



HOWLER

Northern Obedience
Dog Club
Established 1954

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Affiliated with the
Victorian Canine
Association

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From the Editor

Welcome to 2011 and another exciting year of dog training. A special welcome to new Club members. This newsletter is published every two months with a total of six issues for the year. Contributions of all sorts are always welcome, as are suggestions for articles or sections you would like to see in the Howler.

For new members and less experienced handlers we have an article on the confusing topic of collars and leads. Also seek advice from the instructors who all have a wealth of experience in using different equipment.

Check out the Club and other dog activities for 2011 in the activities calendar in this issue. Clip it out and stick it on the fridge door for ready reference. The Fun & Competition Days are always popular and provide an opportunity to see how well you and your dog have advanced.

The Dot2Dog this issue has been replaced by a Maze.

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

Peter



A dog's nose has about 4 times as many scent cells as a cat's and 14 times more than a human's.

President's Podium

Greetings all

Firstly let me welcome all members, Instructors, and Committee to 2011. I hope all had an enjoyable and relaxing festive break, and are now ready to take the next step with your dog training.

As your new president, I think it's only appropriate that I introduce myself – name Roger White; have been with the Club for 8 years, Instructor for 6 years and Committee 1 year.

I have been actively involved in training my dog for field trials, retrieving trials, show and now obedience which, I must say I'm thoroughly enjoying.

Enough said, let's look at the next event which the Club is organising. Further in the Howler you will find a flyer on a day at **Kepala Canine Country Club & Swim Centre** – this is a great day out, so put your name down for it.

Please don't feel backward to come forward with any constructive suggestions.

See you at the training grounds

Roger



Reminders

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

While you are at the Club **you are responsible** for your and your dog's actions. Ensure there is sufficient space between each dog so that they are unable to play with another dog or make another dog feel uncomfortable.

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

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Instructor Profile — Paul Robilliard

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

I first joined the club in 1985 and have come and gone with each dog that has been part of our family.

How long have you been an instructor?

4 years

Dog's name and breed?

Indi and Hunter (newest member of the family) who are Rottweilers and Ruby who is a Brittany Spaniel.

Favourite movie?

Silent Running

What book are you currently reading?

The Art of Raising a Puppy by the Monks of New Skete.

Favourite meal?

Tuna casserole.

Precious dog items or collectables?

My 2007 Wooden spoon award from the Club, along with other trophies.

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

Some who also may be first time dog owners.

Listen.

Your dog's best trick?

Indi can speak on command and with Ruby it's catching birds in the back yard.

Handy training tip?

Be consistent.

Any other thoughts to share?

Enjoy your dog; they are with you for such a short time.



Glenys Barnes

Would you like to be an instructor? Talk with Frances or Peter.

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Doggie Day Out - Pool and BBQ for You and your Dog

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 55 Edwards Road, Diggers Rest

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

When: Saturday 19 March 2011, 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!!

Your next appointment is



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Dr Murray Sykes

Collars & Leads

There is a vast array of collars and leads to choose from, but which one is right for your dog when training?

Collars come in a variety of sizes, materials and colours and you will probably use different collars as your training progresses. Attach an identification tag to the collar, even if your dog is micro-chipped.

The standard Flat collar is the traditional dog collar generally made from leather, cotton or nylon, and can have different fasteners. This is generally the first style of collar used on a puppy and the collar your dog wears at all times. The two most popular fasteners are the buckle and the quick release (plastic clip) fastener. These styles of collar are recommended for puppies and when using the agility/play training equipment. They may be used for all/any training.

Correction or Slip collars are traditionally made of metal chain, cotton or nylon with two rings at each end. These collars work by tightening around a dog's neck when a correction is given and then released. They are used for training purposes only. Never use a correction or slip collar on a puppy or in place of a standard collar.

Martingale collars are a combination of the flat collar and the correction collar, but without the severe tightening effect of the correction collar.

All collars should be fitted to the dog.

Flat collars – enough room to fit two adult fingers between the collar and the dog's neck without choking the dog. Remember to check puppies' collars often when they are growing to make sure the collar is not too tight.

Slip collars – measure around the dog's neck and add 7.5cm (3"), ensuring that the collar can go over the dog's head.

Head Halters and Harnesses can be used as alternatives to the traditional or correction collars for walking or training your dog.

The head halter is similar to a horse halter, in that one strap fits behind the dog's ears and the other strap wraps around the dog's muzzle just in front of its eyes; the lead attaches under the dog's muzzle. Its action is to provide some control over head movement. It allows the dog to pant, drink, eat, bark and bite; it does not keep the mouth closed like a muzzle. Head Halters must be fitted to the dog.

A Harness wraps around the upper body rather than the neck. It can be 'front' attaching or 'rear' attaching (a car harness is NOT a training harness). A rear attaching harness is not suitable for a dog that pulls. A front attaching harness is generally very effective with dogs that pull. Harnesses must be fitted to the dog.

Instruction should be sought before using correction collars, head halters and harnesses.

If you're bunching the end of your lead in your hand, then the lead is too long.

Leads come in a variety of sizes, materials and colours and you will probably use different leads for different functions. You should have more than one lead, for walking, balance, training, agility, tracking etc; and for when it breaks, or gets lost or chewed up by the puppy or dog.

The standard dog lead is about 115cm (45") long and can vary in width. Nylon or leather leads are standard with a good strong clasp or turn-buckle. Normally the larger the dog, the wider the lead (maximum width is 2.5cm (1")). It can come in shorter and longer lengths. The standard length is ideal for most training exercises. The lead should be long enough to give your dog some slack but not so long that you or your dog

are constantly getting tangled up in the excess. When training, use a standard lead with no attachments such as poo bag dispensers, as these can get in your way and distract, annoy or hit the dog.

The retractable lead can extend out to 8 to 10 metres (25 to 30 feet). This is not a good walking option as there is ongoing tension on the lead and can encourage the dog to continually pull in order to get more lead. It is not used in training.

Long line leads can be formally made, or just made of cord/rope of any diameter or fabric, it can be any length and has a clip at one end to attach to the collar. Frequently knots are placed along its length to assist in knowing how far it is to the end of the lead, to prevent the lead slipping through your fingers or under your feet. Long line leads are used for casual walking or training when you cannot allow the dog off the lead.

Double-ended leads are usually a minimum of 2 metres (6') that has a clip at both ends. Double ended leads are used in many training situations. If a double-ended lead is recommended, training will be given in its use.

Correction collars should not be used in place of a standard collar.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly—Dogs in the News

- Surveys: many pet owners think their pets love them more than their partner. It's no surprise then that 63% of dog owners regularly kiss their dog.
- Kyneton, Victoria. Woman bitten on the lip by a German Shepherd. She stopped to talk with the handler of two Shepherds on leads. One bit her seriously.
- You might remember Sarbi, the black explosive sniffing Labrador, lost, found and returned to its Army handler after 14 months missing in Afghanistan back in 2008. She's now a celebrity with her own Facebook page, Wikipedia entry and talk of a Defence medal. She's currently still in rehabilitation.
- Etana the Rhodesian Ridgeback is resting, near Berlin, Germany. She has given birth to 17 puppies – nine males and eight females. The owner is resting also as she has had to hand feed them day and night for four weeks to keep them alive. For all of 17 puppies of the litter to survive is very unusual. Etna took 26 hours to do her job.
- In Northampton, England, Peggy the Yorkshire Terrier has terrorised neighbours in the street in which she lives. Deliveries of the Royal Mail have stopped to the entire street after Peggy attacked the mailman. Of course, the owners think she is a sweet little thing that wouldn't harm a flea.
- There are dog toys and then there are dog toys. Taff, the Border Collie, has his own small herd of sheep to round up when he feels the need, which for Borders is most of the time. The Washington, USA, owner now has three Borders and a larger herd – and a llama to scare off the coyotes that hunt the lambs that are sold at market to finance the sheep herd that keep the Borders entertained.
- Walking your dog is a good thing as long as you look where you're going. Sadly a dog walker was killed when he was hit by a train at Glenroy station, Melbourne.
- Another vicious dog attack at Hoppers Crossing, Melbourne. A father, son and neighbour were attacked by two Bullmastiff crosses inflicting serious injuries. Luckily the mother and two other children were able to escape into a neighbour's yard.
- And the winner is ... Hickory the Scottish Deerhound, at the second oldest US sporting event after the Kentucky Derby – the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York. The five-year-old beat a Pekingese, a Chinese Shar-Pei, a Smooth Fox Terrier and a Portuguese Water Dog (the President's breed) to gain the coveted Best in Show award. 2600 dogs were shown at the 135th annual event representing 179 breeds. Hickory lives in Virginia but now will be doing the celebrity circuit.
- Possums are protected, as owner of Tiger the Whippet has found out. City of Yarra has charged the owner after Tiger allegedly killed a possum in a North Fitzroy park. Maximum fine is \$5000. Human possum-feeders make the possums tame and they become slower targets for off-lead dogs.
- In the UK the Staffordshire Bull Terrier apparently is associated with gang violence. In a bid to rehabilitate the image of the Staffie, the RSPCA has launched a new video showing the good side of the breed. Accessible on their website.
- High-tech, low-tech. Japanese researchers have found that a specially trained Labrador has been able to detect bowel cancer in human breath.
- The Queensland floods have separated many dogs from their owners. Rue the Border Collie was reunited with his owners after being found 80 kilometres from home being looked after at an animal welfare centre.

Did you know?

Dogs see in color, but not the same way that we do. Veterinary ophthalmologists have found that dogs are similar to people with red/green color blindness, meaning they can see bluish and greenish shades but not reddish ones. To a dog, a bright orange ball on a grassy lawn appears as a light greenish ball in greenish grass.

New Members

Ao	Luu &	Tanya	Cracknell	Cairn Terrier X Pom	Archie
Lauren	Gunston			Finnish Lapphund	Maksi
Carmelo	Gervasi			English Pointer	Hunter
Stacy	Haass			Mini Pinscher	Blossom
Vincent	Morfuni			Kelpie X	Ella
Mark	Welch			German Shepherd	Ben
Julie	Taylor Potts			Jack Russell	Lexie
Paul	Tsironis	Michelle	McGrath	Labrador	Zeus
Susan	Mackintosh			Kelpie	Devil

Got an unusual snap of a dog?

Got an interesting or unusual photo of a dog or dog monument? Submit it at the Club's reception desk and see it in the Howler. Don't forget your name and a description of the photo!!

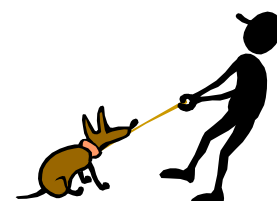
This statue of a Border Collie is at Lake Tekapo, New Zealand. It was put up in tribute to the Borders who helped develop the sheep industry in the mountain areas of Southern New Zealand.

Denise Gardner

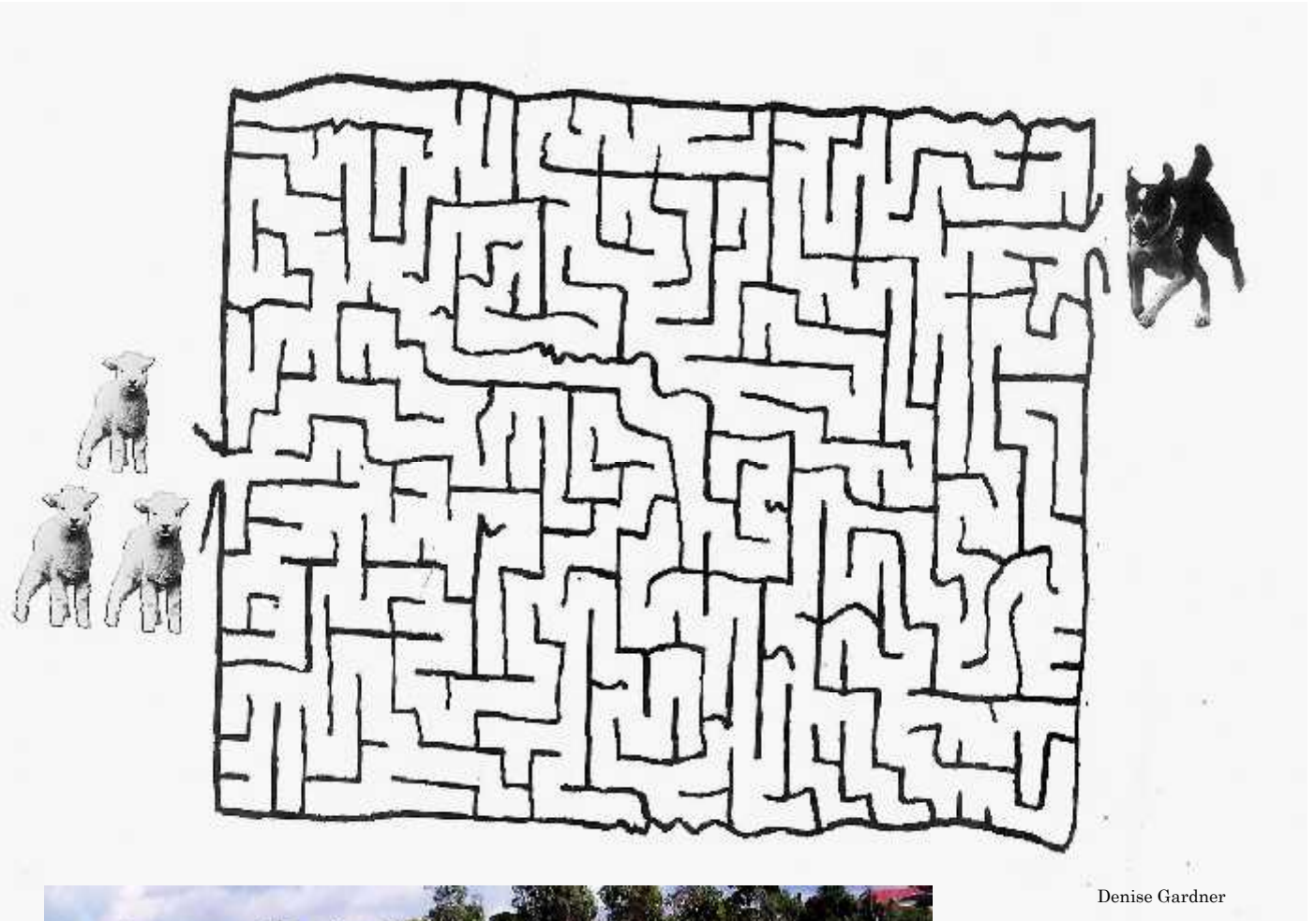


Club Activities 2011

Feb 6	Start of classes.
Feb 12-14	Pet & Animal Expo at Caulfield Racecourse. (For information see link at www.emsaust.com.au).
Feb 27	Moonee Valley Festival Queen's Park 10.00am - 5.30pm. Club will have a stall in <i>It's a dog's world</i> precinct. Amusements, food, stalls etc
Mar 25	Moonee Valley City Council Annual Micro-chipping Day. Date TBC. (See www.mvcc.vic.gov.au).
Mar 6	Instructors' Meeting
Mar 7 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm
Mar 19 (Sat)	Doggie Day Out at Kepala. Booking essential through the Club.
Apr 3	Instructors' Meeting.
Apr 4	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Apr 24	Easter Sunday NO CLASSES.
May 1	Instructors' Meeting.
May 2 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
May 15	RSPCA Million Paws Walk. Albert Park Lake. (See www.millionpawswalk.com.au).
May 22	Fun Day / Members' Competition.
Jun 5	Instructors' Meeting.
Jun 6 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Jul 3	Instructors' Meeting.
Jul 4 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Aug 7	Instructors' Meeting.
Aug 1 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Aug 15 (Mon)	RSPCA Cupcake Day. (See www.rspcacupcakeday.com.au).
Aug 29 (Mon)	Entries close for Open Trial Sep 11.
Sep 4	Instructors' Meeting.
Sep 5 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Sep 11	Open Trial sponsored by Northern Obedience Dog Club.
Sep 24 -Oct 4	Royal Melbourne Show (See www.royalshow.com.au).
Oct 1 (Fri)	RSPCA World Animal Day Gala Ball. (See www.rspcavic.org).
Oct 2	Instructors' Meeting.
Oct 3 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Oct 16	Fun Day / Members' Competition.
Nov 6	Instructors' Meeting for November.
Nov 7 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm for November.
Nov 6	Title applications due.
Nov 27	Annual General Meeting.
Dec 4	Last training day.
Dec 4	Instructors' Meeting.
Dec 5 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Dec 11	Christmas Party—Games Day.



Amazing!!



Denise Gardner



Northern Obedience Dog Club

Helping YOU train your dog!

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!

An avid duck hunter was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a dog that could actually walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would ever believe him.

He decided to try to break the news to a friend of his, a pessimist by nature, and invited him to hunt with him and his new dog. As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. They fired, and a duck fell. The dog responded and jumped into the water. The dog, however, did not sink but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird, never getting more than his paws wet. The friend saw everything but did not say a single word.

On the drive home the hunter asked his friend, "Did you notice anything unusual about my new dog?" "I sure did," responded his friend. "He can't swim."

A man goes into a cinema with his dog to watch a film. It's a romantic comedy and when there's a funny scene the dog starts laughing. A little later on there's a sad part and suddenly the dog starts crying.

This goes on throughout the entire film, laughing and crying at all the right places. A man sitting a few rows back has witnessed the entire thing and decides to follow the man out.

In the foyer, he approaches the dog owner and says, "That's truly amazing!"

"It certainly is" The dog owner replied, "He hated the book!"

A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet. My dog's cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him?"

"Well," says the vet, "Let's have a look at him." So he picks the dog up and has a good look at its eyes.

"I'm going to have to put him down" says the vet. "What? Because he's cross-eyed?"

"No, because he's much too heavy to lift!"

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