

Howler



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August 2023



HDC Team Nova's Superstars at Inter-Club Sat 29th July 2023

Eye health for your dog
2023 Inter-Club
Are you our next Club President?



HDC members at the Inter-Club Sat 29th July 2023

The mission of Hills Dog Club Inc. is to enhance the human-dog relationship through training, education and the promotion of good breeding practices within our community.

IMPORTANT DATES.

General meetings 2023:

9 Aug 13 Sep 11 Oct
8 Nov 13 Dec

Watch this space for future event dates.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello everyone,

Did you teach your dog a new trick or behaviour? Have you learned something in class recently that you, or your dog are particularly proud of? We sure hope that you have, and perhaps you could take a photo and send it to Hills Howler editorial team for inclusion in the Howler news letter. We love stories that are about your experiences and learnings in the world of dog obedience training, and conformation breed shows, in fact of anything canine.

This month we have a great contribution from Narelle about eye health in canines. She has done a deep dive and wrote a great article for us. - (p 6) As always, information provided in our articles are not necessarily endorsed by the club's and any health problems should be checked out by your vet, but you knew that.

Yesterday, 29th July, Hills Dog Club hosted the 2023 Inter-Club competition which I attended as a steward. With the help of AI we have produced an article (p4) which isn't to bad. Yes, it's 2023 and AI* is your friend.

AI also had a hand in this month's Scoop (p8), writing as your friendly neighbourhood cobbler. Seems the Hilltops councils (not the Hills!) had some idea of controlling what people could and couldn't do with regards their pets. The community soon put a stop to that idea.

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Unfortunately our Club President had to excuse herself from the position and so we are asking our members who have that love and drive for the club to put up their hands and take on this important position. You will be joining a supportive executive committee. See advert page 9.

Promotions were not that many this month. A reminder to all Beginners 8 , Graduate and Intermediate class instructors to enter the details of people who are promoted on the promotions list in the office and tak a photo for publication in the Howler.

Editor, Graphic Designer
Tony Vink

* AI = Artificial intelligence - ChatGPT



PROMOTIONS - JULY 2023

Beginners 8 to Graduate

- Kevin with Freya the Border Collie
- Dona and Duthika with Louis the Mini Dachshund
- Steven with Max the Labrador
- Alison with Winston the Mastif X
- Aleksa with Kahlua the English Staffie

Intermediate to Advanced

- Dannielle with Delta the Miniature Pincher



Aleksa and Kahlua



Kevin and Freya



Alison and Winston



Dona and Duthika with Louis



Steven and Max

THE INTER-CLUB COMPETITION: A DAY OF CANINE EXCELLENCE AND TEAM SPIRIT

On Saturday, 29th July 2023, the Hills Dog Club hosted the highly anticipated yearly Inter-Club Competition, which after a 3 year hiatus due to Covid and a sodden field last year, drew participants from 15 clubs across New South Wales. The event showcased various categories, including Rally-O , Novice, CCD and UD. The day was blessed with fine weather, although the warmth and humidity posed some interesting challenges for the dogs and their handlers.

Set up started early in the morning, and Bob and his team were already hard at work at 8 AM. They efficiently organised the rings, setting up tables, umbrellas, starting pegs, and all sorts of equipment required to run the competition seamlessly.

The heart of an Inter-Club Competition lies in each club nominating teams comprising a mix of novice and highly skilled handlers and dogs, who then compete against other teams. This ensures a diverse range of competitors and creates an atmosphere of camaraderie and support among participants. Organising such an event requires significant effort and dedication, and the Hills Dog Club extends its heartfelt gratitude to Judy McCartney, the organising member of the committee, and Janet and her team in the office for their hard work.

From a personal perspective, I found the Inter-Club Competition more enjoyable to watch than a regular obedience competition. The teamwork aspect, where teams scored points collectively to reach the top, heightened the excitement and engagement of everyone involved. The team-oriented structure of the Inter-Club Competition fostered a strong sense of community, resulting in an enthusiastic turnout at the prize-giving ceremony and creating a truly festive atmosphere.

Congratulations are in order for the top three teams from the Illawarra region and the Hills Dog Club, whose exceptional performances earned them well-deserved recognition. Their achievements exemplify the spirit of competition, sportsmanship, and dedication to canine excellence that the Inter-Club Competition embodies.



The winning teams are as follows:

1st Place: Illawarra Dog Club – **Rogues**

2nd Place: Illawarra Dog Club – **Finns**

3rd Place: Hills Dog Club – **Nova's Superstars**

Additionally, special recognition goes to the Golden Retriever Club's **Go4Gold** team for securing the 1st place in the Breed category.

Also, a word of thanks to our sponsors Meals for Mutts, who generously sponsored all the prizes for our winners this year. We deeply appreciate their support and generous contribution to making the event a great success.

Furthermore, the Hills Dog Club would like to express its gratitude to all the judges and data team who did an excellent job, ensuring fairness and accuracy throughout the competition. Thanks also goes to the stewards who worked tirelessly, assisting in every possible way to keep the event running smoothly. The judges for the various categories were:

Rally:

Mrs. Veeni Craig - Rally Novice (RN)

Obedience:

Mrs. Catherine Crouch – Community Companion Dog (CCD)

Ms. Pamela Ohm – Novice (CD)

Mrs. Maria Wheeler – Open (CDX)

Mr. Ron Probert – Open (CDX)

Mr. Kevin Speed – Utility Dog (UD)

In conclusion, the 2023 Inter-Club Competition was a resounding success, uniting clubs from all over New



The lovely Go4Gold team

South Wales in a celebration of canine talents and teamwork. The event showcased the harmonious bond between dogs and their handlers, reaffirming the timeless bond between humans and their loyal companions. As the sun set on the memorable day, well it did eventually after we all got home, participants and spectators alike left with cherished memories and an eagerness to return for the next instalment of this eagerly awaited event.

Personally I would love to see this type of competition flourish again, back to the glory days when we had many clubs and teams taking part.



Vicky and Sky ... I took too many photos so Here they all are...





EYE HEALTH FOR YOUR DOG

Being aware of your dog's eye health is important to provide support and health care to manage or slow eye diseases.

Diet

The correct diet is essential, feeding them a high moisture, meat-based diet rich in naturally occurring antioxidants / carotenoids which help to lower inflammation. Such as blueberries, broccoli, eggs, carrots, cold water fish (sardines, cod, tuna and salmon), kale, pumpkin and sweet potato. Supplements may help such as Omega 3 essential fatty acids found in krill, sardines or anchovies will cross the blood-brain barrier to nourish the eyes. Other vitamins and antioxidants that support eye health include Vitamin E and C. and lutein and turmeric. Much as what humans need. Think about sharing the above veggies and food in your dog's dinner!

Check

At the club we promote a daily check of your dog - this should include looking in their eyes to check for changes such as holding the eye(s) closed or half closed, tearing, redness, discharge, or pawing at the eye(s). There should not be any build-up of discharge that requires regular cleaning.

A visit to the veterinarian is essential to manage the following issues :

Red eyes signify inflammation. Engorged blood vessels tell you that blood is being rushed to the eye to bring oxygen and nutrients to help fight disease. Red eyes can signal such problems as Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS, or dry eye), "cherry" eye (a visible tear gland), glaucoma, entropion (eyelids rolled in, rubbing on the cornea), and ectropion (droopy eye lids).

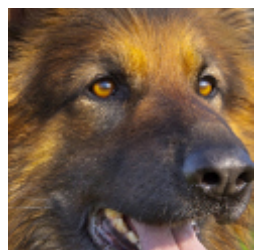
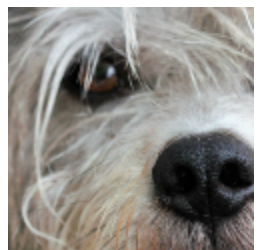
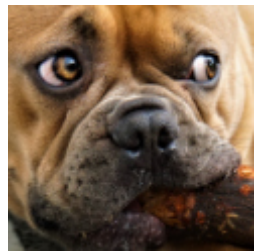
Rubbing, squinting and light sensitivity can be caused by itchy eyes, painful eyes, foreign bodies, tumours, increased pressure in the eye, or an eye injury or eyelids or eyelashes growing into the wrong direction.

Excessive tearing can occur as a result of allergies, pain from corneal ulcers, foreign bodies, or increased pressure. Blocked tear ducts may also result in excess tears spilling over onto the face.

Green, yellow, or mucoid discharge indicates an infection. Mucous will be produced when there are not enough tears, or the eye is dry.

Bulging eye(s) is a sign of high pressure within the globe of the eye. The high pressure can be caused by glaucoma or a tumour behind the eye or on the surface of the eye or eyelid. Bulging eyes can also signal an injury. If not treated quickly, these conditions can quickly cause blindness.

Photos of generally healthy eyes !



Cloudy eyes indicate swelling in the cornea which indicates there has been damage to the cornea. Cataracts appear as a white opaque filling of the lens which block transmission of light and cause blindness. Cataracts can occur at any age.

Dilated or unequal pupils can be diagnosed by placing a bright light in front of your pet. If the pupils do not constrict in bright light, this is an indication that vision is being lost. This can be secondary to hypertension (heart or kidney disease), or inflammation like SARDS (Sudden Acquired Retinoid Degeneration Syndrome) or PRA (Progressive Retinoid Atrophy). Unequal pupil sizes can be an indication of an eye problem or a neurologic problem and should be checked as soon as possible.

Confusion, or bumping into things shows that your pet is having trouble finding their way around. Blindness can be an indication of a more serious disease, like lymphoma.

An **elevated (or visible) third eyelid** indicates inflammation where the eye is trying to protect itself. See your vet immediately.

Genetic Predispositions

It is a good idea to research genetic predispositions to eye disease in your dog. Talk to the breeder certain breeds are prone to certain eye problems.

Eye problems should not wait days to be seen. Insist on an immediate appointment or take your pet to an emergency clinic.

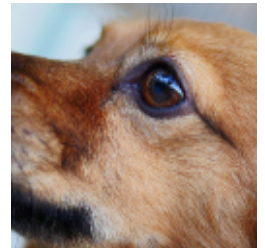
*Prepared by Narelle Brown
Puppy 1 instructor*

Bibliography -

Under the weather - <https://www.undertheweatherpet.com/blogs/under-the-weather/focus-in-on-your-dogs-eye-health#:~:text=They should be clear and,our dog to the veterinarian.>

Dr Judy Morgan https://drjudymorgan.com/blogs/blog/the-eyes-have-it?_pos=3&_sid=a59b2fdc3&_ss=r

Medi vet UK - <https://www.medivet.co.uk/pet-care/pet-advice/dog-eyecare/#:~:text=Healthy eyes in dogs should,of their regular grooming routine.>





Hilarious Uproar as Aussie Council's Paw-some Pet Cap Plan Gets Fleeced !

New South Wales, Australia – Crikey, hold onto your hats, 'cause the Hilltops Council had a bone-headed idea that had Aussies roaring with laughter and disbelief! They reckoned they could put a leash on pet lovers by introducing the 'Keeping of Domestic Animals' policy. You heard right, folks – they wanted to tell people how many critters they can have!

In a town where kangaroos roam freely, can you imagine the uproar? The council proposed a pet limit of four dogs or six cats per household. Struth, that's more like a zoo than a backyard!

But the true-blue folks of Young, Harden, and Boorowa weren't buying it. Over 1,300 signatures flew in like a flock of galahs, shouting, "Nah, mate, not on your Nelly!"

The council gathered to discuss the furry fiasco, and let me tell ya, it was a giggle-fest. People had their say, and they weren't shy about it. They were more concerned about their sheep and cows than counting how many whiskers they could cuddle.

Now, ya know, some places down in Sydney and South Australia have similar rules, but the folks out in Hilltops were havin' none of it. "Stone the crows!" they said, "That's not the Aussie way!"

One bloke, Hugh Gent, he's got three dogs, bless his heart! He said, "This whole thing's as crazy as a drop bear in a gum tree! What'll happen to all the extra dogs? We'll need a doggy high-rise!"

And the best bit? The council had a lightbulb moment! They waved the white flag and shelved the whole shebang – fair suck of the sav, they saw the funny side of it!

Now, they're goin' for a 'case-by-case' approach – that's more like it, mates!

So, there you have it, the saga of how Hilltops Council tried to wrangle pets, but the Aussie larrikins showed 'em who's boss! It's a bonza tale of laughter and good vibes!

Until the next kangaroo hops down the street, keep your pets happy and your chuckles rollin', cobbers! ta, cobbers!

Interpretation by ChatGPT.
Original article:

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-28/council-drops-plan-restricting-pet-ownership-community-backlash/102654438?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web





Calling all Passionate Dog Training Enthusiasts! Stand for Club President at Hills Dog Club!

Are you a dedicated member of the Hills Dog Club with a deep love for dogs and a desire to make a positive impact on the canine community? If so, we want you to consider running for the position of Club President!

Hills Dog Club:

Hills Dog Club is a vibrant community of dog lovers who share a common passion for our furry companions. We strive to promote responsible dog ownership, organise engaging events, and foster a supportive environment for all dog enthusiasts. Our club is affiliated with Dogs NSW, and together, we work to enhance the lives of our four-legged friends.

Position Requirements:

To be eligible for the role of Club President, you must be a Full Member of the Hills Dog Club and a financial member of Dogs NSW. This ensures that our President is deeply connected to our club and fully committed to upholding our values and mission.

Nomination Process:

If you believe you have the vision and dedication to lead Hills Dog Club into a brighter future, we encourage you to put forth your nomination. The nomination forms are available for submission at the Office until 9th August. Don't worry if you can't make it to the Office; we will have some prepared and accessible for you.

Alternatively, you can make your nomination in person during our upcoming General Meeting. We warmly welcome your participation and interest in shaping the future of our beloved club.

The Democratic Process:

In the event that we receive more than one nomination, we will conduct a vote to ensure a fair and democratic selection process. Every attending member's voice matters, and this vote will be crucial in determining the next leader who will guide us on this exciting journey.

Be the Change:

By standing for Club President, you have the opportunity to make a significant impact, steer the club's direction, and nurture a close-knit community of fellow dog enthusiasts. Whether you have innovative ideas, leadership skills, or a genuine love for dogs, your candidacy is invaluable in driving positive change within Hills Dog Club.

So don't miss this chance to contribute to something truly special! Stand up, be heard, and let your passion for dogs shine as you run for the prestigious position of Hills Dog Club President.

Together, we'll make a difference in the lives of our furry friends and the entire dog-loving community!

The mission of Hills Dog Club Inc. is to enhance the human-dog relationship through training, education and the promotion of good breeding practices within our community.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN OF THE GENERAL MEETING
OF HILLS DOG CLUB INC.**

When:..... Wednesday **9 August 2023** - 7:30pm

Where: Meeting Rooms at Castle Hill Showground.

Who: All club members are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

1. Open Meeting
2. Attendance and Apologies
3. Confirmation of 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

GENERAL BUSINESS

HDC Club President



Hills Dog Club Inc.

TRAINING TIMES

Mon. 7pm -> Puppies*,
Beginners, Graduate &
Intermediate classes

8pm -> Advanced class

*Puppy classes are for dogs
12-20 weeks.

Tue. 10:30am -> All Classes

IMPORTANT:

No classes held on
public holidays

No Tuesday classes
held in
school holidays

Forgotten to bring treats
to training? **Lamb Treats**
are on sale at the office for
\$6 a packet.

CLUB MEETINGS

The club meets monthly on the 2nd
Wednesday of the month, except
January, in the clubhouse. Meetings
start at 7.30pm. All welcome! Tea
and coffee provided.

Club financial year is 1st January to
31st December.

CORRESPONDENCE

All Club correspondence or en-
quiries should be addressed in writ-
ing to The Secretary, POBOX392
Round Corner NSW 2158 or

**NOTE EMAIL ADDRESS for
all contacts at Hills Dog Club**

infohillsdogclub@gmail.com

Hills Howler is available at the club-
house on training days/nights and
online. All members are encouraged
to contribute. For admin purposes,
please keep us informed of change
of email address.

NEWSLETTER

Send all inquiries and contributions
to hillshowler@gmail.com

NOTICE:

FUTURE NOMINATIONS
TBA

Visit our web page for more
information

www.hillsdogclub.com

Get digital Howler via email?
Use the QR code to sign up
It is FREE.



Ground Rules

1. As a condition of membership, all dogs are required to be properly vaccinated according to current veterinary guidelines.
2. Members are responsible at all times for the behaviour of their dog/s whilst present on the training grounds or representing the club.
3. 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. 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 and/or dog/s which are unwell or have an infectious condition are not permitted on the obedience training grounds.

6. Members are to pick up after their dog/s and help keep the grounds clean and tidy.
7. Adequate sensible dress with appropriate footwear (no thongs, scuffs or bare feet) is required to be worn by handler during training.
8. 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. 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. Members who use Club equipment must ensure it is returned to the storeroom and stored correctly after classes are

- conducted.
11. Children are welcome to attend classes provided they are supervised by an adult/parent/guardian at all times.
12. Child members (aged 7 to 11 are to be accompanied by an adult/parent/guardian in classes) and Junior members (aged 12 to 15 under adult/parent/guardian supervision on grounds) are welcome to train providing they have sufficient control of their dog during classes. This will be at the discretion of the class/chief instructor.
13. The Club is in operation if the dog building doors and roller shutter are open. ie: from 5:45 Mondays and from 10:00 am Tuesdays

Check us out on Facebook
'Like' our page to get Club updates

<https://www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub/>



HILLS DOG CLUB INC. - 2023/24 COMMITTEE

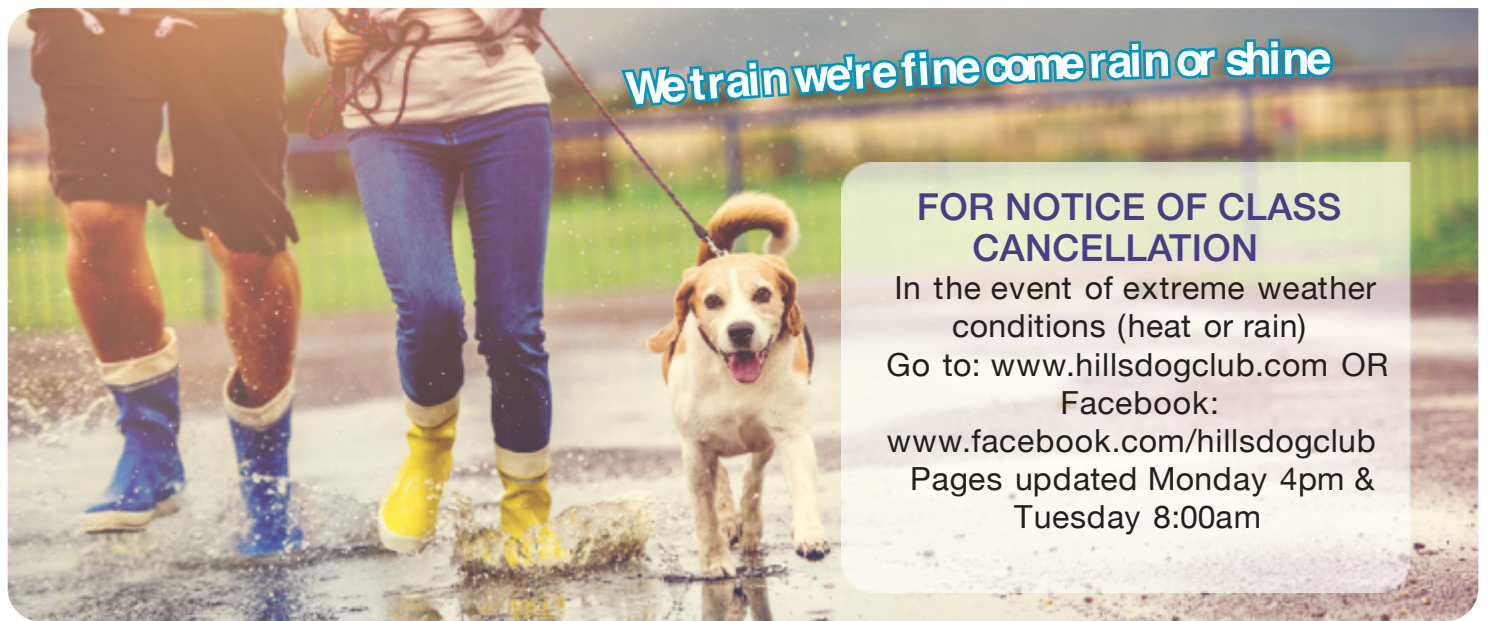
PRESIDENT: - - - - - Position Vacant
 VICE PRESIDENT: - - - - - Anne Small
 VICE PRESIDENT: - - - - - Bob Watters
 SECRETARY: - - - - - Jane Lamont
 ASSISTANT SECRETARY: - - - - Belvane Parsons
 TREASURER: - - - - - Lynne Sheather
 ASSISTANT TREASURER: - - - - Janet Power
 CHIEF INSTRUCTOR: - - - - - Lea-Anne 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:
 - - - - - Peter Guenther
 - - - - - Michelle Raymond
 - - - - - Kathy Cocks
 - - - - - Karen Richardson
 - - - - - Carolyn Jensen
 - - - - - Kathy Zaia

TROPHY STEWARDS:
 TRIAL: - - - - - Jessica Leckie
 SHOW: - - - - - Janice Lyons
 CLUB: - - - - - Carole Hatley
 AUDITOR: - - - - - Mr T. Newton
 PATRONS : - - - - - Mrs Luci Ellem
 - - - - - Ms Peta Clarke
 - - - - - Dr Peter Gangemi, Lord Mayor,
 The Hills Shire Council

Contact club committee members: Infohillsdogclub@gmail.com

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.**



FOR NOTICE OF CLASS CANCELLATION
 In the event of extreme weather conditions (heat or rain)
 Go to: www.hillsdogclub.com OR
 Facebook:
www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub
 Pages updated Monday 4pm & Tuesday 8:00am

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