



Hello members

Great to see so many of you at training last Sunday, we certainly had a huge roll up of members, and several new members joined us as well. It was the first run of our new Agility program and it was great fun to see all the handlers and their dogs trying out the equipment for the first time in the beginners sessions which commence at 8.15am. Thank you to the Instructors who are arriving early to assist with the Agility Training and then continuing with obedience classes, it is very much appreciated.

As a new initiative, the Club will hold Instructor's meetings and general meetings bi-monthly. This month was the first Instructor's meeting and it was decided that all Instructors will attend 4 training sessions on Clicker Training with Rosie Milton. This will be at 10.15am for the next 4 Sundays. Handlers who already attend Clicker training with Rosie at that time are welcome to continue to attend. Grateful thanks go to Rosie for giving us this wonderful opportunity to learn another dog training method.

Welcome to Jenny Patch, a long term member of our Club with Billy, her Cattle dog. Jenny is our latest new Assistant Instructor, and has joined Bob in Class 2. Jenny can also be found in the Club house early on Sunday mornings to assist with all your equipment needs.

Our new committee members are settling in to their new roles; Henry and Cheryl just love taking your money, \$ (*see note at end of Newsletter) so far this year in training fees, memberships and equipment sales, and Jenny is busy keeping track of all our members. Don't be surprised if Henry soon starts giving you all the "stamp" of approval! He has suggested using a stamp on each handlers hand, rather than issuing the raffle tickets, and this will commence soon.

President Peter will submit the plans for the Clubhouse awning to the Showground Management Committee at their meeting this month. Thank you to Roy once again for drawing up the plans for us. If the Management Committee agrees with our request then an application can be submitted to Shoalhaven Council for approval for the work. The awning will provide an area to keep the agility equipment under cover so it is protected from the weather.

Teaching Your Dog a Trick

As part of our 8 week Beginners Course we ask new members to teach their dog a trick to be demonstrated on week 8. This has been a lot of fun, and our new members have managed amazing tricks with their dogs,

here are some tips on a couple of basic tricks to teach your dog – have fun !

The key to teaching your dog tricks is a lot of repetition and rewards. It is important to reward your dog with praises and/or treats when he is learning how to perform a new trick. Positive reinforcement is key. Only practice tricks for a few minutes at a time, your dog may become tired or frustrated because repeating tricks over and over may cause your dog's muscles to become fatigued. After each session reward your dog with a fun play session.

Paw

This is a fairly easy trick to teach your dog. The paw trick is your dog shaking your hand. Start by having your dog sit and simply reach your hand out and take hold of your dog's paw while saying "Paw". After a while all you have to do is reach out your hand and say "Paw" and your dog will put his paw in your hand.

TIP:

After a while, say, "Shake hands," but don't take his paw. See if he raises his paw by himself. If not, keep showing him what to do by saying, "Shake hands," and taking his paw with your hand. Your dog is not slow; he is just learning!

Roll Over

Start by having your dog lie down on his belly. You can stand over him or kneel beside him. Using a treat, hold it by his nose, and then move it around and behind him, so that he lies on his side and then rolls over. Tell him what a great dog he is! Only roll your dog on soft surfaces like carpet or grass so he doesn't hurt his back. Some dogs don't like to roll over. It can be a little scary for them to put their belly up. Try it a few times and but if it's not fun for your dog, choose another trick.

Web Site Forum

Don't forget to join the Member Forum on our Web Site at www.mudtc.org.au. The Forum is an online discussion board that all Club members are encouraged to join. It is a place where we can get to know each other, talk about our dogs, and ask questions, exchange ideas and to have a little fun when we can not be at training. Important note about your username when creating your username, **please use your full name** as you are known to us at the Club. Aliases & handles can not be accepted as we need to be able to identify you to grant you access. Remember to insert a space between your first & last name as the system does not require one word usernames. Be sure to use a valid email address as we will need this to contact you when your account has been activated. Your email address will always remain private and is not displayed on the forum.

Newsletter enquiries to:

Janet 4455 3137 ☺

** Finances are not disclosed on electronic (web site) versions of the Newsletter but are disclosed on the hard copy distributed on training days.*

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MEMBERS CORNER

New Members

Welcome to new members:

Vicki and Puck; Colleen and Bear; Carolyn and Milo; Janeece and Rex; Kori and Missy; Jennifer and Milly; Chris and Zippo; George and Milly; Kylie and Lucy; Judy and Lucy; Maureen and Bailey; Jean and Jazz; Barrie and Sinda; Shirley and her little dog.

Congratulations on Graduating -

From Beginners to Class 1

David and Jess; David and Boots; Karen and Scout; Jeanette and Max; Louise and Darcy; Amanda and Matilda; Lindsay and Wilba

Class 1 to Class 2

Ruth and Diesel; Diane and Phoebe; Alex and Heidi

Class 2 to Class 3

Rosemary and Flynn; John and Tully; Caroline and Navaro.

Class 3 to Class 4

Suzanne and Rex; Michael and Chloe; Julie and Chai; Natasha and Betty; Bob and Radar.

Dog Quiz – answers in next month's Newsletter

Question 1

Why do dogs bark?

- A: To annoy the neighbours
- B: When they are unsure
- C: To clear their throats

Question 2

How many breeds of dog are there in the world?

- A: 400
- B: 500
- C: 600

Question 3

What are truffle hounds used for?

- A: Delivering chocolates
- B: Sniffing out expensive mushrooms
- C: Digging holes

Question 4

What are the heaviest dogs in the world?

- A: St. Bernards
- B: Great Danes
- C: Irish Wolf Hounds

Question 5

What's the name of the Simpson's dog?

- A: Norm
- B: Scamp
- C: Santa's little helper

May and June Newsletters

Thank you very much to Margaret, our Publicity Officer, who has kindly offered to prepare the Newsletters for May and June while I am on holiday. Don't forget to let Margaret know if you have any items of interest to include in our Newsletter – she can be found at the Pre-paid/New members table before classes every Sunday.

From our Members

Thank you to member Nicole, who is also a member of the RSPCA, for providing the following:-

If you want someone who never criticizes what you do, doesn't care if you are pretty or ugly, fat or thin, young or old, who acts as if every word you say is especially worthy of listening to, and loves you unconditionally, perpetually



... then buy a dog.

Reminders

- Yearly \$6 membership fees are now due for 2008.
- Please show your dog's updated vaccination certificate each year.
- Please drive slowly around the showground, remember some dogs are off leash having a run before training starts.
- Please don't bring your dog with you up the ramp when you pay your fees.
- Ask about our pay in advance system – it avoids queuing at the counter.
- Try to spend at least 5 minutes every day working through your training exercises with your dog.

Dog Sayings

Barking up the Wrong Tree:

Originally a hunter's phrase, this meant that a dog had picked up the wrong scent while stalking its prey.

Three-Dog Night:

In many areas, villagers would sleep in the same room with their animals, which helped to keep them warm. If it was a particularly cold night, it was said that three dogs were required to stay warm.