

Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club



APRIL NEWSLETTER

Cover photo; Bounce and Billy (Editors dogs). Billy is 12 yrs old (notice the grey hairs) and Bounce turned 3 on the 1st of April. Billy is a heading dog (the backbone of New Zealand's farming industry). Bounce a southerner of unknown parentage. We think he might have some Bearded Collie in him.

Editor: Jenny Rutherford

Email: jenny.rutherford@ccdhb.org.nz

Phone: 04 918 5051 (w) or 027 276 8232

Fax: 04 385 5360

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Committee Stuff

Ways of increasing instructors and membership

The committee has come up with some really good ideas for increasing membership. Watch this space. But we are in desperate need of instructors. Last term we had to turn some people away and it looks like we might have to do the same thing this coming term. If you are interested in instructing please ring Mandy Starling on 564 9003 or contact one of the current instructors. A lot of our instructors have never competed. If you are interested but are worried because you might not think you are good enough or haven't been doing it long enough. Don't worry we run a period where you watch in on another class. We also hold instructors meetings and have heaps of knowledgeable people around that would be only too happy to answer any questions that you might have. There are also options of helping with the puppy classes or our new Canine Good Citizen Award which we hope to get up and running in the next term.

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. The NZKC has put out a very comprehensive document with easy to follow instructions for the instructor on exactly what criteria the dog and handler must reach. It is designed for the every day dog and is something that everyone can have a go at. But we have so many limited instructors at the moment that we cannot put this into place until we get someone to coordinate it.

Club maintenance

The working bee was held on the 29th of February. We were able to get lots of little jobs including a big clean up in the garage and kitchen. We still need to work on some painting outside the clubrooms and also fixing the small gate half way down the grounds.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting has been pencilled in for the 18th May. (Date to be confirmed) Have you ever said, “Why don't they?” Have you ever thought that you would like to do something useful for the club? THIS COULD BE YOUR CHANCE. Please contact one of the current committee members if you think you might be interested in being part of the running of the club. The committee meetings can be very interesting and you guaranteed to learn something. You can put in as much or as little time as you feel comfortable with. I have attached a membership form to all hard copies of the newsletter. All members need to complete a new membership form annually. I can also email copies of the membership form to you on request –

jenny.rutherford@ccdhb.org.nz

Membership and Fees

With the upcoming AGM I thought I'd put in a list of our current membership and training fees.

Membership

Single membership	\$20 per year
Family Membership	\$30 family per year

Training Fees

Non Member	\$40 per term
Member	\$30 per term

Note: Must be member past grade three

Our March Championship

On 7 March 2004 we had our championship Obedience Show. One of two held by our club every year. Although the entries were down, all in all it was a great day. What I could see of it anyway.

Thanks for all of those who spent all or a good part of the day helping out. I would like to specially mention a big thanks to Elaine Varcoe, Lianne Hodges and Geoff Collins who were there all day helping and Elaine and Lianne being the last to leave allowing me to visit the after hours medical centre.

A Dogs Guide to Obedience

Exercise 1: Heel on lead.

This one is a bit of a grind. Hang your head and walk as slowly as you can, without warning, spring forward with all your might, if your handler falls flat on his face, you score 25 points.

Exercise 2: Heel free.

Anything goes and so you go. Usually at least one other dog will run with you especially if you bark enough. As you can run faster than your handler you won't be caught. If you are outdoors break off and attend to the call of nature. This gives you an unbeatable alibi, and makes your handler look like a fool for not toileting you before starting. In your own time return to your handler, sit at his side perfectly and smile at him. You score 5 points for each minute of freedom.

Exercise 3: Recall.

Handlers walk off, let him go, BUT when he turns and calls you assume total deafness, or show him how well you can stay. Look anywhere you like BUT not at him. After three calls, or in your own good time, go slowly to you handler preferably cringing with you ears flat back. This will convince the other handlers that yours is a secret dog beater. On no account sit in front of your handler. Assume the "heel" position immediately and look with indifference.

Exercise 4: Retrieve the dumbbell.

Watch your handler throw a dumbbell with respectful interest. Do not fetch it back as he'll only throw it away again. If he want his piece of wood let him fetch it.

By way of variation you may run out with enthusiasm to the dumbbell sniff it, smile at the handler and return to base... without the dumbbell. He can't hit you. Repeat as handler wishes. You score 5 points every time handler retrieves dumbbell.

Exercise 5: Sit and stay.

Don't really sit there. They always train you on cold wet ground. Sit with one inch off the ground at the back end. From this position you can spring away at your fastest speed without hesitation. For each successful squat you score 6 points.

Exercise 6: Down stay.

Here you have to be down – there is no way to avoid it. But with practice you can travel for yards on your stomach to reach the other competitors (or the edge of the ring). If they can crawl too – have a race. If any other dog moves pretend that you thought the exercise was over and get up and leave too. (See hints on heel free). If you remain out of the handlers sight for 5 minutes you score 30 points.

Conclusion:

Without warning, do any exercise that you choose PERFECTLY, this will leave the handler thinking that the earlier mistakes were his fault and admit defeat. Have FUN....

History – Looking Back

This article was found in a Nelson Canine Obedience Club newsletter - June 1998 edition;

“Looking Back:

Have the Tests changed much during the last 25+ years? In the heelwork; yes. The dogs had to heel without any contact against the handler; the slightest brush or bump cost at least ½ a point. Test B was done both on and off lead; there were no left about turns, circles etc in B or C. And in Distant Control the dog was allow a body length of movement.

In scent and send-away, after the dog was given the scent (or direction) the handler had to stand up and wait for the steward’s command to send the dog. Only one handler’s cloth was used in B. There were no markers in the ring for the send-away. Sometimes the judge would tie a tiny piece of cloth on the fence; more often it was ‘directly toward the centre stake of the fence or to the corner and drop one metre in front’. But somehow we trained our dogs to it.

These are the main differences I remember. Perhaps some of the other ‘old timers’ may recall others. If you do, please let me know.

ed.”

Anyway not sure who this person is or whether in fact it could even be the editor of the Nelson Canine Obedience Club newsletter but I thought it was interesting. Another thing I can recall that has changed is the command “double pace” which is now called “fast pace”. I only know this because every once in a while a steward will give you that command. What about others out there. Have other things changed. I would be interested in someone who could write an article for the newsletter on “scent hurdling” which to my knowledge is now no longer actively

Member Profile – Alannah Knapp

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

I had a little foxie cross, Riff, named after Omar Sharif, who I wasn’t allowed to keep unless I taught him some ‘manners’ – so I joined Hawkes Bay Canine Obedience Club and Agnes Beacham was my first instructor. Agnes always likes to tell people she was the push behind me to get me into competition ☺

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

Perhaps not my ‘first’ competition but the one I remember that far back was at Wairoa, where there is no longer an obedience club. We had a run off for 1st with a corgi and we won our first (and last) Special Beginners championship

3. Do you still get nervous before you compete?

Yes – I prefer an edge to going in too relaxed

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

Too many to count and of varying breeds, from Shell my Papillon to my border collies. Eight (Riff, Shell, Rocky, Troy, Kymball, Danne, Solo, Polly) have reached Test C, three (Rocky, Danne, Polly) became Obedience Champions and another (Troy) a Grand Obedience Champion. At home at present are Chip (10yrs and also an obedience champion) and Polly (8yrs) both retired, and the young Rhed dog, who carries the blood of his ancestors - Rocky>>>Troy>>>Solo

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

I think it would have to be when zone three won the NDOA teams event in 1978 <<<aaagggghhh>>> and Rocky and I were the test C combination – it hinged on Rocky getting the scent and winning Test C to give Zone 3 the win.

Or perhaps it was bringing Troy out of retirement when the title ‘grand’ came in, brushing the cobwebs off him and winning Test C, at his first outing, to add the “Grand” to his already ‘Obedience Champion’ title. Needless to say he went straight back into retirement.

Or when I qualified Solo UDX at our first attempt only losing 3pts out of 350.

I don’t know, there are just so many memorable moments I can recall with all my dogs, that I could go on and on and on and on.

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?

As most who know me, I put a lot of emphasis on ‘manners’ (always have) and to be able to take a dog into any situation and know it will cope and behave itself is just as rewarding. Initially I have learnt this through obedience classes, and as you have to start somewhere your local obedience club is the best place – you meet people who have the same problems as you, and others who can help you solve those problems

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

Everyone has their pet hates – some of mine would bethe misuse/over use of the check chain – the check chain on puppies – the dog trying its best to please, and the handler abusing the dog either verbally or physically cause it isn’t doing it how its ‘handler’ wants it done – people yelling / talking loudly at their dog – I like to watch people who can work/control their dogs in a calm quiet voice – dogs aren’t deaf you know.

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

Yes – all my dogs have done something besides obedience ie agility / trials / film and advertising work and I have been involved in same as an instructor / helper / committee / competitor / trialist. I am currently competing in Test B with Rhed, and enjoy (if thats the right word) trying to keep up with him in agility. But first and foremost all our dogs have all been ‘pets’ and ‘companions’ and any ribbon they bring home is a bonus.

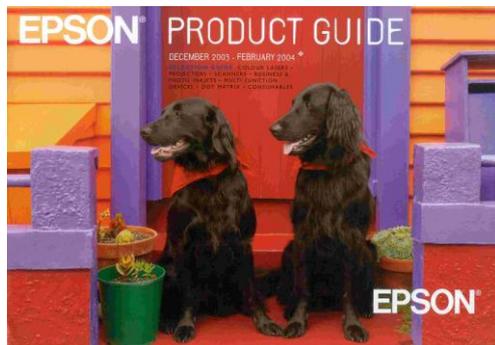
9. What are your future plans? What direction do you hope Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club takes?

I hope to continue to enjoy the dog world and the friends I have made over the years.

I would like to see the members of TBCOC become more involved with the club and supporting/helping the hard working committee in any way they can, however small. I know this is a big ask as people are so busy these days and are always in a rush and would prefer to leave things to

'someone else'. The anti-dog brigade will always be there knocking our canine friends and it is over to us to set a good image and change their minds to the good. So members please become more involved with 'your' club, this can be achieved by helping with the little things that keep the club moving forward, and talking and sharing ideas.

Look Who's Famous



Frenzy and Shadow on the cover of a recent Epson Product Guide.

Tips (taken from the “Waimakariri Dog Obedience Club Inc “Training Your Puppy” booklet

BITING

Do not allow your puppy to bite or mouth you in any way at all. What starts out as fun with a tiny puppy, soon develops into the first stages of dominance over you. If the puppy tries to bite or mouth you, firstly give it a sharp NO and, if necessary, give it a firm shake by the scruff of the neck. This correction must be both instant and forceful. Be very aware of this problem when children are playing with the puppy.

CAR TRAVEL

Right from the start decide where your puppy will travel in the car, and stick to it. It is a good idea to have someone else with you to assist in the beginning, by ensuring that the puppy remains in the correct place. It is dangerous for both you and the puppy, to have it moving around in the car. Never allow a dog to have their head out the window, as dust and stones can cause injuries, as well as cold air getting into ears and eyes.

Graduation and Enrolment

Graduation was held on 13 April at 6.30 for all classes. Congratulations to all those who graded up and looking forward to seeing everyone back for the next term.

Enrolment for the next term will be on 20 April 2004 from 6.30 until 7.30. Please make sure to come along. If you do not enrol on the night you may find there are no places left in the class you wanted.

Results and Shows

The final cut off date will be by results from Wainuiomata's double weekend Championships on 17 & 18 April. The close off date for additions and alterations to any placings will be on 30 April. So if you haven't got your placings in the book by then it will be too late. The trophy will be presented at the AGM in May.

Shouts

We've fallen behind a little in this department. But the wins that have been recorded in the results book are as follows:

Liz Holmes

Titahi Bay Championship Show – Special Beginners

Amanda Chandler
Cheryl Dixon

Kapiti Championship Show – Special Beginners
Fielding Championship Show – Special Beginners
Wairarapa Championship Show – Special Beginners
Upper Hutt Championship Show – Special Beginners

Wow with that many wins we won't need any dinner with the amount Cheryl will be bringing or maybe she should shout for the next three months. Well done Cheryl. I think winning Specials is actually a big thing as you only do it twice. For those of you not aware once you have one out of Special Beginners you can never qualify for this class again (even with another dog). At this point I would like to welcome Liz, Amanda and Cheryl to Novice.

Another big achievement that deserves a mention and should also be included in the shout for this month is Angelique Aamodt and Caden for winning the 2003 Zone 3 Sash SB to Test B. This is an accumulation of all the championship placings over the year and is open to everyone living within our Zone which is from New Plymouth to Wellington. Well done Angelique!!!!!!

Please note those mentioned above (and any others who had wins this year to date) are congratulated for their wins and invited to celebrate their achievement with their fellow club members on 27 April. Bring a plate.