



Hello members

The Dog Club has enjoyed big attendances over the past month and New Members Day proved very entertaining with the wonderful Flyball Dog racing teams from the North Western Club in Sydney. Rosie and John Milton, and Diane Richmond took part with their dogs, "Savvy", "Pac" and "Lady" who certainly held their own with strong competition. The Club was indeed grateful to Rosie who organised this visit as it was a chance in a lifetime to see such competent dogs.



Instructors Meeting

At the Instructors Meeting held on Sunday there were quite a lot of big decisions made.

Number One being the Club Championships has been tentatively set down for Saturday September 6th at the Milton Showground. Entry forms will be available in the near future. There will be a Novice Section to encourage handlers from lower classes to enter their dogs and experience "trial" conditions. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd are proposed.

Clicker Training

The Club is starting the new group of Beginners on a different method of dog training which the Committee is sure will improve the rate of learning for both dogs and handlers.

It is a positive reinforcement method which takes another step forward from the methods we are currently using. It involves the use of a 'marker' which in this case will be a clicker. A 'marker' is very easy for the dog to distinguish what is the correct behaviour and what is the wrong behaviour. When the dog is doing the correct movement, the handler will click at that moment and the click is

followed by a treat (usually food of a very high desirability factor). Clicker training is used all around the world on dogs, horses, cats and chickens and also used at all the major aquatic facilities who train dolphins, sea lions etc. The club will have a two-week Introduction to clicker training before the dogs commence the Beginners group which will be reduced to a 6-week course.

Instructors have agreed on the following introductory schedules.

First Clicker Orientation course will be conducted on July 6 and 13th. Handlers will then enter their six week Beginners Course on Sunday July 20th.

Puppy class will commence clicker training as a central core to training as from July. These handlers may end up having two orientation courses but reinforcing this type of training won't be wasted.

Club Championship Agility

There will be three separate events held this year for the Champion Agility Dog. First trial is scheduled for Sunday July 20th.

Agility Equipment

The Club is proposing to purchase new agility equipment such as a new tyre, A-Frame and Table. Rosie Milton has offered to obtain quotes for these pieces of equipment.

Beginners Agility Classes

Due to the Beginners Agility Classes popularity, they will be continued to be held from 8.15 am to 8.45 am before dog training. Thank you again to those Instructors who come early to assist with these classes.

Newsletter enquiries to:
Margaret Rudd, while Janet is away. ☺

To unsubscribe from this Newsletter please send a blank email to: newsletter@mudtc.org.au and type unsubscribe in the subject column.

MEMBERS CORNER

New Members

Welcome to new members:

Barry and "Goldie"; Michelle and "George"; Jane and "Gypsy"; Nina and "Jack"; Bill and "Rexie"; Renee and "Tyros".

Remembers new members are only able to join on the first Sunday in the month as a special eight weeks program is held. Baby puppies under four months can join at any time. Cost is \$30 which includes the supply of a Clicker & food treats for clicker training, which is now an integral part of the program.

You will need to bring proof of your dog's immunisation. Please wear comfortable clothes and closed in shoes. Bring treats for your dog as rewards, try to make them exciting, something different to what they usually have.

New members are asked to be at the clubhouse at the rear of the showground by 8.30 am, to allow official time to process their forms prior to classes commencing at 9:00 am.

Congratulations on Graduating –

From Beginners to Class 1

Jean and "Jazz"; Kylie and "Lucy"; Judy and "Grace"; Kendre and "Bucket".

Class 1 to Class 2

Tracey and "Koda"; Caraline and "Beau"; Judith and "Caddie"; Kaitlyn and Abbey; David and "Jess".

Class 2 to Class 3

Louise and "Toby" Ruth and "Diesel".

Two 24 Hour Off-Leash areas now available for your dogs

Members are advised that there are two 24 hours off-lease areas now in the Southern Shoalhaven for you to exercise your dogs. There is the beach near Rotary Park, on the northern side of the breakwater at Ulladulla Harbour and Colliers Beach, Mollymook.

You still need to have your dog under control and pick up after them. Because a lot of people are taking advantage of these areas you need to watch that strange dogs may not necessarily be friendly and some people let their dogs wander alone.

Dog Quiz – answers in next month's Newsletter From our Members

Question – Give the name & breed:

- 1 I live with Charlie Brown
- 2 I am the family dog in Peter Pan
- 3 My best friend in Shaggy and I love snacks
- 4 Many movies and TV series have been made about me
- 5 My boyfriend is The Tramp
- 6 I was in the US Cavalry with young Rusty
- 7 My TV series was called "The Littlest ----?"
- 8 I live with Wal Footrot & hate my name, I'm known as ----?
- 9 The dog in Q8 is my boyfriend
- 10 Trick question: Hello, I'm Mr ---?

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 cannot 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 cannot 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.

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.