



Hello to all members. Please note on your Calendar that the Club's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Sunday 26 April, following training classes.

Morning tea will be provided. Only financial members are able to vote, so please make sure you renew your \$6 yearly membership fee in the next few weeks. The Club's financial year runs from January – December, so all fees are now due for 2009.

Nomination forms for all Executive and Committee positions are available at the Club House. If you would like to know more about how you can become involved in the running of your Club, please ask one of the existing Committee members for details.

One commitment is the attendance at Committee Meetings which are held every 2nd month on the first Sunday. Instructors hold a meeting on the alternate month. The list of available positions was posted in last month's Newsletter, so please review and carefully consider whether you can contribute in any way to the successful running of Milton Ulladulla Dog Training Club – 30 years old this year !

Dog Breed Groups

In Australia there are 7 recognised Dog Breed Groups:- Toys; Terriers; Gundogs; Hounds; Working Dogs; Utility and Non Sporting. In subsequent Newsletters information will be provided about each Group. This month the focus is on the Gundogs.

Obvious dogs from this Group are the Labrador and Golden Retrievers; Cocker Spaniel; Irish Setter; Flat and Curly Coated Retrievers, Hungarian Vizsla, German Shorthair Pointer. A much rarer breed is the Lagotto Romagnolo – which we have never seen at Training ! They look like this, and are originally from Italy – their name means *Water Dog from Romagna*:



This is a dog specialised in finding truffles on any type of ground whatever, the only breed recognised as having this ability.

The Gundogs were originally bred to find live game or else to

retrieve game that had been shot. Gundogs are generally happy, fun, often boisterous dogs that make excellent all-round family dogs. They are intelligent and easy to train, but do need a lot of exercise to keep them happy and healthy.

Training Tips

Why should your dog do what you ask?

The first thing you need to do is to find out what your dog finds rewarding. Every dog is different and although food can be very motivating, some dogs have other ideas of what is the perfect treat. Yes, it could be a tasty treat, a game, a long walk or being able to have a special toy. Once you know what your dog finds rewarding, you can use it to train him to do anything you want. Take some time to list what your dog really enjoys, even list them in order of preference.

Any reward must be something the dog **really** values.

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.

Using a Clicker

In recent months Beginner training classes at our Club have focussed on the use of a "clicker" to help train dogs. Clicker training is a reward based training method. It started back in the 1970s and is a no-pushing or prodding, no punishment, enjoyable, fun, easy to understand method of training.

Handlers need a "clicker" and some very tasty food treats. These are provided to all new members on their first day. The clicker remains their property, but food treats for subsequent weeks need to be provided by individual handlers.

The "clicker" makes a distinctive click sound when you press it. Every time your dog gets something right it hears a click which means well done you are going to get a treat for doing that.

To start with you must get the association in the dog's mind that if it hears a click a reward will follow. To do this "click" and give the dog a treat. Repeat this click/treat exercise until the dogs starts to look for a treat when it hears the click.

When practising clicker training at home it is a good idea to find a quiet corner somewhere, possibly in the laundry, so you and your dog can focus completely on the training.

Another important principle of clicker training is that the word for the training exercise, for example "sit", "drop", "stay", is not introduced until the dog is 100% perfect in the particular exercise.

There are several good web sites with short video clips of training dogs with the clicker – for example: <http://www.dog-obedience-training-review.com/clicker-dog-training.html>

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 newsletter@mudtc.org.au

New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members, who joined this month. As new members please forward your email address to newsletter@mudtc.org.au if you would like to receive your newsletter notification electronically. Also current members, please email if you wish to be included on the electronic listing. Don't forget to visit our web site at www.mudtc.org.au it is full of great information about our Club. You can also join our web Forum, please see Caraline or Ken at training for details.

Member News

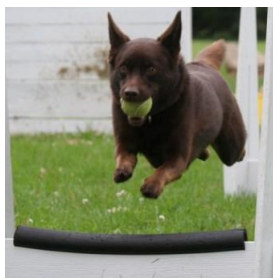


Here is a picture of me with my best friend Ginger. I recently had a little holiday at her place. We love our Sundays at the Club and although we

may not be star performers we do try our hardest. Secretly we think our dad and mum need the training ! Love Sophie. 😊

Flyball

Flyball has proved very popular at this year's Easter Show and there was even a short article about it in this week's Saturday Telegraph. Here is a great picture of one of our members "Lady" flying over the jumps at Milton Showground.



Don't forget you can teach your dog Flyball at Sunday Training – please talk to Diane, Rosie or Jenny for more details.

Updates

- Members would know that Rosie Milton's husband John had an accident at their property in Milton at the end of March and is still in hospital at the Royal North Shore in Sydney. We are very grateful to Caraline who has provided a link from the Dog Club Website to the Milton Family site so we can keep up to date with John's progress. We are all thinking of

John and Rosie and sincerely hope that John continues to improve.

- Margaret has had a marvellous recovery from her hip operation and is now back at home. Ozzie and Tessa were very pleased to have her home again.
- Although out of hospital, Cheryl still isn't completely recovered after injuring her back. Our very best wishes Cheryl, and hope you are soon feeling very much better.

Dog Access Areas

Some of Shoalhaven City Council's designated dog off leash areas are:-

Basin View

Off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am - Basin View foreshore reserve west of boat ramp, bordered by Basin View Parade.

Bawley Point

Off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am - Cormorant Beach & foreshore reserve between Tingira Drive & Terragong Avenue.

Bendalong

Off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am – Washerwomans

Burrill Lake

Off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am - public reserve east of Princes Highway, bounded by Racecourse Creek & opposite Kings Point Drive.

Milton

Off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am - Milton Showground, area to south west of buildings & Main Oval.

Mollymook

Off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am - public reserve adjacent to Mitchell Parade and south east of buildings and playing fields off (north of Donlan Road).

Off-leash 24 hours – Collers Beach

Swan Lake

Off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am - Swan Lake foreshore reserve between northern boat ramp (end of Yaroma Avenue) and SLWSC boat ramp.

Ulladulla

Off-leash 24 hours – Beach north of the Northern Breakwater in Ulladulla Harbour

Please remember whilst your dog is off leash it must still be under your control and come straight back to you when called. Please do not forget your plastic bag to clean up after your dog.



Newsletter enquiries to: Janet 4455 3137 **To unsubscribe from this Newsletter please send a blank email to:** newsletter@mudtc.org.au and type unsubscribe in the subject column.

*One may walk over the highest mountain one step at a time
-John Wanamaker-*