Dog Talk News

ISSUE 04/2023 **A well trained dog is a happy dog**

Bayside Companion Dog Training School

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@BCDTS

bcdts_

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Christmas Food

Frankie, Bailey & Monty

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.

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

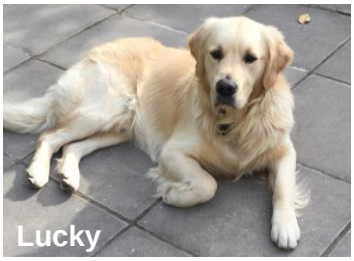
- Chloe Winduss & Billy
- Kate Greaves & Reggie
- Garry Roff & Luna

Graduates to Red Class

- Jade Kirsch & Kai
- Robert Butcher & Sheba
- Jo Leaper & Nala

Graduates to Gold Class

- Robert Butcher & Sheba


Lucky

Billy

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 … and more!
- **A: They all help out at BCDTS!**

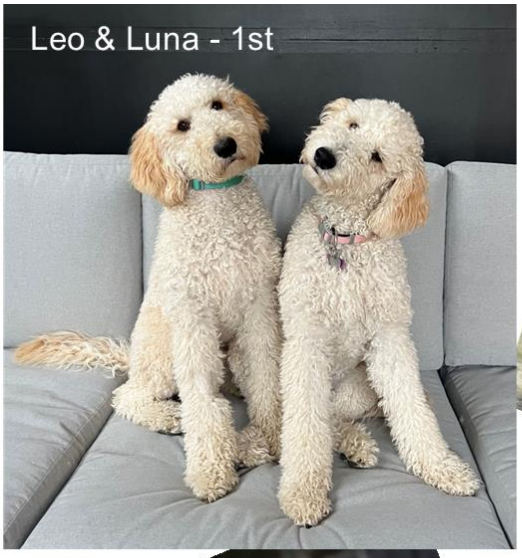
Are *you* able to help?

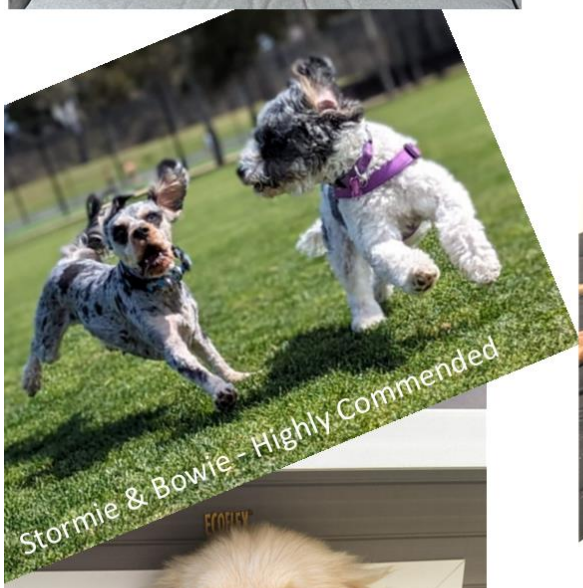
- BCDTS is run by volunteers for the benefit of all members and the community. There are many little ways that all members are able to help out. Perhaps you are able to arrive a little early before class to help set up equipment, or to stay a little later to help pack up? Sweep the floor? Contribute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

All help is greatly appreciated!

BCDTS Photo Competition 2023

A big thank you to all the entrants in this year's photo competition. The quantity and quality of the photos made the judging very difficult. All photos in this issue of Dog Talk come from entries in the competition. Here are the winners.





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Dog Socialisation

As a dog owner you will hear a lot of talk about “socialisation” of your dog. Often this is a poorly understood concept.

Training and socialisation starts in the litter, the mother dog will start to teach them what behaviour is acceptable and what behaviour will not be tolerated. She will not endure excessively boisterous behaviour at feeding time and she will not allow excessively rough play that may harm other puppies. When you bring your puppy home you need to take over the responsibility for guiding the puppy in its exposure & interactions.

Don’t confuse exposure with socialisation, they are not the same thing. Socialisation is teaching them about the world around them, deliberately creating new and positive experiences with all the sights, sounds and smells your pup will come across during its life.

A well-socialised dog feels comfortable, confident and at ease in the world – and that comes as much from our guidance as it does from exposure and interactions. You will need to teach your dog what is right and what is wrong. They are in a world that they don’t understand and having brought them into your home, it is our job to guide them and provide the training that keeps them safe, secure, content and well behaved.

Proper socialization will cover several main areas

- Animals
- People
- Handling
- Experience
- Surfaces
- Noises

Fluffy dogs

Animals – Big dogs, little dogs, fluffy dogs, cats, birds, rabbits…. The list goes on.

People – Adults, Children, Toddlers all move and react differently so each will be a new experience for your pup. Sunglasses, beards, hi-viz vests, helmets, cyclists, skateboarders, people with crutches, prams, walking sticks or in wheelchairs etc, people using umbrellas….

Handling – Being touched (body, ears, paws etc), wearing coats, wearing a collar, nail clipping, bath time…

Dogs in cars

Experiences – Visiting the vet, parks, other people’s houses, grooming, elevators, riding in cars, visiting a café, local sporting events, being left alone…

Surfaces – Tiles, carpet, floorboards, mud, grass, sand, puddles, pavement...

Noises – Vacuum, hairdryer, traffic (cars, trucks, garbage truck, trams etc), Sirens, alarms, fireworks, thunder, doorbell, a ringing phone...

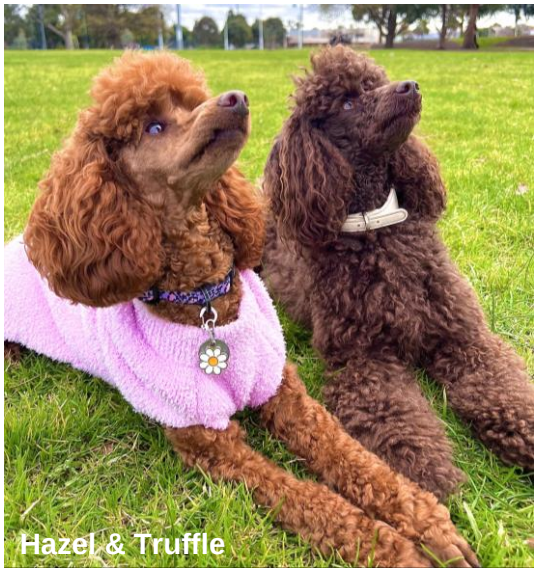
Barney McCool

This list is nowhere near exhaustive, but gives you an idea. All new experiences should be paired with something fun and exciting, whether that is treats, a game of tug (ensuring you win,) or something else your pup likes. You are trying to create a positive association with things so hopefully when there is another thunderstorm for example they are not scared because they associate thunder with play and having fun or training.

The greatest misconception about socialistion is that it is all about your pup meeting and playing with every dog they meet and greeting people with joy. If you allow this they will expect it throughout their life. Playing with every dog will not make your dog more social and it can have consequences as many will struggle to pay attention to you, the owner when other dogs are around.

If you encourage play every time you see another dog, your dog may assume this is what you want every time he sees another dog. This playful approach can been seen as rude by other dogs and may be dangerous. Not every dog likes to be greeted and may want to be left alone. A better approach would be for you to engage your pup in play or with treats when other dogs are at a distance. Allow play with only a few dogs that you know and keep any meetings with strange dogs short and move on quickly, before any reaction, either positive or negative from either dog. Teach your pup to trust and focus on you as the source of fun, safety and security. Hopefully in the future you will have a dog that will look to you if they are unsure about something and not take it upon themselves to deal with it by acting out, which is what you are trying to avoid.

Socialisation is best done before 13 weeks of age. If your pup is still unvaccinated at this time carry them or use a dog pram to prevent contact with unknown, possibly unvaccinated dogs. If your dog is older, it's never too late to socialise them, it may just need to take some extra time to break old habits and build a strong relationship based on respect and trust with your new dog. Don't force interactions that are scary for your dog, start slow and built the exposure and positive associations.



Hazel & Truffle

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

McTavish

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Festive foods and dogs

It's that time of year again. Time for celebrating and spending time with family, including our furry family members. If your dog is paying no attention to you and has his eye on the food that might fall from the table please be aware of the dangers that might be found on the table this festive season.

Chocolate – I love chocolate and I'm sure you all know that it is dangerous to dogs if ingested. The darker the chocolate the worse it is for our dogs. Chocolate contains Theobromine which can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and in the worst case, death.

Grapes, Sultanas and Raisins – The main ingredient in Christmas cake and Christmas pudding, are toxic to dogs and can cause vomiting, diarrhea and kidney failure in 50% of cases.

Onions & Garlic – Often cooked at a barbecue and used as an ingredient in stuffing and gravy. These can impact the red blood cells possible leading to anemia.

Macadamia nuts – These are poisonous to dogs and best avoided at all costs.

Xylitol – This artificial sweetener is also known as Birch Sugar and is found in lollies, gum, toothpaste and many baked goods. Even in small quantities it can lead to seizures, liver failure and death.

Cooked bones (including the ham bone) – These can splinter, causing obstructions or perforations in the bowel.

Ham – Way too salty for dogs.

Alcohol – Alcohol affects dogs in much the same way as it does humans however dogs are much more sensitive to it than us and in large quantities it can prove fatal.

Apart from the above please don't let your dog indulge in lots of leftover goodies. An over indulgence of fatty foods can lead to pancreatitis (an inflammation of the pancreas) causing pain, discomfort and vomiting. It can become a life long condition in some dogs, so please be careful.

BCDTS is closing over the Christmas / New Year period.
Last training day – Sunday 10th December
First training day of 2024 – Sun 14th January

All the staff and trainers wish you and your dogs a happy and safe festive season.

Griffin

Daisy & Friend

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Charley

Mango – How many toys can I carry?

Nelson

Thank you to all entrants in our recent photo competition. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing your entries come through each day. All Photos in this issue of Dog Talk were entries in the recent photo competition.

Terry's Tips

Hand commands are a more powerful tool than voice commands – dogs respond better to our hands and bodies than to our words. Use your hands to give commands and to provide direction to our dog. Pay attention to your body language as well as what you are doing with your hands and feet. When training, ensure that any clothing (such as a jacket) is not flapping and obscuring your body movements. However, your tone of **voice** is a powerful tool.

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
- Timing of rewards and corrections is so important to your communication with your dog, it must be immediate. So, get a bumbag for your treats. Fast and easy access, no digging in the bottom of your pocket or plastic bag, taking too long for the treat to mean anything to your dog.

My favourite saying – A command is <u>always</u> followed by another command. If you ask for a sit, for example, your dog should sit until it hears another command from you. It does not matter if this command comes in 1 minute or 1 hour. If your dog breaks position correct them and keep going. If you don't want your dog waiting for another command make sure you use your relax word.

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

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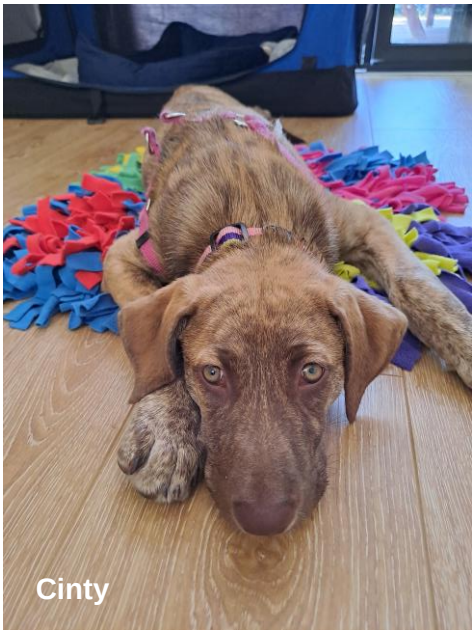
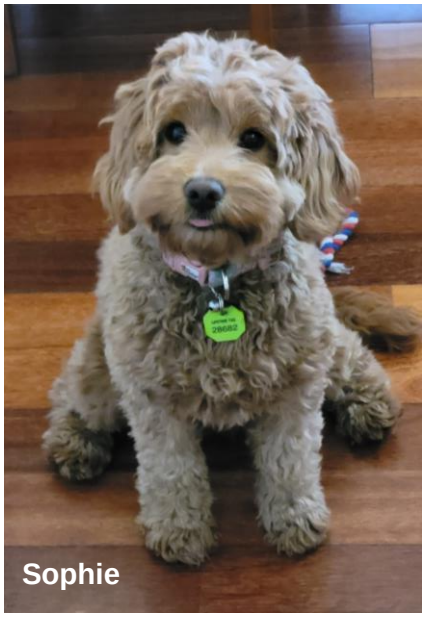
Wynston & Milly

Ruby


Cinty

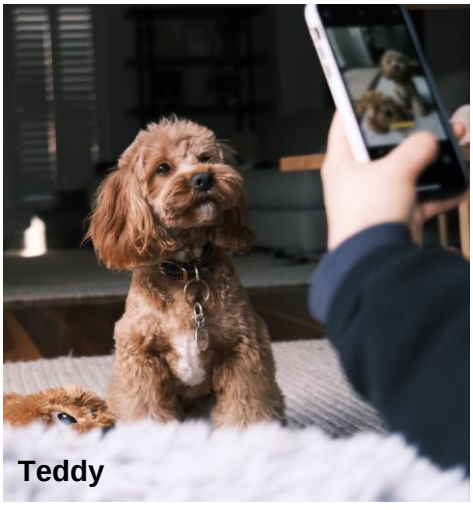

Sophie

Evie

Kevin

Gracie

Bruiser


Teddy