




Puppy Tales

Bumper Edition!

Ballarat Dog Obedience Club -

Promoting responsible dog ownership.

July 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				 1	 2	3 Tracking Training
4 -Obedience Training -Tricks 9.00am	5	6	7	8 -Puppy preschool 6.30pm -Tricks 7.45pm	9	10 -Tracking Training -Geelong Obedience and Rally Trial
11 -Obedience Training -Tricks 9.00am	12 New Membership night 6.30pm	13	14	15 -Puppy preschool 6.30pm -Tricks 7.45pm	16	17 Tracking Training
18 -Obedience Training -Tricks 9.00am	19	20	21	22 -Puppy preschool 6.30pm -Tricks 7.45pm	23	24 Tracking Training
25 -Obedience Training -Tricks 9.00am	26 New Membership night 6.30pm	27	28 RDO week 4 at 6:30pm	29 -Puppy preschool 6.30pm -Tricks 7.45pm	30	31 Tracking Training

There is plenty for you in this edition of Puppy Tales – make yourself a cup of tea/coffee, find a comfy chair and have a good read!

August 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Obedience Training -Tricks 9.00am	2	3	4	5 -Puppy preschool 6.30pm -Tricks 7.45pm	6	7 Tracking Training
8 -Obedience Training -Tricks 9.00am	9 New Membership night 6.30pm	10	11	12 -Puppy preschool 6.30pm -Tricks 7.45pm	13	14 Tracking Training
15 -Obedience Training -Tricks 9.00am	16	17	18	19 -Puppy preschool 6.30pm -Tricks 7.45pm	20	21 Tracking Training
22 -Obedience Training -Tricks 9.00am	23 New Membership night 6.30pm	24	25	26 -Puppy preschool 6.30pm -Tricks 7.45pm	27	28 Tracking Training
29 -Obedience Training -Tricks 9.00am	30	31				



YOUR CLUB MANAGEMENT

Ballaarat Dog Obedience Club Inc.

Registered No A0012427W



P.O. Box 383 Ballarat, 3350

Ph 5334 2750 (clubrooms)

www.bdoc.com.au

PATRON: Dr. Richard Lawrence

Committee of Management 2020/2021:

Office Bearers

PRESIDENT: TERRY LIA

VICE PRESIDENT: NORM BAKER

SECRETARY: LISA STASZEK

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: TAMIKA STASZEK

TREASURER: PAT MANN

ASSISTANT TREASURER: BRUCE SADLER

COMMITTEE:

JAY LAMONT, KAREN BRERETON, ZOE WERNER, JENNI O'CONNOR, YVONNE ROSS, MARGARET WRIGHT, ROSE MECCA

Email:

secretary@bdoc.com.au

To contact the BDOC Secretary.

info@bdoc.com.au

To ask questions or get information on club activities.

puppypreschool@bdoc.com.au

To apply to Puppy Preschool & get information.

puppytales@bdoc.com.au

To contact, or send articles to the Puppy Tales Editor.

trial@bdoc.com.au

To contact the Trial Secretary.

Discipline Coordinators

OBEDIENCE: CAROL HODGES

R.D.O:

PUPPY PRESCHOOL: NORM BAKER 0417678382

AGILITY: TRACY BENDA

FLYBALL: BILL REYNOLDS 0409404859

TRICKS: SANDY ROXBURGH 0458613112

TRACKING: LISA STASZEK

DISCLAIMER

The Committee of Management of Ballaarat Dog Obedience Club, Inc. (BDOC) and the Editor of the Club's newsletter accept no responsibility for error in the publication of any material. Advertisements published in the newsletter are accepted in goodwill by the Ballaarat Dog Obedience Club and the appearance of these advertisements in the newsletter should not be seen as an endorsement by the club of the companies or their products. Members wishing to avail themselves of these companies and their products are urged to make their own enquiries as to their suitability.

The opinions expressed in any material in this newsletter are not necessarily those of BDOC. The BDOC does not represent or warrant that the information, statements or representations contained in any material are correct, and is not to be held liable or responsible in any way whatsoever for any misstatement or error in the information, statements or representations contained in any material.

Notices

As per club policy, it is against our regulations for bitches in season to attend training. Please be considerate of other dogs and their handlers, do not bring your bitch to training sessions if she is in season. Thank you.

Memberships are due!

Annual subscription renewals are due by 30th June 2021 and **must be paid by Sunday 31st August 2021**. After the 31st of August 2021 memberships **NOT** renewed will lapse. Persons wishing to re-join the club after the 31st of August will be required to take out a new membership which will incur the extra \$15 joining fee.

What to do!

- Come to our Club Rooms at one of the listed times and you will be handed a pre-printed Renewal Form containing your data that is currently on our Database.
- Please check the data and make any necessary changes.
- If any of the dates for Vaccination certificate/s, VCA or Student/Pension cards have expired you will need to present the current certificate/card at time of Renewal.
- Pay the appropriate fee and pick up your new **PINK** membership badge the following Sunday.

Renewal times will be from 8.30am – 9.15am AND from 10.45am – 11.30am

There are details of renewal fees, concessions, etc on our website at
<http://www.bdoc.com.au/membership-renewals/>

Obedience Training Times:

9.30 am Puppy, Groups 1, 3, 4 and Trial ring

10.30 am Puppy Plus and Group 2

These times are correct at time of printing but please also check our website or Facebook page in case of changes.

Please remember you must **sign in** using the QR code or paper sign in sheet before class commences.

Come down early and walk your dog around the grounds before class to get them ready for training.

President's Report

Major Issues

This year, 2021, two major issues have had an impact on the effective functioning of the club.

Firstly, the COVID pandemic has changed the way we operate. The club must adhere to the up to date (current) government regulations regarding all outdoor and indoor activities. This has meant use of masks from time to time, limitations to group numbers and even whether it is feasible to run any club activities. As the club is regional (not metropolitan) and conducts various activities in both indoor and outdoor settings, it has, on more than one occasion, sought advice from Dogs Victoria (the governing body) regarding interpretation of current restrictions. Unfortunately, this has meant cancellation of major events, cancellation of training, changing of group size at training, postponement of meetings, inability to source external expert speakers for seminar or instructor training events and a marked increase in administrative activities to provide a "work around" solution to recent changes in COVID restrictions.

Secondly, the club is still attempting to address the shortage of trained instructors for Sunday mornings. The current group of experienced instructors provide an invaluable service to the club by instructing. They do not receive any financial compensation, often are called upon to run extra groups, and almost never, or never, get the chance to train their own dogs. Great instructors are the lynch pin to the club's existence, many with years of experience training dogs, years of experience with training dog owners how to train their own dog, possess great problem-solving skills and have a marvellous rapport with each person in the class they are coordinating. From a strategic and long-term perspective, we need to increase the number of instructors to the point where there are always instructors in training, and there are sufficient instructors so that every instructor can train their own dog. As the club is in a growth phase, there are many members with dogs in Puppy, Puppy Plus and Group 1 classes. Each twice monthly membership night results in a minimum of 6 to 10 new members and sometimes numbers into the high teens. This means the club also needs more instructors to service the growth in membership.

Membership Growth

The club is in a membership growth phase. Many people have opted to purchase a puppy and want guidance and assistance to make that puppy become the special family member

they have always wanted. Perhaps it is worth thinking about why we are experiencing growth in membership.

As a club, we are a low-cost alternative to dog training, accessible to everyone, with community-based values such as promoting responsible dog ownership and training dogs using positive reinforcement. In all situations and circumstances, members and instructors should treat each other with respect and dignity. If you feel that this is not occurring, please speak to your instructor or a committee member. Your concern will be addressed asap.

The obedience training we offer provides a basis for other dog activities, extending the dog's capability and skills to manage new tasks. Once basic obedience is established, the dog can progress to agility, tracking, flyball, tricks the list of activities will continue to grow. From a member's perspective, you have the capacity to achieve whatever you want for your dog. You may want just a happy well-adjusted household pet or you might decide to navigate through the options the club offers, be it to achieve high levels of skill in various disciplines, compete (and possibly win) in competitions and achieve titles in those disciplines.

Membership growth - Strategic implications.

1. The need for more instructors in all disciplines.
2. The club rooms will need renovation, fundamentals such as moving the catering/kitchen are to the front of the building, ensuring the toilet and hygiene facilities are up to 21st century standard, reducing the number of small rooms and dead space within the building, and creating separate and shared sections for other clubs to use when and if they relocate to the existing club rooms.
3. There are issues of storage of equipment within the building and off site, whether that be club trailers or external storage areas. The equipment BDOC uses in any event or activity must always be safe, within the legislative and guidelines provided by the particular discipline (i.e., Agility) or by Dogs Victoria, the governing body associated with our club.
4. The grounds are part of the Victoria Park managed by BALLARAT CITY COUNCIL (BCC). Thus, changes to the grounds and buildings are subject to funding, approval and timelines approved by BCC. Having a positive and constructive relationship with BCC is crucial to any ongoing development of grounds and facilities, thus BDOC must have a clear idea of what they need and can communicate this in a manner that is compelling. Ideas that have been floated include outdoor lighting similar to that provided at sporting arenas, temporary fencing to enclose an area of ground for various dog activities, improved drainage of the ground area, better parking capacity surrounding the grounds for major events, and timetabling of events to avoid any conflict of interest with other ground usage.

5. With so many new members, each member of the club must understand that they have a responsibility to adhere to club rules and ethos when training, currently having a name tag each session, having an appropriate dog lead and collar and using a QR code prior to training are a focus but there are many aspects that could be mentioned. It is also important that members understand that their actions when with their dog in a public place also reflect on the club's reputation.

6. BDOC is financial and has capacity to make major purchases if required to continue the effective running of the club. The club has no employee costs due to the goodwill and generosity of the instructors, committee members and those members and past members who voluntarily assist in club activities. There are minimal cleaning costs, limited utility costs, maintenance is a shared cost between the BCC and the club, and redevelopment and renovation of the club rooms will be largely a BCC cost. But circumstances may change, in fact, change is inevitable. Whilst BDOC is financial, how can BDOC prepare for the future using the resources currently available? Major programs and sponsorship of instructor's undergoing training, establishing external lighting and refurbishment of the catering equipment comes to mind.

7. The club exists for the members and the members are the club. This relationship means the club must focus on the members' needs and requirements but also that members have reciprocal responsibilities, they need to participate, contribute, and act appropriately when attending club activities. Currently, the club needs members to help by considering becoming instructors (if not now, in the future), or by volunteering to further the club's interests in other ways. There is always a need for committee members, marshals at events, marketing, publicity, and undertaking archiving. The club cannot grow unless there are more members willing to step up and help.

Next Steps

1. Making progress with instructor training and development
2. Action based committee meetings – not just discussing and making decisions – follow through – timelines – accountability - responsibility.
3. Efficient and effective management of the club through succession planning
4. Increasing engagement of members – informing, social functions, access to committee, instructor training, volunteering.

Terry Lia – President.

Obedience Report

First up, our thanks to all our members for their patience throughout the lockdowns. These lockdowns are for our safety. Please remember to QR in or sign in, that means everybody, even your passengers. Another very important thing – please wear your badge or you will be asked to return to your car to put it on. If there is a problem, such as if it went through the wash or your dog ate it, Karen will refer you to Pat Mann. The class times are working okay at this time. We understand that many members have more than one discipline and our times may clash slightly. We are trying to find and train more instructors. We do have three who are very interested – Zoe, who helps in puppy class and is doing a fantastic job. Kim and Nicky are also going to be coming on board, so please make them feel welcome. They will start in puppy class and work their way through the classes.

The classes are all doing well with pass-ups happening as required, your instructor will do the pass-ups. Puppy, Puppy Plus and Class 1 are our biggest classes, so we will split classes and there will be two instructors. Class 2,3 and 4 are holding nice numbers at this time. Ringcraft with Pat is going well, with three members being trial ready. Hopefully all will be successful when trials commence. Rally-O is not training outside because of bad weather, Yvonne is training inside of a Thursday night, 5:30-6:30 at the clubhouse. There is going to be a four-week block for new beginners to learn Rally-O, with the date and time to be announced, so stay tuned. Jenny from Flyball has been giving our puppies a little try at flyball and learning about the discipline- this happens on the last Sunday of the month.

Tips for Training - Voice tones in training:

Happy- Puppies/dogs should be praised and encouraged in soft gentle tones. This creates a calming atmosphere and reduces the possibility of over-exciting the pup/dog.

Firm- A firm tone is required when issuing commands. There is no need for the pitch of the voice to be lowered, commands should be spoken clearly with a strong firm voice.

Deep- When it is necessary to correct a dog, a deep tone from the back of the throat should be used. Short and Sharp, 'NO', 'ARGH'. As soon as the pup/dog has refocused, they must be praised.

Definition of Obedience- Obeying- willing to obey

This doesn't mean to treat your dog in a cruel or rough way as this dog will be your companion and love you unconditionally.

Dog Texting Codes

B.O.L- Bark out loud

O.M.D.T- Over my dead toy

H.A.W- Humans are watching.

O.M.D- Oh my dog

T.T.T.P- Talk to the paw

R.O.F.B- Rolling on floor barking

S.M.B- Smell my butt



Until next time, your instructors: Carol (Obedience coordinator), Glenn, Norm, Annette, Yvonne, Karen, Lisa, Ellen, Sandy, and Pat.

Your helpers: Zoe, Jay, and Jenny.

What is Ring Craft?

On most Sunday mornings you will see a roped off area on the ground. This is for Ring Craft. Handlers are given one-to-one attention to perfect their handling skills in their preparation for entering Obedience Trials. It is set up exactly as a trial ring, and handlers come into the ring as if it was a real trial. This involves completing each of the exercises for that level of competition and following the judge's instruction.

It is one thing to train your dog to follow your command, but there are many other things we can do as handlers to really improve the work between ourselves and our best friend. Despite dogs working brilliantly with their handlers in class or in their training during the week, getting into a trial ring introduces variables that we don't encounter anywhere else.

Some things to note:

- No food or toy rewards may come into the ring.
- You cannot give your dog any verbal praise during an exercise.
- You are the centre of attention for the judge, steward, and any spectators (usually other competitors) – it can be a little nerve-wracking!
- There are other rings next to you with dogs doing other exercises (flying dumbbells, for example).
- You complete group stays – up to 10 dogs are doing the stay in the same ring at the same time.

The more handlers that can practise in the ring, the more comfortable they become with competing in a trial situation. Feedback can be given to handlers about their body language, and what messages they may inadvertently be sending their dog that change the dog's behaviour. In a nutshell, individuals come into this ring to develop more confidence and to polish their handling skills, so they have every chance of experiencing success with their dog in the trial ring.

No one starts training their dog thinking they will be interested in this level of obedience, especially if it is their first dog! Be warned, however, you can get hooked! It is wonderful to be able to work with your dog as a team to be the best you can be. You also meet many people along the way.

If you are interested, you are welcome to watch. At the moment, only those handlers who are currently trialling or preparing to trial can work in this ring. This usually means Class 4 handlers only. If you are interested, please download a copy of the Obedience Trial Rules available from ankc.org.au, using the Rules tab and have a read of the rules and exercises for the Community Companion Class (entry level trialling class). If you have any questions about obedience trialling or ring craft, please just ask. 😊

Pat Withell.

Upcoming Obedience and Rally Obedience Trials

This information has been obtained from **Vicdog.com**

Please continue to check this site for up-to-date information if you are wanting to enter any of these trials. In the current climate of COVID there may be changes.

Date	Discipline	Club	Entry Closing Date
10 th and 11 th July	Obedience & Rally	Geelong Obedience Dog Club	30 th June
7 th and 8 th August	Obedience & Rally	Dogs Vic State Obedience and Rally Dog of the Year	23 rd July (postal) 25 th July (online)
14 th August	Obedience	Wangaratta Kennel and Obedience Dog Club	No info available at time of printing
15 th August	Obedience & Rally RTB	Shetland Sheepdog Club of Vic	23 rd July
21 st August	Obedience	Westernport Obedience Dog Club	No info available at time of printing
22 nd August	Obedience	Bendigo Obedience Dog Club	No info available at time of printing
29 th August	Obedience & Rally	Moorabin & Districts Obedience Dog Club	No info available at time of printing
4 th September	Obedience	Sunbury & District Obedience Dog Club	No info available at time of printing
12 th September	Obedience & Rally	Northern Obedience Dog Club	No info available at time of printing
24 th September	Obedience	Royal Ag. Soc. Of Vic	No info available at time of printing
25 th September	Obedience RTB	German Shorthaired Pointer Club	No info available at time of printing
26 th September	Obedience & Rally	Ballaarat Dog Obedience Club	No info available at time of printing

***RTB** – Restricted to the club’s dog breed, if your dog is not that particular breed you are not eligible to enter/compete.

Rally Obedience Report



Rally Obedience involves negotiating a course of designated stations (signs) with your dog in the heel position. Handlers can talk or encourage their dog around the course.

A small but dedicated group of handlers have been training most Thursday nights to expand their skills in the Discipline of Rally along with some trial standard Obedience. It has been very pleasing to see passes being achieved by the majority of the handlers attending and some have even gone on to gain a Title at a higher level. Hopefully these will be recognised at our Presentation Dinner which will take place later in the year.

This year saw a large number of new signs incorporated into the discipline taking the number of executable signs from 59 to 76. New signs were incorporated right through from Advanced to Masters. Each week we had been working on the signs so that they became second nature for both the handler and the dogs. Some new signs required precision execution to ensure the team was not IP 'ed –meaning the sign had been Incorrectly Performed.

Unfortunately, with the end of daylight saving and winter upon us we were running out of daylight so had to revert to training inside.

Stay tuned for some information regarding a four-week Rally Workshop for beginners that will be run (hopefully, weather permitting!) in September just in time for the main trialling season. More details to follow once the Workshop dates have been approved. Numbers will be limited and only available to handlers from Classes 3 & 4 or handlers that have been approved from Yvonne. This is an exciting opportunity to gain a thorough knowledge of Rally and the requirements to enter at Novice level which is carried out on lead.

Yvonne Ross.

Tracking Report

Tracking is a challenging but rewarding dog sport which utilises your dog's natural ability.

Tracking is something that both pure bred and mixed breed dogs can do. It is a natural instinct for a dog to use its sense of smell. The dog's tracking ability is extremely acute, and we still don't fully understand the dog's capabilities in this area.



Dogs have helped the hunter to find game and food and in France, dogs hunt for exotica like truffles. We don't have to teach a dog to track; we use their natural instinct to teach them that we want to follow a certain track or scent. Dogs learn to use their amazing sense of smell, to follow a trail to find articles and the best reward of all, to find a tracklayer at the end. Handlers learn to read their dog's body language which in turn enables them to trust their dog's nose and follow them into the unknown.

Ballaarat Dog Obedience Club meets every Saturday during the winter months. We do not track during the summer due to snakes being out and about. We have lovely grounds and hold 2 tracking trials a year. This year, each trial being in memory of John Hodges and Raeleen McLeod, 2 of the people who got our group training at Haddon. We have experienced instructors and have a lot of fun out there in the bush just you and your dog working together to find somebody who is "lost".

Lisa Staszek.

BALLARAT DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB INC
RAELEN MCLEOD MEMORIAL OPEN TRACKING TRIAL

VENUE Ballarat Field & Game, 729 Bells Road, Haddon
ON Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th and Monday 26th July 2021

JUDGES Mr John Scott, Mrs Lynn Klecka and Mrs Denise Chrystal

ENTRY FEES: NON-MEMBERS - \$40.00

CLUB MEMBERS - \$35.00

(Fees include Dogs Victoria surcharges and levy's)

Catalogue will be available a few days prior to the trial on

www.vicdog.com

Catalogues will not be available at the trial.

THIS EVENT SUBJECT TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS CURRENT AT THE TIME AND APPROVAL OF DOGS VICTORIA EVENT PLAN TEMPLATE

TRIAL MANAGER: Mrs Lisa Staszek, Telephone Number: 0432597754 (no calls after 9.30 pm please) or ljs68@optusnet.com.au

ENTRIES: Online entries only via www.showmanager.com.au

ENTRIES CLOSE: Sunday 13th July 2021

CHECK IN: 6.30 am to 7.00 am and judging to commence at 8.00 am

If an excessive entry is received a ballot will be held at our clubrooms at Military Drive, Victoria Park at 7.00 pm on Thursday 17th July, 2021. The committee reserves the right to substitute judges or add to the judging panel should the entry be excessive.

CLUB POLICY – only 2 dogs to be worked on the one day by one handler.

THERE WILL ALSO BE NO COMPETITOR CATERING AT THIS TRIAL BUT THERE WILL BE TEA, COFFEE OR MILO SUPPLIED.

Agility Report

Agility is one of the fastest of the dog sports and, consequently, is a lot of fun! You are responsible for navigating your dog around, over and through obstacles in the fastest time possible. All this is done, of course, whilst getting them to perform this in a particular order while you stay out of their way and don't get lost yourself!



It is the one discipline that requires a lot of equipment. You will see members setting up and taking down equipment each Sunday morning on the other side of the pine trees. In fact, that is part of the being an agility member, you need to commit to helping set up/take down equipment if you want to train.

To become an agility participant, you need to have a dog that:

- Is over 12 months of age
- Is reliable off lead.

There are several Agility Intakes during the year where interested owners and their dogs are tested for their suitability (ability and temperament) prior to starting training. The introductory sessions go for four weeks, and participants must attend all sessions. There are times when the owner 'walks the course' without their dog. For this reason, dogs need to be crate trained (happy to go into and remain in their crate without their owner nearby). If you are thinking that you'd like to try agility but don't fit the pre-requisites yet, then this is something that you can be doing now.

AGILITY TRAINING TIMES

Set up at 9.30
Advanced Class: 10.00am
Beginners: 11.30am
Pack up: 12.30

Tracy Benda.

TRICKS TALK

Did you know that there is a Tricks Class on Sunday mornings? It is held from 9.00am to 9.30am, on the far side of the pine trees near the club rooms. Everyone is welcome, and it's all about having a bit of fun with your dog

So, why do tricks with your dog? It's fun! All training should be fun, both for us and our dogs. It gives both parties more motivation, and who doesn't need that! Even dogs with 'serious' jobs like scent (sniffer) dogs and guide dogs can have fun with their training. And let's face it, who can be serious when teaching a High 5 or a Bow? Tricks training increases our connection with our dog and can help with our other training as well.

There is also a tricks class held on Thursday nights at the club rooms from 7.45 to 8.45. However, this is limited in numbers due to the size of the room, so being a part of this class can only be done by prior arrangement.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Last year, Tricks became a recognised discipline in which Trials can be held and Titles earned. Unfortunately, no trials were able to be held in 2020, but on May 1st 2021, the first ever Victorian tricks Trial was held at Bendigo. Our club was well represented by Anne & Maya, Ellen & Kai, Emily & Dakota, Wendy & Gypsy and Yvonne with both Majella & Ngiare. A few of us went along to watch and support as well. Many passes were achieved, with Ellen & Kai gaining their first Tricks Title and Emily & Dakota winning one of their classes. Well done to all those who participated!

Closer to home, there has been a lot of activity by members attaining the various Tricks Levels. Since the beginning of 2020 (yes, we did sneak in some classes last year) this is what has been achieved:

Level 1 Jane & Winnie

Level 2	Alana & Boston Chris & Blot Sharon & Coper	Anne & Maya Denise & George Wendy & Gypsy	Aster & Pip Jay & Ri
---------	--	---	-------------------------

Level 3	Annette & Clipper Libby & Clancy Shakaya & Salty	Emily & Finn Libby & Sparkie Sharon & Milo	Grace & Molly Liz & Hamish
---------	--	--	-------------------------------

Level 4 Ellen & Kai

WELL DONE EVERYONE!
HAVE FUN WITH YOUR DOGS!

A BIG SHOUT OUT!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Anne Collins, who has had recent surgery to her Achilles Tendon. This is bad enough in itself, but it is the second time in less than 12 months that this has happened to Anne. She started off the year in a moon boot (The agility group was looking a bit dodgy back then as Ellen was also sporting a moon boot and I think there was a third one as well....) Thankfully Maya has taken well to running beside Anne's scooter so she's not missing out! But of course, it's super frustrating for Anne, and this time it's her right leg, so she isn't able to drive either. Hang in there Anne!

Also, a shout out to Emily Hicks, whose young kelpie Finn sustained a fracture to his hock while playing with his sister Dakota. Always knew there was a dark side to that butter-wouldn't-melt- in my- mouth Dakota! (Only kidding, she's a sweetie-pie). Finn now has enough metal in his leg (plates and screws and the like) to start his own hardware store. He is also testing the patience of his human family as he is a high energy dog and is only allowed a five-minute walk on the lead. We can only imagine! Dakota, on the other hand, is enjoying the luxury of lazing away the days by the fire as she does the very important job of keeping her brother company.....

Sandy Roxburgh.





flyball

fun runs for dogs

Bill Reynolds, Flyball Coordinator

Welcome to all new Club members. You may see us “flyballers” training after your obedience session.

Flyball is a relay race between two teams of four dogs. Each dog must jump four hurdles, collect a ball from the flyball box and return over the four jumps with the ball. It is fun and a very exciting sport – just ask any flyball dog

It usually takes about six months to train a dog for flyball, but this is dependent on both the dog and the handler (and how often they come to training). I have known a dog to be trained up in few weeks. On the other hand, my Charlie took 3 years, so patience is a virtue.

Ask any of the flyball dogs about training and they will woof that it is boring, but when it comes to competitions Now that's a different woofing matter!!!

⌚ After being in lockdown most of last year, we held the first competition after Covid in December of last year. Most of the Melbourne flyballers were still in lockdown mode, so we only had 6 teams and we ran a single handicap division. It was a fine day and a relaxing competition, with some excellent racing. The day was topped off with a single elimination race format (handicapped) with Ballart Eureka Diggers finishing first and Ballarat Eureka Cavalry fifth.

Comps this year were:

⌚ Oz Day, January 26th Ballarat Eureka Diggers - FIRST, Div 2

⌚ Berwick, 20 March, Ballarat Eureka Diggers - SECOND, Div 3

Ballarat Eureka Cavalry

- SECOND, Div 5

⌚ Frankston, 3 April, Ballarat Eureka Diggers — FOURTH, Div 2

⌚ Hastings – no team, but two of our dogs joined open teams with varying success

⌚ Keilor, 19 June we had 2 teams, but CANCELLED (too wet)

To begin in flyball, your dog should:

- Come when called
- Retrieve (preferably a ball, but not essential)
- Be fit and healthy
- Have a good temperament with people and other dogs.
- Be able to work off lead (i.e., not run away)

We strongly encourage all beginners to continue with obedience, as flyball, like the other club activities, is based on basic obedience exercises. ***If you would like to try flyball, but think your dog is not up to the above requirements, come and have a chat anyway.***



With each edition of Puppy Tales, we shall publish a member's experience of dog training at BDOC. If you think you are the only person out there who can't get your dog to learn a particular skill, these insights will reassure you that you're not alone!

Sharon's Story

I joined BDOC in 2004 with my boy Todd, my main aim being to try and get a reasonably reliable recall. Once we started training, I realised how much Todd and I enjoyed it and how much stronger our bond was becoming. Before we knew it, we were looking into the wonderful world of dog sports and we joined the club Flyball team.

I competed with Todd until his retirement, about 8 years, and in that time had some wonderful trips away with the club teams and met so many great people. We had a support dog too, Lilli, who also competed a couple of times. During that period the 3 of us dabbled in Tracking and Obedience and Todd had a couple of goes at Agility.

In 2014 I got my current dog, Copper, who also competes in Flyball. He has a few titles from various disciplines including Flyball Master, Junior Courser, Tracking Dog Excellent, Rally Novice and Community Companion Dog (Obedience). I also have a Kelpie, Milo, who is doing a bit of tracking which is a great sport for reactive dogs. I would love to gain just one title in Agility but I'm not the healthiest person around I don't know if that will happen. In the mean time we have loads of fun doing our classes with some very patient and understanding instructors. Copper loves to work with me and really enjoys the activities we're taught and being able to use his brain.

I love watching him negotiate the different obstacles in agility, guided by me (not all that well), but also working so many things out for himself. The dogs watch your body movements so closely that if you look the wrong way, place a foot pointing the wrong direction or flap your arms about (one of my favourites) your dog will read you and do what your body is saying and that's where mistakes are made. It makes you realise just how connected our dogs are to us.

We'll keep trying to improve and hopefully be able to compete someday but if we don't it doesn't matter as we're having loads of fun, learning all of the time, and enjoying great company.



Dog Shop

Come in and say hello to Karen and she will be able to advise you and help fit your dog with what they need!



PRICE LIST

Leads:	\$20.00
Martingale collars:	\$20.00
Treat bags:	\$20.00
Tug toys:	\$10.00



Just for a bit of fun ...

DOG BREEDS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

F	W	D	T	B	A	S	S	E	T	H	O	U	N	D	E	E
D	V	Z	V	N	I	V	A	N	J	D	H	S	P	A	M	G
N	Y	F	V	A	Z	F	B	L	O	O	D	H	O	U	N	D
E	F	W	B	I	J	X	P	T	U	W	H	I	P	P	E	T
W	S	I	H	N	N	H	K	B	A	S	E	N	J	I	N	M
F	A	R	V	A	E	E	C	D	J	S	Q	C	H	C	A	H
O	I	I	V	R	M	U	K	Q	F	B	H	Z	R	S	D	S
U	N	S	D	E	E	S	E	G	N	I	K	E	P	C	T	N
N	T	H	N	M	K	E	E	S	H	O	N	D	E	H	A	D
D	B	S	U	O	A	U	F	U	X	A	C	L	K	I	E	A
L	E	E	O	P	X	S	A	D	R	A	G	U	T	P	R	C
A	R	T	H	B	Q	H	T	A	S	A	R	A	Z	P	G	H
N	N	T	R	S	U	K	M	I	E	F	M	F	W	E	N	S
D	A	E	E	A	W	I	R	B	F	L	T	I	U	R	I	H
P	R	R	T	M	E	P	C	V	A	F	I	X	A	K	Q	U
F	D	F	T	W	I	Y	V	D	Y	Y	L	F	Q	E	S	N
E	D	U	O	N	B	U	L	L	T	E	R	R	I	E	R	D

BASENJI
BASSET HOUND
BEAGLE
BLOODHOUND
BULL TERRIER

CHIHUAHUA
DACHSHUND
DALMATIAN
GREAT DANE
IRISH SETTER

KEESHOND
MASTIFF
NEWFOUNDLAND
OTTERHOUND
PEKINGESE

POMERANIAN
SAINT BERNARD
SCHIPPERKE
WEIMARANER
WHIPPET

www.WordSearchAddict.com