

The HILLS HOWLER



June 2016

www.hillsdogclub.com

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates

8th June
13th July
10th August
14th Sept

12th October
9th November
14th December

K9 Companion Award

Monday 4th July @ 7pm
Tuesday 26th July @ 10am



NO Monday Night Training: June 13th (Public Holiday)

[Do you want to receive your Howler via email?](#)

Email: hillshowler@gmail.com

Hills Dog Club Inc 2016 Committee

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Education Officer: Dianne Atkins Ph: 9654 3833 E: diatkins@bigpond.net.au

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Auditor: Mr T Newton

Patron: Mrs Betty Stepkovitch

Trophy Stewards: **Trial**—Kerry Richards and Janice Lyons **Show**—Pauline Hartwell and Samantha Ibbott-Cordi

Club Trophy Steward: Genevieve Young Mb: 0419 161 042 E: genevieve.young@optusnet.com.au

Life Members: Peter Guenther, *Hazel Baldwin(*deceased), Dianne Atkins, Janet Power, Belvane Parsons,

Anne Small, Betty Cansdale, Robyn Jones, Janice Lyons, Vicki Gresser, Lynne Sheather



Notice is given of the **General Meeting** of the Hills Dog Club Inc.
to be held on
Wednesday 8th June 2016,
in the Meeting Rooms, at Castle Hill Showground.
Commencing at 7:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Agenda:

- 1 Open Meeting
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting
- 4 Business arising from the minutes
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Treasurers Report

- 7 New Members
- 8 Chief Instructor's Report
- 9 Show Secretary's Report
- 10 Trial Secretary's Report
- 11 Publicity Report
- 12 General Business



"Communication, connection, passion and mission **This is your training journey!**
Make it happen!" - Lauren, absoluteDOGS

- FREE MEMBERS BOARD -

The Club has decided to include a FREE notice board column in the Howler each month for club members. This will be a maximum of 3 lines for one (1) month and will be non commercial.

- MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE -

The Hills Howler newsletter is written by members, for members. The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the Hills Dog Club Inc. and the club does not accept responsibility for any information, articles or advice published.

- NOTICE BOARD -

Leave your dog "on lead" at all times unless your instructor requests otherwise.

Please bring correct money to training for ground fees.

No thongs or bare feet in classes. Closed shoes are preferable and safer.

Please wear your membership card at all times. It makes everyone's life easier!

All dogs on the training grounds must be vaccinated under Club rules.

Bitches in season are not permitted to attend class. You may still come and watch, but she may not.

Yes, training is on when it rains. Bring a raincoat and wear boots. If it is very wet we will train under the covered ring.

FORGOT TO BRING TREATS TO TRAINING?

Don't worry! We have lamb treats for sale at the office for just \$5 a bag.

All correspondence to:

The Secretary,
Hills Dog Club Inc.
56/159 Ridgescrop Drive,
Castle Hill NSW 2154

FOR NOTICE OF CLASS CANCELLATION

In the event of extreme weather conditions (heat or rain)

Go to:

www.hillsdogclub.com

OR find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub

OR <https://www.facebook.com/hillsdistrictdogclub>

Pages updated
Monday 4pm & Tuesday 8:45am



Hills Dog Club Inc

TRAINING TIMES

Monday 7pm Puppies, Beginners, Graduate & Advanced
8pm Triallers

Puppy classes are for dogs 12-20 weeks. NO CLASSES HELD ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Tuesday 10.30am All Classes NO TUESDAY CLASSES HELD IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

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 enquires should be addressed in writing to The Secretary, 56/169 Ridgeway Drive, Castle Hill, NSW, 2154.

NEWSLETTER

Hills Howler is available at the clubhouse on training days/nights and online. All members are encouraged to contribute.

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 graduation classes.
4. A member shall not ill-treat a dog at any time. Any such action may give rise to the suspension or expulsion from the Club by resolution of the Committee.
5. Bitches in season and/or dog/s with an un-well or infectious condition are not permitted on the obedience training grounds.
6. Members are to pick up after their dog/s and help keep the training 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.

Promotions

Beginners to Graduate

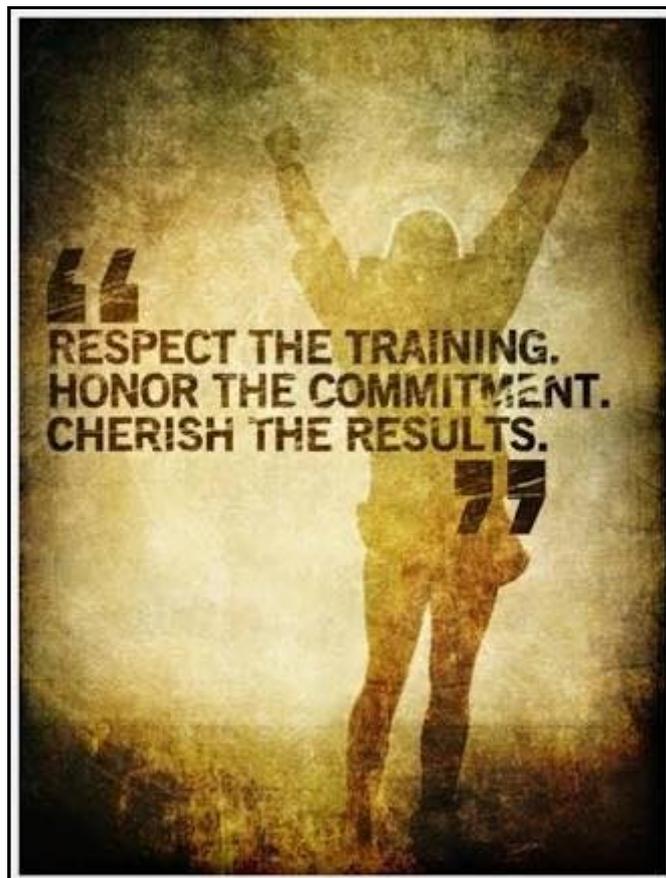
Phillip Duggan with Buster the Blue Cattle Dog (Tuesday Class)
Phyllis Ng with Luna the Labrador Retriever (Tuesday Class)

Graduate to Advance

Luke O'Callaghan with Will the Border Collie (Monday Class)
Alyce Mellon with Maggie the Border Collie (Monday Class)

Advance to Triallers

Wings & Karen Lee with Gordon the Golden Retriever (Monday Class)



Know Your Instructor



Name: Karen Taylor (Maisy Neville on FaceBook)

Dogs: Maisy, Red Cattle 8yrs old and Rubie, Working Kelpie 6yrs old

How long have you been at Hills? 7 years

What Class do you usually Teach? Beginners 2, 3 and 4

Best Dog Training advice ever given to you: It's never the dog

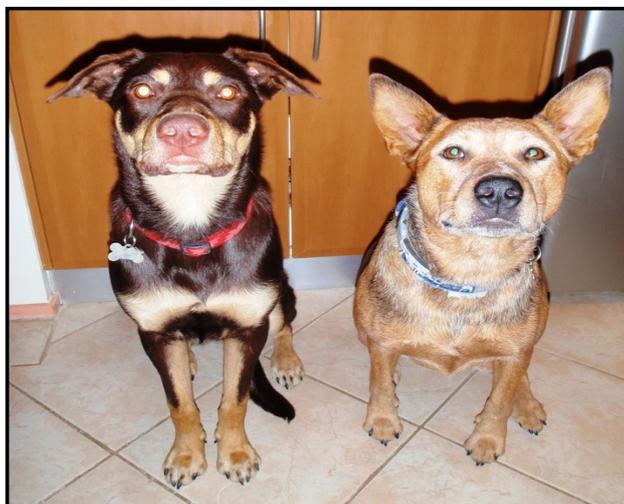
What other Dog Activities do you do? Agility and Herding

Day Job: IT Desktop Support/Mature Aged IT Trainer

Hobbies: Dogs stuff, Motorbikes, Bush Walking, Reading and Movies

Biggest Dog Achievement: Maisy

Favourite thing you've taught your Dog? The things they have taught me



Hot Diggity Dog

We have some fantastic cooks at Hills Dog Club.

The smell that lingers from the Club House each Monday Night and Tuesday Morning is mouth watering.

So we are going to share with you all that we just don't dish up the goods on the Training Field BUT also in the Kitchen too...

APPLE PIE OR APPLE CHARLOTTE

80z S/R flour

40z Butter

2 tablespoons of Caster Sugar

1 Egg

Pinch Salt

1 tablespoon of Milk if needed



Cook about 7 to 8 peeled and cored granny smith apples with 2-3 tablespoons castor sugar with 6 cloves in microwave until soft. Drain well.

All ingredients straight from the fridge, butter must be cold not melted. Rub butter through the flour and sugar with hands until it looks like breadcrumbs.

Make a well in the middle and add beaten egg with knife or fork until it forms a dough leaving the side of the bowl easily. It should not be sticky. Use hands now to form a round and cut into halves for top and bottom. Work quickly so dough doesn't get to warm. Put pastry in non-stick paper in the fridge for 10mins before rolling out.

Roll out between two pieces of non-stick paper.

Roll only from the middle out turning the paper around to make the pastry the size of the dish. If you roll pastry every which way it will make it stretch and will be tough. Take one sheet of paper off and place pastry side down over dish then remove top paper by rolling back keeping the paper tight as you roll. Let pastry fall gently into dish. Cut around dish and you can patch any bits.

Put warm well drained apples in pie dish take out cloves. Roll out top pastry place on pie same as before. Trim around edge and use thumb and forefinger to make pattern around edge. Cut steam holes into top about 4 of them, wash with pastry brush with egg and milk mixed together very lightly over top.

Bake in hot oven 200c for 5 mins until you see pastry set then turn down to 150c for further 40 to 45 mins depending on your oven.

When cold can ice with passionfruit icing if you want it to be apple charlotte.

Should be eaten on the same day for a nice crisp pastry edge as it goes soft the next day.

I couldn't get this pastry like my Mum's until she passed away then it all came together. She always made it for me. Lynne Sheather

LEMON AND LIME SYRUP CAKE

THIS CAKE IS PERFECT FOR BUSY COOKS AS IT CAN BE MIXED IN MOMENTS AND NEEDS NO ICING. THE SIMPLE TANGY LIME TOPPING TRANSFORMS IT INTO A FABULOUSLY MOIST CAKE.



SERVES EIGHT

INGREDIENTS

225g/8oz/1 cup butter, softened,
plus extra for greasing
225g/8oz/2 cups self-raising
(self-rising) flour
5ml/1 tsp baking powder
225g/8oz/generous 1 cup caster
(superfine) sugar
4 eggs, beaten
grated rind of 2 lemons
30ml/2 tbsp lemon juice

For the topping

finely pared rind of 1 lime
juice of 2 limes
150g/5oz/¾ cup caster
(superfine) sugar

VARIATION

Use lemon rind and juice instead of lime for the topping if you like. You will need only one large lemon.

1 Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/ Gas 3. Grease and line a 20cm/8in round cake tin (pan). Sift the flour and baking powder into a bowl. Add the caster sugar, butter and eggs and beat until the mixture is smooth and creamy.



2 Beat in the lemon rind and juice. Spoon the mixture into the tin, smooth the surface and gently indent the top with the back of a spoon.

3 Bake for 1¼–1½ hours, or until the cake is golden on top and spongy when lightly pressed, and a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean.



4 Meanwhile, mix the ingredients for the topping together. As soon as the cake is cooked, remove it from the oven and pour the topping evenly over the surface. Leave the cake to cool fully in the tin before removing and serving.

Passed onto me by John Sissons in 2008 and have been baking it ever since.
Love this cake, its easy to make, moist and a favourite of mine and the Dog Clubs.
Dianne Atkins

Doggy DNA Domain

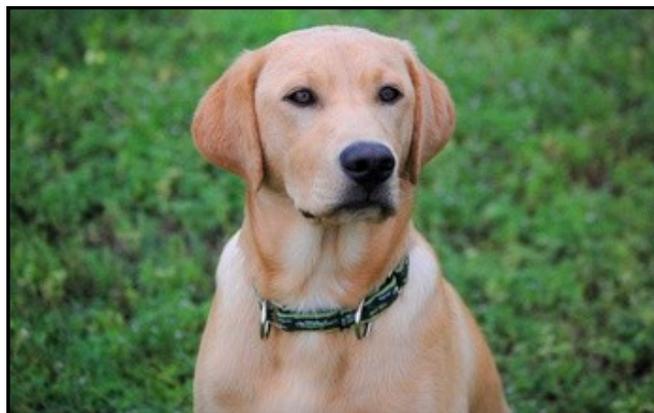
Cystinuria and Progressive Retinal Atrophy, Progressive Rod-Cone Degeneration in the Labrador Retriever

Cystinuria

Urinary tract obstruction is one of the most urgent and potentially life-threatening conditions in dogs. One common cause of urinary obstructions in dogs is the presence of bladder stones which leave the bladder during urination and become lodged in the [urethra](#). The inability to urinate results in a toxic build-up of certain electrolytes and waste products in the body including potassium, which tends to be the most concerning in regards to health effects. Excess potassium in the body prevents the heart from beating normally, ultimately resulting in death due to cardiac arrest. Though it is not the only cause of bladder stones in Labradors, a genetic mutation in the *SLC3A1* gene is reported to cause an early-onset disease known as [cystinuria](#), which can result in bladder stone formation.

While normal kidneys reabsorb a variety of nutrients and electrolytes from the urine, dogs affected with cystinuria lack the ability to produce a protein which plays an important role in the kidney's re-absorption of certain amino acids including cystine. Affected dogs will have excess cystine present in the urine which frequently results in the formation of cystine crystals and stones in the urinary tract; particularly in the bladder. In addition, though it is not common for dogs to develop kidney stones, dogs with cystinuria have been reported to develop them in rare cases.

Though there is variability in the age of onset, Labradors affected with cystinuria will often show their first signs of urinary obstruction around 6 to 14 months of age. However, some males and most females will develop problems at a later age. Urinary obstruction due to stones is more common in males than females due to the male dog's longer and narrower urethra. There is no cure for cystinuria, but affected dogs can be managed with medications and prescription diets formulated to lower protein intake and alkalize the urine. Even with preventative medicine and diet, dogs affected with cystinuria may still develop urinary obstructions. Though cystine bladder stones can be successfully removed surgically from the bladder and urethra, they are highly likely to recur; especially in dogs that are not being treated preventatively.



Progressive Retinal Atrophy, Progressive Rod-Cone Degeneration

[Progressive retinal atrophy, progressive rod-cone degeneration \(PRA-prcd\)](#) is a relatively common eye disease in dogs caused by a mutation in the *PRCD* gene. Just one of over a dozen known genetic mutations that cause different forms of progressive retinal atrophy, the mutation responsible for causing PRA-prcd has been discovered in many dog breeds, suggesting that the mutation originally occurred in an early common ancestor to our modern day dogs.

As a general group of diseases, progressive retinal atrophy leads to blindness of variable severity and age of onset due to degeneration of the retinal cells known as [rods](#) and [cones](#) which play an important role in sensing light. The signals produced by these cells travel to the brain through nerves and are interpreted by the brain. Thus, allowing for what we understand as vision.

In PRA-prcd, signs of retinal disease may first be detectable by [electroretinogram](#) in affected dogs around 1 ½ years of age. However, most dogs will not show clinical signs of blindness until around 4 to 6 years of age when degeneration of cells becomes more advanced. The first signs of PRA-prcd are typically caused by a degeneration of rod cells in the retina which play an important role in vision under dim light. The loss of these cells lead to signs of “night blindness”. As the disease progresses, cone cells responsible for vision in normal, day light conditions also degenerate, resulting in complete blindness. Most dogs which inherit two copies (see “How Are These Diseases Inherited?” section below) of the *PRCD* mutation will eventually progress to complete vision loss. There are no commercially available treatments or cures for PRA-prcd. Thus, making prevention through genetic testing and selective breeding the best bet to eliminate the disease from a breed.



How Are These Diseases Inherited?

Both of the diseases discussed in this blog are inherited in a recessive fashion meaning that a dog must inherit two copies of the associated genetic mutation (one from each parent) in order to develop either disease. Dogs inheriting a single copy of either mutation from one parent are considered carriers. Carrier dogs are not expected to show clinical signs of these diseases, but can produce affected puppies if bred with another carrier of the same mutation.

Genetic testing of Labradors can consistently identify carriers of the mutations responsible for these diseases, thus allowing for breeders to eliminate them from their blood lines through informed selective breeding practices.



**Thanks to Linda Humphreys
Dog Lovers Cruise 2015**

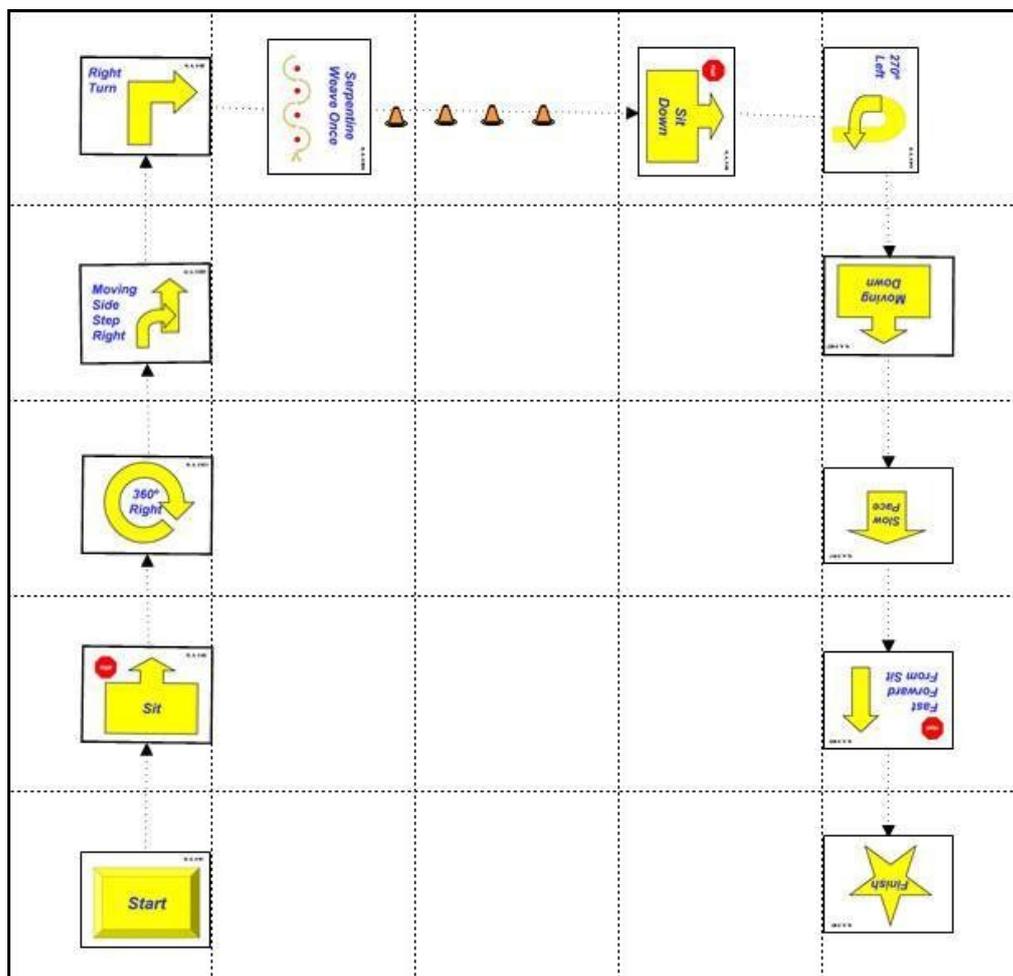
Whats that Rally-O about?

The purpose of Rally Obedience is to demonstrate a dog's usefulness as a companion of mankind, not merely the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the ring. Dogs who participate in Rally are dogs that have been trained and conditioned to compete at Novice level and in the presence of other dogs. The objective of Rally is to provide a fast-moving and motivational sport for both Handler and dog that demonstrates competency in basic Obedience exercises without the precision of the formal Obedience Classes. Dogs in Rally events should demonstrate willingness and enjoyment. To that end, Handlers may use verbal praise and encouragement of the dog on the Rally course. All participants in the Rally Classes are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the quality of the various performances may be compared and scored.

Rally-O will be on every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

Please check the ring timetable for more information

K9 Companion Award Course



Obedience Trials

This Heel sequence and points refers to Companion Dog (CD)/Novice level of Obedience Trialling



1. HEEL FREE

Maximum Points: 40

Principal Feature:

The dog and Handler to work as a team without the use of a lead

Description of Exercise:

On order from the Judge 'Forward' the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name then give a command to heel and, at the same time, commence walking briskly or at the directed pace.

The dog must work off lead. Any unusual or additional act, signal or command, which in the opinion of the Judge gives the dog assistance, must be penalised.

At each order from the Judge to 'Halt', the Handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel without command and not move until ordered to do so.

The Handler and dog must execute a 'Figure Eight' at normal pace in which they must heel at least twice around two Stewards standing approximately three (3) metres apart. There must be at least one 'Halt' during this portion of the exercise. The Judge may replace a Steward in the 'Figure Eight' or may take the place of a Steward himself.

Orders from Judge:

'Forward', 'Right Turn', 'Left Turn', 'Right About Turn', 'Left About Turn', 'Fast Pace', 'Slow Pace', 'Normal Pace', 'Halt', 'Down (Down Your Dog)', 'Stand (Stand Your Dog)', 'Figure Eight', 'Lead Out', 'Exercise Finished'. These orders may be given in any sequence and repeated.

Deductions:

Zero Score: For a dog which is unmanageable.

Over 50%: If the Handler continually guides the dog, or adapts his pace to the dog, or if the dog does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise or if the dog fails to negotiate the Figure Eight.

Minor: For failing to sit, stand or down; for poor sits, downs, stands, for failing to accompany the Handler around one Figure Eight (8) post, for occasional guidance or for the use of more than one command, for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

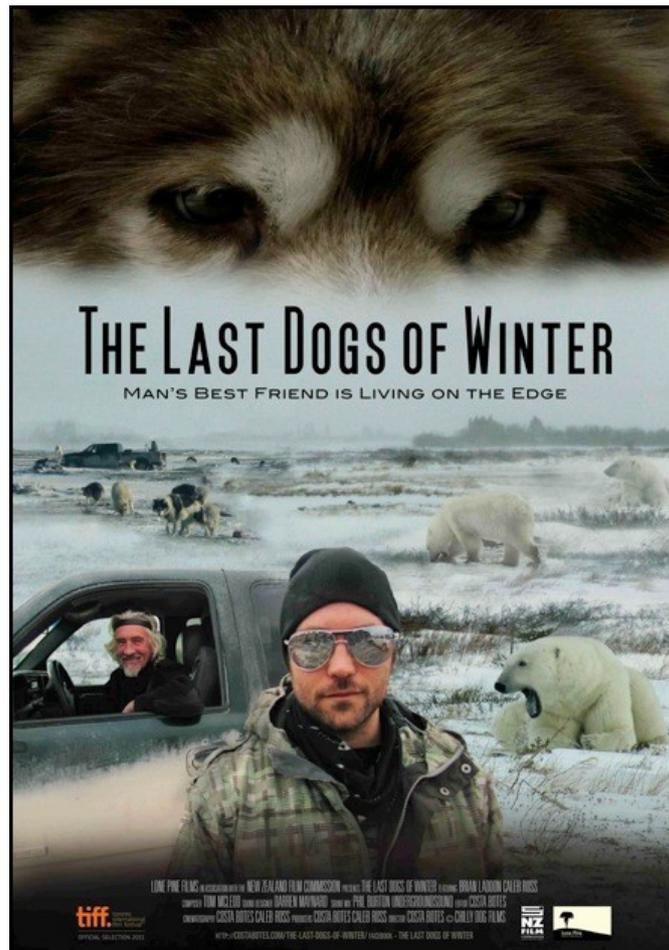
The Last Dogs Of Winter

Introduction

In 1976, prompted by advice from Bishop Omer Robidoux (1913-1986), Churchill dog handler Brian Ladoon took on the self imposed mission of preserving and breeding Canadian Eskimo Dogs (aka Inuit Dogs, aka Qimmiq), the rarest registered breed of dog in the world. His efforts have inspired both admiration and fierce criticism, largely because Ladoon's dogs share their pitiless natural environment with itinerant wild polar bears, and his practices are seen by some to be inhumane.

The movie does not purport to tell the full history of Eskimo/Inuit Dogs. That would take several films. It is largely present tense and observational, and focused on documenting one place and the unique situation that has developed there due to one man's tenacious efforts to preserve an animal and a way of life that was on the edge of disappearing. The film presents its subject's point of view, but also allows an honest and unvarnished look at what he is doing and how he does it. It is likely that audiences will experience shifting emotions, but they will come away able to make more informed judgements.

The Trailer: https://videos.files.wordpress.com/GUPGReBI/trailer-v3-copy-h-264-for-apple-tv_dvd.mp4



Overview

In October/November last year I went to the tiny town of Churchill, in Manitoba, Canada, to shoot a new documentary called *The Last Dogs of Winter*. I knew I'd be well outside my comfort zone, but I could not resist such a compelling story.

For almost 40 years, Brian Ladoon has struggled to breed and maintain a colony of Canadian Eskimo dogs in an environment suited to the dogs unique evolution. Once, these extraordinary animals were the pack horses or tractors of the arctic. Now, they apparently serve no useful function. Technology and cultural shifts made them redundant. They almost died out following the introduction of petrol powered skidoos. Disease, neglect, and organised culling saw numbers reduced from tens of thousands to just a few hundred by the 1970s.

Brian Ladoon was one of only a handful of people whose sentimental attachment to the dogs was such that he took on the responsibility of trying to keep the breed going, at great personal sacrifice.

At this point I want to make it clear, I absolutely acknowledge Brian Ladoon is not some kind of sole saviour of these endangered animals. There are now, and have been many other passionate people committed to the cause of preserving Canadian Eskimo/Inuit Dogs. People like Bill Carpenter ([Facts About the Canadian Eskimo Dog – Associated Content from Yahoo! – associatedcontent.com.](#)) were critical to its survival from the early 1970s. He bred and supplied dogs to Inuit in the North, reseeded small populations, and enabling today the small scale continuation of traditional practices, and sustainable adventure tourism ventures.

That is an interesting topic for a well resourced TV documentary, or perhaps for Inuit themselves to make. It's not the film I have made. I am attracted to charismatic, passionate protagonists who are facing high levels of conflict in their lives, and who have battled for a long time to maintain commitment to their goals. I don't have to agree with them to admire such characters. Ladoon is such a character. He's a fascinating and complex man, with great strengths, and certainly flaws as well.

He's feisty, stubborn, and self righteous. Unsurprisingly, Ladoon has attracted more than his fair share of critics. But there is a remorseless logic to all his choices, and his actions are driven by a love and deep knowledge of both the land and his dogs.



The interface between people, animals, and nature is always a tricky balance in Churchill. Ladoon's choice of location for his dog colony has created great problems for him, and an opportunity that has excited both envy and disapproval. The dogs share a barren point of land overlooking Hudson Bay that happens to be very popular with migrating polar bears.

This has made Ladoon a target for complaints from locals and tourism operators who believe he has unfair access to a valuable tourism site; from wildlife purists who decry the habituation of polar bears to humans; and animal rights proponents, who claim he is exploiting both dogs and bears, and endangering both for profit.

It's a unique situation, to say the least, and I did my best to capture it despite wind, snow, ice, and fogged viewfinders. Toughest shoot I've ever done, with the most restrictive shooting conditions.

Tough too to pick a path between representing my subject fairly and accurately, without negating other points of view. I went there with an open mind, and I think I captured something that truthfully represents what I found.

Origin and Purpose of the Canadian Eskimo Dog

The Canadian Eskimo Dog is an aboriginal breed of dog that has gone through many name changes. As a breed, The Canadian Kennel

Club has, in the past, referred to the dog as the “Eskimo,” “Exquimaux Husky,” “Esquimaux Dog,” and “Husky.” The Inuit of Arctic Canada called this dog “Qimmiq.”



The breed has an 1100 to 2000 year history of being interdependent with the Thule culture of Inuit (Eskimo people) who, following the Dorset culture, occupied the coastal and archipelago area of what is now Arctic Canada. Although within the spitz family of dogs, the Canadian Eskimo Dog’s origin prior to this is lost in the Inuit prehistory which includes the migration of the Mongolian race from the Asian continent to North America.



The existing strain of Canadian Eskimo Dog originated from stock primarily bred by the Eskimo Dog Research Foundation in the Northwest Territories. The foundation’s work over a six-year period was primarily funded by the Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories and involved the purchase of specimens from the remnant population of dogs kept by the Inuit of the Boothia Peninsula, Melville Peninsula and parts of Baffin Island.



The Canadian Eskimo Dog, as a primitive dog, is primarily a carnivorous breed, whose natural diet consisted of seal, walrus, fish, or caribou. For centuries this breed was used as a draught animal and was capable of pulling between 45 and 80 kg. per dog, covering distances from 15 to 70 miles per day. He was also used as a hunting dog, to locate seal breathing holes for the Inuit hunters. As a hunting dog he would also attack and hold at bay musk ox and polar bear for the Inuit hunters. In the summer the dog was used as a pack dog carrying up to 15 kg.

Not Just A Man's Best Friend: <https://youtu.be/5bcl0yrHPwk>
<https://youtu.be/JE-Nyt4Bmi8>

CANADIAN ESKIMO DOG FOUNDATION

The Canadian Eskimo Dog Foundation was established to facilitate a better understanding of the Canadian Eskimo Dog, and to promote and SAVE what is one of the last remaining strongholds for this extraordinary breed.



Currently the CEDF is the largest and one of the oldest CED breeding kennels in the World, accounting for approximately 1/3 (one third) of the World's population. It is the CEDF's goal to provide the World a window to view, and if desired, an opportunity to support and save this magnificent dog from extinction.



The significance of preserving this rare and beautiful dog is important if we are to maintain the cultural and historical integrity of Canada and the rest of North America.



The Canadian Eskimo Dog (CED) is on the verge of extinction with estimates of (300) three hundred or less pure CKC registered dogs left in the World.

COMMITTEE NOTICE:

The Showground and the Dog Area

As we all know the Showground is going to see big changes over the next few years as the railway and the overall usage of the area catches up with it. The proposed high rise apartment blocks around the area will have a big effect on how the grounds are used and the proposed plans are already drawn and up for discussion by Council.

With the Annual Agricultural Show Society Show now gone and the area proposed for a large sports arena, the dog area will see some changes.

As a member of Hills Dog Club Inc I hope you will keep yourself aware of any proposals, and help us protect our club and its usage of the grounds by voicing your opinion with council.

At this stage, no definite changes are finalised and council will be considering various options in the future. When proposals are known we ask that you consider the service we provide to the community and help us protect our club for future dog owners in The Hills District.

As a Club, we currently train around 1,100 people and their dogs each year, and have provided this service for over 25 years. Our residents get a large benefit from this with better behaved dogs, safer dogs, and a happier and safer community. This is something we are very proud of and want to continue with.

With over 60 well trained Instructors, we are probably the biggest Dog Club in NSW. We want to keep it that way, serving the Community and promoting Dog Training.

Help us preserve our Club.

Your help in any way will be appreciated.

Kind Regards,

Gordon Fenbow

President of Hills Dog Club Inc

The next few pages is a copy of the submissions handed into the Councillors and the Mayor recently. The first couple of pages were kindly created and edited by Belvane Parsons with the latter created and edited by Genevieve Young. Please note this submission is only provided in the electronic copy of the Howler. A copy of the submission can also be found at the Club House office for your viewing.



HILLS DOG CLUB Inc.

56/159 Ridgescrop Drive CASTLE HILL 2154

President Mr G Fenbow Secretary Mrs V Gresser



The home of Hills Dog Club has been located on the dog rings within Castle Hill Showground since 1980. The Club is proud to have been able to contribute to the improvements that now make it one of the best dog facilities in Sydney.

We provide a valuable Community service to our membership of over 1100, with education in responsible pet ownership and dog training. Classes start from puppies, and the pet dog obedience course, through to the K9 Companion Award and advanced Obedience work.

Affiliated under Dogs NSW the Club is operated by a large group of voluntary workers including over 60 Instructors and office personnel.

Members can advance to Competition level Obedience, and together with other Clubs and Groups that operate on these grounds, be involved in many dog sports and activities.

We have a **Club House & Administration building** of 420 m2 with disabled facilities. The building has 2 meeting rooms and provides massive storage areas purpose built for the 'home' Clubs.



The second building is a large **Undercover area** of 930 m2 inclusive of a small canteen toilet and storage facilities. All extensively used by our Club, other Dog Clubs and Community Groups.



Our feedback on the draft proposal:

These points are noted bearing in mind the actual Showground plan is yet to be presented by Hills Shire Council

The marked route of the proposed creek crossing to link with Anella Ave crosses through the dog rings and threatens the Undercover building shown above.

Car parking areas, as currently available, are required beside the dog rings.

If a new community venue is to be built we would support a similar size to the Harvey Lowe Pavilion which has been our venue of choice for conferences over the years.



Hills Dog Club Inc.
www.hillsdogclub.com





INTRODUCTION

*Every year across Australia, **tens of thousands** of healthy, unwanted dogs are **euthanised**. One of our country's peak animal welfare agencies, the RSPCA, has estimated that of these animals, **59% are surrendered due to 'behavioural problems'**. There is widespread ignorance about what it actually is that dogs need to thrive and to become well mannered and loved members of their human families. The result of this ignorance is that **dogs pay with their lives**. The issue is compounded by the emotional trauma of well meaning owners feeling they have failed their responsibilities.*

The importance of Hills Dog Club *can only be understood in this context.*

One of our missions is to keep dogs out of pounds; and to build a bond between owner and dog that is resilient and loving in both directions. The Club achieves this by leading a team of volunteers, who provide relevant, consistent, and humane training and support to pet dogs and their human handlers.

There is no data to show how many dogs and families Hills Dog Club has assisted during its **37 years of service to the dog world**. From the information below, we hope you can see that our Club's reach has been widespread. Pets have long been associated with social benefits outside of just ownership, and the Club's influence in fostering strong bonds between dogs and owners cannot be underestimated.

An appropriate venue to continue our service is essential.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Educating people and their dogs is key. **It cannot be overlooked and there are no shortcuts.**

So, what does this actually mean? Week after week, dogs are brought to Hills Dog Club to learn basic obedience. Many of them are brought as a last resort, as the final step to try to help them achieve a measure of sociability and calmness. The positive side is that once they are introduced to the programme created and updated by the Club over many years, there is generally an encouraging outcome.

The work done by Hills Dog Club is the **real-life application** of our beliefs about dogs.

Without suitable facilities, how can we carry out this work?

GROWTH OF THE CLUB

Since its inauguration in 1979, Hills Dog Club has steadily grown from a small group with just a handful of instructors, to 67 properly qualified instructors in 2016. With a current membership of 1,100, our Club has the reputation of one of the best in Australia.

TRAINING TECHNIQUES

In the mid-1980s, dog trainers commonly used aversive training techniques. An example of this is the use of check/choke chains to control dogs' behaviour. Over time, community attitudes began to shift, and dogs began to gain acceptance as legitimate members of families.

Corresponding dialogue emerged among trainers about the 'humanity' of using aversive techniques. Swimming very much against the tide of popular opinion, members of our Club began to research the subject, reaching the conclusion that the arbitrary use of check/choke chains is cruel; and the Club emphatically wanted a non-cruel option! It followed that Hills Dog Club became a staunchly vocal advocate for Positive Reinforcement training: a humane and effective way of encouraging dogs' co-operation without force. The Club was instrumental in pushing for its use, and since 1995, **all dogs at Hills Dog Club are trained using positive reinforcement**. It is worth noting that scientific thinking is now catching up with current dog training practice! The significance of this should not be underestimated, and **it exemplifies our role as advocates for dog welfare**.

To do this we need space – wide areas where stressed, over-stimulated dogs can be helped to calm down, to listen, and to see the world as a safe place.



HOW IS THIS DONE?

1. Training Classes

Hills Dog Club runs training classes 2 days every week. Training is offered for entry-level puppies, right through to champions. Most importantly, for those not interested in competition with their dogs, classes are tailored for pet owners who simply want a well-mannered dog.

Every Monday, the Club now runs 12 puppy and beginners classes, 3 advanced classes, and 2 trialling rings. On Tuesdays, there are 9 classes. For those interested in obedience trialling, ring work is available every week.

All of these classes are conducted in an environment that is safe, quiet and devoid of distractions from outside the immediate area.



2. Instructor Training Courses

Since 1996, every 2 years, Hills Dog Club has run a training course for would-be instructors. The course takes a year to complete. **Its structure is embedded in a belief that teaching people to train dogs must go hand in hand with a working knowledge of many less apparent areas of canine development and care.** The subjects offered address this requirement, and are covered in depth, with information delivered and examinable by experts in their field. Trainee instructors are supervised and mentored every step of the way, and become valuable members of the dog training community. The Club's course is perhaps the most comprehensive volunteer dog-training course in Australia, **and is offered free.**



3. Conferences & Lectures

In 1996, Hills Dog Club organised the first-ever international conference in Australia to deal with dog training. Since then, we have regularly arranged for international keynote speakers and luminaries from the Australian dog world to address the greater dog community, thereby giving everyone the chance to hone their skills and further develop their techniques. These lectures are so well known and anticipated that trainers come from around the country to attend, and take their new skills, ideas and knowledge back to their own clubs and operations. This determination to stay at the cutting edge of knowledge is, we believe, quite unusual in a volunteer organisation.

To run these successfully, we need a building that not only houses 200+ people, but which also offers parking, catering facilities, disabled access, rest rooms, etc.



4. Training Days

To complement seminars and conferences, regular training days are offered to instructors and other interested members of the public. These provide an ideal forum for handlers to bring their dogs, and to learn from some of the best in their respective fields.



5. K9 Companion Award

In 2016, Hills Dog Club will run its first '**Canine Companion Award**' programme. This course will be offered to pet dog owners who are not necessarily interested in trialling or competing with their dogs, but who want to reach a standard where their dogs will be recognised for their good temperament, basic manners, obedience, and sociability in a variety of situations. The owners will also need to demonstrate an understanding of general dog health care, grooming, diet, control of external parasites, worming, vaccination, and **relevant NSW legislation relating to responsible pet ownership**.

CONCLUSION

Australian dog ownership stands at approximately 3.7 million, equating to **40% of Australian households**. Clearly, only a small percentage of these dogs (probably between one and two hundred) attend Hills Dog Club every week. Nonetheless, it is not hard to see how many thousands of dogs the Club has helped both directly and indirectly. **The bottom line is that in educating and helping dogs and handlers, countless families have been spared the heartache of their dogs becoming part of the 59% that are surrendered due to 'behavioural problems'**.

As well as having helped many thousands of dogs during our years of existence, our influence will without doubt extend to countless dogs and their families in the future.

But... to do this we need appropriate facilities: rings for trialling and to hold shows, grounds large enough to accommodate the many classes held each week, a large undercover area where puppies can be enclosed and safe, big open areas where stressed and often frightened dogs can be helped to adjust to their environment, buildings with facilities for club members, and places to conduct seminars, workshops and training days.

**Our task is not easy.
However, we are committed and resolute.
Will you help us?**





Winter Weather Tips

for your four-legged friends!

It's a common belief that dogs and cats are resistant than people to cold weather because of their fur, but it's untrue. Like people, cats and dogs are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia.

1. Keep Pets Inside

Longer-haired and thick-coated dog breeds, such as huskies and other dogs bred for colder climates, are more tolerant of cold weather; but no pet should be left outside for long periods of time in below-freezing weather.

2. Provide Choices

Just like you, pets prefer comfortable sleeping places and may change their location based on their need for more or less warmth. Give them some safe options to allow them to vary their sleeping place to adjust to their needs.

3. Make Some NOISE!

A warm vehicle engine can be an appealing heat source for outdoor and feral cats, but it's deadly. Check underneath your car, bang on the hood, and honk the horn before starting the engine to encourage feline hitchhikers to abandon their roost under the hood.

4. Play Dress Up!

If your dog has a short coat or seems bothered by the cold weather, consider a sweater or dog coat. Have several on hand, so you can use a dry sweater or coat each time your dog goes outside. Wet sweaters or coats can actually make your dog colder. Some pet owners also use booties to protect their dog's feet; if you choose to use them, make sure they fit properly.

5. Provide Shelter

We don't recommend keeping any pet outside for long periods of time, but if you are unable to keep your dog inside during cold weather, provide them with a warm, dry, solid shelter against wind. If you're able to, consider providing shelters for stray cats in the neighborhood.

6. Be Prepared

Cold weather also brings the risks of severe winter weather, blizzards and power outages. Prepare a disaster/emergency kit, and include your pet in your plans. Have enough food, water and medicine (including any prescription medications as well as heartworm and flea/tick preventives) on hand to get through at least 5 days.



thatpetplace.com

Information provided by the AVMA at <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Cold-weather-pet-safety.aspx>



Protecting Your Pet from Frostbite

Extremely cold temperatures can cause serious problems for animals who are outside for even short periods of time. Most pets are not bred to withstand temperatures below freezing. If it is too cold for you to be outside without a coat, it is too cold for your pet.

Dangers to outdoor dogs and cats include:

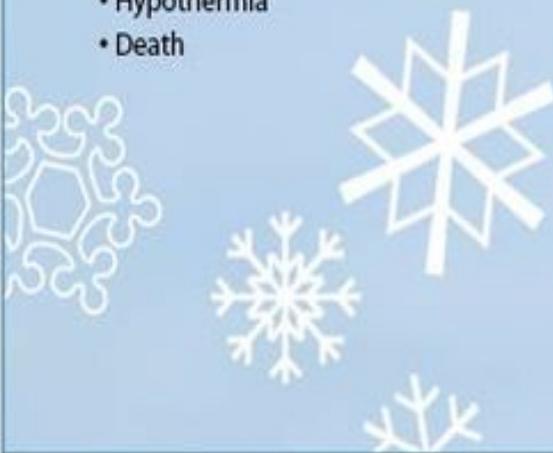
- Frostbite of ear tips and footpads
- Hypothermia
- Death

Symptoms of hypothermia:

- Severe lethargy
- Decreased appetite
- Decreased responsiveness
- Low body temperature
- Discoloration of skin – especially red or blackened extremities

If it is absolutely necessary for your pet to be outdoors for an extended period of time in cold weather, please take these precautions and make sure your pet has access to the following at all times:

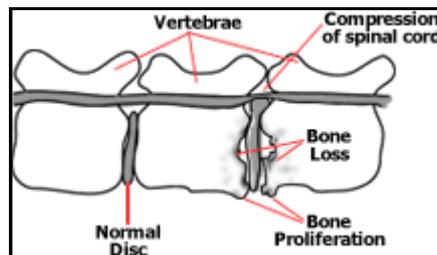
- Shelter with draft-proof walls and good bedding such as straw or cedar
- Water that has not frozen
- Fresh food (exposure to the cold increases the body's need for fuel and calories)
- Blankets and coats



Working Injuries Within

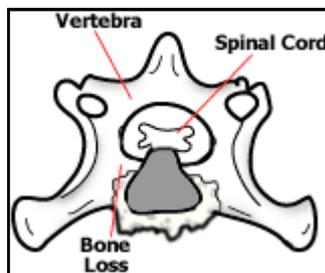
Diskospondylitis (Spondylitis) in Dogs

A dog's spine is made up of numerous small bones called vertebrae. These extend from the base of the skull all the way to the end of the tail. The vertebrae are interconnected by flexible discs of cartilage - the intervertebral discs. These discs provide cushioning between each bone and permit the neck, spine, and tail to bend, allowing changes in position and posture. Above the discs and running through the bony vertebrae is the spinal cord, which is made up of a mass of nerve fibres that run back and forth between the brain and the rest of the body.



What is Diskospondylitis?

Diskospondylitis (also spelled 'discospondylitis', and termed vertebral osteomyelitis') is a bacterial or fungal infection of the vertebrae and the intervertebral discs in dogs. The resulting swelling, [inflammation](#) and bone deformities seen in diskospondylitis put pressure or compression on the spinal cord which runs through the vertebrae. The disease is termed "spondylitis" when only the vertebrae are involved. The disease should not be confused with 'spondylosis,' which is a non-infectious fusion or degeneration of the vertebrae.



What causes Diskospondylitis?

Diskospondylitis seems to occur most commonly in areas of the country that have a problem with plant awns (e.g., grass seeds, fox tails). It is thought that bacteria or fungi on the awns enter the blood system when the awns pierce the skin. Bacterial endocarditis, urinary tract infections, or dental disease/extractions may be another means by which bacteria enter the bloodstream and infect the vertebrae. [Brucella canis](#) has also been found to cause the disease in dogs.



FIG. 61-1 Spondylosis deformans is present in a dog having no clinical signs. Note the variable pattern of osteophytes ranging from small and interlocking fingerlike projections to massive ankylosing bridges.

What are the symptoms of Diskospondylitis?

Common symptoms of this disease include weight loss, lack of appetite, depression, fever, and back pain. Dogs with this disease are generally reluctant to run or jump.



How is Diskospondylitis diagnosed?

Diagnosis of diskospondylitis can be difficult. Blood tests, [urinalysis](#), radiographs (x-rays), and spinal taps may be necessary to diagnose the disease. [Cultures](#) of blood and urine are often performed to help isolate the cause and choose the appropriate treatment. [Myelography](#) may be indicated to determine the exact location of spinal compression. Surgery may be needed to reduce the compression on the spinal cord.

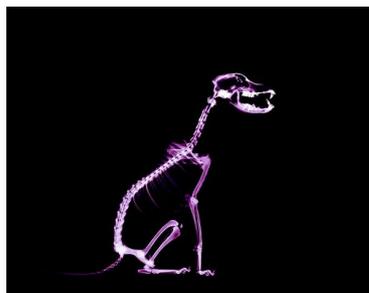


How is Diskospondylitis treated?

Treatment is based on finding the causative agent - fungal or bacterial. Because bone infections are difficult to treat, therapy lasts at least six weeks and may continue for six months or more. Taking radiographs at regular intervals during treatment helps monitor the progress. The lesions seen early in the disease should resolve with treatment.

Clinical improvement (lessening of symptoms) usually occurs within two weeks of starting treatment. Pain medication may be needed early in treatment. Exercise restriction may help decrease the pain also.

The prognosis depends on the ability to eliminate the infection and on how much nerve damage resulted from the spinal compression.



*Thanks to Dr. Karen Hedberg
Dog Lovers Cruise 2015*

Best In Show

Hills Dog Club Inc May 2016 Show



Poodle (Miniature)

T G Tanner & L M Henery

Troymere Person Of Interest

General Specials Judge: Mrs S Gartner

Runner-up to Best in Show

Hills Dog Club Inc May 2016 Show



Old English Sheepdog

F Fearon-Zammit & R Zammit & B Vesel-Dodds & K Krump & F Methelis

AM CH TANAS CHUNKY MONKEY AT DEZIGNERZ (IMP USA)

General Specials Judge: Mrs S Gartner

Safety Tips for Pets Who Love Heaters and Fireplaces



Fire and Fur Don't Mix

For obvious reasons, we need to take precautions to make sure our cats and dogs don't get singed by errant embers. Fireplaces will need a fireguard screen to make sure any popping flames don't shoot out too far. This will also prevent wagging tails from entering flame territory.

Dampers and Detectors

Carbon monoxide poisoning can be deadly to pets and humans, not to mention it can cause health issues from exposure. This is especially a concern if you have a gas fireplace. If your damper is closed, then all of the carbon monoxide comes back into the room and your pet, being the closest, will be the first one affected.

In addition to making sure your fireplace damper is properly adjusted, you should also place carbon monoxide detectors near the fireplace and throughout your home. This is so important to check every time you turn on your gas fireplace. Especially given that a gas fireplace burns so cleanly that you likely won't even notice if the damper is open or not.

Regular fireplaces should also be adequately vented, so smoke and carcinogens don't get in your cat or dog's lungs. It's a good idea to keep any heat vents near your fireplace closed when it is lit, so nothing is spread through the home heating system. Also be sure to check the batteries on smoke alarms, to make sure they are in working order.

Gate It Off

Investigative noses and indiscriminate palettes have gotten many cats and dogs into some not-so-safe predicaments. You don't even need to have your fireplace lit for a pet to get into a potentially dangerous situation. Ashes, pebbles and other fireplace elements all arouse their curiosity. The next thing you know, you'll have an ashy mess to clean up or a trip to the vet if they ingest something.

If you have a dog that's a licker, he could even get burned on a space heater. It's best to make sure your fireplaces and heaters are completely gated off from pets that have just a wee bit too much curiosity.

However, that's easier said than done, if you have a cat determined to get near the fireplace. Your best bet in this situation is to just make sure there isn't anything harmful they can get into.



No Play Near Heat

Accidents happen during boisterous playtime, and our aim isn't always true. Playing near a fireplace or heater can result in your pet sliding into it and getting burned or diving in after a toy. It's best to avoid playtime in a room where a fireplace is lit or a heater is on.

This includes tossing treats to your pets.



HILLS DOG CLUB Inc.

Introducing

The

K9 Companion Award

An Assessment for Club Members only

Hills has introduced a K9 Companion Award for Club members with dogs in Class 8 or above and will hold Assessments as follows.

Monday Night 4th July 7.00pm

Tuesday Morning 26th July 10.00 am

The following elements are essential to undertake the test:

- Dogs must be at least 12 months of age. They must have completed our Beginner Course or be in Class 8 (or higher) of the Club's Course.
- Proof of Council registration/microchipping and a current vaccination or equivalent certificate.
- The dog should be presented in a clean and tidy manner.
- The dog should be fitted with an appropriate collar or restraint for that dog (i.e. collar, gentle collar, head collar and harness), and be on a leash. **Note – No check chains are to be used.**
- The Handler must carry a plastic bag at all times to clean up after his/her dog.
- Training treats are not to be given during exercises. Verbal praise is, however, permitted.
- The Handler may offer food rewards at the finish of each individual exercise.
- A number of both verbal and hand cues are permitted during exercises.
- The Handler must have an 80% pass rate on the theory assessment and 100% on the practical assessment.
- If you do not achieve 100% in your practical assessment, you will be able to re-sit the practical test without charge when the next K9 Assessments are held.
- The cost of the assessment is \$20.00

For full details of the Award and information on exercises talk with your Class Instructor

Please Hand this form into the office at least 3 weeks before the test date with your \$20.00 fee

Name of Handler: _____

Dogs Name: _____

Phone number & email address: _____