggy ground the past few months, however handler and instructors alike have rallied and continued to come along each week and train their dogs.

The end of the year can be a traditionally busier time for us with get togethers. Enrichment of your dog's environment can help pass the time for your dog while you are out shopping and partying. It can also be difficult to find the time to train over the busy summer months, but training can easily be slotted in to any free moments you have. All dogs need to be fed and so we can do a quick run through of a few exercises prior to feeding, or use some of your dog's food as treats and make him work for his food. Incorporate some training with the games you play with your dogs, a mad ball fetcher can 'sit and wait' before being allowed to get the ball, start slow with short distances and work up. A favourite game with my dogs 'go find' requires an extended 'sit wait', before being released to find their 'treasure'.

Did you know that one of the leading causes of dogs being surrendered to shelters is a lack of socialisation during the puppy and juvenile stages of development? The first 16 weeks are the most important but socialisation should never stop. It's a work in progress. Research shows that well socialised city pups taken at 8 weeks to a rural environment and returned at 6 months show significant fear of traffic regardless of their early socialisation. We should endeavour to socialise our dogs to as many different positive experiences, people, other animals, and household objects throughout their whole lives not just those 16 weeks. This doesn't mean that a dog that has a poor socialisation history is a lost cause or somehow unfixable but rather the owners will need to employ patience, love, trust, respect and time, especially time. This highlights that we need to continue to interact



and take our dogs out regularly regardless of how busy we are.

Our training year ends with Fun Day on 27/11. All classes will be held between 9.15 am – 10.15am, then we move onto the fun and games. Highlights of the morning are the lure chasing and fastest recall as well as opportunities to participate in the advanced various disciplines. There will also be quite a few interesting demonstrations of what can be achieved with your dog.

Enjoy your break, and especially your Sunday's over the next few months. Don't forget to keep reinforcing your dog's good behaviours. I wish you all a safe Christmas and New Year and hope to see you all back here next February.

**Enjoy your dogs,  
Barbara Schubert  
Chief Instructor**



**Please remember...**

Current  
Membership  
Card



**Training**

No  
Membership  
Card



**No Training**

# Basic Obedience Passes



## ***CONGRATULATIONS to the following club members who have recently passed the Basic Obedience Test.***

If you have ordered your certificate and not received it please call into the office on any Sunday between 10.30 – 11.00 am to collect it.

Anna Abbott & Molly  
Jennifer Cody & Lilly  
Dougal Ingram & Marni  
Jason Graf & Kobe  
Michelle Jeans & Chevy  
Lauren Murray & Zoe



Jan Pike & Robbie  
Emma Portelli & Taiko  
Fiona Robinson & Gypsy  
Andy Searles & Jazz  
Tania Sierra & Peanut



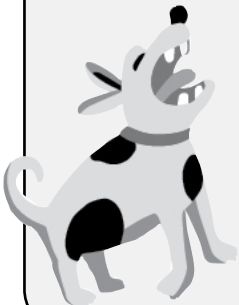
## **YELLOW BANDANNA?**

**A number of our dogs at CDODC wear yellow bandannas... this is because they might be hyper, nervous, protective, or excitable.**

**Please give these dogs SPACE and ask the handler for permission BEFORE you or your dog approach.**



## **Excessive Barking**



### **Please note:**

**It is not acceptable for members to allow their dogs to continually bark whilst at Club. Complaints from neighbours to Council can make it very difficult for the Club to be seen as a group of responsible dog owners.**

**If your dog barks while tethered at Club, it may be advisable to put the dog in a covered, well ventilated crate thus removing visual stimulation, often the cause of barking. 🐾**



## Can you dig it?

*Reprinted from Dogs Life Mag Sept/Oct 2016*

**I**t is one of the most common 'problem' doggy behaviours. But you don't have to put up with digging, writes Laura Greaves.

Alison and Dallas Parker didn't realize they had a digger on their hands until nearly a month after welcoming their Border Collie puppy, Logan.

Aside from expected puppy mischief, the spirited little working dog was on his best behaviour from the moment he arrived at the couple's Adelaide home at the age of eight weeks. It was only when Dallas returned to university at the end of his holidays – and Logan was left alone for the first time – that the destruction began.

"He would dig up plants and the irrigation dripper system, and what little lawn we had at the time, but only when both Dallas and I were out," says Alison, a nurse who works irregular shifts.

"Everything we read said that digging was a common form of 'acting out' in bored working dog pups, so we tried a few boredom busting toys, but Logan is the kind of dog that won't play by himself – he needs a human to be present. We even tried burying poo in the holes. Nothing seemed to work."

It's a common refrain among dog owners whose canine companions seem to be addicted to digging. So why are some dogs so determined to dig and what can their owners do about it?

### Why do dogs dig?

All dogs have the ability to dig, but not all choose to do so. Those that do may be motivated by a range of reasons, says animal behaviourist Dr Joanne Righetti. "Digging has several purposes, including burying food to eat at a later date; to find a cool spot in warm



weather or a warm spot in cold weather; or to find small grubs, roots or seeds to eat," she explains.

Other dogs dig in order to search for small animal prey and humans have bred dogs for precisely this purpose. Jack Russells, Fox Terriers and West Highland White Terriers are among the breeds that were once prized for their ability to dig out ground dwelling creatures such as rats and foxes.

A dog may dig if he is seeking protection or trying to escape, which is why sturdy, secure fencing is important for all dogs. Anxiety induced digging is also common. The act of digging acts as a distraction from whatever is worrying the dog and helps him to calm down. And still other dogs dig simply because they enjoy it; they use it as form of entertainment or play. "Those that do dig appear to enjoy it immensely (and) once some start, they get into the habit," says Dr Joanne. "It's fun!"

### Boredom Busters

The moral of the story is that it will be difficult to dampen your dog's enthusiasm for digging without at first understanding why he does it. Once you identify what's driving him to gouge grooves in the garden, then you can implement strategies to direct his energy elsewhere.



Firstly, it's important to ensure your dog is getting enough exercise, as insufficient activity is a leading cause of problem behaviour. Depending on the breed, an energetic walk at least once a day should do the trick.

If your dog is home alone all day and you suspect he's digging out of boredom, try making his environment more interesting. Invest in some quality enrichment toys such as sturdy chews or a treat dispensing ball. Rotate these toys on a regular basis to maintain his interest. Offering a raw, meaty bone once or twice a week will keep him occupied too.

Human interaction, a change of scenery and an opportunity to stretch his legs during the day can also work wonders. Consider employing a professional dog walker to take Rover for a lunchtime romp in the dog park, or arrange doggy play dates with a friend or neighbour's pooch.

## Addressing Anxiety

But what if boredom is not the reason your dog is digging? In some cases – if you can live with the destruction – it may not be necessary to do anything.

"If digging is a natural breed behaviour, there is nothing problematic about it for the dog – only for the owners," says Dr Joanne. "Does the dog need shelter? Is the dog suffering from separation anxiety? If the digging is due to these reasons, then it is a problem and we have to address the cause."

If he's seeking shelter from heat or cold, try giving him access to a protected area such as a garage, shed or laundry, or provide a comfortable kennel that will allow him to retreat from wind, rain and sun. Digging as a symptom of separation anxiety or a generalised anxiety disorder can be more challenging. Other signs of separation anxiety including barking,

howling, urinating or defecation, pacing and escaping (or trying to) when left alone. If the dog is displaying any of these behaviours in addition to digging, seek the advice of a veterinarian or qualified animal behaviour specialist.

As he grew older, Alison Parker's Border Collie, Logan eventually gave up digging. "At around 18 months or two years of age he stopped digging in the garden beds, but kept a spot in the grass that he would dig out to sleep in," she says.

"To curb this we committed to getting the grass to grow in properly. We put in new soil, seeded the lawn, then pegged chicken wire flat across the ground so he couldn't dig through it. He's six now and hasn't dug since, except to find the odd lamb shank he has buried in the mulch and leaf litter!"

## Dig Friendly Zones

While Logan proves there are exceptions, Dr Joanne says that in most cases it's unlikely a dog will stop digging of his own accord. "I would not count on any dog growing out of digging behaviour. If a pup starts, then I would advise owners to go with it and allow their dog to dig in appropriate locations," she explains.

Yes, you read that right. Sometimes the easiest option is to give your dog opportunities to dig to his heart's content, whether at home or elsewhere. Fence off parts of the yard that are dig free zones and let him go to town on the sanctioned area.

"The best thing to satisfy a digger. Take him to the beach or create a beach within your backyard. Buy a kids' sandpit, fill it with sand and bury some toys or treats in it to encourage the dog to dig," Dr Joanne says. "If the dog is digging for fun, then we need to provide appropriate fun." 🐾



# Dog Friendly Gardens

*Reprinted from Dogs Life Mag Sept/Oct 2016*

**I**s your garden doggy safe? Katie Cincotta tells us how to keep our yards pooch friendly.

When you share your life with a dog, you get used to sharing a lot of things – space on the couch, dinner leftovers, sometimes even the quilt on the bed.

What we often forget to customise is our outdoor space. Dogs thrive outside. It's where they used to call home before humans adopted them into their lives as companion animals.

Even the strange act of a dog ruffling blankets or cushions together before they sleep harks back to bedding down for the night, out in the open, using leaves and the surrounding ground matter to create a bed.

How well we design our gardens can have a huge impact on our dog's enjoyment in offering them a space that enriches both their body and their brains. Animal behaviourist Joanne Righetti offers some essential tips in thinking about how to create a dog friendly garden this spring.

## Safe and Secure

Joanne says the first consideration when designing a dog friendly garden is to make sure it's secure. Strong, high fences are the best way to keep your dog enclosed and prevent them from escaping or disturbing the neighbours.

If you back onto a park, or have friendly pets next door, some owners consider adding holes through the timber at the dog's face level, so they can have a sniff and greet, and check out what's going on. Dogs are curious creatures, having your dog be able to peek beyond its borders can help them remain stimulated.

Joanne says if your dog is a problem barker, it may be best to avoid a viewing area as the sight of passersby will only encourage your dog to go into "guard dog" mode, which often involves barking.

When it comes to balconies and decks ideally there shouldn't be so much spacing between palings or balustrade that a dog could fit or fall through, especially for tiny breeds like Chihuahuas and Pomeranians.

It's a smart idea to consider a gate, so that you can make a deck or access to stairs secure. Having that ability to close off a space can also help you protect parts of the garden you may not want your dog to explore, like the veggie patch or a patch you're trying to regrow on the lawn.

At our own house, I've used two lines of string across the veggie patch to discourage our dogs from walking through the produce and digging. So far, it's worked. Anyone handy enough with tools could consider a more permanent barrier, like a timber one, or put up lattice boards, which are readily available at hardware stores and garden centres.

Joanne says it's extremely important to keep pesticides and chemicals out of reach; up high on a shelf or in a cupboard that your dog can't get into is best.

If you're using snail pellets for seedlings, choose one that's pet friendly and won't be toxic to your dog if they eat it. Or be a real hippy and ditch the chemicals in favour of an old traditional way of keeping snails away, scattering crushed eggshells on the dirt.

## Toilet Time

Most dogs like to toilet in the same spot. Sometimes they'll choose this spot on their own, but you can also encourage a certain area when you're toilet training your puppy.

If your dog likes to urinate on the lawn, there's not a lot you can do to avoid the yellow patches over summer. One option might be to put in an artificial turf patch, like those used by people who live in units and apartments. Synthetic turf just needs to be hosed on a regular basis and if

you have a stubborn spot where your pet pees all the time, products like UrineFree crystallise the liquid and break it down without damaging the turf.

## Toxic Plants

We know foods that are poisonous to dogs include chocolate, garlic, onion and avocado, but there are also plants that are dangerous to curious canines. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow is a fragrant plant with white and purple flowers that is highly toxic to both dogs and cats. Eating it can cause vomiting, anxious behaviour, coordination problems, tremors and seizures, which demand urgent medical attention.

Rhododendrons, rhubarb, poppies, oleander, lilies and aloe vera can also be toxic for our pets, so it's best to avoid them in the garden or ensure your dog doesn't have access to those plants.

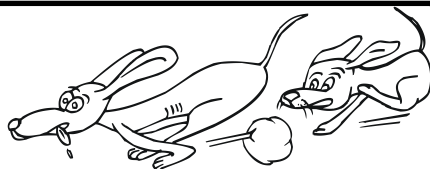
The RSPCA suggests referring to the Pet Poison List from the US ([petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons](http://petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons)) as a comprehensive guide to poisons.

## Fun and Games

Creating special zones is an important part of putting together a garden that works for both adults and dogs. That often requires fencing off precious spots like a rose garden, herb patch or sections of the lawn.

For families and active dogs that like a challenge, consider making an agility course where your dog can jump a hurdle or crawl through a tunnel. Having a section in the yard where the dogs move through an obstacle course might seem like a lot of work, but if you design and build it as a family, and involve the kids by having them time your dog runs, this can be a really stimulating way for the whole family to have some fun.

If your dog shows talent, you might like to take it to the next level and consider agility training. 🐾



## Dog Club Shop

Did you know that this shop is run for you the handlers and your dogs? Prices are usually lower than pet shops, vets and supermarkets.

### Some examples...

Sentinel Spectrum from \$75 – \$105

Advantix \$60 – \$67

Training Treats \$2.00 – \$2.50

Pigs Ears (each) \$1.50

Biscuits \$1.20

Non-spill bowls \$20

Toys at assorted prices

Ask us about buying in bulk.

Our treats are made in Australia.

We sell most items you may need for your dog.

Prices are subject to change.



## Coffee and Snacks

Coffee and Snacks are available for sale in the Clubhouse every Sunday during training hours. Coffee/Tea/Ovaltine/Soft Drinks, Chocolate Bars/Sausages etc. ALL AVAILABLE



# Dog Dental Health

*Reprinted from Pet Mag Aug 2016*

*By Kristie Bradfield*

**S**tarting a brushing routine when your dog is a puppy is a smart move – but don't let them chew the brush!

Did you know that between 80 and 85 per cent of all dogs over the age of three have teeth and gum issues that need treatment? We humans know that having a sore tooth is no fun at all – not only is it painful but it also affects other parts of our lives like eating, sleeping and having fun. Our dogs get sore teeth too; the only problem is that they can't tell us when they are in pain. Periodontal disease can go unchecked for years and it can cause significant pain and discomfort in our canine pals. The good thing is that all of this potential pain can be avoided by some proactive treatment.

## What is dog dental disease?

Dog dental disease, known as periodontal disease, is a bacterial infection in the mouth. It occurs slowly as plaque on the teeth hardens into tartar. At this initial stage tartar can be removed by your vet with very little trouble. But when plaque and tartar build up below the gum line, infection can occur – and that's when things can turn nasty. This infection, if left unchecked, has the potential to cause serious damage to the jawbone and connective tissues, not to mention increasing your dog's risk of infections in the liver, kidney and heart.

Dr Danielle Richardson from Claremont Veterinary Hospital says identifying dental disease is easier if your dog has regular checkups, ideally every three months. "This gives us the best chance of catching the signs of dental disease early and tailoring an at home dental care regime that helps to avoid any further deterioration dental health," she says.

## Tell Tale Signs

While our dogs can't verbalise their pain, there are a few physical signs of dental disease that speak for them. Dr Danielle says to keep an eye out for signs like:

- Halitosis (bad breath)
- Red or bleeding gums
- Broken or missing teeth
- Disinterest in normal diet, particularly harder foods like biscuits or chews

If your pet's mouth seems to be dirtier – for example if there is more tartar on one side of their mouth – it is likely that it is painful to chew on that side of their mouth so they avoid it, resulting in the teeth getting progressively worse. If you notice any of these signs, a trip to the vet is necessary.



## Tools for keeping Teeth clean

While a regular clean from your vet is the ideal way to stay on top of your dog's dental health, there are a number of supplements that do a pretty good job too. "There are some fantastic products on the market to help dental health,

such as specialised diets, mouth washes and chews," says Dr Danielle. "I'm not a fan of bones, though, as I have removed too many from places they are not meant to be, like the oesophagus, stomach and bottom." Dr Danielle says that if owners insist on feeding bones to their dogs, they should choose large, raw bones that won't fragment easily: cooked bones are a big no-no. She also suggests throwing bones away within 48 hours to avoid them being buried in the garden and dug up later, re-emerging to cause gastro.

While the chews, bones and toys are all handy, nothing beats brushing your dog's teeth. "It sounds a lot harder than it actually is and



owners are often surprised at how well their pets tolerate having their teeth brushed," says Dr Danielle. "Avoid big tooth brushes. Start off just using your finger and some pet toothpaste and just rub your finger gently over the teeth and gums." Make sure you do this under supervision and you have a good relationship with your pet before attempting this.

Dr Danielle says this daily rubbing of the teeth will gently improve and maintain your pet's dental health. All it takes is a minute a day to help provide a lifetime of sweeter kisses without doggy breath.

## Toothbrushing 101

Ready to start brushing? Here are a few tips to get you started.

1. Start early. Establishing a brushing routine in puppyhood is ideal.
2. Your dog may take a little time to get used to the idea of regular brushing. As with any new skill the keys are patience, praise and rewards. Start small by getting your dog used to you touching their mouth, then progress to the introduction of the brush and the paste. Remember, always end with a reward.
3. Can't brush your dog's teeth daily? Aim to do it as often as you can each week.
4. Don't use human toothpaste. As dogs can't spit and rinse, you'll need to use toothpaste that is safe for them to swallow. They also come in dog approved flavours like chicken and biscuit.
5. Don't ignore potential problems. If you think that something isn't right, head to the vet. Dental problems don't get better if they're left alone – they get worse, they hurt more and they get progressively more expensive. 🐾

## Dog Lovers

*My dogs live here, they're here to stay. You don't like pets, be on your way. They share my home, my food, my space. This is their home; this is their place.*

*You will find dog hair on the floor, they will alert you're at the door.*

*They may request a little pat, a simple "no" will settle that.*

*It gripes me when I hear you say, 'just how is it you live this way?'*

*They smell, they shed, they're in the way. 'WHO ASKED YOU?' is all I can say.*

*They love me more than anyone, my voice is like the rising sun.*

*They merely have to hear me say, 'C'mon, time to go and play.'*

*Then tails wag and faces grin. They bounce and hop and make a din.*

*They never say 'no time for you,' they're always there, to GO and DO.*

*And if I'm sad? They're by my side. And if I'm mad? They circle wide.*

*And if I laugh, they laugh with me, they understand, they always see.*

*So once again, I say to you, Come visit me, but know this too...*

*My dogs live here, they're here to stay. You don't like pets, be on your way.*

*They share my home, my food, my space. This is their home; this is their place.*

Author unknown





*Reprinted from Pet Mag Oct 16*

**I**t's time to get our houses spick and span, but what cleaning products can be harmful to our pets? Kate Cincotta reports.

The sun is shining, the flowers are blooming, and suddenly we've got energy for spring cleaning – time to pack away woolly jumpers, dust the furniture, vacuum under the bed and pile up all that stuff you haven't used for years to donate to the op shop. Ritual house cleaning in spring is a great way to tidy up and make plans for the warmer weather, but it's important to remember the risks to nosy-parker fur kids.

Most of us get the house in order with a bucket load of chemicals, which might be great for maximum shine but can be poisonous for our pets. We know how powerful those canine noses are, and we know how adventurous some cats can be in the garden, so here are some warnings from AEC (Accident Emergency Centre) which treats many of the worst cases of animal poisoning at their eight clinics across Australia.

## Cleaning Products

AEC's emergency vet Dr Kate Camillo says essential oils and some cleaning products such as turpentine and cleaning fluid are toxic if inhaled or swallowed by dogs and cats. It's best to remember to keep those products on high shelves and always put the lids back on after using them. The vet hospital has also seen cases of pet poisoning where disinfectant and wood polish have been consumed by animals.

## Mothballs

We put the little white balls in our drawers and wardrobes to keep moths and other critters from chewing holes in our clothes. But the ingredients in mothballs – naphthalene – is toxic. If your pooch or moggy has eaten one, symptoms include vomiting, pale gums, fast heart rate, rapid breathing and red coloured urine – dangerous enough to cause liver and kidney failure.

## Snail Pellets

No commercial snail pellets are safe for pets to consume. Even those that market themselves as 'safer' for pets may still contain high quantities of elemental iron and are in fact toxic when ingested.

Dr Kate says snail pellets are cereal based products so they may be attractive to pets regardless of whether a bitterant is added in those 'pet friendly' pellets. Signs to look out for include depression, drooling, poor coordination, vomiting, diarrhoea, rapid breathing and seizures.

## Rat Poison

Nobody wants rats in the pantry or breeding in the garage, but nobody wants a sick pet either. Rat poison is one of the worst offenders when it comes to seriously life-threatening toxins.

Sometimes it can take days to notice the signs – no appetite, weakness, trouble breathing. It can hurt dogs as well as cats and can be very expensive to treat as it can require weeks of monitoring and intravenous fluids.

## Poison to Pets

- Antifreeze
- Aromatherapy oils
- Bleach
- Boric acid
- Cleaning fluid
- Deodorants and deodorisers
- Detergent
- Disinfectants
- Furniture polish
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Metal polish
- Mothballs
- Rat poison
- Snail/slug bait
- Weed killer
- Wood polish

*Continued on page 14*



# FUN DAY

## Sunday 27th November

### Training + Fun & Games

ALL CLASSES @ 9.15 to 10.15am

ACTIVITIES will start at 10.15am

Entry fee to games and competitions \$2.00

(50% Fee donated to the Victorian Animal Aid Shelter & 50% to Blue Cross Animal Shelter)

ENTRIES TAKEN 9.15am to 10.30am

- ★ Fancy dress - child and adult comp
- ★ Waggiest Tail
- ★ Dog Most Like Owner
- ★ Dog with Best Trick - children only
- ★ Good-O Race
- ★ Fastest Recall
- ★ Noughts & Crosses
- ★ Musical Mats
- ★ Best Groomed Dog

★ Obedience Demonstration

★ Demonstration Team

BBQ and Canteen Available

## A visit from Santa's Helpers

ETA... 11.15 am

depending on Air Traffic Control



## ★ Children's presents

Please leave your child's present, wrapped and clearly labelled at the Office before 10.30 am.

Maximum present value \$ 10.00.



## Chemical Attraction cont.

### Case Study:

#### Bailey's brush with rat poison

Bailey is a one-and-a-half year old male Bichon Frise that presented to his regular vet and was then referred to the Animal Emergency Centre as his owners noted he was becoming increasingly lethargic. He had been off colour and not eating for a few days prior.

On examination, Bailey was noted to have pale gums, difficulty breathing and a sore abdomen. He was in cardiovascular shock. Blood tests showed that Bailey was not able to clot his blood properly. Vets at the AEC suspected he was bleeding internally and was getting more and more anaemic.

There are a number of things that can stop normal clotting of blood – rat bait toxicity is one of the most common. Bailey lives on a property near to which rat bait was laid about a week prior. Rat bait poisoning was diagnosed.

Bailey received a plasma transfusion to supply clotting factors so that his blood could clot normally. Vitamin K treatment (the antidote to rat bait toxicity) and other medications were started to support him. Oxygen was required to assist with Bailey's breathing. X-rays and ultrasound examinations performed confirmed that Bailey had not only bled into his abdomen, but also into his chest cavity, into his lungs and even into his heart sac. This was making it difficult for him to breathe, intravenous fluids were given to ensure he remained hydrated and his circulation supported. His blood and oxygen levels were monitored very closely.

With intensive treatment including oxygen, fluids, medications and close monitoring, Bailey started to improve, his red cell levels increasing steadily without need for further transfusions. After 48 hours of treatment, Bailey had improved enough to be taken off oxygen and was stable

for transport back to his regular vet for ongoing care. From there, Bailey was sent home on orders of strict rest as it will take time for his lungs to return to normal. Continued treatment with vitamin K will also be needed to help his body to produce clotting factors until his body can do so by itself.

Rat baits are unfortunately very tasty to animals (in order to entice the rats into eating them!), and your pet may eat them given the chance. Rat bait toxicity causes a vitamin K deficiency in the body. Vitamin K is needed for the production of clotting factors, which helps the blood to clot normally. Without clotting factors, animals can bleed excessively internally and externally.

It can take two to seven days after rat bait ingestion before signs are seen; they can include lethargy, reduced appetite and weakness. This can progress to respiratory distress, pale gums, external bleeding (for example bloody diarrhoea, bloody urine), collapse or death.

There are various types of rat baits available and some will affect the body for long periods of time (up to six to eight weeks). Medications are often dispensed for up to 28 days, and if the clotting ability is still reduced (as evident on repeat blood tests), these may be continued for longer until the clotting ability is back to normal.

Rat bait toxicity is a potentially fatal condition that can be avoided, if you have animals, it is best not have rat bait on your property at all. It's just not worth the risk.



# Charmaine Lee Oodles of Spoodles



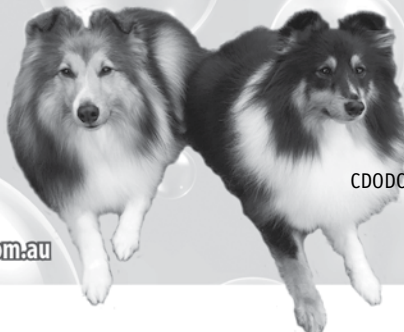
## DOG GROOMING

Shop 6, Wood Street, Nunawading  
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- 🐾 Located in a tranquil environment opposite Wood Park, Nunawading – plenty of parking near Nunawading train station.
- 🐾 Our key focus is that we create a happy and relaxed environment – we are passionate about dogs and their welfare.

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- Full Groom (Complete Makeover), All Breeds.
  - Spa and Mud Bath
  - Tidy (Spa Bath, Pads, Nails, Face)
  - Carding and Hand Stripping
- 🐾 DIY Services Only – Exclusive to Croydon Members Only between June – September. Appointment Essential.



[www.oodlesofspoodles.com.au](http://www.oodlesofspoodles.com.au)

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# Why So Sensitive?

Reprinted from DogsLife Mag

## What are the symptoms?

- Diarrhoea (often intermittent) or soft stools
- Increased frequency of defecation
- Flatulence
- Vomitting
- Weight loss
- Reduced appetite

Kylie Baracz discovers why sensitive stomachs occur in dogs and how you can prevent them.

Sensitive stomachs in canines can occur for many reasons. They may be caused by dietary sensitivity, food allergy, an intolerance or a gastrointestinal disease.

Dr Martine Perkins, veterinarian from Pymble Veterinary Clinic, says because there are a number of reasons why this can occur, you need to make sure there are no underlying issues.

"First, it is important to rule out underlying issues such as parasites, infectious agents, toxicity from spoiled food or pancreatic disease," says Dr Perkins.

"Many of these disturbances can cause a short term dietary sensitivity which responds to both nutritional and pharmacologic therapy. Longer term dietary sensitivities can result from a true food allergy or food intolerance, or from conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Although no obvious cause for IBD can usually be identified, food sensitivity seems to be a possible culprit, and modifying the diet can palliate signs in some instances".

## Food Allergies

A food allergy is when a pet has an immunologic reaction to a food and this is usually to a particular protein source.

"In 15 studies, including 278 dogs, the most commonly identified food allergens reported were beef, dairy and wheat respectively," Dr Perkins says.

"Dogs with food intolerances, however, may not be allergic to food proteins but may benefit from diets with certain qualities such as being highly digestible or having an improved ratio of Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids or including prebiotics in the diet".

Another issue to address is that dogs can develop food allergies after prolonged exposure to one brand or one form of food. On the other hand, reactions resulting from food intolerance may occur after a single exposure to a certain food ingredient.

"Although food additives are frequently incriminated as causing problems in dogs and cats, few data confirm this perception," says Dr Perkins.

## Carbohydrate intolerance

Carbohydrate intolerance is often seen by vets due to a sudden change in diet or after an episode of gastrointestinal disease. As you may have noticed in the recommendations on the side of pet food bags, several days are required for the intestine to adapt to changes in food carbohydrate sources. Your veterinarian will always encourage you to change your pet's diet slowly for this reason.

"Diarrhoea, bloating and abdominal discomfort occur when lactose intolerant animals ingest milk. Puppies normally have adequate levels of intestinal lactase to permit digestion of their mother's milk, when given cow's or goat's milk they may develop diarrhoea due to the higher lactose levels," says Dr Perkins.

## Are certain breeds or life stages more prone?

Dr Perkins says that adverse food reactions have been reported in dogs ranging in age from 4 months to 14 years. Up to one third, however, may occur in dogs less than one year of age.



"There are no well documented breed pre-dispositions to food allergies, but the Chinese Shar Pei and German Shepherd dogs are commonly affected," she says. "Gluten sensitivity is not well reported in dogs but has been documented in Irish Setters. Puppies are often susceptible to sudden changes in diet, more so than adult dogs, so be mindful of this when you purchase a new pup".

## Treatment

The therapeutic approach to most gastrointestinal diseases involves a combination of pharmacologic and nutritional therapy,

"The beneficial impact of nutritional therapy is often ignored, resulting in incomplete or delayed resolution of signs," says Dr Perkins. "First, you should consult your veterinarian to ensure that there is not an obvious underlying disease process which requires pharmacologic therapy and to get the best advice on how to treat your pet."

"Feeding a complete and balanced diet with highly digestible ingredients of good quality is very important, but sometimes that is not enough. In acute cases of vomiting or diarrhoea, often your veterinarian will advise you to avoid all food for 12-24 hours and then introduce a bland and highly digestible diet in small, frequent amounts."

"It is important to always allow free access to water as otherwise your pet may become dehydrated. If your pet is vomiting frequently, immediate veterinary attention is required," she says.

## Elimination diets

Because most food allergens are thought to be glycoproteins, protein in food is the nutrient of most concern in patients with suspected adverse food reactions.

"The variety of proteins in the food, their sources, the amounts and digestibility, and whether the patient has been previously exposed to the proteins are all considerations. Protein digestibility of at least 87% is recommended for such foods," says Dr Perkins.

"Ideally, elimination foods should provide a limited number of novel protein sources, preferably a hydrolysed protein source. Protein hydrolysates have molecular weights below levels that commonly elicit an allergic response."

The food should preferably be complete and balanced for the age and lifestyle of the animal if it is to be used for more than two or three weeks. Elimination trials are often performed with young animals in which nutritionally inadequate foods are more likely to cause problems.

## Dietary fibre

Dietary fibre consists of non-digestible carbohydrates and is used as a treatment of Colitis. Fibre such as beet pulp, psyllium and fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS) have been shown to enhance structure and function of the intestinal lining.

"Additionally, FOS are prebiotics which promote the growth of beneficial intestinal micro-organisms," says Dr Perkins. "Dietary fibres also have beneficial effects on colonic motility. As a trade off, addition of fibres to the diet may have a negative impact on nutrient digestibility depending of the fibre type. Psyllium can contribute to improvement of faecal consistency when added to a highly digestible diet."

## Probiotics

Probiotics are friendly bacteria which enhance the normal flora of the digestive tract and can help improve resolution of gastrointestinal

*Continued on page 21 >*

# Interested in obedience trialling your dog?

Pop over to the roped-off trial practice rings on Sunday morning and take a look at what you can achieve with your beautiful dogs. We are happy to answer your questions. All sizes and breeds are capable of reaching high standards, so when you pass Basic 2 give it a try! You will be amazed what your dogs can learn. ***It's not just quality heeling...*** there's jumping, retrieving, send aways, and later on scent discrimination.

We are fortunate to have highly experienced tutors at the top of their game but of course a lot of dedication, time and effort is required by each dog/handler team. Our trial members take part in Obedience trials statewide and interstate. The group enjoys fantastic camaraderie both during training and at events.

Once you have **passed Basic 2**, put your name down for the **Advanced Class**, a prerequisite to joining the trial group. Please see the form on the desk in front of the office.



**Members are responsible for the behaviour of their children at all times.**

**Children must NOT approach a dog without the owner's permission.**

## Do you want a trophy?



All handlers whose dogs have gained a title since 1st April 2016 are entitled to a trophy which will be presented at our 2017 AGM. Simply give Ingrid Krueger a copy of your Title Certificate.

If you wish to be considered for one of our Perpetual Trophies, please make sure that you give a list of all the passes you have received since last April and any qualifying scores you have earned to Ingrid Krueger. Please remember the Committee does not have E.S.P.

# Obedience Trialers' Report



## A message from Beryl McCarthy...

I would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes, cards and presents. Things are improving and I will be back encouraging (nagging) soon.

Thank you all, from Beryl.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following Croydon members who received qualifying scores at recent Obedience Trials:

### **MELTON DOC 25/9/16**

UTILITY RING (UD) Judge: Mr Fred Brueckner

**Jacinta Burke and T. Ch. TS. Grand Ch.**

**Kardibroke Lilac Belle CDX RAE (Bella)** 2nd Place, score 176.

### **GOLDEN RETRIEVER CUB OF VIC. 8/10/16**

OPEN RING (CDX)

**Rebecca McGroarty and Adderslot Midnight Charmer, CDX, RA, (Char)** 1st Place, Score 192, Highest Scoring in trial, Highest Scoring Labrador and the Clive Gibson trophy.

### **FRANKSTON ODC 9/10/16**

COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG (CCD)

Judge: Mr Graeme Eades

**Sue Timperley and Inneslake Simply Irresistible RN, CCD (Elsa)**, 2nd Place, Score 95. Title.

OPEN RING (CDX) Judge: Mr Clive Makepeace

**Rebecca McGroarty and Hevnsent Sweet Babyblu, UD**, 1st Place, Score 193, Highest Score in Trial.



**Sue Timperley's Shetland Sheep Dog, Inneslake Simply Irresistible RN, CCD (Elsa)**



**Rebecca McGroarty and her Labrador, Adderslot Midnight Charmer, CDX, RA, (Char)**



# Rally Obedience Report

## **MOORABBIN OPEN RALLY O TRIAL –**

Sunday, 28th August.

Congratulations to:

Rally Novice AM - Philip Chesworth with Yackawil Yesterdays Dream (Missy), 82 and RALLY NOVICE TITLE!

Rally Novice PM - Philip Chesworth with Yackawil Yesterdays Dream (Missy), 77.

Philip entered his second dog but, as luck will have it, no passes on this occasion. That's trialling for you!

## **EASTERN SUBURBS OPEN RALLY O TRIAL –**

Sunday, 16th October.

RALLY ADVANCED A – Sue Timperley with Elsa gained her first RA pass, 96, 1st in ring. Well done Sue (no handler nerves today??)

RALLY EXCELLENT A – Anne Mann with Rhythm achieved their third RE pass, 83, 2nd in ring. Two more passes for RE TITLE. Anne and Rhythm gained the same score as the first placegetter but were pipped for first place by time – fraction of a second!!

## **WERRIBEE OPEN RALLY O TRIAL –**

Saturday, 22nd October.

One Croydon handler and her dog braved the weather and gained a Title!

AM Trial – RALLY EXCELLENT A - Anne Mann with Rhythm in shocking conditions, 98, 2nd in ring - pipped on time for first place, second week in a row! OUCH!!

PM Trial – RALLY EXCELLENT A - Anne Mann with Rhythm, 81 and TITLE. According to Anne: "Dog on form, pity the handler's reading abilities were not up to scratch! However we just scraped through .... to get our title."

Great work Anne, achieving passes in the extreme weather conditions was a great achievement.

**Gary McArthur – Rally Obedience Coordinator**

## ***After B2 Rally Obedience is a lot of fun***

You do not have to enter competition like the people whose successes have been reported on this page. Rally O suits dogs and handlers of all ages and abilities. It is particularly suitable for older dogs (and/or handlers) who are not as active as they once were. On the other hand if you have a competitive streak we match the training to suit you and help you to enter trials.

Once you have your Basic 2 Certificate you are able to take part in this sport. If you would like to see Rally O in action, ask questions or try out some of the exercises/signs, come over to the Rally rings near the northern cricket pitch.

Beginners (Novice) classes are on Sunday mornings from 9:30 until 10:30 and once you achieve Novice you can attend the higher classes anytime between 9:30am and 11:45. You can just enjoy yourself practising the skills you already have in a fun layout of interesting signs. Check out the information on the CDODC website under the Rally O tab or pick up an Expression of Interest form from the table near the office. If you decide you'd like to take part fill in the form and drop it in the Rally O Box.



If you would like to take part in this sport or have any questions, please contact the Coordinator Gary McArthur: [croydonrallyo@gmail.com](mailto:croydonrallyo@gmail.com).



Kennel & 'call' name	Owner	Date	Venue	Grade
T.CH.Fernfall Gallant (Trooper) UD.RRD.ORA.RA.ET.TSDX	Dodo Kelly	04.07.2016	TCV	TSD 7 Very Good
TSD CH. T.CH.Fernfall Gallant (Trooper) UD.RRD.ORA.RA.ET	Dodo Kelly	03.09.2016	Gippsland ODC	TSD 8 Track & Search Dog Champion Good
TS CH, T CH Davidson Wasserbaillee (Bailee) CD, RE	Wendy Potter	15.10.2016	Bendigo ODC	TSD 8 Track & Search Dog Champion
TS CH Davidson Wasserbaillee (Bailee) CD RE	Wendy Potter	21.10.2016	GSDCV	TSD 9 Good
Tullacrest Celtic Drift (Drift) CCD. TDX	Lorraine Holland	12.09.2016	BODC	T 6 Tracking Dog Excellent Good

Please forward Tracking Pass details to Bobbee Terrill at [bobbie.t@bigpond.com](mailto:bobbie.t@bigpond.com)

## Why So Sensitive continued from page 17



signs. Consult your veterinarian on advice about approved veterinary probiotics available.

So are we currently seeing more cases of this type? Dr Perkins doesn't think so. "I do not believe we are seeing more cases of stomach sensitivity than 10-20 years ago, although I am not sure that those statistics have been documented. I think we are slowly getting a better understanding of dietary sensitivities, although the term food allergy is still often used too freely.

### How to prevent sensitive stomachs

- Be watchful: Try to make sure your dog doesn't eat garbage, spoiled food or anything questionable.
- Avoid giving your dog table scraps.

- Slow down mealtimes: Dogs that eat fast also digest a lot of air. Divide big meals into smaller portions, feed throughout the day or try a slow-feeder bowl.
- Be consistent: Any change in nutrition can irritate a dog's system. If you are changing your dog's food, do so slowly. Gradually mix greater and greater proportions of the new food with the old.
- Feed your dog a nutritious, high quality food, which is complete and balanced. Dogs cannot readily digest food made with low quality ingredients.
- Keep your pet's parasite control in check: Consult your veterinarian for advice if you feel your dog has any of the above mentioned clinical signs.



# All Happy Campers....

## All happy campers – check out and book kennels and catteries early

By Dr K Budd

Reprinted from Herald Sun

**W**hen you're planning your next pet free break, here are a few tips that will help make your four legged family member's time in a kennel or cattery worry free.

### Plan and book early

Popular kennels and catteries fill up quickly, particularly in peak holiday times. Compile a short list of suitable boarding facilities. Look at brochures, websites and ask friends, family and your veterinarian for recommendations.

Pet boarding doesn't necessarily have to be near your home. Outer suburban kennels and catteries may have the advantage of more room. Many offer a handy door to door pick up and drop off service, which is one less task before departing on your trip.

### Make a visit

Make an appointment to tour the boarding establishment to ensure it meets your pet's needs. Good kennels and catteries put a lot of thought and care into their pet accommodation and will be proud to show you their facilities.

These should be bright, airy and in good repair, and not too noisy or smelly. Accommodation should be dry and draught free, with visual barriers between adjoining pens for the animals. Many of our pets spend a good deal of time indoors, so ask about heating options, particularly if your holiday is during a cold period of year.

Pets from the same family can often be boarded together if they are more settled that way. Check that there are exercise options to suit your pet – for example, if you know your dog is anxious around other dogs, it may be able to be exercised on its own.



Ask about food options. Is there a choice of food types? Can you provide your own food? This may be important if your pet is a selective eater or on a medical diet.

### A healthy holiday

Look for a kennel that insists on up to date vaccinations, particularly for canine cough and cat flu. This policy gives the best protection against the spread of infectious diseases in a boarding environment. Schedule your pet for a veterinary health check in the fortnight before your holiday, which may detect any conditions that could become a problem while you're away, and ensure you have a supply of any medications your pet needs for that period.

Ask the staff to describe how your pet's health is assessed during boarding – are records kept whether your pet is eating and active? If your pet is on regular medication, is the kennel willing to administer this? Discuss the policy followed if veterinary care is needed while you're away.

### Little extras

Some boarding catteries and kennels offer extras, such as grooming or bathing your pet before its return home, or even training for dogs.

Finally, check that the kennel has emergency contact details either for you or a trusted family member, and also for your vet so your pet's medical records can be located if required.

***Then have a great holiday!***



*By Dr Karen Budd*

*Reprinted from the Herald Sun*

A baby is born in Australia about every two minutes. And with more than half of households owning a dog or a cat, there are many expectant parents considering how this new addition will affect their pet, or whether they should take any precautions.

## **Unborn baby care: toxoplasmosis**

Some cats may carry a disease (without being ill themselves) called toxoplasmosis. Toxoplasmosis can be harmful to the unborn child if a woman contracts the disease while pregnant, and women are often warned to avoid contact with cats during pregnancy.

However, gardening, eating unwashed salad vegetables and undercooked meat are considered to be a more common source of infection than contact with cats.

Infection only presents a risk if it occurs for the first time during pregnancy. Previous toxoplasmosis infection is common, and you can ask your doctor about a test to determine if you are already immune.

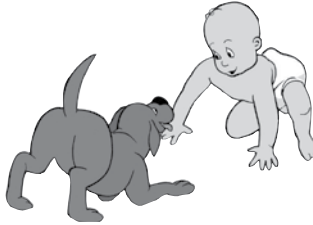
Pregnant women without immunity should take care around cat litter. The risk can be minimised by cleaning the litter daily, wearing gloves or, better still, have someone else do it for you.

## **Pet care: preparing for the new arrival**

A new baby in the house is a major change for your pet. Most pets adapt well, but it makes sense to prepare your pet during pregnancy for the new addition, because retraining a pet when you have a new baby to care for will be the last thing on your mind.

Any changes to routine or sleeping arrangements

are best introduced early, to allow your pet time to become accustomed to them. You can use this time to refresh your dog's obedience lessons, too.



If there are rooms that you no longer want your pet to access, consider installing a toddler gate across the doorway – this will prevent dogs and most cats from entering a room.

Alternatively, netting over the baby's cot may deter a cat seeking a cosy bed.

If your pet is used to an adult environment, the sounds of a new baby can be startling. Consider exposing your pet to baby sounds before you bring your new baby home. If you don't have a willing friend with a young baby to help out, recordings are available, such as Baby Sounds for Pets from [babysoundsforpets.com](http://babysoundsforpets.com).

Ensure your pet's healthcare is up to date and you have a good supply of routine treatments such as worming and heart worm prevention.

## **Mum-to-be care: fitness**

We've moved on from the era when pregnant women were "confined". Maintaining healthy exercise is good for both the expectant mother and the baby. A recent UK study of more than 14,000 pregnant women found those who were dog owners were 50% more likely to achieve recommended weekly activity levels.

Australian research conducted by Dr Hayley Christian at the University of Western Australia supports these findings, confirming that people who acquired a dog increased the recreational walking by 48 minutes each week.

So, when your dog stands at the door with pleading eyes, remember that achieving the recommended levels of exercise during pregnancy could be as simple as walking your dog. 🐾

# CDODC OFFICE HOURS

## PLEASE NOTE:

The office hours are from **9.15am – 10.30am**

Certificates **ONLY** will be available from

**10.30am – 11.00am**

The office will **CLOSE at 10.30am sharp**, so that the volunteers who work on the desk can collect their dogs and go to their training classes.

## I AM A FOREVER DOG, NOT AN 'UNTIL' DOG

I'm not an "until you get bored with me" dog.

I'm not an "until you find a girlfriend/boyfriend" dog.

I'm not an "until you have a baby" dog.

I'm not an "until you have to move" dog.

I'm not an "until you have no time" dog.

I'm not an "until I get old" dog.

## I'M A FOREVER DOG.

If you can't give me forever, then I'm not your dog.

## IT REALLY IS THAT SIMPLE.

*By Shandell Loren Dugdale  
of the Calgary Humane Society*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



2016

Nov	Tues 15	7.30 pm Committee Meeting
	Sun 27	FUN DAY - last training day for year
Dec	Sun 4	Obedience & Rally O Trial
2017		
Feb	Sun 5	Sunday Training Resumes

Unless otherwise stated the following activities are conducted each week:

Wednesday 6:30pm & 7:30pm Puppy Pre-School

Sunday 9.00am – 12:00pm

Obedience Training – Puppies, Basic, Advanced  
Trial Classes • Flyball Training • Agility Training

# Visit [www.cdodc.com.au](http://www.cdodc.com.au)