

Para District Obedience Dog Club Inc.

ISSUE 3- 2015

# Slipcollar



Winners of the Peter Foord Memorial Trophy, top Novice Border Collie, May 2015.

Valerie McEgan and Kate.

SA Dog  
Endurance Test  
20 June pg 18



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## PARA DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.

### 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 & handlers must not use equipment without permission.
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 must be supervised by an adult at all times on the Club grounds.
7. If your dog fouls on 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.
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 class. It must also be presented when renewing an existing membership.
16. Dogs carrying a contagious disease may not attend until they are 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. "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-trialers in Agility if the Thursday night forecast for Friday is 32°C + for the Elizabeth area. There will be no training for non-trialers in Agility if the Thursday night forecast for Friday is 32°C + for the Elizabeth area.
21. There will be no training for beginners in Flyball if the Sunday night forecast for Monday is 32°C + 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.

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### Slipcollar Classifieds & Advertising

25 words or less, single issue = \$2

1/2 page, single issue = \$5

Full page, single issue = \$10

1/2 page, full year = \$30

Full page, full year = \$60



*All adverts should be emailed to the magazine editor: [leigh@nuskope.com.au](mailto:leigh@nuskope.com.au)* 5

## **President's/Head Obedience Instructor's Report**

Hi all! I hope everyone's enjoying our glorious winter weather. Actually, anyone that knows me will not take that too seriously as they know how much I hate winter, but it is good to see so many dogs and handlers out enjoying training on a Sunday morning.

As I wear multiple hats at the club (many will say they go with my multiple personalities), I am going to do an all-in report rather than two different reports. Firstly, a bit of housekeeping from the committee.

With the large number of dogs now attending the club on a Sunday morning we must all be much more aware of interaction between dogs waiting to go into class as there have been a couple of incidents of late.

We are asking that no dogs are to be left unattended under the veranda and dogs are not to be tied to veranda posts or tethered within 3 metres of the veranda. Also with this in mind we are asking that no-one ties their dogs to the light pole or posts at the canteen end of the veranda. This is a narrow area and has the result of 'funneling' the dogs on the way to class. If you are waiting for class can you wait out on the oval rather than under the veranda if the weather allows, please.

For the puppy handlers we would like you to wait out the front of the green shed, and if you do have paperwork, either have someone hold your dog, or if you do have to go into the office with your dog please wait until there is sufficient space.

We are also not stopping you from sitting out the front of the canteen to have breakfast, just be aware of where your dog is and what it is doing.

With this in mind, why not try crate training your dog? It's very simple and gives your dog a safe and secure place. Most of us that compete crate train our dogs from day one at home and our dogs happily go into their cubbies for security and it gives the owner peace of mind knowing their dog is safe.

We are hoping that people can use their common sense rather than the committee having to put rules in place as a relaxed Sunday is what we are after.

I am hoping that those who have partaken of my pumpkin soup on Sundays are enjoying the fresh soup, but I am at a loss to know why many of my clients think of me and pumpkins at the same time when they give me free pumpkins.

It is unfortunate that we are only able to have the canteen open every second week, but Ben does have to have a life as well and he does a superb job when he's there. If you would like to help out, Ben and committee would be only too glad of the offer.

Agility continues to build in numbers and it's great to see so many new people out on a Friday night. It doesn't matter if you wish to trial or not, just come out and have fun.

It's amazing how many dog sports there are available. We counted over a dozen in Adelaide. One of the sports several of our members have been involved in is Endurance. This is a test for the dogs over 20 km with the handlers riding next to them, which explains all the bikes on a Sunday morning. If you're interested in it, just ask them. They would be happy to help. An Endurance Test was held recently with seven members from Para competing. All dogs completed the distance. Some of these dogs are also competing in bikejoring and sledding now. As I said, don't be shy, go up and ask about it. It may be just what you're looking to do with your dog.

I would like to congratulate Jan Cooper and her dog Banjo for attaining their CCD title in just three trials with consistently high scores. Well done, Jan and Banjo!

We are trying to get more dogs into obedience trialling and I am going to be holding a couple of choc trials (a mock trial with chocolate and treats) during the year. These help with ring etiquette and give the handler some one on one with a judge. They are an invaluable learning tool and will hopefully be a bit of fun.

An obedience instructors' meeting was held recently with all grades being scrutinised. A lot of valuable information was forthcoming, too much to be included all at once, so the first instalment is about the puppy class. It gives an overview of what is expected.

Bye for now. See you all at the club.

## **PUPPIES/BEGINNERS CLASS**

The purpose of breaking Puppies/Beginners class down into 3 levels is to make the teaching of and learning of the basic skills easier and quicker for handler, dog and instructor.

### **Assessment Level**

At this level the dogs will be introduced to some basic equipment; i.e., table, jumps on the ground and a basic tunnel.

Correct collars and leads to be used.

The handler is to establish focus by using either food, toy, and/or voice.

Correct socialisation.

Dogs will be in this level for about 6-8 weeks, depending on ability.

To graduate, the dog must have focus on the handler and have a basic sit established.

### **Puppies 1/Handling Level**

At this level focus should be more established.

The sit should be established.

Heel work will be improving with better position through focus work.

An on-lead recall is introduced.

Correct socialisation is continued.

The drop command is introduced.

To graduate, the dog must have focus on the handler, have a sit on command and a drop on command.

### **Puppies 2/Graduation Level**

At this level the dog should have good focus on handler with an established sit and drop.

Heel work is continued with a change of direction introduced.

A short stay and leave is also introduced.

The stand command is taught.

Socialisation is continued.

On-lead recall is continued.

To graduate from this level, the dog must focus on handler, sit, drop and stand on command.

At all levels of Puppies/Beginners we are looking for a sound understanding and working knowledge of the basic commands needed to graduate into Learners. The dogs do not have to, however, be perfect.

All family members should be encouraged to train the dog, although only one person to handle in class.

The length of time a dog will be in any one class will depend on several things: breed, age, temperament and training schedule away from the club. The main thing is to never judge your dog against another and just have fun.



## **PUPPIES FIRST TIME INTRODUCTION**

### **Collars**

All types of collars are allowed to be used in training as long as they are the right size and style for the dog at that time.

Slipcollar, either chain or material.

Martingale with either chain or material loop.

Flat collar.

Halti, gentle leader or similar type.

Greyhound collars.

No harnesses, except in exceptional circumstances okayed by Head Obedience Instructor; i.e., small puppies, throat issues.

### **Leads**

32-inch-long soft cotton style is preferred.

No chain leads.

### **Food**

Soft food that can be squeezed through fingers.

Every sit, drop, stand, recall, etc., should be rewarded.

Reward can be a ball, tug toy, or whatever motivates the dog.

Treats to be held low, in front of dog's nose.

### **Voice**

Positive when used.

Talk to the dog.

Our motto is 'By Voice and Hand'; i.e. talk to the dog and physical contact.

### **Training Time**

Keep sessions short, have a target; 3 good sits. Go in, get results, then stop.

Play with the dog between sessions.

Keep young dogs cool and relaxed.

### **Socialising**

Get permission from other dog owner.

Not all dogs are friendly.

Nose-to-nose greeting.

Keep leads behind heads to prevent tangling.

No humping or passive aggressive behaviour.

Don't pull in nervous dogs to a group.

Don't allow dogs to eyeball each other.

### **Water**

Water bowls are in shed, water is behind the building.

No sharing to prevent spread of disease; i.e. kennel cough.

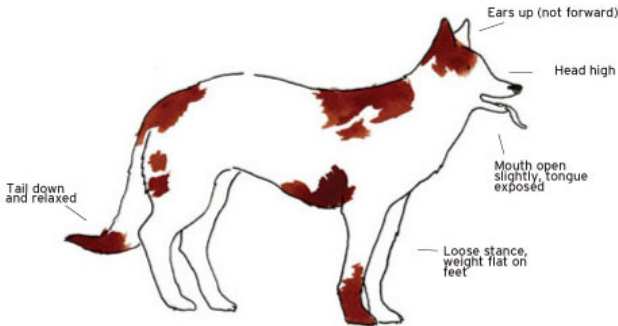
# Dog body language

What is your dog trying to tell you? Dogs have a language that allows them to communicate their emotional state and their intentions to others around them. Although dogs do use sounds and signals, much of the information that they send is through their body language, specifically their facial expressions and body postures.

Understanding what your dog is saying can give you a lot of useful information, such as when your dog is spooked and nervous about what is going on, or when your dog is edgy and might be ready to snap at someone. You do have to look at the dog's face and his whole body.

To help you, I have created a sort of visual version of a Berlitz phrase book to allow you to interpret the eight most important messages your dog is sending to you.

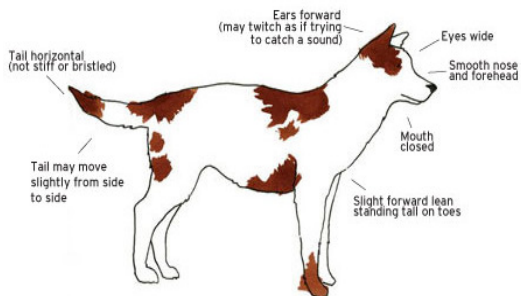
## 1. Relaxed Approachable



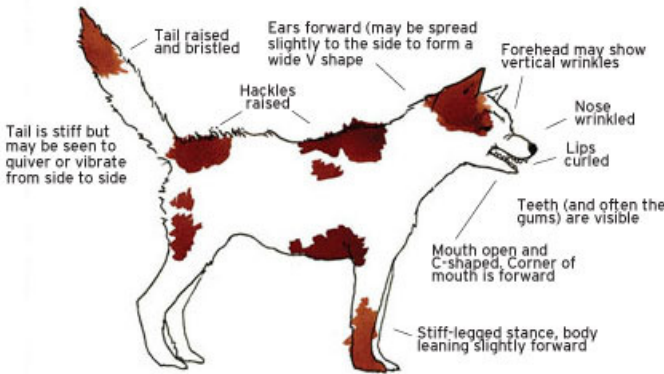
This dog is relaxed and reasonably content. Such a dog is unconcerned and unthreatened by any activities going on in his immediate environment and is usually approachable.

## 2. Alert

The dog has detected something of interest, or something unknown, these signals communicate that he is now alert and paying attention while he is assessing the situation to determine if there is any



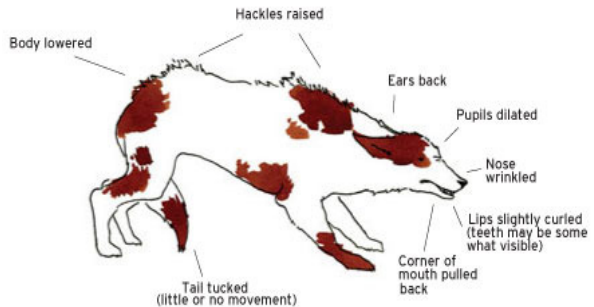
### 3. Dominant Aggressive



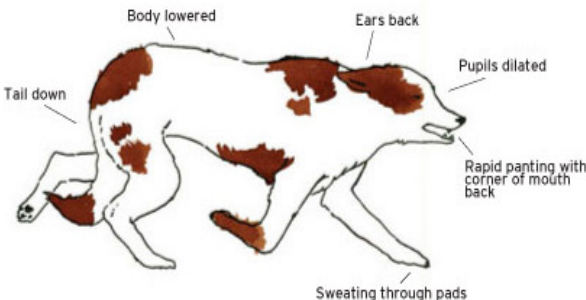
This is a very dominant and confident animal. Here he is not only expressing his social dominance, but is also threatening that he will act aggressively if he is challenged

### 4. Fearful and Aggressive

This dog is frightened but is not submissive and may attack if pressed. A dog will generally give these signals when he is directly facing the individual who is threatening him.



### 5. Stressed and Distressed



This dog is under either social or environmental stress. These signals, however, are a general "broadcast" of his state of mind and are not being specifically addressed to any other

## **Positive Reinforcement: Is it Enough?**

We hear a lot about positive reinforcement training for dogs. I am often told to forget all of the discipline and leadership and only use positive reinforcement. Positive reinforcement is a wonderful thing and I use it all of the time with the dogs, cats, horses, chickens and even the kids and husband. If you do a good thing, I will reward you with a good thing.

Positive reinforcement does not just mean you toss the dog a treat. Giving affection is another way to positively influence your dog to do something good.

You don't even have to hug, pet or sweet-talk the dog for it to know you are happy with it. Dogs can just feel it.

Positive reinforcement works wonderfully, but not all of the time. There are certain situations where rewarding is not going to work. Sometimes you just have to say "no."

### **Does your dog really understand what you want?**

Here is an example: at the vet's office when I was checking out and making my next appointment there was a lady on the bench waiting to be called back with her two Labs. The entire time I was checking out she was having a full human conversation with her dogs in a sweet voice. She was saying, "Now I want you to lie down and stay here. I have a pocket full of treats and I want you to stay here. If you stay here I will reward you and give you this treat. Now you are being good dogs. Even that other dog is being a good dog. Do you see this treat that I have? I will give this to you if you just lie down. Now when this dog passes us and leaves I need you to stay here. See this treat? If you stay here I will give you this treat."

Her talking was constant and she was popping treats into her dogs' mouths. The dogs were staying. They were laying down staring at the treats. The dogs knew that if they stayed there, they got a treat.

When it was time for me to leave and I had to walk past her, however, her dogs jumped up and pulled towards my dog. Did that mean these dogs were bad dogs? No, it was due to miscommunication. The dogs knew they were going to be rewarded for lying down, but no one ever told them they were not allowed to get up. Telling them not to get up is what some would call "negative reinforcement" and apparently in some minds this is bad.

I am sure when I left the owner offered another treat and the dogs laid back down.

A lot of dog issues stem from owners who treat their dogs like humans, but this goes beyond that. Even human children are told "no," at least most of them are.

There are times to use positive reinforcement, but sometimes you just have to say "no" in order to complete the communication. Is this mean? Not at all. Even a mother dog disciplines her pups. In fact the mother dog is very strict with her pups, giving them limits and rules from the moment they are born. Notice I am saying discipline, not punishment. There is a big difference between guided discipline and leadership and a punishment. Dogs should not be "punished" but they do need guidance, leadership and discipline.

Positive reinforcement without guidance, leadership and discipline does not work 100% of the time because you are missing some of the communication. You tell the dog if it does this good thing I will reward you, but you never tell the dog that you do not agree with the other behavior. How is the dog to know what he is not to do if he only knows he gets rewarded for one behavior but nothing is said about the unwanted behavior? Dogs are not complex thinkers. They are very simple.

In my opinion some behaviors should not be rewarded with treats all of the time. Sometimes the behavior should just be expected, for example having the discipline to not pull me on a leash or bolt out my front door when I open it. I expect my dogs to not pull me and I expect them not to bolt. That is discipline. I say, "no, stay" and I say it like I mean it and they stay because they respect me as the one in charge.

Think about it this way: you go to a restaurant with your kids. Do you give them a piece of candy for staying in their seats every time you take them out? Most parents would answer "no, they just have to stay there because they know that is the rule when you eat out." When your kids come home from school do you give them a reward for following the rules in school? For being polite to their teachers? I'm not sure about all parents but I expect my kids to be polite and follow the rules and I do not give them a cookie each day for doing so. Discipline need not be rewarded every time it is followed; it's about manners and respect.

One important thing to remember when using the positive reinforcement method is to be sure you do not associate a dog's bad behavior with a reward. For example, if your dog is barking at a human and you wave food in front of his nose to distract him to get him to stop, you have just associated barking at a human with a food reward. The goal is to distract the dog BEFORE it barks so you are associating the food with a human and no barking.

In sum, while I believe positive reinforcement is a wonderful thing, I also believe it should not be used all of the time in all situations. I believe in a mixture of positive reinforcement, discipline and leadership

Dogs crave leadership. They want to know the rules. You are not doing your dogs any favors by only rewarding the good, and never letting your dog know the other half of the story by asking for man-

## CLASS TIMES AND SESSION INFORMATION

Whether you aspire to gain titles in dog sports or just want to train for fun and to have an obedient dog that is a good member of the community, PDODC offers its members choices, advice and support.

### Obedience Class Times: Sunday Mornings



**8.30am.**Utility

**9.30am.** Puppies/First Timers, & Class 5

**10.20am.** Class 6

**10.20am.** First Timers (New Members) Information Session

**10.30am** Learners & Class 2

**11.15am** Class 4

**11.20am** Class 3

**11.25am** Class 1

#### OFFICE OPENING HOURS

**Sunday**

**9.00am - 11.00am**

A cartoon illustration of a brown dog sitting upright, facing left. It has floppy ears, a red collar with a white bell, and is holding a white sign with black text. The sign is positioned in front of its chest.

**Rally Obedience  
Sunday Morning  
9:15am**

#### **RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED**

*Got any items sitting at home not being used that would be suitable for raffle prizes? Why not donate these items to the club?*

*Donations are appreciated to help raise money for the club at trials held at your club throughout the year.*

*Please deposit in the office.*

## **PDODC Obedience—Class Graduations. What is required of your dog....**

### **Learners—GRADUATION**

- Heel on a loose lead
- “Sit” on command
- “Stand” and “Down” (with guidance)
- “Sit Stay” - at the end of the lead—return to dog.

### **Class One - GRADUATIONA**

- Heel on a loose lead—good positions—still two hands on the lead for guidance.
- Automatic sit
- Good stands
- Steady sit stay and down stay—handler in front. Return to the dog
- Reward the dog
- Exercise finished
- Short Recall—Still on the lead—reward the dog.
- Return to the dog
- Exercise Finished

### **Class Two— GRADUATION**

- Heelwork on loose lead
  - good positions
  - correct hand signals
  - correct foot work
  - precise left and right turns
- Automatic sit—correct heel position
- Steady Sit and Down Stays at the end of the lead
- “Recall” at 3 metres—return to the dog—no finish.
- “Stand for examination” on the lead (with guidance)
- “Finish” (with guidance)

### **Class Three Graduation requirements**

- Heelwork on loose lead—(left, right or both hands on the lead).
  - correct positions
  - precise foot work
  - precise left and right turns



- “Stand for examination” on the lead
- “Recall” at 6 metres—reward—return to the dog—no finish.
- “Stand for examination” on the lead
- “Finish” as a separate exercise
- “Stays” - at a distance of 6 metres
  - “Sit Stay” (one minute)
  - “Down Stay” (two minutes)
  - “Stays” must be steady

### **Class four Graduation requirements**

“Heel on lead” including “figure 8” with correct positions

“Stand for examination” must be steady

“Recall” at a distance of 10 metres—“Return to the dog” no finish

“Finish” as a separate exercise

“Stays” at a distance of at least 6 metres

- “Sit stay” one minute

- “Down Stay” two minutes

“Change of position” at a distance of one metre—“Return to dog” Exercise Finished

“Heel free” (with verbal encouragement and an occasional food treat) including “Figure 8” with at least one halt and one stand without the figure.

### **Fun Class Five**

For members who are not intending to compete in Obedience Trials, but still wish to train their dogs; there is a Fun Class Five. Any member who have graduated from class four OR any member who has participated in class four for a period of 3 to 6 months, may consult with the head instructor to be transferred into the Fun Class, thereby continuing training and enjoying Sunday morning with their dogs.

## **Membership Fees 2015**

**New membership pay an additional joining fee of\$5**

Junior (10-17yrs) \$35

Single \$55

Double/Family \$65

Single Pensioner \$45

Double Pensioner \$55 (Full Pension Card) required

Agility, Flyball and Dances with Dogs classes have an additional cost of \$2 per lesson and \$1 for each additional dog, to cover lighting and up keep of equipment. Membership fees cover a year of training from February to November.

### **PDODC Instructors**

Para District Obedience Dog Club instructors are volunteers willing to give up their Friday nights (Agility) Monday nights (Flyball) and Sunday mornings (Obedience) to help you train your dog. Many owners trial their dogs in one or more disciplines. They volunteer for the love of all dogs and are willing to share their knowledge to help people enjoy the rewards of dog ownership and have fun with their dog.

**Here we introduce the PDODC volunteers who are available if you need help or advice. Just talk to them at the club or contact a committee member.**

A club the size of PDODC is always looking for volunteers. And the club is a community of people who share their skills to benefit its members. So, if you would like to aspire to be an instructor, see one of the head instructors. You are guaranteed a rewarding experience helping others with their dogs and it can help your own training.

## **Instructor's Report - Flyball**

Hi everyone

Flyball had been going great over the last few months

We have grown in numbers and now have three new dogs ready for trialing. .. And a few more coming up the ranks.

Our next flyball comp is at Dover Gardens in August and then it's the Royal.

If you're interest in flyball come out on a Monday night at 6:30 and see me. Your Dog must be a min of 18 months old, able to do a recall and of course love the ball.

See you out there

Cheers

Mary Dalla Valle

## **Instructor's Report – Agility**

As we are getting towards over half way through the year, Agility Training is going from strength to strength with a great turn out every week – even on these cold, cold evenings.

Our trialler's have had success with the last couple of trials. Congratulations to those that have achieved success. Details on titles to come, once confirmed.

At the time of writing this, the State Agility Champs are still to be held. Para is represented in all Agility and Jumping Classes – good luck to all that have entered.

If your dog is at least 6 months old, some basic obedience training is recommended, the beginner class has a set up time of 6:30pm on a Friday evening, come out and have a go!

Chrissy – Head Agility Instructor

## **Para Success at Endurance Test Trial**

Written by Carmel Nottle

On a fresh morning in June, 22 handlers and their dogs descended on the German Shepherd Dog Club in West Beach for the Endurance Test (ET) Trial. The ET requires dogs to complete a 20km run with their handlers either running or cycling with their dogs. The dogs and their handlers travel in single file according to their catalogue number. There is no placing's awarded for the ET, dogs that complete the 20km, pass all vet checks and a willingness test, are awarded a pass and are eligible for their Endurance Test (ET) title. The 20km is paced at 10km/hr and is split into 3 parts: 8km followed by 15 minutes rest, 6km followed by 20 minutes rest, and then the final 6km. The dogs must be cleared by a vet prior to the trial to participate and then also pass a pre-trial check, checks at each of the rest breaks, and a final check 15 minutes after the last 6km. Last but not least the dogs are also required to pass an obedience willingness test at the start and the finish of the 20km. This involves a short amount of heelwork and a recall both of which can be done on lead. It is not a test of obedience as such but more of the dogs' willingness to work for the handler when fatigued.

PDODC was well represented this year with 7 of the 22 handlers representing the club. Most had been training regularly which is why the club on a Sunday morning often looked more like a cycle club than a dog club. After all the initial checks were completed everyone set off in line. Chrissy and Jess lead the way behind the pacer with Jess making sure everyone knew she was not happy about being behind someone. The vet and the judge didn't believe us when we all said that she would bark non-stop, and they were somewhat right. She only barked non-stop for the first 13km, it got a little more intermitted after that.

Jess's barking did make sure that the line of dogs certainly wasn't going to sneak up on anyone unannounced. Tori and Anya were third in line and almost didn't make it to the start line. Anya was fine however Tori started under an injury cloud with a torn hamstring. Vicki and Gienah followed them in position 4, with Michelle and Scarlett in position 5. Scarlett too nearly didn't make it off the start line with a small worn patch being

Thankfully the vet was happy to let her start and monitor it. Mary and Jaye, and Kim and Bear were in the middle of the line at positions 14 and 16 respectively. Bunji and Carmel were in position 22 at the back of the line with Bunji taking on the job of making sure that everyone got back safely. Bunji too had been under an injury cloud leading up to the trial but passed all vet checks to make it off the start line. After 5 weeks of rest it was just a question of if he would make the full distance.

The trial went smoothly and over a period of 2 hours 35 minutes the 20km and all the rest stop vet checks were completed, along with a few un-scheduled toilet stops for the dogs. A few of the dogs had to endure a couple of extra temperature checks which didn't impress them at all but were eventually given the all clear to continue. All the dogs from PDODC then also passed the final willingness test with all 7 that started the trial passing and gaining their ET titles. All of the training not only paid off for the dogs but all of the PDODC handlers also survived the 20km without inci-

**Reminder from the Registrar for P.D.O.D.C. After applying for the title at Dogs SA.**

Please give your qualification cards or (copies preferred) of your qualification cards to the Registrar for recording ASAP. Please put the place, for example: 1st/2nd 3rd that you gained on as well, this year many have been handed in with no placing recorded and that makes it even harder to record the points gained in each discipline.

It is always hard work to round them all up. If you don't hand them to me, you need to leave them in the office with a note on them saying what they are for and who to give them back too. You will only receive a trophy for the EOY if you put PDODC down as your first club, you will receive a badge however if you list PDODC as your second club on your entry form for all disciplines. Games qualifications only receive a badge.

Please give them to me throughout the year as it is not acceptable to save them all up and give them in all at once. I will record them as soon as I can and return them promptly to you.

**Regards Sharon Page:  
Registrar for PDODC.**

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## Prices for Horses

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- \$50...30 mins back pad plus hand unit



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It's the most important thing to teach a dog, but isn't always the easiest. Kate Mornement demystifies recall training. Of all the basic obedience commands people teach their dogs, the recall – the ability to have your dog come to you on command – is by far the most important and often the most difficult to train.

A reliable recall, meaning your dog will come to you every time, has many benefits. It can be used in off-lead parks to avoid confrontations between dogs and can even be a life-saver in dangerous situations such as when your dog encounters traffic or snakes.

So why is a reliable recall so difficult to train? Why won't dogs just come when called? The key to understanding this is to look at the situation from the dog's point of view. The most common situation where we expect our dogs to obey a recall is when the dog is off-lead during a walk or at the off-lead park.

From the dogs' point of view, this is often the highlight of their day, or week, depending on how often they are exercised away from home. There are so many exciting things to see, like other people and dogs, not to mention enticing smells to explore!

Then we decide it's time to go home and we call our dog: "Rover, Come!" We're ignored, so we try a little louder "Roouooooooooover, COME!" Our command falls on 'deaf' ears as Rover continues to explore and play, oblivious to instruction. What happens next?

Next, practice on a long-line at the off-lead park. Again, start in an area where there are few distractions such as other dogs and people. Then, as you progress and if your dog's recall is reliable, gradually introduce distractions.

Once you are confident in your dog's ability to reliably obey the recall command, you can practice off-lead in a safe and secure area. Repeat many times, in different locations and at different times of the day.

**Keep up the treats**—Always reward a dog for a successful recall. While it isn't necessary to have food treats with you at all times, it's important that you have them often enough to keep reinforcing the desired behaviour. If you stop rewarding the behaviour altogether, your dog may find other things (such as continuing to play with other dogs) more rewarding than obeying the recall. This could result in the command being ignored. If your dog obeys a recall under high distraction, such as when there are lots of other dogs and people around, ensure you give an extra special reward. This lets your dog know that it did a really good job.

If you call your dog and your dog ignores you, don't continue to call it over and over, and don't give chase. Wait for your dog to be less distracted and try again.

When your dog obeys the recall command, try to avoid putting it on the lead and leaving the park straight away. Instead, reward it for obeying a recall by allowing it to go off again and play for a minute or two. Repeating this several times will help your dog to associate the recall command with freedom (a positive), rather than 'it's time to leave' (a negative).

**Troubleshooting**—If, at any stage of this recall training process, your dog begins to ignore the recall command, consider what the possible reasons could be. Is the environment too stimulating? Are the rewards you're using rewarding enough? How long has it been since your dog's last off-lead romp. Once you've established the reason, go back a step or two in the training to the last step your dog was previously successful at, and continue through the stages again at your dog's pace. Once you have succeeded in training your dog in a reliable recall there are several things you need to consider. Individual dogs are motivated by different things.

Some are more dog-orientated and some more people-orientated. Some breeds have been selected to have strong hunting, herding or scenting drives, while others were selected primarily to be companions.

In addition, the environment is constantly changing, as are the choices our dogs are faced with. Ultimately we can never guarantee that we will always be more rewarding to our dog than the things it encounters while off-lead. All these things must be weighed up when deciding when and where it is safe to let a dog off lead. The main thing is to teach your dog that all good things come from you, and that every time they obey the



The more obliging dogs eventually wander back to their owners and - clip - on goes the lead.

The more mischievous dogs, often with a case of selective hearing, continue on their way as their owners give chase. This usually turns into a game but eventually they are caught and – clip – the lead goes on.

A similar scenario plays out every time the dog is taken to the off-lead park and, over time, the dog learns that ‘come’ means ‘play time is over, we’re going home’. Is it any wonder that so many dogs ignore the recall command? As owners we often place unrealistic expectations on our dogs.

Make it worth while

As an animal behaviourist dealing with problem behaviour, I often explain to my clients that animals do what is most rewarding for them. For example, in the case of a dog ignoring the recall command at the off-lead park, it’s more rewarding for the dog to continue playing and exploring than it is to obey the recall command, be put back on lead and be taken home.

Dogs are continually weighing up the costs and benefits of their behaviour. People also do this – how many would continue to go to work if they stopped getting paid? Once the reward or incentive is gone the behaviour declines or stops altogether.

So now that we understand a little more about why so many dogs disobey the recall command, how do we go about training them to obey? In theory it’s simple. We must be more exciting and more rewarding than all those people, dogs and other distractions at the off-lead park.

We must make it more rewarding for our dogs to come to us when called than to ignore us and keep exploring. In practice however, this can be difficult.

As with any training, it’s very important to choose a reward that is reinforcing for your dog. What motivates your puppy or dog the most? Is it food obsessed? Will it jump through hoops for a special toy or game? Or is affection your dog’s favourite reward?

Whatever you choose make sure it’s a special treat, something that’s only on offer during training sessions, rather than something your dog gets on

## **Start young**

Ideally, training a reliable recall should begin from a very young age, as soon as you bring your puppy home. Decide what the recall command will be called; either 'come' or the dog's name is commonly used.

If you have an adult dog you can still train a good recall, however it may not be as reliable as it would be if you had trained the behaviour from puppyhood. This is because a dog's previous experiences contribute to its current behaviour.

If your adult dog has always had an unreliable recall this makes it more likely to continue to have an unreliable recall – the behaviour (disobeying the recall command) has been consistently reinforced to the point where it becomes a habit.

A dog that was successfully recall trained from a very young age, on the other hand, has formed the habit of obeying.

**Begin with the basics** Start training the recall inside in a room or space where there are few distractions and keep training sessions short (a couple of minutes at the most). Avoiding distractions in the early stages of training new behaviours will help your puppy stay focused and learn faster.

Call your puppy to you from a metre or two away using the cue you have chosen (that is, 'come' or the puppy's name). Use high value treats and lots of praise and attention to reward your puppy for coming to you. Repeat this many times until your puppy comes to you every time.

Start to gradually increase the recall distance between you and your puppy. Reward the puppy with a high value treat every time it succeeds. Again, repeat many times until the puppy succeeds every time. This is establishing a reliable recall.

**Same trick, different place** Practice the recall training in different areas of the house and gradually introduce some distractions, such as other people, animals and toys. Once the pup is reliably returning on your recall, start recall training outside in the backyard on a long-line. Begin at a very short distance with no distractions and progress to a long distance with several distractions. Repeat many times, rewarding your dog for every successful recall. Once this is mastered, practice the recall in the backyard off-lead, following the same steps outlined above. Re-



## Obedience Graduations

CONGRATULATIONS!

*(in no particular order)*

*Apologies if there are any graduate names not listed that should be. Every effort will be made to ensure they will appear in the next issue.*

### Class 3 - 4

**Margaret & Bonnie (TOM)**

**Karin & Jack (TOM)**

Kim & Bear

Marianne & Kye

Alison & Monty



### Class 4 - 5

**Marianne & Kye (TOM)**

**Margaret & Bonnie**



**Class 2 - 3**

**Rose & Lilly (TOM), Suezi & Chaska (TOM)**

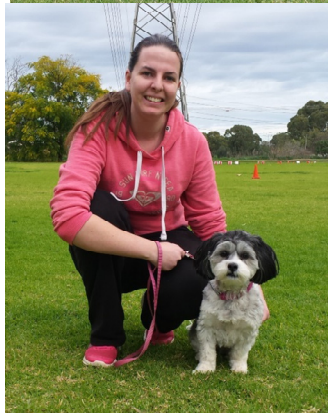
Peggy & Keisha  
Daniel & Logan  
Kelly & Elsa  
Stewart & Bear  
Sarah & Winter  
Karin & Jack  
Luke & Amber  
Franca & Max



**Class 1—2**

**Sandra & Penny (TOM), Mel & Fielder (TOM)**

Franca & Max  
Rose & Lilly  
Kelly & Elsa  
Lesley & Garnet  
Tracy & Benji  
Karin & Jack  
Megan & Ruby  
Murray & Allie  
Linda & Karma  
Rick & Bubba  
Graham & Chase  
Shaun & India  
Karen & Sheeba  
Barry & Nala  
Peggy & Keisha  
Neil & Shadow  
Melissa & Sabre  
**Brenna & Molly (TOM)**  
Emma & Rumble



### **Obedience Graduations: For Your Information**

**Grades 1 & 2 are graduated on the first Sunday of the month  
Grades 3 & 4 are graduated on the last Sunday of the month**

*However*, this may not be possible every month due to HOT weather, long weekends, rain, inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances. So there will be exceptions made if and when, there needs/ has to be.

*Please* help your instructor in every way possible by not complaining when you don't graduate to the next class, there is usually a good reason why your graduation hasn't taken place. Your instructor will be able to tell you the reason why, and then you can work on what has held you back, in readiness for the next scheduled graduation.

### **PDODC Agility Class Times Fridays (pm)**

6:30pm Set-up

7:00pm-7:45pm New Dogs, Puppies and Non Triallers

7:30pm Set-up Triallers

8:00pm-9:00pm Triallers

If the estimated Friday maximum temperature for Elizabeth on channel 9 news, Thursday Night, is over 32 or higher, there will be no training.

**There will be no training on a long weekend for all disciplines where the Friday or Monday is a public holiday.**

### **PDODC Flyball Class Times - Mondays (pm)**

**6.30pm** Set-up and Dog assessment

**6.45pm.** Beginners

**7.30pm** Intermediate / Triallers

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**Dr KAREN HEDBERG (BVSc)**  
Veterinarian, Dog Judge, Breeder  
Author: The Dog Owners Manual  
ANKC Chairperson Canine Health & Wellbeing Committee



**KAYE MCGHIE (B.Bus)**  
Nutrition Specialist with Mars Petcare  
Lecturer: Companion Animal Nutrition  
International Conformation Judge  
Breeder & exhibitor  
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**ROBERT HUMPHREYS (BSc)**  
National & International  
Animal Chiropractor



**STEVE AUSTIN**  
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## Your Itinerary aboard the Explorer of the Seas

Date	Destination	Arrive	Depart
2nd Dec	Sydney, Australia	Boarding as per ticket	1900hrs
3rd Dec	Cruising		
4th Dec	Cruising		
5th Dec	Bay of Islands NZ (Tendered)	11:00	19:00
6th Dec	Auckland NZ (Docked)	07:00	18:00
7th Dec	Tauranga NZ (Docked)	07:15	17:00
8th Dec	Cruising		
9th Dec	Wellington NZ (Docked)	08:00	18:00
10th Dec	Pictou NZ (Docked)	08:00	18:00
11th Dec	Cruising		
12th Dec	Dunedin NZ (Docked)	08:00	18:00
13th Dec	Dusky Sound NZ (Cruising)	13:00	14:00
13th Dec	Doubtful Sound NZ (Cruising)	16:00	17:00
13th Dec	Milford Sound NZ (Cruising)	21:00	22:00
14th Dec	Cruising		
15th Dec	Cruising		
16th Dec	Sydney, Australia		06:00

## Cruise prices start from:

Interior	\$2235 pp Twin Share	Price includes 14 nights cruising around NZ with Explorer of the Seas in your own cabin with private facilities, all shipboard main meals (excluding private restaurants) all port/govt. taxes, all Dog lovers seminars and activities, and most on board entertainment
Outside	\$2685 pp Twin Share	
Balcony	\$3165 pp Twin Share	

## Cabins and seminar spaces are limited.

**Book early to avoid disappointment**

**For more information or to book, visit: [activitydogs.com.au](http://activitydogs.com.au)**

Email: [activitydogs@gmail.com](mailto:activitydogs@gmail.com) or ph: Valerie Bulte - 0407128232

Disclaimer: The Event Coordinator makes the disclosures contained herein in good faith. Although the Event Coordinator has endeavoured to provide complete and accurate details in respect to the cruise the Passenger acknowledges that he/she will participate in the cruise after making his/her own enquiries to satisfy himself/herself in relation to all aspects of the cruise and the participation in all or any activities/seminars, organised by the Event Coordinator, to take place during the cruise, and the Event Coordinator accepts no liability for any loss or damage or any responsibility in the event that the cruise does not proceed or that any of the activities/seminars, outlined herein, are varied in any way, or do not proceed.

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All items are available for sale on Sundays at Obedience training. Please feel free to try clothing on your dogs for size. Please just ensure that they are dry and relatively clean. ©

If you would like to purchase an item please pay Ben in the canteen.





# PAWS 4 MASSAGE

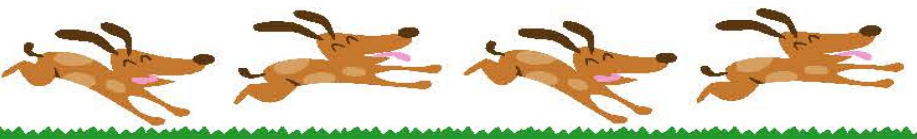
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## PARA DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB UNIFORM

**Contact person – Linley Nicholson**

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 it in to the office.

Name:..... Contact Number .....

Item	Size	Quantity	Price
<b>Polo Shirt</b> Kids 4 – 14 Ladies 8 – 20 Adults Small - XL			\$28.00 \$32.00 \$32.00
<b>Spray Jacket</b> Kids 4 – 14 Adults XS – 5XL			\$45.00 \$47.00
<b>Polar Fleece Vest</b> Kids 4 - 14 Ladies 8 – 20 Adults S – 5XL			\$33.00 \$36.00 \$36.00
<b>Polar Fleece Full Zip</b> Kids 4 - 14 Ladies 8 – 20 Adults S – 3XL			\$30.00 \$50.00 \$58.00
Caps			\$12
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$</b>

### ITEMS FOR SALE AT PDODC

All items vary in price and can be purchased on Sunday mornings during office opening hours. Tug Toys, Dumbbells, Liver Treat Bags, Slip Collars, Martin-gales, Clickers, leads and collars in different sizes and colours.