

Para District Obedience Dog Club Inc.'s

Slipcollar

January & February 2010



Jenkins Reserve, end of Saints Road, Salisbury

Club phone number: 8281 7849

Office hours: Friday nights & Sunday mornings only

After hours: 8251 3274

PO Box 497, Salisbury, 5108

<http://www.paradogtraining.com.au>, info@paradogtraining.com



2010 Committee Members



President:	Julian Stokes	8264 0860
Immediate Past President	Vicki Josephs	-
Vice President:	Ray Gunter	8251 3274
Secretary:	Karen Tanner	0413 057 746
Assistant Secretary:	Rachael Fagan	-
Treasurer:	Ronnie Schmidt	8262 1008
Head Obedience Instructor:	Sharon Page	0408 087 547
Head Agility Instructor:	Ron Skelton	8287 1453
Asst Head Agility Instructor:	Victor Jordan	8255 7818
Head Flyball Instructor:	Chrissy Dalla Valle	8265 0812
General Committee Members:	Allison Dawson, Rebecca Knapp, Alex Stapledon, Jan Cooper, Helen Janssen, Gaynor Kennedy, Catherine Saberton & Michelle Stokes	

Other club positions held by:

Magazine Editor:	Michelle Stokes	8264 0860
Website Administrator:	Allison Dawson	0404 071 210
Obedience Trial Secretary:	Jan Mitchell	8280 9686
Obedience Trial Manager:	Ray Gunter	8251 3274
Agility Trial Secretary/Manager:	Vanessa Loughlin & Helen Janssen	- 0437 044 797
Registrar:	Sharon Page	0408 087 547
Membership enquiries:	Ray Gunter	8251 3274

Front cover:

Sisko CD

Handler: Irma Crews
(see pp.29-31)



Next 'Slipcollar' edition deadline:

Sunday, 21 March 2010



SA Canine Association
(Trading as Dogs SA) &
Australian Flyball Association
Affiliated



What's in this edition?



2009
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Benefits of Pets:
Psychological, Emotional & Social
Benefits of Animals
p.20

come. sit. stay. play!



2009
September & October
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Sisko—My Guardian Angel
&
Cover Dog story
by Irma Crews
pp.29-31

Agility Thoughts
by Paul Schroeder
pp.24-25

Letter from Editor

Hi everyone. Welcome old and new members to Para in 2010. It's great to be back. Time to get those lazy dogs, and handlers (in my case anyway), back to work and the joy of training in obedience, agility and flyball. It has been a nice break but it is time to get moving again.

Of course we have a new committee this year. There are many members that have continued on from 2009 but we also have a few newbies. Thanks to all those members who have put up their hands to volunteer their time to be part of the 2010 committee.

Julian Stokes is our new President. Julian, with his/our Kelpie, Jasper, has trained and competed in all three disciplines the club has to offer so he has a good all-around knowledge of what the club is all about. Thanks Karen and Ronnie for carrying on with the unenviable positions of Secretary and Treasurer. Ray, Sharon and Chrissy have also maintained their positions of Vice President, Head Obedience Instructor and Head Flyball Instructor. Well done, Ron, for putting up your hand for the position of Head Agility Instructor. Allison is continuing to hold the position of website administrator. Check out our new website: www.paradogtraining.com.au. Welcome Jan Cooper, Helen Janssen and Gaynor Kennedy as new committee members, along with some regulars from last year. And to our agility and obedience trial secretaries and managers, thank you for volunteering your services in these roles.

Finally, the club would not be able to run without the support of the many instructors. Thank you to everyone who has offered to instruct and share their knowledge. It is invaluable.

We also have a few new volunteers who will be working in the office on Sunday mornings. It will be very busy in there in the new year so please be patient and remember we are all volunteers.

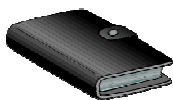
Hilda Lomas has stepped down from the position of Registrar after 20 years (yes, 20 years). A big thank you to Hilda for all of those years chasing up trial results and maintaining records of all members' passes and titles. You have done a great job and it is greatly appreciated. Sharon Page has offered to take on this role, so please produce your qualification cards from now on to Sharon so she can keep a record and you can receive title badges.

As 'Slipcollar' is a club magazine, please feel free to offer articles for inclusion that you think other members may find interesting. I would like it to be a magazine for members and also by members, not just articles I research to fill the pages. Please submit any articles for possible inclusion to myself at mjstokes@adam.com.au or place in the Editor's basket in the office. If you would like it returned, please clearly mark it with your details.

I wish everyone all the best in their training and trialling endeavours with their dogs for the year ahead. Most importantly, enjoy the quality time spent with your dogs and have fun with them. They will reward you for it.

Cheers, Michelle Stokes





What's on?



- Sat., 13 Feb 2010 WA Agility National Championships
SA Team run-offs, PDODC, 6.30 p.m.
- Thurs., 18 Feb PDODC Committee Meeting**
- Sat., 20 Feb. Gawler Dog Training Club Inc.
- Obedience Trial
- Sat., 27 Feb. Agility Dog Club of SA.—Games Trial
- Sat., 27 Feb. & Canberra Royal Show, 2010 Nationals
- Sun., 28 Feb - Flyball Competition
- Sat., 6 March SA Obedience Dog Club Inc.
- Obedience Trial
- Sun, 7 March Begonia Ball Bash, Ballarat
- Flyball Competition
- Sat., 13 March Munno Para Obedience Dog Club Inc.
- Obedience Trial
- Sat., 20 March Munno Para Obedience Dog Club Inc.
- Agility Trials
- Sat., 27 March Southern Districts Kennel & Obedience
Club Inc.—Obedience Trial
- Sun., 28 March Dogs SA State Obedience Championships
- Sat., 3 April & Blue Lake Obedience Dog Club Inc.
- Sun, 4 April - Obedience & Agility Trials
- Sat., 10 April Noarlunga City Obedience Dog Club Inc.
- Agility Trials
- Sat., 17 April Para District Obedience Dog Club Inc.
- Obedience Trial**
- Sun., 18 April SA Obedience Dog Club Inc.
- Agility Trials
- 29 April—2 May 2010 WA National Agility Championships
- Sat., 1 May PDODC Mock Trial—Agility, Jumping,
Tunnellers, Rally-O (to be confirmed)**

DOG/HANDLER ETIQUETTE

- ◆ Always pick up faeces after your dog has defecated and place in the bins provided.
- ◆ When approaching another dog, ask the permission of the owner if it is okay to approach. Do not assume that every dog wants to be approached by unknown dogs or people.
- ◆ After being given the okay to approach an unknown dog, approach calmly and do not allow your dog to rush at them. Keep the leash short enough, but not tight, to pull your dog back quickly if there is a problem.
- ◆ If your dog wants a drink, do not allow them to interrupt another dog while they are drinking. Wait until they have finished, then allow your dog to drink.
- ◆ Do not approach dogs that are tethered and unsupervised.
- ◆ Do not take your dog off lead, unless directed by an instructor.
- ◆ Supervise your children around dogs and always ask permission of the owner before allowing children to pat unknown dogs.
- ◆ Ensure your dog does not become entangled with other dogs' leads. Always allow space between you and your dog and other dogs and handlers. Be aware of your environment at all times.
- ◆ If your dog urinates on any club buildings, get some water and wash the area.
- ◆ Listen to and observe all instruction from club officials and instructors.



MEMBERSHIP FEES

<i>Junior</i>	<i>\$30</i>
<i>Single</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>Double/Family</i>	<i>\$60</i>
<i>Single Pensioner</i>	<i>\$40</i>
<i>Double Pensioner</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>(Full pension card required)</i>	



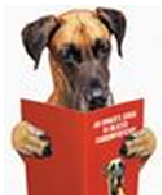
New members pay an additional joining fee of \$5.

Agility and Flyball classes have an additional cost of \$2 per lesson and \$1 for each additional dog to cover lighting expenses and upkeep of equipment.

Membership fees cover a year of training from February to November. Reduced rates apply if joining later in the year.

PDODC's Dog Library

NOW OPEN



\$2 fee per item
Books—4-week loan
DVDs—2-week loan
\$20 deposit per item



\$2 fee per week for overdue items

Open Friday nights & Sunday mornings during office hours

Contents:

'So Your Dog's Not Lassie: Tips for Training Difficult Dogs and Independent Breeds'
- Betty Fisher

'The Other End of the Leash: Why We Do What We Do Around Dogs' - Patricia B. McConnell

'The Complete Idiot's Guide to Positive Dog Training, 2nd Edition' - Pamela S. Dennison

'How to be the Leader of the Pack...And have Your Dog Love You For It'
- Patricia B. McConnell Ph.D.

'When Pigs Fly!: Training Success with Impossible Dogs' - Jane Killion

'The Dog Whisperer: The essential guide to understanding and raising a happy dog'
- John Richardson & Leslye Cole

'The BARF Diet' - Dr Ian Billinghurst

'Grow Your Pup On Bones' - Dr Ian Billinghurst

'Give Your Dog A Bone' - Dr Ian Billinghurst

'Marley & Me, Life and love with the world's worst dog' - John Grogan

'The Good, The Bad, and The Furry, Choosing the dog that's right for you' - Sam Stall

'Superdog, Clicker Training for Obedience, Tricks and Agility' - Mary Ray

'A Big Little Life: A Memoir of a Joyful Dog' - Dean Koontz

'Great Dog: Shame About The Handler' - Greg Derrett (Agility DVD)



Acting President/Vice President's 2009 Report

Well, here we are at the end of another year and I would like to thank all club members that have helped in the running of the club during the course of the year. Committee can only do so much. It requires help from members to keep things going smoothly.

Whilst I am in thank you mode I would like to thank those committee members that stayed the course of the year, and I also thank Llana and Neil and Richard and Val for their invaluable running of the canteen, Hilda and Win selling leads and collars, etc., the girls in the office, and let's not forget the instructors in all codes. If it was not for all these people we would not have the club that we do.

Last year burr clover was rife and we lost a few members because of it, so this year I got on to council early and they sprayed the entire grassed area and the grounds are looking really good (in spite of the hot weather) and there is almost no burr clover to be seen. Watering of the reserve has been increased. This is due to other reserves going on to recycled water, which gives us a bigger share of the allocated mains water.

This has been one of our worst years for vandalism and break-ins. In the space of about three weeks in August we had three break and enters and two broken windows. This resulted in a loss to the club but not enough to claim on insurance, as well as a loss to council. I spoke to council about security screens and got a sympathetic but cool response. Grant from Ample Security lobbied council on the club's behalf and we had security screens fitted to the canteen windows within 10 days. A big thank you to Grant and Charlie Seal from council. A point of interest about the graffiti and vandalism is that, since we have had the security screens fitted, there have not been any other incidences.

Many of you may be wondering why I am wearing two hats (President and Vice President). This is because our elected President, Vicki Josephs, resigned after the October agility trial citing personal reasons. I take this opportunity to thank Vicki for all the work she put into the club and wish her well for the future.

With member and committee approval I have a number of projects that I would like to pursue for the betterment of the club and its facilities and for this reason, if members are willing, I will remain on as Vice President and Council Liaison Officer. Projects I have in mind are security screens on all windows, concrete paving of the area between the office and shed with a removable sail shade for that area (it would make a great spot for first timers class) and, if funding can be obtained (Government or Council grants), extending the canteen to the back edge of the steel verandah.

A couple of final points. The hot weather killed off our alarm system and committee had a new system installed on Tuesday, 17 November 2009. All users of the alarm will be given their own code. This way we will know who has armed or dis-armed the alarm and when and we will be able to add or delete codes as needed.

If I have missed naming or thanking anyone, I sincerely apologise. My personal thanks goes to all club members who helped out during the year and, again, I thank Salisbury Council staff for the assistance they have given during the year.

Yours Sincerely,
Ray Gunter



TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2009

As in previous years, PDODC's books have been submitted for audit by Frank Perrott of MSI Tilley Chartered Accountants of Modbury. Unfortunately, due to illness, Frank has not been able to complete our audit in time for the AGM, so our books are tabled as finalised by myself. As soon as Frank has completed our audit report, this will be made available to members of PDODC.

I am pleased to report that Para District Obedience Dog Club has had a very successful year and has ended the year with a surplus.

We closed the year with a total income of	\$36,364.49
Our total cost of sales for the same period was	\$ 5,885.91
Out total expenses for the same period was	\$25,095.45
(this includes depreciation of \$1,752.64)	
This leaves us with a net surplus of	<u>\$ 5,382.13</u>

Our total cash at bank as of the 31 st October 2009	\$12,789.06
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Out total assets held as of the 31 st October 2009	\$42,338.17
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(as per Balance Sheet, including cash at bank, equipment and saleable stock).

Once again our membership has increased, closing the year with approx. 400 members.

I would like to thank everyone on committee this year for their efforts, as well as all instructors and club volunteers.

Those who are close to me know that it has been a difficult year for me personally and at times I was unable to give 100% to the tasks required in my position as Treasurer. I would particularly like to thank all those people who supported and assisted me throughout 2009 to make my job a little easier.

I hope the club continues its success throughout 2010.

I hereby commend this report to the floor for vote of acceptance.

Ronnie Schmidt



Head Obedience Instructor's 2009 Report

With training over for another year again, we have no new recruits for next year. The weather has not been pleasant to us this November with many sessions cancelled due to the HOT weather. This may also apply when we return in February 2010. If the temperature is forecast to be 32c or over we will not be training. Please be patient with all the instructors as they are ALL volunteers and give up their free time to teach you and your dog/s when they could be out training their own dogs instead. Please help your instructor with the class whenever you can, and if you think you might like to become an instructor, please see myself or any of the instructors. I hope you have achieved your goals this past year and that we will see you back next year to continue your training.

I'd like to personally thank all instructors, helpers and committee members for their donated time they have given to the club. Without these people we would not have the most successful club in SA. Results over this last year have been very good in all four disciplines; that is, Obedience, Agility, Jumping and Flyball.

The Obedience titles are as follows for this year: 10 CCD (Community Companion Dog); 8 CD (Companion Dog); 3 CDX (Companion Dog Excellent); no UDX (Utility Dog Excellent); and 1 UD.

I, along with my two dogs, have still been attending various primary schools to enhance children's understanding of animals and teach them about responsible pet ownership. PetPEP is a national education program developed by the Australian Veterinary Association and is funded by Tea Tree Gully Council Community Grant. Other relevant organisations are the Dog and Cat Management Board, Animal Welfare League, interested vets and other local councils. My role has been to show how an obedient dog works, how to approach a dog safely and how a well-socialised dog fits into a family and society. A comprehensive show of dog tricks was done mostly by Jack who loves to wave a flag, pick up pens, pegs and coloured buckets and always willing to fetch his dumbbell and squeaky toy. He has had over 300 pupils pat him and he has enjoyed every one of them. The teachers thought he was amazing and very patient.

My thanks goes to my dogs who have done me proud again, Jack at school and Cassie at Flyball. She is now titled Cassie ADM.JDM.SPD. & AFCh (Australian Flyball Champion). She gained her AFCh at the Royal Show in September of last year. This year at the Royal I officially retired her (she is 13 yrs old) from Flyball. We are very proud to be the feature dog on the AFA website at the moment: www.flyball.org.au/

The Para website is www.paradogtraining.com.au.

I hope you all enjoy your summer break and be safe and keep cool so as to come back refreshed in 2010.

Sharon Page



Head Agility Instructor's 2009 Report

Hi, guys.

It's been a big year for PDODC agility with many titles won and good numbers of people coming out to training each week. We have had two very successful trials this year. They were both well run and made a good profit, so well done to all of those involved.

I would like to thank all of the instructors that have come out each week to volunteer their services free of charge. It is a huge task and at times a thankless task.

Unfortunately I will not be standing for the position of Agility Head Instructor next year, nor will I be instructing. I have not had a break from teaching for some years and feel I need a break from instructing and would like to concentrate on my own dog.

There have been many titles won this year: 6 x AD; 4 x ADX; 4 x ADO; 3 x ADM; 6 x JD; 6 x JDX; 3 x JDO; and 3 x JDM. Congratulations to all of those people and dogs and well done to you. You have earned it.

One point I do have is people criticising instructors. I have been on the receiving end of criticism and have heard of criticism aimed at other people. All I can say is that all instructors are volunteers and, if you can do better, then stand up and show yourself. Negative criticism, or white-anting, is destructive to the positive outlook of the club and pointless, so please either put up or shut up. 'That is all I have to say about that', as Forrest Gump would say.

I am not going to point any one individual out for a pat on the back. There are too many to name and you know who you are. However, there is one person I would like to thank and that is Michelle O'Connor. Michelle, if you don't know her, has a white Staffy called 'Cujo'. She has been a joy to teach. She has reminded me of why we train and trial; a lesson some could learn and others have forgotten. That lesson is to just have fun with your dog and enjoy their company. Michelle just loves coming out to training and the results at trials is not the most important thing to her. Many a night I have struggled to get to training and didn't want to teach, but 10 minutes with Michelle and you couldn't help but smile. She always tries hard and listens to her instructors. Don't you wish you still had that passion?



A big thank you, also, to Michelle's three girls. Every Friday night they have helped set up equipment and were also available to steward and have sold raffle tickets at trials. Well done, guys. Michelle, you have girls to be proud of.

I would like to wish the new Agility Head Instructor and his crew of instructors all the best for the following year. PDODC has long been one of the strongest clubs around and, with our talented panel of instructors, I believe it will continue to be so.

All the best, and thank you.

Julian Stokes

Head Flyball Instructor's 2009 Report

2009 has been a great year for Flyball at PDODC. Para was represented at 4 interstate competitions, 3 SA competitions, along with 2 demonstrations and a "Totally Wild" television segment.

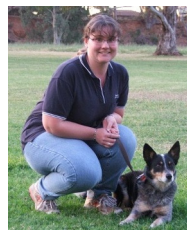
The year started out with two interstate competitions, the first at Canberra in February, then Ballarat in March. We then held our 2 demonstrations at the Angaston Show and the Salisbury Living Loud Event, also in March. The next couple of competitions were held in Adelaide, with the RSPCA Million Paws Walk in May and the Royal Adelaide Show in September. We hosted 5 interstate teams for the Royal Show competition.

In the week following the Royal Show, Para hosted a "Totally Wild" television segment on Flyball, which will be televised and was well supported by members. As October came around, Para had 4 teams (quite an achievement) go to Yarram, south east Victoria, for the annual Best Friends Retreat competition. It was a great weekend.

As 2009 comes to an end, Flyball has 2 more competitions, the first at our home grounds on 29 November (Xmas Flyball Romp III) in which 5 Para teams are entered, the second in December, again at Ballarat, where we have 1 team representing Para.

PDODC had a fruitful year with the following titles gained:

- FD - 7 (Flyball Dog)
- FDX - 6 (Flyball Dog Excellent)
- FDCH - 9 (Flyball Dog Champion)
- AFCH - 8 (Australian Flyball Champion)
- FM - 4 (Flyball Master)



Thank you to my instructors and competition organisers (Martin, Rebecca, Helen, Veronica, Allison, Michelle) for helping make 2009 such a success. Also, thank you to those club members who assisted in helping out during training and also for volunteering to steward for our competitions throughout the year, and to Catherine for judging the competition instead of running her own dogs. Looking forward to another successful year in 2010.

Chrissy Dalla Valle



SECRETARY'S 2009 REPORT

Well, another year has come and gone and a great year we have had.

I would like to thank everyone that helped out this year with trials, the office, canteen, all the instructors and anyone else I have missed. Without these people who give up their time we would not have the club we have today.

I would just like to give a special thanks to Karen Tanner who has helped me out in the role of secretary. Without Karen, a lot of things would not have been done. Thank you very much, Karen.

All our trials were a great success once again this year. Thank you to all our sponsors: Barf, Devondale and Petstock. I hope you all have a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Rachael Fagan

PARA DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB

UNIFORMS



***Embroidered Club Uniforms are available
to all members of PDODC***

***Orders are placed on a monthly basis. If you would like to order club
clothing, please use the order form below and hand in to office.***

Item	Size	Qty	Price
Polo Shirt Kids 4 – 14 Ladies 8-20 Adults Small - XL			\$32.00
Caps			\$12.00
Beanies			\$12.00
Spray Jacket Kids 4-14 Adults XS – 5XL			\$47.00
Polar Fleece Vest Ladies 8-20 Adults S-4XL			\$35.00
Polar Fleece Full Zip Jackets Ladies 8-20 Adults Small – 3XL			\$44.00
	TOTAL		\$

Name:

Contact Ph. No.

LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

‘When Pigs Fly! Training Success With Impossible Dogs’

by Jane Killion

Dogwise Publishing (2007)

If you believe that your dog is impossible to train, or not smart enough to train, you have a "Pigs Fly" dog.

According to Jane Killion no dog is impossible, but many need a different approach from those compliant dogs that are just waiting for the next instruction from their handler. "Pigs Fly" (short for "And Pigs may fly!!") dogs are generally terriers or hounds, who have been genetically bred to be independent thinkers and problem solvers. They tend to enjoy most to sniff or dig, or just laze around, and need a good reason to work for us.

Killion's training method recognises the different characteristics of these difficult to train dogs, and makes use of these very traits as her "hot reinforcers". For example, a "hot reinforcer" for a terrier would be "go sniff" after some good loose-leash walking, or a spaniel may like a dip in a pool of water after some good stays.

She believes that dog training is about "getting into the dog's mind", not just controlling his body, and uses **free shaping** of behaviours, rather than any **luring, corrections, or punishment**.

The author bases her training on use of the clicker, which she describes as 'the power tool of dog training' and a "conditioned joy stimulus"

The book is well organised and has easy-to-follow exercises, with the intention of enabling the handler to understand how the dog thinks and what turns him on. This knowledge is then used to modify any behaviour. Killion speaks from experience as the owner of several impossible bull terriers, who have been transformed by her training methods into obedience and agility champions. The chapters are interspersed by "piggy pointers" which clarify her message further and there are plenty of photos of the author with her dogs, performing the task at hand.

Different from other training books generally available is her emphasis on learning to play with your dog as an ongoing motivator, with the handler becoming the best "hot reinforcer" to keep the dog motivated.

Also novel is her stress on the importance of the dog knowing its name as the most beautiful word in the world. Another priority is for the dog to show undivided attention to the handler, even amid distractions, and she has a fascinating method to teach this.

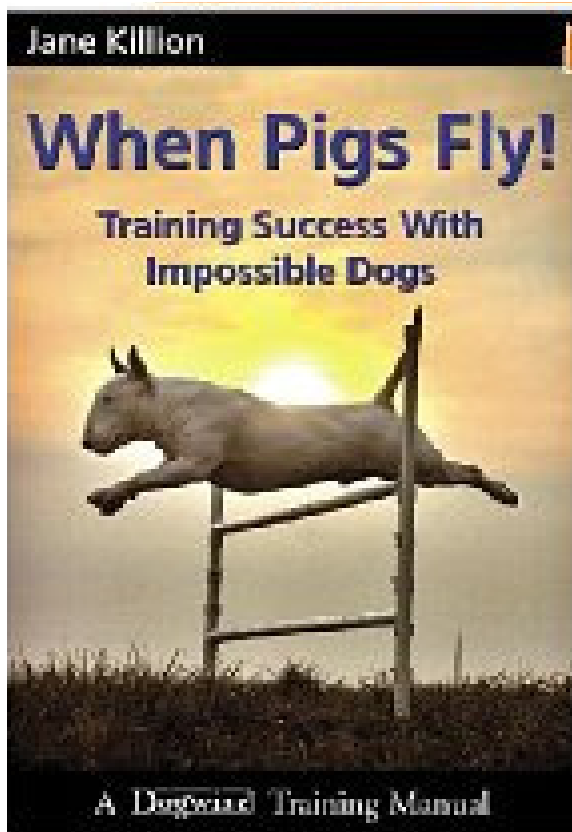
Eventually, in chapter 9, the author gets down to basic behaviours (sit, heel, etc.), which is where most other training books start their Chapter 1. By now the reader understands the process and it seems straightforward.

There is a chapter on retraining problem behaviours, and finally an excellent list of further reading resources.

This book is certainly a fresh and exciting read for the owner of an impossible dog, but the methods apply to all dogs. Even seasoned trainers will find it thought provoking and perhaps the start of a revolution in the way we train our dogs.

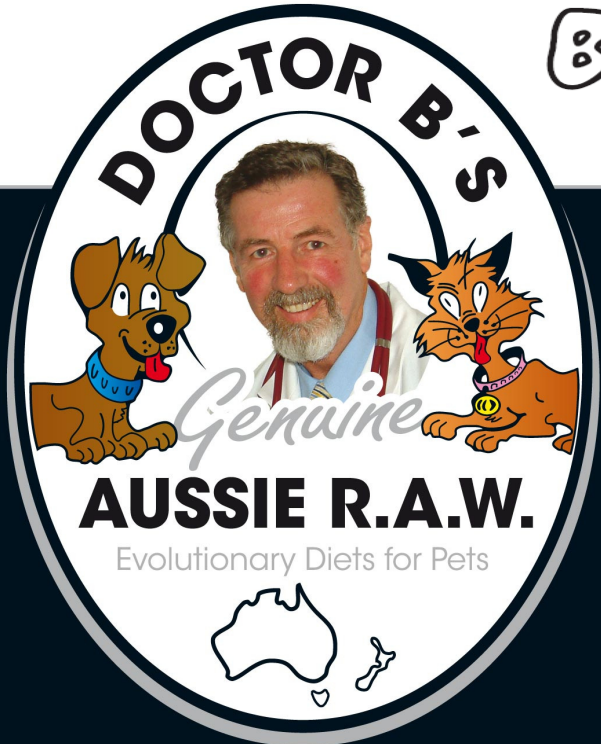
I will want this book on hand next time I train a dog!

by Llana and Neil Hamilton



Support the sponsors who support our club

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DOCTOR B'S

Genuine

AUSSIE R.A.W.

Evolutionary Diets for Pets

Dr Billingham's

R.A.W.

Restoring Animal Wellness

BARF

Biologically Appropriate Raw Food (BARF)

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(see p.23)



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Vaccination Certificates

All persons attending any club activity — Obedience, Agility and/or Flyball — **MUST** present their dog's current vaccination certificate to the office for sighting on renewal of membership.

Para Pics



Para members on holiday at 'Best Friends Retreat', Tarra Valley, Victoria, October 2009, for a flyball competition. ('70s disco night above)



WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS. PLEASE PLACE IT/THEM IN THE EDITOR'S BASKET IN THE OFFICE (clearly labelled on the back) OR EMAIL TO mjstokes@adam.com.au.

Vale

Aussie Jack CDX. ADX. JDX. FDX. The 4 X dog.

It was a very sad day on the 12th of December 2009 when I had to say goodbye to my dearest, loyal and most constant companion, "Jack". He was the sort of dog you couldn't walk past without giving him a pat. He came to live with Cassie and me eleven years ago. He was the most lovable dog you could wish to own. We had a bond that only a dog owner could understand. He was loved by all that knew him and he loved everyone back too.

Thanks to my many friends and dog club family for your kind thoughts, words and understanding of what it means to lose such a special boy.

You will be in my heart and our thoughts forever

***** Rest In Peace, Jack *****

From your proud and loving family

Sharon & Cassie XXXX



Benefits of Pets: Psychological, Emotional & Social Benefits of Animals

In addition to medical benefits, assisting with daily activities and working with us, animals can help us emotionally, psychologically and socially. They help us:

Adjust to serious illness and death

Children often turn to their pet for comfort if a friend or family member dies or leaves the family. Grieving adults who did not have a close source of human support were also found to have less depression if they had a pet.

Be less anxious and feel more safe

Pet owners tend to feel less afraid of being a victim of crime when walking with a dog or having a dog in the home. You can't look at a sleeping cat and be tense.

Relax and reduce everyday stress

Pets can help us relax and focus our attention away from our problems and worries. We do not even need physical contact to appreciate this. Watching fish in an aquarium or the activity of birds can be very soothing. Of course many of us with dogs and cats find ourselves absent-mindedly petting them, which is relaxing for both us and the pet.

Have physical contact

This ability to have something to touch and pet is very important. More and more studies show how important touch is to our physical and emotional health.

Lift our mood

Pets decrease our feelings of loneliness and isolation by providing companionship to all generations. Certainly for residents of nursing homes this is true, but it is also true for the staff and volunteers there as well. Residents of nursing homes are more apt to smile, talk, reach out to people and objects, be attentive and alert, and experience a greater sense of well-being and less depression if animals are present in the facility.

Feel less lonely

Pets can help ease the sense of loneliness or isolation we feel.

Have something to care for

Everyone needs to feel needed and have something to care for. Many elderly citizens or people living alone will tell you their pet gives them a reason for living.

Keep active

Having a pet can help us remain more active. We may not only get more exercise from walking a dog, but we also increase our activity through feeding, grooming, and otherwise caring for our pet.

Have consistency

Pets provide some consistency to our lives. Caring for a pet can significantly affect our routine and gives us something to do and look forward to each day. People may come and go, but our pets are pretty much with us day in and day out.

Have more and better social interactions

Families surveyed before and after they acquired a pet reported feeling happier after adding a pet to the family. A study in a Veteran's Hospital showed that the residents had more verbal interactions with each other when a dog was present in the room than when there was no dog present. Dogs were also shown to increase socialisation among persons with Alzheimer's disease in a Special Care Unit of a nursing home. Residents in long-term care facilities were more likely to attend activity sessions when an animal was going to be present.

Summary

Pets greatly influence how we feel about ourselves and life in general. They are teachers and healers of extraordinary talent.

Source: www.peteducation.com





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Biztek Digital was started by Lyn and Steve Bell in 2002 in Pooraka. As the business grew more room was needed and in 2004 Biztek Digital was relocated to the Clovercrest Shopping Centre where it trades today. Biztek Digital was always envisaged to be a local computer shop providing service and training to the local community.

Biztek Digital only serves Adelaide's North East.

Who could ask for more?

*May the tunnels not have too much suction, May the course
be fun and fast.*

*May your dog not stop to say "hello" to the photographers
they pass!*

*May the table not be too slippery, May the chute house no scary beast, May all
the yellow parts be touched with one little toe, at least.*

May the wind be always at your back, May no bars fall on the ground.

May the A-frame have no stop sign on top, May the judge's whistle never sound.

May your dog obey all correct commands, And ignore the ones that are wrong.

*May your heart be light, your feet be sure and the bond with your dog grow
strong.*

At the finish line, may great joy abound, regardless of your score.

You have your dog, your dog has you, and who could ask for more?



If You Didn't Have a Dog ... or Cat ...

You could walk around the yard barefoot in safety.

Your house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.

All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture and cars, would be free of hair.

When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like a kennel.

When the doorbell rings, you could get to the door without wading through fuzzy bodies who beat you there.

You could sit on the couch and bed the way you wanted without taking into consideration how much space several fur bodies would need to get comfortable.

You would have money, and no guilt to go on a real vacation.

YOU would not be on a first-name basis with 6 veterinarians, as you put their yet unborn grandkids through college.

The most used words in your vocabulary would not be: out, sit, down, come, no, stay and leave him/her/it ALONE.

Your house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates or barriers.

You would not talk 'baby talk'; 'Eat your din din', 'Yummy yummy for the tummy'.

Your house would not look like a day care centre, toys everywhere.

Your pockets would not contain things like poop bags, treats and an extra leash.

You would no longer have to spell the words B-A-L-L, F-R-I-S-B-E- E, W-A-L-K, T-R-E-A-T, B-I-K-E, G-O, R-I-D-E

You would not have as many leaves INSIDE the house as outside.

You would not look strangely at people who think having ONE dog/cat ties them down too much.

You would look forward to spring and the rainy season instead of dreading 'mud' season.

You would not have to answer the question 'Why do you have so many animals?' from people who will never have the joy in their lives of knowing they are loved unconditionally by someone as close to an angel as they will ever get.

How EMPTY life would be!!!

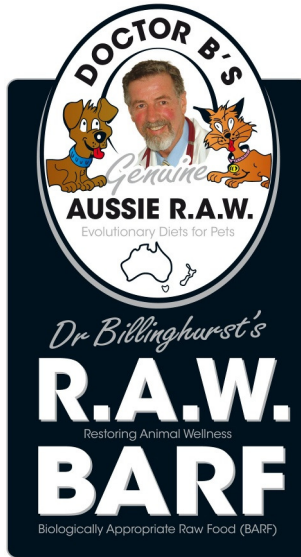
'Until one has loved an animal, part of their soul remains unawakened'



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‘AGILITY THOUGHTS’

by Paul Schroeder

What a drag! I arrive at the trial ground in the morning for a double agility trial in time to set up my gazebo, chair, dog crate, and toilet and vet my dog. I then settle down and wait for my first course to be ready for walking. I catch up for a chat with a few of my agility friends and, oops, nearly get in the way of a couple of people carrying a dog walk into one of the rings – and they seemed to be in a hurry. That’s good, because I have a positive feeling about today and want to get started. I wish they would hurry up.

Finally I get to walk my first course and before I know it I have finished my morning runs, my dog has been toileted again and is lounging in its crate and I am lounging in my chair having a coffee and a chat. Between runs this morning I socialised with my agility friends, read the newspaper and relaxed, waiting for my next run. There is no need overdoing things. Agility runs can be quite strenuous.

The allotted time for the afternoon trial to commence is here and when I look out from under my gazebo, through the drizzle, I see that the judge, with 2 helpers, is setting up her first afternoon agility course. What a pain! We should have started to run the course by now and it isn’t ready. We haven’t even walked it. Oh well, I might as well read my newspaper for a bit longer and relax because it’s going to be a long afternoon.

What’s worse is getting to the end of a double trial on a cold wintery day and sitting in front of the clubrooms waiting for presentation so that you can finally go home. What is taking so long? The blue cards can’t take a judge that long to sign and I know the equipment doesn’t take long to put away. I’ve watched them do it at training. Oh well, it will be worth the wait to be presented with my blue pass card, but I wish they would hurry up!

Has this been you?

Did you know that we have around 80 people enter a trial? If a double trial of Agility and Jumping is conducted in 2 rings, there would be a total of 16 courses to be set up and up to 64 height changes. If it is left up to the judge, stewards and the odd helper to do all of this work (and it often is), the trial is obviously going to take a lot longer than necessary to complete. If each of us triallers helped at least once during the day, the trial would run a lot smoother and faster.

Instead of sitting around chatting to your agility friends, invite them out to the ring to assist the judge. As much as possible, organise yourself so that you can help build a course at the beginning of the day or, at the end of the day, ensure that your gear is packed up so that you have capacity to help pack away the trial gear.

We are all in this sport for enjoyment and we all have a responsibility to ourselves and those around us to help each other to do the best we can. The last thing we want is for people (judges, officials, stewards) to walk away from a trial and say “What a drag!” They might not be willing to participate at that club’s next trial – then who would do all of the work?



Drawing by
Helen Longhurst
Dusty's (Kelpie) handler



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CLASSES ARE HELD EVERY SUNDAY, MONDAY AND FRIDAY FROM FEBRUARY TO NOVEMBER, EXCEPT IN THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- There will be no training in any discipline on a long weekend (where the Friday or Monday is a public holiday).
- Sunday morning classes: If the estimated Sunday maximum temperature for Elizabeth (Channel 9 News, Saturday night) is 32 degrees or higher, training will be cancelled.
- Friday night classes: If the estimated Friday maximum temperature for Elizabeth (Channel 9 News, Thursday night) is 32 degrees or higher, all **NON-TRIALLING CLASSES** will be cancelled.
- Monday night classes: If the estimated Monday maximum temperature for Elizabeth (Channel 9 News, Sunday night) is 32 degrees or higher, training will be cancelled. If the weather is stormy or inclement, training may also be called off.



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Sisko—My Guardian Angel

The night before Christmas Eve (the 23rd) I had two hours warning to go into hospital for a sleep test. My left lung is paralysed and the right lung is packing up as well (more complicated but this is enough to show the problem), and there is the concern that awful things (episodes) can happen at night.

Well, awful things did happen at night at the hospital (lots of times), more so than they do at home and worse than at home (at least that I am aware of) and it was at the hospital that I realised that “Sisko” is the one stopping these bad things from happening – literally.

Sisko has refused to leave my side ever since I became ill with my lungs (August). At night, because of a right shoulder operation, I turn on my left to go to sleep. Immediately I do so he gets up and places himself rock solid with his back into my shoulder blades and his head on my pillow. I used to think it was just cuddling.

Now I realise that he is physically stopping me from turning onto my back – and I do have rather nasty “episodes” once I get on my back. On my side those episodes are very much milder – almost at times not very noticeable.

So young Sisko is a hero in many ways and, most of all, in a way that cannot be trained – instinctively he is helping me.

I always wondered why he stays there, because I do bump him, etc., and when I need to sleep on my other side I am forced to actually wake up, lift myself off the bed and then turn square onto my right shoulder, but there is no room to turn onto my back from there, so to move I have to again lift up totally and turn square onto my left again and there he is still holding me up. He does not move until I say “Okay, move” so that I can get up, then he jumps off the bed, but if I cheat and stay there he comes right back up.

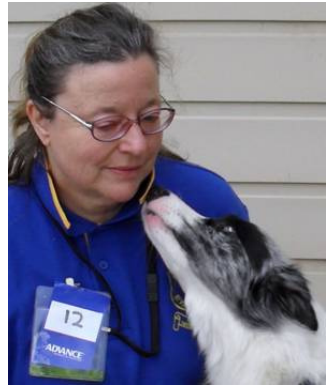
I just thought I would let you know – it was always clear that we were meant to be together – him (until 4 months of age) not being eager to meet others, etc., until I finally decided maybe I should risk growing my family and coming to get him sight unseen, my making that decision, him immediately turning into Mr Social – no hint of his aloofness – I would never have known if I had not been told.

Then we had the time to bond (12 months) – now the illness. It cannot be cured (reversed). If we can finally manage to stop it from getting worse then I can work on making the best of it. I have to give up most of my activities, but Sisko, extremely surprisingly, is adjusting to doing as little or as much as I can cope with.

Irma Crews and the Boys

Postscript:

I did not mention in the story the hell I went through on Christmas Eve trying to avoid going to sleep just in case all this was going to happen again. Eventually I had to put my trust in Sisko – and I woke up on Christmas Day totally exhausted but very much feeling that Sisko and nature had given me a very unique Christmas present – because my “episodes” were their usual milder nature.



Cover Story

Sisko, first and foremost my Pet, my Companion, and unlikely Hero

Hello. A lot of you will have seen Sisko and I either at Obedience training Sunday mornings or Agility/Jumping Friday nights. Sisko's training, and more specifically competing career, has come to an abrupt end at least for the immediate future – so luckily he is a fantastic Pet the a very active helper for me at home – not to mention a hero. Since his trialling career has been brief, I will quickly show you what his nature promised – if we had been able to continue.



CCD Title gained

Sisko had 4 attempts – resulted in 4 qualifications (no failures) and placed 4th, 2nd, 1st and 1st respectively.

CD Title – started

Sisko had only 1 attempt at CD and qualified in 1st place (Para Trial – August 2009). We were entered in 10 more Obedience Trials since then for the rest of the year, but my health meant we had to scratch every trial.

Interclub Obedience Challenge

The week after qualifying for his first CD Sisko represented PDODC at the Interclub Obedience Challenge. Sisko had a bad day (I was already ill) – he did, however, pass (no qualifications because restricted trial) and brought home a 2nd placing for PDODC.

I think we can all agree, but for my ill health, Sisko had a promising future in Obedience. Guess it was just not meant to be.

Sisko, my Friend, Pet, Helper, and Hero

As you can see, I really left the BEST till last. Sisko was like any other dog, worse still, like any other working dog bred on a farm from farm stock; needs to be kept active or else they can be a nuisance. Sisko was pretty true to form – a bit of work to keep out of mischief.

Suddenly I am struck down and suddenly he would not leave my side. For the few times I have gone to training in the beginning of my illness, Sisko suddenly refused to “stay”; he would come with me. Then I did not realise the significance, though I did realise that it only started since I found it difficult to breathe.

Since my health really went downhill drastically, I could barely feed the boys. The rest – well, there is the doggy door – they had to take care of each other.

This is where the wonder dog started coming into his own.

Yes, he NEVER leaves my side, picks up everything I drop, he collects and brings anything I point at. This is only the start.

Since I became ill in August and progressively got worse, Sisko has NOT:

DESTROYED another thing;

DUG HOLES in the garden;

STOLEN things he should not have;

LEFT MY SIDE – day and night;

EXERCISED - he sleeps or lays and watches me 24/7.

I checked with neighbours – no noise while I am out at medical appointments or hospital .

Now it needs to be mentioned, my other boy is likewise no problem, he never steals or destroys things, BUT he doesn't actually physically help like Sisko does. Alexander helps with love, sweetness, gentleness, etc.

I have not repeated the Hero story here which happened on 23/12/2009 to 24/12/2009 when I had a horrifying night in hospital and the realisation what Sisko **is actually doing to keep me safe overnight each and every night**. What a Christmas realisation. I have to say I look at Sisko very differently since that night. In my eyes he is as good as any fully trained Service Dog, only this dog does it all naturally. Kind of makes his withdrawal from trialling pale in comparison. Up until that night I often felt sad that we could not finish his CD, especially since we were there, we would have done well at it, but now Sisko has shown there is so much more to him and to life.

We wish you all a fantastic 2010 and I am very hopeful to be around instructing my class 2 (at times my voice will not be as strong, but I am working at it – big smile).

Irma and the Boys

*'Boys' being Alexander (my soft, gentle, loving, handicapped boy)
and Sisko (my hero)*



Teams of the Month

Congratulations to all members and dogs that won Team of the Month
TOM is awarded to the best team graduating from one class to the next
A little reward for people who put extra effort in

Class 1-2
Cassandra & Norm



Class 3-4
Ingrid & Georgie



Class 2-3
Tania & JT
Dawn & Cooper



Class 4 - 5
Dorothy & Angel

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Class 1-2

Dianne & Bailey

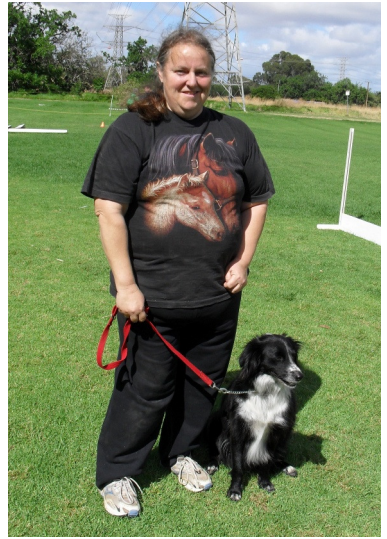
Shirley & Danny

Kim & Bindi

Allan & Roscoe

Jodie & Zahra

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Class 2-3

Susan & Jazi

Kevin & Wilson



Class 3-4

Sam & Jay Bear

Vicki & Dharma

Michael & Hattie

If you would like a colour copy of your Team of the Month photo for \$3, you may request one when your photo is taken.

PARA DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INCORPORATED

General Club Rules

1. Dogs are not allowed in Clubrooms.
2. Bitches in season are not allowed on Club grounds.
3. Dogs may not be off lead unless permitted by an Instructor.
4. Dogs and handlers must not use equipment without permission of Instructors.
5. All incidents of dog attacks (provoked or unprovoked) must be reported immediately to the Head Instructor who will act accordingly. The incident must be recorded in the Incident Report book in the Office. An appeal to the decision made by the Head Instructor may be made in writing to the Club Secretary and the incident discussed at the next Committee meeting.
6. Children under 10 years of age must be supervised by an appropriate adult at all times on Club grounds.
7. If your dog fouls the Club grounds you must clean up the deposit immediately. Poo bags are provided on the grounds. If your dog urinates on a Club building or structure, you rinse it off with water. Containers for water can be provided upon request if none are available.
8. Smoking is not permitted in class or in Club buildings.
9. No alcoholic drinks are permitted in class or in Club buildings.
10. If you arrive late, do not enter your class. Wait until the instructor indicates that you may join.
11. Members must wear sensible shoes – no thongs or bare feet.
12. Any member not in class may not exercise their dog in the vicinity of classes in progress.
13. Please keep dogs well apart to avoid confrontations.
14. All handlers and dogs participate at their own risk.
15. A current vaccination certificate must be presented upon joining or attending a complimentary lesson. It must also be presented when renewing an existing membership.
16. Dogs carrying a contagious disease may not attend training until they are officially cleared in writing by a qualified vet.
17. Abusive or foul language is not tolerated on Club grounds.

18. Your membership badge must be worn in class. Replacement or “I forgot” badges are available from the office.
19. There will be no training for Obedience if the Saturday night forecast for Sunday is 32°C or over for the **Elizabeth area**.
20. There will be no training for non-triallers in Agility if the Thursday night forecast for Friday is 32°C or over for the **Elizabeth area**.
21. There will be no training for beginners in Flyball if the Sunday night forecast for Monday is 32°C or over for the **Elizabeth area**.
22. Any class may be cancelled due to stormy or inclement weather at the discretion of the Head Instructor(s).
23. Sun protection is encouraged for you and your dog.
24. All injuries must be reported and recorded.
25. Class instructors, in consultation with the discipline Head Instructor, reserve the right to send a dog back to a lower class if it is to the advantage of the dog and/or handler.

Full Copies of the Club Rules are available in the office or from the Club website at <http://www.paradogtraining.com>

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After something hard to find or wanting to sell something? Place an ad in the classifieds section of your Slipcollar magazine. Ads must be 25 words or less for a gold coin donation.

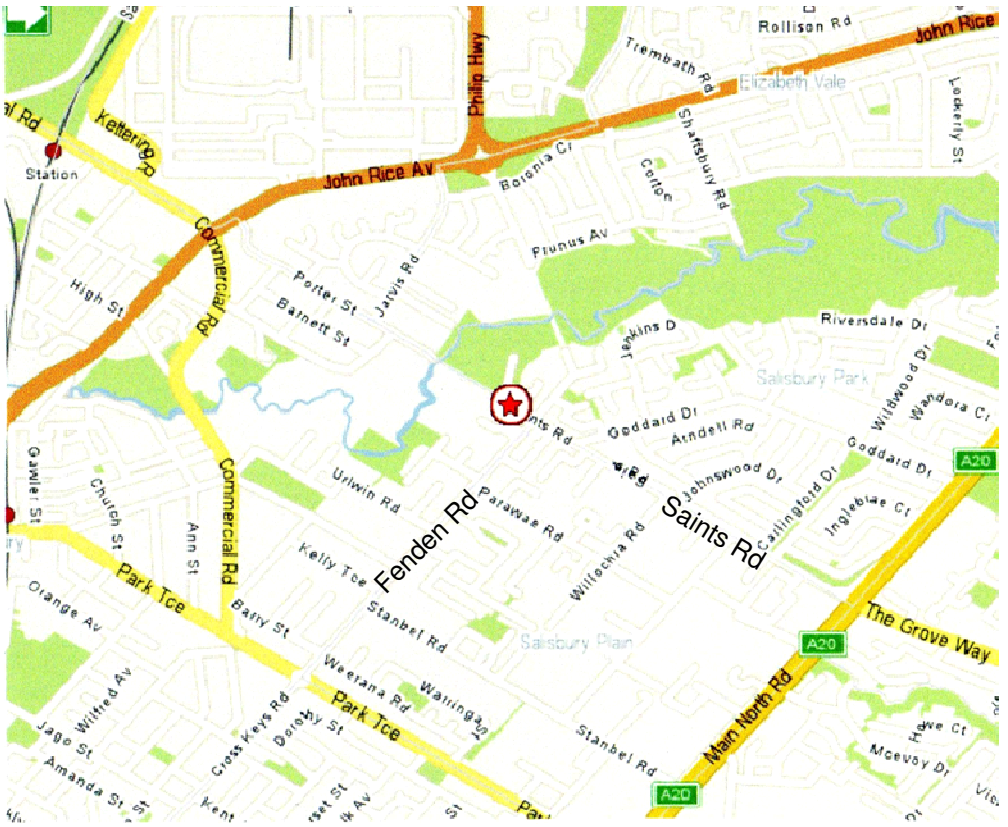
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1/2 page, single issue = \$5

Full page, single issue = \$10

1/2 page, full year = \$30

Full page, full year = \$60



Obedience

Flyball

Agility

Sunday (A.M.)

Monday (P.M.)

Friday (P.M.)

- 8.30 Utility
- 9.30 Puppies, Class 5 & Class 2
- 10.20 Class 6
First timers -
(Information session for handlers)
- 10.30 Learners
- 11.15 Class 4
- 11.20 Class 3
- 11.25 Class 1

- 6.30 Set-up and Dog Assessment
- 6.45 Beginners
- 7.20 Intermediates
- 8.00 Triallers

- 7.00 Puppies/Beginners, Advanced learners & Novice
- 7.45 Learners, Pre-Novice & Open/Exc.
- 8.30 Masters

Articles for submission in 'Slipcollar':

Place in Editor's basket in the office or email to mjstokes@adam.com.au

