

The Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club Inc

ABN: 85 904 409 654



February 2025 – March 2025

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The Wag Magazine



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2

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♥ Passed ♥

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Our very reasonable advertising rates include an initial introduction/bio of your company along with your advertisement.

Contact the editor for details.

SINGLE EDITION

FULL PAGE \$55
HALF PAGE \$40
QUARTER PAGE \$22

3 EDITIONS

FULL PAGE \$165
HALF PAGE \$115
QUARTER PAGE \$66

6 EDITIONS

FULL PAGE \$300
HALF PAGE \$210
QUARTER PAGE \$120

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All contributions for THE WAG
must be emailed to

editor@ssdtc.com.au

Contributions must be received
at least two weeks prior to
distribution otherwise inclusion
cannot be guaranteed

Opinions expressed in THE WAG
are not necessarily those of the
Sutherland Shire Dog Training
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 February 2025-March 2025 edition of The Wag. How can it already be February? I had an amazing trip away with my family for Christmas but I'm really behind the 8-ball now and scrambling to catch up. I've been very lax in my dog training and really missed my

Sunday morning sessions. I'm pretty sure Ber is missing them too. I'm hoping to get us up to scratch for an entry into our next Rally competition but I think I might be pushing it. If you see us around, please provide some much needed motivation 😊

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, 2025 has kicked off with a big bang, around 25 new members joining on Sunday 2nd. Great effort by our Chief Instructor Lyn Walsh, and her team, who managed to pull in additional Instructors to ensure all new members were put through our kindergarten/induction class.

It was great to see so many on the oval eagerly learning their first steps in dog and handler training. This, of course, will flow into Class 1 next week and I'm certain our team of Instructors will have this covered in the same way.

As we move through the year, we have many trials scheduled and approved. They include Tricks, Agility, Obedience and Rally. To ensure these are a success, as in the past, we need more volunteers to help our dedicated and experienced trial organisers.

To our members that intend to compete in these trials, it would be greatly appreciated if you could put your hand up and help out in the pre-trial preparations. Without some additional support here, these trials could be in jeopardy. The more helpers we have prior to the trials, the more successful they will be.

I look forward to catching up with you all in the coming weeks.

▶ New Members

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Ana Caroline Vicente of SUTHERLAND with Finnish Hound Kyoto
Ursula Walters of CONNELLS POINT with Finnish Hound Gizmo and Finnish Hound Ziggy
Dylan Yap of KOGARAH BAY with Finnish Laponian Dog Freddo



We had the privilege of attending the Sutherland Shire Council Citizenship Ceremony & Citizen of the Year Awards.

It was an honour to be nominated for Community Group of the Year, and we were proud to be part of such a meaningful event. There were many deserving nominees across all categories.

Congratulations to Project Youth on winning Community Group of the Year! And also congratulations to all the other winners from the other categories.

A heartfelt thank you to all our incredible volunteers. No matter the role, each of you play an essential part in our club's continued success, and in providing valuable service to our community. Your dedication and support are truly appreciated.



Kylie's K9 Country Retreat

**ANAKY
SAMOYEDS**

**HYDRO &
REHAB**

Kylie Hill : 0408 207 162

EMAIL : info@k9countryretreat.com.au

WEBSITE : <http://www.anakysamoyeds.com>

Kylie's is the ultimate Farm Stay for your four-legged family member. Offering peace of mind so you can enjoy your time away. Rest assured your dog is having the best time playing and getting cuddles in the open space and fresh air. Drop off your dog for doggy daycare, offering the same optional outdoor extra's as our retreat stays, such as bushwalks and paddock plays, for your dog's fulfillment and enjoyment.

At the Retreat, we also offer Hydrotherapy, a form of resistance training and rehabilitation using our specialised underwater treadmill. These treatment plans provided by our trained hydrotherapists work to relieve pain and inflammation, and promote wellbeing. Proven to stimulate blood flow and relax tight muscles, hydrotherapy is being used as beneficial pre and post operative treatment, as well as an effective form of weight management, fitness training and conditioning.



**A FARM STAY
THATS NOT
TOO FUR
AWAY**

**Boarding
Doggy Daycare
Training
Grooming
Hydrotherapy
Retail**

BOOK



NOW!



@kyliesK9
@AnakySamoyeds



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▶ Agility Round-Up

Robyn Goldsmith takes us through the latest Agility results

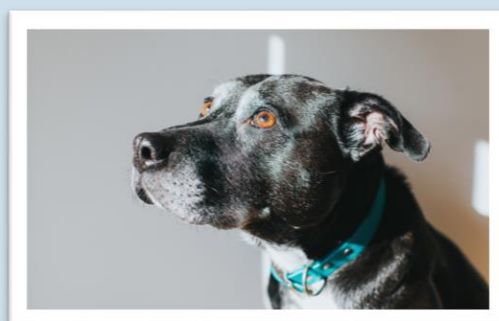
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▶ Obedience & More Report

Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, Tricks & Dances with Dogs Results from Jenni Gormley

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▶ Spotlight on:

This month we look at Obedience Training Group with Steven Tong

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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

Club Event Dates

6 April – Trick Dog Test

12 May - Tracking Trial (T&S)

18 May - Obedience & Rally Trial

15 June - Agility Trial

21 June – Track & Search Trial

Training Dates

First Sunday for 2025 Training will be Sunday 2 February

Final Sunday for 2025 Training will be Sunday 7 December

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

Meeting Dates

Instructors Meetings take place on the first Sunday of every month after general training

Committee Meetings take place on the second Sunday of every month after general training

Annual General Meeting will be held SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

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
6th APRIL, 18th MAY
or 15th JUNE

The 2025 Beginner course will commence on 2nd March. There will be a Beginner Agility Orientation Day on 16th February where dogs will be assessed for their suitability for Agility. We have a couple of spots available so if you are interested in doing Agility, whether it be for competition or fun, you will have to register your details with the ladies in the office before 16th February. But before you do you will need to meet the following criteria.

- Dogs who are overweight, or have any Back, Hip, or Leg problems should seek Veterinary advice before doing Agility. This sport puts extreme pressure on your dog's body, so soundness of bone and muscle is important.
- You must be in Grade 3 or above at the time of commencement
- If your dog is either Dog or People aggressive then Agility is not for them.
- We train only Dogs over 16 months of age, as by this time all their bones should have finished growing (except for large dogs, this may take a little longer).
- All Dogs must have a certain amount of obedience training ie, to sit, drop or stay on command, be able to work off lead, to return to handler when called:- no matter what is going on around them at the time.

You must be able to accept advice and criticism plus come to class with a positive attitude.

Jan Taylor

Jenny and Darren Wong with Winston did well at the Hawkesbury Agility Trial last December. One of the final trials for the year this is held in the evening and is a fun trial to attend with everyone being in the Christmas spirit. Winston came second with a Q in Masters Jumping.



A couple of our members attended courses over the summer break.

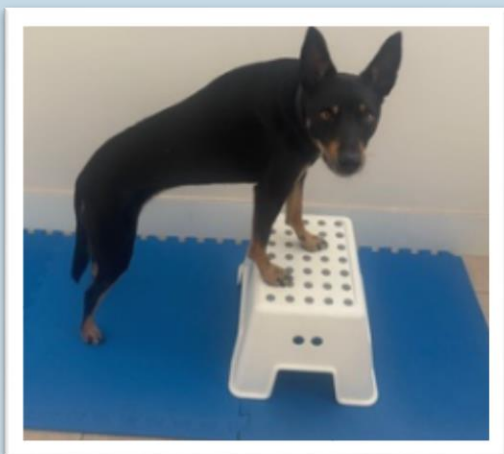
From Christie and Magic

We have attended a couple of Novice Jumping workshops at MyDac over the summer. We have been challenged with some curvy courses and had to learn some new skills so have found it very valuable. We can't wait to continue our agility learning curve this year 😊



From Catherine and Jack-Jack

I took Jack-Jack for Summer Skills Blitz "Weave-olutionaries" Getting Started with Weave Pole Training at Canine Ed on 3 January 2025. It was an excellent basic course which focused the dogs on entering the weave path from various angles, keeping their head low, and completing the run (cookies at the end!). Once JJ has mastered these skills, I will move him on to the next step of weaving in and out of the poles. Highly recommend Canine Ed!



Bindy Update from Sandra Walker

Bindy's fracture finally healed after a long 13 weeks. I have commenced her rehabilitation which is going to take some time for her recovery. Luckily for both of us Bindy is a very compliant patient!

Robyn and Kobi did an online course with [Bronagh Daly](#) at Fenzi Dog Academy on “Near and Far Forward Focus versus Come to Hand” . Here is the starting info

When it comes to successfully and comfortably completing an agility course, clarity is the most important thing. Our dogs need to know when they should be taking the obstacle ahead of them and when they should be turning or coming into us. The most common errors that I see on agility courses is when dogs lack this clarity. So how do we achieve it?

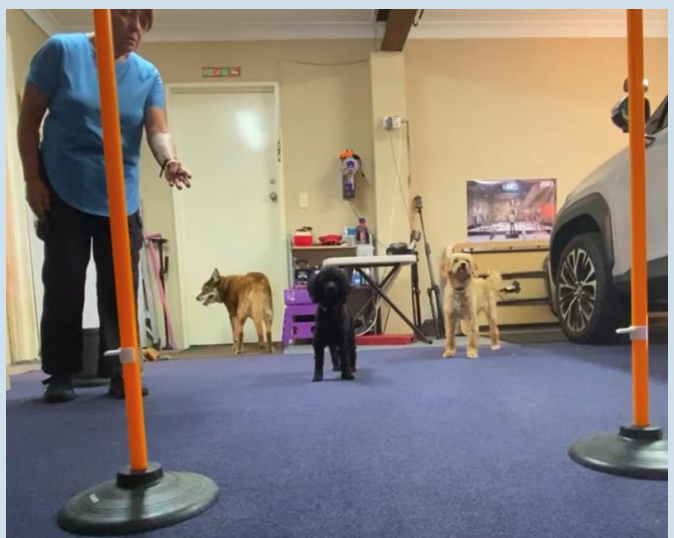
1. Clear understanding of handlers’ arm positions is a big one!

When you raise your arm up in the air, dogs will naturally tend to extend/jump bigger. When you bring your arm low towards your body, dogs will naturally pay more attention. However, as we get further into our agility journey, we often muddy this. As a result, this can often cause our canine teammates to guess at what we mean instead of know with full clarity. And that can lead to errors on course or us over-handling.

2. Clear and predictable verbals for coming into us/bypassing something and carrying on ahead/taking what they’re looking at.

Dogs all have their preferences. Some prefer to extend and carry ahead without us, while some prefer to stick with us. This can occur due to what they find most rewarding, but it can also be a combination of not being sure *when* they should be doing either of these things. This can then cause a lack of confidence for one or the other (and sometimes even both!). That’s where verbals can really help! So to assist our dogs (and ourselves!), we’re going to be teaching our dogs a come to hand verbal and a go ahead verbal.

Kobi and Saffy practising their forward focus verbal “Look”



▶ 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

14

- ❖ 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

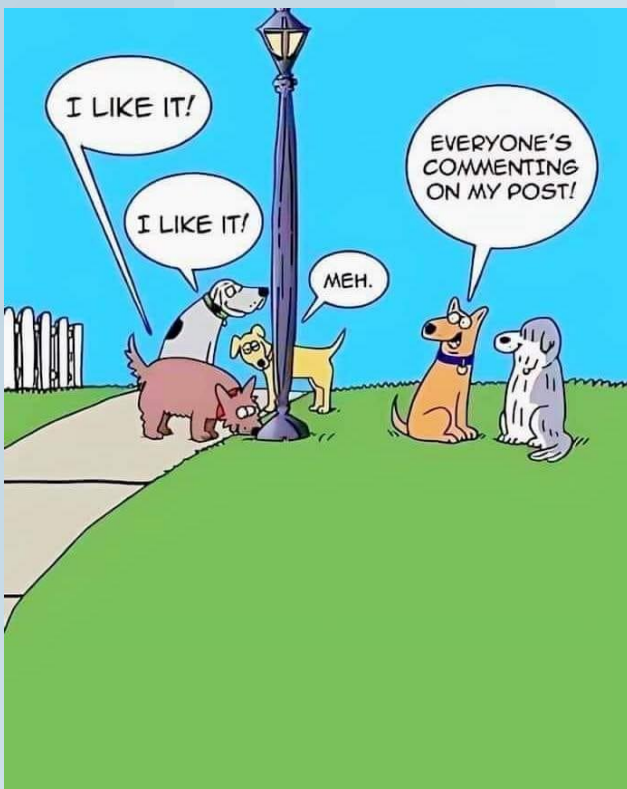
Three qualifying passes to Dogs NSW trial standard -> Community Companion Dog (CCD) Standard

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

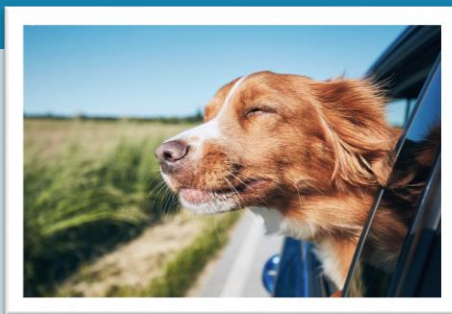
Three qualifying passes to Dogs NSW trial standard ->Novice (CD) Standard

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

▶ Training Tips

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A Guide for Travelling with Pets



Caravanning and camping holidays are a great way for families to enjoy the great outdoors together, and that should include the beloved family pet!

It is important to plan when travelling with pets and the following tips will provide you with the knowledge and ideas to make your holiday a pleasant one for all.

Did you know?

It is illegal to drive in NSW with a pet on your lap. For safety pets must be restrained in a carrier or harness to prevent them moving around the car. (The laws regarding restraint of dogs in or on vehicles can vary between the states/territories).

No dogs, cats, birds and other domestic pets (other than trained assistance animals such as guide dogs) must not be taken into national parks, state conservation areas, nature reserves, historic sites or Aboriginal areas.

Accommodation

There are many caravan / holiday parks that welcome pets however pet policies may vary. When making your booking, contact the park directly to:

Ensure that there has not been a change of policy; and

Find out whether any conditions apply

During your stay at a caravan / holiday park, make sure you:

Respect the park's regulations and be considerate of your fellow guests – don't allow your pet to dominate the space.

Always pick up any dog droppings.

Keep your pet under control at all times, as much as for their safety as the safety of those around you.

Travelling

Ensure your pet is comfortable and safe whilst travelling.

For safety, pets must be restrained in a carrier or harness when travelling.

Vehicle restraints for dogs are widely available and include restraints that either attach to existing seat belts or have buckles that clip directly into the seat belt.

Transport containers should enable the animal to lie down comfortably in a natural position, stand and sit erect, turn around and stretch with clearance. Always ensure they are secure so it won't slide or shift in the event of a quick stop.

Do a trial run before your holiday as this will identify if they have a travel phobia. Consider several trial runs, lengthening the duration each time.

A 30-minute drive on various surfaces and corners will be enough to see how they react. Anything that doesn't happen is unlikely to occur during a longer trip.

Full article can be read [here](#)

Hills Dog Club, 2 November 2024

- **Dagmar & Kaizen (11 years)**
Rally Excellent, Pass 87 points
Gained Rally Excellent Title
Now Retired from all Competition

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Northern Suburbs Dog Training Club January 2025

- **Roz & Barney**
Rally Excellent Pass
and also
1st place in RATG Novice on
91



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

Jenni Gormley

Doberman Club Scent Work Trial, 6 December

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- **Linda & Clancy,**
Pass in Novice Containers and also
Novice Vehicles and gained their Novice
Scent Work Title



“Clancy is 11yrs old so she’s retired from other sports, but still loves to have a job to do and to be able to train for something and keep her brain busy. Scent Work is awesome for older dogs!”

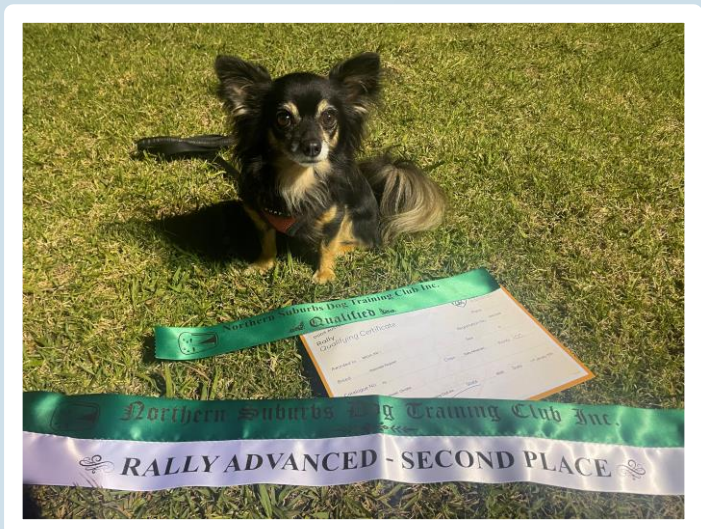
Western Sydney Scent Work Club Container Carnivale, 10 January

- **Christie & Roman,**
Novice Containers
Time: 12s,
Place: 8 out of 42.



Northern Suburbs Dog Training Club Rally Trial, 11 January

- **Christie & Magic**
Rally Advanced,
Q100/100, 2nd place



Western Sydney Scentwork Club Summer Sizzler, 17 January

- **Christie & Jaxon**
Advanced Interiors,
Qualified

Obedience Training Group with Steven Tong



Building a Thriving Competitive Obedience Training Group

Over the past three months, a dedicated group of triallers has come together near the clubhouse on Sunday mornings, before formal classes begin, to fine-tune their skills for competition. This initiative started from a shared desire to exchange tips and ideas, leveraging the collective knowledge of our members to achieve team success. After attending an obedience workshop in mid-August, I gained valuable insights and felt compelled to share this knowledge with our club to ensure everyone could benefit.

Our small group, which we hope to expand in the new year, is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment. We aim to make training sessions enjoyable and supportive, helping newcomers feel confident as they embark on or restart their journey in competitive obedience training.

Encouraging Participation Through Success Stories

We believe in the power of sharing success stories to motivate and inspire others. By highlighting the achievements of our group members and their dogs, we hope to encourage more people to join and enhance their own training journeys. Our focus extends beyond competition; we emphasize the broader benefits of obedience training, such as improved behavior, stronger communication between dog and owner, and the joy of working together towards common goals.

Training Techniques We Use

Our group employs a variety of effective training techniques, including:

- Positive Reinforcement: Rewarding desired behaviors with treats, praise, or playtime.
- Luring: Using a treat or toy to guide the dog into the desired position.
- Shaping: Gradually rewarding successive approximations of the desired behavior.
- Capturing: Waiting for the dog to naturally perform the desired behavior and then rewarding them.

Looking Ahead

As our group is still in its early stages, we look forward to taking a well-earned break over the Christmas/New Year period. We hope to return with renewed energy and inspire more members to join us, benefiting from the camaraderie we have built and showcasing the many advantages of competitive obedience training.

We'd love to hear from you! If you have any ideas or would like to join our group, please reach out. Let's make the new year a successful one for our dogs and ourselves! 🐾



► 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** ...



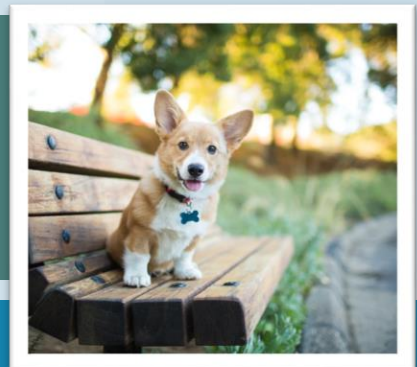
Scoop your Poop

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.