



Agility Dog Club of Victoria

RUNNING CONTACTS

Volume 4

Issue 3

October 2009

**IN NEED OF A WARM UP
ON FRIDAY EVENINGS?**

Tea and coffee is available in the kitchen, free of charge. Help yourself at any time, or alternately join us for a drink and a chat after training is finished and the gear has been packed up. This is a good time to ask any questions you may have about your training and to get to know your fellow Club members and Instructors.

CONGRATULATIONS TARA & DARCY

Huge congratulations go to Club Instructor Tara O'Brien and her Poodle/Koolie X Debonair Darcy (known as just plain Darcy to his friends) for winning the 'Top Dog' Jumping final for 2009. Only the top ten dogs in the state are selected for the run off, so the competition is high just to gain enough points to qualify in the first place.



Tara and Darcy in action in the final of the 'Top Dog Jumping' for 2009. Photo by Eddie Catton. Permission kindly granted for use in newsletter.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR TRIAL SPONSORS 2009

- *Furrever Pet Photography
- *Mal Lynch - Canine/Feline Muscle Therapist
- *Stained Glass Dogs
- *Tucker Tub Pet Food

CONTACT DETAILS ON THE CLUB WEBSITE :

*Please support
our Club sponsors*



Darcy negotiates a tight turn. Photo by Eddie Catton. Permission kindly granted for use in newsletter.

To actually win the Final against some very highly ranked dogs is an outstanding achievement and the Club congratulates Tara and Darcy- not just on this wonderful effort, but on a great trialling career to date. Plus we're sure there's even more to come ! You can see Tara and Darcy 'strutting their stuff' in Class 4 on most Friday evenings if you haven't already !

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 12th October
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING (see page 2)

Friday 30th October
NO CLUB TRAINING
(see page 3)

Friday 4th December
FINAL TRAINING 2009

Friday 11th December
END OF YEAR
FUNCTION (see page 3)

2009 COMMITTEE

President : Murray Tyler
Vice President : Colin McInnes
Secretary : Karen Hollis
Treasurer : Gerard Lee

Public Officer : Paul Gavin
General Committee : Kristin Bain, Hollie Edwards, Andrew Macdonald, Donna Amey-Macdonald, Karen Stansfield
Newsletter Editor : Julia Lewis lewisjl@ozemail.com.au

**PLEASE
TAKE NOTE**

***Dogs are NOT to be left unattended (either tied to the fence or left untethered in a 'stay') AT ANY TIME. This also includes when you are helping to change jump heights during class.**

***Dogs are NOT to be tied to the fence at any time during training, including before and after class when you are helping to set up/pack up.**

WANTED !

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Committee and Editor welcome dog/agility related articles, jokes, quotes, training tips, book/website reviews and any other relevant contributions for publication in future issues. Hand personally to the Editor or email to lewisjl@ozemail.com.au
Please acknowledge the source of the material due to copyright restrictions or regretfully it cannot be included.

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**It's your newsletter.....
So what would you like to be included? Please keep those ideas for articles, trial results and any other items of general interest coming in. All members are welcome to contribute - the more items received the better !**

IS YOUR DOG UNDER 18 MONTHS OF AGE ?
Please remember to inform your Instructor at the beginning of class as jump heights may need to be modified for you.

FOR SALE ON FRIDAY NIGHTS :

Clickers, Training Tabs (snub leads) Pigs Ears (when available)

A range of club uniforms including vests and fleecies -just right for the cooler evening weather, plus polo shirts and baseball caps for the coming Summer months. (It pays to plan ahead)

We also have fitted and loose style T Shirts (plus magnets) in support of the **Suni Fund** for Canine Cancer research.



These are very good quality T Shirts and represent excellent value. Proceeds go directly to the Suni Fund in aid of canine cancer research.
See Gerard or Julia to purchase one.
*ALL SHIRTS COME WITH A FREE WRISTBAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 12th October 2009 7:30pm
at 'The Hall' Cnr of Mary & Cullen Sts Spotswood

This is the same venue where we hold our New Member Evenings..... All welcome to attend

The following positions will be declared vacant - President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Officer, General Committee (6 positions)

Nominations for any of the above positions close on Friday 9th October.

Any agenda items for the Annual General Meeting close on Friday 2nd October.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE THE CLUB WEBSITE - We hope to see many of our members there.

A POEM FOR ALL OUR MULTI DOG CLUB MEMBERS - and those who are thinking about it How many points can you relate to ?

Why own a dog ? There's a danger you know
 You can't own just one, 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 so funny, and two are no trouble
 The third one is easy, the fourth one's a honey
 The fifth is delightful, the sixth one's a breeze
 You find you can live with a houseful with 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 just one more dog and just one more crate ?

The sofa is hairy, the windows are crusty
 The floor is all footprints, the furniture is dusty
 The housekeeping suffers, but what do you care ?
 Who minds a few nose prints and a little more hair ?

So let's get a puppy, you can always find room
 And a little more time for the dust cloth and broom
 There's really no limit to the dogs you could add
 The thought of a cutback sure makes you feel sad.

Each one is so special, so useful, so funny
 The food bills grow larger, you start to owe money
 Your folks never visit, few friends come to stay
 Except other dog folk who live the same way.

Your lawn has now died, and your shrubs are dead too
 But your weekends are busy, you're out with your crew
 There's dog food and vitamins, training and shots
 Trial entries and motels which sure do cost lots.

Is it worth it you wonder ? Are you caught in a trap ?
 Then your favourite dog comes in 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 !

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Please note there will be NO club training on Friday 30th October for any class level.

Most of the Club Instructors will be attending the 2 day trial at Warrnambool, along with many of the Club's trialling members and as a result we are unable to offer classes. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause but it will be 'business as usual' the following week.



End of Year Christmas Function

Friday 11th December, 7:30 pm \$25
 All members, family and friends welcome - we hope to see as many of our members there as possible.

Function to be held at 'The Hall'
 Cnr Mary & Cullen Sts Spotswood
 \$10 deposit per person to be paid by Friday 6th November.

HAVE YOU GAINED AN AGILITY, JUMPING OR GAMES TITLE THIS YEAR? Please give details to Donna as soon as possible, as you may be eligible for an end of year Title award, to be presented on the night.



WELL DONE KAREN AND MURPHY !

A NOTE FROM THE DESK OF MR MURPHY.....

Firstly, Karen is not really pulling my ear here - it's a collar grab and proof that the camera does indeed lie. Secondly, Karen is so proud of me at the moment, ear pulling is definitely out of the question. I've just delivered **2nd place at the Melbourne Royal** in Novice Jumping and finished my title to boot - what a brilliant boy I am !

VALE : Lee Smith

Lee Smith and her beloved Jack Russell Terriers, Jade and Pepsi, were a familiar face - not only at Agility Dog Club Victoria, but also at Keilor, Altona, Werribee and more recently Geelong Obedience Dog Clubs.

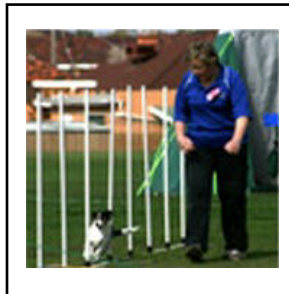


Lee's devotion and the enormous bond she had with her 'girls' can only be admired. Indeed Lee trained and competed in Agility, Flyball and Obedience and was always incredibly proud of her dogs' performances and achievements. Her bum-bag was always jam packed with treats - the dogs not only responded to her positive attitude, but like Lee, they seemed to have a 'ball' along the way.

Lee simply loved being with her 'girls', getting out and about with her 'girls' and in doing so, loved bringing enjoyment to other people. The troop would regularly visit a nursing home - the intention of the visit would be to visit Lee's grandmother, but Lee's canine crew would keep the other residents entertained as well with their vast repertoire of tricks.

Indeed it seemed Lee's 'girls' went everywhere with Lee and were always well behaved and happy. It seemed that Lee was always on the lookout for new leads, collars and jackets for them - at Christmas time the duo would get into the festive spirit by getting decorated in tinsel, baubles and suddenly sprouting elaborate antlers ! While we're sure the dogs didn't mind, we suspect that in this instance, it was Lee who possibly had more fun.

Lee spent a couple of years helping out at ADCV on Committee. She rarely missed a meeting and it seemed to give her a new focus which she clearly enjoyed.



Unfortunately Lee's life was not without health issues - many club members have been known to train Jade and Pepsi and even achieve an occasional pass when Lee was 'out of action'. Jade and Pepsi always seemed to work happily, no matter who was the handler and just seemed pleased to be out there having a run. We all know Lee was delighted watching her 'girls' and was always extremely grateful.

Lee formed many friendships at ADCV and through the wider 'dog world' which she clearly valued. Our club members extend our sympathy to her family. She will be sadly missed by her beloved Jade and Pepsi. We will remember her fondly.

Footnote : Lee's wish to compete with Pepsi at this year's Melbourne Royal was honoured by her friend and fellow club member Vanessa Bridges who ran Pepsi in the Excellent Jumping class and not only qualified, but gained 3rd place. We know that Lee would have been extremely proud. Many thanks to Karen Hollis & Vanessa Bridges for Lee's 'Vale'.

RAINBOW BRIDGE Vale : Brattanbrea Koonunga 21st Jan 1996 - 16 Sept. 2009



Koonunga was our first dog and through him we were taken on a journey we did not predict. We were introduced to dog training as we were ignorant and Koonunga had started training us from the time he got into the car. He had a passion for balls and when flyball was introduced he developed a liking for that also. Later we expanded into agility and dabbled with some tracking. Then he taught our next dog what he thought was relevant, especially that all balls were his. He was never an aggressive dog, but liked to say hello to anyone and their dog, even if we did not think he should. His greatest defence was to go into a play bow and have fun.

Through Koonunga we have met many wonderful people and their amazing dogs and also travelled to many venues doing the sports he loved. We miss him greatly and he has left a hole in our lives.

This year has been rather mixed for Koonunga as his body has been wearing out. Essendon Animal Emergency Hospital has seen him about 3 to 4 times and most staff have met him by now. Unfortunately the last visit he had a broken leg, much pain and not a good prognosis to be pain free. So now he is without pain and running free, chasing balls and catching up with some old friends. Thank You for being part of his life and ours.

Sandra & Bryan Crowley, Grenache & Syrah

THIS MONTH'S TRAINING ARTICLE CONTRIBUTED BY MURRAY TYLER

95% OF THE TIME IT'S HANDLING ERROR

How would you like to have perfect timing? That is, to never again be early or late with a command or movement?

It's a simple matter once you understand that every movement and every command has a specific cue. All the handler needs to do is understand his cues and be disciplined enough to use them. How early should you turn your dog over a jump? How late? Timing is dictated by position and event. You first have to get out of your head that timing in agility has anything to do with time whatsoever. It's all a matter of where things are positioned in space, you, the dog, and the obstacle. Thinking in terms of time creates the illusion that the handler must rush a movement with a fast dog or that the handler of a slow dog can afford to be leisurely.

I've made no attempt in this discussion to expound on the obvious rules of timing but they warrant a mention. Give the command for an obstacle at the moment the dog's nose is pointed at it - not earlier and not later. Allow the dog to finish his work on contact obstacles, weave poles and jumps before turning in a new course direction. Work on the same obstacles on which the dog is working.

Most people think of timing as a matter of when to give verbal commands. In fact, the timing of verbal commands is the least important requisite for perfect timing in agility and one for which the handler can observe a simple rule. We've all seen the handler whose timing of verbal commands is so poor that the commands 'jump' while the dog is in the air over the jump for which the command is given. Obviously the dog has already figured out that the jump was the correct obstacle. We have also seen the handler who commands 'jump' when the dog is facing the wrong jump. The dog is then absolutely correct to take the jump when the handler has given the command to do so.

A handler should issue a command for obstacle performance at the moment that the dog is facing the correct obstacle. Consequently, the handler should focus on his real job, which is to get the dog facing the next correct obstacle. And then, at the earliest possible moment, the handler should give the command. Since dogs move faster than humans, it's not a bad idea to give the dog a mission for the next obstacle even while at a considerable distance.

And now for timing of movements -

Any understanding of timing must start with understanding how a dog moves. Firstly, the dog turns when the handler turns. Secondly, the dog tends to work in a path parallel to the handler's path. Thirdly, the dog gets his speed cue from the handler's speed and the dog gets his direction cue from the the handler's shoulders, hips and toes movement. A dog ahead of the handler tends to curl back to the handler's position.

The first law is really the most important: the dog turns when the handler turns. This isn't anything tricky or mystical. The dog wants to go in the same direction his handler is going, so naturally the dog will turn when the handler turns. When the bar drops, 95% of the time it's a handling error.

There is really no right answer for all dogs. As soon as some concept convinces me that this is the way to deal with that, along comes another dog that defies convention and statistical measurement. Each handler needs to understand his own dog's timing needs.

Without recognizing the positional cues that dictate matters of timing, the handler has no chance at perfecting his timing. Practicing movement under the orchestration of cues will help build the necessary muscle memory to make timing natural and fluid. Working from cues is a discipline. It is not enough to know the cues, the handler must abide by them.

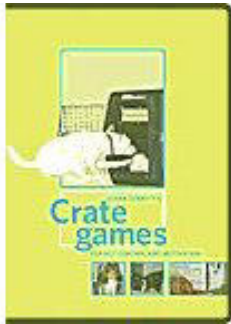
Welcome to the following new members & dogs who joined the Club at our September intake :

**Svenja Gunther and Ziggy
Arnold Van Breda and Charlie
Michelle Goodwin and Murphy
Kellie Hughes and Shima
Elizabeth Coutts and Ned
Sherran Howlett and Luca**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
PROGRESSING UP THROUGH THE
CLASSES IN THE FUTURE**



DVD REVIEW : Crate Games for Self Control and Motivation (Susan Garrett)



About the Author : Susan Garrett is a Canadian agility competitor and instructor who is recognized world wide as one of the leading educators of dog trainers. She has been successful competing at both National and International levels and has taught seminars throughout most of the world, including Australia.

As the title suggests, 'Crate Games' is a whole lot more than just training your dog to be comfortable in a crate. Garrett cites Crate Games as the cornerstone of her foundation training program and has developed the program not just for introducing a puppy to the crate for the first time, but also for retraining older dogs.

The DVD provides a sequential program, where each stage of the training has both a name and a goal to work towards. By following the program and raising the criteria by moving to the next stage once each goal is achieved, Garrett's aim is to improve the dog's confidence and as a result gain a 'speedy recall, amazing self-control, motivation and drive'.

Crate Games begins by building value for the dog being in the crate, gradually introducing distractions for the dog to work through - ultimately resulting in the dog choosing to be in the crate. Once you have transferred the value of your reward to the crate, you then work on building enthusiasm and speed in the dog for driving both in and out of the crate. Crate Games also provides a great foundation for speedy recalls. You can then gradually add these recalls to agility obstacles to build drive off the start line. The program is also extremely useful for training start line procedures as the dog learns not to exit the crate without a release cue.

Crate Games allow your dog to not only be more comfortable when confined to their crate, but 'better behaved when outside of one.' Your dog learns that 'life is fun when he follows your rules.'

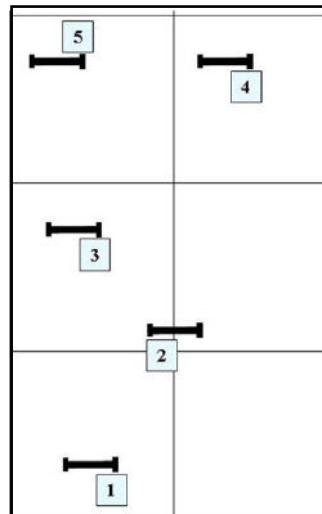
Definitely a worthwhile DVD to add to your collection and one that has excellent training implications that extend outside the world of agility. For more information, check out Garrett's website at www.clickerdogs.com. You may also want to read her training blog and subscribe - simply follow the links from her website.

CANINE CORNBREAD

A Treat for your Dog

- 1 cup of polenta
- 1 cup of plain flour
- 2 teaspoons of baking powder
- 1 cup of milk
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ cup of oil

Combine all dry ingredients. Add liquids and beat until smooth. Pour into a square, lightly greased baking tin. Bake in a hot oven for 15 to 20 minutes. Cut into squares when cool.



HOW MANY DIFFERENT HANDLING OPTIONS CAN YOU FIND FOR THIS SEQUENCE?

For those with their own jumps, try setting it up at home - if the sequence is too difficult for your dog, try reversing jumps 4 and 5.

'I've seen a look in dog's eyes, a quickly vanishing look of amazed contempt and I am convinced that basically dogs think humans are nuts.' (John Steinbeck)

'Old dogs, like old shoes, are comfortable. They might be a bit out of shape, a little worn around the edges, but they fit well.' (Bonnie Wilcox)