Dog Talk News

ISSUE 03/2023 **A well trained dog is a happy dog**

Bayside Companion Dog Training School

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@BCDTS

bcdts_

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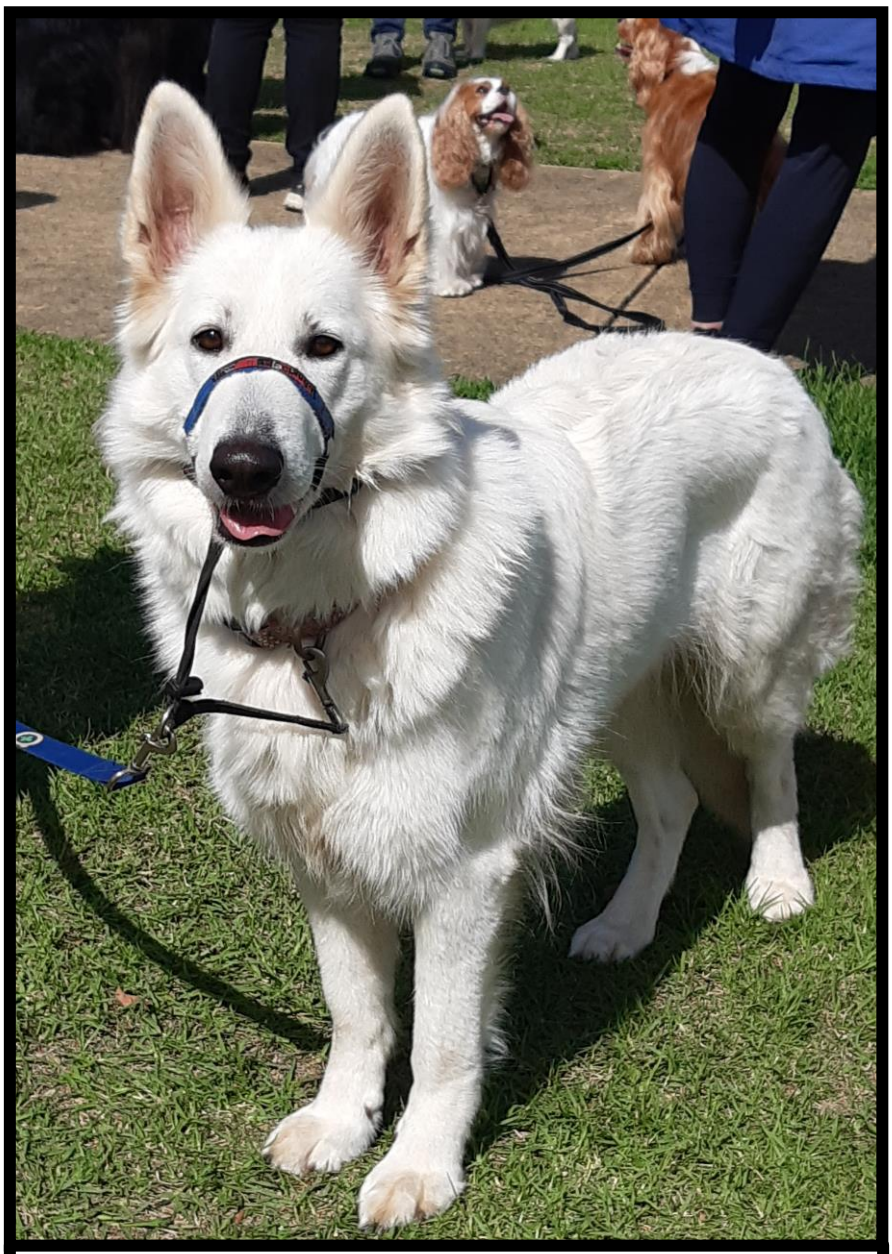

OUR TRAINING TIMES & PLACE

Venue: Hodgson Reserve, Higgins Road, Bentleigh
Times: Thursdays 10:45 am
Sundays 9:45 (White & Yellow)
10:45 (Green & above)

New Memberships & Renewals: Registration 30 minutes before class.

Photo Comp entries closes 1st Oct 2023

Committee:

Committee members 2023:
Marion Bower, Barry Gilbert, Dianne Ishac, Debbie Lack, Terry Lack, Helen Musgrave, Sue Fleming.

Office Bearers:
President: Terry Lack
Vice President: Barry Gilbert
Treasurer: Marion Bower
Secretary: Debbie Lack

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Ground Rules

For everyone's comfort and safety we have some useful ground rules and guidelines.

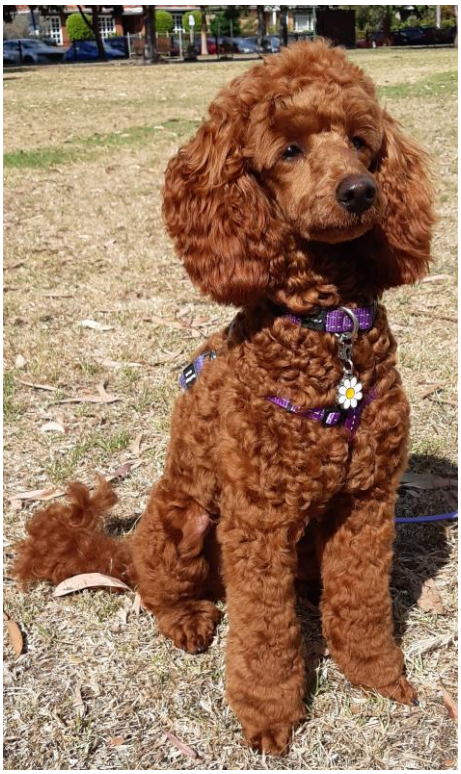
- Do not allow your children to approach any dog/puppy without asking the owner's permission. If permission is given, always supervise your child's interaction with a dog.
- Please keep children off the agility equipment.
- Always ask the owner's permission before interacting with a dog. If patting keep your hand low and pat the dog under the chin, not on top of the head.
- Avoid loose clothing, and bags as these can get in the way when training.
- Enclosed footwear must be worn at all times.
- We welcome multiple family members to participate in class but only one person can be the handler at a time. We ask that any additional family members watch from the side. You are welcome to change handler during class.
- Please understand that no Instructor or Helper is authorised by this club to give veterinary advice. We do not recommend any brand-name products and we advise you to consult your vet for information regarding your dog's health or comfort.
- You are required to immediately clean up after your dog. Lined red plastic buckets are provided.
- Please remember to bring your own treats to training.
- Give dogs with yellow ribbons some space

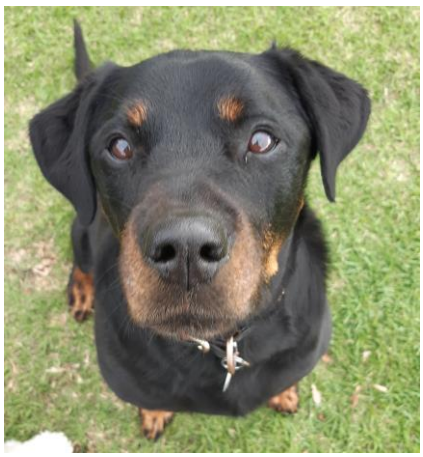
Upgrades

How do you get an upgrade?
Your Instructor will determine when you and your dog are ready to tackle the next level. An upgrade is given to the Handler/Dog team, with clear emphasis on the understanding of the handler. If you feel that you are ready, don't hesitate to ask to be considered for an upgrade at the start of class

Special Congratulations to those who graduated to Blue class

- Doran Berger & Whisky
- Peter Ryan & Tilly
- Tahnee & Billy
- Kevin Long & Teddy
- Jo Leaper & Adonis





Dogs & Bones

If a dog shares a household with other dogs or young children, give it bones in the garage. When the bone is finished, ensure that all scraps are disposed of carefully. It is best that the dog is not able to bury or hide bone scraps to be dug up later. A dog that is possessive of a bone scrap could turn on a young child or another dog.

Dogs & bones & kids don't mix!

Two dogs & bones don't mix!

Q: What do these people have in common?

- A financial analyst, a courier, a landscape gardener, a book-keeper, a location scout, a cook, an election manager, a photographer, a doctor, a teacher, a dog groomer, a dog walker, a retiree, a scientific researcher, a childcare worker, an events manager, a retired flying instructor… and more!
- **A: They all help out at BCDTS!**

Are *you* able to help?

- BCDTS is run by volunteers for the benefit of all members and the community. There are many little ways that all members are able to help out. Perhaps you are able to arrive a little early before class to help set up equipment, or to stay a little later to help pack up? Sweep the floor? Contribute to the newsletter? Become an Instructor?

All help is greatly appreciated!

Vale Lorraine Lack

Mum (Lorraine) was a very special person to our family and kept us all together and in line in her gentle, nurturing way. She was a very kind person and only ever thought of everyone else and as long as they were happy she was. So many pups came through our house over the years and they were very lucky to have been loved and cared for by her.

She was a very important part of BCDTS for many years, looking after all the stock orders, new memberships, banking, answering the phone, emails and many other things.

I know she loved being in the office chatting with everyone and keeping updated by everyone with their news.

She struggled for many years but never complained and BCDTS definitely kept her going as she always needed to be there to help out.

Thank you everyone for all your support at this very difficult time.

Love Debbie and the Lack Family xxxx

ENTRIES WANTED

BCDTS Photo Competition

We decided to rename our photo competition and ill once again seek the best dog photos taken by you, the members. Entries close on 1st October 2023.

Enter your favourite photo of your dog (taken by you!)

1. Place a print into the box at the BCDTS office with your name, phone number and dog's name written on the back.
2. Submit via email to info@baysidedogs.org.au, including the dog's name.

Asami – 2022 winner

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Dog Park Etiquette

For many of us, one of the pleasures of having a dog is being able to visit an off-leash park or beach to enjoy the company of other dogs and owners in a relaxed manner. However, like any social situation, it only remains relaxed and enjoyable if everyone (human *and* canine) is considerate of others or, to express it more formally, obeys the "**park etiquette".** (These "manners" are required to ensure that everyone can enjoy the park; even more critically, your dog needs them to remain safe.)

Paying good attention to the behaviour of dogs at the park might reveal something surprising: many dogs have poor social skills! Owners may not be aware that all dogs don't instinctively know how to behave in groups. Dogs learn their code of conduct through interactions when young, but many miss the early lessons and may struggle to learn the skills, such as knowing when a look means to back off.

Puppy socialization starting at 8-12 weeks of age is the best way to start, to teach the pup that other puppies of different sizes and breeds are nothing to fear. They also learn the signs that signify "go away", such as a yelp or a stare. Puppy playgroup is a great introduction to puppy play and socialization. The puppies are allowed to play but are interrupted every few minutes where the owners have their puppies come when called to receive a treat reward. Then the owner keeps the pup focused on them for a little while (perhaps playing focus games such as repeat SITs.) Once the puppy is clearly focused on the owner for a short period the pups may play again as a reward. This game teaches puppies that interruptions are good and assists the owners to manage the play.

Although puppy classes are a great start, social skills may still not be complete. Many dogs still need to learn the proper way to play and greet. Many outgoing puppies are overly friendly and think that every dog is glad to see them. However, they shouldn't just go running up to an adult dog, or rush up and crowd an unfamiliar dog or even a shy dog.

My Dogs Friendly…

We've all heard the phrase called out "It's OK, he's friendly" when an off leash dog runs over and jumps all over you or your dog. A rushing or enthusiastic advance is not always safe. A shy dog will take it as a threat and may run if he can or growl and lunge to protect himself. Even a confident, mature dog might prefer his off-leash walk in peace and react badly. Just because your dog is friendly does not mean that the other dog will be. Many dogs need their space, they may be shy, scared, reactive, aggressive, in training or injured. Always respect the wishes of the other dog and owner.

For the slightly fearful youngster or adult dog, there is hope. You can teach him that good things happen to him when he's around other dogs. This can be done by either giving him treats when other dogs are near or by having him perform alternate fun games where he focuses on and is rewarded by you when other dogs are near. (Such as is done at dog school.)

There is a range of manners your dog requires to be a socially-acceptable park dog. These manners don't come easily to all dogs, and some owners may need to work a little harder to help their pet achieve them. Some of the commands we teach at BCDTS are critical to a safe and enjoyable off-leash park experience. These include **COME** (the recall), **CLOSE** and **NO PLAY**. Additional commands that will help keep your dog safe include **YUCK**. These commands and preliminary training are important for any park session, but they must be backed up with adequate supervision. While off-leash parks can be great playgrounds for canine socialization and play, without proper supervision fights can break out or other dogs and park users injured. Luckily physical injury is relatively rare, but sometimes the damage may be psychological, giving a terrorized dog a fear of other dogs. The responsibility for bad interactions and fights generally lies with the owners. Every owner needs to watch the behaviour of their dogs and other dogs.

So, what “rules” or guidelines should be included in any consideration of the “park etiquette”?

Etiquette for dogs

- Don’t bound up to other dogs, hurtling out of nowhere
- Don’t bound up to humans, hurtling out nowhere*
- Don’t jump on other dogs uninvited (or their humans, ever). Never “hump” other dogs.
- Don’t go within 20m of a playground, picnic setting or sports game or practice*
- Stop playing or chasing with another dog if it’s not enjoying the game
- Back off if the other dog indicates it wants space
- Don’t run up to an adult dog, or rush up and crowd an unfamiliar or shy dog

Etiquette for Dog Owners and Walkers

1. **Supervise your dog!** Your dog needs constant supervision; you cannot be distracted by chatting or using your phone. Your eyes must be on your dog all the time. It is also important to keep an eye on the behaviour and body language of other dogs at the park.
2. **Pick up after your dog* –** enough said!
3. **Don’t let your dog dig.** The park is used by many people. It’s not nice to twist an ankle stepping in a hole left by a dog.
4. **Keep moving.** Keep moving around the park paying attention to your dog’s interactions. (Avoid standing and gathering in a group to chat; this leads to situations where dogs may fight or get into trouble.) Also, by moving around and engaging with your dog, your dog is learning that the park is a great place to play and focus on you, immeasurably strengthening your bond. Moving furthermore assists in avoiding troublesome situations and will keep *your* dog better behaved.
5. **Ask whether your dog can play with another dog.** Check the appropriateness of a potential play companion. Talk to the walker and gauge whether the dogs are likely to play well together.
6. **Ensure that your dog shows manners.** Yes - this involves supervision and control*. It also involves watching the body language of all dogs involved. (Are all dogs relaxed and comfortable? Are all humans in the area relaxed with the situation?) For safety reasons or if asked it may be necessary to recall your dog, or put it on the lead. (You must ensure that you have voice control of your dog. *)
7. **Watch that your dog is not standing over other dogs, their toys or pestering owners with treats.** This involves use of commands such as YUCK and the recall. If your dog has a problem with “resource guarding”, ask for advice.
8. **Collars only.** Remove additional training equipment (such as gentle leaders and harnesses) that could get caught during play or have components that could injure another dog.
9. **Female dogs that are in heat.** Keep them away from the park; enough said.
10. **Keep your dog away from playgrounds, picnic areas and sporting competitions or practices.** (At least 20m*)
11. **Carry a lead with you. ***

*The “manners” marked with a * are not only considerate and good park etiquette, they are also the law! Check your council website for further information.

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A Lifetime of dogs. So far….

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole. Here are the seven dogs that have helped make my life whole.

Sandy – Rottweiler cross 1961 - 1962 Sadly he was baited over our back fence at Geelong. My only photo with him clearly indicates he was responsible for kick starting my love for dogs at an early age.

Goldie – Beagle 1963 - 1967 Goldie was an older rescue from the Lost Dogs Home. He was very sweet and your typical beagle often digging under our back fence, escaping to explore new scents in our neighbourhood hence he was captured by the dog catcher on several occasions.

Rolly – Labrador 1967 - 1980 A chubby puppy, hence his name. Rolly loved to play fetch, chasey, dress ups and go for rides in the wheelbarrow. Rolly was with me throughout my entire school life. He was friends with our rabbits, and cat. He never matured until age 13. Rolly was affectionately known as our fleabag as there were no spot on flea treatments back then, only useless flea collars or powders. He was never taught to heel (not that we bothered to teach him) so he always took us for a walk pulling all the way and sounding like somebody sawing through a piece of wood. Rolly was a happy, healthy boy that preferred the outdoor life and only behaved like an adult during his final year.
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Sultan – German Shepherd 1981 - 1994
Several months without a dog was all I could take so I drove to a German Shepherd Breeder and came home with Sultan. Perhaps I should have checked with my parents first but he was mine and we all adored him. He attended several obedience classes at the German Shepherd Club and learned all the basics perfectly. Sultan was the only dog I felt 100% safe with to walk at night as he would give a warning growl to anybody he deemed a possible threat and they would immediately back off and give us space. Sultan loved to play fetch, he would groan with sheer delight if you massaged inside his ears and he would push his nose skyward and howl if he heard a police car or ambulance long before we could hear them coming. Sultan wins the award for shedding the most. I could brush and pluck him for an hour most days and easily fill a supermarket bag full of his hair. I should have spun and knitted it all.

Sugar – Shetland Sheepdog 1996 - 2009 My first female dog from a breeder. After 5 months at BCDTS I was faced with the dilemma of Terry wanting me to become an instructor or a friend wanting me to join up for Obedience Trials. Sugar and I spent eight years training hard and doing obedience and agility trials all over Victoria. I retired Sugar after gaining seven Obedience & Agility Titles including a 20km Endurance Test. She once demonstrated her herding instinct at the beach by rounding up 10 dogs onto a sandbar and kept circling making sure they didn't put a foot in the water. Sugar's special tricks were High 5, High 10, speak on command, fetch over jumps, scent discrimination work, directed retrieve, an instant drop on recall and if you shaped your hand like a gun and said "Bang" she would lie down dead.

Mitch - Shetland Sheepdog 2004 - 2013 A four year old ex-show dog from Sheltie Rescue. Mitch's excitement of having his own girlfriend was immediately squashed by Sugar pointing out they will be friends only. Mitch's dislike of men, teenage boys, border collies, golden retrievers, thunderstorms and cats were eventually overcome. Mitch was a peacekeeper. Sugar had endured countless dog attacks but now Mitch protected her. Mitch would rush to any dog fight, quickly assess who attacked who then proceed to nip the attacker in the legs regardless of its size, and herd it to the other side of the park. Mitch could high 5, back up, roll over, as well as growl, speak and sneeze on command. Sugar would growl and nip Mitch on the neck any time he failed to come when called. Mitch and Sugar were part of the Shetland Sheep dog exhibit at the 2007 & 2008 Caulfield Pet Expos. Both dogs were trained not to go on carpet, couches, beds, nor into bedrooms and loved going on holidays.

Yuki – Japanese Spitz 2013 – 2023 Tinker was a 4 year old RSPCA rescue and our second female dog. It was mutual love at first sight and she got on well with Mitch. We changed her name to Yuki (Japanese for snow). After exploring our yard and house we walked Yuki to our park. She heeled beautifully until we headed home when she pulled me all the way back to our front gate already knowing where home was! Mitch sadly passed away 6 weeks later. Yuki was happy being our only dog so we didn't seek another companion for her. Yuki would often lie with front paws crossed after carefully licking each one and wiping her face with them like a cat.

Yuki was very nervous of people and dogs approaching her. She was scared of thunderstorms, automatic doors opening, grates in the footpath moving as you walked on them, shop awnings flapping, toast popping up in a toaster and wanted to chase birds and cats. All this took time to overcome and included four times where she ran scared onto roads and up streets. Upon my return from a holiday, Yuki became my shadow and followed me everywhere. I used this to my advantage and finally tried taking her off lead at the park and at dog training. She no longer ran away if she got scared or nervous but remained close to me.

Yuki didn't care for fetching balls or playing with other dogs but was happy to socialize with them. She loved doing zoomies everywhere which possibly took its toll on her cruciate ligaments. Both needed surgery eventually. Yuki had numerous health issues throughout her life making her our most expensive dog.

Thanks to mobile phones, Yuki has the most photos and videos of all my dogs and travelled regularly within Victoria and NSW.

Yuki was definitely a challenge initially but all the hard work paid off and she became the beautiful, calm, friendly, sweet demo dog many of you knew.

Vale Yuki 2009-2023

My fluffy shadow has gone but the beautiful memories will last forever as they have with my six previous dogs. Untrained or trained, there was no favorite. I am so fortunate and thankful they were all part of my life. Di Ishac - BCDTS instructor

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THE ANIMAL REHOMING SERVICE

The Animal Rehoming Service is a Bayside based registered charity which has found loving, permanent homes for over 5000 animals of every description, since it was established in 2000. We now concentrate on dog rescue and rehoming but are happy to refer people with other animal needs to relevant rescue groups.
We're on 0409213131 and happy to help!
Find us on
https://www.facebook.com/TheAnimalRehomingService
https://www.instagram.com/the_animal_rehoming_service/?hl=en
and our available dogs are listed on
https://www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/rescue-groups/3516/The-Animal-Rehoming-Service

Donate

Our Vet

happy, healthy Pets

Did you know that Our Vet Moorabbin recently re-opened with a new vet team on board? Dr Neil and his team are now taking bookings for all vet services.

All new clients will receive $20 off their consultation.

Don't forget to ask the team about Complete Care, our annual wellness program to keep you pet happy & healthy year round.

We offer a range of veterinary services that include:
Health checks and vaccinations
Microchipping
Desexing
Full surgery and anaesthesia
Radiograph
Dental Care
Cat grooming (under sedation)
Parasite Control
Prescription diets

Phone: 03 8540 9955
Address: 288 Centre Dandenong Road, Moorabbin

Terry's Tips

Is your dog obeying you at the park? Respecting you? If not, then it is time to really reinforce the basics.

- Do a doggy aerobics routine before meal times. (Make a little training part of the mealtime routine)
- Make sure you include an on-lead walk at least 2 or 3 times a week.
- Make sure that the dog is the last through a doorway or gate and last into or out of the car. (With the obvious exception of the human shutting the car door!)
- Don't leave the food bowl lying around. After a few minutes, or when the dog has finished eating, remove the bowl.
- Make your dog wait for the command "take" before taking any food or treat.
- Make a bit of training part of every walk and every visit to the park. Only a few minutes training during outings can make a big difference.
- Ensure that your dog uses good dog manners – eg sitting nicely before being given a treat etc

Remember variety is the spice of life so mix it up and have most importantly **HAVE FUN**

Do you have questions that you would like addressed in our newsletter? Let me know your suggestions. Your Instructor or the team in the Office will point me out. We are always looking for interesting stories or photos so let us know your ideas!

Barry Gilbert