



MILTON ULLADULLA DOG TRAINING CLUB

STOP PRESS:
Training as usual
Easter Sunday

Hello members

We have certainly continued with our non-stop start to 2008: our new Committee elected at the AGM, fantastic demonstrations and competitions run by the Club at Milton Show and a wonderful Web site up and running at www.mudtc.org.au

Thank you to those who attended the Club's AGM where the opportunity arose to thank Diane, for the truly magnificent job she has done as Treasurer over many years and Roy for his year as Secretary. Neither Diane nor Roy nominated for re-election in their previous positions. Joe Law gave an excellent President's report, on the Club's achievements in 2007. Joe did not stand for re-election as he is in the process of selling his home and will be moving from the area. Thank you to Margaret Rudd who once again acted as returning officer for the election of our new Committee, which is as follows:-

- President, Peter Hudson,
- Vice-President Roy Cullen,
- Secretary Jenny Puglisi,
- Assistant Secretary Janet Smith,
- Treasurer Henry Muisidlak,
- Chief Instructor/Public Officer Diane Richmond,
- Equipment Officers Jenny Patch and Roy Cullen,
- New Members Register Officers, Cheryl Ball and Margaret Rudd.
- Publicity Officer, Margaret Rudd.
- Web Site Administrator Caraline McLeod

Your new committee has held its first meeting and as always welcomes input from all our members.

Several matters were discussed at the first meeting, including investigation of new agility equipment, construction of a side awning to the Clubhouse to protect the equipment, organisation of the Club's Championship competition and possible changes to the running of agility training. Information will follow in later Newsletters.

If you have access to the Internet please do not miss logging on to our new Web site and also registering in the Member's Forum – a great place to communicate with other members – someone might have just the answer you need on how to stop your dog digging up the garden !! Easy to follow instructions are contained on the site but please remember you **must use your full name to register into the Forum** so the Administrator can accept you as a member of the Dog Club. Register now at www.mudtc.org.au

Talking of the Web Site Administrator, what a wonderful job Caraline has done to set up our site so quickly and efficiently. Our Club is very fortunate to have such talented members who are willing to give so freely of their time and expertise, it is very much appreciated.

Milton Show

Our Club provided exceptional entertainment at Milton Show this year. With the absence of horse events the Show Committee sought other events to take their place and the dogs certainly filled the spot. On Friday our demo team worked their magic again for the large crowd who enjoyed both an obedience and agility demonstration.

On Saturday in the main arena was the NSW Jack Russell Racing Team brought to the Show by the Show Committee, plus an Agility and Jumping Competition and Fly ball races arranged by our Dog Club.

On the eastern side of the Showground was the Championship Dog Show. Our Club's Chief Instructor Diane organises the Dog Show each year which is a very well attended and respected show on the year's calendar. Members, Roy, Janet, Natalie and Judy assisted Diane on the day.

You could say the Milton Showground came "alive" with dogs this year !! It is hoped that in subsequent years arrangements can be made to include some of the extra dog events as the large crowds certainly enjoyed watching, and being able to get up very close to the action, especially in the main arena on Saturday.

Thank you to everyone involved in putting together the programs, it was a great success and a credit to our Dog Club.

New Assistant Instructor

Welcome Sarah Ball as Assistant Instructor, working with Peter to assist the Beginners with their 8 week course. Usual Beginner's Instructor Robyn Perry is taking a break to train her own dog and I will be overseas for May/June. Great to have a new Instructor in the team – thanks Sarah.

Newsletter enquiries to:

Janet 4455 3137 ☺



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MEMBERS CORNER

New Members

Welcome to new members: Lindsay and "Wilbur", Nerida and "Trin", Joel and "Buster", Taylor and "Bella"; Mandi and Ayla; Christine and Shorey; Kerry and Barney; Mimi and Shadow; Carole and Rosie and Garth and Amber

Congratulations on Graduating -

From Beginners to Class 1

Caraline and "Sonny", Tracey and "Koda", Rosemary and "Anna", Mandy and "Elliott".

From Class 1 to Class 2

Robyn and Lucky; Cheryl and Osca; Lauren and Keira and Louise and Toby.

Interesting Web Site

Thanks to Roy for finding this really interesting site – a friendly community for animal lovers – www.thinkbigpets.com and also for the following -

The tricks dogs teach us.

The tricks dogs teach us are more important than any tricks we can ever teach them.

We teach them to beg, roll over, and fetch. They teach us about loyalty, friendship, enthusiasm, joy, patience, forgiveness, and unconditional love.

We teach them words. They teach us with actions.

We teach them to be obedient. They teach us to be observant.

We teach them about the meaning of commands. They teach us about the meaning of life.

Member Updates

"Brave" Rebecca is going to shave off her beautiful hair in a good cause – Cancer Research. The Club is to donate \$100 to this worthy cause and if individual members would also like to donate, please see Rebecca at training on Sunday.

Lynne Campbell, a long time member of our Club, was awarded an Australia Day Citizen Award from Shoalhaven City Council for her fantastic work as a carer for the RSPCA – congratulations Lynne.

On a sad note, puppy Holly, a Blue Heeler, died suddenly as the result of choking on a small dog biscuit. A card from us all has been sent to owner Trevor and his family. Trevor has a new puppy, and so we look forward to seeing him back at training soon.

Training Tip - Pulling on Leash

The Leash Problem Begins

Most leash pulling begins as soon as the dog sees the leash and knows she's about to go for a walk. If the walk begins out of control, the precedent is set for the entire walk.

Before expecting your dog to calmly walk beside you on leash, train her to be calm when you are putting her collar and leash on! Ask her to sit-stay while you are putting on her leash. If she does not stay, the walk is delayed until she does. Don't give in or she will learn that it's OK to be out of control. If your dog doesn't have a reliable sit-stay, then practice training her to sit-stay without the distraction of the prospect of a walk.

Leash Training Warm-Up

Most dogs learn very quickly that they must sit while the leash is being attached to the collar. They usually tremble with excitement, ready to explode into a frenzy as soon as this phase is accomplished. If your dog bolts toward the door, dragging you behind, then the situation is still out of control. Simply hold onto the leash, stand still and let your dog dance, ricochet and bounce around at the end of the leash. It may take 5 minutes or more, but she will soon realize that you are not going anywhere and will begin to calm down. When this happens, praise her for being good. After another minute or so, take your first step, but NOT towards the door. Instead, walk your dog around your house, garage or yard to give her a chance to practice her 'not-pulling' skills. Every time she pulls, lunges or strains on the leash, simply stand still again. When she calms down, talk to her, praise her calmly and quietly. Try to keep her attention on yourself instead of the door that leads to outside. When you feel that your dog is in control and she is walking nicely without pulling in your house or yard, then it is time to proceed to the great outdoors.

Reminders

Yearly \$6 membership fees are now due for 2008.

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.



To all our
members and
their families

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits
in your pocket and then give him only two of them. - Phil Pastoret