



# Belconnen Dog Obedience Club Inc.





## A Note from the President



Hi fellow dog lovers, and welcome to our new members who have just started Session 4.

I am sure that, like me, you are looking forward to the longer days and warmer weather of spring. I do enjoy winter, as I love skiing, but dog training certainly seems just a little bit easier in warmer weather.

We need to give our instructors a huge thank you for taking classes in the winter sessions, especially those who take evening classes in obedience and agility. It has been good to see that so many dog lovers have rugged up and braved the cold and sometimes damp conditions to work with their dogs. The dogs have certainly enjoyed the classes – something to be said for having a permanent fur coat.

With my young dog, I am in one of the Bronze (level 2) Thursday night classes and it has been great watching the dogs and handlers improving their skills under the watchful eyes of our instructor Sally Druhan. We all survived the first level with our puppies and they are now turning into well mannered canines – even though many of them have entered the adolescent stages!

Our revised training syllabus (the Canine Companion Syllabus) commenced in session 4, on the 6th and 9th August. Information about the changes can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thank you to all instructors who have worked so hard on this project.

Committee members have been busy with the chores necessary to keep our Club running smoothly.

Our secretary Jan, and treasurer Maki have been particularly busy with the end of financial year matters and membership renewals.

Our secretary Jan will be leaving us in August. Jan has been our dedicated secretary for three years and has been an absolute tower of strength. We need to find someone to take on the position of secretary. This year, with more people on the Committee, we have been able to spread the work load and relieve Jan of some of the work. Hopefully this will continue so that the work of the secretary is not so onerous.

If you enjoy helping people, have some computer skills and could give up a little time to help BDOC continue to function, please talk to Jan, any committee member or myself. You can contact me on 6241 3070 or [bbrown@webone.com.au](mailto:bbrown@webone.com.au).

**WE NEED YOU!**

Jenny Stott and Karl Newport organised a 'grounds' working bee on Saturday 13 June. We are grateful to all our members who helped out with pruning, weeding, digging holes, erecting new gates, whipper snipping, spreading tanbark and pegging edgings. I was surprised with what was achieved and the grounds certainly look good. All we need now is for the new grass seed to start growing between the tussocks so our turf isn't a series of lumps and bumps!

If you wonder where your membership fees go, a good example is our last water bill (for a quarter) which was close to \$8,000. This is a significant increase, as water costs have risen dramatically and we have undertaken some watering in an effort to regenerate our turf. As a dog training club, we can't do without our grounds and we must continue to water the turf sparingly over summer when we are allowed.

You have seen the underground rainwater tank being installed.

This will give us some relief from our total reliance of town water. This complex project is now nearing completion. We are very grateful to ACT Sport and Recreation Services for the grant which made this project possible, and to Perpetual Water Pty Ltd and Astar Australia Pty Ltd for undertaking and supervising the project. *Happy dog training.*

*Barbara Brown  
President*

[bbrown@webone.com.au](mailto: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

### **Address**

Corner Flemington Road and  
Sandford Street Mitchell ACT

### **Contact details**

#### **Phone**

02 6241 7999

#### **Email**

[bdoc@bdoc.asn.au](mailto:bdoc@bdoc.asn.au)

#### **Website**

[www.bdoc.asn.au](http://www.bdoc.asn.au)

### **Parking**

Please note that parking in front of the club house is for **instructors and committee members only**. Please join us in parking there – just become an instructor or a committee member!



## 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 4

#### Obedience

##### Thursdays:

All levels at 7 pm

##### Sundays:

Beginners and Silver (Levels 1 and 3) at 9 am

Bronze and Gold (Levels 2 and 4) at 10 am

#### Agility

*Mondays and Tuesdays only* 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!

Punctuation ... please check your contribution for correct punctuation. Formatting is less important as I can override most of it except too many paragraph spaces.

Please send your contributions to:

Sally Berridge

Email: [sallymb@homemail.com.au](mailto:sallymb@homemail.com.au)

Phone: 6241 7001



## SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

*Belconnen Dog Obedience Club*

*Annual General Meeting*

*Wednesday, 26 August 2009*

*7:30pm in the Clubhouse*

### IMPORTANCE NOTICE FOR ALL BDOC MEMBERS

*At next month's AGM the Committee for the coming year will be elected. With most of the current Committee stepping down, you are earnestly encouraged to consider nominating for a position on the Committee and helping in the management and running of your club.*

*The Committee consists of eleven members, supported by several key functional managers plus volunteers. Whilst the Committee members willingly give their time to ensure the operation of the Club for all members, without a full Committee the ongoing viability of the Club's operation suffers to the detriment of all members.*

*The old adage of 'many hands make light work' rings true in the running of BDOC. The Committee members, like most members, often have full-time jobs, and when under-staffed cannot adequately cover the range of activities that are needed to keep the Club functioning. With a full Committee, and the support of other actively involved members, both essential and desirable operational activities can be effectively conducted without undue impost on any individual.*

*Most of the functions the Committee performs do not require any special skills, just a small amount of dedicated time, and a genuine enthusiasm to support the effective operation of the Club for the benefit of its members and the dog-owning community in general.*

*If you don't wish to nominate for one of the executive roles such as President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, there are a number of very important general positions that are allocated specific tasks critical to the Club's functioning.*

*Please remember, this is a volunteer run club, not a commercial organisation. We have to support ourselves to survive and thrive. We are all here for our enjoyment, to educate ourselves and our dogs, to develop the bond we have with our dogs, and hopefully make some friends along the way. With sufficient involvement from the member base, we can ensure this continues to happen.*

*To enquire about nominating, or find out more about the Committee functions, please come and see us in the office on Thursday nights or Sunday mornings, or email the Secretary at [bdoc@bdoc.asn.au](mailto:bdoc@bdoc.asn.au).*

*We appreciate you taking the time to read and consider this, and look forward to your nominations and attendance at the AGM.*

*Thank you*

*Barbara, Elaine, Jan, Maki, Ray, Lucy,  
Karl, Jenny, Dai, Cliff and Sally  
(The BDOC committee)*





Just look at all the jobs to be done!

Many hands make light work!

Belconnen Dog Obedience Club Inc.

## BDOC committee positions and activity support roles

### President

Has the role of 'general manager' and leads the committee. Chairs committee meetings and general meetings, and presents the annual report at the AGM. As necessary, speaks on behalf of the Club and represents it in its relations with other persons or organisations.

### Vice-President

Provides support to the president, and acts for the president in the event of their absence.

### Secretary

Runs the day-to-day office administration and manages most aspects of membership.

### Treasurer

Responsible for the handling of all money, banking and records of incoming and outgoing expenditure. Presents a report to the AGM together with an audited balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure, and monthly reports to the Committee. Requires understanding of GST, BAS and auditing procedures.

### Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Supports the roles of Secretary and Treasurer.

### Coordinators

#### Obedience

Represents the general business, issues and concerns of the obedience training membership to the committee.

#### Agility

Represents the general business, issues and concerns of the agility training membership to the committee.

#### Flyball

Represents the general business, issues and concerns of the flyball training membership to the committee.

#### Instructors and training/education

Represents the general business, issues and concerns of the Club's instructors to the committee. Is responsible for organising new instructor intakes and education.

### Instructor's Roster

Maintains the instructor roster. Deals directly with the instructor base to develop the instructor roster for each training session. Arranges relief instructors in the event of absences.

### Function managers

Do not necessarily need to be a Committee member.

### Shop manager

Manages all shop sales and enquiries, Thursday nights and Sunday mornings. Manages and orders stock as required. Performs the record keeping of sales and expenditure. Conducts annual and interim stocktakes.

### Trials manager

Manages trials conducted by BDOC. Receives all entries and receipts payments. Organises judges, stewards and coordinates with *Dogs ACT* and arranges attendance of a *Dogs ACT* representative. Drafts the catalogue of competitors. Arranges prizes. Arranges for someone to erect the rings and equipment. Generally ensures the effective and smooth conduct of the trial on the day.

### Grounds and facilities maintenance

Ensures the maintenance of all grounds and external facilities (including grass condition, watering systems, lighting, fencing, clubhouse structure and utilities etc.) keeping them in good order, predominantly through contracted maintenance services.

### Clubhouse maintenance and kitchen

Looks after the cleanliness and general amenity inside the clubhouse. Keeps tea, coffee and milk stocks up to the kitchen. Manages catering and arranges kitchen hands on competition days, providing meals and refreshments for judges and stewards, and canteen arrangements for competitors.

### Equipment

Maintains the serviceability and safety of all training and competition equipment. Arranges maintenance as necessary. Takes charge of delivery and safe return of equipment in the event of it being loaned out.

### Assessment day manager

Coordinates the end of training-session assessments. Arranges judges (from the instructor base), assessment times for each class, ribbons, erection of rings and signage, and ensures communication of times to all classes through their instructors.

### Library

Maintains the instructor library in good order, with all books effectively catalogued. Manages all loans and returns from the library

### Fundraising and associated events

Identifies opportunities and methods for fundraising. Organises and manages suitable events and activities, engaging support as required.

### Grant applications

Proactively seeks out government, or other, grants on offer, suitable to our organisation and activity. Effects the completion, submission and management of the grant application process, in consultation with the committee.

### Website manager

Maintains the function, look and feel of the club website. Keeps all content up to date with information feeds from committee members and the newsletter editor.

### Newsletter editor

Assembles, prints and arranges distribution of the club newsletter (one per training session). Will actively source contributing editors and ensure provision of input to the newsletter. Also channels relevant newsletter material to the website manager for web publishing.

### Contributing editors

General canine club and world news. Obedience, agility, flyball, training tips, health and wellbeing.



## Important news!

### New training syllabus

## BDOC Canine Companion Syllabus

Our basic training now comes from the BDOC Canine Companion Syllabus. It started at the beginning of Session 4.

The names of the training levels are:

- **Beginners Level** (was Level 1 – both puppies and adult dogs) (Dogs will still be separated in Beginners classes according to their age.)
- **Bronze Level** (was Level 2)
- **Silver Level** (was Level 3)
- **Gold Level** (was Primary Companion)

A Members Handbook is now available which contains Club information, information about our training methods and training terms, an explanation of the behaviours you will be taught at each level, and information about the other dog sports taught at BDOC – Competitive Obedience, Agility and Flyball. This Handbook replaces the separate booklets previously supplied for Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Some new behaviours have been included in the syllabus. These behaviours will be fun to learn and useful for living harmoniously with your canine companion.

*Don't be concerned if you are in a level higher than Beginners. Session 4 will be a bridging Session. You will not be expected to achieve the skills of the new behaviours listed in the Handbook at the end of Session 4.*

Please remember to pick up a copy of the Members Handbook before or after your first class.

## Thank you to our instructors



A big thank you to all these instructors for giving up their time to take or assist in taking classes in Sessions 1, 2 and 3.

*Michelle Abramovic, Jay Arthur, Sally Berridge, Cliff Brock, Sharon Brookes, Barbara Brown, Michelle Bulman, Cassie Butterworth, Jill Campaign, Lyn Clyde, Meryl Causebrook, Paul Cartwright, Jenny Drake, Sally Druhan, Di Easter, Andrew Gibbs, Charlie Giles, Ange Gintings, Angela Hagedorn, Renee Hajek, Lesley Hayes, Feli Hopf, Lesley Hopkinson, Ryan Jenkins, Deidre Johnson, Sandra Johnston, Ivana Leonard, Hannah Leslie, Anne Lewis, Patricia Looker, Kristin MacCauley, Pam McDougall, Pauline Murphy, Karl Newport, Alice Petersen, Janet Preston, Julie Rebbeck, Holly Rieger, Shirley Stewart, Jenny Stott, Suzanne van Strien, June Su, Joycelyn Taylor, Elaine Temby, Dai Thomas, Lucy Williams.*

### Instructor Service Awards

In recognition of the many years of service given by so many of our instructors, the Club will be awarding Service Certificates for five, ten, fifteen and twenty years of instructing. These awards will be presented at the Annual Presentation Day in December each year.



# BULLETS FROLIC AT THE BEACH

*Have you heard of the 'Iron Dog' competition?*

In June, four dogs and their handlers from the BDOC Belconnen Bullets attended the sixth annual event held at Kioloa. Ernie, Digby, Zeke and Jezzabel made the trek down the mountain to the coast to see what the event was all about. Not knowing what to expect, the dogs had not undertaken any preparation, but were really attending for the fun of it all.

What could be better than a frolic at the beach?!

As the name indicates, the dogs were put through a series of challenges that suited some dogs but not others. There were sprints, ball chasing on both land and in the water, hole digging, an obedience/obstacle course and a turning event.

Ernie and Digby had a crack at everything, but were stars at the turning event, both scoring a perfect five from five. In squares of ever decreasing size, the dogs had to circumnavigate a pole in the middle without touching outside of the square. Needless to say Zeke and Jezzabel were not made for this event – they were both bigger in size than the last two squares. They each managed only a score of two.

The two 'labbies' excelled in the obedience/obstacle course. Having to run between set distances and follow a command at each point, the dogs were further challenged by bags of dog food set along the course. In a major upset, and, we believe, setting the fastest time, it was Jezzabel who beat all other dogs including kelpies and border collies. Perhaps she remembered her BDOC training from nine years ago.

The hole-digging was an eye opener as most dogs didn't dig (maybe because it wasn't in their own backyard). Jezzabel did quite well in the end, because half way through the timed event it was mentioned by organizers that handlers could help with the digging. Jezzabel's big-handed male handler did well in the remaining time allowed.

Obviously, the labs were good at retrieving tennis balls both on land and in the sea, but it was the obedience/obstacle course and her age handicap which surprisingly earned Jezzabel an overall placing of second.

Of course, the handlers had to celebrate their dog's achievement and the BBQ and liquid refreshments lasted long into the night. A good day was had by all.



## Flyball Team

### ERNIE 2008 FLYBALL DOG OF THE YEAR

*What does it take to become the Belconnen Bullets Flyball Dog of the Year?*

Ernie is a white terrier cross. Ernie has become one of the stalwarts of the Bullets and represents his club at numerous competitions around Canberra and also travels interstate to fly the BDOC Flyball flag with Digby, his brother, who is a West Highland White Terrier.

- Previous dogs of the year are:
- 2007– tie *Shoga* (Keiko and Luke Foster) and *Maddie* (Max Darvill)
  - 2005 – *Rex* (Alex Wallner)
  - 2004 – *Billie* (Andrew Johnson)
  - 2003 – *Damsel* (Lyn Clyde)

### Belconnen Bullets pack leader Rex retires!!!!!!

Rex was in the dog pound, and he adopted his owners when he was about one and a half years old. He is now retiring at the grand age of about 11 years. After two years of obedience training, he started flyballing and loved it very much and succeeded to a high level.

Rex achieved the Flyball Dog Master title and was named Belconnen Dog Obedience Club's Flyball Dog of the Year in 2005.



*Ernie receives his award. Is it edible?*



## News from the brave (and strong) agility people!

This is the time of year that most dogs love, but their handlers are not so sure. Training on a winter's evening is sometimes a daunting prospect when home is infinitely warmer. Regardless, training for triallers is continuing on Monday evenings, and the Tuesday and Wednesday classes have been combined, with about a dozen dogs and handlers attending.

### New intake

A new intake for agility for Session 4 is complete, and training has started. Dogs may be placed on the BDOC waiting list at 12 months of age and begin training at 14 months. In due course you will be told when the next intake is taking place. Handlers must be financial members of BDOC.

### Agility trials

There have been several agility trials in the last few weeks. For various reasons I have missed most, but I hear Jenny Drake, Julie Rebbeck and Lucy Williams have all had successful runs. There are probably others that I haven't heard about as well – sorry!

### Trials at the club

On October 3rd our club is hosting the ACT titles and BDOC is running an agility trial on the following day. Charlie Giles, our trial manager, and Lucy Williams, agility co-ordinator, are doing the preliminary organisation but it will be all hands on deck for the actual event.

Please offer help if you can.

### Equipment

Some equipment (one trolley and the chute) have been repaired thanks to Charlie Giles and Barbara Brown. We have really been enjoying the tunnel bags which can be used instead of frames to stabilise the tunnels. Frames work well, but pegging them down into hard, hard ground has been a chore. The new six metre long tunnel has been used frequently in training and for a couple of trials. We have received another set of tunnel bags, and are trialling a new break away tyre.

### Help needed for agility demonstration

Lucy Williams is organising an agility demonstration for Belconnen's Dogs Day Out on 20 September, but numbers of people and dogs available are not looking hopeful at this stage. Please contact Lucy if you are available to assist.

*Pam McDougall  
Agility sub-committee (publicity)*



## Grounds Update

### Water Tank

Finally, after a lot of work and frustration, we have a water tank! The water tank has been connected to the roof, so we are harvesting our rainwater. We have a capacity of 90000 L which we will hopefully fill over the last of winter and spring.

We are planning to hook the system up to the sub-surface watering system in the small paddock sometime in the near future. This was supposed to happen Friday the 31st of August, but circumstances beyond our control prevented the construction of the trench, so I will have to let you all know when I plan to close the grounds.

### Grounds

As you may have been aware, we had some work done on our grounds over the last couple of months. I apologise to everybody who saw the little poo-like things scattered all over the grounds and tried to pick them up. They're the result of the coring that took place, in an attempt to improve our surface drainage. Don't worry, you weren't the only one to be fooled!

Along with the coring, we spray seeded the grounds with couch grass seeds to even out some of the gaps. They're not doing much now, but come the warmer spring months, we should see some rapid growth and improvement! With a bit of luck, we'll be able to play croquet on the grounds once more. And train our dogs without tripping over, of course.

### Working Bee

A big thanks to everyone who came out on our working bee to whip our grounds back into shape. With all your help, we were able to complete all the jobs that really needed doing, but no-one had the time for. Dead trees were removed, gardens were mulched, sprinklers were found, fences were whipper-snipped and gates were constructed. You all turned a mountain of jobs into a mere molehill in a matter of hours, which quite frankly, probably wouldn't have got done. People like you are the lifeblood of any club, and I tip my lid to you.

*This will be the last month for Jenny and me on the committee, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and co-operation over the last year. It's not easy maintaining a ground of this size, but with your help and understanding, I think we got through it.*

*Cheers,*

*Karl*

**And a big thank you from BDOC to Karl and Jenny for the many hours of work they have put in to improve the grounds and to get the water tank happening.**



# The water tank story



Belconnen Dog Obedience Club Inc.



# Sit!

Patricia Looker

*Sit!* is one of the most important behaviours/exercises that you can teach your dog. It is important because if your dog sits immediately on your cue (and stays there until he is released) then you have instant control of so many 'real life' situations. Let me give you some examples.

Your dog jumps up to greet you. Instead of yelling at him, which gives him the attention he was seeking by jumping up, cue Sit! As soon as he is in the sit you give him the attention he wants with some soft drawn-out words and slow strokes to calm him down. If you do this every time he goes to jump at you he will eventually learn that sitting is how he greets you – so much nicer than dirty paw marks all over your clothes.

You pick up your dog's dinner bowl and take it out to the place where you feed him, but in trying to put it down your dog jumps around you and at the bowl and he ends up eating most of his dinner off the floor and you're left to clean up the rest of the mess. Cut the chaos by cueing Sit! before he can start jumping all over the place. His dinner bowl only gets put on the floor if he can sit and stay. Then you can release him to eat. Pretty soon, as soon as he sees you with his bowl, he'll race to the sit-spot and sit of his own accord and wait until you release him.

What nice manners!

The doorbell rings, and your dog rushes to the door (with or without attendant barking). Not only is he going to be under your feet as you open the door, but he may rush out and/or jump all over whoever is on your doorstep. If you go to the door with your dog and cue Sit! so that he can see what's going on but is steady, then you can keep him safe and save your visitor a mauling. Doing this every time you answer the door, will eventually result in your dog rushing to the door and taking up his sit before you can cue him.

You want to put your dog's collar and lead on him and take him for a walk but he's jumping around you so much you can't get the collar around his neck let alone deal with the clips.

Choose a spot near the door or gate where you will be able to open the door or gate without your dog moving, and cue Sit! Once your dog is steady, then you can 'dress' him. As he remains steady you can open the door or gate, step through (leaders first, please) and then cue your dog to come outside with you. Ahh, a much nicer way to start a walk.

You are out walking with your dog and you see a person on a bike hurtling towards you down the path. You step off the path cueing your dog to come with you to the heel position and cue Sit! Your dog is now out of harm's way while the biker goes past. You can also use the sit cue to keep your dog steady in the face of oncoming walkers, joggers, prams, and people with dogs.

Not only does keeping your dog in a sit stop him from getting in the way of people, and he is ready for a pat if they are so inclined, but it makes him feel safe beside his leader especially if the oncoming people or dog look a bit threatening to him. And if you do the sit beside me routine every time you spot oncoming 'traffic', your dog will end up by responding to things coming towards you by seeking you out and sitting beside you.

'Oh yeah? Sit?' I can hear you say, 'you haven't met my dog. He can't keep more than one foot on the ground at any one time!' Yep, I know all about that – I have a nine-month old pup whose middle name (maybe his first) is Excitement, and everything that isn't sleeping is intensely exciting to him.



The key is to have a plan about where the sits are going to take place (doors/gates, for dinner, etc.), and to train yourself so that your default response is 'Sit! L-o-v-e-l-y. G-o-o-d b-o-y'. And to do this EVERY time. I can't stress the EVERY time enough.

If you only do it sometimes and other times your dog's allowed to carry on like a pork chop, then you will never successfully teach him to sit and remain calm in these situations. And yes, they do forget and regress at times – be patient, he's a dog, not a robot, and like you, he doesn't always remember what he has to do.

The other key is to practise your Sit! cue in lots of non-distracting places (both at home and out and about) with quiet, calm praise, and then a reward so that he learns to respond instantly to the cue so it will be more automatic when he is being distracted. By the way, rewards shouldn't always be food: use 'life rewards' whenever possible. Patting and talking to your dog on greeting; releasing him to continue his walk; releasing him to greet the visitor; and releasing him to greet another dog are all very rewarding to your dog and are what he wanted in the first place. Basically he gets what he wants by doing what you want.

Remember, it won't happen overnight, but it will happen, if you keep at it. So, practice your sits often.

Next to coming when called, Sit! is the most useful behaviour you can teach your dog.

© Patricia Looker 2009

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the following club members for attaining obedience titles recently.

### *Community Companion Dog (CCD)*

Terri Pittman's Samoyed, Devlin  
Anne Lewis's Cocker Spaniel, Alvin

### *Companion Dog (CD)*

Dai Thomas's Labrador Retriever, Bonnie





## The Cappy Award

*The Cappy Award is presented annually at the AGM to the Club's 'Most Valuable Member'. This award recognises a member (not on the Committee) who has made a significant contribution to the running of the Club over the past year. We would welcome your nominations for this year's recipient.*

*Last year's recipients were Suzanne Van Strien and Dwight Bonney. Not only are Suzanne and Dwight dedicated instructors but they are always there to lend an extra hand. For example, Dwight has solved many of our IT problems and Suzanne takes our new member intake lectures as well as assisting with instructor training.*

**Do you know someone the Club couldn't do without?**

## Just a dog

*From time to time, people tell me, 'lighten up, it's just a dog,' or, 'that's a lot of money for just a dog.' They don't understand the distance travelled, the time spent, or the costs involved for 'just a dog'. Some of my proudest moments have come about with 'just a dog'. Many hours have passed and my only company was 'just a dog,' but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by 'just a dog', and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of 'just a dog' gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day. If you, too, think it's 'just a dog', then you will probably understand phrases like 'just a friend', 'just a sunrise', or 'just a promise'. 'Just a dog' brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. 'Just a dog' 'brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of 'just a dog', I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future. So, for me, and for folks like me, it's not 'just a dog', but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. 'Just a dog' 'brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from me and the worries of the day. I hope that someday they can understand that it's not 'just a dog', but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being 'just a man or woman'. So the next time you hear the phrase 'just a dog', just smile, because they 'just don't understand.'*

Just one of those email things that come around.



*Waiting to start an obedience race in the fog.*



## The Rescue Dog

Liz Allan

*For my BDOC friends, with gratitude.*

*When I raise my hand like that,  
It's simply to remove my hat.  
Oh, please don't flatten to the floor  
No one will beat you anymore.*

*I dropped a pencil on the ground,  
Not a very noisy sound,  
And you thought it was a clap of thunder  
Cowering with your tail tucked under.*

*The doorbell rings, a friend is here  
You run and hide, such is your fear.  
She very gently offers chicken  
But you are simply panic-stricken.*

*Oh please come out in the car with me  
It will be fun, just wait and see  
Takes all my strength to lift you in  
This is a battle I must win.*

*We're back home but will you get out?  
No, you're filled again with doubt.  
It didn't help that you got hyper  
About the dreaded windscreen wiper.*

*You won't dare go in the yard alone  
No, not even for a juicy bone.  
I feel my eyes fill with tears  
Watching you and all your fears.*

*Boy dog, I have to earn your trust  
And I will do whatever I must.  
In life you had a rotten start,  
But I love you with all my heart.*

*With trepidation we start school  
And you and I are far from cool.  
I arrive feeling queasy  
You are more than just uneasy.*

*You are strong and I am not  
And then we both learn a lot.  
We persist and – I tell no lies –  
A bright blue ribbon and First Prize!*



Ralph

*Months go by, even years  
Love and liver treats, pig's ears  
Doggy play dates, hide-and-seek  
But it didn't happen in a week.*

*You leap into the car with a joyful yip!  
Yay, we're going on a trip!  
What, there are visitors at the door?  
Wow, now you wish that there were more.*

*You love to learn and you're so bright  
You know your left paw from your right.  
Bless your little cotton socks,  
You'll fetch a Kleenex from the box*

*Dumbbells, scent discrimination,  
And I am filled with elation,  
Tho there are fears you'll never shake:  
A trialler you'll never make.*

*But when I remember the beginning,  
It's something else that we are winning.  
Mate, you just do what you can do,  
I am so very proud of you!*



## Assistive Listening Devices for the hearing impaired

BDOC acquires the Oticon Amigo T5/R5 System for the use of hearing-impaired handlers during training.

With generous support from the ACT Department of Education and Training, the Club has acquired three sets of Oticon Amigo Assistive Listening Device to assist hearing-impaired handlers during training on our grounds.

Some instructors have already been introduced to the system by one of our Club members, and all gave their thumbs up for its ease of use.

The device will be available for hire at the office from Session 4 onward. As numbers are limited, please book at the office prior to the training.

If you wish to familiarise yourself with the system before booking, users' instructions can be downloaded from this URL (<http://tinyurl.com/nvqrhh>).



### Public seminar on training assistance dogs

Encouraged by last year's success, we are holding another public Seminar during Adult Learners' Week (1st week of September) this year.

This year, our focus is on assisting people with disability and we were lucky enough to be in contact with Mr Che Forest, who leads an amazing charity organisation called A.W.A.R.E. DOGS ([www.awaredogs.org.au](http://www.awaredogs.org.au)).

Che Forest from A.W.A.R.E. DOGS is coming to Canberra to give us a talk on Friday, 4 September at the BDOC Clubhouse, starting at 7.00pm. There will be an AUSLAN interpretation for the talk and our assistive learning devices will be ready for hire to those who have hearing impairment.

Light supper will be provided after the talk.

Limited number of spaces available, so book early to avoid disappointment!

**Friday 4 September 7.00 pm**



## Cod's tongues and screech

You haven't had a newsletter for a while, and this is the reason why. I was lucky enough to travel to Eastern Canada to visit my son Adam and his family who have been on an exchange for 18 months. I spent two weeks at their home on Prince Edward Island – where *Anne of Green Gables* was written and set. It is a lovely place in summer, with wild lupins flowering everywhere, but winter is severe with snow lasting for many months. Charlottetown, the capital, is where Canadian federation was born.

My daughter-in-law Alanna has a future as a travel planner, if she wished. She worked out a great itinerary for our two weeks in Newfoundland. Remember *The Shipping News*? An overnight ferry from North Sydney in Cape Breton to Argentia, one of the ports (and, yes, there is the tale of a woman who flew in thinking she was going to Australia, and instead spent a happy couple of weeks with the locals who kindly took her in).

St John's, the provincial capital, is a jelly bean place, with all the weatherboard houses painted in bright colours. Newfoundland used to rely on fishing, cod mainly, but the cod stocks collapsed in 1992, and since then only limited fishing is allowed (though I'm not sure how it could be policed). Employment comes from tourism and oil rigs now. There was plenty of the local delicacy, cod tongues, around in the restaurants. Also moose soup and another local delicacy – scrunchions. These are fried pork fat cubes (not crackling, the fat itself) and are eaten with the cod tongues. There was talk of delicious seal flipper pie, but it must have been off-season because fortunately we didn't see any. But we did see pink, meaty, bottled moose for sale in souvenir shops.

We went over to the west, to the Gros Morne National Park, and up to the north where there is an archaeological dig marking the landing of the Vikings. On the northernmost tip of NFL there is one of the 10 best restaurants in Canada. Adam tried caribou – it was delicious. It was here we saw 26 icebergs floating by, when we could stand up straight against the mighty wind. *No space for more, but isn't it good to see spring on the way.*

*Sally*



*The BDOC instructors jacket came in very handy. I met a genuine Newfie dog after we had been on a boat trip to see thousands of puffins nesting on an island. Most of the dogs I saw there were Labs.*



*Just one of the many icebergs we saw floating down from Greenland. The locals use the 1000-year-old ice for their NFL drink – 'screech' (rum).*



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