

CROYDON CAPERS

APRIL 2017 EDITION



**Croydon Rockets Flyball Team
go to the Nationals**



NEWSLETTER OF CROYDON AND DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB





Committee of Management 2016/2017

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Instructors' Representative Vicky Desouza
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Team Leaders Puppy

Basic 1

Basic 2

Advanced Obedience
Agility
Flyball Coordinator
Rally O Coordinator

Jan Seach &
 Vicky Desouza
 Kerrie La Roche &
 Fiona Blake
 Ken Leeming &
 Linda Hedges
 Anne Mann

Florence Chiu
 Gary McArthur

LIFE MEMBERS

Arnold Adams	Pam Cripps	Penny Lloyd	Jill Spencer
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Eric Archer (Decd)	Melissa Foote	Pam Makepeace	Rita Thomas
Michelle Balzereit	Anne Gilbert (Decd)	Anne Mann	Roger Thomas
Helen Bell	Heather Gilbert	Rebecca McGroarty	Frank Tipping
Manfred Bentrup	Carmel Green	Ruth Nicholls	Wendy Tosh (Tipping)
Marilyn Bentrup	Kerry Grills (Decd)	Eddie Nissner	Wayne Tracey
Bill Bradford	Nan Hawkins (Dore-Smith)	Mal Paton	Cathy Trudinger
Lesley Bradford	Margaret Hopson	Neil Peterson	Betty Tulloch
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Brian Constable	Ingrid Krueger	Margaret Schaffert	John Williams
Joan Crewther (Decd)	Keith Layton	Sheila Schaub	Anne Woods

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April 2017 ©Croydon & District Obedience Dog Club Inc.

President's Report



Hi everyone,

Well we have had the first 2 months of the year at CDODC pass already. The number of new members continues to grow and I want to give a "BIG" thank you to our volunteers that work in the office giving extra time (past 10:30) to deal with member renewals as well as new members.

Remember, unless membership is renewed by 30th April 2017 an additional fee of \$30.00 (registration fee) will apply. Unless you have your new membership badge displayed in class you will not be able to participate.

On Sunday the 9th April, Melbourne weather let us know that summer was certainly finished when the clouds opened up especially during the 9:30 classes. The number of handlers on the day was down but I think they worried too much about the forecast but reliable as always the instructors were there.

I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and the 'bunny' left you something to enjoy.



Our Flyball Teams had a very enjoyable but competitive weekend at the Australian Flyball Nationals 2017 held this year at Hastings Dog Obedience Club grounds. The team events were held on Good Friday and Easter Saturday, we had 2 teams entered that came 2nd and 3rd in their respective divisions, "well done". There were clubs from Vic, ACT, NSW, Qld, SA and Tas. This in total consisted of 44 Teams and 260 Dogs.

On Sunday 23rd April CDODC will be hosting trials for Obedience and Rally-O and I hope some of our handlers will attend to see what goes on as I had spoken to some in visiting classes in prior weeks.

Until next Capers, keep training your dog, they don't have 'long weekends'. ☺

Geoff Coleman
CDODC President

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The following are the relevant dates for this year's AGM and elections:

AGM:	Friday 26th May 2017
Nominations close:	Friday 5th May 2017



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

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



Please remember...

Current
Membership
Card



Training

No
Membership
Card



No Training



Hi everybody,

Dog owners with a reactive dog often wonder if their dog will ever be 'normal'. Reactivity in a dog can be a frustrating and overwhelming problem; these dogs can be reactive to other dogs, people, cars, and essentially everyday things that they encounter on a regular basis. Many owners want reassurance that this problem will be fixed or cured, the dog will become normal and stop embarrassing them. Owners often feel they are being judged by others who have seemingly 'normal' dogs adding to the stress of owning and dealing with one of these dogs.

Reacting to the environment is not a disease but a normal reaction, something we call survival instinct. It's normal to react when we feel we are under threat. At some time we have all felt the need to fight, flee, freeze or even bluff our way out of a situation, different reactions but reactions nevertheless. Just as humans can be laid back, well balanced and calm or stressed, anxious and over reactive, it's the same for our dogs.

Reacting to a stimulus is normal and shouldn't be fixed but rather what is needed is management to teach our dogs that a particular stimuli is not a threat to them. There is an important distinction in fixing a dog's behaviour by stifling it and managing the behaviour. By stifling it whether using a form of surprise (water spray or loud noise) or harsh correction it may appear the dog is fixed; but rather the behaviour has simply been suppressed, nothing has been done to change how the dog feels, adding to the stress the dog is undergoing. The target behaviour will most likely reappear sometimes in a more exaggerated form.

We can however teach our dogs that things are not frightening or threatening if we focus on keeping them feeling safe. This can be as



simple as giving them the distance they need, and ensuring only positive experiences happen around those things they are concerned about. We can teach them there are ways to behave and still be safe. The stress and anxiety they feel when confronted by a perceived threat makes it harder for these dogs to cope so it's up to us to make sure they know we have their welfare first and foremost.

One caveat I am always upfront with is this does not happen quickly. It's not an instant fix. We need to be consistent, calm and give it the time it takes, but over time you will see less reactivity, a quicker recovery from reactivity and slowly the dog will become more comfortable confronting the threat at a closer distance.

At club we offer tools to help with reactivity such as our Reactive Dog Handout, Yellow Bandanas which simply mean, *give this dog space*. It's not a beacon labelling a dog as aggressive or anything else, it's simply to remind other handlers this particular dog for some reason will not appreciate your dog coming too close. It may be fear or over exuberance but may also be a dog recently recovering from accident or illness. Yellow bandanas can be purchased from our shop.

We also teach a Focus exercise early in your classes. Focusing on their handler can be a great way to minimise reaction, you best know your dog's triggers, get their focus before they react; we don't want to wait for the reaction and then deal with it we want to avoid or at least minimise it. You are your dog's advocate

Chiefly Chatter cont.



and being proactive in dealing with your dog is far more effective than being reactive.

You will also see a few dogs at club with muzzles. These are not necessarily dogs who have bitten or are dangerous, but for some wearing of the muzzle means the dog and handler can attend club to learn techniques to overcome whatever the issue is but most importantly we are ensuring everybody is safe and confident when near this dog. These dogs will also be wearing a yellow bandana so need space.

Until next time, enjoy your dogs.

Barb



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. 🐾

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.

Peter Burchill & Tika

Kelly Gilmour & Sara

Chris Harnath & Pepper

Elizabeth Hodgkinson & Eddie

Alana Phillips & Marlo



Tabitha Plenderleith & Kendrick

Cheryl Pollock & Kaida

Michael Thorn & Billy

Andrew Waters & Sophie

Julie Williamsz & Randy





AGM Notice

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE CROYDON & DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of members of the Croydon & District Obedience Dog Club Inc. will be held in the Clubrooms, Richard Silcock Reserve, William Rd, Croydon on Friday 26th May, 2017 at 7.30pm.

BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
3. Presentation of the Annual Reports
4. Appointment or reappointment of Auditor
5. Appointment of Returning Officer
6. Election of the Committee of Management
7. Presentation of Awards
8. General Business pertaining to the Annual General Meeting

CROYDON & DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB ANNUAL ELECTION 2017 – NOMINATION FORM

We wish to nominatefor the position(s) of:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Committee (6) | | |

	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE
NOMINATOR		
SECONDER		
I accept the above nomination(s)		

Nominations close with Secretary on Friday 5th May 2017.

The Elections for the Committee of Management of CDODC will be conducted at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 26th May, 2017.

Executive members of Committee need to be members of the VCA.

**The Committee of Management
hereby announce the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
CROYDON & DISTRICT OBEDIENCE
DOG CLUB INC**

**7.30PM FRIDAY 26th MAY 2017
SILCOCK RESERVE CLUB HOUSE**

AGENDA

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

GENERAL BUSINESS

ELECTION OF ALL OFFICE BEARERS

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

TO AVOID DELAYS PLEASE BRING YOUR
MEMBERSHIP CARD WITH YOU TO THE AGM

Each Family – Please bring a plate

**Would you like to become involved in
the management of your Club?**

The Club is run by a Committee and all positions will be declared vacant at the AGM (Friday 26th May, 2017). Don't wait to be asked – if you feel that you would like to know more about the Committee, please call into the office on a Sunday morning, or alternatively call any committee member. Any person who is a financial member of CDODC at the AGM, and who have been a member since at least 31st December 2016, is eligible to be nominated for the 2017 – 2018 Committee.

**NOMINATIONS must be lodged with the
Club Secretary by 5th May, 2017.**

LIFE MEMBERSHIP nominations need to be lodged with the Club Secretary for consideration by the review committee by **Sunday 23rd April 2017.**



Reprinted from That's Life Mag 20-4-17

Smoky belonged to an American soldier called Bill Wynne, who was stationed in Brisbane during WWII. She spent 18 months on the frontline with him, sharing his rations and sleeping in his helmet. On one occasion, in the Philippines, the American soldiers needed to call for backup. Smoky delivered telephone cables through a pipe and saved the lives of over 250 men that day.

When Bill was struck down with Dengue Fever and admitted to Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, a doctor noticed how Smoky cheered up the injured servicemen. The nurses began taking her on their rounds, and Smoky became the world's first Therapy Dog to treat PTSD.

After the war was over, Bill and Smoky continued to tour hospitals. Last year, Nigel Allsop found Bill, now 96, and presented him with the RSPCA Purple Cross for Smoky's outstanding bravery. 🐾



Our four legged heroes

Reprinted from That's Life Mag 20-4-17

Nigel Allsop, Canungra, Qld.

Nigel believes that our animal heroes also deserve praise this Anzac Day. More than nine million animals were lost in the First World War alone.

Edging slowly across the beige dirt, my heart pounded. As a dog handler in the military, I was regularly deployed on operations. This time I was patrolling an area, searching for explosives. Beside me, my four-legged partner shot me a knowing look. I'm here for you. My German Shepherd, Baron, and I trusted each other implicitly.

After a particularly fierce day of battle, he was the one I shared things with that I'd never tell another human. At night, he'd snuggle into my sleeping bag. We were inseparable – even on dates! Part of my job was to recruit dogs into the military.

Aged 21. I visited a breeder whose daughter Julie, 17, was absolutely stunning, so I asked her out. As I dropped her off in my van afterwards, Julie leaned forward for a kiss. Suddenly Baron appeared from the back, baring his teeth. "He's trained to protect me," I laughed. In time, Julie

and I got married and Baron loved her as much as I did.

But at work, he was known as the 'jaws on paws' because he had a bite like a shark! One night, I was patrolling an airbase when I was attacked by two men with knives. Before I knew it, Baron had them both on the floor! "You saved my life, boy," I said.

Over the years, I trained government agencies all over the world in the use of specialist dogs for search and rescue and drug and bomb detection.

When Baron passed away from old age, it was like losing a family member. After my daughter, Jessica, came along, I became a zookeeper specialising in behavioural enrichment. I even advised Steve Irwin! Then in 2003, I got a job with Queensland Police as a specialist dog handler.

The moment I met my new partner, a black Lab called Venus, I knew there was something special about her. As I pulled on my boots each morning, Venus would sit at my feet, and when I got up to get my gun, she'd fetch her lead and wait at the door.

We worked together on specialist operations to prevent crime and ensure the safety of the community. It got me thinking about how



invaluable animals are in war. Each Anzac Day, we honour the men and women of the military, but no-one ever seemed to thank the animals who had served beside them. "It's as if people think the animals don't deserve recognition, "I said to Julie.

More than nine million were lost in the First World War alone. They'd searched for the wounded and detected land mines, bravely acted as messengers, protectors and friends – yet there were no war memorials in Australia to celebrate them.

So I founded a charity, Australian War Animals Memorials Organisation (AWAMO). In 2012, the first bronze statue dedicated to war animals was erected at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. It featured a tiny terrier called Smoky who'd saved hundreds of lives in World War II. She was the world's first therapy dog on record, used to treat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

I also wrote a book about, her, and the proceeds paid for seven PTSD dogs, who assist servicemen today. "More than 70 years after her death, she's still helping others," I told Julie proudly. Meanwhile, Venus continued to be a hero at work and at home. When Julie battled cancer, Venus would lick my face, as if she were saying, I love you, Dad.

And when our grandson, Oliver, was learning to walk, Venus would let him hold her tail and guide him around the room. This year, after nine years working side-by-side, Venus retired. On the first day, she held her lead in her mouth as usual.

"Not today sweetie. You stay at home," I said to her. I don't know who cried more when I left. Now, she still walks me to the door as I leave, with my new dog, Lui. In total I've erected 30 memorials to animals in Australia. Even though they've served this country for more than a century, much of their efforts have escaped public attention.

This Anzac Day, I want to give the animals a voice. 🐾



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**



Tribute to Zoe



T.Ch. Zoe, UD, RAE, ET

3.3.2003* to 29.3.2017

R.I.P.

Zoe came into our lives in 2004 when she was approximately one year old. We had recently lost our adored Heeler x, Dylan, to cancer and my mother told me there was a young Australian Cattle Dog (more commonly known as a Blue Heeler) at the Blue Cross Animal Shelter in Wonga Park.

We were taken around all the dogs at the Blue Cross. Zoe (then Trixie) was in an enclosure with a beautiful Golden Retriever. Mike and I just looked at one another and immediately knew that Zoe was ours. The Blue Cross staff felt sure we would prefer the Golden but we only had eyes for the Bluey. We were told to keep her behind high fences as they would put her in one enclosure at night and find her in another one the next day!

She settled in as if she had always been with us. However, she was a very high drive little girl with so much energy. At the time we lived

in Ringwood and backed onto the Mullum Creek Reserve. In due course I let her off the lead to run free but on occasions thought she was gone forever when she went fox hunting. On these occasions I called and called to no avail. I stayed in the same spot from where she took off... in tears... eventually the little minx would return, exhausted with a huge grin on her face and scratches all over her from the gorse bushes. In addition to foxes and rabbits, magpies were high on her agenda. Despite years of training these traits never totally left her!

After attending a local dog training school for a short period, I decided to return to Croydon Dog Club as it was evident this little dog needed more to do, with plenty of brain stimulation to keep her occupied. It was here that our lives began to change. We went through the classes and when we were in the Intermediate Class was asked if I would like to train as an instructor. It was during the training course I realised that Zoe had a lot of potential if I was prepared to put in the effort. We passed our intermediate assessment and went to the Obedience Trial Group where we enjoyed one-on-one expert tuition for competition.

Zoe confidently passed Community Companion Dog (CCD), Companion Dog (CD) and Companion Dog Excellent (CDX). Then came the more serious stuff in Utility Dog (UD). It took us 2.5 years to gain our title because due to my inexperience and her cheekiness we always got one or two things wrong. Zoe was always very inventive and thought of new and better ways to do exercises! I recall one judge telling me she was a clown after she had done a lovely directed jump and was headed back to me but decided to add in a fun roll-over on her return! She got her UD Title in December 2010 at our home ground, Croydon.

In winter 2009 we trained for our Endurance Title (ET) – 20 kilometre run – with a group of friends from CDODC. We all passed this and had such a great time training together – getting fit, falling off bikes, etc!

Tribute to Zoe cont.



When Rally O became a competition sport, Zoe was the 2nd dog in Victoria to gain her Rally Advanced Excellent title (the highest level at that time).

We began Tracking training together in 2013 when Zoe was 10. We discovered the joys of this sport... getting up at 3.30am to get to trials out in the middle of nowhere in Winter! Again, with the help of marvellous friends and mentors, Zoe got her Tracking Champion in July 2015.

For the uninitiated, tracking is when a dog scents and finds a person laying out in the bush/paddock anywhere between 400 metres and up to 1200 metres away. The tracks can be from 30 minutes up to 180 minutes old.

Obedience competition is my passion and we continued trying for our Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) title. Don't let anyone ever tell you that old dogs can't learn new tricks... they can and do. Although time ran out for Zoe to get her UDX title she did get one pass at Moorabbin

Club trial in August 2015, judged by Clive Makepeace, 1st Place, Score 185.

Zoe retired in 2015 but in true cattle dog style, still ruled the roost over True Blue, Rhythm and more recently Echo, keeping them well and truly in order. One did not mess with Zoe!

Along the way Mike and I have made so many marvellous friends, learned about many doggy sports, travelled interstate competing... all due to Zoe, our amazing little rescue dog from the Blue Cross who literally changed our lives.

Anyone who knew Zoe will remember her as a cheeky, bossy, clever little dog whose bushy "raccoon" tail always wagged enthusiastically.

She is now with True Blue over the Rainbow Bridge. Our hearts are broken at losing her. She can now chase rabbits, foxes and magpies to her heart's content. Run wild and run free, we will always love you, our darling Zoe.

Anne and Mike





A way with words

Reprinted from Dogs Life Mag Jan/Feb 17

How many words should your dog understand and how can you increase her vocabulary? Tim Falk reports.

The ability to effectively communicate with your dog is a skill every canine owner should have. From understanding his or her name and basic commands, through to more complex behaviour such as coming when called, you and your dog need to develop an understanding and trust that you can rely on in any situation.

But what are the words that every dog should understand? Sharon Nelson, dog trainer from Melbourne's Manners for Paws Dog Training, nominates "come", "stay", "leave", "wait", "sit", "drop" and "look" as essential words you should teach your pet. "Teaching your dog to come, leave and stay are three important words every dog should learn as they could potentially save their lives," Sharon explains. "If you're planning on taking your dog to an off lead dog park or beach, most councils in Australia have laws that require off lead dogs to be under effective control at all times. This means your dog needs to come to you when called. In the event that your dog starts running away in the opposite direction, you can safely call them back to you when they've learned this important life skill."

Equally important is teaching your dog to stay. There are times when it may not be safe for your dog to come to you, such as if she's ended up on the other side of a busy road. In this situation, if you've taught your dog to stay to an advanced level, you can tell her to stay safely in position until you collect her. "The third important word is teaching your dog to leave," Sharon continues. "If they were to pick up a piece of glass or a toxic puffer fish at the beach, when they know what the word 'leave' means, they will usually respond by spitting

out what they have in their mouth, potentially saving them from cuts and toxins.

Becky Thomas, dog trainer from Ultimate K9 on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, nominates a couple of other important words for any dog's vocabulary. The first is a command to eat, such as "eat", "dinner" or "tucker". "It is extremely important that your dog has manners around food," she says. "This is the beginning of food refusal. It starts off easy with them waiting for that command before they eat their dinner and then we can progress it further so your dog won't take food from strangers or eat off the ground".

The second is the "leave it" command, which Becky says falls under impulse control. "That simply means, just because your dog wants something to say hello to another dog for example, doesn't mean he can. We can generalise "it" to mean whatever we like – the person/dog walking past, the cat running across the road, those birds in the park etc," she explains.

Finally, there's one other command that Sharon says is critically important: getting your dog to focus on you. "Teaching your dog to look and give you focus is essential. If your dog is looking at you, they are not looking at anything else like other people, dogs or other animals," she says. "Once you have your dog's attention, you can ask them to give you other behaviours and the more you reward your dog for looking at and checking in with you, the more they will offer this behaviour."

Sit and drop

While "sit" and "drop" might not be as crucial to your dog's safety as some other words, they are very important for introducing default behaviours. "Sitting is incompatible with jumping so when a dog learns that sitting results in rewards, they will offer this behaviour as a default," Sharon says. "Similarly. Teaching



a dog to drop encourages them to be calm in certain situations, and teaching a large breed dog to drop when a puppy is approaching is a lovely way for puppies to meet larger breeds without feeling too fearful for their size."

Teaching Time

Want to teach your dog a new word? Becky explains how. "There are quite a few methods when it comes to how to train a new skill. The most common one that pet owners use is a food lure," she says. Becky outlines the basic steps required to teach your dog the "drop" command which is where the dog folds into a lying down position.

1. Start with dog standing. Place a treat in your hand and hold it on the dog's nose (without letting dog have it). Slowly lower the food to the ground at an angle to end up between the dog's feet. The dog should follow the food and fold into a drop.
2. Once the dog is in position, you can let go of the treat and let him have it.
3. Repeat step one until the dog is folding nicely into the drop.
4. "Now we introduce the command 'drop'," Becky says. "Say the command then lure the dog into position. Make sure to say the command before you present the treat to lure into position."

"Dogs learn through patterns, so we want to say the command then lure into position. If you are consistent with this, before you know it, your dog will be dropping when you say the command and won't need to wait to the lure."

The sky's the limit

"Dogs are extremely intelligent and I feel we have only just started to tap into what they can achieve," Becky says. She points to the famous

example of Chaser, a Border Collie who has been proven to recognise more than 1000 words (chaserthebordercollie.com), as an indicator of what our canines are capable of.

From teaching skills such as those practices by assistance dogs to a range of advanced tricks, Becky says the sky is really the limit. "Just have fun and see what you come up with." Sharon says the dogs are capable of learning any amount of words, but their success relies entirely on them learning word association painted with an action. "You can also teach a dog in any language or made up words for the same action or behaviour. For example, you could teach your dog to sit in English, Italian, Spanish etc – as long as you are consistent and repetitive with the training, your dog will learn very quickly," she says.

And while it is generally easier for dogs to learn one word commands such as "sit" and "drop", you can definitely teach a dog to perform an action using a number of words such as "get the paper" or "where's the ball?" "Dogs can learn to respond to a chain of words, though the first word is the trigger for their initial response," Sharon says.

Remember to make sure you are consistent with your training. Dogs learn through patterns, so keep your commands clear and consistent. Learn what motivates your dog, for example a particular treat or lots of cuddles, and reward her for doing the right thing. Keep session short, sharp, and focused, and finish each one on a high note.

The key to success, Becky says, is to make training as enjoyable as possible for your dog. "Always make training fun – it should never be a chore," she says. 🐾



Beating Boredom

Reprinted from Dogs Life Mag Jan/Feb 17

Keeping your dog out of trouble with these six great boredom busting ideas from Tim Falk.

A bored dog left home alone can cause a whole lot of trouble. From digging up your backyard to destroying your furniture, ripping washing off the line and driving the neighbours mad with increased barking, any pooch that loses a battle with boredom can cause chaos.

Tim Ring, dog trainer with the RSPCA School for Dogs in Brisbane's inner suburbs, says that we are beginning to understand more and more about what causes dogs to act out. What would once have been considered the behaviour of a "naughty" dog, we now know might be caused by a lack of mental and physical stimulation.

"Gone are the days where we assumed that the extent of an animal's desires were food, safety and procreation. Science has proven what most of us who share a home with an animal already knew: animals like fun and will find entertainment whether we provide it or not," Tim says.

"Bored dogs tend to be destructive," says Chiara Perri from Point Cook Dog Training. "They often like to do a bit of renovating and landscaping, so digging holes is pretty common, as is chewing plants, pulling clothes off the line, eating their kennel and defluffing their bed. Sometimes they bark and howl hoping someone will hear them and come to play." "In general dogs find their own fun, but it often comes at their owner's expense."

So how can you prevent boredom setting in for your dog and ensure that you come home to a house in the same state as you left it? One of the most important tools to help your dog stave off boredom, Tim says, is social interaction. "We feel the pain of Tom Hanks' character in the movie *Castaway* acutely as he makes a

companion for himself out of a ball. Why then do some people happily leave a dog tethered to the back corner of the yard with not a thought of the dog's loneliness?"

But social interaction is only one part of the puzzle, exercise and mental stimulation are just as important when it comes to ensuring your dog is happy and content – even when you're not at home. And with that in mind, let's take a look at six wonderful ideas to help your dog beat boredom.

Boredom Buster #1 Get Active

The first boredom busting idea is one that requires action before you go out – and often again when you get home. Exercise is crucial to ensuring that your dog doesn't become bored. As the saying goes, a tired dog is a good dog.

"We know that good physical exercise will release endorphins, which are the feel good chemicals, so a good run at the park or beach is great. A good early morning walk for at least 45 minutes will get those endorphins released so, if you have the time, it is a great idea," Chiara says. You could also consider a dog walker to break the day up, so your dog gets to go out and catch up with friends.

Tim says that taking your dog for a walk or a jog offers both physical and mental stimulation. "As a boredom buster, a walk around the block is extremely fulfilling. A small amount of mental stimulation or some intense physical exertion will most certainly lead to a snooze soon after. If you can plan your dog's day to include opportunities to exercise both the body and the mind, you'll find that there is no room for boredom left," he says.

However, Chiara points out that mental stimulation through environmental enrichment can be just as satisfying and exhausting for your

Continued on page 16 >


Charmaine Lee Oodles of Spoodles




DOG GROOMING

Shop 6, Wood Street, Nunawading


0414 330 792

 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.

Services

- 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



Beating Boredom cont.

pooch. "Owners do need to be careful they don't just try to tire their dogs out by running more and more as this will only create a super athlete. Balance it out by also getting the dog to focus and problem solve with enrichment in the backyard," she says.

Boredom Buster #2 Interactive Toys

Dog toys have come a long way since the days when a humble tennis ball was the pinnacle of playtime entertainment. There is now an ever increasing range of interactive puzzle toys that provide hours of fun and give your bored dog's brain a much needed workout. Feeding your dog this way is stimulating and will also last a lot longer than if you simply serve up a bowl of chow. "These are a great idea, especially puzzle toys and self feeding toys such as the Fobbler, Kong Wobbler, Tucker Balls and Bob-a-lot," Chiara says. "These are food dispensing toys that encourage the dog to push, nudge and move the toy for food to fall out. They are very durable and can be left with dogs for hours over the day to prevent boredom."

However, Tim points out that you can even create your own interactive dog toys at home. "Whether it's a food stuffed toilet roll or a Wi-Fi enabled smart toy, giving your dog a reason to self entertain is the best way to see habits created from boredom work themselves into extinction," he says. "Find what drives your dog to learn and make these toys more challenging as your dog works them out. This doesn't need to be expensive or difficult. As an example, once your dog has worked out how to make the treats fall out of the bouncy toy, block the hole with natural peanut butter to raise the difficulty and the reward."

Boredom Buster #3 Doggy Treasure Hunt

You don't necessarily need an interactive toy to use food as a boredom buster. Another great way to keep your dog entertained when home alone is to set up a treasure hunt for him. All you have to do is scatter treats and toys around your dog's environment and it will keep her busy all day. "Remember that dogs don't naturally search much higher than their nose height, so a bit of training is required if you want to get creative with your hiding places. If your short on time, scattering some treats around the yard will be enough to stimulate the mind during the initial separation period," Tim says.

Any activity that encourages your pet to explore and make use of his backyard can only be a good thing. "Putting little parcels of treats and even regular dog food around the yard is fun and it should be paired with leaving the home, so the dog associates the owner leaving with the fun stuff starting," Chiara explains.

Boredom Buster #4 Doggy Day Care

Dogs are social animals that thrive on social interaction, not only with humans but also with other dogs. So why not snap your dog out of his mundane everyday routine with a trip to a doggy day care facility? "Dog day care is another great way to break up the week, especially if you have certain days where you work long hours," Chiara says. "Day care is a great outlet for dogs that love other dogs, Dog day care centres are well set up, safe and constantly monitored, so dogs go home very tired and happy."

However, it's important to make sure you choose the right day care for your dog. Tim says that research is your friend in this process. "Find a doggy day care that suits your dog's temperament and training requirements. There



are many types of doggy day care, ranging from group boarding to in home pet sitters. If this is an option for you, ask the venue if you can visit during peak hours to see what's in store for your dog during their days away," he says.

Boredom Buster #5

Training Time

Another great way to start your dog's day off on the right paw and prevent the onset of boredom is to begin with a training session. "When it comes to mental stimulation, a challenging and well thought out training session wins by a wide margin," Tim says. "Not only will a 10 minute training session provide valuable life skills and increase wanted behaviours, but it will also exercise Fido's grey matter, reducing his need to find other outlets for his creativity."

You could do some basic obedience training, more advanced tricks or even start teaching your pet the basics of a canine sport such as agility. Just remember to keep sessions short and fun, stay patient when things don't quite go to plan and end each session on a high note. Not only will this help your dog learn how to behave, but it will also provide the perfect excuse for the two of you to spend quality time together.

Boredom Buster #6

Doggy play dates

Your pooch doesn't necessarily have to go to a doggy day care centre to get his fix of interacting with other dogs. Instead, you could set up a doggy play date with one or more friends and their canine companions. "Play dates with other like minded and socially acceptable dogs are great fun. Just be aware that not all dogs at the dog park fit this standard," Tim says.

By arranging a play date with dogs and owners you know and trust, you can set your pet up to

have a positive, fun and safe experience. This will give him the chance to run, jump, sniff, play and explore with his furry friends, allowing him to exercise both body and mind as well as get plenty of social interaction.

Top Tips

The ideas above are just a start of what you and your dog can do to beat boredom: you'll often find that it's easy to come up with new and exciting ideas based on the activities, games and toys your dog enjoys. And if you're proactive, you can hopefully ensure that boredom never becomes a problem.

"Prevention is by far better than cure so if you are starting out with a new puppy, set it up with good habits to encourage independence," Chiara says. "Teach your dog to feed itself through toys and to cope when left alone. If you are unsure as to what your dog gets up to during the day, consider setting up a spy camera to check in on what is happening. This will give you valuable feedback as to whether your dog is just bored or if it is something more serious such as separation anxiety. It will also provide feedback as to whether your ideas are working."

Finally, Tim recommends taking steps to remove your dog's anxiety around you leaving the house and setting up boredom busting activities to entertain your pet throughout the day. "If you build your morning around giving 10 minutes to purposeful training and preparing games and toys for your dog, you will find your dog will forget to get bored," he says. "I always taught that a bored person is evidence of a boring person; in the case of dogs, a bored dog is evidence of a boring owner. Don't be that owner." 🐾

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 directed 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.



To err is human,
to forgive, canine

— unknown

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 qualifying scores you have earned to Ingrid Krueger. Please remember the Committee does not have E.S.P.

Obedience Triallers' Report



Some of our members did the trek up to Bermagui, NSW in early February again this year. It is a delightful venue, right on the coast, with six obedience trials and several Rally Trials over the course of ten days. Two of our members did well, gaining obedience passes.

The 2017 trial year is now in full swing... good luck CDODC triallers and keep up the great start to the year!

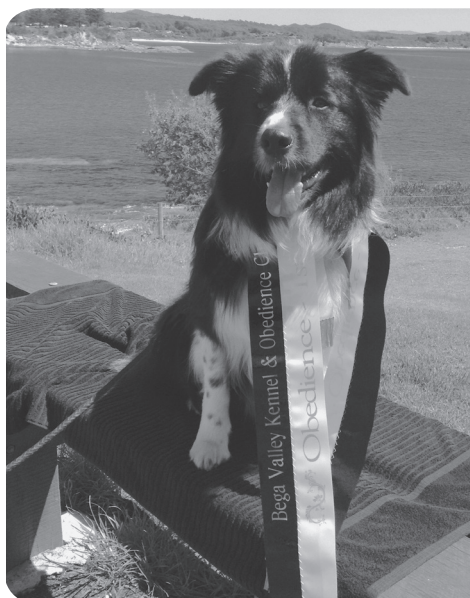
BEGA VALLEY KENNEL & OBEDIENCE CLUB INC 11th, 12th & 13th February

NOVICE RING (CD) Saturday trial:

Lorraine Holland and Tullacrest Celtic Drift, (AI) CD RN TDX 1st Place, Score 195, under Judge Kim Houlden

NOVICE RING (CD) Sunday Trial:

Lorraine Holland and Tullacrest Celtic Drift, (AI) CD RN TDX 1st Place, Score 186, Title, under Judge Lynn Elliott.



Lorraine Holland's Border Collie, Tullacrest Celtic Drift, (AI) CD RN TDX

WARRNAMBOOL DTS 11&12/3/17

NOVICE RING (CD) 11/3

Anne Woods and Elzscot Reach For The Stars RN JD CCD AD (Chilli) 4th Place under Judge Kathy Millington

NOVICE RING (CD) 12/3

Anne Woods and Elzscot Reach For The Stars RN JD CCD AD, (Chilli) 1st Place, score 182 under Judge Keith Millington

OPEN RING (CDX)

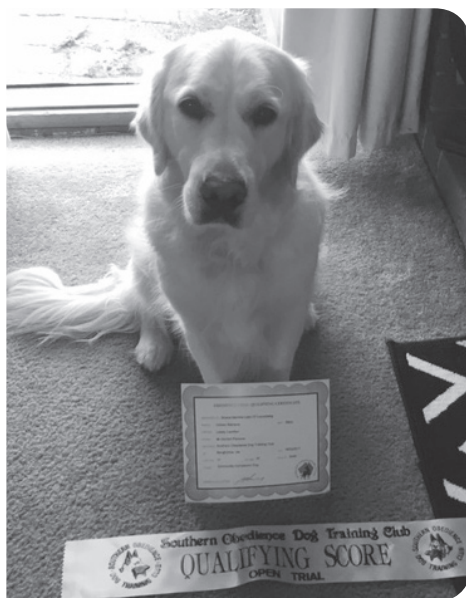
Rebecca McGroarty and Hevnsent Sweet Babyblu, UD (Jet) 1st Place, Score 190, under Judge Keith Millington

SOUTHERN ODTC 18/3/17

COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG RING (CCD)

Richard Stewart and Oakridge Regatta RA, CCD (Jack) 2nd Place, Score 94, Title, under Judge Kim Houlden.

Lesley Camilleri and Scanandamble Lady of Luxemburg (Macey) Score 89, 6th place, under Judge Gordon Parsons.



Lesley Camilleri's Golden Retriever Scanandamble Lady of Luxemburg (Macey)



Tracking Report

Kennel & 'call' name	Owner	Date	Venue	Grade
TS CH T.CH.Fernfall Gallant (Trooper) UD.RRD.ORA.RA.ET	Dodo Kelly	25.3.2017	GRCV	TSD 9
TS GRAND CH Davidson Wasserbaillee (Baillee) CD RE	Wendy Potter	25.4.2017	GRCV	TSD 10 Very Good <i>Track & Search Grand Champion</i>



**Track and Search Grand Champion
Davidson Wasserbaillee (Baillee) CD RE**

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 page 21. 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.



Dogs come into
our lives to teach
us about love, they
depart to teach us
about loss.



A new dog never replaces an old dog;
it merely expands the heart. If you
have loved many dogs your heart is
very big.

Rally O Report

Rally Obedience at Croydon has taken on a new emphasis this year. Most participants are taking part just for fun. Only a few are currently entering competition and another couple have intentions of entering trials later in the year.

Rally O is perfectly suited to those handlers who wish to consolidate and extend their dogs skills beyond Basic Obedience 2 in graded levels without the need to focus on competition.

However, if you have intentions of taking the next step into trialling, you will receive all the necessary help and guidance in the Croydon Rally O rings on a Sunday morning. Further information can be found by sending an email to: croydonrallyo@gmail.com

The following are the reported results of CDODC participants in Rally O trials this year:

RESTRICTED TO BREED GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF VICTORIA - 11th March

Rally O Excellent A

Helena Walter with Nelke, score 87. This was Helena and Nelke's 3rd Excellent pass. She needs another two to gain her Excellent Title. Well done Helena you're on a run now!

SOUTHERN DOG CLUB – 18th March

Rally O Excellent A

Richard Stewart with Jack:

Am Trial – Score of 90.

Pm Trial – Score of 89. This gives Richard and Jack a total of three qualifying scores in Excellent. Two passes to go for Excellent Title. Richard transferred in to Croydon at the start of this year and said his training here has paid off resulting in yesterday's success. Two good passes in yesterday's hot conditions is certainly great work Richard, well done.

Gary McArthur
Rally O Coordinator

Neuter Champion



Neuter Champion

T. Ch. TS. Grand Ch.

Kardibroke Lilac

Belle CDX RAE (Bella)

commenced her campaign to become a Neuter Champion when she was nearly eight years old. Her first show on 13th August 2016 was at the Lillydale Kennel



Club Inc. where she received the Best Neuter of Breed. The judge was Mr G. Townsend from Canada. Her next show on 8th October 2016 was at the Ballaraat Dog Club under Mr R. Stoate. He commented on what wonderful condition she was in. I put that down to her constant ball chasing and weekly swimming exercise. On the 30th October 2016, judge Dr Leif Hjorth from Norway, was impressed with her good muscle tone and gave her Best Neuter of Breed.

Bella continued her campaign, gaining Best Neuter of Breed at shows and gradually accumulating points towards her Neuter Champion title. Finally, on 29th January 2017 at Cranbourne Dog Club Inc. show, under judge Ms J. O'Connor from Ireland, Bella achieved her goal.

Bella will now be a Dual Champion having a Neuter Champion conformation title and a Tracking Champion performance title.

We had fun on the show circuit and went to many different places around Victoria. I was encouraged and mentored by my good friends Jan West and Aileen Dibble. I thank them for their unwavering support throughout this journey. We also met many other wonderful people along the way.

It is now time for Bella and myself to concentrate on gaining her Utility Dog title, which as anybody who does obedience knows, is a very difficult title to achieve. Bella enjoys doing UD so we are looking forward to a fun year with hopefully some passes.

Jacinta Burke



The Law and You

We are family – Part 1

Reprinted from Dogs Vic Mag

A guide to nurturing the child and pet relationship from pregnancy to pre-school.

Pets have long been recognised as valuable members of the family. Over the past couple of generations we have seen an increase in the average age we are having our first baby from our early twenties to early thirties and as a result our pets are often well established in the family unit before baby comes along.

Pets and children can form a wonderful close bond and it is heartwarming to watch them interact. Apart from obvious companionship and affection, there are many other benefits for children sharing their lives with a pet.

Pets teach responsibility

Children learn about the requirements of a living being such as food, water and exercise.

Pets aid childhood development

Pets help children develop nurturing and social skills. Developing positive feelings about pets can aid self esteem and help children develop verbal communication and compassion.

Pets are a friend to children

Children turn to pets when they need a friend, a confidante or protector. Children often refer to their family pet as their 'best friend'. As pets do not judge children or get angry at them, children often trust them with their secrets and private thoughts.

Pets teach life lessons

Pets are often the first experience a child has with death and grieving.

Pets are fun

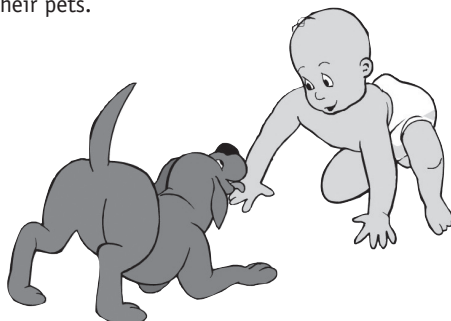
Pets provide unconditional love and affection. Children can participate in safe games with their pets and those who participate in walking/

exercising the family dog have the added benefit of extra physical activity.

Unfortunately, not all childhood experiences with pets are positive ones and research clearly shows that children in the 0-4 age bracket are at the greatest risk of hospitalisation for dog attack injuries. It also identifies that 80% of these dog attacks happened in the family home or that of a family member or friend. It is also important to note that they were bitten by their own dog or one known to them. From a welfare point of view we are also experiencing a large number of pets, particularly cats, being relinquished to welfare shelters, citing the arrival of a new baby as the reason. Many of these relinquishments are based on inaccurate information depriving both children and pets of a potentially long and happy relationship.

We are Family is a guide to nurturing the child/pet relationship. It is aimed at educating expectant and new parents on the many advantages of allowing their child to experience the joys of having a pet in the family. It also informs you of the potential risks, and provides the knowledge, skills and strategies to ensure that the experience is not only a physically and emotionally enriching one, but a safe one as well.

Parents are the first and most influential educators in their child's life journey. Teaching your child about the joys and responsibilities of pet ownership begins from an early age as they learn from your interaction and the way you nurture and guide their experiences with their pets.





Preparing our pets for the baby's arrival

All parents want their children and pets to enjoy a wonderful, loving relationship. We cannot assume, however, that our pets will easily adapt to the arrival of a new baby. Dogs and cats are creatures of habit and enjoy routine. The arrival of your baby will often mean that your pet's routine and environment will experience a variety of changes. These take time and are most effective if done gradually and in small pieces. The best time to commence this preparation is early in the pregnancy. By doing this your pets will be well adjusted and happy; minimising the risk of your pets associating these changes with the baby's arrival and avoiding potential jealousy and resentment.

How will a baby affect the time we have to spend with our pets?

Looking after a newborn is going to have a major impact on the amount of time you will be able to spend with your pets. If you have not already started, now is an ideal time, where possible, for the partner to take over duties such as feeding, exercise, play and hygiene. Changing these routines early will help your pets adjust to the fact that Mum will have less time when the baby arrives. Over the last month of your pregnancy it is advisable not to lavish extra attention on your pets. Keep it at a normal or even reduced level, in preparation for the baby's arrival and within the time restraints you estimate are likely to occur in the first few months.

What changes do we need to make to the environment?

Baby's arrival will also mean changes to your pet's physical environment. Areas that they have been able to access in the past, such as the nursery, will now be out of bounds. You may need to install barriers to ensure your pets cannot enter certain areas. They may need to

learn to spend more time outside or to sleep in a different area. If you travel with your pets you may need to reorganise the seating and restraints in your cars to ensure a safe space separating them. It is important that the pets have adequate time to acclimatise to these changes and that their new environments are equally comfortable and engaging.

Is there any pet behaviour we need to modify?

Dogs and cats need routine and are not comfortable with sudden change. If your pets display behaviours you would like to refine or refocus allow plenty of time, as the change will need to be gradual. Your dog should be able to understand and obey basic commands such as stay, drop and relax on a mat for a period of time. Your pets may also display behaviours, such as jumping up, that you would like to discourage. If you intend to walk the dog with the baby in a pram you will need to practice with an empty pram, teaching the dog to walk comfortably to the side and behind the wheels.

Positive reinforcement and affirmation are the keys to successful behaviour modification. Ignoring incorrect behaviour or attention seeking actions such as jumping up is very important. If they do not get your attention they will adjust their behaviour until they do. Be patient and keep persisting. It may be a good idea to speak to your veterinarian, an animal behaviourist or dog obedience club early, as they will be able to help you manage the process. Many people struggle with understanding how to facilitate behavioural change when some simple, expert advice may produce a quick and positive outcome.

Who will look after the pets while you are in hospital with the baby?

Do you have someone who will be able to look after your pets while the baby is born and during the hectic few days which follow?

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.

The Law and You continued from page 23

Remember that baby may arrive unexpectedly and in the middle of the night so having this planned well in advance is important. Ideally they would be most comfortable and relaxed in their own home. Unfortunately this is not always possible. If you are considering a boarding establishment then we would strongly suggest you have a trial run. Visits to boarding establishments for the first time can be a little stressful for your pets so a trial sleep over, prior to the event, may be an ideal way to help settle them when the big day arrives.

Who else will be looking after your baby?

Many mums are quickly returning to the workforce and often it is family or friends who will be left in charge of your new bundle of joy. If they have pets then they need to go through this process too! If a caregiver is coming into your home to look after your child it is important that you inform them of your routines and requirements, particularly in relation to active supervision and separation. 🐾



May	Fri 5	Nominations for Committee Close
	Tue 16	7.30pm Committee Meeting
	Fri 26	7.30pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
June	Sun 12	Queens Birthday Weekend NO TRAINING
	Tue 20	7.30pm Committee Meeting
July	Tue 18	7.30pm Committee Meeting
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