



Woodville Community Dog Training Centre

WOODVILLE WOOF

March 2022

From the President - Leann Hoppo

Our recent AGM, on Sunday 20th March was a pivotal day for our club, the end of an era. It saw Committee decreased to 9, with an emphasis on specific roles for each of the 5 successful new General Committee members, based partly on recent or current experience. This will complement the specific roles already carried out by our Executive Committee of 4.

An agreement for City of Charles Sturt to provide a small training rebate for all members training their dogs using force free methods taught at WCDTC, was announced. Certificates will be given to graduating members in addition to ribbons/class certificates. On presentation of these certificates to CCS, members will receive the training rebate when re-registering their dogs in July/August. WCDTC is currently the only dog training facility in City of Charles Sturt to use force free training methods, and the only training provider to offer this rebate to members.

Inductions are still very popular, class sizes are decreasing. Four Instructors are currently studying for internationally recognised training qualifications. This translates to a more comprehensive training experience for members and their dogs, using modern, science based training techniques.

One click on line enrolments are now very close, after a few initial teething problems.

Both cafe and Shop continue to flourish, despite Covid restrictions, with modifications as required.

Enjoy your training!

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COVID RESTRICTIONS

A number of our volunteers have immune compromised family or are themselves immunocompromised.

We ask that all attendees abide by our Covid Management Plan and the directions set out for us by the latest SA Health directives for the club, copies of which are posted on the walls of the club house.

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?

Email suggestions you would like included to: newsletter@woodvilledogtraining.com.au
Please mark Att: Sue

We would love to hear from you!

Greyhounds as Pets (part 2)

Our Instructor, Steve has recently adopted "Betty", a 2 yr old female retired racer who had a very successful career until it was discovered she had become blind in one eye due to an infection in her jaw which spread and damaged her optic nerve.

Steve initially Fostered to Adopt - one of 3 available GAP options along with either Adopting or Fostering. After 2 unsuccessful attempts to pass her Muzzle Exemption Assessment, Betty finally earned her Green Collar and no longer wears a muzzle. Like other successful Green Collar Greys she was able to demonstrate a desirable temperament and an ability to socialise well with other dogs, in particular small dogs. Steve's existing Doberman, Boss, and Betty have been the best of friends since day one.

Extensive support and information are given by GAP to those who welcome these dogs into their homes and families.

These dogs have to be taught how to be pet dogs. Life in racing kennels does not expose them to the many routine elements of life in a typical home. Their lives have been totally different to those of our domestic pets, the concepts of play, balls, toys, tug games, family time are unknown to them. regimentation, sleeping long hours, running, chasing, training

have been their lives. With time, knowledge and patience they can be successfully integrated into families.

Greys require very little grooming due to their short coats, do not tend to bark and can learn to live on their own or with existing pets. Their lifespan is longer than most large breeds - 12 to 15 years on average. They are known to suffer from fewer health conditions than purebreds often do.

Over time we have had the pleasure of gradually welcoming more Greys into classes at WCDTC and I hope this continues. I think we are all pleased that they can now enjoy their retirement in the safe and nurturing environment which they, and all animals deserve.

Leann Hoppo



Luna (left) and Marvin
Two gorgeous retired
greyhounds currently
attending classes



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Huge Congratulations to all of our
February 2022 Graduates

GRADUATIONS - FEBRUARY 2022

Class 1

WENDY	BABIDGE	ARCHIE
TRIM	RACHEL	LUNA
ANDREW	WOIDT	ELLA
DENIS	PRYDER	JERSEY
NYSSA	LLOYD	BEAR
MEREDITH	NICKELS	LILY
DIANNA	FRANKLIN	REGAL
ANGELA ROSS	ROSS	DENISE
ELINA	SAM	ARLO

Class 2

JOHANNA	MAIORANA	WILLOW ATTANASIO
AMY	WELLS	LENNY
MARIA	GLEBORA	OZZI
LUKE	WETHERELL	FLEAGLE
KIM HONG	THAI	LUCKY
FERNANDA ALVARES	MIYASHIRO	WHISKY
JAMES	KEMP	FRANKIE
ABBEY	HOSKING	ALBERT
ALMIR	ALISPAHIC	ROCKY

Class 3

BARBARA	BUTLER	OSCAR
FRANCA	MORABITO	ARLO
GEORGIE	SMITH	MARVIN
ALEXANDRA	CURTIS	MARVIN
FELICITY	McGOVERN	SCOUT
KAREN / LUKE	FERNANDES / RIVETT	CHARLIE

Class 4

JOSIE	CARMICHAEL	MAGGIE MAY
LYNN	MARTIN	SCOUT
CHRIS	RIVETT	ZAK

Class 5

SEBASTIEN	MIGNOT	ARCHIE
BRIAN	BOETTCHER	BINDI

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Photos from February Graduation Ceremony

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE !!!



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Excerpts from our Train at Home Guide

- an instructors perspective *

The Four D's Duration, Distance, Distraction and Diversity Part 1 of 2



Our **Train at Home Guide** has a wealth of information and includes all of the exercises we do in class. Over the next few newsletters I will include information that attempts to 'unpack' some of the information a little further from my own experience as a volunteer Instructor.

Duration

This is the length of time the dog holds or continues a behaviour. While teaching duration, remain still and close to the dog. Over time allow the dog to sit one or two seconds longer before bridging and rewarding. Gradually build this up to at least 30 seconds before for introducing the next criterion.

In my experience:

Work on Duration first before adding the other 3 D's (Distance, Distraction or Diversity to your dog's behaviours. Too often I see handlers moving away from their dog when teaching the SIT / STAY cue BEFORE they have some DURATION instilled in the behaviour.

Often this will cause the dog to fidget, get up, loose concentration quite possibly because they actually want to be closer to you and have not acquired the confidence to accept the distance part of the exercise.

If as a handler you work on the duration first, say for up to 30 seconds, the dog will become more reliable in the behaviour, more confident in themselves and then and only then should you add some distance by stepping back to the end of the lead.

Remember also a perfect SIT / STAY at home will not necessarily be the same at training with all the extra dogs and other distractions.

Distance

This is the amount of space separating you and your dog. With 'Sit' before introducing distance reduce the duration criterion (don't ask for a long sit), take a small step away from him and immediately return to bridge and reward in position. If the dog breaks the sit as you move, go back a stage. Do more work on duration and when you start on distance again take a smaller step or just a half step to the side or backwards, returning immediately. Gradually increase the distance and only when you have good duration and distance can you add distraction.

In my experience:

It is always better to work on a little Duration BEFORE increasing the distance from your dog, this helps set the dog up for success and builds their confidence in the exercise.

Once you have say 30sec of a stay then is the time to add the Distance by stepping away from the dog and work on increasing the distance to the end of your lead. Think of it in terms of teaching the dog that it is ok for you to step back little from them and it is also OK for them to STAY PUT whilst you do this.

Given a chance to succeed dogs, will thrill every time with their brilliance.

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The Art and Science of Consent Testing by BARKS from the Guild

Written by *By Angelica Steinker*

Consent testing is the process of observing a dog's body language to see if he is fine with whatever environmental change has been presented to him. It can be used informally or formally. Informal use would be during play or social interactions, when two dogs or a dog and a human are interacting. All the tester needs to do is observe if each party wants to interact. Formal consent testing is when a situation is staged and whereby the tester determines the dog's desire to interact or not by observing body language.

Body language that is distance-decreasing is considered to be a yes, I want to interact. Body language that is distance-increasing is considered a no, I do not want to interact.

Consent testing allows the dog to say yes or no to situations and interactions.

Consent Testing Uses:

Socialization: Use consent testing during socialization to avoid flooding. Flooding is when socialization exposure ceases to be fun and begins to be stressful. Flooding is not a part of socialization and ideally is minimized. It is not something that a professional uses intentionally.

Behavior Modification: Many problems in behavior modification occur because of accidental flooding. By using consent testing, accidental flooding can be avoided and programs based on counterconditioning and desensitization are much more likely to be successful.

Building Reinforcement History: Simply put, a dog who is allowed to say yes or no and who is supported in his decision is going to form a stronger bond with his trainer and owner than a dog who is accidentally or deliberately flooded.

Pet Therapy Visits: Individuals engaging in pet therapy with their dog will be more successful at minimizing stress and maximizing fun if consent testing is used at all times during all visits. If a dog says no, a handler can simply state that the dog needs a bathroom break.

Dog Sports: Not every sport or dog sport situation is for every dog; you should empower the dog you are working with to be able to say yes or no.

How to Consent Test

To perform a consent test, simply expose the dog to another dog, person or situation and observe his response. A dog who is meeting another dog and immediately turns away is saying no, I would rather not meet this dog. This communication needs to be accepted and distance between the two dogs needs to be increased. If the two dogs need to be integrated this process can be done gradually.

When a dog is meeting someone new, observe his body language to determine if he wants to interact with this person or not. If the person is touching the dog, this interaction can be stopped and the dog's reaction can be observed: does the dog move closer to the person and reinitiate contact? That is a yes. Or does the dog turn away from the person and engage in another activity? That is a no.

When entering a room or area, does the dog readily continue into the space? That is a yes, I want to go there. Or does he turn 180 degrees to head back to where he came from? That is a no, I don't want to go there.

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CONSENT TESTING (Con't)

Forcing a dog to engage in contact with another dog, person or area he is not comfortable with may predispose him to develop issues that can range from fear to full blown aggression. It is important to not take it personally if a dog says no to interacting with you or your dog. It is not personal, but it is very useful information.

To accurately interpret a consent test you must be able to observe the dog being tested for distance-increasing or distance-decreasing behaviors. Behaviors intended to increase distance function as a no response to the consent test while behaviors intended to decrease distance function as a yes.

Common Distance-Increasing Behaviors

Some common distance-increasing behaviors are:

- Tongue flick
- 90 degree head turn away from person, dog or object
- 180 degree body turn away
- Backing away
- Stress gulp
- Freezing
- Breath holding
- Tail wag with straight spine
- False smile with whale eye

It is important to know the dog you are consent testing well or to be highly experienced with consent testing to be able to accurately interpret a yes or no. If you are not sure about the body language you are observing assume the dog is saying no. If you want to learn more consider enrolling in a course on canine communication.

Common Distance-Decreasing Behaviors

Some common distance-decreasing behaviors are:

- Snuggling up to the dog or person
- Licking the dog or person
- Gently nuzzling the dog or person
- Play bowing
- Freezing and then rapidly unfreezing with a soft spine
- Tail wag with a soft spine
- Happy facial expression with almond eyes
- Moving toward the dog or person

Some of the signals are the same for both lists; this may seem confusing, and that is because it is. Reading dogs' body language is something that is scientifically proven to be influenced by experience. In general, the more years you have been around dogs the more accurately you will be able to read their body language.

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CONSENT TESTING (Con't)

State of Conflict

Some dogs feel two things at the same time. It is not uncommon, especially for herding breeds, to exhibit both distance-increasing and distance-decreasing behaviors at the same time. These dogs will approach, lick and then retreat. Conflicted body language must be interpreted as a no.

Consent testing improves your communication, reinforcement history and ultimately the results of your work. Just say yes to consent testing!

Cognizant behavior consulting (CBC) is an approach that provides behavior consultants and their clients with guidelines that create boundaries and establish ethics. CBC deals directly with the emotional components of behavior consulting. It focuses on the needs of both the client and the dog in order to improve their emotional states.

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About the Author

Angelica Steinker PCBC-A owns and operates [Courteous Canine, Inc.](#), a full service pet business and dog school specializing in aggression and dog sports in Tampa, Florida.

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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.



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