Dog Talk News

ISSUE 01/2026 **A well trained dog is a happy dog**

Bayside Companion Dog Training School

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@BCDTS

bcdts_

Up Coming Event

Bayside Companion Dog Training School

Annual General Meeting

Sunday March 1st, 2026

The clubs annual general meeting will be held in front of the clubrooms at 12 pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Committee:

Committee members 2026:
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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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.

Newsletter available in colour on our website

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Ground Rules

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

- It's recommended that children not approach any dog/puppy without asking the owner's permission. If permission is given, always supervise your child's interaction with a dog.
- Please supervise children near the agility.
- Avoid loose clothing, and bags as these can get in the way when training.
- Please ensure enclosed footwear is always worn.
- 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 not 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.
- Be sure to clean up after your dog. Lined red plastic buckets are provided.
- Please remember to bring your own treats for training.

Give dogs with yellow ribbons some space

BBQ's and Dogs

It's always good to have a BBQ with family and friends, but what we love may not be good for your dog.
Here are some risks to be aware of

-Cooked bones-
Any cooked bones can splinter and cause internal damage.

-Kebab Skewers - can splinter and puncture wounds to the mouth and gut.

-Sausages. - can contain high amounts of fat and can cause diarrhoea.

-Seafood Shells. - Dogs should not consume the shells of prawns, mussels and oysters.

-Onions. Anything in the onion family. This includes garlic, shallots, chives etc.

-Alcohol should never be given to dogs. Their livers struggle to break down alcohol leading to damage that can be fatal.

Always supervise your pet around the BBQ and be careful of hot fats and liquids.
Never feed hot scraps or food from the burner
When you have finished your BBQ always clean up the scraps, rubbish and any leftovers so they are not consumed by any dogs.

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 can't 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!.

Grass Seeds and Dogs.

With the warmer weather, we are faced with the possibility of grass seeds attaching to our puppies.
Grass seeds often have sharp, barbed tips that allow them to attach to the fur and penetrate skin, ears, eyes and paws.
Early detection can prevent severe health issues like:

- Abscesses or infections under the skin
- Ear infections
- Eye injuries
- Paw and pad irritations
- Respiratory problems from inhaled seeds.

How to Check for Grass Seeds
1. Paws - Examine between each toe and pad for seeds or signs of redness and swelling
2. Check their fur - Run your fingers through your dog's coat, focusing on the belly, legs, and armpits. Use a fine-toothed comb to remove any seeds that may be caught in fur.
3. Inspect their ears- Lift the ear flap and look for redness, discharge, or swelling. Dogs may shake their heads or scratch at their ears if a seed is lodged inside.
4. Examine their eyes - Look for redness, tearing, or squinting. Seeds can scratch the cornea, so any signs of irritation should be addressed promptly.
5. Check their snout Watch for sneezing, nasal discharge, or pawing at the nose. Seeds can sometimes become lodged inside the nostrils, causing discomfort.
6. Monitor their behaviour
Your dog could give you signs of discomfort from grass seeds, so be sure to look out for: limping, discomfort while walking, or frequent licking of a particular spot.
Check regularly to prevent grass seed issues.

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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 but never yell at your dog.

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.

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. 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.

Q: What do these people have in common?

- A courier, a book-keeper, a location scout, a chef, a photographer, a teacher, a dog groomer, a dog walker, a retiree, a childcare worker, an events manager, a nurse… and more!
- **A: They all volunteer at BCDTS!**

<u>Are *you* able to help?</u>

- 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 can 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!

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Summer Heat and Dogs

Summer is here and we have had should always be aware of how our dogs are affected by the heat. Heatstroke is the worst condition that happens with extreme heat and is also known as heat stress or hyperthermia. Dogs do not respond to heat and regulate their bodies temperature like we do. We have sweat glands that help us keep cool, but dogs only have a few in their feet and rely on panting and external air temperature to lose heat.

Every dog is different, but some dogs are more prone to heatstroke than others, these are

- Extremely young puppies and elderly dogs
- Brachycephalic breeds- the squashed faced dogs such as pugs bulldogs and boxers.
- Those with pre-existing medical conditions such as breathing difficulties, heart problems etc,
- Overweight dogs
- Excessively exercised dogs
- Dehydration

Signs of heat stroke

- Excessive panting and drooling
- Restlessness
- Bright red gums and tongue
- Increased heart rate
- **Contact your Vet if your dog's condition worsens with any of the following**
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Lethargy and weakness
- Disorientation and confusion
- Muscle tremors
- Collapse Seizures and unresponsiveness

If you suspect your dog is suffering from heatstroke, move them to a cool, shaded, well-ventilated location. Use cool water, **not chilled water or ice water** to dampen your dog to cool them, use a hose or whatever you have available. Then use a fan on your dog as this stimulates evaporative cooling, which is how we humans cool down. Encourage your dog to drink cool but **not chilled water or ice water** as this makes things worse. When you are able take your dog to the vet who can assess the severity of the heatstroke and provide treatment.

Prevention is better than a cure.

It is easier to prevent heatstroke than treat it, you can help by

- Keeping your dog cool in a well-ventilated space, if your dog is outside, have access to shade.
- Provide plenty of clean drinking water
- **Never** leave your dog in a car, it can take as little as 6 minutes for a dog to die in a hot car
- Avoid exercise in hot weather. Walk your dog in the morning or at night when it is cooler
- Radiant and reflective heat. Avoid walking of concrete asphalt and sand, as these surfaces can burn the pads of your dog. If unsure check any surface with the back of your hand before you go for a walk.

Puffer Fish and the Beach

Off to the beach? It is always a great place to visit with our family including our dogs. There can be some hidden dangers lurking at the dog beach. One such danger is Puffer fish also called Blowfish. Autumn represents the end of the life cycle of the puffer fish and are washed up on shore creating a risk for our dogs and to us. They contain neurotoxins which if ingested can quickly cause vomiting, drooling and lethargy and eventually leading to seizures and paralysis if not treated. Puffers can cause poisoning if chewed, or licked even after it has died, so it's important to keep a look out for them. Other dangerous items you may find are hooks and fishing line, seaweed and kelp which can cause intestinal blockages which will lead to a visit to the vet.