



**Set your dog up
for success!!**

H.D.O.D.C. Newsletter



**Set your dog up
for success!!**

HDODC Open Agility Trial Saturday 29 August 2009

Help Wanted

It's that time of the year again, our annual Agility, Jumping and Games Trial, and again I grovel before all members asking your help with the event

This year's trial is back to a single day event, but is large by agility trial standards.

Help is needed for a variety of jobs:

Food: We need to cater for 25 Judges, Stewards and Officials, as well as run the Canteen for about 150 crazy competitors. All offers of help with food before and on the day please contact **Nicole Exon ph 5979 7521, email njexon@gmail.com**

Stewards: I am likely to need a few Club Members to Steward for the competition rings. Some members did this last year and had a hoot of a time, no experience necessary, though such persons are supposed to be VCA members

Pit Crew: We need large crew willing to help set up early from 7:00am, help rebuild courses throughout the day, and pack up at the end at about 4:00pm- any help by able bodied people will be appreciated, those willing to be part of the day proper changing jump heights and rebuilding courses have a front row seat to watching the action.

Check In: A couple of people with smiles and patience needed to keep the rabid trialers under control at the start of the day.

I have not listed all the tasks, this page is not big enough, all offers of help (excluding food) to me, Greg Milner, ph 5979 1483, or send me an email via the club web site info@hastingsdogclub.org.au. Please let me know what help you can give by Friday August 21

Beyond all this, members are encouraged to come and watch the trial, the dog action starts at 8:30am through to at least 3:00pm. This is an Open trial, come and witness the best dogs from across Victoria in full flight to the beginner dogs just starting their careers, or support the Hastings Dogs competing for glory, or fun, at their home event.

Help us go green!

Save a tree... please email info@hastingsdogclub.org.au if you would like to receive your newsletter and important correspondence from the club via email

VALE

CH. DANEHAUS CAT BALOU CD “Gabrielle”

05/05/01 – 08/06/09

Australian Champion and Novice obedience titles.
School Dog on the Responsible Pet Education Program for 8 years
Hospital Pet Therapy Dog for 7 years



*“And think of her as
living
In the hearts of those she
touched
For nothing loved is ever lost
And she was loved so much.”*

Thank you my Darling Gabrielle for
all you gave so joyously to me and
all your friends from schools,
hospitals and the obedience & show
rings.

My life has been blessed because of
you.

Julie Morrison.

HASTINGS OPEN OBEDIENCE TRIAL



On June 27th this year we hosted our annual Open Obedience Trial. An Open Obedience Trial is an obedience competition open to all dogs and handlers that are registered with Dogs Victoria who are competing at official trial levels. (It differs from our Club Competitions which are only for club members who do not have to be registered with Dogs Victoria and is open to all levels including puppies and beginners.). We were very fortunate to receive wonderful sponsorship from Artemis Pet Food and donations from Box Stallion Winery, Ted and Kerry Doyle (home made Doggy Treats) and Rosaline Twaites.

Once again the trial gods were kind to us and whilst we had a chilly 6.30am start, the day was a perfect Melbourne winter day. Maybe too good for some as I had one competitor say to me when we were standing in the sun "Oh I think this is going to be too hot for my dog". Never can please some people!

We had 101 dogs competing in Community Companion Dog (the equivalent of our White Class), Novice (equivalent of Green), Open, Utility and Utility Dog Excellent. Competitors came from across the state and one lady coming from Albury. (She was asleep in her car when I got the grounds at 6.30am).

It was great to see 12 Hastings members competing up in all classes except Utility Dog Excellent. Hastings members scored some very credible performances as well. The following achieved passes;

Sally Haynes (also took 1st place in CCD)
Rachael Sammutt
Melissa Ferabend
Rosaline Twaites
Greg Milner (also took 1st Place in a Novice Ring)
Camille Sporys (with both her dogs in CCD)

We awarded two special prizes at the trial to recognise achievements of our members.

The Highest Scoring Hastings Member in CCD went to Sally Haynes with 97/100.

The Highest Scoring Hastings Member in Trial went to Greg Milner with 183/200.

Well done Sally and Greg.
Molly



Rosaline Twaites with

The Highest Score in Trial went to Judy Richardson and her Sheltie on a score of 197/200. A wonderful performance to watch.

A very big thank you to the wonderful team from Hastings who helped me put the day together – Greg, Rosaline, Craig, Janice, Barbara, Kate, Denise, Carolyn, Deb and Alexis . Of course thank you to all our judges, stewards and our Dogs Vic Representative Lea Cogley. A big thank you to all those people who pitched in and helped take down rings and put away equipment. It really is such a big help and takes very little time with many hands.

Congratulations to all Hastings competitors, even those that did not get a pass. There is always another trial around the corner somewhere. Good luck and enjoy you dogs.

JULIE MORRISON, TRIAL SECRETARY

Thank you!

A big thank you to Catherine Taylor and her support team for running the massively successful Trivia Night. We raised over \$1000 for the club (for you - the members!!)

Thanks Catherine.

“Where have all my points gone?”

Ross Carlson

Looking for a Competitive Edge?

Ross Carlson, Obedience Judge, Competitor and entertaining character has generously offered to present...

“Where have all my points gone?”

An information evening for all triallers explaining what it’s like from an obedience judge’s point of view. Learn exactly how the rules apply to you and your dog and how best to work through an obedience routine and get the maximum score for every exercise!


For people and doggy teams who are in pink and yellow, this is an excellent opportunity to see what this whole Obedience Sport is all about!

Venue: Westernport Secondary College meeting room


Date: Friday, September 11th

Time: 7:00pm

Gold coin donation. Bring something to share if you can.



*If you think dogs can't count, try
putting 3 dog biscuits in your pocket
and give him only 2 of them*



HASTINGS CLUB COMPETITION

Have you just joined Hastings & District Obedience Dog Club? When you see a Club Competition advertised, do you think you're qualified to enter? Absolutely! Even if you've only been for a few weeks, a club competition offers you a "one on one" lesson!!

All the judges are our trusty instructor group and as the classes progress on the day, each participant is asked to do the normal stuff – sit, drop, stand etc and if you're having trouble with a particular exercise, we'll give you a hand.

Venue: Our club grounds

Date: Sunday 13th September

Time: 8:30am for White (CCD), Green (Novice) and above
10:00am for Puppies, Beginners, Pink and Yellow

Is your dog almost ready to run an Agility or Jumping round and over 18 months old? Now's the time to have a go under competition conditions..

Doggies who've never trialed before	9:00am
Doggies who have trialed before	10:00am

Entries on the day - \$4.00 including a sausage and a drink
\$2.00 for every subsequent entry

Prizes: Sash and Trophy for First, Ribbons to Third

Beware of the Dog

Upon entering a small country store, a stranger noticed a sign saying DANGER! BEWARE OF DOG! posted on the glass door. Inside a harmless old hound dog was asleep on the floor besides the cash register.

He asked the store manager, "Is that the dog folks are supposed to beware of?"

"Yep, that's him," he replied.

The amused stranger inquired, "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me.

Why in the world would you post that sign?"

The owner responded, "Because, before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."



DOGS SPORTS

At Hastings & District Obedience Dog Club we are very privileged to have access to members who have a vast knowledge and experience in a multitude of different dog sports. Whilst the majority of us are familiar with obedience, how much do you know about agility, flyball, dog showing (conformation), herding, canine freestyle (dancing), tracking and endurance? In the coming editions I'm going to provide members with a general overview of each activity and provide details where you can source more information. They are all exciting and enjoyable sports that we can accomplish with our dogs. While some dogs are more suited to a particular activity, they are accessible to all members to get involved with if you choose.

DOG SHOWS

(showing / conformation)



For many of you, perhaps your only exposure to the world of conformation dog showing is through the comedy film made several years ago "Best In Show". Real life dog shows can be just as entertaining and enjoyable as long as you follow the golden rules – it is JUST a dog show and remember you take to the show the best dog and you take home the best dog, regardless of whether it wins a ribbon or not.

Unlike most other canine sports, dog shows are restricted to pedigree dogs but it is not that simple. The dog and you the owner must be members of Dogs Victoria (or any other state canine body) and the dog must be on the Main Register. Pedigree dogs can be sold with or without papers and these papers can either be Main or Limited Register. If you think that you may even want to think about showing, it is a good idea to ask the breeder if you can have the dog on the Main Register. Often breeders will not do this. If the dog is not show quality ie has some physical defects, they will not want it to be shown. The other requirement for a show dog is that it must be entire ie not desexed. Desexed dogs or bitches cannot be shown. Whilst many of us think this is unfortunate the rationale is that dog showing is all about finding the perfect specimen in a breed and then using that dog in a breeding program to improve the line. Naturally desexed dogs cannot contribute to a breeding program.

For most people who show, the objective (other than to have fun and spend time with their dog) is to earn the title of Australian Champion. If you see a dog's full pedigree name and it has the letters "Ch." In front of it, it means it is a champion in the show ring (as opposed to an obedience or tracking champion). To become a Champion you must win 100 points from Championship shows around the country. Points are awarded to the best dog and bitch over 6 months in each breed (this is called the Dog Challenge or Bitch Challenge). Points can be won even if you are the only dog in your breed there on the day but alternatively the judge may decide to not award a Challenge Certificate to a field of dogs if he believes none of them are good enough. For those outstanding dogs (and really dedicated owners), the title of Grand Champion is awarded when the dog has accrued 1000 points.

Dog breeds are divided into 7 groups; Toy, Terrier, Gundog, Hound, Working, Utility and Non Sporting. After choosing the best dog and best bitch for each breed, the judge will

then chose the Best of Breed between the dog and bitch. Each Best of Breed winner then competes for Best In Group where there may be in excess of 20 different dogs in the ring. The judge is not comparing each dog to the other but is comparing it to the documented breed standard for that breed. The dog that most closely represents the ideal specimen is awarded Best In Group. These 7 Group winners then compete for Best In Show.

Dogs are judged on their conformation (their physical structure) and their movement. They are not required to do anything other than stand still, run around the ring and let the judge give them a physical examination (including their teeth). Much easier said than done! Their temperament should also be taken into consideration and should reflect the nature of the breed. At the end of the day, it is all in the opinion of the judge at that show. Whilst there are breed standards, they are open to interpretation and subjective assessment. I heard of a dog that won Best In Show one day and the next day only came second in it's class (so not even Best of Breed). This means that there can be some unhappy exhibitors and some nasty things said about judges and other competitors and their dogs. This is unfortunate as it shows people have forgotten that this is meant to be a fun hobby and time spent with your dog.

Dog shows are free to the public and they really are a wonderful opportunity to view a huge variety of dogs and talk to people who are passionate about their dogs. At some of the larger shows, you may see between 120-150 breeds of dogs. Dog breeds are judged alphabetically so if you want to see Akitas, you will need to be there early. A full schedule of shows in Victoria can be found on the Dogs Victoria website www.vca.org.au - look under Activities and Events. If you have any questions or would like to consider showing, contact your breeder or Julie Morrison from club on 5977 5894.

FLYBALL



Flyball is basically a relay race for dogs.

Any dog, no matter size or shape can compete. There are 2 teams, each with 4-6 dogs, with 4 dogs racing in any one heat. One dog at a time runs through a set of 'gates', jumps over 4 hurdles, makes contact with a 'box' to retrieve a tennis ball and then must turn and head back over the 4 jumps with no mistake. Once through the

gates the next dog can run. If a dog makes an error then they must go to the last of the line and re-run. All this whilst another team 10feet to the left or right doing the same thing. The first team to finish first wins. Usually there are 3 heat races or 5 heat races depending on the day, competition and number of teams entered.

Flyball incorporates many of the dogs natural instincts such as running, jumping, fetching, competing and most importantly their want to please. It also reinforces many disciplines learned in obedience.

Contact: Jenny Millar (03) 9782-0654

Australian Flyball Association: www.flyball.org.au

NEWS FLASH! Be sure to watch Talk to the Animals on Saturday 22nd August at 4.30pm (on Channel 9)

The program will include a segment which was filmed at the Hastings Flyball competition back in April.

A CRASH COURSE IN HERDING



My name is Crash, I am a Border Collie, and I just turned 3 so I am all grown up now. My Greg does lots of things with me, we love and work hard at Agility, and I try so hard at obedience to please him but he thinks I suck at it, Greg does not understand obedience is not in my instinct.

Let me share my long life story related to sheep herding so far!

Greg showed me the sheep by chance at Pet & Pony a few years ago when I was little, he thought I might be scared of them, but I already knew what they were and what to do to them because I have this instinct. Fancy thinking I would be scared, I am a Sheep Dog after all!

The First rule is never take your eyes off them, the sheep will be watching you back, first one to blink loses.

Second rule, run around and head them off, they always want to get away from you, but I have to always be in control- that's just the way it is.

Third rule- there is NO 3rd rule, refer back to 1st and 2nd rules.

Greg has taken me to some friends home with sheep, but he carried on like a pork chop yelling and flapping, he had no idea about 1st & 2nd rules, seems for once Crash needed to be the instructor.

Then Greg took me to a "herding clinic", funny name for a Sheep Dog Amusement Park I say. Anyway Greg started paying attention to my instruction better, helped by the translator who ran the amusement park, and he learnt some of the basics so that I could do better at playing with the sheep.

Greg is a competitive title hunter I have learnt, and likes to do Dog's Victoria tests and competitions, so I let him take me to some "Herding Trials", again funny name for another Sheep Dog Amusement Park. The first time we did Instinct Test, where in a small enclosure with 3 sheep I stay on my lead initially until the Judge is sure I won't hurt the sheep and follow 1st rule- what a silly Judge, I love sheep, I don't want to hurt them. Anyway then I take my lead off and use 2nd rule, then Greg calls me back, puts the lead on and we leave the enclosure. Greg can be such a party pooper!

On the same trip to the Park we had 2 turns at Herding Test he called it. This time I had to control the sheep more and put them round some poles and change their direction, then Greg calls me to stop and come back. Now I am smart and know if I come back to him the play will end like it did earlier in the day, so I ignore him a little- remember I suck at obedience. Anyway Greg yells louder so I stop playing and come back, and yep, lead on, game over- spoil sport!

Then another day we went back to the Clinic Amusement park, and this time I played in a big paddock, with fence obstacles to put the sheep through- The sheep were faster, but I am faster than them- again just as well the translator helped Greg to learn what I know.

Few weeks later we went back to the Trial Amusement Park- had to control the sheep around the perimeter of a big paddock, through some fence obstacles, then put the sheep in a gated pen. We did this twice, Greg said that was Pre Trial title

Twice more we went to the Trial Amusement Park, getting two turns in the big paddock, at a level called Herding Started. Greg was not very good, but I held the team together and achieved his goals. Alas as soon as we get his goals completed on goes the lead

again- what about my goals, apply 1st and 2nd rule all day, don't stop, you just cannot be sure what the sheep are plotting when I am not controlling them. Anyway that meant I had HSAs title apparently.

That's as much Sheep Amusement as we have done so far, **so if you think you are interested come and ask me, unless you are a human then ask Greg Milner. My bestest friends Ziggy & Zoe (Karolyn De Graauw) and Casey (Julie Morrison) have also visited the Amusement Parks I have, so you could speak to them too about learning and getting involved in herding.**

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE

Interview with **Karolyn De Graauw**
Zac, Zoe & Ziggy



I have 3 wonderful chokky dogs, Zac is an 11 year old Kelpie x couch potato. Zoe is an 8 1/2 yr old Kelpie x feral rabbit who rules the roost with a tiny iron paw and Ziggy is a 3 yr old pure bred Kelpie who has the sweetest, softest nature known to man. I'm sooo lucky to have such good dogs.

I was happily competing in Obedience with Zac and Zoe about 6 years ago (and doing pretty well) when I saw an Agility demonstration at one of the trials. Andrea Gibney and her little poodle just blew me away and I knew Zoe would just LOVE it!! All I could think was, 'how on Earth do they get the dogs to do that???' And so the addiction seed was planted.

I started trialling pretty quickly with abysmal handling but thankfully Zoe is a resilient little brat and she loved hooning around so much we bumbled through. If only I knew then, what I know now about handling techniques.

We did improve though. Well enough for her to win Victorian Top Jumping Dog of the Year for the last 2 years and 2nd in Agility Dog of the Year last year (beautifully handled by Scott Fletcher) and to be part of the Advance Team Challenge held in Adelaide last year.

Felt just a tad like Royalty we did, being flown interstate!

Ziggy has really benefited from the knowledge I've accumulated over the years and has been tremendously successful really quickly. He's such an obliging little fella and has made training very easy!

I train the lovelies every second day or so for a short period of time. When Ziggy was young and we were getting the skills together I'd train him 2 or 3 times a day for about 5 or 10 minutes at a time. (Much to Zoe's absolute disgust!)

I now train using only positive methods and I can really see the benefits. Ignore unwanted behaviour and reward like crazy when they do what you want. It paints a really clear picture for the dog and builds speed and drive. They love learning tricks too! I stay focused before a run by playing with the dog and going over, and over the course in my head. I'm old and thick and have terrible trouble remembering courses! Have been known to be horribly rude by not talking to people. I'm never calm, adrenalin is a powerful thing.

Our biggest trialling challenges are staying positive. When we have made one tiny, weeny fault and have missed out on a pass, (and a first place) that's a bit hard to deal with, but you have to concentrate on the positives. You CAN'T be disappointed when they've done an absolutely blitzing run and knocked one bar or missed one contact colour. Kinda hard though.

Favourite non Agility moments are the cuddle times. On the couch in the evening with the dogs pressed so close is just lovely. There are a few 'moments' when they all want to be the closest, but they figure it out. I'm sure Ziggy would crawl under my skin if he could!

In terms of training methods the seminars by Rhonda Carter from America, and Greg Derrett from England, have been fantastic. I find Greg's handling method to be really clear for the dogs. (His dvd's are great.) Just listening to capable handlers is really good too. Learning as much as possible about canine behaviour has been a huge bonus too. My advice to new members is that Agility is lot's of fun! The dogs just love it and it builds a real rapport between you and your dog. Plus it keeps you and your dog fit and focused. (Setting up the equipment really keeps you supple.)

The thing I most like about trialling is watching dogs have a fantastic time with their handlers.

A really fast, clean run is a sight to behold. I really like hanging around with dog lovers from incredibly diverse walks of life too. I really, really, really dislike people yelling at their dogs.

The dogs just get so confused. The onus is always on the handler. If the dog makes a mistake, it's because the dog has misunderstood the command because we haven't trained the manoeuvre correctly.

Who knows what the future holds but I've got some pretty high, fingers crossed, achievable hopes. In this sport, you just never know!!



PET SHOP



JUMPERS, VESTS & CAPS
OBEDIENCE EQUIPMENT

COLLARS AND LEADS

COOL COLLARS,

AND LOTS
MORE



REMINDER FOR THE USE OF SPACE COATS

These coats were designed for dogs with special needs. Please respect those using them by not approaching dogs wearing them without the consent of the handler.

They are not designed so that dogs wearing them can approach the club house or groups and expect the "oceans to part" for them to make a clear way for you to traverse.

They are designed for handlers to work their dog away from general classes, in their own space, to enable them to work on the problems they may be having, without interference/annoyance of other dogs.

If you feel your dog can benefit from one of these coats, please speak with your instructor and they'll be able to assist you with obtaining one. Sizes available for all types of dogs.

All dogs should be on lead unless otherwise under the supervision of a club instructor or if they are working in the obedience/agility/fly-ball rings.



******HAVE YOU MOVED******

If your address has changed, please send your new details to:-
HASTINGS & DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.
PO BOX 444, HASTINGS, VIC 3915

Name(s) exactly as on membership badge: _____

Dog(s) Name(s): _____

Old Address: _____

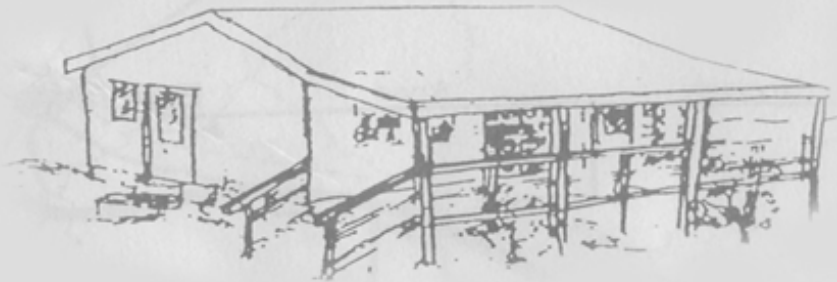
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Home: _____ Mobile: _____

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NISSAN

All suggestions and contributions to the Newsletter Editor:-

✉ by mail: PO Box 444,
Hastings Vic 3915

✉ in email:
info@hastingsdogclub.org.au
(att. Newsletter editor)

**BY NO LATER THAN
4 OCTOBER 2009**

**LATE ITEMS WILL BE KEPT
OVER FOR THE NEXT EDITION**



Hastings & District Obedience Dog Club Inc. has started an online discussion group for members and the community. You can find us at:
<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/hastingsdogclub/>

Hastings & District Obedience
Dog Club Inc.
PO Box 444
Hastings Vic 3915

Set Your Dog up for Success!



Website:

www.hastingsdogclub.org.au

Email:

info@hastingsdogclub.org.au

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