

The Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club Inc

ABN: 85 904 409 654



August 2024 –
September 2024

1

The Wag Magazine



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2

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Contact Us

Postal Address: PO Box 231,
Sutherland NSW 1499

Tel: (02) 9521 1633 (clubhouse
during training hours)

Web: www.ssdtc.com.au

Email:

information@ssdtc.com.au

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editor@ssdtc.com.au

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at least two weeks prior to
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Opinions expressed in THE WAG
are not necessarily those of the
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Club Inc. or its committee.

Any veterinary advice printed
in THE WAG should be checked
with your own vet.



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▶ Editor's Note



Lee Collett

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Welcome to the August-September 2024 edition of The Wag. It's such a shame that the weather has been so wet and cold over this winter and that training has been a bit hit or miss. Thanks to everyone who has turned up on those cold, rainy days and done the best they can.

Don't forget to nominate yourself for one of the many committee positions available at our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 8th September. It is so wonderful to have new people contribute their ideas to the running of this great club.

When your human is the editor of the magazine, you get to be on the front page ;) but if you want your dog featured in the magazine drop me a line at editor@ssdtc.com.au You'll also see me at training and trials hovering and taking pictures, so look out for your furry friend in future editions.

▶ President's Report



Brian Jarrett

Well, hopefully, we have got past the inclement weather that has hit over the past few months. It is good to get back to our week to week activities and spend some time in class. Many thanks to the instructors and the members that set up for classes, who

who turned up on those wet and soggy mornings and evenings to cater for the dedicated members that fronted, just in case. Good job to all.

The club's 2024 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 8th September after class.

This is an important part of our club, not only for the election of committee members and officers, but also, an insight into how we are progressing.

Details of the meeting, including significant dates and forms will be available on the website from 1st August 2024.

▶ New Members

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Deborah Aiello of Jannali with Teddy POODLE
Bill Aitken of Kurnell with Louis BORDER COLLIE
Katerina Alexandrou of Monterey with Benji MALTESE
Alexis Andrade of Oyster Bay with Monty POODLE
Karin Buckle of Cronulla with Zoë POODLE
Matthew Buckle of Cronulla with Zoë POODLE
Tania Butler of Woolooware with Fred CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL
Peter Campbell of Caringbah South with Pickles BORDER COLLIE
Flore-Anne Carlet of Heathcote with Lumi WHITE SWISS SHEPHERD DOG
Rita Chan of Miranda with Kirby GOLDEN RETRIEVER
Kelly Crofts of Grays Point with Poppy CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL
Jeff Dennis of Helensburgh with Bear GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG
Ron Dunlop of Sandringham with Fleur GOLDEN RETRIEVER
Evelina Fräberová of Grays Point with Oliver & Enuska CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIELS
Aleesha Gibby of Sylvania Waters with Rex LABRADOR RETRIEVER
David Gormley of Miranda with Dolly Cavoodle
Richard Gray of Jannali with Peach JACK RUSSELL TERRIER
Maryke Heemskerk of Appin with Springer ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL
Karina Hibbs of Miranda with Julie POODLE
Matthew Hunnisett of Caringbah South with Roo BORDER COLLIE
Con Koutsonicolis of Sylvania with Stella GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG
Jenny Koutsonicolis of Sylvania with Stella GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG
Naoko Maruo of Sutherland with Chihiro POODLE
Ngrid McAfee of Cronulla with Leo LABRADOR RETRIEVER
Jake McAfee of Cronulla with Leo LABRADOR RETRIEVER
Min McCluskey of Caringbah with Buggy BEAGLE
Allison Mcinerney of Illawong with Poppy POODLE
Leila Mcnamara of Sutherland with Snoopy DACHSHUND
Rachel O`loughlin of Sutherland with Mazie POODLE
Selma Oudemans of Bundeena with Ayla Cross Breed (Unknown)
Jodie Pestana of Picnic Point with Oakley GOLDEN RETRIEVER
Christopher Pye of Kurnell with Nala ITALIAN CANE CORSO
Peter Riordan of Caringbah South with Oshi Cross Breed (Unknown)
Jacob Rodwell of Sylvania Waters with Rex LABRADOR RETRIEVER
Naomi Russo with Pepita
Jeaneen Steel of Alfords Point with Leo POODLE
Michelle Steel of Alfords Point with Alfie MALTESE
Matthew Stevens of Loftus with Daisy GOLDEN RETRIEVER
Karen Synnott of Woolooware Bay with Mazie POODLE
Mara Christina Tamborini of Sans Souci with Maggie BORDER COLLIE
Corey Westwood of Kirrawee with Moose STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER
Sabrina Zhu of GyMEA with Oscar POODLE

▶ 09



▶ Agility Round-Up

Jan Taylor takes us through the latest Agility results

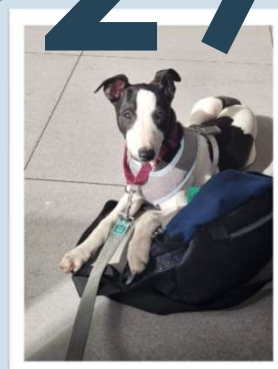
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▶ Obedience & More Report

Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, Tricks & Dances with Dogs Results from Shanelle Corben

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▶ Spotlight on:

This month we meet Instructor, Michelle Jonsson

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iPetStore.com.au

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▶ iPetStore is a family owned, Sydney based pet supplies store. Starting in 2013 as an on-line only pet supplies business, their warehouse is now open to the public 7 days week and includes Puppy Preschool and a DIY Dog Wash.

▶ They ship to most places in Australia and offer free shipping to most metro areas. iPetStore can be found at Warehouse 27, 3-11 Flora St, Kirrawee - just down the hill from Woolworths and South Village. There is parking available on the site and they are open Mon-Fri: 9am - 5pm, Sat: 9am-3pm, Sun: 10am-2pm.

▶ All of their products are distributed from their warehouse in Kirrawee. The team is available to chat via phone 9am-5pm (AEST) or if you would prefer, you can email sales@ipetstore.com.au



▶ Calendar of Events

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Club Event Dates

7 April - Trick Workshop

13 May - Tracking Trial (T&S)

19 May - Obedience & Rally Trial

16 June - Agility Trial

22 June - Tracking Trial

Training Dates

First Sunday for 2024 Training will be Sunday 4 February

Final Sunday for 2024 Training will be Sunday 8 December

The Wag Magazine distribution dates are 1st of February, April, June, August, October & December

Meeting Dates

First Sunday for 2024 Training will be Sunday 4 February

Final Sunday for 2024 Training will be Sunday 8 December

The Wag Magazine distribution dates are 1st of February, April, June, August, October & December

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS
We need your support for both the Obedience/Rally and Agility trials. We require stewards for Obedience & Rally for May, and Agility in June. Please see Shanelle or Jan to put your name down to help out on these days.

If you can steward, help in the kitchen or are savvy on the computer, please reach out to Shanelle Corben at ams.corben@bigpond.com

THERE WILL BE NO TRAINING ON 19th MAY and 16th JUNE

Well, the 2024 Australian National Agility Championships are over for another two years when it will be hosted by Queensland in 2026.

An extra-ordinary amount of work and money was spent to organise this event and it was extremely sad when it rained for two weeks prior. The grounds were absolutely sodden by opening day – Tuesday, 9th July – for the running of the Teams Event. Each State submitted an Adult and Junior Team. New South Wales were victors in the Adult division followed by South Australia and Victoria. Queensland won the Junior Teams event with New South Wales Second.



Sam Mack from Channel 7's Sunrise show did a cross during Friday's weather segment. Well done to the competitors, mainly the State Teams, that ventured out in the early hours on such a cold morning. The International Judges were from Hungary, Slovenia and Japan; and whilst being interviewed there was a funny comment from the Slovenia Judge who said she was called a 'Bastard', but in fact it was the competitor passing judgement on her dog's performance, not the Judge.

A "Nationals" Village was set up where competitors and Volunteers were able to obtain information and purchase products from the many Sponsors. Numerous Food vans were also stationed in the Village enabling people to sit and enjoy a meal whilst chatting to friends.

► Agility Round Up

I can't not mention the MUD! Oh my goodness, by the third day if you did not keep walking (or trying to walk) the mud would suck you down like quick-sand to the depths of its oozy existence. Foot attire for those not competing were gum-boots. I heard one competitor say that she brought two pairs of runners with her and by the second day both pairs were ruined. In saying that, what a great opportunity missed by sporting goods stores like Anaconda to be a sponsor at the "Nationals". They would have made a packet just selling runners.

Each Ring had two sets of flag poles. One denoting what level was in that Ring eg., Master, Excellent or Novice. On the second pole either a rainbow-coloured flag was hoisted advising the course was being set up or a white flag which meant the ring was ready to be walked by competitors. These flags could be seen from any vantage point.

For me, I had a wonderful time Stewarding. It was a great opportunity to catch up with friends that I had not seen since retiring from Agility and making new ones. The atmosphere at the "Nationals" was exciting, the way the competitors handled their dogs and attacked courses, even in the mud.

One of our Beginner Agilites Rupert Clifton-Bligh Volunteered as a Steward and his recollections are as follows: No specific comments but I did enjoy volunteering there for the day. It was particularly interesting to see the signals the owners use when moving the dogs through the course. I feel I am ready to graduate to Assembly Steward next time .. I think I walked about 15k's as Lead Steward :))



The National's had a dedicated Facebook page for Competitors. They could access changes to running schedules and Rings, plus view courses for the Games events etc.

A comment on the competitors Facebook page said: "Huge shout out to Total Dog Sports and Sam Bradshaw who have make the livestream for the Dogs Australia National Agility Championships 2024 happen. Sam's commentary and interviews have been awesome and have enabled so many to watch along, even through they couldn't be here". Great work everyone!

Judging at the 2024 Agility Nationals – Sandra Walker

My involvement in the Agility Nationals began in 2023 with the invitation to judge Gamblers and Strategic Pairs. This involved designing Gambler courses for Novice, Excellent and Masters level for the 200, 300, 400 and 600 dog heights as well as Strategic Pairs courses for Excellent and Masters for all heights.

The Nationals unfortunately were challenged with extraordinary wet weather leading up to the first day. The grounds were very sodden and muddy and as each day began the Agility Committee assessed what action they needed to take to make the trial rings as safe as possible.

My first day of judging was Day 2 of the competition and I had been pre warned that the ring I was judging Gamblers in had very soft muddy areas.

With the help of some great Stewards, I positioned the obstacles for my Gamblers course to avoid muddy patches. Games maps were posted for the competitors on Facebook.

Over the 3 levels, I judged 217 dogs, starting at 9am and completing the judging just after 5pm. It was certainly a long day but many dogs achieved a qualification as I set an achievable gamble and course time allowing for the ground conditions.



Day 3 When I arrived, I was advised that the ring I was supposed to judge Strategic Pairs in was not fit for use. I was to judge pairs in a smaller ring following the judge who was judging Novice Pairs. To consider time frames and that my courses weren't appropriate for the smaller size ring, I then had to re-design my Excellent and Masters courses using the pattern of obstacles from the Novice course.

This was certainly a challenge in itself as I didn't have my laptop to utilise my course design programme. However, despite that it all worked out judging 194 dogs (97 pairs).

Over the 2 days of judging, I saw some great handler and dog teamwork.

A side note to Sandra's Strategic Pairs (SP) course. I just have to mention two runs: Team Kelpie and Team Papion. Talk about laugh! If you are not familiar with SP, then an abridged version is two teams on the course at the same time working the course to their individual strengths eg., Contacts or Jumps, taking turns to complete their portion of the course. Now if a mistake is made then the other Team is to rush over and correct the mistake before they can continue on. Enter Team Kelpie; the first dog completes their section and then the second dog, then back to the first dog who has the A Frame in its part of the course. Up it goes but did not touch the down colour, Sandra blows her whistle for the second dog to correct the mistake.

Up over the A Frame....missed the colour, Sandra again blows her whistle; now we are back to the first dog to have another go at the A Frame....missed the colour for the second time. Sandra blows her whistle, back comes the second dog, and finally, by a nail, made contact with the down colour. A huge roar goes up from spectators as Sandra throws her hands up in the air. Now enter the Papion team of brother and sister. Let me tell you, Papion's are fast. They can scoot around the ring at break-neck speed. They were mid-way through the course when the male dog decided to steel a numbered cone which were used to identify the sequence in the course. Off he went with not only the owner giving chase but the other competitor as well. He had a wonderful time doing zoomies around the ring with the cone in his mouth. Finally caught and numbered cone returned they continued on with the trial, but not for long...same dog started off on his portion of the course, but decided that he would much rather run over and grab the same cone and do zoomies around the ring with both handlers giving chase. There was nothing that Sandra could do but stand there and laugh. Cone retrieved, again, and they managed to finish the course without further zoomies. All spectators cheered and applauded. Unfortunately, even though Sandra was generous with the Course Time because of conditions, they ran over time.



The Nationals from the Competitors angle.

Darren & Jenny Wong - This was the first Nationals we participated and despite the initial challenging muddy conditions, we were impressed at how well the event was organised and appreciative of the hard work put in by Dogs NSW, the judges and volunteers as well as the contributions by the Sponsors. We also enjoyed chatting with many of the competitors some of which drove all the way from Western Australia to compete. According to Dogs NSW, there were over 480 handlers and almost 700 dogs that competed in over 6,000 runs!

There were four days of heats and games trials followed by finals on the fifth day. Winston whilst not the fastest during the heats, managed to get a couple of clear runs in Excellent Agility 300 (2nd place) and Excellent Jumping 300 (3rd place). He also managed to get podium placings in Novice Snooker 300 and Novice Gamblers 300 and qualified in his first Strategic Pairs 200.

Winston made both the Excellent Agility and Excellent Jumping finals. He didn't get through the Excellent Agility finals but to our surprise managed to finish First in the Excellent Jumping finals earning him bragging rights of National Champion Excellent Jumping 300 Height for 2024!



Winston & his winnings



Nga Bustamante entered four events each day, two for Poco and two for Lily. I did not enter any jumping for Poco as at that time, he already had more than enough jumping points for his Australian Agility Championship which he achieved just prior to the Nationals.

However, I had to withdraw Lily from the Nationals due to constant back pain over the last two months every time she jumped

Day1 : Master Agility (ADM 1): 1 fault for no contact on the A frame.

Master Snooker : As Poco already had his Master Snooker Title so I took a risk and I chose the "Suicide 7" . We almost got it, however the bell sounded just before he took the last jump.

Day2 : Master Agility(ADM 2) : For some reasons, Poco did not want to do it and ran away. However, Judge Libby told me to get him running again. He ran nicely the second time but ran away again before the last jump. Very strange behaviour. Master Gambler: He ran it nicely and gained a qualification.

Day3 : Master Agility (ADM3) : He ran the whole course very nicely. I thought he got a Qualification but the judge signalled a Disqualification. I looked at her so surprised, she explained that Poco took the second last jump straight instead of from behind. However, one consolation is that we got the Master Strategic Pairs pass that day, it allows me to claim his Master Strategic Pairs Title. The only title he is chasing is Master Gambler.

Day4 : Open Agility. We got a Qualification in ADO1 and 2 faults in ADO2. I was so tired so I did not bother to run at the Invitational Finals on Sunday.



Rhonda & Mickey

Rhonda Flanagan: I competed at the National Agility Trial earlier this month with my young dog Mickey. It was a marvellous experience. The event was extremely well organised and run despite the challenges

mainly caused by the very heavy grounds which turned into mud in some areas. The weather however was kind during the competition, mainly sunny and clear.

We had very little competing experience as a team before this event however I was very happy with Mickey's performance during the trial. We entered two of the four days of competition. Our biggest thrill was winning the second day Novice Jumping 500 height heat under Judge, Tamas Traj to qualify into the Sunday final. We also received a Qualification in the game of Gamblers.

On Sunday at the Finals there were 30 dogs in our Novice Jumping 500 final. Mickey was going so well until the 3rd last obstacle where a handler error caused an off course, into the wrong tunnel. We recovered and finished the course in fine form. So disappointing, this handler will need to improve to keep up with her dog!

Just looking back at the results, I realised just how well she ran on the Thursday Novice Jumping 500. - 86 dogs ran Tamas Traj's course 13 qualified, 61 disqualified. The Standard Course Time (SCT) was 53 seconds. Mickey ran 27.40 seconds and in the Finals ran 28.82 seconds. Only four dogs qualified in the Sunday Final - 16 were Disqualified.

I was also quite happy with her two Agility runs. The second was much better than the first day, Mickey had settled and she got the weaves!

The Nationals Committee and volunteers worked tirelessly before, during and after the event and are to be congratulated.



Some of the 8 Rings



More Rings



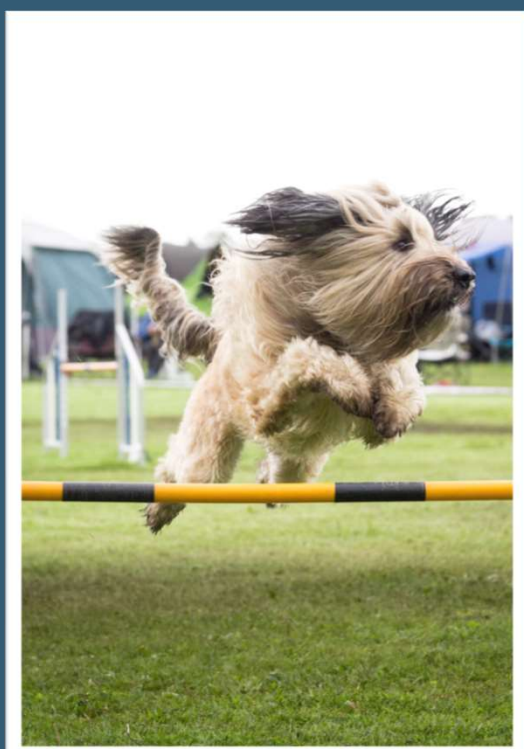
Matting put down over what was grass



Trish & Millie



Part of the Village



▶ What is Agility?

Dog Agility is a sport open to all dogs, it is the fastest growing of the dog sports and most breeds, from Toys like a Chihuahua to Giant Breeds, like a Great Dane, could be suitable for agility. Agility is fun sport for dogs and handlers to get fit together. Dogs are required to learn fun obstacles such as hoops, tunnels, weaving poles, scramble, dog walk, see saw and jumps. Obstacle jump heights are suited to the dogs, jumps at 200 mm, 300mm, 400mm, 500 mm or 600mm based on the height of the dog at the withers.

Be aware that a few breeds may not be suitable for agility and it may be advisable they become spectators rather than participants. It is also advisable not to train overweight dogs or dogs with joint problems without consulting your vet first.

Agility training is specialized and offered by select affiliated Clubs. Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club have a couple of beginner Agility intakes each year, please contact the club for further details.

Puppies could start from eight months of age when their joints and bodies are fully developed. Fit adult dogs can commence training at any age. Some handlers and dogs may only decide to come to training for the fun of it all.

The Agility Trial

Agility was originally developed from equestrian show jumping. The aim of this competition is for a handler to direct their dog around a course of different obstacles to assess and enhance their intelligence and ability. It is an educational and sporting activity intended to improve the dog's integration into society.

Dog Agility competitions are held around Australia and the World. Most weekends Agility Trials happen and offer classes of the various levels of difficulty from Novice to Masters. Courses are set by the Agility Judges and no two courses are ever the same.

Competitions for Agility, Jumping and Agility Games include Novice, Excellent and Master classes. In Agility and Jumping there is also an Open Class which all the dogs compete against each other not just their height category. The Agility Games classes test the handler's strategic skills in classes of Snooker, Gamblers and Strategic Pairs.

A 'clear round' must be obtained to receive a "Qualification" which is no time faults or course faults recorded on the course. As qualifications are gained "Titles" are awarded and the dog will progress to the next higher class, Novice to Excellent and then Master. The highest level of achievement is Agility Champion.

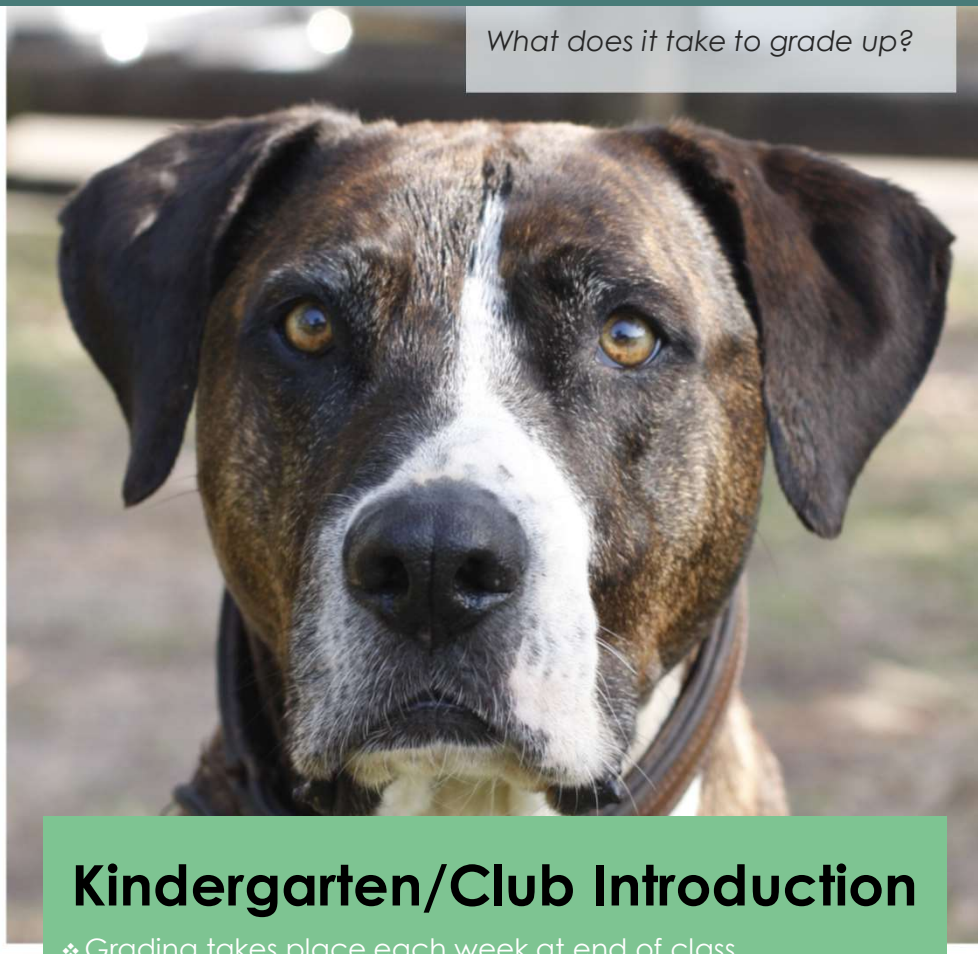
For all rules relating to Agility please view the Dogs Australia website.

<https://dogsaustralia.org.au/members/rule-regulations/rules/>

▶ Grading Fundamentals

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What does it take to grade up?



Kindergarten/Club Introduction

❖ Grading takes place each week at end of class

Handlers are introduced to the club, informed on basic dog to handler communication and shown basic commands. Handlers and their dog are in this class for one week only

Class 1 to 2

❖ Grading takes place every Sunday at end of class

Handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs verbally and repeat commands. Checking a dog is not penalised. Clicker & food rewards (luring) are permitted.

Core Elements

❖ Handler is to demonstrate a level of communication between them and their dog is being established

❖ Handler may touch, encourage and direct the dog during all heeling patterns

❖ Heeling with a loose lead (as much as possible), execution of left and right turns, sits and basic handling

❖ Handler is to demonstrate a knowledge/ability to communicate commands to the dog

Class 2 to 3

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- ❖ Grading takes place 2nd Sunday of each month

Handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs verbally, but only occasionally repeat commands. Checking a dog is penalised, consistent checking of the dog will result in a failure. No clicker, food rewards (luring) permitted. Canine Bridle, Halti permitted.

Core Elements

- ❖ Loose Lead (leash) all paces. Sit stay and drop (or down) stays, Handler beside dog
- ❖ Heeling at all paces with a loose lead. Sits and stands using signal and voice only. Downs without force although the dog may be 'guided' down by the lead
- ❖ Stays: (A) Sit, handler beside the dog for 1 minute; (B) Down, handler beside the dog for 1 minute
- ❖ Handling: based on the handler's ability to communicate command



Class 3 to 4

- ❖ Grading takes place 3rd Sunday of each Month

▶ Handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs verbally but only issue one command. Handling the dog or checking the dog will earn a penalty. Consistent checking must be failed. No clicker, food rewards (luring) permitted. No Canine Bridles or Haltis permitted.

▶ Core Elements

- ❖ Loose Lead (leash) all paces, automatic sit, stand for examination, sit stay and drop (or down) stays with handler in front of dog (1.5 m minimum)
- ❖ Heeling: at all paces with a loose lead. Sits to be automatic. Stands and Downs using signal and voice only. Handler is not to touch or guide the dog into any directed position.
- ❖ Stand For Examination: with dog beside handler. (Dogs' paws movement will earn minor deductions as per CCD judging). If dogs all four paws move, it is a fail.
- ❖ Stays: (A) sit, handler in front of dog for 1 minute; (B) down, handler in front of dog for 2 minutes
- ❖ Handling: based on the handler's ability to communicate command

Class 4 to Club Medal

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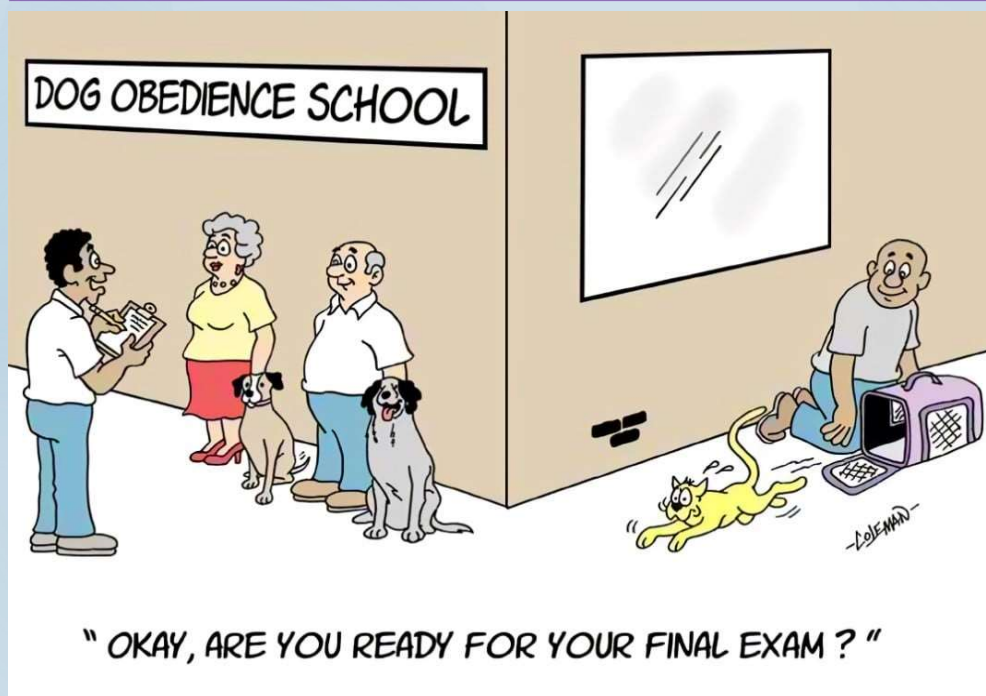
- ❖ Grading takes place Sunday as per Judges Ring schedule

Three qualifying passes to Dogs NSW trial standard -> Community Companion Dog (CCD) Standard

Handlers should not encourage their dog verbally, and only issue one command. Handling the dog or checking the dog will earn a penalty (repeated checking will be failed). No clicker or food rewards (luring) permitted.

Core Elements

- ❖ Loose Lead (leash) all paces, Automatic sit, stand for examination, Recall, Sit stay and drop (or down) stays. Handler in of front dog
- ❖ Heeling: at all paces to an advanced standard (Automatic sits, stands and downs signal and voice only)
- ❖ Stand for Examination: as in a CCD Trial with the handler in front of the dog to the length of the leash. If dogs all four paws move, it is a fail.
- ❖ Recall: 12 metres off lead (components of exercise as in CCD Trail)
- ❖ Stays: (A) Sit, handler 5 metres in front of dog for 1 minute; (B) Down, handler 5 metres in front of dog for 2 minutes
- ❖ Handling: based on the handler's ability to communicate commands.
- ❖ Note: Pre-requisite is the handler and dog having graded to Class 4



Club Medal Excellent

- ❖ Grading takes place Sunday as per Judges Ring schedule

Three qualifying passes to Dogs NSW trial standard -> Novice (CD) Standard

Note: Pre-requisites of (1) the handler and dog having graded to Class 4, (2) having gained Club Medal



Teaching Recall

Training recall is about integrating a routine into your dog's day that they enjoy. It shouldn't mean that returning to you leads to being leashed; instead, it should always be worthwhile for them. For adult dogs, using a long line makes training easier, allowing freedom while maintaining control. Here's a concise guide to recall training, applicable to both young puppies and older dogs with established routines.

- 1. Choose a Recall Command:** Use a specific recall command (not your dog's name) consistently when your dog is coming towards you or can be encouraged to do so because you offer something valuable.
- 2. Start in Low Distraction Settings:** Begin training in quiet environments like your home or garden. Call your dog only when you're confident they will respond.
- 3. Make It Worthwhile:** Always reward your dog generously for returning to you. Use a variety of rewards like food (from kibble to high-value treats like chicken or cheese) or their favourite toy. Vary how you deliver the reward to keep it fun and engaging.
- 4. Use a Long Line for Training:** Start training with a long line to ensure you maintain control while allowing freedom. During this time, ensure you have your dog's full attention and make the interaction enjoyable.
- 5. Engage Your Dog Voluntarily:** Encourage voluntary engagement by rewarding your dog for checking in with you. Use treats or toys and create spontaneous games to reinforce the idea that interacting with you is rewarding.
- 6. Teach Boundary Awareness:** Teach your dog to stay within a certain range while off-leash. Use commands and direction changes to keep them focused on you and to reinforce that staying close is rewarding.
- 7. Avoid Distractions:** Minimize distractions during training, especially until recall is reliable. Prevent situations where your dog might ignore your recall command, which could undermine training progress.
- 8. Safety First:** Always prioritize safety. If your dog doesn't reliably come when called, especially around distractions or other dogs, keep them on a leash.
- 9. Consistency and Patience:** Training takes time and consistency. Reinforce positive behaviour and avoid situations where your dog might learn to ignore your commands.
- 10. Freedom as a Reward:** Ultimately, reliable recall allows your dog the freedom to run off-leash when appropriate, which is a significant reward for them.

By following these steps consistently, you can teach your dog a reliable recall that enhances their enjoyment and safety during off-leash activities.

Kyeamba Kennel Trial (Wagga) 16 & 17 June Obedience, Rally & Trick Trial

* Maria & Neeko

Advanced Tricks - 1st Place 98/100 & 1st Place 99/100

Rally Master – 3rd Place 85/100 + 1st Place 97/100

* Maria & Arlo

Novice Tricks - 1 x 1st Place 79/80, 1 x 2nd Place 78.5/80

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Penrith Kennel & Obedience Club 17 June Obedience & Rally Trial

* Christie & Magic (Pictured Below)

Rally Novice – Qualification

& gained their Rally Novice Title

* Dagmar & Kaizen (Pictured right)

Rally Excellent – Qualification 85 points



Deer Bush Dog Training Club 30 June Obedience & Rally Trial

* Maria & Neeko

Rally Master – 1st Place 98/100

* Jenny & Winston (Pictured Right)

Rally Excellent - 2nd Place 95/100

* Carol & Missy

Rally Advanced – 2nd Place 98/100



Bearded Collie Club 6 & 7 July Herding Trial

* Jan & Wilson (Pictured Left)

Gained their Herding Test (HT) Title

► Obedience, Rally, Herding,
Scent Work, Tricks & DWD Report

Illawarra Dog Training Club 7 July

Double Obedience Trial

* Rob & Tex (Pictured right)
CCD 3rd Place
& Gained Their CCD Title



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Queanbeyan Dog Training Club 13 July

* Karen & Tanya (Pictured right)
Rally Novice – Qualification

Blue Mountains Dog Training Club 17 July

* Jenni & Dolly (Pictured below left)
Rally Novice – Qualification 90 points
& Gained their Rally Novice Title

* Maria & Neeko (Pictured below right)
Rally Master – 1st Place 100/100



Border Collie Club Scent Work Trial 17 July

* Linda & Clancy (pictured right)
- Interiors - 1st Place with a
lightning fast speed of 5.4 seconds
- Exteriors - Qualification

**This was Clancy's first
Scent Work Trial**



Maitland Dog Training Club Club 20 & 21 July Obedience, Rally and Trick Trial

* Pam & Artemis (pictured below right)

Novice Tricks – 2nd Place 74/80

* Lyn & Gypsy (pictured below left)

- Intermediate Tricks – 3rd Place & 2nd Place

- Rally Excellent – 1st and 2nd Place

& Gained their Rally Excellent Title

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Jaxon's Scent Work – Results Catch Up

* Christie & Jaxon (who also owns Magic)

Jaxon missed out getting his April & May results in the last edition of The Wag, so this includes all his results in which he gained his **Scent Work Novice Title** at the Border Collie Club trial.

First comp = Hills Dog Club 27/4

- Novice Vehicles - Q 1st place

- Novice Exteriors - Q 2nd place

Second comp = Southern Highlands 26/5

- Novice Interiors = Q

- Novice Containers = Q 6th

Third comp = Northern Suburbs 21/6

- Novice Containers = Q

Fourth comp = Border Collie Club 17/7

- Novice Interiors = Q and Title



Amazing results from you all Congratulations !!

Sebastian is a 18 month old kavoodle, he had a tricky start to his life after being attacked while walking on lead through the local streets, after the long physical recovery I recognised it would be very important for Sebastian to build up his confidence and social skills around other dogs, so we joined Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club with this aim. The support, training and social interaction has been and continues to be a great experience for us both, it has also helped us build confidence to embark on gaining qualifications to become accredited in Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) and to volunteer as a visitation animal team in a memory support unit.

I work with a great team of clinicians at Evolving Minds Counselling as an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker (AMHSW), and now have the privilege of having Sebastian work alongside me to provide Animal Assisted Therapy. I have been asked a lot of questions about Animal Assisted Therapy and Visitation Animal Teams so I thought I would share a few insights which I hope you will find helpful.

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT)

Animal-assisted therapy is an emerging field due to the beneficial effect animals may have on people's health, well-being, and motivation. Working as a counsellor and introducing Sebastian into the therapeutic relationship is one of many therapeutic tools I utilise to assist clients experiencing effects of trauma, anxiety, stress, anger and depression to improve their mental health. Clients have also reported that Sebastian's presence has helped improve comfort and engagement in sessions.

Sebastian and I trained through Therapy Dogs Australia. The Therapy Dog & Handler training course is designed to equip clinicians and their dog with the skills required to work together in an animal-assisted therapy setting. Training is intensive and covers a wide range of topics from obedience, manners and canine body language to specific animal assisted intervention training, application of theoretical perspectives and review of available research. The content of this course is specifically designed to meet the needs of clinicians who are already working within the scope of their existing training such as Mental Health Social Workers, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists and Doctors.

The Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) Team

Charmaine Guthrie



Visitation Animal Team

Sebastian and I also volunteer our time by visiting a memory support unit. Elders who may experience issues with communication and social isolation appear to enjoy talking about their own experiences with animals and have commented on the enjoyment they experience petting and playing with Sebastian. Sebastian also works his motivating magic to encourage some residents to join him for a stroll around the garden.

Volunteering as a Visitation animal Team means that, dogs work alongside humans who do not necessarily hold any qualifications but whose animals are assessed as suitable both from a health and wellness perspective for the animal and from a suitability and safety for the human participants. Animals are generally brought into a facility or organisation by a handler who does not need to have any formal qualifications. Visitation animals visit with people to provide companionship, reduce stress, distract from chronic pain and enhance wellbeing.

I hope by sharing the experience of Sebastian and I it has been helpful in clarifying some of the different roles and training required to work in supporting members of our amazing community. I have provided some links below if you would like to explore any of these areas further.

Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club

<https://www.ssdtc.com.au/>

ATL Animal Therapies LTD

<https://animaltherapies.org.au/animals-helping-humans/>

Therapy Dogs Australia

<https://therapydog.com.au/>

What is a Mental Health Social Worker

<https://my.aasw.asn.au/s/article/Information-for-clients-on-AMHSW-s>

Evolving Minds

<https://www.evolvingminds.com.au/sebastian>



The Obedience Interclub Teams Challenge Event, was established in 1995 and was only open to Purebred/Obedience Clubs that were interested in Obedience. It was much later that non-purebred

dogs were accepted for competition and this is when this event became very popular. However, its popularity has declined over the past few years due to Covid and cancellations because of weather conditions.

The spoils of Winning an Interclub Obedience Challenge (IOC) means that your Club gets to host the event the following year. As Illawarra Dog Training Club were the 2023 Winners of the IOC, meant that we were to head down Mount Ousley to "The Gong" for this year's Challenge.

Six dogs are required for each team (1xRally, 1xCCD, 1xCD, 2xOpen, 1xUtility). We managed to almost put together two full teams with Leslie Rowlings backing up in both teams as UD and Open.

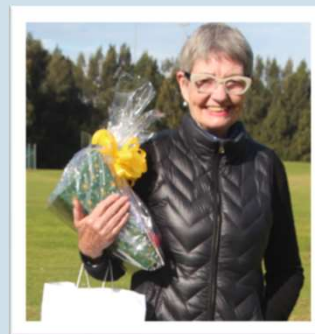
Our Teams were:

Sutho One: (L to R) Janni Gormly with Dolly. Steven Tong with Bailey, Carole Wallace with Missy, Barbara Horton with Jessica, Leslie Rowling with Danni, (not in photo: Amy Tombling with Rupert)

Sutho Two: (L to R) Heather McMillan with Sammy. Rob Ainnesley with Tex, Ann Jamison with Honey, Lyn Coleman with Gypsy, Leslie Rowling with Danni



Our Steward was Catherine Link (pictured right) who assisted Shanelle Corben in the Rally ring.



▶ Interclub Obedience Challenge

Jan Taylor



Illawarra Dog Training Club did a fantastic job of organising the competition it was just a shame that it rained during the morning when the bulk of Trial was in progress. They also sourced sponsorship from a variety of companies to the tune of over \$40,000 in prizes and raffles. Our Sutherland folk

were the benefactors of some of these goodies. Heather McMillan, a \$300 voucher from Hanrob Kennels for boarding or training, Rob Aignesley came away with the Bunnings Raffle of dog kennel, bed, pen, toys etc which turned out to be perfect timing as his daughter was to collect their new little puppy that day; so we know where that prize is going! Raffle boxes were won by Catherine Link and Ann Jamison.

There were some excellent performances by our dogs and some funny ones as well. Shanelle Corben was the Judge for Rally. It was a lovely course, just ask Jenni Gormly with little poodle Dolly. They were nominated for Novice Rally. Jenny was so excited at the conclusion of her run thinking that Dolly did the course with minimal mistakes. And she would be right. Technically she only lost two points if you don't include the fact that Dolly did not "Sit" at any of the workstations that required a "Sit". Now Dolly did try ever so hard to crouch down to put her bum to the wet ground but dignity prevailed. I was outside the ring watching Dolly's antics and started to laugh as did Shanelle.

The Star of the CCD Ring was Amy Tombling and her Terrier 'Rupert'. Another one who had some issues with the Sit, but his outstanding performance was the Recall; so funny. As Ann walked away she told Rupert to "Stay" and "Stay" he did! No matter how many times Ann called him, he was not budging. Even the Judge, Rebecca Braid moved away thinking she may be too close, but no, he still stayed there. Amy came closer and called, no movement. She crouched down, still no movement. Eventually with one last big yell to "Come" he bolted up to Amy and did a perfect sit. Everyone around the ring cheered and applauded. A couple of the Stewards commented that he should not have any problems with the "Stays".... And he didn't. Top marks for his sit and down Stays.



Had to feel for Lyn Coleman. She and Gypsy had just gained their Novice Title and were thrown into Open for this meet. With just two weeks practice they did a fantastic job. Leslie Rowlings with Danni held down two positions. Utility for Sutho One Team and Open for Sutho Two team. Danni is such a trooper and loves to work for Leslie. With a score of 30 out of 40, Steven Tong was not pleased with Bailey's heeling in Novice Obedience. Steven thought he was a bit distracted but the remainder of the Novice elements he did perfectly. Barbara Horton's Jessica is not a Dumb-bell fan and that was her failing in Open for Sutho One, but completed all of her other components nicely. Sammy was also suffering from the "wet posterior" syndrome in Rally, much to Heather McMillian's annoyance. Precise and steady was Ann Jamison's Honey. She performed her Novice Obedience tasks perfectly. Lynda Brandt and I wandered over to watch Carol Wallace's Missy in the Open ring and got into trouble! Missy caught sight of us just as Carol threw the Dumb-bell and Missy was too distracted by us to collect her Dumb-bell. We were 'politely' told to go away. Having only recently gaining his CCD Title Rob Aignesley with Tex (brother to Dolly) performed.

The Sutherland and Bearded Collie Club joined forces for lunch and what a delightful spread it was. Thank you everyone for bringing such delectables to share.



It was whilst we were finishing lunch that they started to read out where each of the teams placed. Beardies, as expected, came last. Sutho One came twelfth. I thought I missed them calling out Sutho Two, but then the news I was dreading came...."will the following three teams come to the Clubhouse for Placings.....Sutho Two, The Hills, Illawarra Fins". As much as we all would have been proud of them, the thought of Sutho Two coming First was not what I wanted to hear because that would mean we would have to host it next year. Phew! What a relief, we came third! Illawarra Fins won so they will get to host it again next year. Well done Illawarra!



Usually the notification for the IOC comes out around March, so once again I will be looking for people to fill positions for another two or even three Teams. If you would like to join us for a fun-filled day of no pressure competition other than you are not allowed to win!! Then come and register your name at the Clubhouse.

First: Illawarra Fins



Second: The Hills



Third: Sutho Two

Photos from the Interclub Obedience Challenge (some pictures courtesy of Nikki Lee Taylor)



Instructor Michelle Jonsson



Michelle's long-standing commitment to the local dog training club dates back to 1998, when she first joined with a Staffy cross cattle dog named Tiffany. Over the years, her story has become a testament to perseverance, growth, and community support within the club.

When Michelle began her journey, Tiffany was a challenging but promising student. With the support of the club and dedicated training, Tiffany progressed to Level 4, proving that with patience and guidance, even the most difficult cases can achieve success. During this period, Michelle also had a whippet named Fletcher who preferred to observe rather than participate in training.

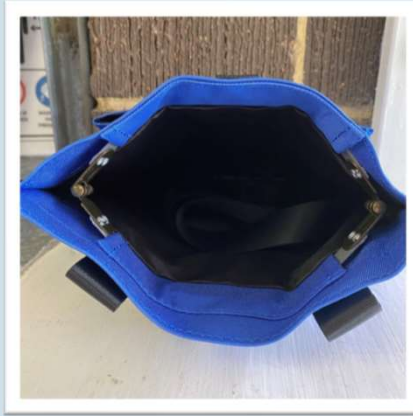
Following Tiffany and Fletcher's passing, Michelle welcomed two whippets, Jazz and Lucy, into her life in 2013. However, her plans were temporarily halted when she broke her foot, preventing her from training the new dogs for three months. Once recovered, Michelle resumed training with Jazz and Lucy at the club, where she faced new challenges. Jazz was notably lazy and unmotivated by food, while Lucy had a penchant for running off in search of her brother, often seeking out instructors who would spoil her.

Despite these hurdles, Michelle's dedication paid off as Jazz and Lucy advanced to Grade 2. The turning point came when Ros, the chief instructor at the time, invited Michelle to consider becoming an instructor herself. Embracing this opportunity, Michelle learned new training techniques from experts including Lex, Ros, Lyn, and Lesley. Her efforts did not go unnoticed, as others frequently commented on how well-trained her whippets were.

Michelle credits much of her success to the support and guidance she received from the club. With a deep sense of gratitude, she acknowledges the help of Andrea, Wendy, and Ron, which inspired her to give back to the community. She now serves as the Assistant Secretary, reflecting her commitment to supporting the club that has played a pivotal role in her and her dogs' lives.

Though Lucy and Jazz passed away earlier this year, Michelle cherishes the memories of their training achievements. Lucy, who became blind from SARDS 18 months ago, remained an exemplary listener of voice commands, while Jazz was remembered for his obedience and playful spirit. Michelle now begins a new chapter with a whippet puppy named Benji, embarking on another journey of training and companionship.

Michelle's story is a powerful reminder of the enduring bond between humans and their canine companions, as well as the positive impact of community support and shared experiences in overcoming challenges and achieving success.



► Merchandise

Treat pouches
are now
available from
the canteen –
only \$15.00 each

TRAINING AND CLASS TIMES

SUNDAY MORNING

Kindergarten - 8:30 to 9:30 am

(During Daylight Saving 8:00 to 9:00 am)

Classes 1, 2, 3, 4 - 8:30 to 9:30 am

(During Daylight Saving 8:00 to 9:00 am)

Beginners Agility - 8:30 to 9:30 am

(During Daylight Saving 8:00 to 9:00 am)

MONDAY NIGHT

The Help Class - 7:00 to 8:30 pm

(Invitation Only - Enquire at Clubhouse)

Rally – 7:00 to 9:00pm

Obedience Trial Class 7:00 to 9:00pm

(every fortnight)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

(moving to Sunday Mornings soon!)

Agility Training - 7:15 to 9:30 pm *(Intermediate/Trialers)*

There is no **Poop Fairy** ...

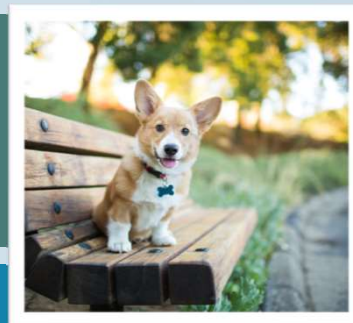


Scoop your Poop
Grab it - Bag it - Toss it

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Our club enforces a no dog attack policy. This means if your dog has attacked another dog or human you will be asked to purchase from the clubhouse (or elsewhere) a muzzle to use whilst on SSDTC grounds during training sessions. Please understand that the enforcing of this policy is for the safety of our trainers, members and their dogs. Removal of the muzzle at a future date to be decided by senior instructor(s) assessment on the aggressive dog.

▶ General Rules



Ground Rules

1. Members must be in class by the time specified. Instructors have the right to refuse entry to the class if you are late.
2. All dogs must be vetted by the appointed vetting officers before you proceed to a class. No dogs will be allowed on the field before being vetted.
3. Members without membership cards may be refused admittance to class.
4. All dogs must be immunised against Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus and Para influenza and Kennel Cough.
5. Current inoculation certificates must be produced when renewing membership.
6. No bitch in season will be allowed to attend training.
7. All dogs must be kept on a leash at all times unless under the supervision of an instructor.
8. All handlers of dogs who foul the grounds must immediately clean up and dispose of the matter in the bin/s provided.
9. Classes using the Club jumps and/or agility equipment will be responsible for returning the equipment to the equipment room after use.
10. Members shall behave courteously to other members and officials of the Club at all times.
11. Any disputes should be referred to the chief instructor or a committee member at the time of the dispute.