



Puppy Tales

Ballaarat Dog Obedience Club -

Promoting responsible dog ownership.

September 2021

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

YOUR CLUB MANAGEMENT

Ballaarat Dog Obedience Club Inc.

Registered No A0012427W



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www.bdoc.com.au

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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.

Getting to Know Your Committee

Terry Lia - President

I am currently employed as a primary teacher and first aid instructor, previously a registered nurse (still registered). My wife Sarah works in Family Law and my intellectually disabled son Nicholas lives with us attending various work options and programs. My daughter Alex is a solicitor in the Attorney Generals Department, Executive Officer, Office of International Law, Canberra. My current mutt is Harvey (Ruslana Harvard), who is a Black Russian Terrier. He is an intact male, 55 kgs, and instinctively acts as a guard or prison/facility dog.



The Black Russian Terrier, also known as the Chornyi Terrier is a breed of dog created in USSR in Red Star Kennel during the late 1940s and the early 1950s for use as military/working dogs. Known as the stealth bomber or tracker, the dogs are known for their capacity to make independent decisions, their sensitive nose as well as silent tracking ability. They were used to pursue escaped prisoners from the Gulags in Siberia. If Harvey believes you are being aggressive, and he makes up his own mind about what is regarded as aggressive, he will stand in front of you, look you in the eye and silently wait for you to move. At that stage, I have the capacity to intervene, provided you don't move.

Off lead, he is a completely different dog, just wanting to say hello to all the other doggies, play with children and be affectionate. He looks like a giant fluffy dufus and acts like that with the family. He will happily sit at the rail station on the platform, people come and go, trains come and go, whilst he will just sit and wait. This is a tricky combination of behaviours to get your head around, so I tend to be over cautious. As a show dog, Harvey won the Best of Breed at last Royal Agricultural Show, Melbourne achieving top 8 in Group 6. COVID has been less than kind to his show dog efforts.

Harvey and I both enjoy the challenge of BDOC sessions, sometimes being able to do more on one day and less on another. Harvey is particular sensitive to smells and will react instantly to any dogs on heat and windy days are not ideal as scent travels for kilometres. Incidentally, telephone before you arrive. I don't lock the doors around home and he will know you are around before I do.

Memberships are due!

Annual subscription renewals were due by 30th June 2021.

Due to COVID, particularly that some training days in August needed to be cancelled, the date to renew is now the end of October.

What to do!

- Send a copies of your dog's current vaccination certificate as well as any concession cards you may hold to secretary@bdoc.com.au
- Your renewal form will then be sent to you
- Once the fee has been deposited into BDOC's bank account you will have renewed your membership. Please put your name as the reference.
- If you hear nothing, then your membership has been processed.
- We shall contact you if your membership fee has not been deposited.
- Pick up your new **PINK** membership badge when we have returned to training.

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.

Did you know?

You can access current and past copies of Puppy Tales from our website:

<http://www.bdoc.com.au/>

Or if you are a 'Facebooker', you can join our Facebook group:

'Ballaarat Dog Obedience Club Inc'

You can access your copy from there!



AGILITY TRAINING TIMES

Set up at 9.30

Advanced Class: 10.00am

Beginners: 11.30am

Pack up: 12.30

CONGRATULATIONS!

Here is what some of our members have been up to, despite COVID, in the trialling world!

OBEDIENCE – Pat and Topsy: 2 passes in CCD (Geelong)

TRACKING – These will be published in the next edition of Puppy Tales

AGILITY – Ellen and Kai: Regular Agility Q (Blissful Paws)

Chances Q x 2, Jumpers Q (ADCV)

Chances Q x 2, Jumpers Q & Weavers Q (Coimadai)

TRICKS –

Starters: Yvonne and Ngaire – Title, Anne and Maya – Title, Ellen and Kai – Title

Sharon and Copper – 2 passes, Libby and Clancy – 2 passes, Yvonne and Majella – 2 passes, Libby and Sparky – 1 pass

Novice: Ellen and Kai 2 passes

FLYBALL – Please see the Flyball report on the next page, it gives a good explanation of how Flyball titles are awarded and what needs to be considered when strategising a Flyball team's run.

Training Ground Conditions

Well, we all know that it has been a VERY wet winter!

Hats off to those handlers that have attended training regardless of the weather. From a handler's point of view, it's important that we train our dogs in all sorts of weather, not just when the weather is 'nice'. From a dog's point of view, they don't really care about the weather, as an outing is an outing!



However, there are times when training has to be cancelled, especially for some disciplines. Agility and Flyball coordinators always consider the safety of dogs and handlers first and foremost before deciding to go ahead with training. As disappointing as it is that training is cancelled, it is done with much consideration for everyone's wellbeing.

You can always continue to work on training at home with your dog and wow everyone with your skills when training recommences



flyball

fun runs for dogs

Bill Reynolds, Flyball Coordinator

Title & Abbrev	Points
Flyball Dog FD	5
Flyball Dog Excellent FDX	20
Flyball Dog Champion FDCh	50
Australian Flyball Champion AFCh	150
Flyball Master FM	400
Flyball Master Excellent FMX	700
Flyball Master Champion FMCh	1000
Flyball Master Champion - ONYX Award ONYX	1300
Flyball Dog Grand Champion FDGCh	2000

So, what has happened since the last Puppy Tales? Nothing!!! In between Covid lockdowns and extremely cold and wet weather, the dogs have had a well earned rest. The Keilor club had a comp. organised for June, but it was washed out 3 days before it was due to start. They rescheduled it for July, only to have it cancelled because of Covid.

Oh, yes ... there was a comp. which Berwick and Frankston clubs organised in early July. The comp. actually was washed out before a single round robin was completed, which meant that title points for the races already run were not valid.

They rescheduled it for the 1st August and, despite a very poor weather forecast, it turned out fine all day and the grounds were in pretty good condition. They were fortunate that it was also the weekend between Melbourne coming out of lockdown and then going back into lockdown. This was also the weekend that obedience training was cancelled in Ballarat because of dangerous ground conditions. Anyway, the team which went to the washed out comp were disheartened and decided not to enter the rescheduled comp.

So, as I said, nothing much has happened!

Title points: Dogs are awarded title points in flyball. Each dog in the team receives one title point if they complete the race without making a mistake. This is called a clean run. They also receive another point if they win the race

Common mistakes are:

- Dog crosses start line before the race has started, or before previous dog has exited the course
- Dog drops ball and does not bring it back
- Dog goes around one or more jumps
- Dog “steals” the ball from the flyball box (i.e. flyball box is not triggered)

There is more to flyball than just running four dogs. A captain must also consider team dynamics when choosing the team for each heat. Some dogs may have a dislike for other dogs. Some dogs perform best when they go start dog, while others perform best when last. Some dogs just don't like passing particular dogs at the start/finish line. Some dogs are intimidated on their return when they can't see their handler, but instead see a another person or dog “in their way”. The captain also has to consider

tactics. Do they run their fast dogs first, in the hope of gaining a lead and forcing an “passing” error from the opposing team , or vice versa? How do they arrange the racing order if the other team is faster? The captain usually has 6 dogs in the team, and can select any 4 to race in any heat. Then there is the dynamics of human interaction and abilities to consider as well.



And just in case your dog is getting too creative and innovative ...

BOREDOM BUSTERS#1

No, not lockdown solutions for you, but some home-alone ideas for your dog!

Sometimes our dogs need some help to fill in the hours when we are away, or otherwise occupied. It is true that many dogs, after a nice long walk, will spend a lot of the day sleeping, but it is equally true that there are others who won't, and those others might be doing things with their spare time that we would rather they didn't!

Dogs tend to like searching for things (sniffing) and chewing. Both these activities may even help to calm them to a degree if they are a bit anxious. Dogs' noses to them are like Google is to us. Well, maybe not quite, but their noses tell them most of what they want to know.

Here are some sniff-it-out ideas for your dog:

1. **Put dry food in a 'Snuffle Mat'** (Available from the dog shop – see Karen, who makes them). This not only slows your dog's eating speed, but gives him a job which makes him use his brain. Mental stimulation is often what dogs miss out on, and is as important as physical exercise for their well-being. (Allowing your dog to sniff whilst on walks is also helpful in this respect)
2. **Dry food scatter.** Drop pieces of dry food through the garden. If you use a kibble that is really small, a closed handful goes a long way – a fish flavoured cat kibble can be a good choice.
3. **Smear Campaign.** Smear small amounts of something tasty on hard surfaces around your yard –for example peanut butter, cream cheese, fish paste on downpipes, brick walls, smooth tree trunks etc.
4. **Recycle!** Hide kibble or small treats in cardboard boxes. Any sort of box including tissue boxes, egg cartons, cardboard tubes from paper towel or food wrap. Two hints here – do not use boxes of a size that your dog may get his head stuck in, and try this under supervision at first. Not a good idea if your dog eats the boxes as well! If he does, try some terracotta plant pots instead.

Not all dogs take to these ideas immediately; they may have to learn how to play the game. Start by offering your dog a tasty treat in your hand, but drop it before he takes it. Put a few pieces around his bowl as you feed him. As he gets the idea, place them further and further from his bowl.

Any quantity of food you use like this should be subtracted from the amount you usually feed your dog. If it suits, he can eat his whole meal like this. If your dog has any dietary restrictions, keep this in mind, and always use very small amounts of new foods at first

Perform your hiding tasks without your dog present! If he is following you while you are scattering or smearing (once he has got the hang of it) it kind of defeats the purpose!



Thanks, Sandy, there are some great ideas for all of us!

And from Agility...

Agility – ‘My Journey’ by Anne Collins

Maya - Cairn Terrier



Agility is a great dog sport for many reasons, most importantly I enjoy the connection with my dogs, and having fun. Sometimes this can seem hard to achieve and takes lots of persistence. It is great to see Maya getting around a course, doing moves which I have learnt from training, and from the great instructors we have.

There is nothing better than mixing with like-minded people who also enjoy the sport.

Agility is addictive. You get a buzz when things work out and it leaves you wanting to learn more and more. Sometimes things don't always work out perfectly and that's ok too! Have fun and don't take yourself too seriously.

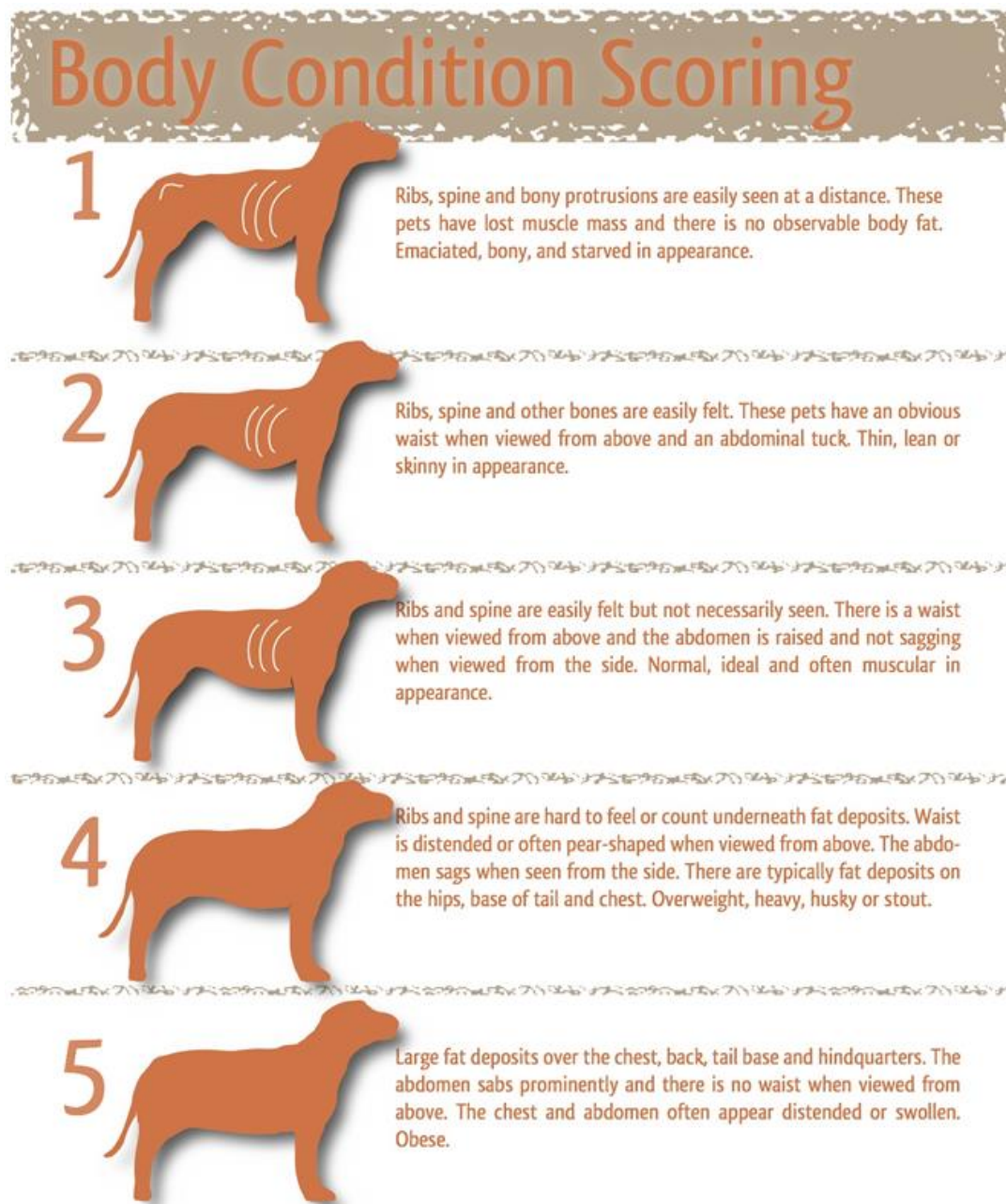
Jazz 2006-2019

Jazz was my first Agility dog who was always willing to do whatever I asked of her. She taught me all the basics of Agility ...and so much more.



Is your dog overweight?

In agility it is important that our dogs maintain an ideal weight. Running a dog that is overweight can be dangerous to the dog. We know ourselves how a few extra kilos can affect us so just imagine how it affects our canine friends. So how do we tell if our dog is overweight?



Member spotlight – Chloe and Coacoa's story:



When we first got Coacoa, he was eight weeks old. He was a scruffy ball of dark chocolate brown fur with two black eyes, four huge paws and a wagging tail. He was tiny.

We had to drive to Kilmore, a small town in northern Victoria, to get him. When we got in the car to go to Kilmore, my mum had misheard my dad and thought that he said Keilor, which is nowhere near as far as Kilmore is. When we got to the breeder's house, we decided that because we came all the way we had to get a puppy. At the time my brother was allergic to dogs, hence why we chose to buy a labradoodle. So, my mum went around to all the puppies and started pulling gently at their fur to see if they shed or not. Our dog, Coacoa, was among three that were 100% non-shedding. We decided to buy him.

When we brought Coacoa home that day, he was approximately one centimetre bigger than the other puppies in his litter. Now he has outgrown both of his parents by about 35cm. What's interesting about that is that he's a 4th generation labradoodle, which means that his great-great grandparents were a Labrador and a poodle. He has been the only one in his family (so far) to inherit the poodle size.

On the two-and-a-half hour ride home, we only made one stop in Melton. Because my mum thought that we were going to Keilor, which is much closer than Kilmore, and my dad thought that we would be willing to drive 5 hours to look at puppies, we didn't bring anything with us (except some books and spam because my brother liked it). Spam was the first thing that Coacoa ever ate because he didn't like the dog food that we picked up from Coles. We stopped at the pet store in Melton and bought him a crate (size L), two bowls, a harness, a leash, and a collar. We also got a National Pet Registration tag, which is useful as we travel interstate a lot with Coacoa. It is safe to say that Coacoa has outgrown everything that we bought him at the Melton pet shop, including the crate and dog bowls.

We started our dog training adventure at the K-9 puppy school in Ballarat. It is a really good puppy school, and we recommend it to anyone who is starting out. Our lessons there consisted of socialisation, basic command training and playtime. Lots of playtime! Coacoa has never really been a social dog and taking him to puppy school proved that right. It was very useful, because even though he would rather be around humans than dogs, he learnt that most dogs are friendly and don't mean any harm. Our favourite part about K-9 puppy school were the few lessons at the very end where we learn some tricks, and where Coacoa learnt how to play dead, roll over and shake hands.

We first learnt about BDOC through an article in the 'My Ballarat' newsletter, or on the radio, or maybe even through Facebook. As a family, we can't agree on how we found out about it, but we definitely love it.

We entered BDOC as members of the Puppy class alongside about 20 other aspiring dog trainers. Coacoa was one of the biggest dogs in the Puppy class and I was the shortest trainer. As we had already done some prior training we quickly passed up and progressed onto Puppy Plus, and then Class One. In Class One we won the 2019 Encouragement Award and the Mother's Day raffle.

During the summer holidays, Coacoa had an accident. We were travelling by car to Encounter Bay in South Australia and we had stopped in Ararat to get some breakfast. There, Coacoa ran into a car on the freeway and broke the radius bone in his right arm. We are so lucky that he survived that and would like to remind you that even the most well-trained dogs can do silly things.

We passed up to Class Two around this time and Coacoa was around 65 centimetres tall. Even though he's a big dog, he's really easy to train and he is a very good boy. Our biggest hurdle in this class was doing a 'Stand for Examination'. Coacoa is a very jumpy dog, and you can't pass a 'Stand for Examination' if your dog jumps on the examiner. We tried several different techniques, but one really worked for us. Whenever we had guests over, I stood with him in the laundry until they were comfortable and then bought him out. It worked because he couldn't really jump on them if they were sitting. This got us from Class Two to Three, where we are now.

Our next challenge is training Coacoa without treats, one which we hope we will overcome soon. Thank you to all of our instructors for helping us get this far. The next goal for us is to pass up into Class 4.

By Chloe Yeluri.



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 ...

