Croydon Capers

OCTOBER 2018 EDITION

Photograph courtesy Liz Sharp

NEWSLETTER OF CROYDON AND DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB

Committee of Management 2018/2019

Croydon and District Obedience Dog Club Inc.
Registration Number A0008190W ABN: 82 580 068 107
Postal Address: PO Box 465 Croydon 3136

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Chiefly Chatter

It's hard to believe that this is the last edition Capers for the year. The end of the year can be a hectic and busy time for all of us with get-togethers and Christmas festivities. Enrichment of your dog's environment can help pass the time for your dog during this time when you may be away from home more. Puzzle toys and kongs filled with food can be quite rewarding for your dog with the added benefit of a bit of 'brain work' to keep them entertained.

It can be hard to find the time to train our dogs during this busy time, but a little bit of innovative fun training slotted into any free moments you have usually take care of this. All dogs are fed, so we can do a few quick run throughs of exercises prior to feeding; dogs love to work for their food. Or, portion out your dog's allotted food ration and use it during the day rather than feeding out of a bowl. Incorporate some basic training in with any games you play with your dog; a mad ball fetcher can 'sit and stay' before being allowed to get the ball, a great exercise in self-control. Just be sure to start with short distances so your dog can succeed and work up to a longer duration and distance.

'Go find' is a favourite game of many dogs, requiring an extended sit/drop and stay, while you hide the item. Again, start slow by placing the item close by so your dog does not break position, build up gradually until you can leave the room to hide the 'treasure'.

Did you know one of the leading causes of dogs being surrendered to shelters or euthanized is a lack of socialisation in the early months of a pup's life. The first 16 weeks are crucial but socialisation should never stop. Think of it as a work in progress. Research has shown that well socialised city raised pups taken at a young age to a rural environment and returned to their original home at 6 months showed significant fear of traffic regardless of their early socialisation. We should endeavor to socialise our dogs and particularly, pups, to as many different positive experiences as possible, a variety of people, other animals and household objects throughout their whole lives not just through puppyhood. This doesn't mean that a dog who has a poor socialisation history is a 'lost cause' or somehow 'unfixable' but rather owners will have to employ patience, love, trust, respect and time, most importantly time. This highlights that we need to continue to take our dogs out and vary routine regardless of how busy we are.

Our on the ground training year ends 25/11 with all able to participate in Fun Day after one hour of normal training held from 9:15am to 10:15am. Various safe activities will be set up so you can try out some of the more advanced disciplines. There will also be a few interesting demonstrations of what you can achieve with your dog by investing commitment and time.

Enjoy your break, and especially your Sunday mornings, but don't forget to keep up reinforcing your dog's good behaviours and working on showing your dog alternate behaviours when he exhibits a behaviour you aren't too impressed with. I wish you all a safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all back here next February.

Enjoy your dogs,
Barbara Schubert
Chief Instructor

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.

Elaine Beyer and Rebel
Margaret Tok and Max
Noela Walton and Stuart

Apologies for an incorrect entry in the August edition of "Capers" (page 4, Basic Obedience Passes): it should have read Marie Mutton & Honey, not Bridget.

Interested in dog obedience competition?

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.

FUN DAY Last Sunday in November Training + Fun & Games

ALL CLASSES @ 9.15 am

ACTIVITIES will start at 10.15am

Entry fee to games and competitions $2.00
(Fee donated to the Victorian Animal Aid Shelter)
Bucket for donations will at the BBQ

ENTRIES TAKEN 9.15am to 10.30am

Main Arena...

★ Obedience Triallers' Demonstration
★ Demo Team Demonstration

Set up On the Ground...

★ Lure Racing ★ Fastest Recall
★ Agility ★ Flyball ★ Rally O

BBQ and Canteen Available

Bob

4/10/2003 – 8/9/2018

Bob was a big 'scuffer' who had charisma, was a clown, and certainly was my 'wild child'. He was the reason I joined Croydon, he was the reason I became an instructor and he was the reason I remained at Croydon. They say you don't necessarily get the dog you want but the dog you need. This was so true of Bob.

Run free and wild darling boy.

Barbara Schubert

There's something missing in my home,
I feel it day and night,
I know it will take time and strength
Before things feel quite right.

But just for now, I need to mourn,
My heart – it needs to mend.
Though some may say it's 'just a pet'
I know I've lost a friend.

You've brought such laughter to my home,
and richness to my days…
A constant friend through joy and loss,
With gentle loving ways.

Companion, pal, and confidante,
A friend I won't forget,
You'll live for always in my heart,
My sweet forever pet…

(Author unknown)

Jessica

1/05/2005 – 22/10/2018

There is a bridge connecting Heaven and Earth. It is called "The Rainbow Bridge" because of its many colors. Just this side of the Rainbow Bridge, there is a land of meadows, hills, and valleys with lush green grass. When a beloved pet dies, the pet goes to this place. There is always food and water and warm Spring weather. Those old and frail animals are young again. Those who have been maimed are made whole again. They play all day with each other. But there is only one thing missing. They are not with their special person who loved them on earth. So, each day, they run and play until the day comes when one suddenly stops playing and looks up. The nose twitches, the ears are up, the eyes are staring, and this one runs from the group. You have been seen. When you and your special friend meet, you take him or her in your arms and embrace. Your face is kissed again and again. You look once more into the eyes of your trusting pet. Then, you cross the Rainbow Bridge together, never again to be separated.

(Author unknown)

Ann Statham

Vale

TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE-MAE

Rubinvale Maggie-Mae

3/2/2003 – 9/10/2018

Agility: Novice JD, Novice SP

Flyball: FD, FDX, FDCh, AFCh, FM, FMX, FMCh, FMCh - Onyx, FDGCh, FDGCh - Jeddah

To say we were blessed from the day Maggie-Mae was born would be an understatement. When her mother (Rubinvale Ruby) had her second litter Maggie-Mae took on the role of a carer for the pups giving her mother a rest when we visited.

Maggie-Mae went through PPS, Pups, B1 and B2 with CDODC and then became a 'Flyball dog' and loved it. Anne also gave her a shot at Agility for which she gained the two titles listed above but as you can see, Flyball was her favourite.

Maggie-Mae was not a 'pet', she was a member of our family, loved to play games, go for a walk, socialise with other dogs (and people) and of course never knocked back a cuddle. The time we had with her we will cherish forever, Maggie-Mae remains in our minds and in our hearts and we will never be apart.

Until we meet across the Rainbow Bridge, Vale, Maggie-Mae.

Geoff and Anne Coleman

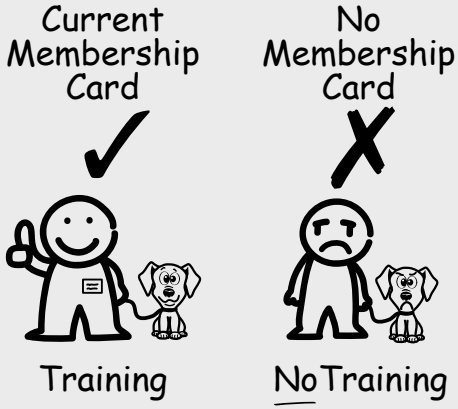
Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us every day
Unseen, unheard but always near
Still loved, still missed
and always dear.

— Author Unknown

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

CROYDON & DISTRICT DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB

Please remember...



I Have an Old Dog

Denise Fenzi, July 17, 2018

When did she become old? Maybe it started with the decline in her manners. Doesn't she see me standing here as she pulls something out of the trash?! Maybe, but it doesn't matter because she knows I won't enforce the rules and she can't hear me anyway. I move the trash.

Or maybe it was when I found myself giving her plenty of time to come when called, accepting that she would get to me when she was ready, without making a mental note to myself to "work on that."

My kids ask me why she's so much trouble; taking food off their plates, leaking urine through the house, and refusing to budge no matter how inconvenient her resting place might be to the rest of the family.

Because she's old.

She does not want to learn new skills or practice her old ones. She wants to go for her walk; a familiar route where she can sniff the same smells each day, often rooted to one spot for minutes at a time, refusing to budge if I try to hurry her along. So I walk at her speed, stop when she stops, allow her to explore what she wants, and accept that much of her sensory world is lost to me.

Returning after an absence is no longer a significant event. At best, she gently approaches to welcome me home. More often, she sleeps through my arrival, oblivious just a few feet from the door.

After fourteen years I am no longer the focus of her world. I'm on the periphery of her radar and I cater to her with no expectations in return. The small daily reminders of my presence; my sound as I move though the house or my sight as I pass nearby; those things are diminished. Instead, she focuses on what she can register easily; vibrations around her. Smells on the ground. A fresh bone to chew. A toy in the pool.

I accept my more peripheral role as the natural order of things. Instead of looking to me for work or play, she looks to me for access. Access to the pool. Access to the trail where she walks. Access to extra snacks. Access to comfort. If she needs something, she knows I'm available to get it for her.

I'm not sad that our roles have changed but I am sad that our time may be short. We have a rich history, shared from the day of her birth through years of training and competition, spanning the familiar to the new, and with more yet to see.

I read about friend's dogs that live to sixteen, seventeen or more, and I wonder if that good fortune might be for me. I'd like to think so.

Now I watch her fold into herself, absorbed in whatever is right in front of her at any given moment, single tracking though what will be the final days, weeks or years of her life.

I'm grateful that I have an old dog because I know that one day I won't have her at all.

Things your dog "should" be able to do

Reprinted from Dogs Life Mag July/Aug 2018

All dogs benefit from training, Melanie Hearse talks to Sarah Wahjudi, lead trainer at Positive Pups, about the importance of basic skills your dog should know.

While there are dogs that can master the intricacies of expert level agility skills, there are others that will be happy settling for the bare basics. These skills are not just for puppies either they are the behaviours dogs need to be able to call upon throughout their lives to stay safe and happy, and as an owner you'll be a big part of reinforcing them each day.

So which skills should dogs learn and why are these important?

Start with basic commands and developing a relationship.

Before we get stuck into the basic commands, it's important to lay the foundations that help your dog trust and respect you. Sarah says, "It's important to teach a new dog to be calm, attentive, and to want to be around you," she emphasises.

At this stage, there are some basic words your pooch needs to learn how to respond to, which will also assist with training later down the track. You'll need to teach your dog to understand and respond to her name, that "come" and "here" mean she needs to come to you, and she should also understand the words 'no' and 'yes' and respond appropriately and promptly.

Why does it matter? Understanding commands – and more importantly responding to them quickly – is a big part of being able to keep your dog safe. For example, if he bolts out the door and won't return, he could be hit by a car, get lost or get involved in a dog fight, It's also a big contributor to your pooch's happiness, poor behaviour is a common reason dogs are abandoned or surrendered, so teaching him how to behave appropriately and avoid destructive or displeasing habits will help him develop a positive relationship with the family.

Step two – teach basic skills

Once you've mastered the right attitude and some basic language. It's time to build up your dog's "beginner" skills. Sarah says sit and drop are first on the list. "Many folks think 'stay' is a basic but it actually takes a lot of training and should not be the first thing you attempt," Sarah says.

By one year of age, a well trained dog should have added "stay" to his repertoire and be able to toilet in the right place (this includes letting you know if he needs to be let outside). Sara says your pooch should also be able to walk on a lead without pulling, and come back promptly when called if running off the leash. "All of these skills are achievable with just 15 minutes training a day," she adds.

Wondering what's possible with consistent daily training and an enthusiastic learner? Sarah says she's trained assistance pups that have achieved all of the above by only six months of age, and added fetching for their owner, registering distress, using doorbells, walking between their trainer's legs, walking at the heel, extended stays and more.

She says unlike basic behaviours that relate to safety and happiness, more advanced skills depend on what you want the dog to learn, how your dog is going to be living, and how much more time you're able to put into training. "Personally, I like teaching toilet on command, it never fails to impress people and ensure your dog will always be welcome at friends' places, " Sarah says.

Continued over >

Things your dog "should" be able to do. Cont.

Continued from page 9

Classes or DIY?

The sort of training that is right for you and your dog will depend on three main things: time, money and skills. If you have a lot of time, Sarah suggests YouTube can be a fantastic resource with plenty of starting tips from great channels and trainers - just be sure to carefully vet their skills and experience before following their advice.

If you've got the budget and are having some difficulties when training Fido, one-on-one personal training will give you great results as the training program can be tailored to your dog's temperament. You can even find a trainer who trains and exercises the dog while you're at work, says Sarah.

If on the other hand, you already have the skills - for example, you've owned and trained a few dogs over the years – then it won't take you long to train second time around and you'll only really need expert advice if you're not having success. As we know, all dogs differ, so what worked for your last fur baby may not necessarily work with a different pooch.

Puppy Classes

Given the importance of teaching your puppy how to behave and socialise, combining the two is a popular choice for many. This can be done by signing up for puppy classes, which are run though most vet clinics. "For all newcomers to dog training, I do recommend joining at least one group in the early days. It's important for your puppy's socialisation. You can also learn from other owners and the troubles they face and your pup will learn to pay attention in a busy and distracting place," advises Sarah.

It also has benefit for those who are time poor or lack motivation. "I've seen many an owner start out with great intentions for DIY training, only to discover they never find the time," she says.

Encouraging Success

Animals learn through consequences, and the RSPCA recommends the use of rewarding good behaviour and ignoring, rather than punishing, unwanted habits. Before you get started it's suggested that you formulate a plan, including what rewards your pet enjoys, what trick you'd like her to learn, and how you plan to teach them.

For example, how are you going to let your dog know what you want her to do? Will you use words, gestures or both? The RSPCA recommends oodles of patience (and realistic expectations), and ensuring you have all the tools you need ahead of time. Pets learn in the moment, so if you plan to offer a favourite treat when your pooch does as you ask, ensure you have some with you during training.

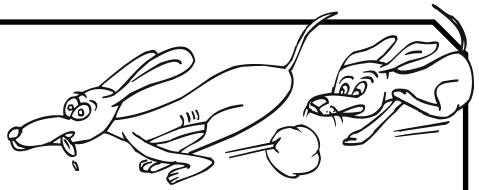
Regarding training sessions, making set times for training is recommended to ensure it happens, while choosing a quiet spot, free from distractions, is also a good idea. As you get started, physically show the dog what you would like him to do and use a combination of treats and praise as he displays the behaviour. Ignoring him when he doesn't. Repetition is also important, in the early days of training, what a dog can do one day will be forgotten by the next, so keep it up.

TRAINING RESUMES SUNDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2019

This piece of paper belongs on your fridge.
Enjoy your summer break and we hope to see you in the New Year.

FOR DOGS' SAKE, PICK UP

Please clean up after your dog to ensure that dogs retain their rights to parks, beaches, dog-friendly accommodation facilities, walking trails and other public places.

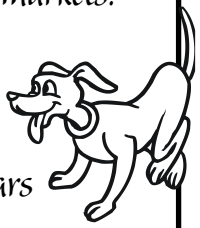


Dog Club Shop

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.

We sell...



- Sentinel
- Training treats
- Australian pigs ears
- Biscuits
- Toys and much more

Come and have a look at our products and our prices.

We can source most products so ask us if you can't see it.

Kiosk

Coffee/Tea/Hot Choc is available in the Kiosk every Sunday during training hours.
We also stock soft drinks, juices and water. Sausages are also on sale.

Tug-O-War

Reprinted from Dogs Life Mag July-Aug 2018

Leash pulling can make dog walking a nightmare, Carrol Baker finds out how you can train Fido to overcome this issue.

We've all seen it: a mischievous mutt that pulls and tugs on his lead, It's uncomfortable to have your arm stretched and pulled, and without sufficient control of your dog it can potentially place both of you in danger.

Some people think a dog pulls on the lead because he wants to be top dog, but according to dog trainer Steve Austin, the reason is far less complex. "The dog learns that pulling is the best way to get him where he wants to go because when they pull, we follow them," he says.

A dog is keen to explore the world outside the confines of his yard, and a human's ambling pace often isn't fast enough for a dog that just wants to romp and run with carefree abandon. So dogs need to be taught how to walk properly on lead.

A dog that is overexcited about the prospect of going for a walk may be more likely to pull on a lead, so if your dog is full of boundless energy, it can be a good idea to tire her out a little with a game of fetch or similar before leaving the house.

Ideally, when walking with your dog on lead, the lead should be loose and your dog should be walking along comfortably beside you. A 2m long lead is best as you can use it for other training applications, while Steve also says that holding the lead in your left hand is best. "Your knuckles should be forward and your right hand placed through the loop of lead for safety, with the lead across your body."

The fit of your dog's collar is also very important. "The collar can be your choice but whatever you pick, it must be a comfortable fit for the dog, much like you would wear a watch on your wrist .. fitted correctly so the collar won't slip off," Steve advises.

When training your dog not to pull on the lead, consistency is key. "You also need a reward based program so you can use positive reinforcement for the right behaviour," Steve adds.

If your dog sees key indications that it is about to go for a walk - picking up the dog's lead or putting on your runners, for example - he may get overexcited. Wait until he has calmed down before clipping on the lead.

Circle Technique

Do very quick left circles, pivoting on your left leg so you go around in a tight circle every time the dog pulls in front of you. "Every time the dog pulls, do another couple of quick left circles with the lead in front of you," says Steve. "Use the left circle technique when there is no fence".

Stake in the ground technique

Put a pole or long stake in the ground and place a 10m line around it. Walk around outside the circle with the dog tethered to the line. Reward the dog when it is walking quietly beside you in a circle.

Master Class

Get the dog to sit beside you and take off as you say "heel". As soon as the dog is next to you, reward it. Steve says the correct marker point for the dog is where the dog's shoulder blade meets his body, and it should be opposite

your left leg. "Every time the dog is positioned there, reward it," he says, "Before long your dog knows the best place to be is next to the boss!"

Clever Rewards

"When teaching your dog something new, feed it all its food for the day during training," says Steve "It learns this is how I'm going to get my dinner for the next few nights' and will be more motivated to do what you are asking."

Troubleshooting

Regardless of a dog's age, Steve recommends training it just as you would a puppy - with patience, consistency and a reward when he gets it right. For a stubborn dog, find a reward that will override the stubbornness, such as the dog's favourite treat. "If your dog's favourite treat is cooked chicken. feed him that for the next few days as you train him," says Steve. "That will turn a lot of stubborn dogs into 'please feed me' dogs because they learn I've got to earn my food instead of getting it for free."

Five Walking Tips

1. Position your dog on one side of you. This is usually the left, but some people prefer the right.
2. Walk along a fence or wall. Every time the dog starts to pull in front, gently move into the dog and block it with your body so it can't get past you.
3. When your dog begins to walk alongside you without pulling, mark that behaviour by using a word like "yes" and reward the dog with a treat it likes.
4. Keep the training sessions short and in a quiet space in your backyard so your dog gets it right before you step outside where there will be more distractions.
5. Be patient and don't rush the process. "I always say to my students, 'small steps of success are better than giant leaps of failure'," says Steve.

Snake Alert

Reprinted from Manningham Leader

With the weather warming, pet owners are being urged to safeguard their animals from snake bites. Australian Veterinary Association spokesman Dr David Neck said snakes tended to be more active towards the end of the day, often the time residents were taking their furry friend for a walk. Dr Neck said owners should keep their dog on lead close to bushland and clear rubbish or places snakes could hide.

"Always remember, the dog is never wrong.
The information they are receiving is either incorrect or confusing".

— Author Unknown

Can You dig It?

Reprinted from Dogs Life Mag Sept/Oct

It 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 realise 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 mong 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.

Can You dig It? Cont.

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 neighbours 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

Is 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 checkout 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) 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.

Pet Project eases fears of homeless

Reprinted from the Herald Sun Aug 11, 2018
By John Masanauskas

Pets are often the best companion homeless people can have. So forcing rough sleepers to give up their pets to secure housing can be traumatic. Melbourne City Council is trying to help by supporting a scheme that takes care of the animals temporarily.

The council is providing $50,000 for foster care program Pets of the Homeless, being jointly delivered by Launch Housing and Port Phillip Animal Hospital. People City portfolio chair Cr Beverley Pinder said while pets provided companionship and support, having one could also make it more difficult for people to secure long term housing. "Pets for the Homeless reassure people who are homeless that their pets are taken care of, enabling them to focus on finding appropriate long term accommodation," she said.

Program founder Yvonne Hong said: "It can change someone' s decision to accept short term housing, all the while knowing their pet is going to be looked after by a foster carer."

The council's grant via the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is among eight projects to received a total of $700,000 in funding for homelessness issues. Other projects include LGBTIQ inclusive training for homelessness services and real estate agencies from the Council to Homeless Persons.

And Melbourne Health has received a grant to ensure homeless patients have a safe place to go after being discharged from hospital. "Melbourne is a caring city and collaborations is key to ensuring the right services for people sleeping rough are provided," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

Obedience Triallers' Report

A very pleasant morning spent at the **Moorabbin ODC** on **26/8/18** and am pleased to report that in the Novice Ring **Dodo Kelly and Clannard O Danny Boy, RN QND (Danny)** got a lovely pass coming 3rd Place, Score 182, judged by Mr Graeme Eades.

I am sure **Ron Sciberras** will always remember **Northern ODC** trial on **9/9/2018** when he and his Miniature Schnauzer **Spritzee Inflight UD RAE JD AD (Phoenix)** gained their **UD Title** coming 1st Place, score 174 under Judge Mrs Lynn Klecka.

Croydon did it again at the **Royal Melbourne Show** on the **22nd September.** I am so very, very thrilled to report that **Rebecca McGroarty** and her **Labrador Retriever Adderslot Midnight Charmer CDX RE (Char)** won Open and went on to take out **Winner of Winners, and Best in Obedience Trial.** Rebecca so deserves this achievement. She helps us all so much and is an amazing mentor and trainer with many years of experience.

We all had a fun day with lots of laughs. There are certainly many challenges involved with trialling at the Royal – contending with all the noise and people. Our dogs improved markedly as the day went on when they became accustomed to it all.

Here are Rebecca's words from her Facebook post describing the day…

"What an amazing day today at the Royal Melbourne Show Obedience Trial.

Char started the day by going out of the ring on the seekback and bringing back her container of treats. What a wonderful present she gave me. Needless to say we didn't get a pass in UD.

We put it all together in Open, with a score of 190/200, coming 1st in ring (on countback to Anne and Rhythm – beautiful to watch, Anne).

Then it was back in the ring to compete for winners of winners. Char did me proud.

Thank you all for your lovely well wishes and comments. It means a great deal to me. I loved sharing the day with the Croydon girls and well done to you all too.

Special thanks to Sue Hatfield and Liz Sharp for your support today and always. Great photos Liz. I'm very tired but on cloud nine."

It is not often I get to report a UDX pass, so it is with great pleasure I advise that **Kate Bentley** and her Border Collie **Glentress By My Side, UD,** got her first pass in **UDX** at the **Ballaraat ODC Trial on 23/9/18** coming 1st Place on a score of 183. Judged by Lynn Klecka. Congratulations!

Kate has since attained another UDX pass details of which will be in the next Capers. She now only has to get one more pass for her title.

Another successful day for Croydon at the **Knox ODC** trial held on **28/9/2018** when **Lesley Camilleri and Scandamble Lady Of Luxumberg CD (Macey)** got their first Open pass coming 5th place on a score of 178. Judged by Mr Fred Brueckner. Well done team!

But the news we had all been waiting for was that **Anna Morgan and Iamgoldn Moon Shadow CCD (Tilly)** got her first Novice pass scoring 174 and placing 4th, judged by Ms Yvonne Ross. Hooray for Anna and Tilly. However Anna didn't add up her scores properly, thought she hadn't passed and went

Obedience Triallers' Report cont.

Dodo Kelly's Golden Retriever Clannard O Danny Boy, RN QND (Danny)

Ron Sciberras and his Miniature Schnauzer Spritzee Inflight UD RAE JD AD (Phoenix)

home before presentations! Luckily Lesley was there to take the pass card on her behalf. The attending Croydon group were thrilled for her.

My Aussie Shepherd, **Ellagant Great Rhythm UD, RE, TD (Rhythm)** put in a good performance at Knox Trial in Open coming 1st Place on a score of 196/200, judged by Mr Fred Brueckner. We also got the Highest Scoring Croydon Member, so I came home smiling.

We then travelled to the **Murray Valley ODC on 13 & 14/10/18.** I am thrilled to say that **Rhythm** did me proud on both days. Saturday 1st Place in Open scoring 193 and Highest Scoring Dog in trial, and again on Sunday coming 1st on a Score of 199 and highest Scoring Dog in trial. Judged by Dawn Ayton.

Anne Mann
Obedience Triallers' Rep.

Anne Mann and her Aussie Shepherd Ellagant Great Rhythm UD, RE, TD (Rhythm)

Rally O Trial Results

Bendigo Obedience Dog Club Open Rally O Trials 18th August.

Congratulations to **Cindy Christensen** who travelled to Bendigo today. Cindy explains: *"Riley and I gained a pass in Advanced A with 95 points and second in the ring at Bendigo trial today."*

Well done Cindy, I can't imagine the weather conditions at Bendigo would have been very conducive to trialling today so that makes the result even more meritorious. At Croydon this morning the conditions were terrible - grounds covered in a layer of water, strong winds, heavy rain, hail, thunder and bitterly cold. Needless to say we cancelled Rally O. By my reckoning you have one more pass to go for your Advanced Title. Keep up the good work.

Moorabbin & District ODC Open Rally O Trial 26th August.

Anne Rogers and Jazz, having gained their Rally Master Title a week or two ago, entered Rally Champion class. Anne takes up the story: *"Jazz and I passed Master with 95pts, and second place. Judge Ray Ashman. This is Jazz's first pass (of 10) towards her Rally Champion title."*

If you keep gaining terrific scores like this Anne you'll be Rally Champions in no time.

Northern ODC Open Rally O Trial 9th September

Maddie Hoare with Cooper entered the AM trial and Maddie reports, *"After a long hiatus from trialling and a rough week with Cooper on strict rest, I debated whether to take him or not. I'm glad I did as we got our first Excellent pass with 86. He had the itches so we lost a few points for that but I am happy!……. Cooper is doing much better after a scary few days a bit over a week ago. It turns out he was in an enormous amount of pain from a pinched nerve in his spine, which we have a chiropractor sorting out and he's full of beans again and we can start slowly working back up to full activity."*

Pauline Williams with Chester *"gained their Excellent title today with a pretty average 86 both AM and PM."* 86 is not to be sneezed at Pauline! I bet there were others who didn't achieve that today!

Joan Mayer with Teddy reported, *"You will be pleased to know that Teddy attained his Rally Advanced Title with 95 points and a 1st in Class. …… We had a very kind judge, Mark Klecka. I only entered the pm Trial for Rally and did Obedience, (first on) am. We were the last of the competitors at the pm Trial….A very long day!"* Well done Joan, I know you have been struggling to get the final scores for the Advanced Title. It's certainly a relief. Now onto Excellent!

Knox ODC held an Open Rally Obedience Trial 28th September on the Grand Final weekend.

Sue Timperley with Elsa entered Rally Advanced Excellent needing to get a pass in both Advanced B and Excellent B. Sue takes up the story: *"Well we are on our way towards our RAE, our second passes today at Knox Trial Elsa (Inneslake Simply Irresistible CDX RE) gained our Advanced B pass Judge Gordon Parsons with 97 and our Excellent B pass should have been 98 but no, handler error, IP'd on one exercise and lost 10 pts there, so it was an 88 under judge Fred Brueckner.*

Elsa is giving up on me, she performed brilliantly on quite a tricky course that Fred had set but it was obviously too tricky for her handler!!"

Well done Sue it's always tricky doing two classes over a short period of time and your scores were very commendable.

Anne Dengate with **Fanta** and **Clare Terpstra** with **Bear** entered Rally Novice, their first Rally O trial. Both achieved good passes, Fanta 90 and Bear 89. Anne explains:

Rally O Trial Results cont.

"Both our dogs didn't work as well as they could have but we came home with passes…." Well done ladies good passes in your first trial.

Joan Mayer with Teddy also competed at Knox. Joan explains: *"Pleased to report that we managed to get our first Pass in Excellent A today under judge Fred Breuckner with a score of 86. Unfortunately, I made my usual mistake by not pausing (in a walk around dog) and of course lost 10 points. Will I never learn!"*

Most people make that mistake at some time Joan so you are not alone!! You still achieved a good pass in your first Excellent trial.

Anne Rogers with **Jazz** reports: *"On Friday at Knox's Obedience and Rally trial, Jazz passed Rally Master with 92pts, judge Yvonne Ross.*

At Melton's Obedience and Rally trial Jazz passed Rally Master again, this time with 95pts, judge Mark Klecka."

Well done Anne, two out of two. At this rate you will have your Rally Master Title very soon.

Golden Retriever Club of Victoria held a double Obedience and Rally O Trial 13th October at KCC Park – the trial was restricted to dogs from Group 3 – Gundogs.

Maddie Hoare with Cooper in Rally Excellent A, *"got his second Excellent pass in the AM on 85 and 2nd place. He did well on a very tough course, just lots of little errors. He then got his third Excellent pass in the PM, again on 85 and third place. He was a bit hot and bothered by the end so a few retries were needed when I lost his focus."*

Two Excellent passes in the one day is great going Maddie, particularly when dogs get hot in the the full sunshine. Three passes down so two to go for Excellent Title.

Not content with working Cooper, Maddie also took her mum's dog Evie through Advanced A. Evie had a ball at her last trial a few weekends ago leaving the ring chasing birds!! That was her first trial off-lead and she made the most of her freedom much to her owner Helen's dismay. Helen was understandably reticent today so Maddie handled Evie who, *"redeemed herself and got her first Advanced A pass on 95 and 1st place! Not as much luck in the PM with a few retries followed by a spin rather than pivot so an IP. She had fun though!"*

Well done Maddie you had a very busy and successful day!

Frankston Dog Obedience Club Rally Obedience trial 14th October at KCC Park.

Clare Terpstra with Bear entered Rally Novice and Clare reported, *"Bear and I had a great day at Frankston today, lost few points for tight lead, managed a pass with 87 points and was pleasantly surprised with first place."*

Well done Clare. Trialling on a very sunny afternoon is not guaranteed to get the best out of your dog but you two certainly succeeded.

Anne Rogers reported that she, *"and Jazz passed Rally Master with 92pts. I'm excited to report we are now half-way to our Rally O Champion title."*

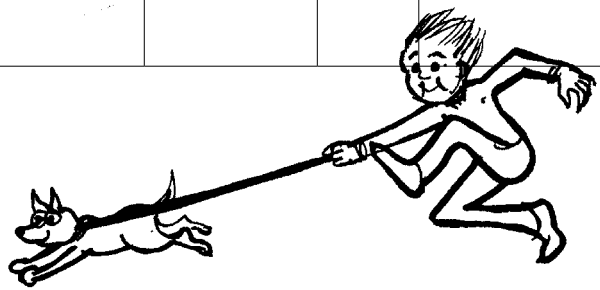
Great work Anne. For those who don't know Anne and Jazz have the Rally Master title and now need to gain a further 10 Rally Master class passes of 90 or better to gain the Rally Champion Title. NOT an easy task but with 5 more passes to go the end is in sight!

Commiserations to those who didn't have the success they aimed for in the above trials. Better luck in your next trial.

Gary McArthur
Rally O Coordinator

Tracking Results

Kennel & 'call' name	*Owner*	*Date*	*Venue*	*Test & Grade*
Lucsimamina Stella **(Keisha)**	Merrae Balaam	25.8.18	Inverleigh – Dogs Vic State Tracking trial	Test 6 Pass **TDX Title** ☺
Lucsimamina Stella **(Keisha**	Merrae Balaam	9.9.18	Ballaarat ODC Inc	Test 7 Pass
Starkehre Run Lola Run CD RM RAE PT **(Lola)**	Bobbee Terrill	25.8.18	Inverleigh – Dogs Vic State Tracking trial	Test 3 Very Good **TD Title** ☺
Pratt Bramble **(Bramble)**	Wendy Potter	7.7.18	Targoot (TCV)	Test 4 Pass
Pratt Bramble **(Bramble)**	Wendy Potter	11.8.18	Inverleigh (TCV)	Test 5 Good
Pratt Bramble **(Bramble)**	Wendy Potter	24.8.18	Inverleigh – Dogs Vic State Tracking trial	Test 6 Good **Track of the day & TDX Title** ☺
Pratt Bramble **(Bramble)**	Wendy Potter	10.9.18	Ballaarat ODC Haddon	Test 7 **Excellent** – ***Well done Bramble. This grading is not often awarded.***



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.

Pet Food sub claws - Mandatory standards recommended

Reprinted from the Herald Sun Oct 19, 2018
By Aneera Simonis

Australia's pet food industry should be made to comply with mandatory standards and a new complaint system established so owners can dob in dodgy brands, says a Senate committee report.

Earlier this year, the Herald Sun revealed a top shelf dog food brand had been linked to a spate of dog deaths nationwide. The revelation sparked a federal parliament inquiry which has urged an overhaul of the unregulated industry.

On Tuesday, the Senate committee handed down its final report containing seven recommendations, including preservatives and additives. The consumer watchdog should also establish a complaint system for owners to flag concerns about dodgy products, and state and territory governments should work together to investigate adverse pet food events, according to the report.

Centre Alliance senator Stirling Griff said the report showed the system was "inadequate" and in urgent need of review. "Pet food should be regulated to the same standards as human foods. I can't see why we can't replicate that process," he said. The enquiry revealed more than 110 potential toxic agents were being examined by authorities after more than 100 dogs became ill or died after eating dog food brand Advanced Dermocare. Vets are still yet to establish the exact link.

Australia's pet food industry is currently self regulated by a voluntary code. Manufacturers are not required to disclose ingredients or where they are sourced. In March, Advanced Democare manufacture Mars Petcare Australia voluntarily recalled bags of the premium dog food from 500 stores after a sudden spike in potentially deadly megaesophagus cases.

The disease causes an animal's oesophagus to become abnormally enlarged, which can lead to a loss in ability to swallow or absorb nutrients. At least 19 dogs - including a Victoria Police squad dog have died since eating the food. Woolworths brand Baxter's and another brand Applaws, have been heavily criticised by owners after mould and plastic were reportedly discovered in packets of the dog food.

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.

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.

Easy homemade dog loo

Take one plastic garden pot with good drainage holes. Put droppings into this, sprinkling each layer generously with garden lime. Keep the pot in an out of the way place in the garden, but not out of the weather. If there is no rain, dampen occasionally. The lime quickly eliminates odours and breaks the droppings down into fertiliser which can be spread on the garden, (preferably not around acid loving plants such as camellias).

Essentials that all children should know...

- **NEVER approach a strange dog unless the owner is present.**
- **ALWAYS ask the owner before you pat or play with their dog.**
- **TAKE care not to get dogs over-excited when you play with them – don't scream or wave your arms. Don't grab or cuddle a dog around the neck, as this can frighten it.**
- **LEAVE dogs alone when they are eating or are near their food.**
- **DON'T surprise a sleeping dog.**

2018

Nov	Tues 20	7.30pm Committee Meeting
	Sun 25	FUN DAY - last training day for the year
Dec	Sun 2	Obedience Trial/Rally O Trial
2019		
Feb	Sun 3	Sunday Training Resumes

Unless otherwise stated the following activities are conducted each week:
Wednesday 6:30pm and 7:30pm Puppy Pre-School
Sunday 9.00am – 12:00pm:
Obedience Training – Puppies, Basic, Advanced.
Tuition in: Obedience Trialling · Rally O
· Flyball Training · Agility Training

Visit www.cdodc.com.au