

# MILTON ULLADULLA DOG TRAINING CLUB INC

## NEWSLETTER NO: 52 – OCTOBER 2010

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STOP PRESS  
NO DOG  
TRAINING 7th  
NOVEMBER

### Hello Members

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another year; our last training day is on 5 December.

The last Management Committee meeting for the year will be held on 14 November after training. Any member can submit suggestions to the meeting for consideration through their Instructor or a Committee member.

Members will be pleased to know that at the last Management Committee meeting, in line with authorisation from members at the Annual General Meeting, it was resolved to make donations to the following organisations; Guide Dogs, Assistance Dogs and the RSPCA. A small donation has now been forwarded to each of these organisations on behalf of the Dog Club.

### CLICKER TRAINING

#### • Quick Start Course

The first Sunday of each month marks the beginning of the Club's 4 week Quick Start course. When they join new members receive a very interesting package; food treats, clicker box, and lots of written notes about Clicker training, well what is Clicker training all about?

#### • Positive Reinforcement

Dogs like food. Dogs need food to survive. Dogs want to keep on receiving food. If you can show your dog that it



will get a tasty piece of food every time it does a behaviour we desire, (for example a sit) it will keep repeating that behaviour. This is called positive reinforcement. You only need to spend two or three minutes every day practicing clicker training with your dog to see the positive result. (Photo – Cheryl and Reuben)

#### • What gets your attention?

Just imagine you will be given \$1000 every time you hear a "click" sound. In fact someone stands in front of you and "clicks" a little plastic box thing and hands you \$1000. Do you think you would look at them the next time they make a "click" sound, just in case another \$1000 is coming your way? It is the same principle for our dogs. They hear a "click" and a food treat is presented to them. Once they know this, they will actually start to think for themselves, and do different things to try to make you "click" and treat them. A bit like how we might try to figure out what we need to do to get that "click" sound going again, and get another 1000 dollars!

#### • Charging the Clicker

Showing our dog the connection between the "click" sound and a tasty food treat is the first exercise we do

with our Quick Start dogs. We have small pieces of soft food treats ready. We then "click" and treat; "click" and treat; "click" and treat, about 6 times. At this stage our dog doesn't have to do anything at all to receive the treat. All we are doing is showing the dog the relationship between hearing a "click" and receiving a tasty food treat. Constant verbal instructions to the dog must be avoided.

Then we "click" and slightly delay giving the food treat. We are watching to see if the dog reacts and looks round for the food. If the dog does, and most do look very quickly, we know the dog is starting to understand the relationship between the "click" sound and a food treat. This exercise is called "charging the clicker".

#### • Progression

So how do I get my dog to do something? I don't want to be "clicking" all the time? OK, let's start with the Watch exercise. This is the second thing we learn in Quick



Gloria and Miley

Start. Your dog will often look at you all by itself, you haven't said anything, and it has just looked at you. Whenever it does be ready with the "click" and treat. The "click" sound marks the moment the dog performs the task. It is like taking a picture with a camera of the precise moment something happened. This timing is very important. (If you don't have your clicker with you, say YES, and give a treat. If you don't have a treat either, give a happy pat). You want your dog to know every time it looks at you, something positive for the dog is going to happen. When the dog is confident with this and looks at you often you can introduce the word Watch when the dog looks at you. First of all still click and treat, but gradually eliminate the click/treat and hey presto you have a dog that looks at you every time you say Watch.

#### • A Clever Dog

And guess what, the dog really worked this out for itself, it understood that if it looked at you something positive happened and so the dog wanted to repeat it. This can be used to teach your dog the sit, drop, stay, come, the list goes on. Clicker training lets your dog work out things for itself. (Photo – Kaye and Chloe)



#### • Focus

A dog that works out what it needs to do to get a positive reinforcement from you will be focussed on you, such an important basic principle for all our handlers and dogs.

3 Photos taken during 2<sup>nd</sup> week of a Quick Start Course

## MEMBERS CORNER

### New Members

A very warm welcome to our 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 notification electronically. Also current members, please email if you wish to be included on the electronic listing.

Congratulations to all members who have graduated and were presented with their certificates during the past month. Well done.



### Coming Events



Mudd on the Paws Flyball Team's second competition day will be held on Saturday 16 October at Lions Park, Burrill Lake. All members are invited to come along to see the dogs having a

wonderful time racing against the clock. Help is needed to set up during the afternoon on Friday 15 and also on the actual day of competition. If anyone is able to assist please advise by email to [info@mudtc.org.au](mailto:info@mudtc.org.au) (attention Diane)

### Demonstration

Members are invited to come along to support our demonstration team who will be entertaining the residents of the Coastal Waters Retirement Village at the Showground on the morning of Tuesday 19th of October.

### New members

Because of a large horse event at the Showground there is no dog training on 7 November (first Sunday in month). Therefore the final Quick Start course for this year will begin on Sunday 31 October, which will be new members joining day for dogs 4 months of age and over.

### Club Agility Competition

The final round of the Margaret Rudd Agility Competition will be held on Sunday 14 November. Best wishes go to all competitors.

### Christmas Party



The Club's Christmas party will be held on Sunday 5 December at the Milton Showground. This is our final training day for the year and the program will include presentation of Club Awards for 2010; fun games for our dogs; sausage sizzle and buffet; guessing competition draw; and fancy dress competition for dogs – the dress theme this year is Merry Christmas.

### 😊 Great Results for Club Members – Well Done

#### Border Collie Show & Trial 26 August

Ruth Hall's Shandi gained 1st Place and a clear round to qualify in Novice Agility and a 1st place and a clear round to qualify in Novice Jumping. Mr. Paddy gained 1st place in Novice Jumping and 2nd place and a clear round to qualify in Novice Agility. Kim Porter's Brock gained a 1st place and a clear round to qualify in Agility Excellent.

Bella gained a 6th place and a clear round to qualify in Agility Excellent, and a 2nd place and a clear round to qualify in Jumping Masters.

### Castle Hill Trial on 9 October



Kim Porter's Bella (*photo*) won masters jumping, masters agility and excellent gamblers for her GDX title! She also received the Arthur Crossley trophy for the best agility dog on the day! Kim said "this dog gives me SO much - I just love her to bits".

At the same Trial congratulations also go to Ruth with her Border Collie Shandi (*photo*) gaining Agility Dog Title with 1st place in Novice Agility and 2nd in Open Jumping. Ruth's dog Paddy gained 2nd at Gamblers.



### Australian Agility Dog Association Grand Prix

Several members travelled to Tamworth over the long weekend to compete in the Grand Prix, with some excellent results -

Rosie with Pac and Wizz competed in the 24 Weaving Poles (they race against dogs their own height). Pac came 2nd in Maxi in a time of 6.12sec and Wizz came 3rd in Midi in a time of 5.46sec

Pac achieved 4th place and a qualifying score in Open A Jumpers. Wizz achieved 3rd Place and a qualifying score in Open A Jumpers. 4th Place and a qualifying score in Combined Starter Jumping. 1st Place and a qualifying score in Intermediate Midi Agility. 1st Place and a qualifying score in Midi Jumping

Louise Meagher and Bella gained 2nd place and Qualified in Combined Starter Maxi Agility, and this gave Bella her Agility Dog title with AADA. 3rd place twice in Regular Maxi Jumping. 1st place and Qualified in Regular Open A Maxi Game Jumpers her time was 15sec (outstanding). Louise's other dog Wispa achieved 3rd Place and Qualified in Intermediate Midi Jumping. 8th Place and qualified in Open B Midi Jumping. 5th Place and qualified in Open B Midi Agility and a Qualification in Open Game Power & Speed.

Ruth Hall and Shandi gained 3rd place in Starters Agility and 2nd in Open Jumpers. Ruth's Paddy gained his AAD Title Competing in Starters Jumping 2nd, Starters Agility 9th Starters Ability 4th, and Open Jumpers 3rd.

### Storyteller Sue

Congratulations to Dog club member, Sue Hays, owner of Sassy the Labrador, who has just released her new children's picture book "Peppy the Paint from Pigeon House". This book follows "Monty the Mutt from Milton" which features Sassy. The book is set in the local area and reveals our beautiful countryside and bush. It is a totally local production.

Success is often just hanging on after everyone else has let go.