

Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club



FEBRUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER

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Committee Stuff

Ways of increasing instructors and membership

If any members have any ideas on how we can do this please approach one of the committee members listed above.

Life Members Board

Progress is being made on this.

Canine Good Citizen Award

It has been decided that Titahi Bay will run with the NZKC canine Good Citizen Award. Once a coordinator has been organised this should get going.

Club maintenance

Another working bee is planned for 29 February 2004 to commence at 11 am. If there is anything you would like the committee to consider fixing at the working bee please bring it to their attention ASAP.

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Critical Periods in Your Puppy's Life

“What the puppy learns now will shape it into the kind of dog it will be for evermore”

Acquiring a puppy at the right age and providing it with the proper atmosphere during the critical periods of its life (when character and personality are being formed) is the only absolute way that the man/dog relationship, character traits, and trainability can be pre-determined and pre-ordained.

Many people who acquire dogs at the age of six months, eight months, a year or even two years, are perplexed to find that their dogs just can't seem to demonstrate much of an emotional bond with their owner. Sometimes they are shy, which usually results in a characteristic known as fear biting, or perhaps the reverse is true - over-aggressiveness and bullyish tendencies.

Scientific studies have shown that there are FIVE critical periods in a puppy's life. That is five phases of mental development during which adverse conditions could cripple a dog emotionally for life. Conversely, positive conditions during these five phases will produce dogs of the highest calibre mentally and socially. So important were these scientific findings that the Guide Dog Foundation instituted these “positive conditions” for puppies being raised to become Guide Dogs for the blind. These dogs received the most rigorous and exacting training of any dogs and therefore must be perfectly adjusted.

Dr J Paul Scott, Director of The Animal Behaviour Laboratory, directed a project to determine just when these critical periods are shown in one particular test – extreme though it may have been.

A puppy, twenty-one days old was removed from the litter and completely isolated. Although it was carefully fed and watered, its caretaker was careful not to play with or even speak to it. The only toys the experimental puppy had were a water bucket and food dish. By sixteen weeks of age the puppy had not had any contact with other dogs (except for the first 21 days of his life) and no human contact except for being fed and watered by a caretaker who barely acknowledged the pup's existence.

At four months of age, the experimental puppy was once again placed with its litter mates. It did not recognise them either as litter mates or dogs. The puppy's isolation during the critical periods of its life, its complete removal from the companionship of other dogs and humans had developed as character to such an extent that it would never adjust to the society of either. The puppy had passed the age of being capable of adjusting socially.

Zero to 21 days: As a result of many years of scientific research it has been determined that the first critical period covers the entire first two weeks of the puppy's life. During this period the puppy's mental capacity is nearly zero, and the puppy reacts only to its needs of warmth, food, sleep and its mother.

Tests were conducted to determine whether a puppy was capable of learning anything at all during the first critical period, and it was determined that it was not. It was, however, determined that something nearly miraculous occurs on the 21st day, and that it occurs in all dogs, regardless of breed.

21st Day: On the 21st day. ALL of the puppy's senses begin to function. The senses were present in the puppy during the first critical period, but were dormant. The 21st day of the puppy's life is like an automatic switch that turns on. It also turns on the second and possibly the most important critical period in the puppy's life.

21st to 28th Day: During this period the puppy need its mother more than any other time. The brain and nervous system begin to develop. Awareness begins to take place, and, in this mental stage, a new puppy finds the world that surrounds it rather frightening. Things that happen can be frightening experiences. A puppy removed from its mother during this second critical period will never attain the mental and emotional growth that it COULD and WOULD have, if it had been left alone. The social stress of being alive – and the awareness of it – has its greatest impact during this second critical period in the new puppy's life; that is, between the 3rd and 4th weeks.

It may seem peculiar to some that no other times in a dog's life presents the same proneness to such emotional upsets and that such upsets could have such a traumatic and permanent effect on the puppy's social attitudes. It is during this second critical period in the new puppy's life that the characteristic of nervousness can generate shyness and other negative qualities in a puppy. Once adverse conditions have developed negative qualities in this second critical period, no amount of re-conditioning or training, later in life will alter or significantly modify the resultant negative characteristics.

5th to 7th Weeks: This must be considered as the third period in the puppy's life. The puppy will venture away from home, not very far, and do a little exploring. At the beginning of the 6th week, awareness of society will dawn. That is, the society of man and the society of the dog. The puppy's nervous system and trainability are developing and by the end of this critical period, will have developed to capacity.

To be continued in the next newsletter.....

The Best Breed of Dog For Obedience – by Marian Ring

In one obedience club, which shall remain nameless, there was a lot of rivalry between various groups of owners as to which was the best breed of obedience dog. Border Collies, German Shepherds, or Golden Retrievers, the discussion waged hot and hard, until finally it was agreed to hold a fun day of competition to settle the argument.

Teams were to be formed to compete in obedience, a team display and agility. On the day there were four teams – one from each of the above-mentioned breeds and the last from an assorted group of handlers whose dogs were of various breeds. They called themselves simply “The Rest”.

It was a great day, a lot of hilarity and entertainment. When points were added up “The Rest” came out clear winners. Their team captain promptly drew up the following Standard of the “Obedience Dog” as proven by the day's tests.

Height: Between 10 inches and over 22 inches.

Colour: Red and white, through various gold shades to black.

Coat: Smooth or hairy, or rough, or long and silky.

Breed: Purebred, crossbred or no breed.

Feet: Four

Tail: Docked or long, set high or low.

Ears: Erect, semi-erect or long and floppy.

Eyes: Bright

Muzzle: One with wet nose attached.

Outstanding Characteristics: Great mates with big hearts.

Handlers: Male or female aged between 16 and 65.

Final Conclusion It's not the wrapper that matters... it's the dog inside.

Member Profile – Jenny Rutherford

1. How did you first get started in dog obedience? (What was the dog's name and which club did you start with).

I first started obedience in 1991 with a very young Billy (heading dog). He was a very mischievous puppy who was thought by many of my family members to be untrainable. The first club I belonged to was Central Allbreed Dog Training School. In about 1998 I joined Titahi Bay. At that stage Billy was competing in Test C and I was just about to sit my judges examination.

2. Do you remember your first competitions? How did they go?

I very much remember my first competition. It was a ribbon trial at Central Allbreeds. Billy & I had only done the first couple of grades but we had been convinced by our instructor to give it a go. We trained hard all week. The day before the show Billy was hit by a car resulting in a fractured leg, stitches in his head and having to be crated for six weeks. I was so disappointed that I went to the show anyway and ended up being a hot scent. Which I thought was great. I never dreamed my dog would ever be able to do that. When Billy had recovered we went to a couple of other shows but he never managed to stay in the ring. Finally at Titahi Bay Twilight Ribbon Trial they had the recall on the lead (in those days there was only one Elementary and it was always done as Elementary II) and he did everything. After everyone had done their rounds and stays the numbers were called and run offs done. They asked me to get my dog. I thought I was in another run off. Billy won on 60 out of 60. I was hooked.

3. Do you still get nervous before you compete?

Absolutely, not so much with Bounce but if I ever had to take Billy back in the ring definitely.

4. How many dogs have you trained? What other pets do you have at home?

Billy (heading dog) and Bounce (whatever) are really the only two dogs that I've trained from puppies. I've competed with other dogs (Kyla – Border Collie) but she was really trained by my daughter Clarissa. Billy and Bounce live alone with me and a human girl child.

5. What is the most memorable event that you have ever been involved with in dog obedience?

Honestly there are so many. Sometimes with obedience it may not be the greatest achievement that you remember the most but something small that to others would mean very little like laughing about someone's socks in the ring or falling flat on my face in the mud while competing in flyable but still winning as my obedience dog didn't actually follow my instructions just got on with the job without me. The other one that always makes me laugh is being asked after the stays at the last nationals Billy ever competed in whether we'd won, as my dog was the best at the stays. I think the person (obviously not an obedience competitor) used the phrase "he was perfect". If only she'd known.

In terms of proudest achievements that would have to be the day Billy got his winning Challenge in Test C at Kapiti and recently when Bounce was placed at the Nationals **with full points on and off the lead.**

6. Besides competing do you see any benefits in taking your dog to obedience school? Can you think of any specific situations that this has helped either you or your dogs in every day life or in a special way?

Regardless of whether you want to compete or your dog is simply a family pet obedience is an important part of dog ownership. I look at it like this, you wouldn't dream of not sending your children to school so why not make sure that the members of your canine family also get the proper education before they are sent off into the cruel world. Whether they stay on for university is entirely up to whether you want them to. At least they can't argue back when it's time to do their homework and you as their owners receive the lifelong benefits for your efforts.

As for helping me. Every day I thank god I took my dogs to obedience. Could you imagine Billy and Bounce without obedience training? The world is now a safer place.

7. What do you dislike to see people doing when they are training their dogs?

My pet hate: People who call their dog names or swear at their dogs. Not in a fun way but in a nasty way. Drives me nuts.

8. Do you or have you ever been involved in any of the other dog world disciplines?

Yes, both Billy and Bounce have done agility. Billy would have been a really good agility dog if we'd put a lot more work into it – Bounce is going very well. I also tried trials with Billy but he was getting older then and there is only so much you can do in a day. I would like to give Bounce a go at trials.

9. What are your future plans? What direction do you hope Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club takes?

In the short term, I hope the clubrooms stay rat free. I would like to see a lot more member input into the running of the club.

Tips

Dead / Dry Coat

When endless grooming doesn't seem to get rid of all that dead hair in your dogs coat when he/she is moulting – here is a solution that may help (it is a very old recipe and the converted measurements are in brackets) – mix together in a spray bottle.....

1 oz of glycerine (= 30ml or 2 tbsp)
8 oz water (= 237ml or nearly 1 cup)
tbsp of vinegar (= 15ml)

Spray and soak the coat down to the skin - leave on for ½ -1 hour – then bath dog in normal way.

Helps to remove all dead coat and counteracts any dryness.

Results and Shows

See below for the latest update on the total scoreboard for the year to date. I am aware that some people have not put all their results in the results book. Please check to make sure that all your results are in. Once the final tally for the year has been done at the end of April no more placings will be able to be added.

So if your points don't look right please check the book now!!!!

Alannah	Rhed	7
Alison	Alfie	16
Amanda	Buzz	4
Angela	Chilli	1
Angelique	Kadin	22
Belinda	Meila	5
Carol	Willow	8
Cheryl	Shadow	42
Geoff	Frenzie	20
Jenny G	Combo	20
Jenny R	Bounce	22
Jo	Neisha	4
Liz	Spice	9
Lynne	Taiza	55
Merrin	Steffi	9
Claudia	Montana	16
Robin	Keri	18
Robin	Drift	8

No More Bones for you Tochka!

I have always fed my dogs bones – right from when they are little pups. Beef bones mostly and occasionally pork bones – but always raw meaty bones as recommended. Until a few weekends back I had never had any problems.

I had headed off to obedience with Taiza leaving Kinda and Tochka happily in their runs gnawing on a bone each. When I returned home at lunchtime it was to a very stressed and in much pain Tochka. She was screaming and walking with a hunched back. My first thought was bloat but her stomach was not that distended so I then thought blockage and looked for the remains of her bone – I found nothing so guessed it was inside her somewhere it should not be.

So it was off to the emergency vet being Sunday. Thank goodness it is just down the road as a screaming dog is certainly distracting and extremely stressful. The vet said no bloat and no blockage – thinking was she had either been poisoned or had a build up of e-coli in her bowel. She was given pain relieve and antibiotics. Her temperature was over 40°C, which was a worry. I had to leave her for observation. That evening I picked her up. Her temperature had come back to normal and she had not developed any of the symptoms for poison or the e-coli. She was however still very NOT right. I stayed up with her that night. She was very restless, thirsty and did not like to lie down and just sit hunched up.

Next morning it was down to my vet clinic where I once again said I thought there was a blockage. No – not possible she is not showing the symptoms. So a full set of blood tests were done thinking one of her organs was packing it in given she is nearly 12 years old. She had stopped the screaming but was still very unhappy and obviously in pain. Other thinking was she had possibly had a bad attack of colic like horses do.

Thinking she might be x-rayed or operated on I had not feed her, only given her water. I was told to start feeding her again with chicken and rice but as soon as she started to eat she was screaming again. So it was straight back down to the vet with: PLEASE x-ray her and open her up if you have to – this dog has a BLOCKAGE!!! The x-ray confirmed that the bone was stuck in her oesophagus.

It was up behind her heart and beyond the capabilities of my vet or the vet hospital – her only chance was Massey.

Massey was just EXCELLENT. Talk about VIP treatment - by this stage she was on the extreme critical list and they certainly pulled out all the stops - including all the senior and specialist vets I think they must have in Palmerston North– there were people running everywhere. We had to say goodbye to her before the operation which was very hard

The operation took several hours – 1st option to pull bone out, 2nd option to push bone into stomach, 3rd to spring her ribs and cut through the oesophagus.

Fortunately they managed to push the bone into her stomach and avoid the open-heart stuff with ALL the major risks. A very subdued Tochka came out to meet us next morning with all her tubes and bandages. We took her home that evening and my vet has monitored her since. The main worry is scarring of her oesophagus, which may cause it to block altogether and require the insertion of little balloons – I kid you not.

Submitted by Lynne Barr



Ch Samivahn Adenoki Tochka

Photography By Iris



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TBCOC Working Bee

When: 29 February 2004

Where: The Club Grounds (Obviously)

Time: 11 am

Please bring: Hedge clippers/ Trimmers etc

This working bee is preceding our March Championship Show which is held at our club grounds. The committee is currently making a list of things that need to be done at the working bee so it would be a good time to bring to their attention anything you have noticed that needs to be done.

The committee already do a lot for the club and it would be great to see some new faces. We are also having a BBQ during the working bee (Fish & Chips if its raining). If you are not able to get there by 11 am anytime during the day would be great. Even if you can only come for an hour.

Come along – these working bees are a great opportunity to get to know some of the other club members better and they can also be a lot of fun.

Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club

Enrolments for next term on 27 January 2004

Where: Club Grounds (Ngatitua Domain—Paramata)

When: 6.30—7.30

Term dates: 3 Feb—29 Nov (8 wk course)

Contact person: Mandy Starling—564-9003/021 403-206