



Hello members



Some of you may have been wondering why you are seeing handlers carrying what appear to be "magic wands" around at Dog Training. Firstly, it has nothing whatsoever to do with Halloween and secondly, unfortunately these wands are not the *magic answer* to all our training needs. They are being used in the Beginners Clicker course to teach dogs the command "touch".

The Club has adapted its Beginner Class to focus on Clicker training, following successful Clicker training sessions held during the Christmas break last year with Instructors Rosie and Diane.

Clicker training relies on marking your dog's desirable behaviour with a 'click' and then rewarding with something very special – e.g. tasty food treats. Clicker training encourages your dog to 'think'. You want your dog to work out what it is you want them to do. Every time you 'click' you must give a reward, (even if you clicked accidentally). The timing of the 'click' is very important – it tells the dog the behaviour is correct and it will gain a reward.

Important steps are to *get the behaviour* (for example a sit) *mark the behaviour* – with a 'Click', and then *reinforce the behaviour* with a tasty treat.

Clicker training is different in that the handler waits until the behaviour is well understood by their dog before introducing the word/hand signal for the particular exercise. Once your dog confidently repeats a behaviour, such as the sit, and knows this is what earns the Click and reward, it is ready to learn the name of that behaviour – this is called "introducing the cue".

Eventually, when the dog has learned the behaviour and it happens every time on cue, the click and reward is eliminated for that particular behaviour, and replaced with less intensive rewards such as a pat or praise. The Clicker and treats are used again when the handler wants to teach a new behaviour. You need to remember that the treats form part of your dog's diet and so you may need to reduce the size of their meals in the early training stages when many treats are given. For more information see [www.clickertraining.com](http://www.clickertraining.com).

#### Take the Lead – from HCF Newsletter

The dogs of Australia need to lose some weight. Here's proof. The RSPCA contacted 2000 vets around the nation, and found that 41% of dogs and 33% of cats analysed were overweight or obese. That's a lot of extra rolls of fur!

A 30 minute daily workout is recommended by the RSPCA to keep your pet fighting fit. It will help keep you trim, too. It's win win. For dog walking inspiration, see [www.rspca.org.au/campaign/wtd.asp](http://www.rspca.org.au/campaign/wtd.asp) (If you do not have access to the Internet and would like to see the article, some copies are available at the Clubhouse.)

#### Training Sessions



As the end of the year approaches our last training session for 2008 will be held on Sunday 7 December at the usual time of 9am followed by our Christmas Party. Information will soon be available about arrangements for the day. Classes commence again the first Sunday in February 2009.

Handlers with dogs under 4 months of age can join our Club on any Sunday of the month and attend the Puppy Class. Dogs 4 months of age and over join our Beginners 8 week course on the first Sunday of a month, and so baby puppies do not move on to a Beginners course until a first Sunday. All new members must bring proof of their dog's up to date vaccination.

The Beginners course, for dogs over 4 months of age, runs for 8 weeks and if dogs are ready at the end of the 8 weeks they are promoted to Class 1. Dogs which need more time in the Beginners class can repeat weeks 5 – 8 until they are ready for promotion.

Dogs attending Classes 1, 2, 3 are assessed on the last Sunday of each month to see if they are ready for promotion to the next class, Class 4 being our highest class.

Your Instructor will let you know if you have passed for promotion and you will receive a certificate on the following Sunday. Don't forget to ask at the Clubhouse for the coloured star which represents your new class, so you can add it to your name badge.

*"I used to look at [my dog] Smokey and think, 'If you were a little smarter you could tell me what you were thinking,' and he'd look at me like he was saying, 'If you were a little smarter, I wouldn't have to.'" - Fred Jungclaus*

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## MEMBERS CORNER

### New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members, who joined during September and on the first Sunday in October. 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 on the first Sunday in October. Please remember to collect your Certificate from the Clubhouse, and also ask for the coloured star for your new class, to go on your name badge.

### Puppy Love

*Continued extracts from an article in the August Dogs NSW Magazine*

Buying a new puppy should be taken very seriously as this ball of fluff should be with you and your family for the next 15 years.

Sleeping alone and being inactive all night is a new thing for your puppy and it will need you to help it learn how to do it well. If you teach your puppy to sleep or settle quietly indoors at night, it should develop into an adult dog that is quiet and trustworthy in the house.

*– This is the final extract from this article – hope you have found it interesting reading over the past 2 Newsletters.*

### Word Game

The object is to find the following words in the square below. The Word Game Theme is Fly ball Competition:

AFA; BALL; BOX; CRN; DIVISION; EJS; FALSESTART;  
FLYBALL; HANDLER; HARNESS; JUDGE; JUMPS;  
PRACTICE; RACING; RECALL; SOUTHERLY;  
STEWARD; STOPWATCH; SWIMMERS; TIMESHEET;  
TITLE; TUGTOY; WINNER;

Y T A R J L G K H J N H F L Z  
M Q E U E N L A I R B C D L B  
E M D E I L R A C K W T D A T  
T G G C H N D S B L B A H C I  
E C A D E S R N B E F W C E T  
H R T S I E E O A A Y P F R L  
E J S I M V K M L H O O L J E  
Y S P M U J I S I B E T Y U L  
N C I C L Y E S T T O S B B Z  
U W H W Z S M I I U S X A A U  
S K U R T B I D U O G X L F S  
K P R A C T I C E Y N T L A L  
B Q R D R A W E T S Q P O M D  
F T C W I N N E R K E A B Y N  
B N F Y L R E H T U O S H H O

### From Our Members:

#### Member Results

Congratulations to member Rosie on these recent wonderful achievements:

#### ADAA Grand Prix 2008 Macksville- Pac

24 Weave Pole Challenge - 2nd - Time 5.82 seconds  
AAD title for agility and jumpers

#### Fly ball Southerly Muster Sutherland - Pac

1st - Division 2 - Best time 19.52

#### Fly ball Kioloa - Pac

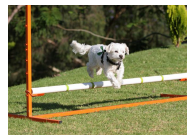
2nd - Division 1 - Best time 19.01

Fun competition for puppies - runaround - 1st Izabella

Congratulations also go to Liz and Rose who won Round 2 of the Club's Agility competition on Sunday 12 October with only 10 faults. Runners up were Diane and Lady and Rosie and Pac with 20 faults each. Round 3 of the competition will be held on Sunday 16 November at 7.30am prior to training classes, when it should be cooler.

### Welcome Back

Great to see Bob back from his amazing trip to the Northern Territory. I was lucky enough to see some of the photos of his visit and everything is certainly BIG in the Northern Territory – snakes, crocodiles, frogs and even the dogs – just ask Bob to show you the photo of Sasha sitting alongside his son's dog – it's one big dog!



Lovely to see Cynthia with Mickey and Bertie and Jocelyn with Indy today. Mickey, Bertie and Indy all had a wonderful time racing around the agility ring, and we are very

happy to see them back at training.

### Thank You

Thanks so much to Cheryl and Margaret for filling in for Henry and Jenny in the Clubhouse today. Poor Tessa was very confused at being moved from her usual "welcoming" spot at the new member table with Margaret.

Thank you to our grass mowing team who have kept the various dog training areas cut for us recently – much appreciated by all of us.

### Get Better Soon

Sorry to hear that Instructor Rick has injured his foot and that President Peter is still suffering from Sinusitis and desperately seeking a cure! – hope you, and any other members who haven't been well lately, get better very soon, – best wishes from us all.

### Reminders

- Please **don't** bring your dog with you up the ramp when you pay your fees.
- Please show your dog's current vaccination certificate to our Secretary Jenny. She will mark this on your membership card.