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Dog Club  
Established 1954

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Victorian Canine  
Association

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# HOWLER

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## From the Editor

This month's cover is a collage of shots taken at the Club's August Fun Day. Fun Day was generously supported with dog treats by Nature's Gift. Results are inside along with a few photos of the day. Congratulations to all the place getters.

With summer and Christmas approaching our thoughts turn to holidays. If you can't take your dog with you, now is the time to start planning a boarding arrangement. See the article inside from the Essendon Vet Clinic to help you .

Our Instructor Profile for this issue is on John Douglas, some of whose answers I suspect are tongue in cheek.

Remember that the Howler is now available in full colour on our website ([www.northernobedience.com](http://www.northernobedience.com)). There is a Newsletters button on the home page that will take you through to the Howler.

Enjoy your dog.

Peter



**STOP PRESS: Congratulations to Anna Del Bono who won Open Class and gained highest score at the recent Trial sponsored by the Club.**

## President's Podium

Hi Folks!

On Sunday 12 September we held our annual trial and it was a great success. Although numbers were down this year everything went very smoothly. A BIG thank you to all who helped on the day, especially Marcia, Rob and Helena and everyone on their teams. I was very pleased with the general members who volunteered; thank you.

Congratulations to Anna who won the Open class and also won highest score in trial.

The annual general meeting will be held in November and the club is looking for people to take up positions on the committee. On a personal note, I will be stepping down from the committee next year because of increased work commitments so we will need a new president. Nominate yourself or someone you think will be a good replacement.

Regards.

Trevor



**We want YOU to join the committee of YOUR Club.  
Elections at the AGM in November. Think about it now.  
We will need a new Treasurer and President and lots of Committee members.**

## 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.**

## Boarding Your Dog

Here are some tips on how to select a facility for your dog from the Essendon Vet Clinic..

### **Will my dog be happy in a boarding kennel?**

Many dogs are very happy when they stay in kennels and look forward to their stay. Despite the fear of owners, most dogs settle into boarding life very quickly.

### **How can I help make my pet's stay as comfortable as possible?**

Plan well in advance. Visit the kennel beforehand to verify that the facility meets your expectations. Ask for references and talk to other pet owners about their previous experiences with the facility. Some kennels will also recommend a series of short boarding visits lasting a few hours to allow your dog to become accustomed to being away from you as well as familiarising themselves with their new surrounds.

If you are making an extended trip, we suggest one or two short stays at the facility. When you pick up your pet, evaluate their general condition. This may give you an indication of the standard of care your pet received. Be sure to ask the kennel staff about your pet's behaviour and appetite. Don't be alarmed if their appetite declined during their stay. Many pets that are unaccustomed to boarding will show some signs of anxiety which is often reflected in eating habits.

### **Are there any requirements necessary before boarding my pet?**

Pets must have current vaccinations before boarding. If your boarding facility does not stipulate any vaccination requirements then this could indicate in appropriate standards of care. For dogs, distemper, hepatitis, parvo virus and "canine cough" vaccines are universally required. Boarding kennels will require written proof of vaccination prior to boarding your pet. Any special medical problems or dietary requirements should be fully discussed before boarding your pet at a kennel. Be sure to call and find out what is required prior to your visit to prevent last minute delays.

### **How will I find suitable boarding kennels?**

Recommendations from friends, neighbours or your vet are often your best source of information.

### **How do I evaluate a boarding kennel?**

Visiting kennels and speaking to the owners of the facilities will give you a good starting point for evaluation. Here are some of the things you should look out for and ask.

- Is the facility clean?
- Do the current boarders appear to be relaxed and comfortable?
- Do the boarding team members have a genuine interest in pet care?
- How often and what type of food will your pet be fed?
- How often will your pet have access to an exercise area?
- Will he/she share the exercise area?
- What measures are taken to ensure your pet will not be socialised with unfamiliar or unsocial pets?
- How often will your pet's sleeping and exercise area be cleaned?
- Will your pet be relocated during cleaning times? If so, where?
- Will your pet have access to adequate shelter day and night?
- Will your pet be supplied with adequate bedding? Will they have access to a raised bed, or be elevated from a concrete floor?
- Does the facility have adequate security both night and day?
- What happens if your pet becomes unwell?
- What is their procedure for contacting you should your pet become unwell?
- What is their procedure for contacting a veterinarian should your pet become unwell?
- Does the facility strictly adhere to the rule that all boarders must be vaccinated?
- Can their staff administer your pet's medication if required?
- Did they ask about your pet's particular needs or behaviour so their team can make them feel as comfortable as possible?

There are many options for boarding. If you are not happy with the facilities you have visited, try another until you find the people and location you are most comfortable with so you can relax and enjoy your time away from home too.

## Instructor Profile — John Douglas

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

Club member – too long. Life membership was granted in 2001.

**How many years have you been an instructor?**

Years!! 10 years or a decade, not sure.

**Dog's name and breed?**

Tiny, the Great Dane.

**Favourite movie?**

*Joe Dirt*. I've seen it a dozen times and I still laugh.

**What book are you currently reading?**

Seriously, *Snakes in the Grass*, about the Iraqi War.

**Favourite meal?**

Definitely pasta with seafood.

**Precious dog items or collectables?**

Dog bites and a poop scooper.

**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)?**

Pretend you are enjoying yourself; the dog can tell if you are not.

**Your dog's best trick?**

Going to the shops for me, but he never brings home the change.

**Handy training tip?**

Learn your left from your right.

**Any other thoughts to share?**

Learn your dog's left from its right.



Glenys Barnes

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

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## The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

- The longest tongue in the world, for a dog, belongs to London-based Puggy the Pekingese. The Guinness Book of Records sets the new standard at 11.43 cm! It's taken him 10 years to grow that tongue. Also in the record books is the world's smallest dog from New York. Boo Boo the Chihuahua is 10 cm tall and 16.5 cm long.
- Mopsy, the 10 year old Cocker Spaniel from Hawthorn, saved its owners from certain death by alerting them to fire. Mopsy got a pig's ear for her hero's work. Just shows the value of making sure you put in a fresh battery every year.
- Off to Bali for the school holidays or over Christmas? Watch out for rabid dogs, warns DFAT. A recent rabies outbreak has killed dozens of Balinese unfortunate enough to get bitten and go untreated. More than 70 Balinese have died from rabies over the last two years. In the first six months of this year there have been 30,000 reported dog bites in Bali! Vaccine for post-bite rabies is in chronic short supply. Keep clear of the monkey forest too.
- YouTube videos capture the best and the worst of humanity. Police in Bosnia have tracked down the girl who was shown in a video throwing a half dozen 3 day-old puppies into a river. Another internet phenomenon, Facebook, has been credited with helping to track down the girl.
- Beware of people trying to take your money. Scams advertising non-existent goods for sale are reasonably common but now they are spreading to offering non-existent puppies, too. If it's too good to be true it's most likely not true. Buy from a reputable breeder.
- In spite of past advice to the contrary, it seems that dog's poo can be composted to produce a good garden product with the help of worms. Someone in Queensland is advertising a Doo Doo Loo – a timber poo container with a bag of garden worms. But be careful. If you've just wormed your dog, keep the resultant poo away from your bag of worms or you'll have to start all over again.
- A black and tan 3 ½ year-old Kelpie called Sam was bought at auction in Casterton, Victoria, for \$8,600, a record price. Apart from his stud potential, he seems to be very good at rounding up feral goats. Apparently, goats can bring \$40 a head so you could pay for the dog after a solid morning's work.
- Coco, a Maltese cross Shih-tzu, was stabbed to death in its kennel in Lalor. The dog underwent surgery but died from its injuries. The attacker had climbed a fence into a back yard to carry out the attack.
- A New Zealand survey finds that 31% of female dog owners think their dogs have better listening skills than their partners, while 14% of male dog owners think their dogs give them more love than their partners. More than 50% consider themselves to be their dog's mum or dad.
- What an unfair world we live in. In Pennsylvania, USA, a judge rejected Gary Mathews's application to legally change his name to Boomer the Dog. The applicant was a single, 44 year-old unemployed computer technician who is a self-described "furry" – someone who enjoys dressing up in furry animal costumes and joining like-minded individuals at conventions. Hmmm! As the judge astutely observed, "the fact remains that the Petitioner is not a dog", and that a man called Boomer the Dog could "cause confusion in the marketplace" and possibly "put the public welfare at risk."
- In Stockton on Tees, UK, a man drowned when he tried to rescue his two dogs that had fallen through the iced River Tees. An attempt to save the man failed when he would not let go of the dogs to save himself.
- Another dog attack, this time in Collie near Perth. Diesel, the 5 year-old Bull Terrier, pushed his way through a hole in the fence to join the fun children's party next door. The fun ended when Diesel savaged five of the children, some of whom required hospital treatment. The dog had been well behaved in the past – as all dog-attack dogs usually are. Poor Diesel was destroyed.
- What's the (dog) world coming to? The Kintala dog club in Heidelberg has accepted a pig as a member. Yes, a pig! Positive reinforcement training will be used to train and socialise the piglet initially in private classes before being introduced to dogs. It's a long drive to the nearest off-lead pig park.

**"The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too."**

**Samuel Butler**



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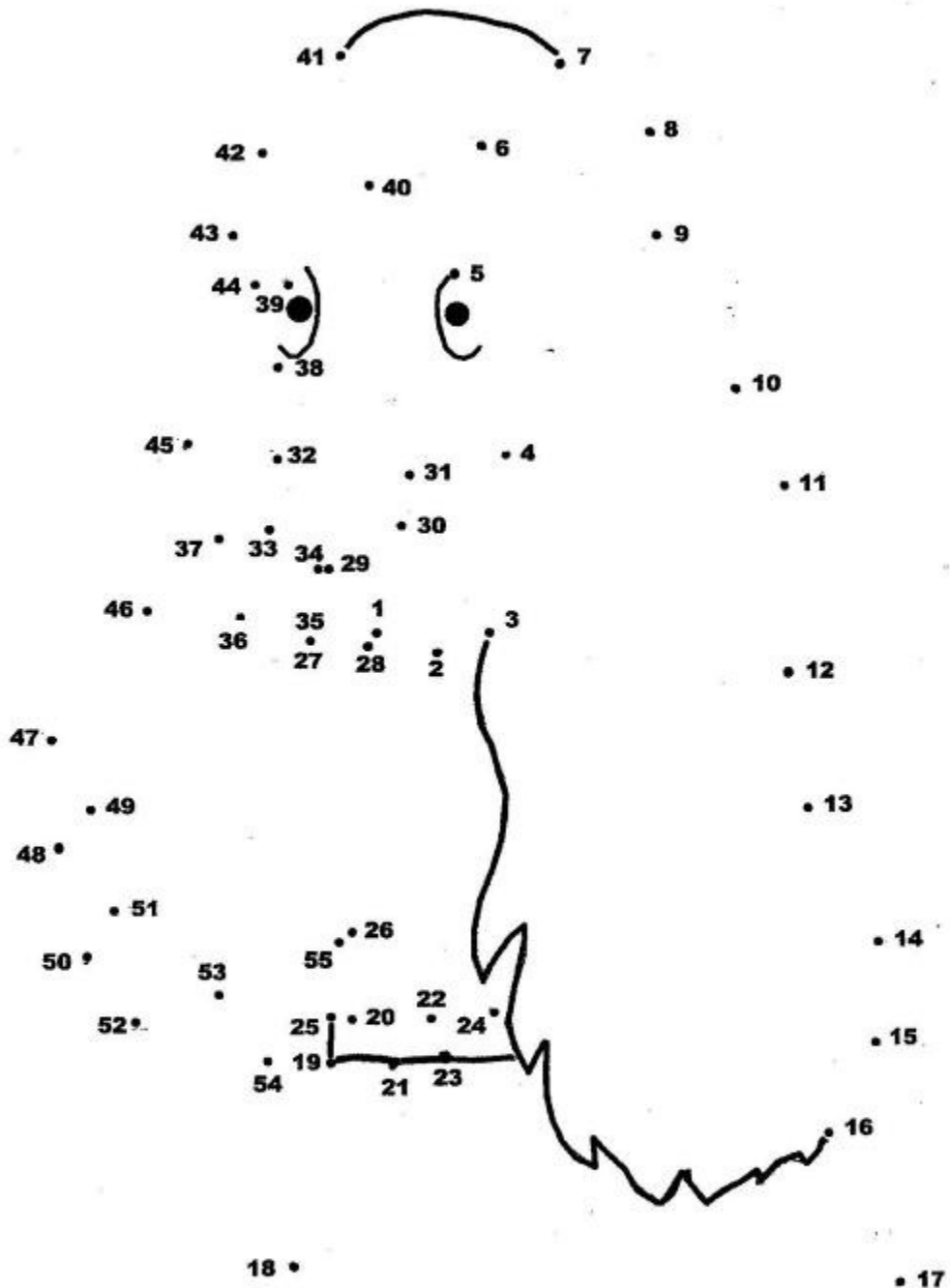


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### Did you know?

- Two dogs survived the sinking of the Titanic?
- Dogs are mentioned 14 times in The Bible?
- A dog is mentioned only once in Shakespeare's plays—Crab in A Gentleman of Verona?
- Dogs have a visual range of 250 degrees compared to a human's 180?
- Dogs have twice as many muscles for moving their ears than humans?
- Lassie, the dog which first starred in the movie Lassie Come Home, was eventually played by numerous dogs many of which were male?

# Dot-to-Dog



# Fun Day Results



### Class 1

- 1<sup>st</sup> Laina McKenzie Boots
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Beard Kylar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Michelle Fox Banjo

### Class 1

- 1<sup>st</sup> Alistair Stewart Fitzy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jade Brooke Kylar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rachel Moloney Lucy

### Class 2

- 1<sup>st</sup> James Ha Top Deck
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Anna Morley Biscuit
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ian Gilliam Helga

### Class 2

- 1<sup>st</sup> Michelle Draper Sandy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Frances Hammer Gertrude
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Andrew Lyon Sash

### Class 3

- 1<sup>st</sup> Trisha Zurna Tsar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy Evans Stella
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Madeline Kiev Gus

### Class 4

- 1<sup>st</sup> Robyn Duter Fern
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Anthony Natalie Kiara
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tamara Jenkins Jack

### Class 4

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lynette Fitzpatrick Jack
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Safstrom Josh
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ray O'Brien Murphy

### Class 5

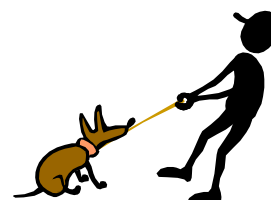
- 1<sup>st</sup> Julie Burns Roxy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Joulyet Lyon Jemma
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Julia Andrew Chill



**Congratulations to all place winners and competitors.**

## Calendar 2010

Feb 7	Start of classes.
Feb 12-14	Pet & Animal Expo at Caulfield Racecourse. (For information see link at <a href="http://www.emsaust.com.au">www.emsaust.com.au</a> ).
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 <a href="http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au">www.mvcc.vic.gov.au</a> ).
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 <a href="http://www.millionpawswalk.com.au">www.millionpawswalk.com.au</a> ).
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 <a href="http://www.rspcacupcakeday.com.au">www.rspcacupcakeday.com.au</a> ).
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 <a href="http://www.royalshow.com.au">www.royalshow.com.au</a> ).
Oct 1 (Fri)	RSPCA World Animal Day Gala Ball. (See <a href="http://www.rspcavic.org">www.rspcavic.org</a> ).
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 28	Annual General Meeting.
Dec 5	Last training day.
Dec 5	Instructors' Meeting.
Dec 6 (Mon)	Committee Meeting 7pm.
Dec 12	Christmas Party—Games 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

Helping YOU train your dog

The Secretary  
PO Box 98  
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Aberfeldie Park, Bruce Street, Moonee Ponds

Phone: 9375 1410  
(during training times)

E-mail: [NorthODC@Bigpond.net.au](mailto:NorthODC@Bigpond.net.au)

Visit us on the web!

[www.northernobedience.com](http://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!

## Why dogs bite people



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