

NEWSLETTER NO: 4 - SEPTEMBER 2005

Well, what a busy couple of months at the Milton Showground, culminating in the opening of our new Clubhouse with a great morning tea. This was an opportunity to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the new Clubhouse a reality so a huge thank you to everyone.

I am also pleased to announce that Peter Smith and Jimmy were presented with a certificate and badges as our Club's Patrons, what very worthy recipients.

The Lynne Brookes and Marion Mann Trophy Events have commenced with the first event last Sunday being the compulsory heel on lead section. There was some excellent work by handlers and their dogs, so well done to everyone. The next event is the recall and drop on recall on Sunday 25th. If you can, do stay and watch some of the events, which commence at 10.15am after training sessions, it's good to support fellow members, and you will also see some very good work going on.

As many of you will know, Barbara has taken an extended period of leave as instructor and we are very grateful to Bob who has taken over Barbara's classes. There has been a bit of confusion for some handlers as to which class they should attend. Please remember that you are not promoted to the next class unless you have received a certificate of achievement. Certificate awards are announced before training sessions, usually on the first Sunday of the month. If you miss that training session please check when you next attend whether you have received promotion or not. You can also check with your instructor.

Guessing Competition. The Club is running a guessing competition to raise funds for the new Clubhouse – What is Man's Best Friend? Tickets are \$1 and the prizes are –

- ❖ \$100 Food Hamper (IGA)
- ❖ Dog Wash (Critters Dog Wash)
- ❖ Body Massage (Upstairs Repairs)
- ❖ \$30 Voucher (The Pet Shop)
- ❖ Painting by Roz

The draw will take place at the Christmas Party on 4 December. Please sell as many tickets as you can to help replenish the Club's Bank Account. Diane has books of tickets, please see her when you pay your training fee.

Some of you may be wondering what has happened about this year's AGM. The Committee has decided that the AGM will be held in Feb/March each year. This enables the books to be audited and paperwork to be done during the long break over Christmas/New Year.

Please remember that you must be a financial member of the Club and the yearly membership fee of \$6.00 should be paid to Diane as soon as possible. Also remember to bring your dog's updated vaccination certificate each year so that Janet can mark this on your card.

Some Dog Training Tips:

Be Positive -- It is necessary to use positive reinforcement when you train your dog or puppy by offering some dog treats and a lot of praise if he performs something correctly. During the initial training sessions you can offer both verbal praise as well as treats. Remember, this is fun!

Firm and Friendly -- When you give commands such as heel and come, you want to use a happy, friendly voice. On the other hand, you will want a lower, firmer voice for sit, down, and stay.

Start Young...but not too early - The ideal time to start training begins at six to eight weeks, maybe even earlier depending on the puppy. But remember, it's never too late to teach a dog a new trick.

Be Patient - Patience is key when you work with your dog or puppy. If you feel like you're at the end of your leash before you've even started, don't attempt to train your dog. Your dog is incredibly smart and will pick up on your emotions. Remember, this is fun!

No Distractions - Try to pick a quiet spot free of distractions when training your dog to do tricks or commands. A secluded back yard or an inside room works best. If there are other pets in the family, put them up so they won't interfere with training.

And Remember, This is Fun! - Dog training, of course, ought to be a pleasant time for you and Fido. The time can be used to bond closely with your dog and learn each other's personalities. When you do this, you will not only have a well-trained dog or puppy, but a longtime, loyal companion and friend.

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