



MILTON ULLADULLA DOG TRAINING CLUB

**STOP PRESS:
\$6 Membership
Fees now due**

Hello members

Your Club has certainly kept busy since February. It is great to see so many handlers and their dogs at training each week and it is hoped that the new arrangements for "line up" before 9am will mean that classes will start on time. Remember you can pre-pay for a few weeks training in advance and then have your name crossed off in the book by Margaret, rather than queue and pay each week. Don't forget to have your raffle ticket ready to give to your instructor at the beginning of class.

Demonstrations:

The weather was not very kind to the Healthy Wealthy and Wise Expo on 17 and 18 March and our demonstration on the Saturday had to be cancelled as the rain was very heavy. The weather improved enough on Sunday for our team to present their demo and then some Club members stayed to look after our table in the Civic Centre for the rest of the day. The photo board put together by Roy was fantastic and an excellent promotion for the Club. A big thank you again to everyone who took part – it was an excellent demonstration of obedience, agility, zipball and flag races.

The RSPCA has asked us to present a demonstration at the Million Paws Walk on Sunday 20 May at Lions Park Burrill Lake. There will be no training that day and we hope many of you will take part in the walk to raise funds for such a worthy cause.

Apart from those handlers and their dogs that perform in the demonstration we are looking for helpers to put out the equipment prior and during the demonstration. Peter Hudson has kindly offered to show you what is needed and so please see Peter as soon as possible to let him know if you will be available on the 20th. By having members available to set up the equipment takes a big load off the handlers who take part in the demonstration.

Also looking for volunteers to help with mowing our rings at the Showground – please see Roy or Joe for further details if you can help.

Annual Membership

Please remember that as the Club operates on a Jan – Dec financial year your \$6 annual membership fee is now due for 2007. You must be a financial member of the Club to take part in training classes. Your fees go towards the running costs of the Club, your committee and instructors are completely voluntary. The running costs include insurance, showground rental fees, equipment purchases, printing, photocopying etc.

Name Badges

When you started at training you should have been given a name badge with a coloured star representing the class you joined. A different coloured star represents the next class. As you graduate through the various classes please ask at the Clubhouse for your new coloured star to be placed on your name badge. If you didn't get a name badge, please ask for one.

Classes are:

Baby Puppy – green star

Beginners – 8-week course – red star

Class 1 – blue star

Class 2 – silver star

Class 3 – gold star

Class 4 – 2nd gold star

How Do Dogs Learn? *(extracts from Dogs NSW Obedience Instructors Manual)*

Dogs learn by repetition of a pleasant experience, for example, the dog sits – it is given a reward. Dogs learn best by positive reinforcement. This means teaching the dog to perform a response to get a reward. The reward must be very desirable. Once dogs have learned a response, they remember longer if they are rewarded intermittently. Behaviours which are not reinforced or rewarded gradually disappear. This is the way to change an unwanted behaviour – ignore it, while rewarding the behaviour you want.

The Learning Plateau

In every learning curve there is what is known as a learning plateau. Your dog may suddenly appear to have forgotten things he has learned. This is only temporary so continue with training and perhaps go back to an easier exercise. Most importantly, BE PATIENT.

Food to Avoid

Never give your dog chocolate or cooked onions as these are toxic to dogs. Take care around BBQ's and parties at home as dogs are often successful in reaching cooked onion and other items when not being observed. It's amazing how many dog owners find their dog suddenly showing signs of illness and have no idea as to what has happened. Please be careful: Cooked bones and Cooked Onions can kill.

Newsletter enquiries to:

Janet ☺

4455 3137 If you would like to receive your Newsletter electronically please send an email to:

milfordogclub@bigpond.com



Members Corner

If you have any stories or information for this section of the newsletter please give them to me on Sundays or email to miltondogclub@bigpond.com

This is a story from Margaret Rudd about her family's first ever Labrador called "Sailor".

He was my son's first and only dog. They grew up together and were inseparable and always went fishing together and attended Junior League Matches. Sailor had a Bulldog Jersey and was the team mascot. Sailor had probably one of the best lives a dog could ask for. As soon as he was old enough he went down to the Ulladulla Harbour wharf fishing with his Master. One time they went on board a tuna boat tied up at the wharf to fish, it was high tide and when they decided to come home the tide had dropped which meant Sailor could not climb from the boat to the wharf and so a kindly deckhand lifted him up to get him back on dry land – and was growled at for his trouble!

My husband use to take him fishing with him on Crampton Island Lake Tabourie. Sailor became to think it was his special place. He loved to chase rabbits to the top of the Island and one time he caught his foot through his collar while digging in a rabbit burrow. Unable to walk he actually rolled himself down the rough terrain and laid at the feet of my husband who was fishing from the rocks unaware of what had happened!



Congratulations to Kim and Rosie and their wonderful dogs.

A huge well done to both Kim with Bella and Brock and Rosie with Pac. Kim competed at the Canberra Royal in February and was placed 5th in the Strategic Pairs, which gained Bella her SPD Title. Then in March at Newcastle Kim gained 1st place in Excellent Agility and Excellent jumping and a 3rd in Open jumping which now gives Bella her IDO title. Kim's other dog Brock gained 1st place in Novice jumping the course time was set at 42 seconds and Brock completed the course in 20.93 with

no penalties – a fantastic effort. Rosie also competed at Canberra with her dog Pac as a member of the Awesome Pawsome team who came first in two events. Then at Dapto in March Pac gained two qualification cards in Agility and two first places.

Rosie joined Dog Club late last year, having moved from Queensland to Milton. She has kindly offered to give members tuition in **Flyball** before training on Sundays. These training sessions are held alongside the Clubhouse in the "wood chop" area so go along and have a look one Sunday morning and talk to Rosie about taking part. Also from the 2nd Sunday in May Roy will be organising **Tracking** training so please see him to put your name down for this. Tracking may be part of the Club's Championships this year.

Taking on a new Role

Some of you will have seen past Instructor Julie in this week's local paper as she has recently been appointed as Zone Manager for Meals on Wheels in Ulladulla. Understandably Julie felt she had to resign as a Club Instructor so she could concentrate fully on her new job. Congratulations Julie and very best wishes from all of us in your new position.

Not a Dog Joke this time !

Eleven people were hanging on a rope under a helicopter, ten men and one woman. The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one had to drop off, otherwise they are all going to fall.

They were not able to choose that person, but then the woman made a very touching speech – she said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because as a woman she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids, and for men in general without ever getting anything in return.

As soon as she finished her speech all the men began clapping!

**A VERY HAPPY EASTER
TO ALL MEMBERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES.**



You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says 'Wow, you're right! I never would've thought of that!' - Dave Barry