



The Howler

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Merry Christmas and Welcome to our End of Year Bumper Issue

*Best wishes and thank you to our Management Committee,
Office Staff, Instructors and Members - you make the Hills Dog
Club so special.*

*Wishing you a safe and joy filled Christmas and holiday season
with your family and friends and dogs and other furry animals!*

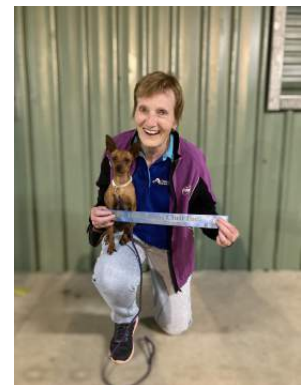
Come back to us next year for a fabulous 2024!



Michael with Buddy



Deb with Jazz



Danielle with Flame

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Email an article for review by the editor.
thehowlerHDC@gmail.com

Editorial

Kathy and I are thankful to the Management Committee and Instructors for their continued support and contribution to the newsletter.

We have received overwhelming positive feedback on our first newsletter, and we hope that you enjoy this end of year special!



Julie Quinn has provided two articles - on our breed of the month Golden Retrievers after raising quite a few litters herself; and importantly, on the club's defibrillator!

I have reluctantly participated in the Get to Know Your Instructors with Julie Quinn. Next month we will surprise you with more instructors!

Your input is valued, and we welcome and appreciate all contributions! If you are unsure about your item or topic - contact me on thehowlerHDC@gmail.com We absolutely do want to hear from you and appreciate all contributions!

Take care during the holiday season - keep yourself and dog well hydrated and limit walks to the cool parts of the day - and especially watch the hot cement paths!

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year ahead!

Narelle B Editor
Kathy Z Publisher - Design and Production

Don't miss The Howler

Would you like to receive the Howler by email?

Simply click on this link and add your name and email.

<https://mailchi.mp/b7445efd9198/gethillsnews>

Meet the Howler Team

Editions will be richer for this great team of people!

- Narelle Brown
- Kathy Zaia
- Vanessa Van Vugt
- Julie Quinn
- Tony Vink
- Ellen Mok & Janet Power
- Michelle Raymond

Editor
Design and Production
Researcher - Dog Training
Researcher - Dog Health
Email distribution
Proofreader
Photographer

We encourage all members to provide articles, photos, vignettes, case studies to benefit all members and their dogs!

If you have a story or picture please send through to thehowlerHDC@gmail.com and if you would like to join the team please have a chat with Narelle.

Christmas Celebrations



Monday night 11 December 2023 is the last training night of the year. The club is planning a sausage sizzle, ice creams, and a selfie station where you can take a Christmas picture of you and your dog. There will also be fun activities. Wear something red or green and join in the fun!

Tuesday 12 December 2023 is the last training day of the year and a morning tea is planned with fun activities. Wear something red or green and join in the fun!

Reports

Chief Instructors Report

Lea-Ann Laughton

This year has been a significant learning curve for me, taking on the Chief Instructor role. I love helping our community build strong connections with their dogs.

My passion for training dogs remains unwavering. I'm immensely proud of our dedicated team, all volunteers, including instructors, office staff, who show up every week, rain or shine, with a smile and often do many more hours behind the scenes.

Our volunteer instructors continually learn new techniques and engage in a number of varied dog activities. I want to express my gratitude to each one for their hard work, dedication, and time at the club. Together, we form a supportive second family, always there for one another.

This year, the club had an enlightening excursion to Feathered Friends, focusing on Black Cockatoos. We enjoyed night lectures, held four K9 Companion Award days, and hosted impressive trials in Obedience, Conformation, Rally, Trick, and Scent work.

Currently, we're enhancing the Instructors/Members Manual, planning a new instructors course for 2024, and scheduling lectures and excursions for the upcoming year.

For members, we are here for you, great work this year. I see you and your dog improving from week to week, month to month - if you see me on the grounds, don't hesitate to say hello.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2024! 🎄 Stay safe, and keep up your dog socialising and training during the break.



Meet Your Instructors

Meet Julie Quinn Puppy 1 Instructor

Your Dog(s)

3 Golden Retrievers: Charlie & Charlie's daughter Matilda & Charlie's son Flynn

What makes your dog(s) special?

They are all special in their own way. They are such wonderful company, and they love relaxing by my side.

Length of time at the Hills Dog Club and the best advice given to you

Approximately 6 years. **Best Advice** - Always be patient with your dog, as some are slower to learn than others.

Activities you do with your dog

Obedience with Matilda, Conformation with Flynn

Pet therapy at Westmead Children's hospital and a Nursing home with Charlie

Doggie Dates every Thursday at Crestwood and teaching at a local college with Narelle



Share a little bit of what keeps you busy!

My dogs keep me very busy. Bathing, grooming, playing, social dog walking with Doggie Dates. Gardening, spending time with family & lunch dates with friends.

Your favourite quote

If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.



What would you tell new dog handlers?

The best thing you could do for your dog is to ensure he/she is relaxed, confident, stable and happy. Then everything else will just flow.

Meet Narelle Brown Puppy 1 Instructor, Editor

Your Dog

13 year old miniature poodle Syrus from Troymere Poodles (Basset Hound - Emily, when sons were young, inherited a Red Setter - Lady, and 3 mini-poodles Sooty, Syrus and Holly).



What makes your dog special!

Gentle, intuitive, smart and in his senior years still keen to try new things. We have been through some tough times!

Length of time at the Hills Dog Club and the best advice given to you

Estimated 10-11 years at the club with two dogs (Holly miniature poodle passed away shortly after my husband - she was his beautiful companion - we miss them both!). **Best Advice** - You know your dog and if you don't think it is safe for him - get him out of the situation - proved to be true and helpful.

Activities you do with your dog

Due to his age at home - scentworks, games, puzzles and tricks, hide and seek. He just loves to be busy and visiting! Shopping at Bunnings most weeks. Syrus and Holly reached Advanced class and

participated in Agility however Syrus is most comfortable being a companion dog with good manners and chilling out at home now.

Share a little bit of what keeps you busy!

After leaving the corporate world last year I became a member of Sydney Water's Customer and Community Reference Group, a dog nanny/trainer looking after the most spectacular Standard Poodles and helping others with dog issues. What I do now is pure joy!

Your favourite quote

If you always do what you always did you will always get what you always got! In other words, if it is not working, change what you are doing - applies to all things in life.

What would you tell new dog handlers? Don't give up, if something is not working try something different. Dogs are seldom perfect - accept and engage with the one you have in front of you. Allow your dog to settle and be calm with you. Always seek help and ask your instructor for suggestions!



Promotions November 2023

Beginners Eight to Graduate

Owners Name	Dog Name
Michael	Buddy* Weimaraner
Deb Bagshaw	Jazz* Groodle
Danielle	Flame* Min Pinscher
Tiffany Lenehan	Maggie Golden Retriever
Skye Stephens	Hazel Golden Retriever
Denise Foley	Destiny Border Collie
Christa Mellon	Aoife Border Collie
Janna Much	Alfi Kelpie

Graduate to Intermediate

Owners Name	Dog Name
Susan Langley	Morse Boxer

Intermediate to Advanced

Owners Name	Dog Name
Mary Simonian	Freddie Cavoodle
Jonathon Smith	Murphy Labrador

Congratulations - great work!!

**Pictures on the front cover

The K9 Companion Award

Congratulations to the following members and their dogs who were successful in obtaining their 2023 K9 Companion Award:



Left to right:
Daniela Uvira & Buddy
Carolina Silva & Ripley



Left to right:
Meg Humphreys and Tully
Milan Dome and Benji,
Shannon Cross and Chilli

Defibrillator in the house!

Contributor: Julie Quinn

Julie has over 20 years specialising in Emergency/Trauma Nursing, She is passionate about educating the public on life saving measures and we are grateful for her assistance!



Members will be pleased to know that **the Hills Dog Club has a defibrillator**. All Instructors are aware of its location in the clubhouse. Let's all hope that it is never required!



NOTE: In the event a person suffers a cardiac arrest, a **defibrillator** can save a life. A defibrillator is a device that delivers an electric current to the heart, in order to restore a normal heart rhythm. It is a semi-automatic device, as you need to press the shock button when required, as advised by the defibrillator. It is simple to use, as it gives voice and visual clear instructions.

If you use a defibrillator within approx. 3-5 minutes of a person collapsing from a cardiac arrest, the survival rate is approximately 70% (depending on the cause). CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) is required immediately if someone is in cardiac arrest. For every minute without CPR or defibrillation, there is approx. 10% drop in the chance of survival. For this reason, it is vital that a person in cardiac arrest receives CPR immediately, whilst waiting for the defibrillator. The chance of survival increases if CPR is performed. (So don't wait for the defibrillator - start CPR!)

Once the defibrillator is attached to the person, it will analyse the person's heart rhythm. If the rhythm requires defibrillation, there will be a voice prompt regarding what action to take. If the

heart rhythm does not require defibrillation, the defibrillator will also give clear instructions what action to take.

Yes, it may be daunting, however, CPR and the use of a defibrillator saves lives. Hence why your involvement is vital. You do not need to have completed a course in CPR to save a life.

What will also be required in the unfortunate event someone collapses from a cardiac arrest is as follows:

We need a team of people to help when this happens - get involved to save a life.

People to carry out the following tasks:

1. In the event of a problem 2 -3 people are required to assist. A person to alert the office and get the defibrillator.
2. A person to call the ambulance and direct them to the area when they arrive.
3. A person to hold the member's dog.
4. A person to manage the area/members.
5. An office person to find a contact number, to alert their family and collect the dog.
6. A person to take care of the dog until help arrives or other arrangements made.

An instructor will take the lead to ensure the above occurs - however if it is the instructor that is down someone needs to take control! Enlist support of another instructor or take control!

Remember, stay calm and help!

Last Call - Trainee Instructors Course 2024

Hills Dog Club is planning to run a Trainee Volunteer Instructors' Course in 2024!

If you are interested in becoming an instructor and available, one night a month training with a few Saturdays thrown in for fun please leave your name with either Lea-Ann Laughton or Genevieve Young at the clubhouse or email Hills Dog Club at infohillsdogclub@gmail.com.



We have wonderful presenters who are passionate about training, health issues and more and you will take a deep dive into how dogs learn and how we provide training at the club!

Registering your interest doesn't mean you are committed to participating; we will run an introduction to the Course early in 2024, so that you can decide if it were something you would like to do.

Do you have any skills that might be useful at the Dog Club?

We would love for you to become more involved in the dog club. If you feel you would like to help out or have a skill that might be useful, please email Narelle at thehowlerHDC@gmail.com.
Photography, Computer input, Equipment set up / repair, etc

Just for Laughs

What did one flea say to the other?
Should we walk or take a dog?

Which dog breed does Dracula love the most?
Bloodhounds!

Why are dogs terrible dancers?
Because they have two left feet!

What do you call it when a cat wins a dog show?
A CAT-tastrophe!
Boom boom!

Book Reviews



There is a library at the clubhouse full of dog training and behaviour books. Ask for the key and check out the books - write your name in the book and borrow!

Mine by Jean Donaldson - A practical guide to resource guarding in dogs - anyone who works with dogs or wants to know how to manage resource guarding will benefit from reading this book.

My Dog Changed My Life (2004) (a sweet little collection of stories by Norman Wright and Jim Lamb) one of the short stories featured Guide Dog Roselle that rescued her blind owner from the 9-11 Twin Towers tragedy. From the 78th floor, Roselle brought her owner down one step at a time, followed by 30 other people, stopping on the 25th floor for water and reaching the ground floor exhausted about an hour after the plane hit- through the hysteria, the noise, the smoke and heat. Roselle (a Labrador Retriever) had great determination, discipline and saved her owner!!

Has a dog changed your life? We would love to publish your story! Write to The Howler at thehowlerhdc@gmail.com

**Apparently a dog saved my life when I was just a few weeks old. Sleeping on a verandah in the cool in outback Queensland, a snake was climbing into my bassinets when my grandparent's cattle dog started attacking the snake and making such a fuss it alerted my grandmother. (Makes me wonder why I was left out there alone! Ha ha those were the days!!!) Oh and my grandmother picked up that snake and whipped it dead! (Sorry for being so graphic but it really was before snakes were protected and there is nothing like a grandmother protecting her first granddaughter). Narelle

Dog Training Tips

Vanessa Van Vugt (Researcher, Dog Training)

1. Use positive reinforcement techniques

- We all know that positive reinforcement is the most effective method of dog training because it focuses on rewarding your dog for good behaviour, rather than punishing bad behaviour.
- It builds and strengthens your relationship with your dog by rewarding your dog for demonstrating good behaviour and responding to your commands.
- You are showing your dog the rules of the game and how to win!!
- By rewarding good behaviour, you're reinforcing the association between good behaviour and good things.
- Here's an example: If your dog barks at you to play or jumps up on you, say nothing, don't acknowledge it or give in, as this reinforces the bad behaviour. Rather, wait, just a bit, until they are calmer before giving them attention. The sooner you change your behaviour the sooner your

2. Train little and often

- Short training sessions repeated throughout the day are much more effective than longer ones and to be honest – finding an hour in our day to train the dog is unrealistic.
- Using just 5-10 treats per session will keep your dog from becoming distracted or frustrated.
- Have a plan of what you will train in the session e.g., “Drop”: get prepared with your treat bag, treats and where you will train.
- Putting your dog on leash for training sessions is also very effective.
- Do your training sessions at home first without the distractions and then move to other places, environments or situations. This will teach your dog that asking for a “Drop” at home is the same as asking for a “Drop” in multiple locations, with different people around and varying levels of distractions.

dog will understand the rules of the game.

3. Consistency is key

- Being consistent in your training is important.
- Dogs look for patterns and routines. This is why we use a marker word; it lets our dogs know that they have done the right thing and they will be rewarded for it.
- It is important that everyone in your household is on the same page.
- Dogs need consistency to learn new habits, so if you don't let the dog on the lounge, but your partner does, your dog will just end up confused!

5. Build-up in stages

- Small steps lead to success!
- Breaking the behaviour down into smaller manageable parts for you and your dog.
- For example, if you are training "Come," mark and reward your dog for taking at least one step towards you.
- It's much easier to add on steps and build up to the whole behaviour once your dog starts to get the hang of it!

7. Praise the small things

- Remember to always praise your dog for any improvement, no matter how small. It's easy to get caught up in the end goal of training, but acknowledging and celebrating the little wins is just as important and will help keep both you and your dog motivated.

9. Use your hands

- Dogs don't understand the full sentences that we often tell them: "Come here Banjo, we are going home, come and get in the car". Banjo hears "Come" "Home" "Car" they are the most consistent words we would use to our dogs.
- Dogs watch our body movements as much as listening to us. So, when you're training, be mindful of how you use your hands, move your body or feet. Help your dog by combining hand and verbal commands.

4. Finding the right reward

- Some dogs are food-motivated, and will work for 'any' edible treat as a reward.
- Other dogs prefer soft, chewy treats rather than dry, hard or crunchy ones.
- For those dogs that aren't interested in food at all. Try experimenting with other types of rewards such as a quick play session with their favourite toy, or even just plenty of affection.

6. Small steps lead to success

- Break down the behaviour (task).
- Training should be fun, both for you and your dog! Always keep it positive, and try mixing things up to keep it interesting, such as incorporating short play sessions into your training in between repetitions.
- You could also consider training your dog to do tricks in addition to regular obedience training. Who doesn't get excited seeing a dog rolling over? Our dogs pick up on that enthusiasm and end up loving to perform tricks for us!

8. Work training into daily life

- By adding a little bit of training to your dog's daily routine, it's a lot easier to fit in many small sessions. For example, ask your dog to sit/drop/shake commands before you give them their dinner, take them out for a walk, or play with them.

10. Have fun!



Protecting Pets in Hot Weather

Contributor: Narelle Brown

All animals can suffer from heat stroke, which can be fatal in serious cases.

The following information will help to keep your animals safe in hot weather.

- Leave your pet at home in a cool and well-ventilated area with clean water and shade. Fill at least 2 bowls with water in case one is knocked over. If possible, leave the air-conditioning or fans on in the house at a safe distance.
- Leave a water-soaked towel for dogs to lay on - these can be put in the fridge for an hour before you leave to cool - there are also cooling mats!
- Leave with a frozen Kong to chew on
- Avoid exercising your pet in the hottest part of the day.
- Avoid walking your pet on hot surfaces. Check the heat of the ground you are walking on with the back of your hand.
- Never leave pets unattended in a car — even when the car is in the shade and the windows are open.
- Use sunscreen to protect hairless and light-coated animals from sunburn.
- Clip pets with long or thick coats.



These recommendations are especially important for owners of young, old or overweight pets, pets with thick or long coats, pets bred for cooler climates and pets with short noses, such as brachycephalic, or flat-faced, dogs and cats.

Know the signs of heat stroke in animals!

Heat stroke, extreme heat stress and dehydration can kill animals: watch for these signs and contact your nearest veterinarian:

- rapid panting (birds may pant through open beaks).
- lethargy.
- drooling.
- weakness.
- muscle tremors or collapsing.
- signs of mental confusion.

Do not transport animals in a hot car.

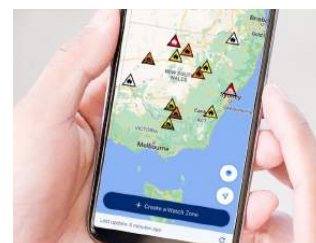
If you take your dog out, e.g. to the park and leave the car in the sun - the return trip can be similar to getting into an oven. Perhaps go to the park in cooler times, cover your car or allow 10 minutes with air conditioning on before putting the dog in the car.

Bibliography - Services NSW

Also available - Get local emergency info on your phone

The Hazards Near Me NSW app is your official source of emergency information for bushfires, floods and tsunamis in NSW. Refer to Website below for further details:

https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app?utm_source=servicensw_consumer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2023-11-01_sfmc_1320_con_newsletter&utm_content=06_hazards_near_me_app&utm_term=download_hazards_near_me_app_button_x



Use it to set a local Watch Zone so you receive notifications of any planned hazard reduction burns and new incidents close to where you live.

Christmas Food Warnings

The festive season brings with it a new set of experiences, different foods, decorations, presents and while we love to celebrate, there are just a few things to be mindful of to avoid an expensive vet visit during the holidays!



- **Pudding, fruit cakes, ham and messy people:** Sultanas and other food items can be harmful to dogs. Be careful that you don't leave fruit cake in reach or that fruit cake crumbs are not dropped on the floor, especially fruit cake consisting of candied or dried fruits and alcohol. Some of the fruits are safe for dogs to eat, like pineapple, but others, like raisins, are toxic.
- **Alcohol:** Your dog should **not consume alcohol**, as it is just as toxic as raisins or dates.
- **Xylitol:** Some sugar free fruit cakes also contain **xylitol**, an artificial sweetener that can be deadly for your pup even in small amounts.
- **Ham and other foods:** Some seasonings, spices and other ingredients we add to dishes to add flavour are not good for dogs. Onions and garlic are bad for dogs, salt and pepper and some nuts. So if you plan to share Christmas dinner with all the trimmings with your dog - keep the dog on his normal food unless they are plain and unseasoned.
- **High Salt Food:** Dogs should not eat honey baked and other hams - Deli hams contain a lot of salt and most baked hams are full of sugar, neither of which is good for your dog.
- **Candles, Xmas Trees, tinsels, aluminium foil and lights:** An inquisitive pup is certainly excited by the new shiny things in the home! Also consider the presents under the tree may be of interest to your dog - they may smell like their wrapped toys, and they may want to help themselves before Santa! My dog always knows which gifts are his, however he has the fortitude of a saint as he waits for Santa!
- **Aluminium foil:** Aluminium foil may cause your dog to choke or create an intestinal obstruction. Consider also the foil may be coated in fat, chocolate, or other common ingredients, which could make your dog sick. Please take aluminium foil ingestion seriously, but don't panic as most dogs will pass aluminium foil naturally, and it may not cause severe health problems. However, it will depend on how much the dog has eaten. If your dog seems ok right after eating some aluminium foil, please continue to watch for the following signs and symptoms over the next few days:
 - Vomiting / Pain or distress (hiding)
 - Panic or hyperactivity
 - Refusing to eat
 - Difficulty pooping or diarrhoea
 - Lethargy or sadness
 - Bloating
 - Signs of potential aluminium toxicity, such as tremors, loss of balance, or unusual behaviours.

If you notice any of these symptoms, visit your vet.

Link to Toxic Dog foods

- *Bibliography:* www.animalpoisons.com.au, www.vcahospitals.com, <https://dogtime.com>, <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/plants-and-food-can-be-poisonous-pets#food>

Golden Retrievers



History

The breed originated in the 1860's with matings carried out by Lord Tweedmouth, who lived on an estate at Guisachan near Inverness in Scotland. The starting point was a yellow flat coated retriever. His dog was mated to a Tweed Water Spaniel, & later to an Irish Setter & also a black flat coated retriever. By the beginning of the 1900's, they were called the Yellow Flat Coated Retriever. Later called a Golden Retriever. The Golden Retriever arrived in Australia in 1914. *The Golden Retriever was bred to retrieve ducks & pheasants during hunting parties. (And is perhaps why our modern Golden Retrievers love to carry things!)*

General Appearance

The Golden Retriever is a medium to large gundog. They are active, powerful, and sound with a kindly expression. Balance is one of the breed's greatest assets, whether it is hunting, swimming, or being exhibited. A balanced Golden possesses everything in proportion and is a great joy to behold.

- **Weight:** Adult female 26-32 kg, male 32-39 kg.
- **Life span:** 12-14yrs.
- **Colour:** Any shade of cream to gold.
- **Coat:** can be straight or wavy. They need brushing as they shed hair, which is lessened by the use of an undercoat rake. They have a double coat, with an inner coat to keep them warm & cool. A dog's cooling system works very differently from the way human bodies do. Removing a Golden's coat can make them hotter. It is advised not to shave a Golden Retriever, as this interferes with the cooling system. (They are not like humans - we take off our coats when we are hot). The best thing you can do is keep them bathed, brushed & groomed regularly. They shed their coat twice a year and using an undercoat rake, at the time of shedding, is the best way to keep the coat healthy.

Temperament

The Golden is kindly, friendly and has a confident manner. They are intelligent and possess a natural working ability.

The typical Golden loves human contact and loves to please. The temperament of the Golden is a breed characteristic. They have the ability to steal your heart. They are not a "one- man" dog. With a gentle temperament they are friendly to strangers, as well as friends.

This breed responds well to having a job to do and are popular as an assistance dog, therapy dog and guide dog, carrying objects, scentworks and more. As all breeds they respond best to behaviour training and to develop their mental and physical capacities.

Health Issues

1. Hip & Elbow Dysplasia
2. Aortic Stenosis and Heart Problems
3. Skin Conditions
4. Cancer
5. Cataracts
6. Panosteitis



Thinking of purchasing a Golden Retriever?

Before purchasing a Golden Retriever, you need to research the breed and ask yourself, is this the dog for me and my lifestyle? Factors to consider are:

- Cost of the puppy.
- Ongoing costs, medication, vet bills, general care.
- Size of your house/yard - you will need space.
- How much free time you have, *as they need daily exercise.*
- Age of the children in the household
- Awareness of hereditary conditions
- Research the breeder
- Understand a puppy's needs when you bring them home.

Research the breeder

As in purchasing all puppies you need to research the breed, the breeder and the puppy's requirements. The first 8 weeks of a puppy's life are critical for mental health and establishing an inquisitive and happy puppy and you want to ensure they had the best start.

How do you know the breeder is reputable and that the puppies are healthy and come from a clean and engaging environment?

- **Puppy farmers** – motivation is profit, often sold through pet stores.
- **Backyard breeder** – motivation may be profit or through an unexpected mating.
- **ANKC Registered breeder** – Breeders have a passion for their dogs and keeping the breed sound. They are required to carry out specific testing for being a registered breeder. Breeders usually breed for a particular purpose such as breed showing in a conformation ring, or trialling.

A reputable breeder will:

- ask you to complete a questionnaire to see if you are the right person for the puppy and breed.
- allow you to visit puppies in their environment and to view the bitch if possible.
- supply you with an information pack.
- encourage you to ring at any time in the life of the dog to ask a question or obtain advice.

Your Golden Retriever will give you many years of love and happiness. Given the right training they will thrive and bond with all family members.

Bibliography: <https://spotpetins.com/blog/breed-tips/golden-retriever-health-problems>

Next Month: German Shepherds

When your Dog goes Blind

Contributor: Gabriele Loft (Instructor - 5 Years)

Gabriele has graciously agreed to share her information on managing a blind dog as presented at a recent training night.

Gabriele's dog Lucy is blind. She wasn't born blind, at 6 years old almost overnight she lost her sight due to [Sudden Acquired Retinal Degeneration Syndrome \(SARDS\)](#).

After the initial shock Gabriele began training her dog and today Lucy is a testament to Gabriele's commitment, resourcefulness and love. Lucy is a happy dog living her best life.

When your dog turns blind

Seek help - search social media, talk to friends, join a club, don't give up on your dog - above all work on your relationship and building trust.



Prepare your home

- Get down on your hands and knees and crawl around your house, every room, your backyard. Check for items that can poke eyes, such as twigs and bushes and trip hazards. Ensure everyone in the household does not leave bags, shoes or other items on the floor.
- Place mats under water bowl - choose a no spill water bowl
- Put carpet, mats in front of doorways so the dog will feel the different textures
- Practice stairs one at a time and put a name or a sound to going up the stairs
- Don't change furniture around

Training tips for daily life with a blind dog

- Use a short leash to be connected with your dog on walks.
- Use clear commands (try not to talk too much as this will confuse the dog).
- Increase your commands - such as have words for dogs or people approaching, up/down, slow down, obstacle approaching.
- Teach words for parts of the body - ears, tail, leg - tell the dog what you are doing before you start touching (let their whiskers grow so they can use these for sensation around their face).
- Stick to routine. Changing a routine can confuse the dog and can lead to uncertainty, stress and anxiety.
- Don't pick your dog up or smother them - let them be independent (picking them up means when you put them down they are unsure where they are).
- If your dog is unhappy or refuses a command - there is a reason - look further.
- Be positive- the dog is the mirror of yourself - if you are depressed your dog will feed on your emotions (Lucy did not leave her crate for 3 days when she lost her sight).
- Focus on the things your dog can do - have fun, play tug in a different way, smaller, tighter area, keep closer, adapt.
- Remember you can't train a dog that is over their threshold.

Note - Train to accept a muzzle with a cone. A muzzle is the only thing that will stop people approaching your dog.

Separation Related Behaviours: Common Signs

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Destructive behaviour - often directed at barriers, back door, pillows, shoes, clothing and bed.• Inappropriate urination and or defecation from a toilet trained dog (Lucy urinated in the house when lost).• Trembling, panting, increased heart rate, salivation, diarrhoea. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of appetite.• Self-injury/mutilation.• Pre-departure- restlessness (waiting at door, shivering).• Excessive greetings, clingy behaviour.• Escaping.• Vocalisation, barking, whining, howling. |
|---|---|

Aids Used

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back to basics - short time left alone outside - reward when quiet.• Reduced space in the backyard so she felt safe.• Cameras to monitor the behaviour.• Calming drops.• Bone marrow chew (can use hemp oil).• Scent - your T-Shirt /clothing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell neighbours.• Lucy had no separation when their other dog was with her.• Crate outside.• Calm music, grey noise TV or radio on.• Rubber stoppers around doors and protectors on sharp corners. |
|---|--|

Lucy - gained her Obedience CD title and Endurance Test fully blind and also gained a first place in Tricks Intermediate. She was part of a commercial and earned her first money despite being blind. We are currently training for Open Obedience.

Gabriele - we are in awe of you and Lucy - thank you for sharing your story!

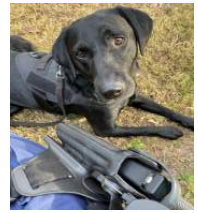
Secret lives of our Members!

1. Whose dog will be on NCIS on 8 December 2023?



Lea-Ann our Chief Instructor and dog Archie represent the Bomb Squad on NCIS! Here is Lea-Ann with the star of the show - Todd Lasance! And dog Archie!

NCIS Sydney is a military action television series. The series is the first international spinoff for the show and features local Australian actors and producers.



2. Did you know we have a stuntwoman as a member?



Inge Sildnik attends the club with her adopted delinquent Kelpie Mr Boots (her words).

Inge has a few animals and when she is not spending time with them, she is a professional stunt woman and assistant stunt coordinator for film and TV.

No day is ever the same for Inge, she may find herself choreographing a fight scene, jumping off tall buildings, throwing a car around or getting set on fire. She has worked all over Australia and overseas for the past 22 years. You might see her in movies such as: The Fall Guy; Transformers The Last Night; Mad Max Fury Road; The Invisible Man and on our grounds working her dog!

3. **Best Patient Award - Bob Watters** wants you all to know he is recuperating after his operation (Gossip - his physiotherapist is a club member!). We were amazed to see him back last week and he should be running around the grounds soon!

4. **Hot off the press** - Congratulations to Julie Quinn on receipt of a NSW Doggie Dates Award for her voluntary work as leader, her dedication and commitment to the free social walks. Julie welcomes all to the Thursday walks at Crestwood that have increased to over 20 dogs and their owners each week. Many dogs have benefited from this walk.

We have such amazing members - Let us know if you have an interesting job or past-time!

Mark your Diaries

Month/Date and Time	Event	Location
December 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th December - 19th March 2024 11th December 12 December 13 December at 7:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership can be renewed Last Training Night Last Training Day General Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubhouse BBQ and fun games Morning tea and fun games Clubhouse
January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Training / No Meetings 	
February 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5th February at 7pm 6th February at 10.30am 14th February at 7.30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training recommences Training recommences General Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog Grounds Dog Grounds Clubhouse
March 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19th March 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubhouse
April 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd April 2024 8th April 2024 27th April 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual General Meeting General Meeting Scentwork Trial Novice and Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubhouse Clubhouse Dog Grounds
May 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th May 2024 11th May 2024 (Sat) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Meeting Obedience and Rally Trial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubhouse Dog Grounds
June 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st June 2024 (Sat) 12th June 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scent Work Trial Excellent and Masters only General Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog Grounds Clubhouse
July 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10th July 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubhouse
August 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14th August 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubhouse
September 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 September 2024 11 September 2024 28 September 2024 29 September 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scent Work Trial General Meeting 2 All breeds Championship shows All Breeds Championship Show 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog Grounds Clubhouse Dog Grounds (AM & PM) Dog Grounds (AM)
October 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 October 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubhouse
November 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 November 2024 13 November 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trick Dog and Rally Trial General Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evening Clubhouse
December 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11th December 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Night of Training Last Day of Training General Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog Grounds Dog Grounds Clubhouse
Notes:	Link to 2024 Show and Trials Guide https://www.dogsnew.org.au/media/5795/2024-show-trial-calendar-website.pdf Sometimes dates change so always check!	

HDC Ground Rules

Ground Rules

1. **Vaccinations:** As a condition of membership, all dogs are required to be properly vaccinated according to current veterinary guidelines.
2. **Dog Behaviour:** Members are responsible at all times for the behaviour of their dog/s whilst present on the training grounds or representing the club.
3. **Appropriate Equipment:** All dogs must have properly fitted equipment and remain on lead at all times (unless instructed otherwise by a club instructor). No check/choker chains are to be used on any dogs in Puppy, Beginners or Graduate classes.
4. **No Ill-treatment:** A member shall not ill-treat a dog at any time. Any such action may give rise to suspension or expulsion from the Club by resolution of the Committee.
5. **Bitches in Season:** Bitches in season and/or dog/s which are unwell or have an infectious condition are not permitted on the obedience training grounds.
6. **Clean up after Dogs:** Members are to pick up after their dog/s and help keep the grounds clean and tidy.
7. **Sensible Footwear/Clothing:** Adequate sensible dress with appropriate footwear (no thongs, scuffs on bare feet) is required to be worn by handlers during training.
8. **Supervision Required:** Dogs are not to be left unattended whilst on the training grounds unless crated or tethered in a safe area. Members are reminded not to approach dogs that are confined. All dogs are to be kept under control and supervised while at the counter or in the clubhouse.
9. **Muzzles:** The Club reserves the right to ask any member to muzzle or in extreme cases, remove their dog/s from the training grounds. If a muzzle is required, this must remain in place whilst on the club grounds. This will be at the discretion of the Committee.
10. **Club Equipment Use:** Members who use Club equipment must ensure it is returned to the storeroom and stored correctly after classes are conducted.
11. **Child/Junior Handlers:** Children are welcome to attend classes provided they are supervised by an adult/parent/ guardian at all times. This will be at the discretion of the class/chief instructor.
 - o Child members (aged 7 to 11 are to be accompanied by an adult/ parent/guardian in classes)
 - o Junior members (aged 12 to 15 under adult/parent/guardian supervision on grounds) are welcome to train provided they have sufficient control of their dog during classes.

Extreme Weather Cancellations

To protect you and your dog in the event of extreme weather conditions (heat or rain) classes will be cancelled.

Check our website and Facebook page for updates after the following times:

Monday at 4:00 pm
Tuesday at 7:45 am

www.hillsdogclub.com
www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub

Hills Dog Club Inc. Training Times

Monday at 6.45pm
Puppies (first night) under 20 weeks
- allow time to register!

Monday at 7pm
Puppies 2 (from 12 to 20 weeks),
Beginners 1 to 8, Graduate &
Intermediate classes.

Monday at 8pm
Advanced class.

Tuesday at 10:30 am
All Classes.

*NOTE: Classes are not held on Public Holidays
Tuesday classes are not held in School
Holidays*

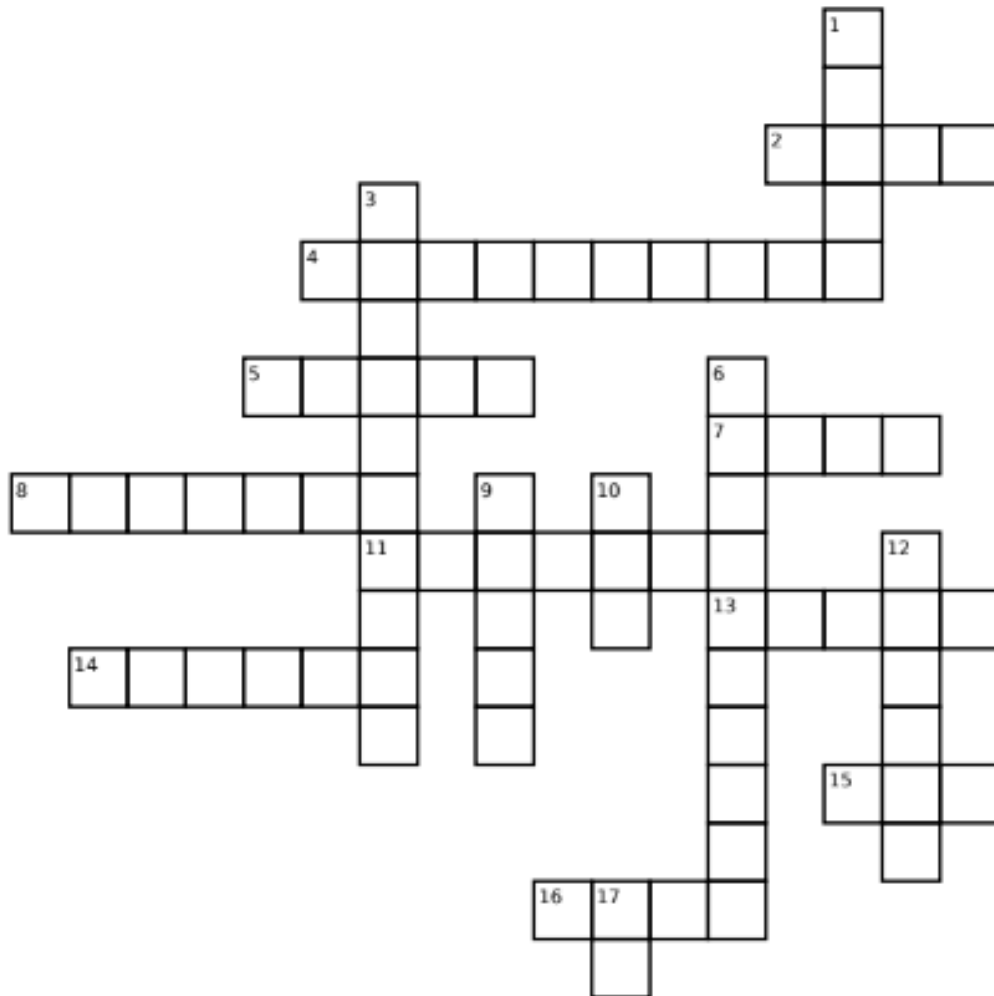
Equipment for Sale at the Club House

Equipment such as collars, leads, haltis, dumbbells and more are available for sale at the clubhouse.

Our wonderful instructors will help with advice and fitting!

Crossword

Dog Equipment



Down		Across	
1.	Where your dog is safe	2.	Something your dog may retrieve
3.	Location of club	4.	A specific type of collar
6.	Needed to collect poo	5.	Your dog should always have access to this
9.	A common grooming aid	7.	What you grab before a walk
10.	A common marker word	8.	Throwing disc
12.	What you put on your dog when it is cold	11.	A car restraint
17.	A common release command	13.	Follows the marker word
		14.	A dark round place to run through
		15.	Where your dog sleeps
		16.	You can hide food in this

Merry Christmas

Our sincere thoughts go to all our members who for many reasons cannot be with their loved ones this time of year and for those who are missing loved ones who have passed!

Check in on family and friends and neighbours - a special call or a visit can make such a difference to people living on their own. Perhaps a doggie visit is in order!

In addition - if life is particularly difficult for you or someone you know right now there is help available.

- *Salvation Army 137258*
- *Lifeline 131114*
- *Beyond Blue 1300 224 636*
- *Financial counselling at the debt crisis line 1800 007 007*
- *Legal Aid 1300 888 529*
- *Banks and energy and water providers are required by law to have hardship programs for people in need.*



Always seek assistance!

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HDC Membership

2024 Memberships can be renewed now until the 19th March 2024

The form is attached and available on the website.



Agenda Hills Dog Club Inc General Meeting

Hills Dog Club Committee 2023		13 December 2023, HDC Clubhouse, 7:30pm
<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agenda</u>
President	Carole Hately	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open Meeting 2. Attendance and Apologies 3. Confirmation of Nov GM Minutes. 4. Business arising from the Minutes 5. Correspondence 6. Treasurer Report 7. New Members 8. Chief Instructors Report 9. Education Officer Report 10. Show Secretary Report 11. Trial Secretary Report 12. Publicity Officer Report 13. Club Trophy Secretary Report
Vice President	Bob Watters	
Vice President	Anne Small	
Secretary	Jane Lamont	
Assistant Secretary	Belvane Parsons	
Treasurer	Lynne Sheather	
Assistant Treasurer	Janet Power	
Chief Instructor	Lea-Ann Laughton	
Trial Secretary	Judy McCartney	
Show Secretary	Janet Power	
Public Officer	Lynne Sheather	
Publicity Officer	Natalie Conway	
Education Officer	Genevieve Young	
Equipment Officer	Bob Watters	
Registrar	Jane Lamont	
Committee Members	Karen Richardson Carolyn Jensen Michelle Raymond Kathy Zaia Kathy Cocks Peter Guenther	<u>General Business</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notice of Motion <p>I move that the Hills Dog Club Inc current members, as listed below, be awarded the Club's Committee Honour Award at the Hills Dog Club Inc 2024 Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Janet Power and Genevieve Young</p> <p>Rationale: That the nominees have fully satisfied the criteria of 10 years continuous service on Committee and shown involvement in all the Clubs Activities and events.</p>
Trophy Stewards	Trial: Jessica Leckie Show: Janice Lyons Club: Carole Hately Patrons: Mayor, Dr Peter Gangemi Mrs Luci Ellem Ms Peta Clarke	Moved: J Lamont Seconded: K Richardson, 8/11/23
Life Members	Peter Guenther Hazel Baldwin (deceased) Dianne Atkins (deceased) Janet Power Belvane Parsons Anne Small Betty Cansdale (deceased) Robyn Jones Janice Lyons Vicki Gresser Lynne Sheather	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. HDC 2023 Annual Donations 3. Extreme weather notification

Contact for Club Committee Members infohillsdogclub@gmail.com



Committee Nomination Form 2024

I hereby nominate: (Please Print)

For the Position of: (See below for listing of positions)

Signature of Nominee:

Signature of Proposer:

Signature of Seconder:

Completed form to be handed to Secretary Mrs Jane Lamont or her Nominee, Mrs Anne Small at the Office counter by 8.00pm Monday 25th March 2024 or posted to the Club Official Address – The Secretary, Hills Dog Club Inc. PO Box 392, Round Corner, NSW, 2158.

No responsibility of liability is accepted for any nomination form handed to any other person or sent to a different address.

Please note the following in the Hills Dog Club Inc. Constitution:

- 16. (a) A Junior Member, Provisional Member, Associate Member, Child Member, Honorary Member or Honorary Life Member shall not be entitled to vote or take part in the proceedings of a General Meeting and shall not be eligible to hold office but shall be entitled to exercise all other privileges of Membership.
(b) Provisional membership shall not entitle a person to be admitted to any other category of Membership without approval of the Club’s Members in the General Meeting.
- 24. There shall be a Committee consisting of the **Office Bearers** and four (4) but no more than six (6) **Members plus Publicity Officer, Show Secretary, Trial Secretary, Chief Instructor, and if appointed, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Registrar, Ground Equipment Officer, Education Officer and Trophy Stewards.**
- 37. The Office Bearers of the Club shall be: (a) **The President** (b) **Two (2) Vice-Presidents** (c) **The Treasurer** (d) **The Secretary.** All Office bearers must be financial members of Dogs NSW [Reg X 2.6 [a] [b]]

Hills Dog Club Awards - Changes

Contributor: Carole Hately

PLEASE READ!

CHANGES to CRITERIA for ALL HILLS DOG CLUB INC. AWARDS



There have been some important changes to all Hills Dog Club Inc. awards criteria this year. It is important that you read and understand these forms before submitting your entries.

- Entries will close on Tuesday 13th February. No late entries will be accepted – please do not ask for an extension.
- Entries should be posted to The Secretary, Hills Dog Club Inc., PO Box 392, Round Corner, NSW, 2158 or handed to Carole Hately at the Club at Monday night or Tuesday morning training.
- Recipients of awards and trophies will need to attend the Hills Dog Club Inc. AGM on the 3 April 2024 to collect their awards.
- Please read the new criteria for all Obedience & Rally levels, and for the Iris Bollinger Memorial Trophy **and the new Iris Bollinger Novice Memorial Trophy**
- Please note that the Dianne Atkins Perpetual Trophy for Highest Achievement in Canine Competition will be awarded only to competitors in ANKC approved dog sports.
- In the past, we have permitted qualifying certificates to be viewed and verified at the office. This will no longer be the case. From now on, photocopies of relevant documentation must be attached to your application. Applications via email or phone will not be accepted.
- Please make sure your application for Obedience & Rally Awards and Trophies (point score awards) has copies of the qualifying cards attached.
- When applying for Title Trophies you must attach a copy of the updated Title Certificate issued by ANKC. Breeder's certificates will not be accepted.
- When completing paperwork, please write your dog's name including any titles you wish to appear before or after your dog's name.
- Finally, because of the number of pages required to print all the information about Hills' awards, this will not appear in *Howler*. To view the full documentation, and to print application forms, please go to our website www.hillsdogclub.com or the files section on the member's facebook page.

Please note: We believe these new rules are more consistent across all awards and trophies and will make the application process easier for handlers.

Thank you for your patience while we introduce the changes.

Hopefully the transition will be smooth!



MEMBERSHIP Application

Full Year: 1st January - 31st December
infohillsdogclub@gmail.com

Hills Dog Club Inc.
PO Box 392
ROUND CORNER 2158

NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL

PERSONAL DETAILS

I/We/Surname/s
First Name/s
Address
Suburb Postcode
Phone Email (optional)
Optional for Dogs NSW Members – Membership Number

DOG/S DETAILS

(Please bring current Vaccination Cert.)

Name Breed Age
Name Breed Age

PLEASE NOTE: Renewals paid after the 3rd Tuesday in March WILL require a new Joining Fee.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
(No voting rights)

FULL MEMBER
(Full voting rights)

JUNIOR MEMBER
12yrs and under 16

Joining Fee \$35

Joining Fee \$40

Joining Fee \$25

PLUS Annual Subscription

Adult New Member / Renewal \$15
Dual New Member / Renewal \$20
Family New Member / Renewal \$30

Dual/Family membership may include child member/s aged 7yrs to under 12yrs.

PLUS Annual Subscription

New Member / Renewal

JUNIOR \$10

(No voting rights)

In the event of me/us becoming members, I/we also undertake to be bound by the Constitution of the Hills Dog Club Inc. (the Club). I/we understand that members & dogs train at their own risk & indemnify & hereby waive & release the Club, its members & workers from any and all liability for any injury or damage which I/we, my family, guest or my dog may suffer while on Club grounds or in Club buildings. I/we also declare that ALL dogs trained by me/us on this ground, hold a valid vaccination certificate from a registered veterinarian according to current guidelines.

Signature **Date**

OFFICE USE

Joining Fee	\$	Vac. Cert. Sighted
Membership Fee	\$	Tyro/receipt number
Ground Fee	\$	
Sales	\$	
TOTAL	\$	Office Staff Signature

Version 10/22

Please complete your membership with payment as soon as possible!
Form will also be available on our website www.hillsdogclub.com