



**Northern Obedience
Dog Club
Established 1954**

**Affiliated with the
Victorian Canine
Association**

**Patron: The Mayor
of Moonee Valley**

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HOWLER

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From the Editor

A Happy New Year to all our members. A special welcome to new members of the Club.

This is our first issue for 2010 and includes the usual features—a mixture of Club news, puzzles, lighted-hearted items and some interesting more serious features. For the information of our new members, Howler is published six times a year every two months.

It's your newsletter so let us know what you like and don't like and what you want more (or less) of. You are also invited to contribute ideas, stories, jokes or other material that catches your eye. One limitation is the law that relates to copyright protection of authors for their original work. If you give us material please let us know where it came from; we can then decide how best to publish it. Without knowing the source we might not be able to publish it at all. Hand material to the Club desk or speak with me or the other members of the Editorial Team—Denise Gardner and Glenys Barnes.

If you have friends with a dog who are not members of the Club please encourage them to join. It's more fun when you know someone else with the same interest.

We still have hot weather with us so it's fitting that we remind ourselves of the danger of hot weather to our dogs. Last year's December issue had an article on this. Basically, make sure you have plenty of water available for your dog during the day, NEVER leave your dog in an enclosed car and go easy on the walking and the exercise. If you feel hot your dog will too. Why don't you take your dog to the beach? They'll love it. Find a list of dog beaches in December Howler

Enjoy your dog and keep it safe in the hot weather.



President's Podium

Hi! Folks

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to all.

As this is the first Howler of the year I must say well done to everyone involved in the Christmas break up in 2009. A lot of fun was had by all.

2010 is shaping up as a good year for the club. We have a lot of activities planned so keep a look out for information in the Howler.

The start of the year is always very busy with new members and the desk will be flat out.

Like so many clubs, this one relies entirely on the goodwill of volunteers to make it work. We have a new Committee (all volunteers) in place for 2010; their names are on the front cover. I encourage new members to introduce themselves to the Committee and make their views and needs known. What do you want to get from the Club? Let them know.

What the Club needs is more volunteers. We are especially looking for an assistant equipment manager to help Rob Fimmel set up and take down the equipment and rings each Sunday. Please consider volunteering to help Rob with this important task. If you have an interest in helping your Club just speak with Rob or myself. Or just pitch in and help. I assure you it will be most appreciated.

Regards.

Trevor



Reminders

Please **keep a lead on your dog** at all times, even between classes, unless asked to remove it by your class instructor.

FREE tea and coffee before and after training on Sundays. Sweets and soft drinks also available to buy at the shop.

You DID get that pup for Christmas! What next?

Your new puppy is home - he's so cute, BUT he cries, bites, chews and piddles and poops. What do you do?

Within the first 48 hours make an appointment with your local vet for the puppy to have a full health check and to have a microchip inserted if the pup is not already microchipped. The vet will also advise about vaccination and worming, specific grooming advice and, ideally, book in for puppy classes (or join Northern Obedience as soon as you can). The vet's visit is also an opportunity to introduce the puppy to the clinic in a 'good outcome' situation.

At home, start as you mean to go on. Have a list of rules that are 'not negotiable' and keep to them. It is confusing for the pup if it is OK to do something today (because it is funny) but NOT OK to do it in a week's time (because it's no longer funny). Be clear, calm and consistent in what you want and how you train the pup. Positive introduction to as many different shapes and sizes of dogs and people is paramount.

8-16 weeks:

Take the pup to a puppy class or to our Club to learn very basic training, including advice on toilet training, biting and how to be calm in the presence of other puppies.

Introduce pup to as many new things as possible - adults, children, other animals (cats, chooks etc), equipment, and a variety of sounds and sights.

16-24 weeks:


Further training is important – dog school or one-on-one training. Pups are growing quickly and starting to approach puberty, which can be a difficult time with behavioural issues.

There is a wealth of information available to help you:

- Talk to your local vet.
- Talk to the instructors at your Club. They have many and varied years of experience among them.
- Read a good reference book, such as, *Puppy School – 7 Steps to the Perfect Puppy* by Gwen Bailey. (ISBN 0600610810, published by Hamlyn and available in bookshops and online from Dymocks www.dymocks.com.au.)
- Browse a few good websites such as, www.siriuspup.com and www.dogstardaily.com.

Frances Hammer

Your next appointment is



strathmore
veterinary
clinic

333 Napier Street
Strathmore 3041
Phone 9379 3438

Dr Murray Sykes

Instructor Profile — Frances Hammer

Frances has had a connection with dogs since primary school. She has turned that connection into a professional interest, now being a Delta-accredited trainer with animal behaviour qualifications. She has served the Club in many capacities over the years and she currently leads the training sub-committee.

How many years have you been a member of the club?

I first became a member about 40 years ago. I rejoined in 1992 and was made a Life Member in 2002.

How long have you been an instructor?

About 10 years at NODC.

Dog's name and breed?

Great Danes Harvey and Gertrude.

Favourite movie?

I love movies; my favourite is frequently the last one seen because that's the one I remember.

What book are you currently reading?

Fiction: *Rosewater & Soda Bread* by Marsha Mehran. Non-fiction: *Healthy Dogs* by Barbara Fougere.

Favourite meal?

Something, preferably simple, that someone else has made.

Precious dog items or collectables?

Photos of past four legged friends, an original *Scooby-Doo* drawing, a brass sculpture of a Great Dane mother and two pups and a tapestry of Rupert (one of my past Danes).

What advice do you like to give to people coming to the club for the first time?

Train for 5-10 **seconds** 20 times a day. Training should be FUN for both dog and handler. If it's not fun - stop and try again later.

Dogs' best tricks?

Ah! Hello? I have Great Danes!! Seriously - Harvey's best trick is to burp. I'm actually trying to get him to do it as default behaviour after every meal. Gertrude is only 16 weeks old. We are more into learning manners than tricks but I am teaching her to kiss to reduce the amount of random, uninvited, licks that she gives.

Handy training tip?

Praise/reward whatever behaviour that you like. Ignore the stuff that you don't like.

Any other thoughts to share?

NUMEROUS. Come and chat to me in person.



Glenys Barnes

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The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

- An attack by a disgruntled dog owner. A man strolling along St. Kilda beach met a couple walking towards him with a pit bull terrier pup. He made what has been described as a non-threatening comment about the pup. It seems the couple took some exception to the remark and the man was attacked leaving him with a fractured skull and abrasions.
- Another dog attack. Of an elderly woman in Queensland minding her own business, watering her garden. Two pit bulls or pit bull crosses. One dog had to be shot by police when they were called by paramedics who were also attacked when they responded to the woman's phone call. So why were these dogs roaming the street?
- Another dog attack, this time of a dog by a West Perth woman who has been charged with animal cruelty. She viciously attacked an 18 year old Papillon, called Tim, which later died of its injuries.
- Many good people volunteer their time and heart to be puppy-carers for Seeing Eye Dogs. Pups are placed in volunteer homes from the age of 7 weeks for about 9 weeks so the dogs can be socialised before they start serious training. The cost to breed, train look after a dog over its typical 11 year lifespan is about \$30,000.
- A pair of Kelpie cross pups were taken to the North Melbourne Lost Dogs' Home after been found wandering the streets with their muzzles tied shut with wire. It apparently is one way of keeping them from barking. Training them is another.
- A dog bit its owner on the leg for a good cause in Adelaide. The bite woke the owner who found his house burning. The owner had fallen asleep while cooking!! The smoke alarm didn't wake him but the dog bite did.
- A suicide car bombing in Baghdad demolished a house killing all its occupants except the dog who was left stranded on top of the only remaining wall and section of roof. The dog was rescued.
- Chihuahuas are being evacuated from California to New York. No, they're not fleeing any earthquakes. It seems there is a massive over-population of Chihuahuas in California but a shortage in NY. The supply / demand imbalance has been adjusted by the ASPCA who has flown 15 of the dogs in the cabin of a Virgin America jet. There were long queues at the NY shelter waiting to adopt the new arrivals.
- If you like skiing and like dogs then Aspen, Colorado, USA is the place for you. The Little Nell, a 92-room five-star hotel, welcomes you and your dog. On checking in, the dog gets a brass ID tag and the owner a manual of Dos and Don'ts. Dogs have the run of the house as long as they are on a on a leash in the public areas. Room service delivers beef tenderloin, scrambled eggs and brown rice. But the owners have to do the phoning.
- Staff at an RSPCA shelter in the UK thought their latest rescue was a bit dumb until they worked out that it could only understand Polish commands. It is now a bilingual dog, which I guess increases its chances of being adopted.
- A Golden Retriever called Galaxy has come to the rescue of a severely autistic 8 year-old boy in East Bentleigh. Before Galaxy's arrival the boy was uncontrollable. Galaxy, trained in the USA and imported at a total cost of \$20,000, has changed all that. The dog's calming influence has created a sense of normality for the family.

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A tranquil setting for a Doggie Day out and BBQ hosted by your club. Come and enjoy the private dog facilities and fun runs with your dog and your club.

Where: Kepala Canine Country Club & Swim Centre

Check it out at: www.kepalak9countryclub.com.au

When: Saturday 20 March 2010, 11.00am till 2pm

Activities and Equipment: Use of large grassed fully fenced area, off leash sand exercise area (similar to a beach), outdoor lagoon pool – solar heated, and outdoor agility area.

For Handlers – Sausage sizzle BBQ provided by Northern in the grounds.

Relax and enjoy a coffee or cold drinks and snack in the café provided after you have exercised your dogs.

Cost: \$15.00 per head member and one dog.
\$15.00 for any additional dog



Grab a form from the Clubhouse desk and secure your place. Strictly limited numbers!!

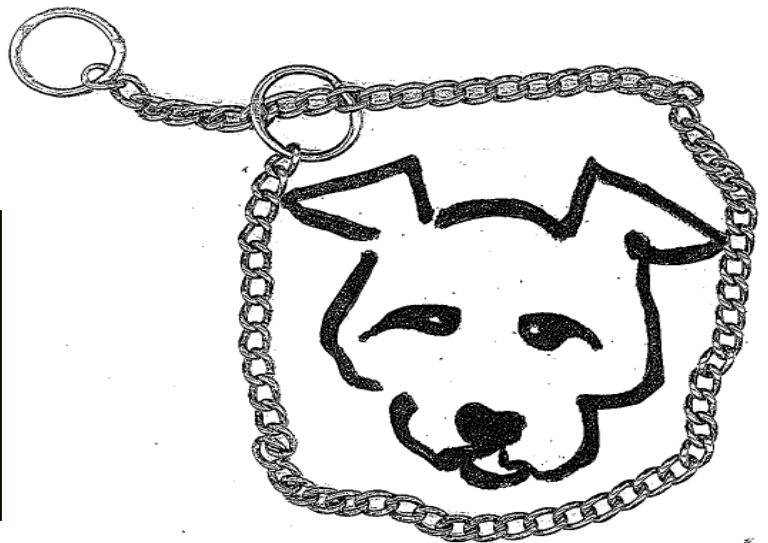
Training Tips

Don't you find it hard to remember how that correction collar gets put on the right way??

The accompanying figure by Denise Gardner, one of our instructors, should help.

Remember that a dog is a dog and not a human.

It is natural for a dog to chew, bark and dig. Training is all about teaching to do these things in the right measure and at the right time.



It is impossible to lick your own elbow*.

Who is Reigning—Cats or Dogs?



Latest research published in *New Scientist* suggests that dogs make better pets than cats—as if we didn't know that already. Cats and dogs were assessed against 11 characteristics. Dogs were judged best in six categories while cats came ahead in five of them. The most valued categories are the ability of a dog to bond with its owner compared to a cat and the trainability of the dog. Dogs have the ability to understand words. Rico, A Border Collie, can understand over 200 words. They have also been domesticated longer than cats. They can solve problems and this, together with their trainability, makes them a far more useful species to humans. Ever seen a Seeing Eye Cat? Or been given the once over by a Sniffer Cat at the airport?

The cat's out of the bag. The claws are extended but dogs are the best by a whisker.

As a percentage of body mass cats have a bigger brain than dogs. Because of their more placid and sedentary nature cats are the more popular pet. Their ability to purr rather than bark also contributes to their popularity. A barking dog is one of life's greatest irritants—especially if it's not your dog.

The cat's senses of smell, sight and hearing are more acute than that of the dog. Ecological impact is uppermost in people's minds these days and the cat has the lowest impact on the environment. Because of the small amount of food needed to sustain a cat, it has a smaller ecological footprint than the dog. The ecological footprint is the area of land required to grow the food needed to sustain a species.

In spite of all this "science", dog people won't be able to convince cat people and vice versa.

More and a video at "Dogs vs Cats: the great pet showdown" www.newscientist.com and search for "dogs vs cats".

* Nine out of ten people who read that it is impossible to lick their elbow try to do so when no-one is looking.



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Three Cheers! Passes from Classes

From Puppies to Class 1

Anna Halkidis	Lanny
Leanne Salli	Lucky
Zac DiGiuseppe	Lucky
Mary Carmuciano	Scoota
Jenni & James Bader	Murphy
Rebecca Withers	Max
Rod Brown	Ruby
Michael Appelman	Pablo
C.Rice	Pablo
Melissa Gillman	Roy
Kim Bosio	Murphy
Huong Mai	KMika
Mark Ryan	Mika
Madeline Kerr	Gus
Madeline Lemmo	Sparky
Ian Gillam	Gilly
Sophie Dillon	Kobe
Peter Correll	Gracie

From Class 1 to Class 2

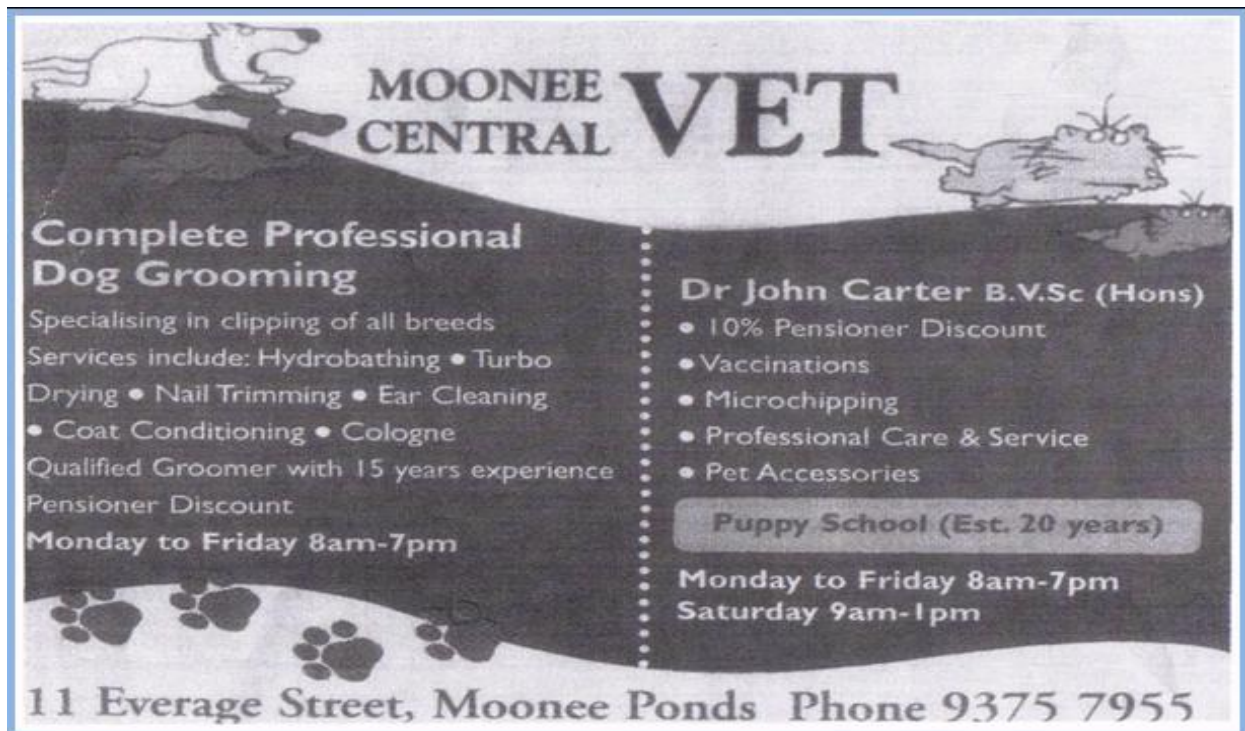
Helen Safstrom	Mystique
Kiyoko Harris	Max
Sarah Govan	Sasha
John Tran	Bruno
Eva Methorst	Keegan
Nancy Evans	Stella
Kay Germaine	Jed
Vickie Lappas	Zinna

From Class 2 to Class 3

Bianca Spano	Ebony
Jan Scholtz	Kari
Tamar Jenkins	Jack
Faye Solomon	Angel
Luke Borg	Rexie
Sue Ho	Charlie
Leah Redwood	Zoe
Peter Redwood	Zoe
Jan Scholtz	Kosi
Christine Ryan	Milly

From Class 3 to Class 4

Michelle Drayton	Rusty
Alana Mitchell	Ruby
Lynn Phillips	Spirit



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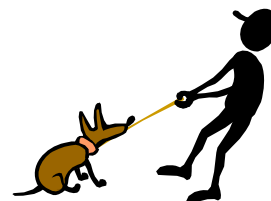
Find the Ten Differences

This beautiful print courtesy of Denise Gardner.



Calendar 2010

Feb 7	Start of classes.
Feb 12-14	Pet & Animal Expo at Caulfield Racecourse. (For information see link at www.emsaust.com.au).
Feb 21	Between classes: sausage sizzle and get-together to welcome new members.
Feb 28	Moonee Valley Festival Queen's Park 10.00am - 5.30pm: performers, amusements, food & market stalls etc and "It's a dog's world" precinct where our club will have a stall.
Mar	Moonee Valley City Council Annual Micro-chipping Day. Date TBA. (See www.mvcc.vic.gov.au).
Mar 7	Instructors' Meeting
Mar 8 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm
Mar 20	Doggie Day Out at Kepala. Booking essential through the Club.
Mar 28	Fun Day / Members' Competition.
Apr 4	Easter Sunday NO CLASSES.
Apr 11	Instructors' Meeting.
Apr 12	Committee Meeting 7pm.
May 2	Instructors' Meeting.
May 3 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
May 16	RSPCA Million Paws Walk. Albert Park Lake. (See www.millionpawswalk.com.au).
Jun 6	Instructors' Meeting.
Jun 7 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Jul 4	Instructors' Meeting.
Jul 5 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Aug 1	Instructors' Meeting.
Aug 2 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Aug 15	Fun Day / Members' Competition.
Aug 16 (Mon)	RSPCA Cupcake Day. (See www.rspcacupcakeday.com.au).
Aug 30 (Mon)	Entries close for Open Trial Sep 12.
Sep 5	Instructors' Meeting.
Sep 6 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Sep 12	Open Trial sponsored by Northern Obedience Dog Club.
Sep 18-28	Royal Melbourne Show (See www.royalshow.com.au).
Oct 1 (Fri)	RSPCA World Animal Day Gala Ball. (See www.rspcavic.org).
Oct 3	Instructors' Meeting.
Oct 4 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Oct 17	Fun Day / Members' Competition.
Oct 24	Instructors' Meeting for November.
Oct 25 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm for November.
Nov 7	Title applications due.
Nov 21	Annual General Meeting.
Dec 5	Last training day.
Dec 5	Instructors' Meeting.
Dec 6 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Dec 12	Break-up Day.



Class Exercises

Class One

Heel normal pace
 Sit
 Stand (alongside handler)
 Right-about Turn
 Sit Stay (complete exercise)
 Recall on lead (Dog does not have to sit)

Other exercises to be taught but not tested

Retrieve on the flat (on lead)

Drop

Class Three

All Class Two exercises plus:
 Heel fast pace
 Heel in Figure 8 including Sits
 Automatic Sit
 Drop while Heeling
 Left Turn and Left-about Turn (both methods)
 Stand for Examination (handler in front). (Food may be used only as a reward.)
 All Stays progressing to lead on ground. (Sit 30 sec Down 1 minute).
 Recall off lead; dog to sit in front

Other exercises to be taught but not tested

Retrieve on the flat on lead

Class Five

(Novice)

All Class Four exercises plus:
 Heel free
 Drop from the Stand position (handler 3 metres from dog)
 Recall off lead (complete exercise 12 metres)
 All Stays off lead if reliable) (Sit 1 minute Down 3 minutes)
 Stand for Examination off lead
 Retrieve on the flat

Other exercises to be taught but not tested

Commence high and broad jumps

Class Two

All Class One exercises plus:
 Heel slow pace
 Right Turn
 Recall on lead; dog to sit in front (excludes Finish)
 Stand for Examination (handler in front). (Food may be used as a lure.)
 Drop from Sit (beside and in front of handler)

Other exercises to be taught but not tested

Retrieve on the flat (on lead)

Dog Introduction

Class Four

(Community Companion Dog)

All Class Three exercises plus:
 Heel on lead with lead in the left hand
 Small amount of heeling off lead
 All stays off lead (when dog is reliable, long lead if not) (Sit 1 minute Down 3 minutes).
 Recall, and return to dog

Other exercises to be taught but not tested

Retrieve on the flat off lead

Drop from the Stand position (handler in front of dog)

Finish to recall on lead

Class Six

Complete Open routine

Class Seven

Complete Utility routine

Northern Obedience Dog Club

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The Secretary
PO Box 98
Moonee Ponds Vic 3039

Training Ground & Club House:
Aberfeldie Park, Bruce Street, Moonee
Ponds

Phone: 9375 1410
(during training times)

E-mail: NorthODC@Bigpond.net.au

Visit us on the web!
www.northernobedience.com

Northern Obedience Dog Club is a non-profit organisation staffed by volunteers dedicated to promoting the training and understanding of the dog so that it can be accepted as a true companion in our urban society.

The Club trains people to train their dogs to be obedient, companionable and useful. The club provides you with the opportunity to train your dog, and the fact that our club and others like us exist, show how much interest in dog training as a hobby has increased. Training for most people can be a hobby that is enjoyed by both dog and owner.

See our website for more details.



Know someone with a dog? Have you suggested they also join the Club?

Last Wag!

DOG-EARED by Millard Draudt



Source: Dog-Eared www.dogeared.org

A bloke was browsing through e-Bay and sees an ad that says "Talking Dog \$20." So he arranges to go and see this dog. He gets to the address and the owner takes him to the back room where the dog is sitting on the sofa with the remote control watching TV. The dog looks up and says, "Hey, how you doing?" The bloke is stunned. "You really **are** a talking dog! What are you doing here?" "Well," the dog says, "let me tell you. I used to live in the US. I got tired of the place. I was at Ground Zero on 9/11 and helped save people who were buried in the debris. Then I was in the Gulf War for a while bringing medicine to injured soldiers. Then I got a part on Broadway in Riverdance to try to overcome the stress. Got bored with that so I joined this border patrol that sniffs out drug runners but my partner got shot. It just got to be too much. So I decided to retire down under." The bloke goes back to the dog's owner and says, "This is amazing. How can you sell a dog like that for only \$20?"

The owner replies, "Cause he's a **BIG LIAR!** He hasn't done half the stuff he says he has."

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