



March - April 2011



HAPPY EASTER 2011

THE MAGAZINE
OF THE CANINE
OBEDIENCE CLUB
OF TOWNSVILLE

COMPANION DOG MAGAZINE

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COCT INC LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. D. Dobson	Miss A. Dobson
Mrs. A. Tunstal	Dr. R. Taylor (deceased)
Mr. E. Morris	Mrs. V. Litster
Mrs. C. Woodward	Mr. B. Woodward
Mr. P. Litster	Mrs. E.K. Greenwood
Mr. D.R. Greenwood (active)	Mrs. H. Taylor
Mrs. A. Annesley (active)	Mrs. S.M. Fielder (active)
Mrs C O`Shea (active)	Ms D MacIntyre (active)
Mr Mal Holland (active)	Ms Judy Forbes-Faulkner (active)

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or committee members of the COCT Inc.

All Office bearers, committee members and instructors of the Canine Obedience Club of Townsville Inc. are unpaid volunteers who give freely of their time in an effort to help you to train and trial your dogs.

General monthly meetings held first Monday of the month February to December at 7.30pm
Annual General Meeting held first Monday in August
Executive Committee meetings held as called by Secretary

Club Web Site: www.coct.com.au

Presidents Report February 2011

Judy Forbes-Faulkner



What a start to the year!!! Not only was training interrupted by Cyclone Yasi but has subsequently been interrupted by very wet and adverse conditions at Heatley Park. We are all hoping that conditions will steadily improve over the next few weeks and we can get back to our normal schedules. I hope you all survived the cyclone with minimal or no damage to your properties and gardens, I know many of us spent many days cleaning up our yards and neighbourhoods.

Now to the coming events, on April 1st and 2nd we have our first competition for the year which will include obedience and agility games on the Friday night (obedience starting at 5 pm) and then a big day on Saturday commencing with a Rally O ribbon trial at 8am followed by a workshop for prospective judges and interested handlers. There will then be a break for lunch and agility will commence at 3 pm followed by more obedience and agility after the dinner break. If you are new to our sport but interested in having a go at the Rally O trial please see our trial secretary Louise and get your \$2.00 entry in. All COCT members and handlers are welcome to come down to all of our trials and we are always looking for anyone interested in assisting.

Help is always welcome with setting up and resetting agility equipment, assisting with timing agility runs or taking leads from the competitors. We also welcome any assistance stewarding in the obedience rings or helping in the kitchen serve meals and cleaning up afterwards. If you think you may be able to help the club doing any of these jobs please come and see us on any Tuesday evening. Renate and I will be down at the club by 4:00pm on Friday to set up the obedience rings and then again at 1 pm on Saturday afternoon to set up the agility courses so come along and give us a hand.

For those interested in Rally O we hope to be running more short courses to practice for our trial next Tuesday so and the Tuesday before the trial so give it a go and come along and have some fun.

Finally I would like to wish you all the best for training and trialling in 2011 and let's hope the weather is kinder to us for the rest of the year.

Judy Forbes-Faulkner
President

Notable Dogs

BOOTS, narrator of Thy Servant a Dog by Rudyard Kipling
BUCK, the main character in Jack London's Call of the Wild
BULLSEYE, Bill Sikes' dog in Oliver Twist
OLD DAN, from Where the Red Fern Grows
KEP, the Collie, from Beatrix Potter's The Tail of Jemima Puddle-duck
and other books

Just Briefly

- 🐾 **The 2011 season kicks off with a double tracking trial**, with a Track and Search on Friday 25 March followed by two normal Tracking trials on Saturday and Sunday, 26-27 March. Every dog has some capability to track a scent, and many breeds participate in this sport. Tracking is a great way to get your dog's nose working. The objective is for the dog to follow the scent left by a "lost" person who has walked a pre-determined track through the bush. The person, or bait, settles down to wait patiently at the end of the track for the dog to find them. We are always looking for volunteers to act as baits, and at the end of the trial around 9.00am can enjoy a free brekkie for your time! It is an early start – you'll have to be at the tracking site by 6.00am – and can sometimes be a bit wet and cold with the dew on the ground, but it is fascinating to see these dogs working. If you'd like to find out more contact Mal Holland on demal4@bigpond.net.au or phone 4725 1949 who will give you a complete run down on what it is all about.

- 🐾 **The following weekend is our first obedience and agility trial starting Friday 1 April** with a Sweepstakes and Obedience Trial followed by two Agility Games. Saturday afternoon we do it all again from 2.00pm. A lot of people who see these dogs in action think "My dog could never do that!" but remember – everyone has started just like you with a new dog, taken them through classes, and then upon graduating to Class 4 continued on to the point where they can compete. You can be as competitive as you wish, but if it is just to have fun and enjoy doing something physical and socialising your dog with others on the day that is great too. For more info ask your Instructor on how to get involved.

- 🐾 **New helpers and always welcome at our trials**, and it is a great way to see and come to understand what goes on in an obedience or agility trial. You will be paired up with an experienced steward who will show you the ropes on what is required. It is not at all difficult, and without stewards trials just wouldn't happen. If you'd like to come along let your Instructor know or the ladies at the clubhouse on Tuesday night.

- 🐾 **The COCT 2011 trial calendar** is on page 11 and lists all trials for the year. The majority are centred around the 'cooler' months – April, May and July. Please make sure you get your entries & fees in by the closing date of two weeks prior to help our Trial Secretary Louise get catalogues and running sheets ready in plenty of time.

- 🐾 **April means Easter**, and brings with it all the usual warnings from Vets on not feeding dogs chocolate. Every year dogs manage to either raid the Easter egg stash or are given a "treat" from well-meaning but ignorant owners. The results range from mild upset stomachs and vomiting right through to poisoning and death. So this year ensure those Easter eggs are kept well out of pooches' reach, and give him a more appropriate dog treat.

- 🐾 **We are all familiar with Easter Bunny eggs**, but why not make the switch this year to an Easter Bilby? Bilbies are native Australian marsupials and are classified endangered. To raise money and increase popular awareness of conservation efforts, bilby-shaped chocolates and related merchandise are sold within many stores throughout Australia as an alternative to Easter bunnies. Daryl Lea chocolates have been making Easter Bilby's since 1994 and supports the *Save the Bilby Fund*. So help make a difference this year, and still get your chocolate fix!



Five Fast Bilby Facts :-

1. Bilbies have a horny spur on the end of their tails, hidden in the white tufty bit. It's as sharp as a roosters foot spur, but nobody knows why they have them.
2. Bilbies are from the same family as Bandicoots.
3. A Bilby's large ears act like coolant towers, radiating excess heat out and away from their bodies.
4. In the wild they get all their water from their food - seeds, insects and fruit - and don't have to drink.

5. The only defence a Bilby has is to hide. Their eyesight is bad, but their smell and hearing are good, so if they get wind of a predator they can hide in time. Otherwise...it's one less bilby in the world. Their numbers have reduced dramatically through feral dog, cat and fox predation.

🐾 Thursday night training is a great opportunity to take advantage of one-on-one training with an experienced instructor. If you have a particular problem that you are having difficulties with, want to start preparing for entry into a competition or simply want to take advantage of an extra night training you are welcome to attend. Training commences around 6.30pm for about an hour, and is much less structured than normal classes. Best of all it is free, so why not come on down – weather permitting of course, this time of year!

🐾 Have you enjoyed your classes, love dogs, and would like to help others train theirs? The club has openings for several Trainee Instructors. You will be paired with an experienced instructor who will take you through week by week theory and practical on how to train handlers to train their dogs. All instructors are volunteers, and started off just like you – taking a dog through classes, graduating into Class 4, and then becoming interested in the training program. If you are interested in finding out more ask to talk to Judy, our Training Co-ordinator.

🐾 The hot weather seems the ideal time to let our dogs take a dip in the local creek or river – but caution is advised. With the amount of floodwaters rushing down all the watercourses and turning them a murky brown, it is impossible to know what is hidden beneath. The risk of unseen submerged branches and debris could cause injury to your dog if he jumps on one or snags up against something, and strong swirling currents could sweep him away. I recently saw a young lady who had swum out a third of the way across Ross River to rescue her dog that got into trouble after going in for a swim. Both of them were swept downstream hundreds of metres before she finally managed to swim ashore, shepherding the dog in front of her. There were moments of real concern as both of them were obviously exhausted from battling the current, and it was with great relief that they finally made the bank. Runoff and sediment stirred up by the floodwaters releases all sorts of viruses and bacteria that have lain undisturbed during the dry season, and if your dog drinks the water or has any sores or cuts could fall quite ill or catch a good dose of giardia which will give him the runs for a few days. Instead, let him have sessions under the sprinkler or hose, or if he's lucky, his own wading pool would be a safer alternative.



🐾 Club T-Shirts are available from the Club Shoppe each Tuesday night. They are made from a durable cotton material, great for wearing to training, at trials to fly the Club's colours, and will last forever! Cost - \$46. Also available at very reasonable prices are cloth webbing leads, martingale collars, treat bags and bags of treats.

🐾 Rally-o is coming, and practise sessions will be held at least once a month from 8.00pm. Everyone is welcome to stay back and have a go, and it's FREE!! Dates are difficult to state at the moment due to the rain, but keep an eye out for Noel setting up the Rally-O signs around 8.00pm.

Did you know ...

The Romans produced the first 'Beware of the Dog' signs. Notices warning '*cave canem*' have been found in Rome and Pompeii. However, the signs were intended to protect the dogs rather than the citizens. Historians think they were designed to warn people against stepping on the small Italian Greyhounds that were popular at the time. The Romans were also the first to use dogs as guide dogs. On the walls of a house buried in ash during the famous eruption of Vesuvius at Pompeii is a depiction of a blind man with a staff being led by a small dog, dating from 74 BC. Taken from *Play it Again, Tom – Curious truths about cats and dogs*. Augustus Brown.

FEBRUARY 2011 UPGRADINGS

Class 1 to 2

<u>Handler</u>	<u>Dogs Name</u>	<u>Breed</u>
Felicity Nalder	Tramp	Jack Russell
Vivien Maloney	Harry	West Highland Terrier
Lea Metcalfe	Tilley	West Highland Terrier
Meg Redden	Gizmo	Maltese x Shih Tzu
Elaine Czapracki	Taz	German Shepherd
Jacinta Leston	Vertigo	Cattle Dog
Kelly Locher	Abby	Border Collie
Bec Wayland	Starstream	Bull Arab X
Albert Stewart	Giverney	Briard
Ayla Manicaros	Titan	Foxie x

Why do dogs eat grass??

Dogs are not known for being fussy eaters. Put it in your dog's path and he'll gobble it up, whether it be table scraps, garbage ... or grass.

Dogs are primarily carnivores (meat-eaters). Although they prefer to eat meat, they can also survive on a well-balanced vegetarian diet. Cats, on the other hand, may die without animal protein. Like all living creatures, dogs need a combination of fats, carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins, minerals, and water in a balanced diet that provides enough calories to meet their daily needs. However, if your dog has a medical condition your vet will recommend either a low-fat or low-carb diet.



We're not sure why dogs like grass, although there have been many theories offered. Primarily, dogs are descended from wild canids (wolves and foxes), which ate the entire "kill" when they hunted for food. Since they consumed many herbivores (plant-eating animals), they wound up eating a lot of plants and even berries found in the stomach and intestines of their prey.

Interestingly, carnivores tend to go for the stomach and its contents first, so it's likely that dogs may eat grass because they like it and it was once part of their normal diet.

Then there is the great mystery : do dogs eat grass to make themselves vomit? Or do they vomit because they eat the grass? Most veterinarians believe that dogs eat grass simply because they like it, and vomiting just naturally follows. When dogs eat grass, the grass acts as an irritant and causes vomiting, although in most cases it doesn't usually lead to throwing up -- less than 25% of dogs that eat grass vomit regularly after grazing.

Some people propose that dogs might turn to eating grass when they don't feel well as a way to make themselves vomit, and then feel better. Others dispute this idea on the basis that dogs are not proven to be smart enough to decide to treat an upset stomach by eating grass.

Some veterinarians believe that dogs eat grass because their prepared diets are lacking in greens and so eat grass. And as some support of this contention, dogs sometimes seek out a particular variety of grass to nibble.

Other suggested reasons why your dog might be eating grass include improving digestion, treating intestinal worms, or fulfilling some unmet nutritional need, including the need for fiber. One published study reports on a miniature poodle that ate grass and then vomited every day for years. Three days after putting the dog on a high-fibre diet, the owner reported that the dog stopped eating grass entirely.

No matter what the reason, your dog's grass habit is normal behaviour and you need not be concerned about it. A note of caution though : Take care that your pet does not eat grass that has been treated with fertiliser, pesticides or herbicides. This could cause stomach upset or even worse problems for your dog.

Taken from <http://www.petplace.com/dogs/why-do-dogs-eat-grass/page1.aspx> and http://www.medicinenet.com/pets/dog-health/why_do_dogs_eat_grass.htm

Remember – consult with your vet if you have any concerns about your dog's health.

RALLY-O IS HERE!!



WHAT IS RALLY-O?

Rally Obedience, or "Rally-O", is one of the latest activities you can do with your dog. Invented by Charles (Bud) Kramer of the USA, it has spread to other countries around the world. In Australia it has just been recognised by the Australian National Kennel Club. In Queensland, affiliated Clubs will be holding Rally-O Ribbon Trials until it is fully sanctioned either later in 2011 or 2012. The first Rally-O Ribbon Trial for our club will be held on Saturday, 2 April at 8.00am. There will be Rally-O practice at on Tuesday nights from 8.00pm-9.00pm, so stick around after class and have a go at this fun new sport.



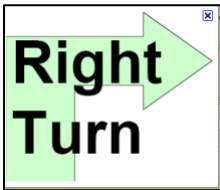
Great Introduction to Obedience

Rally-O is a wonderful introduction to the sport of obedience for dogs and owners, an opportunity for veteran dogs to remain active, and a chance for shy or anti-social dogs to get ring experience without worrying about being examined by a judge.

No marching around in silence

Many dogs enjoy this change from the usual silent heeling of traditional obedience as their handlers can clap hands, talk, whistle (even sing!) to them throughout the entire course without penalty. Those who participate in agility trials will recognize the pre-class "walk-throughs" and the challenge of working with their dog partners in an almost dance-like flow from one station to another.

Rally-O combines characteristics of sports car racing, dog agility, and traditional obedience into a new fun sport.



Features of Rally-O

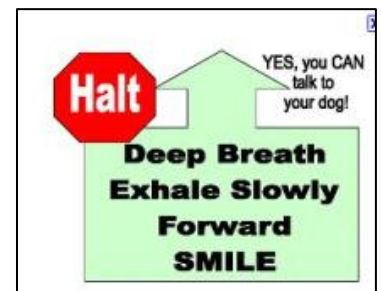
- each dog and handler, known as a team, is timed
- includes 12-20 stations depending on the level of participation, and
- is scored by a judge who watches for a smooth performance as well as skill in following the directions at each station.

Levels of difficulty:

- **Novice** with on-leash exercises that demonstrate the dog's understanding of basic commands such as sit, stay, down, and come and heel position;
- **Advanced** a set of exercises performed off-leash that includes at least one jump; and
- **Excellent** a more difficult off-leash course that includes at least one jump and demonstrates more precise skill and coordination between the dog and handler.

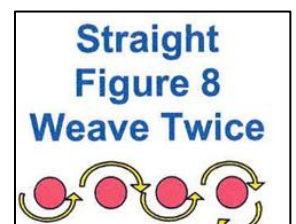
What is the link with Agility

- Courses are designed by the judge and are different in every trial.
- Exhibitors receive a course map from the judge and can walk the course without their dogs prior to the start of the class.
- Judges design their courses by choosing from many exercises that are put together that direct handlers and dogs to perform specific exercises in a specific order.



Signs describe what you must do

- A sign at each station gives instructions to the dog and handler.
- Each team must execute the station's particular task within two-to-four feet of the sign.
- Once the judge gives the command "forward," the dog and handler complete the course on their own without further commands from the judge.
- Handlers may not use treats or toys in the ring, but may do anything else to



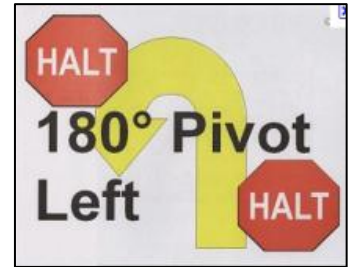
encourage their dogs at the novice and advanced levels except physically touch them or make corrections with the leash.

- Encouragement is allowed at the excellent level but handlers cannot pat their legs or clap their hands as they can in novice and advanced classes.

Types of Signs

Signs instruct teams to do, for example :-

- go fast or
- go slow,
- to halt (dog must sit at heel),
- to make turns and circles,
- to reverse direction,
- to do a sit-stay-recall,
- or to follow other basic obedience exercises.



Scoring

- Each team has a starting score of 100 or 200 points
- Points are deducted for such faults as missed or incompletely performed stations, touching the dog, leash corrections, etc.
- Team are ranked from the highest to the lowest score (i.e., fewest number of faults wins first place)
- If two teams achieve the same score, the judge determines the placements according to the time recorded for each team's course completion.



How do I get involved?

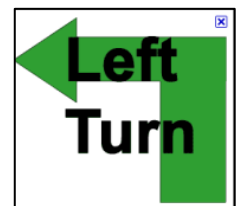
The Club will hold Rally-O practice at least once a month on Tuesday nights from 8.00pm-9.00pm. The nights may vary but you will know when it is on when you see the course set up in front of the shelter shed. Everyone is welcome to stay back and have a go.

What do I do if I want to compete?

All dogs regardless of breed can compete in obedience, agility, tracking and endurance, but you do need to join Dogs Queensland (CCCQ). There is a combined joining fee plus annual fee to pay for either single or joint membership.

PEDIGREE DOGS WITH PAPERS

Download the Application Form for New Membership 2011 from <http://www.cccq.org.au/New-Member-Information.aspx> for completion and mailing to CCCQ.



CROSS BREEDS OR NON-PEDIGREE DOGS

If you have a pedigree without papers or a cross-breed, you'll also need to download and complete the Associate Register Form <http://www.cccq.org.au/Member-Forms.aspx> - scroll down to Registrations and select Associate Register (AR). Your dog must be desexed to go on the AR and a copy of this form must be attached to the New Membership Form and the AR Form. There is a catch though – you can register one AR dog and then your second dog purchased later down the track must be a pedigree with papers, or register two AR dogs at the same time, and then your third dog purchased later on must be papered.

But once all that is done and you receive your annual membership card you can compete in any trial in Australia and gain titles and even championships in these fields – but the main thing is to enjoy being active with your dog.



7 things you didn't know about Sharon French and Louie

Q 1. What is your dog's kennel and/or call names, and what breed is it?

Louie is a "Chinese Crested" and his pedigree kennel name is "Chinois High Acclaim". The Crestie is a happy and animated dog that needs a lot of personal interaction with its owner. These agile dogs are very good climbers and jumpers and can even grip objects and toys with their paws. The breed has a very interesting dentition – they have a primitive mouth with actual tusks as canines. They are listed as one of the top rare and exotic breeds, and people are generally in shock when they see a Hairless Chinese Crested. I am slowly getting used to most people making negative comments about the way Louie looks – but to me he is adorable and beautiful!



Q 2. What was this breed originally bred for?

The answer to this question is neither easy, nor simple. There is much debate, speculation, and many stories. The Chinese Crested dog has been included in written history as far back as the 13th century, in China. It is thought they were bred to control vermin on ships, and in some cases they were a noted food source. Eeewww !!! Another belief is they were indispensable as a living hot water bottle for sick people. The skin of the Crestie is soft and quite warm to touch, and the dogs were placed in the bed with very ill patients to keep them toasty and assist in their recovery.

Q 3 : How much daily exercise does this breed require?

The Crestie gets enough exercise chasing a ball around the house, or doing what we call 'zooming'. They race around the house at top speed, up on the lounge, off again, in that room, out again, into another room, out again, zooming around like a maniac until they are exhausted. I have spoken to other Crestie owners and it seems they all do it! It is hilarious to watch. However, like most breeds they do enjoy a walk or a romp in the park.

Q 4: What are the grooming requirements for this breed?

The Chinese Crested breed is divided into two main categories: Powderpuff & Hairless. The Powderpuff has a soft layer of long hair all over their body and requires high maintenance grooming. The Hairless comes in two varieties – True Hairless or Hairy Hairless. The True has no body hair except for perhaps a few hairs on its head, and requires minimal maintenance. The Hairy (which is what Louie is) has a varying amount of body hair and a beautiful Crest on head, Plume on tail, and feathery Socks on feet. The hair on his body grows in a 'H' pattern (on rump, down centre back & shoulders), and is bare soft skin on sides and tummy. I generally shave Louie with a razor once a week, but at the moment I am letting his body hair grow, just to see what it looks like. The Hairless skin needs to be moisturised daily, also exfoliated whilst bathing, and sunscreen applied if going in the sun. A sun shirt is great, and pyjamas in winter. They lose a very minimal amount of hair and do not have a doggy odour. They make a fantastic pet for people with allergies.

Q 5 : What is your dogs' favourite activities?

Louie loves to cuddle. He is the cuddliest dog I have ever had. He also loves his chook and bunny toys, and spends ages trying to find good hiding places for them so my other dogs can't find them. Another favourite are the small tennis balls – he finds them around the house and lines them up on the floor next to my bed, in a perfect straight line – it's really weird!! His best trick is to sit and give a high-five, and he is also learning to walk and pirouette.

Q 6. What is your dogs' least favourite activities?

Louie is definitely not a social butterfly – but he is getting better. He doesn't seem very comfortable in the company of other dogs and people. I rescued him 6 weeks ago when he was 6 months old from a breeder in NSW so I don't know what his life was like before he hopped on the big plane and came to me. But every day I see him becoming braver and more outgoing. He gets on well with my other two dogs – Mini the Tenterfield Terrier & Rosie the Miniature Schnauzer.

Q 7. What do you hope to achieve in the future with your dog?

I think Louie and I will do well with obedience training, and my goal is to get him into agility training. The Chinese Crested are natural climbers and jumpers so I think he will be fantastic at it. Hopefully he will become more relaxed in public and will be able to enjoy learning and practising. I don't think he had much training before he arrived, but he is quick to learn when by himself. On a more personal note, I would like him to go to the toilet on the grass and not on my verandah – he fancies himself as a bit of a Diva and doesn't like to get his feet wet !!!
LOL



CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC TRIAL CALANDER FOR 2011

OBEDIENCE

OSS - Obedience Sweepstake / OT - Obedience Trial / RO - Rally-Obedience

	DATE	UDX	UTILITY	OPEN	NOVICE	CCD	RALLY-O	START
OSS	Fri, 1/04/2011		Rita Jaworski	Rita Jaworski	Rita Jaworski			5.00pm
OT	Fri, 1/04/2011	John Bauman	John Bauman	John Bauman	Rita Jaworski	Rita Jaworski		5.30pm
RO	Sat, 2/04/2011						John Bauman	8.00am
OT	Sat, 2/04/2011	John Bauman	John Bauman	John Bauman	Rita Jaworski	Rita Jaworski		7.00pm
OT	Sat, 16/04/2011	Bob Bruce	Bob Bruce	Bob Bruce	David Horsely	David Horsely		7.00pm
RO	Sun, 17/04/2011						David Horsely	9.00am
OT	Sat, 30/04/2011	Ruth Clarke	Ruth Clarke	Ruth Clarke	Ruth Clarke	Ruth Clarke		7.00pm
RO	Sun, 1/05/2011						Judy Forbes-Faulkner	9.00am
OT	Fri, 20/05/2011	Barbara Murfett	Barbara Murfett	Barbara Murfett	David Horsely	David Horsely		5.00pm
OT	Sat, 21/05/2011	Barbara Murfett	Barbara Murfett	David Horsely	David Horsely	David Horsely		6.30pm
OT	Mon, 04/07/2011	Ruth Clarke	Ruth Clarke	Ruth Clarke	Ruth Clarke	Ruth Clarke		
OSS	Sat, 15/07/2011		Roel Wittkamp	Rita Jaworski	Rita Jaworski	Rita Jaworski		7.00pm
OT	Fri, 29/07/2011	Jill Kaldor	Jill Kaldor	David Horsely	David Horsely	David Horsely		5.00pm
RO	Sat, 30/07/2011						Kate Moles	8.30am
OT	Sat, 30/07/2011	Jill Kaldor	Jill Kaldor	David Horsely	David Horsely	David Horsely		6.30pm
OT	Sat, 27/08/2011	Chery IWilliams	Chery IWilliams	Chery IWilliams	Chery IWilliams	Chery IWilliams		7.00pm
OT	Fri, 07/10/2011	Cathy O'Shea	Cathy O'Shea	Cathy O'Shea	Judy Forbes-Faulkner	Judy Forbes-Faulkner		5.00pm
OT	Sat, 08/10/2011	Ruth Clarke	Ruth Clarke	Ruth Clarke	Judy Forbes-Faulkner	Judy Forbes-Faulkner		6.30pm

2011 ENTRY FEES

Obedience/Agility/Jumpers/Agility games - \$6 each

Obedience Sweepstakes - \$2

Rally-Obedience - \$2

Trial Secretary :-

Louise Ashworth 478 87005 or 0439 887 005

AGILITY / JUMPERS / AGILITY GAMES

	DATE	AGILITY/JUMPERS	AGILITY GAME	START	COMMENT
AG games	Fri, 1/04/2011		Snooker (Roach) Strat Pairs (Tim Fairchild)	After OT	Games only
AT	Sat, 2/04/2011	Roach / Tim Fairchild		2.00pm	no open agility or jumpers
AT	Sat, 2/04/2011	Roach / Tim Fairchild			All classes
AT/games	Fri, 15/04/2011	Roel Wittkamp	Gamblers	7.00pm	All classes
AT/games	Fri, 29/04/2011	Judy Forbes-Faulkner	Snooker	7.00pm	All classes
AT/games	Fri, 20/05/2011	Tim Fairchild / B Murfett	Gamblers (T Fairchild)	7.00pm	All classes
AT/games	Sat, 21/05/2011	Tim Fairchild / B Murfett		2.00pm	All classes
AG games	Sat, 21/05/2011		Snooker (T Fairchild) Strat Pairs (B Murfett)	7.30pm	Games only
AT/games	Mon, 04/07/2011	Roel Wittkamp	Gamblers	2.00pm	All classes
AT/games	Fri, 15/07/2011	Roel Wittkamp	Snooker	7.00pm	All classes
AG games	Fri, 29/07/2011		Strat Pairs (N Lester) Snooker (J Kaldor)	7.00pm	
AT	Sat, 30/07/2011	Jill Kaldor / Neil Lester		2.00pm	All classes
AT/games	Sat, 30/07/2011	Neil Lester / Jill Kaldor	Gamblers (N Lester)	7.30pm	no open agility or jumpers
AT/games	Sat, 27/08/2011	Rob Ogilvie	Snooker	2.30pm	All classes
AG games	Fri, 07/10/2011	Bob Mills	Gamblers / Snooker	7.00pm	
AG games	Sat, 08/10/2011	Judy FF / Bob Mills		2.00pm	no open agility or jumpers
AT/games	Sat, 08/10/2011	Judy FF / Bob Mills	Strat Pairs (Judy FF)	7.30pm	All classes

NOTE - Double trials, some held over Friday, Saturday and Sunday indicated in colour. Open Agility & Jumpers not offered on certain dates

2011 ENTRY FEES

Agility / Jumpers/ Agility games - \$6 each

Trial Secretary contact information:- Louise Ashworth Ph 07 478 87005 or Mobile 0439 887 7005

TRACKING TRIALS

	DATE	JUDGE 1	JUDGE 2	VETTING	START	LOCATION
TSD	Fri, 25/03/2011	Dave Horsley		6.00 am	6.00 am	Annandale
TT	Sat, 26/03/2011	Dave Horsley	Tim Fairchild	6.00 am	6.00 am	Alice River
TT	Sun, 27/03/2011	Dave Horsley	Tim Fairchild	6.00 am	6.00 am	Alice River
TSD	Fri, 08/04/2011	Debby Lamprecht		6.00 am	6.00 am	Annandale
TT	Sat, 09/04/2011	Heidi Christoffel	Debby Lamprecht	6.00 am	6.00 am	Alice River
TT	Sun, 10/04/2011	Heidi Christoffel	Debby Lamprecht	6.00 am	6.00 am	Alice River
TSD	Fri, 6/05/2011	Mal Holland		6.00 am	6.00 am	Annandale
TT	Sat, 07/05/2011	Dave Horsley	Mal Holland	6.00 am	6.00 am	Alice River
TT	Sun, 08/05/2011	Dave Horsley	Mal Holland	6.00 am	6.00 am	Alice River
TSD	Fri, 08/07/2011	Heidi Christoffel		6.00 am	6.00 am	Annandale
TT	Sat, 09/10/2011	Coral Pethers	Mal Holland	6.00 am	6.00 am	Alice River
TT	Sun, 10/07/2011	Coral Pethers	Mal Holland	6.00 am	6.00 am	Alice River

NOTE : The second judge will be used in TSD if four or more competitors have entered

2011 ENTRY FEES

Tracking Trials \$15 for each entry plus \$5 for breakfast

Trial Secretary contact information:- Louise Ashworth Ph 07 478 87005 or Mobile 0439 887 7005

IT'S OUR 40TH BIRTHDAY !!



May 2011 marks the 40th year that the COCT has been providing obedience lessons for dog owners of Townsville and surrounds. There have been many changes since those first beginnings back in 1971 as you'll see below.

The double trial held on the weekend of May 20-21 will be the official recognition of our achievement. Every competitor, judge, steward and helper will receive an Anniversary Bag with goodies, and of course there will be a huge birthday cake to share! Sponsors so far include :-

Michele Miles – wholesale distributor of Advance, Royal Canin, dog Pro, Enduro, Optimum; Advance Dog Foods; and Sharon Heys of www.petlinedirect.com for items for the Anniversary Bag, and a grant from Townsville City Council of \$500 for cash prizes.

So why not nominate for one of the trials being held over the two days? And of course new comers are more than welcome to have a go in a trial, lend a hand or simply come down for a look and see what trialing is all about.

OUR HISTORY SO FAR ... THE FIRST 40 YEARS

The Canine Obedience Club of Townsville arose from the amalgamation of two dog training clubs in 1971. The Club then affiliated with the State Controlling Body, The Canine Control Council of Queensland (who have had their own re-vamp and now known as Dogs Queensland), and has been conducting basic and advanced obedience lessons and official competitions ever since.

The Club initially conducted basic obedience lessons at Hanran Park on the banks of Ross Creek, moved briefly to a car park at the Vincent Village Shopping centre and made its final move to Heatley Park. Initially there were about 30 members and as obedience lessons became more popular over the years, membership peaked to nearly 400.

The early days saw an average of twenty dogs at a training session. This has steadily grown over the last 40 years and some weeks saw more than 100 dogs and their owners attending classes – a truly impressive sight to see on the park! The Canine Obedience Club of Townsville is the only non-profit dog-training club in Townsville / Thuringowa. Our mandate is to train handlers to train their dogs using positive reinforcement, thus promoting good behaviour in the canine population.

Throughout the year competitions are conducted under the rules set out by the Canine Control Council in obedience, agility, jumping, tracking, and endurance. The Club is proud to have the honour of having nine Australian Obedience Champions, three Tracking Champions, a National Agility Champion and Australia's first ever Agility Champion under the new rules.

The last 4-5 years has seen agility become extremely popular, resulting in the introduction of new competitions in jumping and agility games. These new competitions meant the Club had to make and purchase extra equipment, posing problems in adequately storing it all in a manner that was not only neat and tidy but also safe for members to move out to the park and return when finished.

In 2006 the Club made application to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for financial assistance, and with support from the Townsville City Council were fortunate to secure the full amount of \$25,497. The challenge then was to find a builder who would be willing to take on a small project at a time when building activity in the twin cities is at an all-time high, and to have it completed within the time limit imposed by the Benefit Fund. For that the Club extends its' gratitude to builder Simon Gallagher who agreed to take on the project. Construction commenced in November 2006, and, apart from a few problems encountered with the site and a couple of minor adjustments to the plan, finished the job in January 2007.

We look forward to offering dog owners in the Twin Cities basic obedience lessons and encouraging handlers to go further in their training either for fun or to enter competitions.

BOOK REVIEW

With Club Librarian Sheila Fielder



THE SEVEN AGES OF YOUR DOG

This book was written by Jan Fennell, who wrote THE DOG LISTENER, a best seller.

I have read this book and found it most interesting as a long time dog owner. Some of the things suggested in this book I was pleased to read I already do for my dogs!

It is a very good all round guide to caring for your dog from a puppy right through to saying goodbye. What to expect at each stage of their development, setting rules and guidelines (shades of my intro talk to new handlers).

There is not a lot on training your dog, but by understanding your dog, knowing what traits come with your breed, everything becomes clearer and helps show you the way to go with your present dog.

A good informative read for any dog owner.

WHO'S THE BOSS?

Written by well-known obedience judge, VAL BONNEY. She has judged here at this club some years ago. A very knowledgeable lady.

This is a book (which isn't very big) everyone should read, even for us seasoned dog owners. She explains how important the pack structure is to dogs, and how this affects the dog's interaction with its' human family. It is easy to read, in plain English and a 'must read' for anyone who has not owned a dog before. She also has illustrations, some quite amusing, to help get a point over.

If you would like to borrow these or any other books the library is open for handlers to browse and borrow on the first and last Tuesday's in the month, from 6.30 to 8.00pm. Upcoming dates are :- 29 March, 5 April & 26 April.

A deposit of \$20 is required which is fully refundable upon return of the item in a fortnight's time.

Club Librarian
Sheila Fielder.

Back to basics

The lead is your most important training tool. Once clipped onto the collar you have control, allowing you to help control a dog or restrain a dog from running away or attacking someone. When it comes to dog leashes or leads there are several different types that can be used. They are manufactured out of different types of materials including nylon, leather, and chain. The Club recommends leads made from woven cloth material which are less likely to hurt your hands if a dog pulls on the end of it. Leads can be purchased in a variety of lengths for use in different situations. We recommend one that is around 160cm for normal training. When buying a leash, it is important to make sure that the material it is made of and the metal clip on the end lead is of a good quality. Cheap leads can break easily and can make it easy for accidents to occur with a dog. Unless you can call your dog back to you when let off lead outside a confined area eg yard or dog park – don't! Wait until you have been shown how to do this to avoid major frustration or accident when Fido ignores your pleas / threats / cries to come.

YOUR PHOTOS

This is your page to show us your dog and what he gets up to – whether it is something amusing, their favourite toy, a new trick or exercise they have learnt or simply just being a dog. Photos can be emailed to me at any time at dandr11@aapt.net.au with a few words on what they are getting up to Enjoy ...



Pat Cecil, one of our new Instructors, sent in this snap of Dryftha the border collie (left) who decided he was going to be King of the Castle while helping with the cleanup after Cyclone Yasi.

According to Rebecca David, this is her staffy's favourite position for taking a nap. Sam (right) is nine months old and in Class 1.



Meet Echo (left) the border collie who is two years old and simply dotes on his favourite toy. The two are inseparable says Donna O'Keefe, and we will be seeing them soon in agility trials this year.



Dalmatians Elle and Pascoe (left) lazing on boulder after a big day of swimming at Rollingstone. A truly lazy Sunday afternoon after all that activity, says their owner, Noel McPherson.



Mal Holland recently conducted a tracking workshop and took these snaps of potential new trackers. Christine with Kaiser (weinmariner), and Jim and Arnie (Labrador) (left and right) and (below, left and right) Dean with Flynt (weinmariner) & Noel with Elle (dalmation) at the practice grounds at Alice River.



LAUGH TIME

