

Welcome to Milton Ulladulla Dog Training Club Inc

Welcome to Dog Training, we hope you enjoy a long and happy association with our Club. The Club meets for classes every Sunday morning from February to November at the Milton Showground, obedience classes commence at 9am. Our final get together each year is our Christmas Party held first Sunday in December.

Contact details are: The Secretary PO Box 274 Milton NSW 2538: Web site www.mudtc.org.au Email address info@mudtc.org.au Phone 4455 3137. The Club is incorporated and follows the standard Rules of Incorporated Bodies. The Club has a set of Club Ground Rules for all members.

Ground Rules:

- Members must wear suitable footwear – scuffs and thongs are not permitted
- Dogs must be kept on the leash at all times, unless they are in the training class and under the direct supervision of an instructor, or running in the off leash area at the rear of the Showground.
- Vaccination papers must be presented when joining the club and then they must be sighted annually
- Children may train their dog at the discretion of the Chief Instructor, and provided they are supervised by a responsible adult
- Any use of the club equipment for dogs must be done in conjunction with the class instructor
- Members are responsible for cleaning up if their dog fouls the ground
- Physical reprimands of dogs will not be tolerated
- Bitches in season are not permitted on the training ground
- The club reserves the right to decide that a dog must be muzzled. Please see the Club's Aggressive Dog Protocols at <http://www.mudtc.org.au/documents/aggressive-dog.pdf>
If you do not have access to view on line, please request a hard copy from the Secretary.

Equipment such as leads, collars, food treats, dumbbells etc, are available for purchase from the Club. Please arrive at the rear of the Showground in time to be ready to commence classes at 9am – so leave yourself enough time for a chat and to pay your training fee of \$2.00 before the whistle goes 8.50am. Please **do not** take your dog with you up the ramp to the Clubhouse to pay your \$2, as it can become a very congested area. Alternatively you can arrange to pay in advance, please see the Treasurer.

Training your Dog at Milton Ulladulla Dog Training Club

Milton Ulladulla Dog Training Club Inc offers members the opportunity to socialise and train their dogs to become great companion animals. The Club promotes responsible dog ownership and is led by a volunteer team of committee members and instructors who enjoy giving their time and knowledge to help you train your dog. We offer training in obedience, agility and fun events such as flyball, zipball and flag races. All dogs are welcome, large, small, mixed breed, pure bred, and they all have a great time on Sunday mornings at training classes.

The Club is not affiliated to any official association. Any member who has a desire to compete and Trial with their dog will be given all possible assistance by Club Instructors, although competition trialling is not a main focus of the Club.

Obedience Class Structure

Baby Puppy: Dogs under 4 months of age can join the Baby Puppy Class on any Sunday when training is held. The aim of this class is to start socialising the puppy with other dogs and humans in a safe, enclosed environment.

Quick Start: Dogs 4 months of age and over can join Quick Start on the first Sunday of any month when training is held. The 4 week Quick Start course sets the ground work that every other class is based upon. You will be taught how to train your dog using the Clicker method, and your Instructor will provide you with separate notes on this method of training. Exercises covered include the watch, sit, drop, stay, recall and advice on how to walk your dog on a loose lead. At week four your Instructor will assess whether you and your dog are ready to move on to Basic Class.

Basic Class: Basic Class expands upon all that was learned in Quick Start. The aim is a 1 minute sit stay, 2 minutes down stay, recall and finish, stand for examination (1st stage - staying along side your dog), heeling on loose lead, halt (sit), stand & drop. Clickers may be used for all of the above, as reinforcement to the exercise. Take, hold & give, click & treat, with dumbbell and dummy is introduced. Handler and dog will need to pass an assessment to graduate to Intermediate Class.

Intermediate Class: The aim of Intermediate Class is to achieve a 1 minute sit stay at least 6 paces away from the dog, a 2 minute down stay at least 6 paces away from the dog, recall and finish, stand for examination with dog on end of loose lead, heeling on loose lead which includes a variety of turns, halt (sit) automatically, stand, drop. Work on perfecting the retrieve, especially the sit in front and hold, until the handler asks "give". Handler and dog will need to pass an assessment to graduate to Advanced Class.

Advanced Class: The aim of the Advanced Class is to strive towards standards across a variety of skills which include but are not limited to:

- Obedience to a standard similar to that detailed in set standards for Open and UD work
- Flyball; to a standard where the dog will willingly complete a standard fly ball course on its own and as a part of a team of 2 or more dogs
- Agility: be able to complete a course set along the lines of set standards
- Jumping: to complete a course set along the lines of set standards

Handlers must always clean up after their dogs – make sure you always carry a plastic bag at the Showground and when taking your dog for a walk.

- Tracking: basic tracking skills as determined by the Chief Instructor
- Gun Dog work: basic dummy work including multiple dummies from a hide, in front or at the dog's side
- Other skills such as seek back over extended distances with object out of sight.

Further, this class is to provide the opportunity for members to participate in instruction with the longer-term aim of developing future assistant instructors for the Club. (Detailed feedback about class material and teaching methods is to be provided by the Advanced Class Instructional Team and the Chief Instructor when available).

Agility

Beginners Agility: Join Agility Instructors in a group Beginner's class in the enclosed Agility area to learn about this wonderful sport. Certain obedience standards and dog conformation development apply. You will be assessed before moving into the Advanced Agility Class.

Advanced Agility: Join Agility Instructors in the enclosed Agility area to put your more advanced dog through its paces over the varied agility equipment - the dogs love it - and it keeps you fit!

For further information on any aspect of Agility training, including times, please discuss with either the Chief Instructor or your Class Instructor.

Flyball

The Club is a member of the Australian Flyball Association and our team Mudd on the Paws commenced competition during 2009 . Flyball is a relay race between two teams of dogs (four dogs in each team). The dogs go through start gates - which are usually drag racing lights - and jump over four hurdles to a spring loaded box which holds a tennis ball, grab the tennis ball and return over the four hurdles and through the finish line. If a team is really good the two dogs will meet nose-to-nose at the start line to minimise the time taken to complete the course and come out with a really fast time. Flyball is trained Australia-wide and many competitions are held during the year.

Instruction in this exciting sport is held at the Club. Please discuss with either the Chief Instructor or your Class Instructor for further details.

Demonstration Teams

Club demonstrations are performed at events such as Australia Day, RSPCA Paws Walk and Milton Show. Demonstrations are a wonderful way to promote our Club to the wider community. The demonstrations can involve Agility, Flyball, certain agility exercises such as weaving, Obedience or a more recently, our Formation Team of handlers and their dogs who perform a routine to music. Your dog must work consistently off lead to be part of one of these teams. For further information please discuss with the Chief Instructor or your Class Instructor. Further information about the Agility team and photos of events are located on the Club's website.

Club Competitions

Competitions, judged by Club Instructors, are held each year, usually during the cooler months. These competitions are:

1. Lynne Brooks Trophy
2. Marion Mann Trophy
3. Presidents Trophy
4. Margaret Rudd Agility Trophy

The first three Trophy events listed are held on the same day during August/September. Trophy number four, the Agility competition, runs over 4 separate Sundays during the August/November period.

Lynne Brooks and Marion Mann were former members of our Club who sadly passed away in 2003 and 2004. We are honoured to remember them with the presentation of these yearly trophies in their memory. The Lynne Brooks, Marion Mann and Presidents Trophies all contain an Obedience component plus a minimum of 4 other events. The Margaret Rudd Agility Trophy was kindly donated by Margaret our Publicity Officer and Life Member. Margaret was a member of our Club in its first year in 1979 and is always at training on Sunday mornings to welcome new members and train Labrador Tessa.

Detailed guidelines of the competitions are prepared each year and are available to any members who wish to participate.

Newsletter

Each month the Club's Newsletter is posted on our Website. Members who wish to receive email notification please send an email to newsletter@mudtc.org.au requesting inclusion on the circulation list. A limited number of hard copies are made available and can be collected from the Clubhouse.

Some Training Tips

Please note that professional help is recommended before attempting any type of behavior modification with an aggressive dog. Please seek your own vet advice if any health/diet issues are of concern to you. All dogs must be vaccinated annually, wormed regularly, registered and micro chipped and regularly checked for Ticks.

Our aim is to make training your dog a fun experience for both you and your dog. Many handlers tell us that it is not long before their dog "knows" Sunday is training day and can't wait to get to the Showground. Your dog will be spending focused time with their favourite person – you. You will learn about dogs, their behaviour and what makes them do what they do. Your dog wins by spending time with you at training.

At our Club we focus on positive reinforcement and rewards while training. We help you to have fun with your dog and help make them a great companion to have around your home.

Each instructor will explain the methods of dog training used at our Club. A well established principle in training dogs is that the handler must be the leader or Alpha. Here are some basic tips to help you -

Handlers must always clean up after their dogs – make sure you always carry a plastic bag at the Showground and when taking your dog for a walk.

Leader must first get the follower's attention:

Encourage eye contact several times a day – call your dog's name – even a one second glance should be reinforced with praise or a reward.

Leaders Go First:

Always go through the door of your home, vehicle, and gate BEFORE your dog.

The Leader Controls Territory:

If your dog is lying in a hallway or at a door, make your dog move, don't step over or go around.

Leaders Mean What They Say:

Speak in low firm tones. No matter how simple the command only give it **once** and help your dog to comply.

Leaders are Winners:

Make sure that in any games with your dog you WIN – the dog must release the toy to you and while your dog watches, put the toy away for the day out of your dogs reach.

Belly Up is a Natural Acceptance Posture:

Once a day invite your dog over for a free belly rub – show your pet how enjoyable this gesture of sub-ordination can be. Also have regular grooming sessions with positive reinforcement.

Down is a Subordinate Position:

Have your dog hold one 30 minute down stay per day. This can be done while you watch television or read the paper, but make sure you are in a position to help your dog stay down.

Train, don't complain:

Give your dog about 5 – 10 minutes of obedience training a day. Give a command, help your dog comply, praise/reward for a job well done.

Alpha owners are fun:

Do things you know your dog enjoys but you should remain in charge of the activities.

Leaders are Fair, Kind and Consistent:

Be firm, not harsh. Don't work with your dog if you are in a bad mood. The concept of an alpha owner will become clear to your dog with consistent repetition.

(Source T Ryan, 1990 How to Alphabetize Yourself)

All our instructors and committee members are here to help and assist you in any way they can with training your dog,

Please don't hesitate to ask questions if you have any queries.

