



Hello members

Firstly sincere thanks to Margaret and Caraline for continuing the production of the Club's monthly newsletter while I was on holiday in the UK. Ken and I enjoyed our holiday very much, especially spending time with our families and friends, but of course it is always great to return home.

### Club Championship

As announced by Peter at training, the Club's Championship is to be held on Saturday 13 September at the Milton Showground (it also happens to be Local Government Election day). Notes and entry form can be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.mudtc.org.au/events.html> or hard copies are available at the Clubhouse. The closing date for entries is 31 August 2008. As in previous years, please remember that no late entries will be accepted, and all handlers must be financial members of the Club. This year the Club Championship includes a section for Novice dogs, which will give everyone an opportunity to enter their dog in an event and so gain experience in competition. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes will be awarded in the Novice Section. Trophies will be awarded for the Lynne Brookes and Marion Mann Championship competition. Last year's winners were Liz with Rose and Roy with Penny. The day starts at 8.30am and following lunch, will continue into the afternoon. Even if you do not enter, please put the date in your diary, and come along to watch and support other members who are taking part.

### Winter Watchdog

The colder months could become a chilly misery for your dog if you don't remember its needs as well as your own. Although a dog's normal body temperature is a few degrees higher than ours, winter's drop in temperature can cause lots of problems. If your dog sleeps inside the area should be warm and free of draughts and blankets should be placed underneath your dog if it usually sleeps on tiles or uncarpeted flooring.

Kennels outside need to be both spacious enough for your dog to move around in, but also small enough to trap and effectively retain its body heat. The kennel should be in a sheltered position, out of the wind, and on a platform.

If your dog is an outside dog, has a thick double coat, is accustomed to winter weather and has a sheltered place to get away from wind and rain, it will probably be happy to stay outside all winter. If your dog is old, arthritic, ill, or if its coat is not heavy enough, let him sleep inside when the temperature drops.



### BBQ Helpers Needed

As advised at Sunday training, Bunnings is giving community groups the opportunity to raise funds by holding sausage sizzles outside their new store. Our Club has been offered Saturday 2 August from 8am – 4pm, and your committee is currently considering whether or not to ask for teams to cook on that day. It may be better to request a date later in the year, when the weather is warmer. As soon as a final decision has been made it will be announced at training.

### RSPCA Cupcake Day



The RSPCA is holding a fundraising event called "Cupcake Day" and details can be found at [www.rspcacupcakeday.com.au](http://www.rspcacupcakeday.com.au) The actual day is Monday 18 August, however on Sunday 10 and 17 an RSPCA Wombat money box will be available at the Clubhouse for any member who would like to make a personal donation to the RSPCA. Your Committee has resolved to make a donation, on behalf of our Club, to support them in their work. Members may also wish to organise their own Cupcake Day and full details can be found on the web site address given above.

### Clicker Training

Thank you very much to Instructor Rosie who held a very informative and well received first Clicker Training session on Sunday 6 July, primarily for our new member intake, but existing members also attended. We all look forward to our next lesson on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Newsletter enquiries to:

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## MEMBERS CORNER

### New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members who joined during June and on Sunday 6 July. As new members please forward your email address to [newsletter@mudtc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@mudtc.org.au) if you would like to receive your newsletter electronically.

### Graduations

Congratulations to all those handlers and their dogs who have graduated to the next class, and were announced at training last Sunday. Please remember to collect your Certificate from the Clubhouse.

### Quiz Time

The answers to last month's quiz were:

1. Snoopy; 2. Nanna; 3. Scooby Doo; 4. Lassie; 5. Lady; 6. Rin Tin Tin; 7. Hobo; 8. The Dog; 9. Jess 10. Ed  
Well done if you managed to get them all correct !.

### From our Members:

#### Penny takes part in Research

Roy and Jan Cullen's dog Penny is to take part in research by the University of Sydney into Atopic dermatitis, an allergic skin disease which is common in West Highland White Terriers. A group of researchers is carrying out the study and Penny will be examined by Dr Linda Vogeinest, through a thorough skin examination and routine blood sample. This research will benefit Australian and overseas populations of West Highland White Terriers through detection of the genetic cause and inheritance pattern of the disease, which will allow early treatment and avoidance of breeding with affected dogs. Hopefully, this will eventually lead to a decrease incidence of the disease.

#### Gin the Wonder Dog

Thank you to member Russell Aitken who forwarded a video clip of Border Collie "Gin". This dog took part in the Britain's Got Talent show in May/June this year. I actually saw this program while I was on holiday and this dog's performances are amazing. If you have an opportunity, do a Google search for *Britain's Got Talent Gin the dog* and you will find several video clips – they are certainly worth watching !

### Reminders

- Have you paid your membership fees 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.

### "Lady" jumps for Diane

Congratulations to Chief Instructor Diane with her Kelpie *Lady* who performed so well at her first jumping and agility trial at Kioloa recently. Diane said she really enjoyed being involved in the competition, and meeting all the other competitors. Diane was thrilled at how well *Lady* performed and admitted that it was just one or two handler errors that meant that *Lady* did not achieve a higher score. Well done and best wishes for future trials.

### Prevention better than Cure?

*Extract from Dogs NSW Magazine July 2008* – if anyone would like to read the whole article the magazine is available at the Clubhouse.

There are five different types of disease of our dogs that can be prevented by vaccination.

**Distemper:** It is rare these days, however years ago vets would see four to five cases a day. The virus is usually fatal. Symptoms include coughing, diarrhoea, seizures, loss of balance and blindness.

**Hepatitis:** This is another disease that can be fatal. When it isn't, it usually results in permanent and irreversible liver damage. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain.

**Parvovirus:** Known to cause fatal diarrhoea, the types of dogs that are susceptible are puppies, dogs that are immunosuppressed, dogs exposed to a large number of other dogs and geriatric dogs.

**Parainfluenza:** A viral component of kennel cough, not fatal, but can cause debilitation that leads to other fatal diseases. Highly contagious and extremely debilitating disease.

**Bordetella Bronchiseptica:** Bacterial component of kennel cough.

Vets will talk about C3, C4 and C5 vaccines. C3 vaccine protects against parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis. C4 also protects against parainfluenza, while C5 protects against the aforementioned as well as *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. A C5 is the requirement for most boarding kennels.

(Please always discuss your pet's needs with your own Vet).

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*"Old dogs, like old shoes, are comfortable. They might be a bit out of shape and a little worn around the edges, but they fit well."*

*Bonnie Wilcox 'Old Dogs, Old Friends'*