



Puppy Tales

*Ballarat Dog Obedience Club -
Promoting responsible dog ownership.*



December 2021

**Committee and Instructors would like to wish
all members, their families and especially
their four-legged friends a
Very Happy Christmas!**

Dates to remember...

5th December – FunDay

12th December – AGM & Awards Presentation

2022 – Early February obedience training recommences

Please continue to check our website and Facebook page to keep up-to-date with the latest training requirements, times, and news.

To comply with government regulations, all handlers training on our grounds must be double vaccinated. You will need to provide proof of vaccination and then your membership tag will be amended so you will not have to be checked every week.

Please remember to check in prior to class, either with the QR code or sign in at the desk outside the clubrooms.

BDOC appreciates your cooperation with the regulations.



YOUR CLUB MANAGEMENT

Ballaarat Dog Obedience Club Inc.

Registered No A0012427W



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www.bdoc.com.au

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STASZEK

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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.

From the President

Wanted:

13 members required for the Committee of Management BDOC.

The ideal committee of management would have several long-standing members, some but not all executive positions being occupied by a long standing members. This respects the history and traditions of the organisation and long-standing members will offer sage advice.

The secretary effectively runs the club from the COM perspective. He or she needs to be familiar with meeting procedure and have a working relationship with most, if not all, COM members. The secretary does not need to be the minute secretary but will need to manage the flow of communication required across the organisation.

The president should ideally have a vision for the future but still be open to new ideas. He or she should be able to run a meeting and be firm regarding equity regarding time, maintenance of standards and resources devoted to issues at meetings and club requests. Honesty, integrity, lack of vested interests and good communicator should be considered important too.

The treasurer needs to be aware of the financial obligations and audit requirements of the club. It is ideal if they have an accounting and IT background.

There should be at least one member from each and every discipline, at least one instructor but maybe more as they are the interface between members and the club, at least one third of the committee should be either relatively new to the club and new to the COM. There will be a strong push for the meetings to go from in person meetings only to both in person and zoom meetings.

Most of all, the COM needs commitment from the COM members to attend most, but not all meetings, to consider issues on their merit, to put time into club activities as they can and to be enthusiastic.

I am standing down as president due to personal reasons but believe that the club is in a very positive position providing you are prepared to encourage others or be prepared to nominate for the COM.

Terry Lia.





CLUB NOMINATION FORM

Yes, I am interested in nomination for the following position/positions:

.....
.....

For all nominations for a position on the Club Committee, please complete details below.
The nominee, nominator and seconder all must be financial Club members and have been members of the Club for a period exceeding 6 months.

I..... accept nomination for the position/s of:

.....

Nominee's Membership No: Mobile:

Signature of Nominee:Date:

Nominated by: Member No:

Signature: Date:

Nomination seconded by:

Signature: Date:



BDOC Fun and Games Day



The BDOC annual '*fun and games*' day will be a week earlier than usual this year and will be held on **Sunday 5th December**. This is to make sure that we all get to have some fun with our dogs before the club breaks for the Christmas holidays, and also to not clash with the AGM and awards presentations. So, feel free to dress your dog(s) up in their Christmas best, if they permit you to, and come along for plenty of fun and games.

BDOC Annual General Meeting and Awards Presentation.

This year, BDOC have scheduled to have their Annual General Meeting on **Sunday 12th December**. All obedience classes will be at 10.00am until 10.30am, and the AGM will commence promptly at 10.45am. During the AGM, the new Committee of Management will be announced and annual reports will be delivered.

Immediately following the AGM will be the Awards Presentations. COVID-19 restrictions this year meant that our annual presentation evening, usually held in August, was unable to go ahead. The awards presentation on the 12th of December will be the club's opportunity to acknowledge the exceptional things that our members and their dogs have achieved across all disciplines. Even in the face of COVID-19 adversities, it will be wonderful to have the opportunity to celebrate what we've all been up to in the midst of lockdown after lockdown with our precious pooches.

This will also be the last training day of the year before the club breaks for the Christmas holidays. Training should re-commence on the first Sunday of February, but please keep an eye on the website and Facebook page, as this may be subject to change depending on weather conditions and COVID-19 restrictions.



YOU DID IT!
Congratulations

Last month we published all club members who had attained a title with their dog, or we thought we had! Our sincerest apologies to three other members who were accidentally overlooked. Given the difficulty of trying to attend enough trials, let alone gain passes, the members mentioned below have gained an outstanding achievement with their dogs. Congratulations!

Between July 2019 to June 2021, here are the handlers and their dogs who have experienced success in the trialling world:

Rally

Roberta Vizler-Strmecki
Libby Thompson

Luna
Sparky

Rally Novice (RN)
Rally Advanced (RA)

Obedience

Jay Noble
Roberta Vizler-Strmecki

Ree
Mimi

Community Companion Dog (CCD)
Community Companion Dog (CCD)

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:

'Ballarat Dog Obedience Club Inc'
You can access your copy from there!

From Obedience



We have had a crazy year, but we all have done remarkably well with pass ups every week, when we were able to return to training. It's a credit to our instructors who help you gain knowledge and patience when training. We have a great team of instructors and helpers, and our four trainees are very keen.

We are looking forward to next year with hopefully no lockdowns. Thank you to all of our members for complying with our vaccination rules.

From all the obedience team we wish you all happy Christmas and a safe new year.

Carol and Zoe

Carol Hodges - Obedience Coordinator & Zoe Werner – Assistant Obedience Coordinator

From Agility...

With all the setbacks with Covid again this year, we missed being able to enjoy the 25th Anniversary of agility at Ballarat Dog Obedience Club. It also reminds me that I've been a member that long! Although I only discovered agility in 2003, I can still remember the old equipment, and the idea of running the dogs on your left only.

Boy we've come a long way since then.

Thanks to my amazing instructors again this year, I don't know what I'd do without you. A special thanks to Sandy as my Assistant coordinator, it's a pleasure to work with you.

I'm hoping that with our new obedience instructors coming through, we can move back to our traditional time slots, thus giving us enough helpers to have our agility equipment set up. I'm sure you all do too.

To the new obedience instructors and the existing ones, thanks for all your hard work, it's been nice to be able to share some of our experience with you this year.

Moving into 2022, I am hoping to see some of our group be brave enough to venture out to some competitions and experience the joy of working as a team with your dogs. You really can't describe that buzz you get when it all comes together.

Finally, we wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New year. See you in 2022.

Tracy & Sandy



From Tricks...

Despite the interruptions, the Tricks classes have had a good year. It's great to see so many dogs having fun with their people. We are constantly being amazed by what our dogs can learn, as well as the things they can teach us! Some of the things that we think will be simple for our dogs can be quite challenging, and some which seem quite complex can sometimes be learnt in a flash.

In August we had a bit of an Olympics theme happening, which ended up running until the end of October with the stop-start pattern of the year. Everyone was very proud with how their dogs handled the 'opening ceremony' and being on the podium posing for photos with their medals. In both instances they had to spend a fair amount of time very close to each other while us humans got it 'just right'. Their performances in some of the 'sports', especially targeting a bullseye, were not nearly so impressive!

It has been fabulous to see some new faces recently in the Sunday morning sessions – 'Tricks under the trees' as Annette has named it. Incorporating fun into any of your training is well worth it – your dog will enjoy it so much more (so will you) and the results will speak for themselves.

Merry Christmas AND
Have fun with your dogs!

Sandy



From Tracking ...

We Tracking people have had a tough couple of years. We have had had two of our long time instructors pass away, another two recovering from serious illness and a further two retire from training. This means that our Tracking Trainers have been severely challenged to deliver training over the year.

Covid-19 has also impacted our training and competing with training at Haddon completely stopped for long periods during the last two winters because of State wide 'lockdowns'. The Club has also had to cancel both our Tracking Trials in 2021 because of Covid-19 restrictions. We did manage to run a Track & Search Trial in October and I have to thank all the Club members who helped us run that trial in difficult circumstances.

However, it is not all 'doom and gloom', despite all the challengers the Tracking group faced we still managed to gain numerous Titles over the period. In the Tracking discipline our group has achieved 1 Tracking Dog Title (TD), 3 Tracking Dog Excellent Titles (TDX) and 2 Tracking Champions (T.Ch). In the Track & Search discipline our group has achieved 1 Track & Search Dog Title (TSD), 1 Track & Search Dog Excellent Title (TSDX), 1 Track & Search Dog Champion Title (TS. CH) and 3 Track & Search Grand Champions. This was a very impressive performance given the difficulties faced. A list of all those successful dogs and handlers were reported in our November Puppy Tales (a copy can be found on our website). Awards for all these Titles will be presented to our members after our Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 12th December.

We are looking forward to next year when hopefully we will be able to train and compete without interruptions from Covid-19.

Pat Mann
Assistant Tracking Co-Ordinator



From Rally ...

So.... What is Rally???

Rally began in Australia in 2012 and has become a very popular discipline especially for new handlers



The sport is based on obedience but the handler and their dog perform a pre-set course, completing “stations” with the dog in heel position. Each station has a sign attached to it which tells the handler what they and their dog must do to complete that part of the course.

Rally is much less formal than obedience, and a great entry into dog sports. Many of the signs, particularly in the lower classes are exercises that dogs learn in obedience classes. Handlers walk the course before judging begins to familiarise themselves with what they will need to ask of their dogs. There are 75 signs for handlers to learn, which get more complex as dogs qualify for the higher levels such as Excellent and Masters.

Handlers start the course with a perfect score of 100 and have marks deducted for any problems with their performance (tight leads, crooked sits, hitting a sign etc). Unlike in traditional obedience, handlers are encouraged to praise their dog while completing the course and can pat them and re-cue them if the dog doesn't respond to the first command.

Rally requires very little equipment to train all of the exercises at home. Though it is helpful to familiarise yourself and your dog with navigating around the signs, which are usually laminated and attached to specially made sign holders, all that is required to train the signs all the way up to the highest levels are some sports cones, a jump, and a couple of distractions, such as toys or food, to teach the offset figure 8.

The Thursday night training group has had some lovely successes this year even with the very limited number of trials that actually went ahead. Congratulations to all Rally people and their dogs who achieved titles or passes towards titles. Let's hope for more trialling opportunities in 2022!

If you are interested in learning more about Rally and your dog works well around other dogs and people and can heel nicely on the lead then please see Yvonne who will be able to assist. There are plans for a beginners Rally workshop to take place now that COVID restrictions have eased slightly.

Yvonne



flyball

fun runs for dogs

Bill Reynolds, Flyball Coordinator

New Years Eve and Australia Day.

Please be aware of fireworks and the safety and security of your dog at these times.

☺ What a year! Covid, lockdowns, poor weather (we really didn't have a summer!), not many competitions, some comps cancelled for various reasons as above.

We sent teams to 2 competitions during the year and that was it! There was a third competition, but it was abandoned due to the weather on the day. Then a fourth competition which we did not send a team to had a weather forecast that was so bad we gave it a miss – only to have a nice day!

Given the situation, we decided not to hold our own competition this year, but to start afresh next year. So here we are at the end of the year and it is nearly Xmas. Where did the year go? - we didn't seem to do much!

Let us enjoy Xmas and look forward to a covid safe and normal New Year



Perhaps if I wear this silly hat I can run in the Santaball comp



Hmmm Which side was it?



Too big for your mouth? use your head!



No! No! Not me! Get the ball!



So what will Santa give me if I go and get the ball?



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

BOREDOM BUSTERS #3

Chewing is a pastime which dogs enjoy – they are actually born with a drive to do this. Often it is on something inappropriate (according to their humans). Dogs, of course, do not know what's legal and what's not. We can teach them this over time, but where possible it is best to exclude our dog from these items, especially when they are pups. This can be done by making a secure area for our dog both inside and out when we cannot supervise, and shutting doors to other rooms (laundry, toilet, bedrooms) and putting valued or dangerous items out of reach.

So what can our dogs chew on?

- Bones. Most dogs love a bone. Never give your dog cooked bones, as they can be brittle and shatter into sharp pieces. Marrow bones (the long leg ones) are old favourites, but avoid the ones that are cut lengthwise to expose the marrow – too much of this at once is not ideal. Some dog owners prefer rib bones. Vets advise to supervise your dog when it is chewing on a bone. If you see that pieces of the bone are beginning to break off, remove the bone and all pieces and bin them. Bones are for chewing on, not chewing up!
- Raw carrots. Believe it or not, a lot of dogs love these! Also a good alternative for those dogs who are a bit tubby.
- Hoof trimmings. Yes, seriously! A lot of dogs love the trimmings from horse hooves after a farrier's visit. Know anyone with a horse or two? These do smell a bit – all the more attractive to your dog.
- Pet Supply options. Goat horns, bully sticks and Deer antlers are good choices but a bit expensive for regular use. Rawhide chews are an option but they are not easily digestible and can cause problems if your dog swallows large pieces. 4 x 2 biscuits are popular, but perhaps not as hard as they used to be and can disappear pretty quickly with a strong chewer.
- Supermarket options. Dental chews are good but can also disappear quickly when in the jaws of a strong chewer. Oinkers air-dried pig trotters tend to last longer than the popular pigs ears, but both these items are high in fat, so keep your dog's waistline in mind! Rabbit ears are a good option for more gentle chewers.
- Food toys. Many of these are more for rolling around and licking but are a good option. There are many brands available, the most well-known being the Kong brand. Kong even has a heavy duty range (in black) for extreme chewers. When you first present one of these to your dog, he may not know how to deal with it. Put a small amount of dry food in it at first (fish-flavoured cat kibble is good). When your dog nudges it with his nose it will roll, and some will fall out. You may need to encourage him (or not!) When he gets the idea, make it harder by sealing the hole just inside the rim with something gooey. He will have to lick this out to release the kibble. Next level is to mix the kibble with the gooey stuff (peanut butter, mashed sweet potato, mashed banana, are some ideas) and pack it in. You can also incorporate some diced raw vegies (carrot, broccoli stalk) into the mix. The

disadvantage of these food toys is that they do take a little time to prepare. Do you watch television? Prepare a couple in the ad breaks – you can even freeze them for summer! There are other versions of these toys too; the internet will show you all the brands, options and even reviews. Resist the urge to go for the cheapest as it may not stand up to the hammering it might get, and it's not good for your dog to be swallowing bits of plastic or rubber.

- Chew toys. These are toys made expressly for chewing. If your dog is an extreme chewer, you may have to experiment a bit, however Kong once again pops up with chews made in bone, stick ring and wiggly shapes. Nylabone also has some very tough options and some of these are also flavoured. Of course the flavouring disappears over time, but it does encourage your dog to chew it from the outset, and hopefully makes it more attractive than furniture legs etc! Aussie dog is another tough brand. Rope toys can be suitable for moderate chewers, but some dogs will pull them apart and swallow bits, so keep an eye out for this. Avoid leaving squeaky toys out, some dogs do their utmost to get the squeaker out and can swallow it in the process!.

While the price tag on some of these toys may seem a bit high, think of how quickly the dollars add up when you buy multiple edible chews that are gone in a flash. Variety can help to keep your dog's mind off illegal objects – have a few different options and rotate them if you can. If everything is left out all the time, the impact is lost. Keep an eye on your dog for the first few times when you introduce something new. If it starts to fall to bits, remove it and cross it off your list! Always keep a selection of toys that only come out for a game with you – a tug toy, a squeaky ball an oinky pig.

Have fun with your dog!

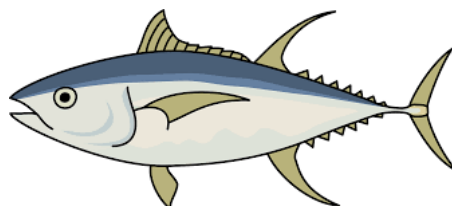


From the Kitchen ...

If you're looking for a great training treat that is tasty and worth working for (if you're a dog) and quick and easy (if you're a human) then give this a go.

Tuna Fudge

1 large can of tuna in oil
! ½ cup whole wheat flour
1 tbspn garlic powder or granulated garlic(optional)
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1 handful of grated parmesan cheese.



Using a food processor, blitz the parmesan first then add all other ingredients and blitz again. Grease a 20 x 20 cake pan and spread mix into it.

Bake at 180 deg C for 20 minutes.

The texture should be fudge/putty-like. Once baked it can be cut into small pieces and put into small bags to go into the freezer. Pull the bag out the night before you need it, i.e. Saturday night, and you're ready to go in the morning!

Speaking of treats for dogs, here is an article from Greencross Vets about what foods your dogs (and cats) should avoid over the Christmas period.

Festive Foods Pets Should Avoid During Holidays

While Christmas is a special occasion and an excellent time for sharing, many items on the Christmas lunch menu can cause health problems in pets. Pets are not able to digest or metabolise many human foods and as a result they can cause illness in your furry friend. Here are some common festive foods your pet should avoid.

Mince pies and Christmas cake

Cakes, mince pies and puddings at this time of year are full of dried fruits including grapes, raisins and sultanas which contain a toxin that is dangerous for pets. Even a small

amount of Christmas sweets can cause vomiting and diarrhoea, and in some cases this can lead to kidney disease.

Stuffing

Stuffing typically contains onions and garlic which are toxic to pets. Onion toxicity can impact the red blood cells causing anaemia. Other symptoms of toxicity can include rapid breathing, pale gums, lethargy, salivation, and vomiting.

Gravy

It can be tempting to drizzle a small amount of gravy over your pet's food, but any gravy containing onion or garlic contributes to a painful condition called pancreatitis. Similar to stuffing, gravy often has onion and garlic that pets should avoid.

Bones

Care must be taken when feeding bones, whether they are raw or cooked. Never feed your pet cooked bones. Cooked bones are soft and can splinter easily leading to dental issues. They may also become lodged in your pet's throat or mouth or even splinter inside the bowel, causing obstruction or perforation. This would be a potentially life-threatening situation. Feeding cooked or raw bones has potential risks and we recommend talking with your local Greencross Vet for alternative chewing options.

Chocolate

Chocolate contains an ingredient known as 'theobromine' that is toxic to pets. This ingredient is in all kinds of chocolate, including white chocolate. Higher levels are found in dark chocolate, cooking chocolate, and cocoa.

Chocolate toxicity causes a wide range of problems. Pets could vomit, suffer diarrhoea, urinate excessively and become hyperactive. They can develop irregular heartbeat, depression, coma or seizures can follow this. In severe cases toxicity can lead to death. Call your local Greencross Vets for advice and take your pet to the vets immediately if they've consumed chocolate. A quick response can make all the difference.

Nutmeg

The rich fragrance of nutmeg can attract the attention of some pets. High levels of nutmeg can harm your pet's health. If eaten, it can cause increased heart rate, seizures, and tremors.

Avocado and stone fruit

A festive favourite for many, the seed of the avocado (or any stone fruit) can pose a dangerous threat to your pet. Avocados are also high in fat and may contribute to pancreatitis in dogs.

Alcohol

Dogs and cats are susceptible to adverse effects from even the smallest amounts of alcohol, and in large quantities, it can be fatal. Cats can be particularly attracted to cocktails containing cream like White Russians and eggnog, so keep your festive cocktails away from pets.

The main concern for pets who overindulge in Christmas goodies is that they are high in fat. A common condition that can result from pets eating table scraps and human foods is pancreatitis. This is a condition where the pancreas becomes severely inflamed and causes pain and discomfort. It can quickly become life-threatening.

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



And just for fun ...

