



Belconnen Dog Obedience Club Inc.



Session 1 Assessment Day



A Note from the President



Welcome fellow dog lovers.

It is hard to believe that we are entering the fourth month of the year and have started Session 2. I have visited a number of the Session 1 classes and have enjoyed watching both humans and dogs learning together and enjoying their classes.

I lost my oldest dog last December and I now have a new puppy. I am looking forward to joining many of our new members in class, as we learn how to develop the relationship with our dogs, and teach them how to live in harmony with humans and other dogs.

There have been some changes to the Committee. John Riley and Max Darvill have resigned due to health and family reasons. We thank them for their hard work and know they will continue to assist the Club in many ways. Sally Berridge has joined the Committee and we welcome her most warmly. Sally is an obedience instructor, is also the Newsletter editor and still finds the time to train her dogs in obedience, agility and now flyball! We are very pleased that she can find time for the work of the Committee.

The plans for our underground water tank have finally received approval. If you see some heavy equipment around the front of the Clubhouse, work will have started.

As a result of a Federal Volunteers grant, the Club now has a bain marie (most useful for feeding officials and volunteer stewards at trials), a new barbecue (great for sausage sizzles on assessment days), and will soon have a new outdoor table.

Please remember that class training times are reverting to both 9.00 and 10.00 am starts on Sundays (see p. 3).

Work continues on the revision of our obedience syllabus. This is a huge task and I am very thankful that so many volunteer instructors are finding time to undertake this important task, in particular, Jay Arthur, Sally Berridge, Paul Cartwright, Meryl Causebrook, Patricia Looker, Kristin MacAuley, Holly Rieger, Shirley Stewart, and Lucy Williams.

The theoretical part of an Obedience Instructors Course will be conducted on the weekend of 4th and 5th April and has been organised by Charlie Giles. Without our volunteer instructors, our Club could not operate. But to conduct an intensive course takes commitment from many of our instructors. Thank you to Suzanne Van Strien, Pauline Murphy, Patricia Looker, Anne Lewis, and Charlie Giles for giving up so much of your time for this important event.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to give us even a small amount of time, please tell the office and have your name placed on the list. You might like to indicate where your interests lie (e.g. gardening, watering, office work, a bit of 'housework', helping at trials, etc.).

Happy dog training.

Barbara Brown

President

bbrown@webone.com.au

BDOC Committee

President

Barbara Brown

Vice-President

Elaine Temby

Treasurer

Maki Koyama

Secretary

Jan Horley

Committee Members

Ray Leckie

Jenny Stott

Karl Newport

Dai Thomas

Lucy Williams

Cliff Brock

Sally Berridge

Office hours

Thursdays 7–9 pm

Sundays 9–11 am

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Session dates 2009

	<i>Session 1</i>		<i>Session 2</i>		<i>Session 3</i>		<i>Session 4</i>		<i>Session 5</i>	
	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Sun</i>
<i>Week 1</i>	29 Jan	1 Feb	2 April	5 April	11 June	14 June	6 Aug	9 Aug	8 Oct	11 Oct
<i>Week 2</i>	5 Feb	8 Feb	16 April	19 April	18 June	21 June	13 Aug	16 Aug	15 Oct	18 Oct
<i>Week 3</i>	12 Feb	15 Feb	23 April	26 April	25 June	28 June	20 Aug	23 Aug	22 Oct	25 Oct
<i>Week 4</i>	19 Feb	22 Feb	30 April	3 May	2 July	5 July	27 Aug	30 Aug	29 Oct	1 Nov
<i>Week 5</i>	26 Feb	1 Mar	7 May	10 May	9 July	12 July	3 Sept	6 Sept	5 Nov	8 Nov
<i>Week 6</i>	12 Mar	15 Mar	14 May	17 May	16 July	19 July	10 Sept	13 Sept	12 Nov	15 Nov
<i>Week 7</i>	19 Mar	22 Mar	21 May	24 May	23 July	26 July	17 Sept	20 Sept	19 Nov	22 Nov
<i>Week 8</i>	26 Mar	29 Mar	28 May	31 May	30 July	2 Aug	24 Sept	27 Sept	29 Nov	29 Nov
<i>Assessment Day</i>									(Sun)	
<i>Public holidays</i>	<i>Mon 9 Mar Canberra Day</i>		<i>Fri 9 April, Mon 12 April Easter</i>		<i>Mon 8 June Queen's Birthday</i>				<i>Mon 5 Oct Labour Day</i>	

Training times Session 2

Obedience

Thursdays:

Levels 1, 3 and 4 at 7 pm

Level 2 at 8 pm

(Level 4 covers Novice and Primary Companion)

Sundays:

Levels 1 and 3 at 9 am

Levels 2 and 4 at 10 am

Agility

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 6.30–8.30 pm

Flyball

Tuesdays 6.30–8 pm and Sundays 8–9 am

Newsletter contributions

We try to publish a newsletter at the beginning of each session. Photos and articles are most welcome. We can only put in what we get! If pictures of an event are missing from the newsletter, it is because we haven't had any! Also, of course, there is limited space, too. Please take some photos at training sessions, agility and flyball, and other events, so we have some good records and can show others what we do.

If your photo or article is not original (i.e. if it is not taken or written by you), please ensure copyright is not being violated. We cannot reproduce photos or articles unless specific permission is given by the author. We can refer to websites.

It would be very helpful if photos were sent separate from the text, as JPEGs or TIFFs, and not embedded in a Word document. Word seems to cement them in there so they cannot be moved, resized or otherwise changed. Also, a brief caption separate from the image (e.g. photo x is ...) would make it much easier for the editor to put the right words with the right pictures!

Please send your contributions to:

Sally Berridge

Email: sallymb@homemail.com.au

Phone: 6241 7001



News from the committee

Grounds

You will have noticed an improvement in the grass cover of the paddocks lately, and this improvement is set to continue in the coming months. Karl and Jenny have been working hard to improve the surface. Even after watering and the recent rain, the grass is very clumpy, so they are getting quotes from grass specialists to perhaps instigate a regular program of maintenance.

Meanwhile, you will notice that certain areas will be fenced off from time to time for re-seeding. Please be patient while this is happening, and keep your dogs off these areas while they regenerate.

This period will also mean reduced availability of the paddock for trials etc for the time being.

Water tank

Karl is also managing the installation of a 90 000L capacity rainwater tank that will be put in at the front of the building, so watch that space! Fencing will be erected soon: the tank will be poured on site.

Website

Maki has moved our website to a new webhost, and is improving and updating the content. She informs me that the Session Three Information Pack is now iuploaded and can be accessed at <http://www.bdoc.asn.au/2008Sessions.html>

Yes, it says 2008: the hyperlinks must be changed, and this will happen in due course.

Maki hopes to create a planning team for the website, if you are interested, contact her at the BDOC email address. Your help will be welcome.

Library

The library has been catalogued by Suzanne Darling and moved to the instructor's room. It will soon be in shape for borrowing again. Thanks, Suzanne for your many hours of work.

Clubhouse

The clubhouse is now being cleaned professionally once per month.

Classifieds

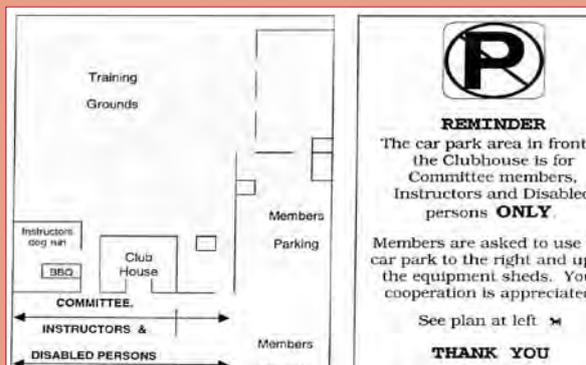
We have decided to offer members the opportunity to put short classified advertisements in the newsletter, in the spirit of re-cycling and re-using. We envisage these would be for dog equipment etc, and would be free for members. We can also offer advertisements to commercial concerns. The cost for these will be negotiable if a discount is offered for BDOC members. For others, it will be \$100 per page, and proportionally less for smaller ads - e.g. \$10 for 1/10page, \$50 for 1/2 page. Please send any ads to the office Email address above as Word documents or PDFs.

Belconnen Dog Obedience Club Inc.

For your attention: club etiquette

1. Car parking

The area in front of the club house is reserved for the instructors and committee. Please see the diagram below. If you would like to use this space to park in, why not train to become an instructor?!



2. Interrupting classes

Please don't enter a paddock where a class or any form of dog training is in progress. This includes obedience, agility and flyball. Fence running by dogs is not allowed at any time. If people are training or have their dogs in a paddock, you must not allow your dog to run the fence between the paddocks.



Stalwarts of the club

Sally Berridge

1. Ray and Princess who run the shop

I spoke to Ray Leckie and Princess the other day – or at least I tried to get Ray to talk about himself. He’s the quiet guy who’s always in the shop, on the committee and always there to help you if he can.

Luckily Princess told me a thing or two about Ray after she had shown me around the shop and graciously accepted just the smallest treat. She reckons Ray has been a member of BDOC for about 16 years, long before her time, when he had a Golden called Sheba who kept him company. She knows, in the way that dogs do, that he had a day job at CSIRO that kept him away from his proper place by his dog’s side. He worked in the Division of Wildlife (in Canberra) carrying out biochemistry in the lab.

Princess knows that Ray started out his life with dogs with a greyhound, Barney, when he was a kid. Barney must have cast a dog spell over Ray, because he then had a Scotch Collie – Kerry, Australian Terriers, Corgis and of course Goldens: Sheba, Skye and Princess. And in all his life with dogs he has never wanted to do trialling.

Ray did tell me that Princess was a ferocious destroyer of cushions when she was a pup, but now, as a four-year-old she is much more sensible.

Thank you, Ray, for all the work you now do for BDOC, and all the work you have put in over the 16 years you’ve ben involved. It is greatly appreciated.



Ray and Princess

The shop

Princess’s favourites:

- Pig’s ears
- Crunchies
- Liver treats
- Smoked bones
- Balls and toys

Then there’s the rest of the stock:

- Car harnesses
- Leads and collars
- Haltis
- Dumbbells
- Tags
- Magazines

The shop is run as a convenience to members, and isn’t there to make a profit because items are sold at cost. However we can provide a better service the more we sell, because some suppliers aren’t interested in small turnovers. So if you can, please support the shop.

‘Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend. Inside of a dog, it is too dark to read.’

Groucho Marx



Training Tips – Doing Homework

Patricia Looker

'Doing homework' has definite connotations, doesn't it, and most of them are not particularly inspiring or pleasant. Perhaps it's better to look on your dog training homework as 'relationship building' rather than a chore. Indeed, unless you build the relationship with your dog his skills are unlikely to progress very fast or far.

You don't have to take your dog to a special spot to do your training. In fact, if you do that you may be teaching your dog to 'behave properly' only in one particular place.

Your home should be your first training ground. Practise having your dog sit and stay/wait for every meal. Do some tummy rubs and 'body handling' while your dog keeps you company in front of the TV. Take your treats with you when you go into the backyard to hang out the washing or do some gardening and practise a few comes and some sits and downs. Teach your dog to respond to a 'leave it' command if he tries to wrest the rake from you, and that 'come' means to return to you with the gardening glove that he's just stolen. Don't forget to praise and reward your clever dog's responses.

Get your dog to sit when visitors come to the door, to be still while you open the door and to greet them nicely. How many other uses can you put those simple commands to so that your lives can be less hectic?

When you take your dog out for his daily walk, don't forget to pack some of his rewards along with the pooch bags. Start as calmly as possible by getting your dog to sit and wait to have his collar and lead put on and then again at the door or gate. Remember to praise and reward steady behaviour. During your walk, remember to use the techniques you've been taught to get your dog to walk without pulling.

Walking without pulling can take a while to teach to some dogs, especially those with excitable temperaments. It's a skill well worth putting the effort into though. If you think that your dog will be part of your life for say 12 years, a six-month investment is really not much effort to then have a pleasant 11½ years of pull-free walking.

And don't be fooled – while head collars and harnesses help you control a physically strong or highly excitable dog, they do not magically 'fix' pulling. They are merely an aide to give you some extra control while you train your dog not to pull. Indeed, most dogs will work out within a very short space of time how to hold their bodies to put their weight into whatever restraining device you care to clip on. So, by all means use one of these training aides if you find your dog difficult to manage, but don't think you have bought a non-pulling dog with the purchase price.

Practise sits at curbs and when other people, dogs, or bicycles approach so

that your dog is under control and learns to be steady. If people in the street want to pat your dog, get him to sit first so that he's less able to jump up at them or tangle them in the lead. Again don't forget the praise and reward for a job well done.

As you walk along, periodically practise the 'come' exercise so that your dog learns, or is reminded, of the need to come to you every time you call. You can do this quite simply on the lead by saying your dog's name, praising him when he turns his head to look at you, giving the 'come' command and moving backwards if you need to, to encourage him in to you. Don't forget to give generous praise and a reward for this one. Having a dog with a reliable recall could quite literally be a matter of life or death, so practise this often.

So, even though you may not have a lot of spare time, you can do a lot of 'homework' with your dog in your everyday activities. After all, the exercises you are both learning are designed to help your dog become a well-adjusted, responsive, manageable pet not just a dog who can perform various actions on command in class. Above all enjoy building your relationship and learning together.

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JUMPING TRIAL: JUDGED BY MR JAKE BLIGHT (NSW)

20 April 2009

Open Jumping SCT : 32 seconds

1st Place Greg Collins Ag Ch Kellie, ADO JDO10 GDX SDX SP Koolie X

2nd Place Leslie Cameron Sonza Tyr ADX ADO JDX JDO GDX SPDX SDS English Springer Spaniel

3rd Place Lara Sedgmen Ch Hanafor Rousel Vieri CDX RRD ADM JDM ADO JDO SPDM GDX SDM Hungarian Vizsla

Masters Jumping SCT 40 seconds

1st Place Greg Collins Ag Ch Kellie, ADO JDO10 GDX SDX SP Koolie X

2nd Place Lara Sedgmen Ch Hanafor Rousel Vieri CDX RRD ADM JDM ADO JDO SPDM GDX SDM Hungarian Vizsla

3rd Place Vickie Evans Spinifex Spitfire CD JDM ADM ADO JDO SPDM GDX SD Australian Kelpie

4th Place Karen Edwards Manthamin Jessie ADM JDM3 JDO2 ADO GD SD SPD Border Collie

Excellent Jumping SCT 32 Seconds

1st Place NQ Sharon Bowditch Michelago Mick CCD AD JD SPD Australian Cattle Dog

2nd Place NQ Karen Edwards Meg AD JD HSAs HSBs Working Border Collie

3rd Place NQ Jenny Drake Bonnybo Bethulie AD JD Beagle

Novice Jumping SCT 33 Seconds

1st Place Gail Ransom Piobaireachd Maltese x

No other qualifiers/places.



The new puppy

Patricia Looker

No, no, the brush is not to eat!
Just keep your eyes upon the treat
which you can have with my good will
if you will just, please, stand still.

Puppy, puppy, not the floor!
I've shown you how to use the door.
It's not a game to pick and choose
the place to do your pees and poohs.

Puppy, puppy, not my toes!
I keep on telling you that those
are not for you to grab and chew.
Look, here is a bone and squeaky too
for you to chew and shake all day
until the bite urge goes away.

Puppy, puppy no more noise!
You've been fed, you've got your toys
right there beside you in the crate.
Now listen here, it's very late
and you must settle down to sleep,
so that my temper I can keep
to manage all your puppy ways
for however many days
it takes, until you grow into
a boy who knows just what to do.

Yes, yes, come, come.
Although the chores aren't half done
I'll leave the rest
and go out with you, little pest.

Oh my puppy, how fast you run
and jump and squeak and have such fun
with a cardboard box and an old plant pot.
(It's sobering that all the toys you got
for Christmas, largely lie unheeded
while you prefer to play with things that are not
needed.)

I see you exploring out the back
and leaping from bushes to attack
the fierce jungle animals lurking there.
You sniff and dig, and then you stare.
What is it in behind that bush?
Then, helter skelter, in a great big rush
You come flat strap



And fling yourself upon my lap.
You are such a wriggle of warm soft fur,
Of long wet ears and grubby paws.
Your trusting eyes gaze up at me.
You snuggle in contentedly
and like a squishy bean bag toy
you flop. Sleep well my little boy!

Forgotten the mess and sleepless nights.
It is such joy, such sheer delight
to have you here so close to me
and make grand plans for what's to be.



This is how they do agility in a Canadian winter. The dogs wear boots to prevent frostbite. Thanks, Adam, for the photo.



Snow holidays with dogs

Sandra Johnston

The Dinner Plains is the highest freehold land in Australia - hence dogs are allowed there. As I am sure you are well aware, dogs are not allowed in National Parks such as Kosciusko.

The Dinner Plains is 8 kilometers from Mt Hotham in Victoria, and has an altitude of 5,200 feet. The Dinner Plains Village won an architectural award: all the houses are wooden and beautifully designed. This place is well worth a visit, with or without dogs.

It was my Sled Dog racing days that first took me to the Dinner Plains. I have my own racing sled, a fine piece of woodwork.

The snow race is held on the second weekend of August each year. August is the the best time for snow, but no guarantees!

The race is run on the X-Country skiing trails, which are right beside the village.

Now I go to the Dinner Plains to run my dogs recreationally as sled dogs. My Ibizan hounds, Ra and Zorro, are excellent sled dogs. Last year, my sled hit ice at high speed and I was thrown off. It was well over a kilometer after that before Ra and Zorro bothered to stop – and only because the sled had overturned.

We also go backpacking with our dogs in the snow, although never very far. The Alaskan Malamute Club of Victoria have a good article on Dog Back Packing on their internet site. They instituted a back packing title that I would like to bring to the ACT.



Sandra and Cougar racing



Sometimes I will put Dancer (Ibizan hound) on a short tracking course. Dancer air scents, and he does well in the snow, but air scenting is frowned upon in Title tracking. Bob has problems as he ground scents.

For humans, there are several excellent places to eat. Dinner Plain Accommodation Services 1800-670019 will assist you with dog-friendly accommodation.

We stay at the High Plains Lodge, which is very affordable snow accommodation. However no dogs inside. They sleep in our

vehicles, close to our room, well rugged up.

The Dinner Plains is beautiful at any time of year. I know I sound like a Travel Agent but it is a hidden treasure.

We also enjoy the journey there. A favorite stop is by the river at Bright. We walk our dogs along the river and then eat at the Riverside Restaurant.

Happy holidaying with dogs !





What is Flyball?

Lyn Clyde

Flyball is a relay race between two teams of four dogs. Racing side by side, one dog from each of two teams must go over four hurdles, trigger a flyball box pedal, catch (retrieve) a ball and return over all four hurdles to the start/finish line where the next dog eagerly awaits.

Flyball is a team sport. Each team consists of four dogs racing in each heat, plus up to two reserves. Reserves can be interchanged after each heat. There are between three and five heats to a race, and a team has to win a majority to win the race.

Flyball encompasses all things that dogs love to do – jumping, catching, retrieving, competing and striving to please their owners. Flyball is a sport in which any dog can participate, regardless of breed, shape or size. Flyball does not interfere with obedience training. In fact, the sport reinforces the disciplines taught in obedience class.

History of the Bullets

The Belconnen Bullets were formed in 1999 as part of BDOC commitment to provide dog training instruction for dog enthusiasts living in the north side of Canberra. In 1999 this dog sport was in its infancy in Australia, but it has now become Australia’s quickest growing dog sport with a growth rate of 15% annually. This is because flyball is not only great for dogs, but for the owners as well. It’s a great way to meet and interact with people of similar interests and is a healthy, active way for dogs and owners to get out of the yard, and into a fast and exciting team sport.

The Belconnen Bullets are dogs of all shapes and sizes and age is no barrier for these dogs as they graduate through the teams with ability and age.

While some flyball clubs have an ethos to promote one breed of dog for their competitive teams such as Border Collies or cattle dogs. The Bullets demonstrate what multiculturalism is all about, boosting the following breeds in their five competitive teams; poodles, Kelpies, a multitude of fluffy white dogs, Ridgebacks, Border Collies, cattle dogs, Labradors, West Highland Terriers, spoodles, plus a creative mix of tan dogs. The Bullets have always endorsed “Fun, Paws and Friendship” and that is why they are now the largest Flyball Club in Canberra and expanding again with eight new dogs now training in the Baby Bullets Team.

If you are interested in flyball, then please direct your enquiries to the office or catch Lyn Clyde after Baby Bullets training at 9.00am Sundays.



The Belconnen Bullets team at Booroowa recently.



Belconnen Dog Obedience Club Inc.





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Est. 1958

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