



Woodville Community Dog Training Centre

WOODVILLE WOOF

DECEMBER 2023

From the President – Leann

As our 2023 training year nears its end we are all looking forward to a well earned rest before tackling the challenges and changes 2024 will inevitably bring.

This year has been tinged with sadness due to the illness and subsequent passing of our long term Treasurer and Life Member, Chris Brown in October. Chris was a valued, respected and well liked member of our Team.

We are pleased to welcome our current Treasurer, Helen Thompson who has hit the ground running!

On the subject of “ground”, City of Charles Sturt has implemented measures to repair and maintain our Sunday training ground, which is at other times a designated Dog Park, Community Green Space and regular football game day car park.

It is hoped that with appropriate preparation of the Park, and increased surveillance and education of parkers, it will be better able to withstand the rigours of football car parking throughout the football season. It is also hoped that regular watering will continue and the grass will remain green and healthy.

The barbeque area continues to be popular, being utilised for a variety of activities, including various Sunday morning training exercises by WCDTC.

Our final day for 2023 will be 3rd December, our annual Xmas Fun Day, including one large class from 09:30 until 10:00, followed by Games, Best Dressed Dog/Guardian competition, Presentations, Raffle Draw and Sausage Sizzle.

Our sincere thanks to all those who have donated Raffle gifts and bought tickets.

A special thank you, once again, to local business – Rapuano’s Grain store for their generous donation.

Thanks also to everyone for your continued support of our Covid precautions. As Xmas approaches and the current Covid surge intensifies, please be vigilant about social distancing, hand sanitisation and wearing masks while indoors or at shop/café windows.

Complimentary masks are available from both shop and café.

COVID REMINDER

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

Committee has asked that all people attending the Shop or Café to please continue to wear a mask and use the hand sanitisers provided.

CLASS TIMES:

8:45 Classes 1 and 2

9:30 Classes 3 and 4 and Rally

10:15 Class 5 and Intro

From the President (continued)

Our first training day for 2024 will be 4th February.

Returning members are asked to watch our Facebook page in January for notifications on class times. You do not need to be on Facebook to access this information – just Google our website, then scroll down to our Facebook page.

Our Membership page will be open from 12th January for new members, with our first Induction being at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 30th January for classes commencing on Sunday, 4th February.

In 2024, in addition to our usual Force Free, Positive Reinforcement training techniques we'll introduce husbandry procedures so your dog can play a co-operative role in their visit to the Vet or Groomer. We'll also introduce more Social Skills to reflect current trends for dogs being welcomed by some retailers and Coffee Shops etc.

As always, we require people interested in training as Instructors or Class Assistants. These roles are interchangeable, if you start as one and decide the other is for you we're happy to slot you into wherever you're more comfortable. Remember, you'll also learn a lot more about your own dog and how to train them. If you'd like more information on either role please email president@woodvilledogtraining.com.au for more information.

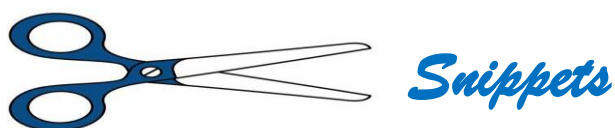
Although we are a Non-Profit organisation, run by unpaid volunteers there are definite fringe benefits associated with volunteering in any capacity – e.g. Training, Shop, Café, or a General Volunteer setting up/packing down each week. We are aware our members collectively have a variety of useful skills. Can anyone wishing to volunteer their services on an ad hoc basis please let me know. Time commitment is negotiable, some jobs can be done from home, we're flexible!! Email president@woodvilledogtraining.com.au for more information.

We hope to see you at our Xmas Fun Day and look forward to seeing you next year.

From all the team at WCDTC, we wish you a safe and Happy Xmas with Best Wishes for health and happiness in 2024.

Cheers,

LEANN



Actor Rudolph Valentino (1895-1926) loved his dogs. He was gifted an Alsatian Doberman puppy by a fan during his time in France, which he named Kabar, and the two were nearly inseparable. While on road trips, Valentino would not only sit in first class with his faithful companion, but they would also sleep in the same hotel room. Valentino eventually became the proud owner of a dozen pedigreed dogs, including an Irish Wolfhound that he named Centaur Pendragon, a couple of police dogs, two German Shepherds, several Great Danes, a Spanish Greyhound and a Galgo Espanol. (*en.dorksideofrudolphvalentino*)

Behaviour is just behaviour.

There's no morality to it. It's not good or bad, not right or wrong. It's simply communication and information.

There's always a function (purpose) to a dog's behaviour. But the behaviour itself isn't:

Naughty	Defiant
Bad	Spiteful
Selfish	Rebellious
Stubborn	Domineering



Your dog's behaviour isn't personal. Your dog isn't out to get you. There's no morality to behaviour - it's not good or bad, not right or wrong. It just simply is. And we can use it as communication and information to help us make appropriate decisions for our dog's training.

As much as dogs are "man's best friend", dogs are inherently opportunistic. They tend to do what works best for them, what makes them feel safe, and what gets them the fastest results without expending a lot of energy. Putting a label on their behaviour only serves to fracture the bond that we have with our amazing dogs. Instead, let's just take their behaviour at face value and use it to develop our skills to shape their behaviour moving forward

From the Chief Instructor – Carolyn

We have been slowly making changes to our curriculum and how we go about teaching our dogs. Our most recent focus has been in the higher classes with dropping the lure by class 3 and replacing food rewards with play. There has been a huge improvement in the dog/handler engagement and focus using this reward system. In Class 4 we have been focusing on stays under distraction instead of the distance and duration format. Recently some of the Class 5's did an out of sight stay and the dogs did extremely well. By the time the dogs get into the higher classes, they are used to the normal training format, so these changes really help to keep their minds working.

Recalls in the enclosed BBQ area gives handlers a better chance of learning how to recall their dog in every day circumstances. With so many smells and sometimes even having kids in the playground as a distraction, getting the dog back to you is a huge accomplishment.

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated Instructors and Class Assistants. A lot of work is done behind the scenes and these volunteers are passionate about improving dog's lives.

Enjoy the break, keep up the training at home, and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Tips for a safe and happy Christmas with your dog

The change of routine, busier households, decorations, presents and lots of delicious food are all part of the fun of Christmas. As magical as it is for us humans, it's worth spending a little time thinking about how we can manage all the changes for our four-legged family members to ensure a wonderful time is had by all. We hope you find the tips of interest and helpful to successfully plan a very happy Christmas for you and your dog.

Routines

Mealtimes and walks/free runs are high points in your dog's day and keeping to the usual routines will ensure that they have consistency and reassurance during the festive period. Plus, a good walk with your dog is always the perfect way to reset a busy mind and focus on a bit of fun.

Feeding and diet



While gastronomic goodies such as chocolate, christmas pud and mince pies delight human palates, they're really harmful and/or **poisonous for our dogs**. Ditto for things like turkey skin, stuffing and gravy which can put a dog's digestive system under significant stress and could potentially lead to serious illnesses such as pancreatitis. So, while your dog may be giving you the big eyes from under the table, it's far better to have a few frozen Kongs or dog-friendly treats ready to give him or her as an alternative. It might also be a good idea to ask your guests to join you in keeping your dog safe and

happy this Christmas. Very often, people are simply not aware that certain foods are harmful to dogs.

Christmas tree and decorations

Bringing the tree into the house with the minimum of excitement will mean that you stand a better chance of your dog becoming indifferent to it sooner rather than later! Once it's safely positioned, spend some time with them calmly letting them have a good sniff and exploring it. This will help them process and cope better with this new, hugely interesting addition to the house space. If you get a natural tree, make a point of hoovering or sweeping up the dropped pine needles every day. As well as containing poisonous pine sap, they can be a bit spiky on curious noses and paws. Obviously, artificial tree foliage can also cause problems if ingested.

As with the tree; try and introduce the decorations as calmly as possible and make sure that the hanging decorations are well out of reach of your dog. Especially those that are made of chocolate! It goes without saying that if you're choosing decorations for your home, go for a non-toxic choice. Twinkly, christmassy lights mean additional cables and whose dog doesn't like a good chew on new things? So, it's important to make sure the cables and wires are made safe by hiding them away, boxing them off or using sturdy cable shields which can ensure that your dog doesn't chew through a live flex.

Presents for your family and dog

Present opening is a very exciting time for dogs on many levels. Crinkly paper, lots of new smells and lots of happy humans! And of course, all dog-lovers will want to give their beloved companion a special gift to open at Christmas. But it's important to make sure that your dog doesn't get too excited because it can be very hard for them to calm down again. A bouncy, over-excited dog can make things quite stressful for everyone else who'd like to open a present or two! Maybe you could wrap up a couple of presents for your dog to distract him or her while you're opening yours. You could also consider opening presents throughout the day rather than all in one go. Most dogs are curious so leaving presents under the tree and unattended

could be a recipe for disaster. Especially if the presents are likely to be food items or if your dog's present is a lovely new squeaky toy! Your dog's incredible sense of smell and their natural curiosity will draw them to these type of presents so keep an eye out at all times and try and keep the particularly enticing presents out of their reach.

Fireworks and Christmas crackers

Exciting and traditional at Christmas, crackers and table fireworks are great fun for us humans but... not so much for dogs. As part of your dog's routine, having a safe space to call their own is really important and especially so at this time of year. So, if your dog doesn't cope well with bangs and whizzes, make sure they have access to this space and if possible, give them a Kong or another high-value reward there well before you break out the noisy stuff. There are also Christmas crackers on the market now that come without the bang and these may be a better compromise for all concerned. If you and the family decide to attend a festive fireworks display, it's far kinder to leave your dog at home, happily curled up in their safe space.

Reprinted from Dogs for Good.org

Our Shop now stocks leads from
Friendly Dog Collars.

Prevent incidents BEFORE they occur



Meet our team - Zac

Hi my name is Zac and I have been an animal lover my entire life and this definitely extends to dogs which I have lived with my entire life. About a year and a half ago I got an American staffy named Loki and I brought her to WDTC to train her. I had so much fun doing it so when they asked if I would be interested in joining as an instructor I immediately said yes. I have been volunteering as an instructor for nearly a year and it is still just as fun as when I started. I really enjoy learning from the other instructors and the people in the class, and I think that it helps me to be a better instructor and also a better trainer for Loki.

I am a volunteer trainer at canine behaviour school which I another dog training school and they offer continuing education about dog training which I am really enjoying and it's good for keeping me updated on the latest training methods as well as allowing me to learn from more experienced trainers and learning new things from other fields related to dogs (such as grooming and veterinary). I am also a volunteer kennel attendant for Guide dogs SA/NT and I work for Beau's pet hotel, so I spend most of the week working with dogs in some fashion and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Rally or Rally O , a fast-moving and motivational sport for both dogs and their owners, has been in Australia for approx. 10 years. The dog and handler work together as a team to complete various exercises in a set course that demonstrates competency in basic obedience exercises. The Rally course is set out with numbered stations with the handlers and dogs navigating the course and carrying out the exercises shown on the sign. Dogs work in the “heel” position between exercises. Handlers can direct their dog by talking, encourage with praise and patting is allowed

At Novice level, dogs negotiate a course of between 10 and 15 signs and work on lead during the test. The higher levels of Rally (Advanced, Excellent and Master) use up to 24 signs including many of the more complex ones and dogs are required to navigate the course off lead with their handlers.

Rally has a far more relaxed atmosphere than other dog sports and each run is a different series of exercises.

Rally satisfies a dog’s social need to please and work under direction.

Any member can join in our Rally class once the dog has passed Class 3 level. Feel free to speak to our Rally Instructors Anje, Sonia or Brandon if you would like any more information.

Dogsaustralia.org.au



Please DO NOT use the Utility or Rally/Tricks equipment unless under the Supervision of an Instructor. (This does not apply to any members who are currently training in Utility/Agility and have already undergone proper instruction)



ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEAD BY 8:30AM.

Please keep noise to a minimum so as not to impact our neighbours.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?

Renewal fees are due 12 months from when you joined. Please email info@woodvilledogtraining.com.au if you aren't sure when yours is due.

10 Unusual dog laws from around the world

Germany: Pet parents pay a monthly tax based on the size of their pet. The larger the pet, the bigger the tax.

Lancashire, England: There is a law that bans dogs from barking when at the coast.

Turin, Italy: Dogs have to be walked at least 3 times a day or risk a 650 euro fine.

Sweden: Any dog attending a day-care centre must be able to look out of a sun-lit window

Idaho, US: It's illegal for a person to sleep in a dog kennel.

Connecticut, US: It's illegal to educate dogs. This dates back to the 1800's when people were very concerned that dogs would become too intelligent and overthrow their human masters.

Switzerland: All pets must have a human companion who passes a written and verbal test on ownership before they're allowed to bring home an animal.

Oklahoma, US: You may risk a fine or a prison sentence for pulling an ugly face at dogs, even if it's your own dog.

Saudi Arabia: It is illegal to walk a dog in public. (except for working dogs such as guard, hunting and service dogs).

Little Rock, Arkansas, US: Dogs are forbidden from barking after 6pm. It's not clear at what time in the morning they are allowed to start barking again.

Indexdigital.co.uk 25 Aug 2023



If you are looking for something different to do with your dog over the break, head over to walkingsa.org.au to see their list of over 230 dog walks in our beautiful city

A great article from www.doglatindogtraining.com (illustrated by Lili Chin) for anyone getting a new addition to their family. Let the new dog slowly get used to their new surroundings as well as their new family.

Adopting a new dog is all about changes for both of you. Use this guide to make the first few weeks fun and stress-free. You will build a foundation for a lasting relationship if you follow these steps to ...



ROUTINE

Dogs crave predictability. Stick to the same times when feeding, walking, training, and departing from your home.



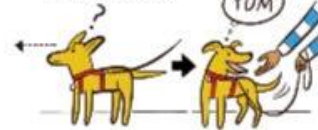
PRIVACY

Dogs, like people, need time to themselves. Create a spot with a crate or mat. Call your dog to leave their space, rather than invading their space.



POSITIVE SOCIALIZATION

Limit interactions with new people, places, and things. Let your dog explore gradually in short sessions. Build positive associations.



TRAIN AT HOME FIRST

Start positive reinforcement training at home for a distraction-free setting. This is the fastest, clearest way to establish communication.



TRAIN WITH FOOD

Shift calories out of the food bowl and use in short (5 minute) training sessions. Spread training sessions throughout the day, including reinforcing loose leash walking.



AVOID LEASH GREETINGS

Meeting other dogs can be stressful. Dogs don't always like each other. Limit or avoid greetings until you learn more about how your dog shows unease.



OBSERVE YOUR DOG

When your dog is relaxed, what do their ears, mouth, tail position, and entire body look like? Learn your dog's body language to know when your dog is concerned and to identify triggers.



LET YOUR DOG INITIATE CONTACT

Let your dog initiate contact with people. Never force an interaction. If your dog solicits attention, pet on the chest, not on top of the head.



HAVE FUN WITH YOUR DOG!

Playing, feeding, walking, and interacting with your new dog builds a lasting bond. Take it easy the first month and get to know each other before widening the circle. After all, you have a lifetime together!



www.doglatindogtraining.com

illustrated by Lili Chin



Graduates for September 2023

INTRO	
MARK & SNOOP	ROCCO & MILLE
RHONDA & JAQ	MATT & ROSCO
PASCALE and ROCHELLE & BILLIE	ANDA & ARNO
EVA & BINGO	CANDICE & REIGN
JACINTA & NALA	DONALD & POPPY
ELLANDRA & REGINALD	
CLASS 1	CLASS 2
AMY & SCOUT	JEREMY & MORTY
JEFF & TEDDY	WARISA & POPPY
SONIA & OREO	JADE & NORMAN
KATE & WALLY	ANNA & ELLIE
LAUREN & DOTTY	ELYSE & ANDIE
NICOLE & SOL	MARGARET & REG
JULIE & TEDDY	
HAZEL & SAING SUMMER	
TRISH & LILY	
CLASS 3	
KYLIE & ROZEE	HARA & CHUPA
KLADIA & OLLIE	MADELEINE & SADIE
CLASS 4	
NATASHA & BUTTERS	
STEPHANIE & ARCHIE	
LEANNE & COCO	
PETER & GIZMO	



Graduates for October 2023

INTRO	
ARNOLD & LUNA JENNY AND LES & SUKI SANDY & HEWEY JULIE & JORDAN LIZ & BONNIE	
CLASS 1	CLASS 2
ELLANDRA & REGINALD	JASON & MABEL
ROCCO & MILLIE	
MATT & ROSCO	
ANDA & ARNO	
CANDICE & REIGN	
DONALD & POPPY	
RHONDA & JAQ	
EVA & BINGO	
CLASS 3	
KAYLA & RAYE	ANNA & ELLIE
ELYSE & ANDIE	ANNE MARIE & ASHA
CLASS 4	
EMMA AND SIMON & CHARLI	KATERINA & SKIA
DAVINA & SCOUT	KYLIE & ROZEE
DENNIS & DAISY	
CLASS 5	
ABIGAIL & COCO	CASEY & NALA
ASHLEY & SUMMER	
RALLY	
BEC & NOVA 92/100	
SCENT WORK	
CASEY & NALA (Novice Exterior pass)	
BEC & NOVA (Novice Exterior pass)	



Graduates for November 2023

INTRO	
Lucio & Zizi	Sarah & Pluto
Bev & Anna	Merilyn & Luna
Jordan & Indiana	Teresa & Charli
Jaimie & Yoda	Christine & Rusty
Candice & Ruby	Steve/Zoe & Johnny
Amanda-Jane & Lola	Claire & Rupert
Jenny & Ollie	Renato & Ollie
CLASS 1	CLASS 2
Arnold & Luna	Elizabeth & Maggie
Julie & Maddie	Anda & Arno
Elizabeth & Bonnie	Amy & Scout
Nikki & Willow	Jezreel/James & Stanley
Robyn & Gertie	
Andrea & Poppy	
Pascal/Rochelle & Billie	
Julianne & Scout	
Jacinta & Nala	
CLASS 3	CLASS 4
Margaret & Reg	Anna & Ellie
Warisa & Poppy	Madeline & Sadie
Jason & Mabel	Hara & Chupa
	Judith & Monty
	Phil & Bez
CLASS 5	
Leanne & Coco	
Jack & Jasper	
Natasha & Butters	
Robi & Otis	
SCENT WORK	
CASEY & NALA (Novice Exterior Pass)	



Our Committee, Instructors and Volunteers wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

See you all back at the Club on Sunday 4th February 2024



We are grateful to our **Ambassador – Mayor Angela Evans** and
also **our sponsors** for their ongoing support

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.



Super Dog Boutique

A well-groomed dog is a happy dog.
At Super Dog Boutique we keep your dog looking, and feeling great with a variety of professional grooming services.

- ◆ We have experience with all dog breeds, and sizes.
- ◆ Our team will give individual attention to your dog, and pamper them from head to tail.
- ◆ Recommended by vets.

Services We Offer:

- Dog Bathing & Blow Dry
- Dog Clipping & Groom Out
- Nail Clipping
- Pampering of your special family member



2010 & 2011 Winner

BEST GROOMER - Hilary Thomas

Caring for local pets for over 25 years.

Come and see Hilary and her friendly staff at

Shop 9/574 Tapleys Hill Road, Fulham

Phone: 8355 4599 or mobile: 0409676074



Please check our website under **Our Ambassadors and Sponsors** to find out more