

WOODVILLE WOOF



Woodville Community Dog Training Centre Newsletter

April 2018

.... from the President

Well after quite a hot summer we ended up last Sunday deferring our AGM until after Easter due strong wind and the threat of rain! No rain but plenty of wind.

We drew our Easter raffle which raised \$139 and we thank everyone who participated. Special thanks to Bev Stuckey, our fabulous egg and bacon sandwich maker. The prizes looked beautiful.

Everyone who won a prize was there to receive it which was great, including Bev! She won the chocolates and promptly gave them to her granddaughter, Lily, who always helps us out when she comes to the club.

We are making some changes to our curriculum to ensure we provide with the best strategies and techniques for training you dog. Part of this is a change to the Basic Obedience class time, now called Advanced Training, to 8:45 am so we can train our instructors and also allow these members to have more of Sunday instead of finishing at 12:00 noon. These new techniques will be gradually introduced into your classes as our Instructors become familiar with them.

This year we are going to give our club rooms a bit of a face lift and paint the inside, upgrade the back part of the kitchen and install a ceiling exhaust fan over the cooking area. Don't panic, the menu isn't changing. Egg and bacon sandwiches will remain! We are open to ideas of things you would from the café given that we can manage them, so share any ideas with the 2 Bevs and Denise.

We are also going to issue certificates for puppies leaving Puppy Class, dogs leaving the Introduction Class and those keen dogs who complete the basic program in Rally-O. These will be distributed when we have our Graduation Ceremony.

A happy, safe and joyous Easter to all our 2 legged and 4 legged members!

Claire Lowe
President

Happy Easter!



Newsletter Items

Do you have something of interest you would like to share via the newsletter?

Maybe you've seen a great dog article, or have photos to share, recipes for dogfood, ideas to put forward for discussion about the running of the club.

Please email anything you would like included to:

newsletter@woodvilledogtraining.com.au

Please mark Att: Marilyn

We would love to hear from you!

In This Issue

- From the President
- Safety in Off Leash Areas
- Training Methods
- Yellow Dog Project
- February Graduates
- Rally - Sue & Sunny
- Easy Dog Treat Recipe
- Class Calendar
- Rules & Classes
- Sponsor Advertisements

ATTENTION: WCDC AGM will be held on Sunday 8 April 2018 at 10:00 am.

The AGM will take place on the grounds between Puppy/ Grade 1/ Intro, and Grade 2/3. The first classes will finish a little early, and the other classes will be shortened a little to accommodate the AGM.

As an incorporated body the club is required to hold an AGM annually. You our members, get to take a short break, relax on the grass and learn what the Executive of the club do with your membership fees. The meeting is generally only for 30 minutes and then we resume classes.

Please stay after your class, or come a little early, and be a part of the AGM. If you have an interest in joining the Committee, or nominating someone, please contact us.



.... Safety in Off Leash Areas



It is important that when we are in an off lead park that we know how to behave with other people's dogs while being in control of our own. Make sure you know your dog's behaviour patterns and body language. I am sure that we have all seen careless behaviour in parks that could or have led to bites and scary behaviour from other people's dogs.

Check these useful websites for tips on reading dog's body language:

<http://www.silentconversations.com/displacement-behaviour-dogs/>

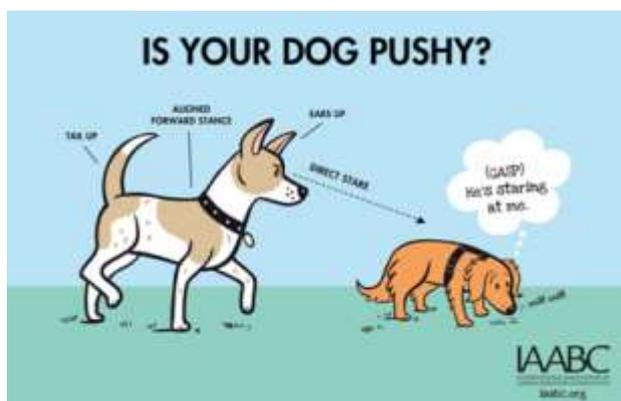
<http://www.dogdecoder.com/>

Check out the list below:

- When you enter the park check out very carefully what is happening before you let your dog off lead.
- Are the dogs already there, behaving safely?
- Maintain eye contact with your dog at all times. Watch what they are doing.
- Do not run with your dog or other dogs. Dogs love to chase and 'catch'.
- Do not shout or yell. Dogs can be scared by loud noises which can lead to dangerous behaviour.
- Put your dog back on lead if you have any concerns about its or other dogs' behaviour.

Common-sense you say? Of course, but we know careless behaviour does occur in off lead areas.

Ensure you and your dog are safe by practising these points.



... Training Methods - Technique Updates

Fading Lures

A lure is when we use a treat to move the dog into position. Eg put a treat on the dog's nose and move it upwards to get a 'sit' action. We use a few repetitions of luring to get the dogs to learn the cues. What we don't do super well is give up the lure! Lots of us find ourselves reaching for a treat to get the dog to drop or sit or walk by our sides, we should only be using a lure in our hand if our dog doesn't know the behaviour but our dogs are very good at teaching us to produce food!

If we give our dogs a cue that they know, like 'sit' and they don't follow it's super important that we don't reach for the food if they don't perform.

Not following the cue means that they should lose their chance to get the reward all together. Don't be mad or even react to them not responding just move on to something else.

Never use a lure AFTER a cue

What should you do?

Move on to a different behaviour, or after a short break go back to basics. Lure without the cue word 5 times then add in your cue again so the dog knows the behaviour. Then start using the lure hand without food in it, with the same motion as you did when there was food in there, and then treat from your pouch/pocket.

Also look for reasons / distractions that might be causing your dog to not respond. Are they too close to another dog if so move away? Is the grass cold or wet? If so leave out that cue for today, don't let the practice not responding.

Up Your Training Game - Bridging

A bridge allows a connection from one side of the river to another. Similarly, a bridge in dog training is used to connect, in the dog's mind, that the action that he is performing is the one that earns him a reward. The bridge pinpoints the exact behaviour you wish to reward. It is also helpful when you are some distance from your dog and are unable to get a treat to him at the precise moment you wish to reinforce.

The bridge can be Verbal (a word like "Yes"), a sound (clicker, whistle), tactile (touch) or visual (thumbs up, used for deaf dogs). Your dog can be conditioned to respond to any of these once they learn that the word or sound means something.

For our example we are going to use the verbal bridge "Yes" but if your dog has a similar sounding name like "jess" then use another short word like "Ok" or "Ta"

Conditioning the Bridge

- Whatever bridge you use, you need to let your dog know that your bridge has meaning.
- Firstly, do not ask for any particular behaviour.
- Say your bridging word 'Yes', hesitate for a second, then give your dog a treat.
- Do this four times. Then bridge and see if the dog looks at you to say "where is my food?" if he does he has gotten the connection - give him food.
- If he doesn't take a break for a minute or two and then do it again. It won't take long and he will know that "yes" means something good is coming.

When you know your dog is responding well to the bridge in different environments then you can move to training specific behaviours.

A bridge is a promise to pay.

You must reward your dog after each bridge - no exceptions - even if you have accidentally bridged the wrong behaviour. Make adjustments to your cues and lures to get the right behaviour next time. Later we will talk about fading both the bridge and food.

Do not bridge as a way to gain your dog's attention

Correctly used this is a powerful tool. Care should be taken to only bridge the exact part of the behaviour you wish to reinforce. Sloppy bridging can result in a completely different behaviour. You get the behaviour you bridge, not necessarily the one you thought you were training.

... Training Methods continued

Reinforcers should be Reinforcing!

Reinforcers should be reinforcing! Some dogs get tired of the same reinforcer. As you discover things your dog really likes, add them to the list of things that you can use as a reinforcement for a job well done. For example, if your dog sits at the gate before going out for a walk, the walk becomes a reinforcer for sitting at the gate.

Verbal and physical praise are also important. You always have your voice, your smile and your loving hands with you when you are with your dog. Keep in mind that petting and 'good dog' are fine but food, toys and life rewards are often much more reinforcing to your dog. Think of it this way if your boss says to you "gee you did a good job today", you would be pleased, but if he added to that "... and here is a bonus for that work" you would be even happier. So too with most dogs.

Occasionally rewarding an already learned behaviour with food will also remind your dog that those old behaviours are still important.

At home train with the dog's dinner or breakfast kibble. There is no rule that says a dog must be fed from a bowl; we tend to do this for our own convenience. Keep a portion from the bowl and use this part of your dog's regular diet for training in non-distracting environments. Keep the good stuff for class or when you are at the park or beach with your dog.

A system of fives & fading the lure

Often students will ask how many times something should be practiced. The answer is usually "lots but not all at once".

Using drop as an example, to begin, lure your dog into position as you have been shown in class. You lure, bridge and reward twice (if the dog is successful) and on the third, fourth and fifth time try without the lure. Go through the motions of the luring but do not have the food in your hand.

If you have success, bridge and reward the dog from the other hand (the one you did not use for the signal). If your dog does not perform the behaviour you asked do not reach for the food to lure him. If you do that your dog will have taught you how to feed him! Stop the session and try again a short time later.

When to make it harder

As recommended for training all new behaviours, use the system of five repetitions per set to build the behaviour. Use the following scale to measure progress.

- If five out of five is correct, increase the criteria
- If three to four out of five is correct, remain at the same level
- If two or less out of five is correct, drove to the previous level or go back to basics

When to reinforce

Initially it's hard to get the timing right. The reinforcer is contingent on a behaviour being performed. The sooner the reinforcer is received after successfully doing the behaviour, the more effective is that reinforcer. When you, as the dog's teachers, get this right, the dog will learn very quickly.

Some people have likened giving a dog too many treats to giving children too many sweets and we agree. It's not a good thing to do to their health for from a training perspective. We don't just hand out food, we reinforce a behaviour that we like. There is a big difference.



Have you liked our Facebook page? Did you know that you can write a review of the club on Facebook? Just click on Reviews.

You can read what others have said, and leave a review of your own. So why not take a few minutes, and write a review of your club for others to read?

We really would appreciate it!



... Yellow Dog Project

Feedback please: Trainers and officials of the WCDC would appreciate your feedback on this project. Do you support introducing this to our Club?

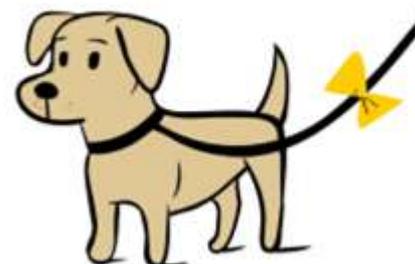
Please email your comments to: info@woodvilledogtraining.com.au



The Yellow Dog Project is a global movement for owners of dogs that need space. It hopes to educate the public and dog owners to identify dogs needing space, promote appropriate contact of dogs and assist dog owners to identify their dog as needing space.

Yellow Dogs are dogs who need space - they are not necessarily aggressive dogs but more often are dogs who have issues of fear; pain from recent surgery; are a rescue or shelter dog who has not yet had sufficient training or mastered obedience; are in training for work or service; are in service; or other reasons specific to the dog.

If you see a dog wearing a yellow bandana, leash, collar or one with a yellow ribbon tied to their leash it's an indication that that dog needs space and you should not approach them. Please do not approach this dog with your dog, maintain distance and give their person more time to move away from you.



Helpful Websites

<https://www.facebook.com/TheYellowDogProject/>

<http://www.theyellowdogproject.com/Home.html>



CONGRATULATIONS FEBRUARY GRADUATES!

Level 1 to Level 2

Annette Paysden & Layla
Delphine Coughlan & Debra Lee
Erin McKenzie & Tilli
Glenda Gardner & Paris
Natalie Hewitson & Fletcher
Nina Wall & Daisy

Level 2 to Level 3

Shanna Ashewood & Gracie

Level 3 to Level 4

Brett Featherby & Hudson
Dale O'Shaughnessy & Axel
Melissa Cocca & Obi



.... Rally - Sue and Sunny

Saving my socks, furniture & garden



My dog Sunny was a very bouncy puppy, with seemingly endless energy, I was always looking for things to keep him busy. Something that would fulfil his need for exercise, keep his constant curiosity satisfied, and would a fun time for us both. Also something that would keep safe my socks, furniture and garden from his boredom and teeth. So we came to classes at Woodville Dog Club.

When Sunny turned eighteen months (and his growth plates had formed), I took him and tried doing Agility. He instantly loved it and so did I. He learned a lot watching the other dogs! And seemed to run through tunnels, over jumps and up over A-frames and raised walkways. You could tell that Sunny knew when it was agility night. In the end it was me who couldn't keep up because it involved me running and turning while giving directions. Arthritis developed in my feet letting me down. I needed to find something else for our teamwork.

Meanwhile, at the Royal Show I saw a team of Victorians doing Dancing with Dogs. In a limited space, dog and handler teams were doing remarkable tricks. The dogs were totally focussed on their owners in spite of the noisy crowds. Impressive. So I thought that would be an interesting avenue to explore. Dancing with Dogs is essentially tricks and movement set to music (there are some fantastic videos on the internet which show DWD). South Australia has quite a number of people involved in this sport. I take Sunny to the occasional DWD class and workshop. We both enjoy this but again it is a sport that requires good feet. Through DWD I found out about RallyFree and Trick Training.

When I was in the Basic Obedience class (now called Advanced Training), Michelle, who teaches the puppy class, came over to see if anyone might be interested in Rally Obedience...my ears pricked up at this and I researched what it was and went to see some being done. Rally is a way to keep up skills learned in Class 4 and Advanced Training, as well as learn new useful things. We started to get it going at Woodville on Sunday mornings in 2017.

For a year now we have set a Rally course set up each Sunday. Sunny looks forward to coming. My feet can manage! We have a six week course introducing how to do the basic elements. Some of us have moved on to "Advanced, Excellent and Masters" elements, learning to becoming more adept at having focussed teamwork. RallyFree elements are beginning to be included and for some there is interest in learning and practising tricks. Some people are working towards awards for their achievements. Michelle comes by towards the end of the lessons with extra hints and advice...last Sunday she explained clicker training to one of our keen participants!

And Sunny? You can see he enjoys coming on Sunday. He seems to enjoy working with me to do the course and practicing elements. At the end of our sessions he sleeps in the car all the way home, and at home he sleeps until the afternoon walk is due. I think Rally satisfies his intellectual needs! Each week day we have one or two five minute sessions to practice or learn something at home. If I forget, Sunny will come and get me for a training session. (his ears prick up at the word "training". So, my socks, furniture and garden....well they are safe.

If you would like to join us for Rally, please come and try it on Sunday mornings.

Contact Us

Please contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Woodville Community Dog Training Centre
Woodville Oval

Phone: 8268 5046

Email : info@woodlilledogtraining.com.au

Web: www.woodlilledogtraining.com.au



Easy Dog Treats

Several people have requested a repeat of Sue's Dog Treat Recipe so here it is

Depending on how long you bake them, these treats can turn out moist and chewy for training rewards. Or crispy.

Prep

Line a slice tin with baking paper. Make the paper go up the edges a bit or the mix might bake to the tins edges.

Turn oven to 180C (350F)

Big bowl. Fork. Knife.

Ingredients

1 large can of tuna (in oil or spring water - discard excess moisture but don't squeeze dry)

1 or 2 eggs

1 cup of plain flour.

Method

Empty tuna in to big bowl.

Add egg yolk and whites. Discard shells.

Mix with a fork till no large tuna lumps and egg is mixed in well.

Add 1/2 a cup of flour. Mix. Add next half cup of flour.

If mixture is runny add a bit more flour.

Press mixture into the slice tin with the fork. Till about 1 cm thick all over.

Use a knife to make furrows lengthwise. 8 should do.(makes it easier to handle after it is cooked.)

Cook for 15-20 mins.

Turn oven off. Leave tin of mixture in oven to dry out to your desired level. I like them a bit moist and flexible so I can take a stick and break it as desired during training.

Use the knife to cut along the furrows you made earlier.

Put resulting sticks of fish treat into container and store in the freezer.



Thank you to Sue Whittaker for providing this recipe.

2018 Class Calendar

2018 Calendar

January							February							March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2017							May							June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
29	30																			

July							August							September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
29	30	31											30							

October							November							December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
													30	31						

Class No Class

**This Calendar is a guide, please check with any of the volunteers for class changes.*

Contact Us

Please contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Woodville Community Dog Training Centre
Woodville Oval

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Rules

A copy of the Centre's constitution is available from the Registrar

The Centre's Ground Rules have been made with consideration given to Public Liability.

1. All members must wear their membership badge, and be financial to attend class.
2. All dogs must be on lead from 9:00 am Sunday, and during all classes, unless you are given permission by an Instructor.
3. Dog owners/handlers are responsible for any injury to another dog, or owner/handler where their dog is involved.
4. A dog who has bitten, or shown undue aggression, must be reported to the Chief Instructor of the day.
5. Bitches in season are not allowed on the grounds during training sessions.
6. Generally accepted social behaviour is expected of all members/attendees.
7. Classes are held on Sundays from February to December, except on LONG WEEKENDS.
8. Current vaccination certificates must be shown to the Registrar when joining, and upon renewal of membership every 12 months, or when due.
9. Dog owners/handlers are to wear covered footwear during classes on the grounds. Bare feet, and open footwear, are not permitted.
10. We use positive reinforcement training, therefore excessive reprimands such as yelling, hitting, or kicking of dogs, are not to be used by dog owners/handlers.
11. Dog owners/handlers are asked to use a Martingale/training collar for the comfort, and well-being of their dog during training. Check chains, and slip collars, are not to be used in class. Their general use is discouraged as chains are intimidating, and can cause significant harm to your dog.
12. Activity equipment is to be used only when owners/handlers have been instructed in its use by an Instructor.

Weather Policy

Woodville Community Dog Training Centre does not have an official weather policy, the decision of whether or not you attend classes is up to you and your pooch!

When weather conditions are extreme, modified classes will be conducted with the health and welfare of members, and dogs, in mind.

Classes

8:30 am

Breakfast & Coffee

8:45 - 9.30am

Advanced Class

Rally

9:30 - 10:00 am

New Members

Puppy

Beginners

Class 1

10:15 - 10:45 am

Class 2

Class 3

Class 4



Meg

Findon Veterinary Clinic

221 Grange Road, Findon
Phone: 8347 3444



Seaton Vet Centre

342 Tapleys Hill Road, Seaton
Phone: 8155 5200



The Findon Veterinary Clinic, and the Seaton Vet Centre, are owned, and run, by Dr Ian Hogben. They are both staffed with the same experienced vets, and nurses, so you know you'll get the same great treatment at either facility. However, the Seaton Vet Centre is larger, so it does have extra facilities available.

Please check our website (under '[Our Sponsors](#)') to find out more.



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- Dog Clipping & Grooms Out
- Nail Clipping
- Pampering of your special family member



2010 & 2011 Winner

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