

The Howler March 2024

Issue # 2

Contact Details Email Hills Dog Club: infohillsdogclub@gmail.com Post: The Secretary Hills Dog Club P O Box 392, Round Corner 2158 Editorial for the Howler: hillshowler@gmail.com

Website Information

Hills Dog Club: https://www.hillsdogclub.com/

Committee Members: https://www.hillsdogclub.com/committee/

General Meeting Info:

https://www.hillsdogclub.com/general-meetings/ - see dates on website.

Members FB: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1623088771294

Hills Dog Club wishes you a Happy Easter!

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

Editorial

This month I hope you enjoy hearing from two of our instructors on their diverse and busy lives and their thoughts on training dogs.

The membership renewal form is attached for your completion as renewals are due 19th of this month. Also attached is a nomination form for the Hills Dog Club Committee, you may wish to consider nominating someone for the club's committee or consider taking on a role yourself.

There is lots to read this month - including the Breed Review on the beautiful Rhodesian Ridgeback, a reminder about safety with food especially at Easter time when there are so many toxic goodies available.

A special thanks to all of our contributors.

Narelle Brown, Editor Kathy Zaia, Graphic Designer

Don't miss The Howler - have it delivered to your email address.

Would you like to receive the Howler by email?

If you would like the Howler by email, please let us know hillshowler@gmail.com

For Instructors and Members

Email photos or articles to hillshowler@gmail.com

With the following details:

- Name of Owner
- Name of Activity
- Name of Dog
- Date of Activity

Reports

Chief Instructors Report

Lea-Ann Laughton

Can't believe it's March already.

I hope everyone is back loving training their dog and making progress.

I have started to move around the classes to see what you are all up to. Please don't hesitate to say "Hi" and feel free to ask me anything you are not sure about. I am loving what I am seeing at the moment - all our instructors are running really good classes - I am very proud of them.

We have a real variety of dogs ranging from tiny Poodles to a Saint Bernard.

Please enjoy your dogs and remember practice makes perfect.

Meet Your Instructors

Roger Allan

Instructor B1-B8

Your Dog

• Pippa – five-year-old Black & Tan Australian Kelpie.

What makes Pippa special?

• Her ability to make a positive difference to people.

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

- Joined HDC 2018; 5 years.
- Don't be afraid of failures—they often lead to the greatest lessons.

Activities You Do with Your Dog

- Pippa is a Psychiatric Assistance Dog. Pippa and I work with people with poor mental health.
- Twice a day we work off-lead to maximise Pippa's physical activity. Kelpies need to work physically and mentally. Her physical and mental health is as important as the people we work with.

Share a little bit of what keeps you busy!

- Each week we work with people who experience anxiety, depression and social isolation and other mental health concerns. Specifically, people with autism who have difficulty processing everyday sensory information, e.g., either hypersensitive (over-reactive) or hypo- sensitive (under-reactive) to sensory input.
- In addition, Pippa and I visit the Anglican Village in Castle Hill (a campus with 1,000 people living without pets).
- Twice a week I play golf.

What is your favourite quote?

• Believe you can, and you are halfway there.



What's your best advice for dog handlers?

• Handling dogs requires a mix of skill, patience, and understanding. Each breed of dog is unique, so be flexible and adapt your handling style to suit their breed characteristics, personality and needs.

Folous Kryakous (Paul)

Instructor B1-B8

Your Dog

• Jasmine - 13-year-old Labrador.

What makes Jasmine special?

• She is my first dog, and she was the reason I joined HDC. She is very gentle with kids and very lovable!

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

• I think I joined HDC early 2013 and graduated as an instructor in 2014. The best advice is practice makes perfect and if you don't know something ask, don't hesitate.

Activities You Do with Your Dog

• Jasmine is an old Labrador; she is 13 years old with health problems, so activities are limited to taking her for walks.

Share a little bit of what keeps you busy!

• Working part time, plus ministering in a church and lots of reading!

What is your favourite quote?

• For God so loved the world that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

What's your best advice for dog handlers?

• Love your Dog as a family member and enjoy them. Take your training seriously.

Promotions February 2024

Graduate to Intermediate

Owners Name	Dog Name
Rosslyn	Sophie (Samoyed)
Gemma	Thor (Havanese)
Andrew	Kimmie (Kelpie)

Congratulations - great work!!



Rosslyn with Sophie



Avoid Easter Dangers for your Dog

Contributor: Narelle Brown

While we may enjoy Easter eggs and Hot Cross buns - they are deadly for our dogs.

The most important items to keep your dog away from are:

Chocolate as it contains theobromine, which is toxic to dogs **and** anything with raisins, sultanas, currants and grapes – which can cause fatal kidney failure in dogs.

So it's a big NO to Easter Eggs - even small amounts can cause the following symptoms:

- 1. Vomiting
- 2. Diarrhoea
- 3. Hyperactivity
- 4. Tremors
- 5. Seizures (or fits)
- 6. Heart problems
- 7. Death, in severe cases

The darker the chocolate, the more potent the level of theobromine, and the more poisonous it is – but giving any type of chocolate to dogs must be avoided. Even white chocolate, although it doesn't contain enough theobromine, is fatty and can pose a potential risk of upset tummies and even pancreatitis.

Call your vet if you suspect or know that your dog has eaten chocolate.

Hot cross buns - these contain dried fruit, such as currants, sultanas and raisins, are all toxic to dogs. Even if your dog eats a small quantity of these dried fruits (and grapes), they can suffer severe kidney failure which may be fatal. These buns can also contain chocolate.

Scientists do not fully understand what it is in raisins, grapes and sultanas that makes them toxic to dogs. Some pets have ingested large quantities and felt no effects, but others – including large breeds – have died after eating just a few raisins.

Sharing just a little bit with your dog is not worth the risk of losing your animal companion. Keep hot cross buns out of reach altogether.

Let all your visitors know!

Growing Pains in Dogs - Is there such a thing?

Contributor: Julie Quinn

The answer is YES.

Large breed dogs can be predisposed to growing pains. Usually occurs between 3 to 12 months. Most dogs grow out of it as they mature until then you need to manage the symptoms.

There are three common growth disorders that cause growing pain in puppies.

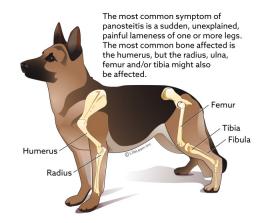
- 1. Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy
- 2. Osteochondritis Dissecans
- 3. Panosteitis

Big words for what we call growing pains. The main difference between these disorders is the location in the bone where the pain, swelling and stiffness occurs. These areas include the growth plate, joints & along the bones, (such as humerus, radius, femur tibia, and fibula)

Common symptoms

- Lameness, limping
- Pain
- Reluctance to walk
- Unexplained whimpering
- Weakness
- Pain to touch
- Loss of appetite

Diagnosis: If your young dog has symptoms, he/she needs to be examined by a Veterinarian who will rule out other causes first through a physical examination and tests. An Xray will determine the cause and type of disorder. Different characteristics can be seen on Xrays, depending on which disorder is the root cause.



Treatment: Treatment depends on the specific disorder and degree of symptoms and usually includes medication, rest, and surgery if lesion is present.

Important information to be aware of if you have a puppy 3 – 18mths.

You can help avoid the development of growth pains:

- Maintain a nutritious diet.
- Ensure the diet is appropriate for their age and especially their breed. For example, adequate but not excess protein. Excess protein will increase the speed of growth, which is not good for growing bones in large or heavy breeds.
- Limit exercise (5 minutes for every month of their life) so you are not overburdening the bones.
- No jumping, twisting, running, jogging.
- Avoid stairs and jumping in and out of cars.
- Encourage low impact exercise.
- Maintain appropriate weight for age.
- Massage and feel your puppy all over his/her body to detect any sensitive parts. You may detect issues prior to it becoming a problem.

Bibliography: VCA Animal Hospital

Calling for Articles

Has a dog changed your life?

Have you overcome challenges with training?

Do you have something special to share? We would love to publish your story!

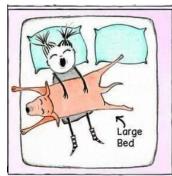
Write to The Howler at hillshowler@gmail.com

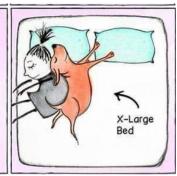


It is the friends we meet along the way that helps us appreciate the journey.

Photo shared by Isabella Drawss







For Notice of Class Cancellations

In the event of extreme weather conditions (heat or rain) HDC Website and Facebook pages will be updated if classes are closed. Go to: www.hillsdogclub.com

OR Facebook www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub

Monday class closure will be posted at 4pm Monday.

<u>Tuesday class</u> closure will be posted at 5.00pm Monday.

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, lamb treats and more are available for sale at the clubhouse.

Time on your hands - consider contributing to your 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 the club.

Photography, Computer input, Website design, office assistance, Equipment set up / repair, etc

Just for Laughs

What do you call a dog magician?

A Labracadabrador.



Dog Breed - The Rhodesian Ridgeback

Contributor: Rika Schwenkenbecher



You may have fallen in love with the stunning looks of the Rhodesian Ridgebacks. These "Gentle Giants" impress with their regal appearance, sleek and muscular build, short coat, and that distinctive ridge of hair along their backs.

Their coat colour can range from light wheaten to red wheaten. The ridge is formed by hair that grows in the opposite direction to the rest of the coat and sets them apart from other breeds. Their expressive eyes and ears add to their charm.

The breed is often referred to as the "African Lion Hound" due to its historical use in hunting lions in South Africa, specifically in Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia. The breed was developed in the late 1800's by crossing European breeds brought by Dutch,

Portuguese, and Spanish colonists with the native Khoikhoi dog.

Attractiveness is just one aspect when choosing a dog as a pet. Potential owners should also consider the breed's temperament, exercise needs, and compatibility with their lifestyle.

Temperament: Rhodesian Ridgebacks are known for their gentle nature and loyalty. They make excellent family dogs when properly trained and socialised.

Their even temper, gentle disposition and patience with children have made them popular family pets despite their size and strength. They may also display stubbornness in training and aloofness with strangers be it people or dogs.

The puppies grow strong very quickly and this is why consistent training with positive reinforcement is crucial. The young adolescents similar across many breeds and species can become a handful to deal with and are jokingly compared to a Tyrannosaurus Rex. Crate Training and high value chew toys are highly recommended for teaching the young Ridgeback to chill out.

Exercise and Training: Rhodesian Ridgebacks, like all active breeds, require regular exercise to maintain their physical and mental well-being. Daily walks, playtime, and training activities are important to keep them happy.

Adult Ridgebacks can easily turn into "couch potatoes". They hate the rain and prefer to be left indoors and will hold their bladder for ages.

Rhodesian Ridgebacks are very strong. They need training to walk properly on leash and they need to be trained for a reliable recall. They are hunting dogs with a high prey drive and may just run off when sighting wildlife or what they perceive to be something worth hunting. They are intelligent dogs and can be independent and strong-willed. Early socialisation, consistent training, along with positive reinforcement, is vital for a well-behaved Rhodesian Ridgeback. Loose leash walking and recall need to be reliable before letting the dog off leash in public spaces.

Socialising from an early age is essential and helps build confidence and trust in their surroundings so that one can safely walk in public without getting pulled either towards or away when sighting other dogs or faced with other challenges while walking on leash.

Health: Rhodesian Ridgebacks are generally a healthy breed, but they can be prone to certain conditions like hip dysplasia, dermoid sinus (a skin condition) as well as cancer and hypothyroidism. Regular exercise, a balanced diet and regular veterinary check-ups are essential.

Protection Instinct: Due to their history as hunting and guard dogs, Rhodesian Ridgebacks can be protective of their families. They are naturally aloof with strangers, making them good watchdogs. They tend to only bark for a reason.

Lifespan: On average, Rhodesian Ridgebacks have a lifespan of 10-12 years.

Personal experience:

My 4-year-old Rhodesian Ridgeback Rudi gets a lot of compliments for his looks. He is quite aloof with strangers and dogs at first sight. He will only bond with people and dogs that he meets frequently and that he can trust. This is despite lots of socialisation from a very young age.

He could sleep 23 hours a day with ease, and he feels the cold easily. Consistent training is required to get him to walk well on leash as he will pull intensely to recapture that smell we just walked past. He does not shed much and doesn't smell and he only barks for a reason. He is a wonderful companion.

Secret lives of our Members!



Did someone say KFC?

Lea-Ann's Archie licking his lips in the KFC TV ad!

Lea-Ann said the KFC commercial was a day of filming Archie's part, at Moore Park Sydney. The Actor that worked with Archie was Nicole Yardley, she is in lots of commercials and TV shows.

He was the only dog on location, so he got heaps of attention in between filming. For the close-up shots she put scent on the camera. For the licking scene he had honey smeared on his face.

Mark your Diaries for 2024

Month/Date and Time	Event	Location
March 2024 • 13th March • 19th March	General MeetingMembership due	• Clubhouse
April 2024	 Public Holiday Easter Monday Annual General Meeting General Meeting Scentwork Trial Novice and Advanced 	No trainingClubhouseClubhouseDog Grounds
May 2024 • 8th May 2024 • 11th May 2024 (Sat)	General MeetingObedience and Rally Trial	ClubhouseDog Grounds
June 2024	 Scent Work Trial Excellent and Masters only No Training General Meeting 	Dog GroundsClubhouse
July 2024 • 10th July 2024	General Meeting	• Clubhouse
August 2024 • 14th August 2024	General Meeting	• Clubhouse
 September 2024 15th September 2024 11th September 2024 28 September 2024 29th September 2024 	 Scent Work Trial General Meeting 2 All Breeds Championship shows All Breeds Championship Show 	 Dog Grounds Clubhouse Dog Grounds (AM & PM) Dog Grounds (AM)
October 2024 • 7th October • 9 October	Public HolidayGeneral Meeting	No TrainingClubhouse
November 2024 • 13 November 2024	General Meeting	• Clubhouse
December 2024 • 11th December 2024	General Meeting	• Clubhouse
Notes: Link to 2024 Show and Trials https://www.dogsnsw.org.au/n Sometimes dates change so also	nedia/5795/2024-show-trial-calendar-wel	bsite.pdf

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.
 - Child members (aged 7 tol1 are to be accompanied by an adult/ parent/guardian in classes)
 - 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.

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HDC Membership

2024 Memberships are due on 19th March 2024

The form is attached and available on the website.

Agenda Hills Dog Club Inc General Meeting

Hills Dog Club Committee 2023		General Meeting
President Vice President Vice President Vice President Secretary Assistant Secretary Treasurer Assistant Treasurer Chief Instructor Trial Secretary Show Secretary Public Officer Publicity Officer Education Officer Equipment Officer	Name Carole Hately Bob Watters Anne Small Jane Lamont Belvane Parsons Lynne Sheather Janet Power Lea-Ann Laughton Judy McCartney Janet Power Lynne Sheather Natalie Conway Genevieve Young Bob Watters	Notice is given of Hills Dog Club Inc General Meeting Wednesday 13th March 2024 Where: Large Meeting Room, Clubhouse, 7:30pm All Club members are welcome to attend. 1. Open Meeting 2. Attendance and Apologies 3. Confirmation of General Meeting Minutes 4. Confirmation of Committee Meeting Minutes 5. Business arising from Minutes
Registrar Committee Members	Jane Lamont Karen Richardson Carolyn Jensen Michelle Raymond Kathy Zaia Kathy Cocks Peter Guenther	 6. Correspondence 7. Treasurer Report 8. New Members 9. Chief Instructors Report 10. Education Officer Report 11. Show Secretary Report 12. Trial Secretary Report 13. Publicity Officer report 14. Club Trophy Secretary Report
Trophy Stewards Trial: Show: Club: Patrons:	Jessica Leckie Janice Lyons Carole Hately Mayor, Dr Peter Gangemi Mrs Luci Ellem Ms Peta Clarke	General Business Overseas charities donations
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	

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 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]]



MEMBERSHIP

Application

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

Hills Dog Club Inc. PO Box 392 ROUND CORNER 2158

PERSONAL DETAILS NEW MEMBER	RENEWAL	
I/We/Surname/s		
First Name/s		
Address		
Suburb	Postcode	
Phone Email (optional)		
Emergency Contact Name	Phone No	
Optional for Dogs NSW Members – Membership Number		
DOG/S DETAILS (Please bring current Vaccination Cert.)		
Name Age Age		
NameBreed	Age	
PLEASE NOTE: Renewals paid after the 3 rd Tuesday in March WILL require a new Joining Fee		
ASSOCIATE MEMBER FULL MEMBER (No voting rights) (Full voting rights) Joining Fee \$35 PLUS Annual Subscription	JUNIOR MEMBER 12yrs and under 16 Joining Fee \$25 PLUS Annual Subscription	
Adult New Member / Renewal \$15	New Member / Renewal	

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