



Dog Tales

Tasmanian Dog Training Club Inc. Newsletter

JUNE / JULY 2024

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Training Course Notes

Next Sunday Courses:-

Commencing 7 July 2024

Basic Obedience - 7 week course - starting at 9.30 am
Puppy Preschool - 4 week course - starting at 10.00 am

Commencing 4 August 2024

Basic Obedience - 7 week course - starting at 9.30 am
Puppy Preschool - 4 week course - starting at 10.00 am

NOTE:

Any changes to training will be advertised on the TDTC website and the TDTC Facebook page so we do advise that you check each week before coming to classes.

COMMITTEE 2023-2024

President: Lyn Deitch
Vice President: Chris Pontin
Secretary: David Tomkinson
Treasurer: Yvonne Tomkinson

Members:

Norm Deitch Nicquel Walker
Gary Lusted Trudie Lusted
Keryn Mahoney Alan Payne
Sue Furlonge Jayne Stickler

CLASSES CONDUCTED

SUNDAYS AT

CHURCHILL PARK, INVERMAY

Obedience:

9.30am Basic Obedience
10.00am Puppy Preschool
10.45am Intermediate / Advanced /
Trialing

Other:

Rally
Agility
Tracking
Scent Work

Enquire at office for times and dates

UPCOMING TRIALS

Jun 8/9/10 Tracking
Jun 15/16 Agility/Jumping
Aug 3/4 Agility/Jumping
Aug 17 Obedience
Aug 18 Rally

You are welcome to come and watch but please keep your dog away from the trial area.

Patron

Rosemary Armitage MLC

Suggestions and contributions to Dog Tales in any form are most welcome. Please see Nicquel, leave at the office or submit via the Facebook page. Views expressed and articles printed are not necessarily those of the TDTC Committee or its instructors - they are intended as information for reading and consideration should you feel they are appropriate to your situation.

Brrr it's cold outside! Top tips for pet owners this winter.

The wind is picking up, the rain is setting in and temperatures are starting to drop as winter fast approaches. It's nearly time for woolly socks, hot drinks and warm coats.

Winter Coats

Although many cat and dog breeds have luxurious thick fur to keep them warm, when they are outside or on walks in the cold, they will still likely benefit from an additional winter coat. This is especially important if you have a thin, older or short haired breed.

A good pet-coat or jumper will give coverage from the neck to the base of the tail while also giving protection to their belly. Make sure your pet's coat is the right fit and isn't restricting movement.

Remember, don't leave your pet's coat on once they are in a heated indoor environment as they may over-heat under all those layers!

Better bedding

As the weather gets cooler, you might notice your pet is spending more time snuggled up in their bed. You can make a few simple adjustments to their bedding to ensure they are properly protected from the cold.

Make sure your pet's bed is away from drafts and elevated off cold, hard surfaces. You should raise the bed off the ground and add an extra blanket for warmth and comfort. Try not to place the bed too high though, as cold temperatures are especially tough on older dogs or cats with stiff joints who may have difficulty in movement after long periods of rest.

You can place a heating pad or disc in their bed (avoid hot water bottles as there may be the temptation to chew!) to gently warm up the bedding and create a cosy, warm and safe sleeping environment.

The great indoors

If your pet spends a lot of time outside, then appropriate shelter is essential. Pet stores have a great range of kennels for dogs and enclosures for cats, that will give protection from rain, frost and wind.

Choose a spot for your pet's housing that is protected from the elements in a warm elevated position. Fill your pet's shelter with dry blankets that are washed regularly.

If your dog is usually kept outside, you could bring them indoors to sleep at night, somewhere warm and dry, away from cold drafts and damp.

Keep on moving

The temptation in winter is to stay indoors, safely snuggled under a warm blanket. But your dog or cat still needs exercise and boredom busting stimulation. Keep playing indoors with soft toys or a ball to get the blood moving.

Or, brave the cold, grab the lead, put on both your winter coats, and head out for a brisk walk together! Your dog will still love the joy of their walk even if it's a bit colder, and you will feel better for the exercise too.

Heat seekers

Cats are notorious for finding warm spots around the house, like the afternoon sun through a window, or sitting close to heaters. Dogs too will seek out sources of heat during colder weather. Be wary of your pet sitting too close to heaters or fires as they can fall asleep and end up with dried out skin or worse, burns. Pet heating pads and disks are a safe alternative that can be placed in their bedding or on a favourite chair. This will become your pet's favourite warm spot this winter!

Senior care

Cold weather can be harder on our older cats and dogs as, just like with people, the drop in temperature can aggravate joints stiff with arthritis. Make sure your pet has a warm, comfortable rest area away from drafts and elevated off cold, hard surfaces. If you notice your pet is showing signs of discomfort associated with arthritis, you should take them to their vet for a check-up. Signs of pain or discomfort include stiffness, chewing or licking certain joints, difficulty walking up or down stairs, eating slowly and noticeable behavioural changes.

Heart warmers

Pets are wonderful companions and loving members of the family. Snuggle up and stay warm together this winter, and remember, there's nothing like lots of cuddles to keep the winter blues at bay!

Borrowed from RSPCA Queensland website

Welcome to our new February and March members

Puppies – April Class

Clara/Jessica & Ada, Jemma & Willow. Nicky/Alex/Edward/Lewis & Clover, Anne & Alfie, Mackye/Sanjana & Cali. Phillip Wade/Adriana & Zoro. James/Shahni & Fig, Joanne/Brianna & Harper, Alex/David & Cookie, Liz/Brad & Alfie

Puppies - May Class

Jan/Jo & Darcy, Tony/Anne & Tama, Tanya/Frank & Coco & Neko, Pete/Karen & Heidi, Jodie/Nick & Kenny, Coby/Adam/Logan/Addison & Eddy, Jaime & Luna

Basic – April Classes

Genevieve & Trixie, Tim/Nicole & Ruby, Anna & Anaya, Debra & Jock, Valerie & Bonnie, Claire Rae & Moose, Mandy & Deenee, Joey & Blondie, Louise/Tim & Freya, Marg & Benji, Clare & Cobber, Katherine/Oliver & Penny, Nevaq & Lenny, Ian & Stanley, Toby/Mel & Riley

Basic - May Classes

Nicky/Alex/Edward/Lewis & Clover, Mackye/Sanjana & Cali, Phillip Wade/Adriana & Zoro, James/Shahni & Fig, Joanne/Brianna & Harper, Liz/Brad & Alfie, Marilyn & Gailen, Teressa & Murphy, Judith & Malli, Robert/Sharon/Danielle & Max, Robert/Sharon/Danielle & Rosie, Nat/Jayme & Whisky, Sally & Gunner, Rachael & Max, Madeline & Buddy, Anne/Gavin & Minnie, Justeen & Dash, Louise/Ryan & Cooper

My apologies for any omissions or errors in this list, please let me know & I will fix in the next newsletter.

We hope you enjoyed your time in the various classes and we'll see you back soon for the next exciting step in your training in the coming months.



April Puppies



Tracking Introduction



May Puppies



March Basics

President Waffle – May 2024

Why own a dog?

There's a danger you know, You can't own just one, for the craving will grow. There's no doubt they're addictive, wherein lies the danger. While living with lots, you'll grow poorer and stranger.

One dog is no trouble, and two are so funny. The third one is easy, the fourth one's a honey. The fifth one's delightful, the sixth one's a breeze, You find you can live with a houseful of ease.

So how 'bout another? Would you really dare? They're really quite easy but, oh, Lord the hair! With dogs on the sofa and dogs on the bed, And crates in the kitchen, it's no bother, you've said. They're really no trouble, their manners are great. What's one more dog and just one more crate?

The sofa is hairy, the windows are crusty, The floor is all footprints, the furniture dusty The housekeeping suffers, but what do you care? Who minds a few noseprints and a little more hair? So let's keep a puppy, you can always find room, And a little more time for the dust cloth and broom.

There's hardly a limit to the dogs you can add, The thought of a cutback sure makes you sad. Each one is so special, so useful, so funny. The vet and food bills grows larger, you owe BIG money.

Your folks never visit, few friends come to stay, Except other "dog folks" who live the same way. Your lawn has now died, and your shrubs are dead too, But your weekends are busy, you're off with your crew.

There's dog food and vitamins, training and shots. And entries and travel and motels which cost lots. Is it worth it you wonder? Are you caught in a trap? Then that favorite one comes and climbs in your lap.

His look says you're special and you know that you will Keep all of the critters in spite of the bill. Some just for showing and some just to breed.

And some just for loving, they all fill a need.

God, winter's a hassle, the dogs hate it too.

But they must have their walks though they're numb and your blue.

Late evening is awful, you scream and you shout

At the dogs on the sofa who refuse to go out.

The dogs and the dog shows, the travel, the thrills,

The work and the worry, the pressure, the bills.

The whole thing seems worth it, the dogs are your life.

They're charming and funny and offset the strife.

Your life-style has changed. Things won't be the same.

Yes, those dogs are addictive and so is the dog game.

Unknown Poet



2024 Tracking Season

With the Hobart Dog Training Club's Tracking trial last weekend, the tracking season has officially started.

For those who aren't familiar with tracking, we run a 5-week introductory course beginning in April each year to start off people who are interested in tracking. The course involves 4 weeks of teaching the dogs to follow a scent and find a person at the end of the track, the 5th session is about laying a track and some tips on what to expect at a trial.

The trials are held during the winter, to reduce the risk of encountering snakes as we track in paddocks and in the bush. Four Tassie clubs each run one trial, Hobart Dog Training Club, TDTC, the Gundog Club and Ulverstone Kennel Club. Three trials are held in the Midlands and one near Elizabethtown.

It was great to hear that in the first trial this year, Kristy and Teddy from last year's course achieved a pass in their test 3 and qualified for Teddy's Tracking Dog Title. Simone and Bentley from the recent course passed their test 1.

The TDTC tracking trial is coming up on the June long weekend. It is good to see that several teams from this year's course have entered the test 1 as well as more experienced club members in the higher tests.

Good luck to everyone tracking this season, hoping your tracklayer is smelly and remember to 'Trust Your Dog'.



Tracking

Tracking aims to showcase a dog's ability to locate people lost in either paddocks or bush landscapes.

All breeds of dogs can learn to track using their natural scenting instincts which is enjoyable and rewarding for them to use.

There are two types of scents, ground, and body scents.

Ground scent: is the scent of the ground disturbance left where the tracklayer has come into contact with. It contains odours coming from the bruising and damaging of grass and foliage, the crushing of roots and the scent of soil bacteria and moulds, released where surfaces of soil soil has been broken by the tracklayer. As a track ages, the scent of the decay organisms working on the damaged roots and plants is present.

Body Scent: is a personal scent left by the tracklayer coming from normal body odour left in the air. The tracklayer may have also touched a scrub or grass leaving their scent on it. Scent can also come from particles of skin, hair, clothing, fluff, or shoe leather shed on the track.

A trained tracking dog is expected to smell an article belonging to a tracklayer and find the track, following it until it finds the end of the track. A dog must also find and indicate any articles dropped along the track by its tracklayer.

Under present rules, in a tracking trial, the track may be from twenty minutes up to three hours old depending on the level being undertaken.

Tracking involves training a dog to follow a ground scent trail and find any discarded articles of clothing along the track. Dogs need to wear a tracking harness and be at the end of a minimum 10-metre lead, but length can be shortened if the terrain requires it.

Tracking as a dog sport has been in Australia for over 40 years. Tracking satisfies a dog's basic need of hunting and using their highly developed ability to follow scents. Tracking provides a great enjoyment for owners watching their dogs perform a very natural behaviour, observing just how powerful a dog's sense of smell is. Tracking also provides both mental and physical stimulation for dogs.

Borrowed from <https://dogsaustralia.org.au/training-dog-sports/tracking>

*****I am a 21st century dog.*****

-I'm a Malinois.

Overskilled among dogs, I excel in all disciplines and I'm always ready to work: I NEED to work. But nowadays I get asked to chill on the couch all day everyday.

-I am an Akita Inu.

My ancestors were selected for fighting bears.

Today I get asked to be tolerant and I get scolded for my reactivity when another approaches me.

-I am a Beagle.

When I chase my prey, I raise my voice so the hunters could follow.

Today they put an electric collar on me to shut up, and you make me come back to you - no running - with a snap of your fingers.

-I am a Yorkshire Terrier.

I was a terrifying rat hunter in English mines.

Today they think I can't use my legs and they always hold me in their arms.

-I'm a Labrador Retriever.

My vision of happiness is a dive into a pond to bring back the duck he shot to my master.

Today you forget I'm a walking, running, swimming dog; as a result I'm fat, made to stay indoors, and to babysit.

-I am a Jack Russell.

I can take on a fox, a mean badger, and a rat bigger than me in his den.

Today I get scolded for my character and high energy, and forced to turn into a quiet living room dog.

-I am a Siberian Husky.

Experienced the great, wide open spaces of Northern Europe, where I could drag sleds for long distances at impressive speeds.

Today I only have the walls of the house or small garden as a horizon, and the holes I dig in the ground just to release energy and frustration, trying to stay sane.

-I am a Border Collie

I was made to work hours a day in partnership with my master, and I am an unmistakable artist of working with the herd.

Today they are mad at me because, for lack of sheep, I try to check bikes, cars, children in the house and everything in motion.

I am ...

I am a 21st century dog.

I'm pretty, I'm alert, I'm obedient, I stay in a bag...but I'm also an individual who, from centuries of training, needs to express my instincts, and I am *not* suited for the sedentary life you'd want me to lead.

Spending eight hours a day alone in the house or in the garden - with no work and no one to play or run with, seeing you for a short time in the evening when you get home, and only getting a small toilet walk will make me deeply unhappy.

I'll express it by barking all day, turning your yard into a minefield, doing my needs indoors, being unmanageable the rare times I'll find myself outside, and sometimes spending my days sunk, sad, lonely, and depressed, on my pillow.

You may think that I should be happy to be able to enjoy all this comfort while you go to work, but actually I'll be exhausted and frustrated, because this is absolutely NOT what I'm meant to do, or what I need to be doing.

If you love me, if you've always dreamed of me, if my beautiful blue eyes or my athletic look make you want me, but you can't give me a real dog's life, a life that's really worth living according to my breed, and if you can't offer me the job that my genes are asking, DO NOT buy or adopt me!

If you like the way I look but aren't willing to accept my temperament, gifts, and traits derived from long genetic selection, and you think you can change them with only your good will, then DO NOT BUY OR ADOPT ME.

I'm a dog from the 21st century, yes, but deep inside me, the one who fought, the one who hunted, the one who pulled sleds, the one who guided and protected a herd still lives within.

So think ****very**** carefully before you choose your dog. Eight or ten hours is just a workday to you, but it's an eternity for me to be alone.

What is reward-based dog training?

Reward-based training (also known as positive reinforcement) is considered the best approach to dog and puppy training. Why? Because it works! Reward-based training is all about rewarding desired behaviours and is great for building a loving bond between you and your dog.

This approach is simple: find something your dog loves (the reward) and give it to them when they behave how you want them to. Delicious snacks, such as cheese, cooked chicken meat (be sure to remove all bones), and other 'high value' treats work exceptionally well for most dogs.

For pups who aren't food motivated, a game of fetch or tug-of-war, a favourite toy, or cuddles and praise can work just as well. The important thing is to choose the reward that is most valuable to your dog.

With reward-based dog training it's important to ignore (not punish) unwanted behaviour. If you want to teach your dog to stop jumping, rather than yelling at them when they do jump up, ignore them. Wait until they have all four paws on the ground and then reward them.

How to teach a puppy to sit

Before you start, make sure you have some delicious puppy training treats on hand. Rewarding the behaviour you want from your puppy is the key to positive reinforcement-based training.

With your dog in the standing position, hold one of your puppy training treats near their nose. Now, keeping the treat near your dog's nose, move your hand in an arc over their head. As your pup raises their head to follow the treat, their bottom will naturally fall to the floor.

As soon as your pup moves into the sit position, praise them and give them the treat. Once you and your pup have got the hang of it, practise a number of times in short but regular sessions (at this stage, you don't need to pair a verbal cue—just get your pup used to the sitting action and associating it with getting a treat.)

As your pup learns that they will get a treat for sitting, they will probably start to sit for longer. This is when you can add a cue into your puppy training. Say 'sit' as your pup starts to move into the right position—but be careful not to say it before they start to sit or they may associate the word with the wrong movement.

Borrowed from <https://www.bupa.com.au/healthlink/home-travel-beauty/pets>





Is it too cold for my dog?



SMALL
20 lbs or less
10 kg or less

MEDIUM
21-50 lbs
10 -25 kg

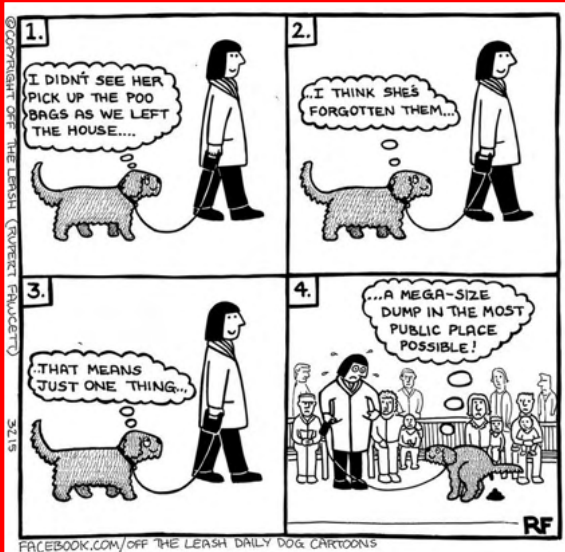
LARGE
more than 50 lbs
more than 25 kg



www.tractive.com



HEYBUDDY COMICS | f t



Thank you to the following Contributors to the Newsletter:-

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Printing done with compliments of the office of

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