



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

Volume 1, Issue 2

H. D. O. D. C.

Newsletter



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

Vale Minnie Bannister

8th September 1994 – 24th August 2010

Sadly we lost our old dog to heart failure last week. What a ripper dog she was. Originally purchased for our 13 yo daughter Bree to provide companionship, she wound her way into our hearts from the very first day. The man of the house didn't want a dog at all and she was a compromise to fulfil his needs. I thought I wanted a big dog for Bree and a little dog ended up being a great decision. A pet shop dog at that! Now I wouldn't dream of purchasing a puppy without considering the welfare of the bitch – but I've learned a bit since then...

Minnie the Groomer's guinea pig

Minnie copped the lot. Short, long, weird, scruffy, all manner of hair cuts. One for the summer, longer for the winter and sometimes the whole lot would come off just to give me a break from the ongoing support of a coat that just keeps growing. She was very stoic and sported the latest attempt without complaining. The local border collies would point and laugh but she didn't care...

Minnie the Fishwife

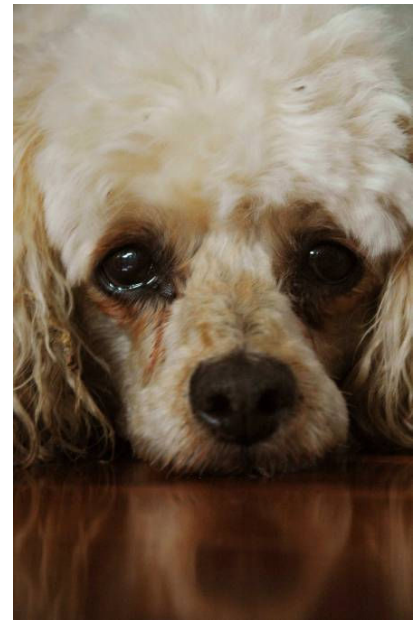
Don't ever get in her way! If you're a rude puppy leaping about or trying to steal her food, she would sing out like an ol fishwife of the first degree. Gosh she could make a ruckus. But, other doggies would never die wondering where they stood!

Minnie the Calming Influence

On the other hand, she was great at throwing calming signals when required. I remember well when Julie's Casey was going through a cranky adolescent stage in her life, Julie was reluctant to run Casey with other dogs for fear of a spat. I convinced Julie to let Casey run off lead with Min and the results were marvellous. Minnie ignored Casey totally and sniffed the ground and they ran in proximity of each other and went their separate but politely distance ways.

Minnie the Demo Dog

Back in the year 2000 when positive methods were a little fresh, Minnie took to clicker training like a duck to water. She was wonderfully reliable and entertaining and showed hundreds of people the joy of operant conditioning. 101 things to do with a box? She had a gazillion things to offer.



Minnie the Competitor

Severely compromised by my clear lethargy surrounding formal competition, Minnie attained the princely title of "Jumping Dog" at age 14 years. She liked agility and jumping and was reasonably consistent.

Minnie the Communicator

With Clicker Training came two way communication. Min could take feedback from me, turn it into a new trick and then give me feedback in return. If she had had the physical ability to talk, she would have. Years ago before we invested in a doggy door, she went through a stage of scratching at the back door to come in. She was causing damage to the door so I had to take action! I attached a small bell to the door jamb and taught her to ring the bell instead. Minnie rings the bell, I can hear it, she gets to come inside! Simple!

She also had the knack of standing in front of me with a soulful look in her eyes. This meant she wanted something. We would ask, "What do you want Min?". She would answer with "OK. Come this way and I'll show you." She'd walk to whatever it was she wanted and give us another look. Ahh.. you want to go out...? you want the water bowl filled..? you want a bikkie...? maybe not this time.

Minnie's laying at rest with her buddy Henry beneath the cyprus down the back yard. What a privilege it was to have shared our life with you Min.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to mark these on your calendars at home

October

- 10th Pets Day Out Flyball Competition
- 31st Melbourne Cup weekend – **NO TRAINING**

November

- 7th Hastings Club Competition, details overleaf
- 13 & 14th Australian Flyball Nationals Titles – held at Dandenong Show
- 20th End of Year Dinner, details overleaf

There will be **NO** Pet and Pony expo this year unfortunately (Sun 28th November).

December

- 5th Last day of club for 2010 (re-commences February 6th)

Welcome to our 2011 Committee

As many people would know our annual AGM was held in August.

President: Deb Hoffrichter
Vice President: Rosaline Twaites
Secretary: Catherine Smallbone
Treasurer:

General Committee:

Barb Andruch
Camille Sporys
Craig Kerr
Kate Dunkley
Melissa Ferabend

Trial Secretaries:

Obedience: Karen Hoyer
Flyball: Jenny Millar
Agility: Greg Milner

STOP PRESS!!

Our club is still without a Treasurer!

We need YOUR help.

If you, or anyone you know, would be willing to give some of your spare time to help support your club please let your instructor know to get the ball rolling.

Remember it takes a small army to help keep this club running so all help is appreciated!

Hastings Club Comp

When: Sunday 7th November

Entry forms available from check-in desk.

Entries close **Sunday 24th October.**

No late entries accepted.

Entry Cost: \$4 for your first dog (includes sausage & drink), then \$2 for any addition dogs

Everyone is welcome to enter!

(please note that members must have attended at least 3 training sessions to be eligible to compete)

Welcome to our new members

Brett & Zoe Lind with Kimba
Adam Tuckwell & Amy Edwards with Jensen
Corrina Alsop with Buzz
Caitlin Bridger with Abbey
Sonia Leahy with Colby
Patricia & Stephen Mitchell with Alfie & Tash
Kevin Wooden with Busta
Lauren James with Kali & Ella
Maggie Parsons with Champagne
Debbie Stylianou with Buddy
Nathan Collins & Brooke Walsh with Ollie
Ian Henley with Gizmo & Missy
Lynda Smith with Asher & Bailey
Marc Lawrence with Jett
Mandy Tickner with Sam
Amelia Walker with Chloe
John & Joan Williams with Sarrije
Ana Car with Bear & Emma
Jane Bracken with Abbie
Samantha Thomson with Polly & Captain
Natalie Morton with Boots & Gus
Glenn Schmidt with Pippa
Louise Monk & Luke Cleary with Lexie
Kim Christensen & Cherie LeMarrec with Chelsea
Ilona Wagemaker with Redmond
Carolyn & Chris David with Tedd-E & Wally

Brooke Ottaway-Waddington with Toby
Louise & Britany Wilks with Gem
Dee Basile with Mac
Zoe Close with Pinky
Penny Lloyd with Skip
Sharon Schneider with Billy
Ann Burton with Lizzie & Monty
Marie McNeill & Mark Mulready with Turbo
Rebecca Schaede with Riley
Lucy Deacon with Ellie
Lynne Cumming with Honey
Courtney McLeod-Flint with Maxwell
Christy Dedman with Belle
Sally Plant with Pip
Sue Gonelli with Dougal & Lexie
Katie Purcell with Maja
Bryan Porter with Rusty
Martina Straub with Scruffy
Saxon Horobin with Buster
Claire & Judy Agnew with Gem
Bree Kelly & Peter Turner with Sascha & Zoe
Colleen Robertson with Darcy
Romany Hunter with Cooper
Joanna Boyd with Jack
Charmaine Harris & Ann David with Lilly
Matt Savage & Amanda Thomas with Ceili

Welcome, learn, laugh and most of all have fun!

If you have any concerns feel free to ask any one of our
highly competent instructors.

END OF YEAR DINNER 2010

WHERE: Westernport Hotel Hastings
DATE: 20th November 2010
TIME: 7PM Til Late
PRICE: \$30 Per Person

Includes: Function room, security and a three course meal

* **PRESENTATION** * **TRIVIA**
* **DOOR PRIZES** * **AWARDS**

CONTACT: ROSALINE-

Email: rosalines@optusnet.com.au or Phone 0417597175

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!

Hastings Howlers Flyball News

The flyball season is well and truly underway with 2 competitions already under our belts.

Frankston held a cold competition on their club grounds to kick off the season and while they haven't hosted a competition for many years it was a great comp.

While Yarram is a 2 hour drive away it is always a really good competition. Held at the 'Best Friends Holiday Park' it is as much a social event as a flyball competition. Here we were able to refine a few of our 'newies' and we had a successful weekend. Even the weather held out for us, which is really unusual for Yarram!

Next on the cards we have the **Pets Day Out** competition on **Sunday 10th October**. This is another comp that we host. It is looking like another big competition for us, so would be great to see some of our other club members come to cheer us on! It's held at Ballam Park in Karingal (opposite Big W). The event runs from 10 – 4pm but flyball will be running all day. Bring along your puppies and make a day of it.

We also have the **Australian Nationals** coming up on **November 13 & 14th**, at the **Dandenong Show**. For those that are uninitiated in flyball this will be a MASSIVE weekend. Teams from all over Australia are competing to try and take out the crown of best flyball team. There is sure to be lots of screaming, cheering and music from the many, many teams that have entered and maybe even a bit of barking from the dogs as well.

Dances With Dogs

UPDATE

I first wrote on this subject toward the end of last year and I can report that things have advanced quickly since then. The sport was accorded recognition by the Australian National Kennel Council in 2009 and this year the Dances With Dogs Club of Victoria (DWDCV) was formed, becoming affiliated in June.

Dances With Dogs includes two disciplines. Heelwork to Music (HTM), and Canine Freestyle (CF). HTM is more closely aligned to traditional obedience work and thus requires control and precision. The accent, as indicated by the title, is on the dog being in the heel position for at least 60% of the routine and there are 8 heel positions that can be used.

CF allows greater freedom of movement but requires a lot of creativity and imagination. As in HTM there are rules but with wider scope for interpretation. Action can include spins; weaves, circles, backing up, jumps and so on.

In both cases the handler selects and then edits a piece of music, choreographs a routine and then trains the dog to perform various moves in time to the music. There is a panel of 3 judges who mark in accordance with three categories: routine content, technical merit and musical interpretation.

Janice & Diva: Deb & Gladys: Julie & Casey



The DWDCV held its first club competition in July and Team Diva entered the CF category. It was a double trial and, much to my great surprise, we managed to come 3rd in the morning trial. I was even more surprised when we won the afternoon one. Then I nearly lost it completely when I discovered that we had achieved highest score in trial. High on euphoria, I entered Diva into her first official competition in August. Being open to all comers (not just club members) the competition was inevitably going to be tougher but what the heck – Team Diva was on a roll. This time we came second in the morning but once more we won the afternoon competition. Julie Morrison with Casey

competed in the HTM category in both trials and trumped us by coming first in both, and gaining highest score in trial. Great stuff. Gladys Twinge was in a category of her own. Deb had entered her into the CF section and Gladys took this to heart. It said Freestyle. She did Freestyle. And Free Spirit. And Free Range. And certainly – total Freedom. She almost threw herself at the judges in an unabashed interpretation of “Look at moi.” Diva and Casey came away with titles which, according to the official guidelines, are the equivalent of CCD except that all work is off leash. Unfortunately there is not, as yet, an award for cute little flirt or Gladys would have got it.

You can see clips of us all strutting our stuff by going to www.danceswithdogsaustralia.com and following the links for Victoria. More information about the sport can be found on www.musicaldogsport.org and on www.melbournecaninefreestyle.com.au.

Open Agility Jumping & Games Trial

28 August, 2010

Our Agility trial this year was again successful, had strong entries and ran fairly smoothly in cool and only mildly wet conditions.

The Club helpers at this year's trial were few, but they all worked really hard and The Club and I thank them immensely. Special mentions to Caro, Nic and Craig for all the food, Jenny Millar for the gazebo work, Jenni Milner as the Pass Card Queen, and Ed De Grauw and Steve Williams as full day build crew.

Supercoat (Purina) discontinued sponsorship this year, after about 7 years straight, BUT filling the void was a small business from Sale, TCB Barkery. They provided all place getters with prizes, and set up a stall on the day. This was a significant effort and cost to TCB Barkery - and very appreciated.

Overall the trial was a resound success, however we did struggle with finding enough help. These trials are a major event to our club and without those extra hands on deck it casts a bit of a shadow. Even those that have never been to a trial have to learn somewhere.

Karo and Jenni W must also get a special mention for all their time and effort put into making our raffle as spectacular as it was. The prizes were great. Also Leonie and her two dogs, Jackson and Cooper should be congratulated on their first official competition.

Greg Milner - AGILITY TRIAL SECRETARY

CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS

August 2010

PUPPIES

- 1st Rob Allica with Sophie
- 2nd Michelle O'Grady with Zoe
- 3rd Kevin Wooden with Busta

ADVANCED PUPPIES

- 1st Geordie Male with Remy
- 2nd Matt Stackpole with Bessie
- 3rd Fran Lanigan with Nara

BEGINNER ADULT

- 1st Sharon Nautili with Poppy
- 2nd John Beattle with Oscar
- 3rd Christine with Summa

PINK

- 1st Ellie Doncovio with Cody
- 2nd Ian Henley with Gizmo

YELLOW

- 1st Merline Galpin with Butch
- 2nd Gayle Szommer with Poppy

CCD

- 1st Carolyn Robertson with Rusty
 - 2nd Gerry Vaughan with Poppy
 - 3rd Camille Sporys with Romi
-

Am I really a “Positive Trainer”?

You’ll hear it a lot around the doggy world. Fanny Mae is a “positive trainer” and she’s soft on her dogs. She fluffs around and never seems to discipline the dog at all. How can she achieve anything without “discipline”? There are as many opinions on what the definition of a “positive trainer” is as there is people on the planet!! And if you multiply these opinions by the how many ways that you might be “positive” with your dog, then you’re just about there.

Let’s have a look at a few facts and maybe a few philosophies along the way.

Fact: The movement in the training world known as “Positive Training” is based on decades of scientific research and implementation through the education of children and animals. Later on in the development of the science, people began to apply this sort of technology to training dogs. It really started to grow legs around the late nineties and is fast becoming “normal”.

Fact: All training is based on the premise that a trainer can respond to the behaviour of an animal in only four different ways with the hope that the animal might perform the behaviour again or stop the behaviour all together.

Positive Punishment

This is a concept most of us are familiar with. When we were “naughty” as children – out would come the weapon of choice applied directly to the tender skin just behind the knees. Ouch! Unlike dogs – it is relatively easy to tell a child why they are being punished. It used to come out of my teacher’s mouth like this...“And don’t **whack** talk **whack** while I’m **whack** talking **whack** again **whack**”! Sadly there is usually strong angry emotion on the part of the teacher and limited recollection of why I was punished on the part of the child.

In dogs, they have limited concept of transgressions in the past or how to avoid punishment in the future. Consider a familiar crime scene... There are a hundred holes in the backyard each big enough to bury your pooch and he is happily wagging his tail because you’re home. You punish him severely whilst pointing his nose roughly into the biggest hole because you just spent \$6000 on new turf and he looks “guilty”. He has absolutely no idea why you punished him and has no concept of what he should avoid doing in the future to prevent you punishing him again. The “guilty look” is purely his defences kicking in and cringing behaviours because you are yelling at him. If you yelled at him for no reason at all – he would look at you just the same way!

Punishment also has terrible fallout in regards to your relationship with your dog. Remember you want him to be on the team not just be a begrudging reluctant player. If you consider using punishment at all as a way of changing behaviour, it must occur at exactly the time he is doing it wrong for him to form any association between the punishment and the undesirable behaviour.

Importantly, punishment DECREASES behaviour. Fact.

If you choose to punish an animal for the same behaviour twice, have you succeeded?

Negative Punishment

This situation is where we take away (hence the term “negative”) something the dog wants if he displays bad behaviour. A human analogy is to take away a child’s lollies because she’s been bad.

It’s very difficult to dole out Negative Punishment to a dog in a meaningful way because the timing is chronically difficult to get right. It’s usually a case of “the dog has eaten the washing therefore he goes without his dinner”. Makes the human feel better because the dog has just eaten his \$350 Versace jeans and he has to make someone pay. Totally useless in teaching the dog not to eat the washing!

Here’s the rub, somehow there is some cross over from this response to a dog with Positive Reinforcement. There is some value in withholding some beautiful treat openly so that the dog knows you have it and then waiting until he works out what it is that you want. This is kind of a back handed “Positive Trainer” type situation. Holding out can increase frequency of desired behaviours as well as increase speed – particularly the drop command!

Negative Reinforcement

Sounds technical but traditionally we have used this method with dogs more than any other. Negative Reinforcement is something a dog will work to avoid. When we want a dog to move closer to our leg, we apply pressure with the collar or a correction (which the dog doesn't like). The dog will work to avoid that pressure and will move his body in such a way that the pressure will be released. Only when the handler releases pressure at the correct time and gives the dog a number of opportunities to understand (repetitions) will the dog learn. As he learns the details and position of heel, the force required to move the dog closer becomes less and less.

But what does the constant method of applying things the dog doesn't like to his work ethic? What if he gets it wrong a lot? How does that change the picture of a dog happily working with you to a dog who performs because he has to? There are very real dangers of the dog ceasing to learn at all if he can't get it right often enough. They just give up!

Positive Reinforcement

Positive Reinforcement is something a dog will work for. In the case of humans, this is a salary or praise from your boss. Dogs will work for praise, food, rest, play or even social activity. The higher the need for one of these things, the harder the dog will work. If the dog tires easily, a short rest as a reward for a moment of brilliant heeling will reinforce the behaviour and increase the chance that he will do it again. If a dog loves hot dogs, he will literally go through hoops if he thinks that he will be rewarded for that behaviour. Some dogs will work for praise only but make sure that he really knows that you are pleased and that good things will come as a result.

In a training context, the word "Positive" is relevant to "adding to the situation".

So, what about the "Discipline"

Fact: there is no less discipline in positive training than there is in more traditional methods. The difference is that the responsibility for "discipline" is with the trainer! Accuracy, consistency, timing, diligence, persistence are all requirements of a "Positive Trainer". Do you think that sometimes we mistake the definition of "Positive Punishment" with "Discipline"?

Well, are you really a "Positive Trainer"?

So, these are the training methods used by everyone in various degrees and a gazillion variations. Sometimes two different responses together – rightly or wrongly all of the responses to a dog's efforts will fit into the 4 possible descriptions listed above.

Can you use the same methods for the training of dogs with the training of people? Or horse? Or a snail? Absolutely! Positive methods are well documented across species and, providing the animal is physically and emotionally capable of performing the behaviour, there's a fair chance that you can have an influence on the animal's behaviour in the future.

If you use mainly Positive Reinforcement to elicit repeated good behaviour from your dog, you might like to call yourself a "Positive Trainer". Think of your training efforts as a bank account. If you want a positive balance, you need to deposit more than you withdraw from your account. To get the desired result in a happy working dog, you probably need to make 10 TIMES the amount of deposits as you take from your account – be generous! What could possibly go wrong if your more generous than you feel is right?

But what happens when you want your eldest son to put the rubbish out? Or your lovely wife repeatedly fails to turn the light off when she goes to bed? How cranky does this make you feel and would you reach for the punishment straight off? Sadly many of us do. It's culturally and systematically entrenched in our daily lives but everyone has the capacity to respond to things in more creative and positive ways.

Try it. At first it will be a lonely act and with little reward but, the same as with your doggy, if you are consistent and generous, fabulous results can be achieved!

Recommended Reading.

- * Don't Shoot the Dog - Karen Pryor Not really a doggy book but a fantastic explanation of the theory behind the method of teaching and learning
- * Purely Positive Training - Sheila Booth Specifically about training for Obedience

Deb Hoffrichter

(An everyday trainer who likes to use positive methods on as many species as she can – including her husband!)

All suggestions and contributions to the Newsletter Editor:-

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✉ in email:

info@hastingsdogclub.org.au
(att. Newsletter editor)

**BY NO LATER
THAN
February 13th, 2011**

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

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