

Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club



MAY NEWSLETTER

Cover photo: Some dog off the internet. I have run out of pictures again. Please send the editor at the address below any photos, articles etc.

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Committee Stuff

Ways of increasing instructors and membership

If you are interested in instructing please ring Mandy Starling on 564 9003 or contact one of the current instructors.

The committee is currently looking at the way instructors are introduced into the classes. What sort of training and support do we offer our instructors? We think we could do better in both these areas and are currently looking at ways to improve this. This would also help make training more consistent between different classes.

Our instructors are all volunteers and offer their time and knowledge term after term. In order to keep the classes as small as possible we need more instructors. The more instructors we have means that instructors that have been taken class after class can have a break before they burn out completely which often happens. This however should not mean a compromise in quality.

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

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting has been confirmed for the 25th of May at 8 pm

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..

ALL members need to complete a new membership form annually. They are available from the club rooms. MEMBERSHIP IS DUE NOW!!!!!!

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



Action Shot – What a star!!!!!!

Porirua City Council – New bylaws

With the introduction of the Dog Control Amendment Act, City Councils are required to revise their dog control policies by 1 September 2004 to correspond with the current legislation. Porirua City Council are currently reviewing their bylaws. Issues that may concern you, that you might like to comment on are:

- Where you will be able to take your dog
- Use of beaches
- Inadequate Dog Exercise Areas – are they safe?
- Hitching Posts
- Dog Disposal Bins
- Council Registration Fees
- Dog Ownership and responsibility Education.

Have your say!!!!!! If you feel any of these issues are not be fair or can see better solutions to some of the problems faced by the PCC, send a submission. Remember if you live in the Porirua district or your dog is registered with the PCC – this will effect you. This is the time to have your say. It is to late once the bylaws have been passed.

Send submissions as soon as possible to:

Mr David Rolfe
General Manager
Environment and Regulatory Services
P.O. Box 50-218
Porirua City.

Dogs vs Humans

Why dogs are better than men:

Dogs do not read at the table.

Dogs do not mind if you do all the driving.

Dogs admit it when they are lost.

Dogs are happy with any video you choose to rent, because they know he most important thing is that you're together.

Dogs are nice to your relatives.

You can force a dog to take a bath.

You can house-train a dog.

Middle aged dogs do not feel the need to abandon you for a younger owner.

How dogs and men are the same:

They both snore and belch in you ear.

They take up too much space in bed.

They are not embarrassed to pass wind anywhere they please.

Neither do any dishes.

Neither of them notice when you get your hair cut.

Why men are better than dogs:

Dogs have dog breath all the time.

Mean do not have to play with every man they see when you take them around the block.

Men can buy you presents.

Men can bring you breakfast in bed when you are ill.

Why dogs are better than women:

Dogs are excited by rough play.

Dogs don't mind if you give their offspring away.

Dogs understand that farts are funny.

Dogs can appreciate excessive body hair.

A dog's disposition stays the same all month long.

Dogs don't shop. Dogs like beer.

Dogs like it when you leave lots of things on the floor.

Dogs never need to "*Examine The Relationship*".

Dogs understand that instincts are better than asking for directions.

Dogs don't want to know about every other dog you ever had.

Dogs have no use for flowers, cards or jewellery.

Dogs don't borrow your shirts.

Dogs never want foot rubs.

Obedience is

- Finding out how much patience you really have.
- Trying to explain to your boss that you can't play golf, you have to go to Dog School.
- Learning that you can hold your breath for over two minutes during a down stay.

- Gripping that you have to get up at 6 am every week day morning to go to work and then getting up at 5 am on a Sunday to drive 200 kms to a dog show.
- Discovering you can't tell you left foot from your right.
- Remarking that your dog always does one particular exercise perfectly – then getting in the ring and that's the only one he goofs.
- Realising that your dog ENJOYS watching you go to pick up the dumbbell for him.
- Leaving your dog for a recall and hearing the patter of little feet behind you.
- Standing in the ring entrance and dying inside, and wondering why you keep putting yourself through this agony.
- Stumbling round feeling like a fool – and suddenly you dog does it right, and gazes at you with love in his eyes

And the whole world bursts into fireworks and flowers.

Training your dog – Your attitude

While much depends on what your dog has to offer, how far he goes definitely depends on what you bring to the training sessions. How you motivate him and apply the techniques show in his performance. Your physical capabilities, temperament, timing, understanding and ability to read your dog all determine the success of your training.

Being realistic about your own potential is best. Whatever your aspirations and limitations, correct training requires patience, consistency and discipline.

You cannot be lazy. You must put in the time to get the results.

This is a sport. Come to each training session ready to play the game.

Be a good sport with your dog. Remember he is your team mate. You are not

This came from an article in a book “Schutzhund Obedience” which I found in a box and I thought it sounded pretty good.

Member Profile – Mandy Starling

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

My first and only club was Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club, back in 1991, with a Rottweiler, Doberman x. Her name was Chevy and she was a year old.

My friend had her litter sister and she suggested we do some training with them.

Later on I got a purebred bitch called Tach and trained her also. One day I was in a class and Sandy Fea came up to me and told me I was “wasting my dogs” and should compete with them.

So I decided to give it a go. Thanks Sandy.

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

My first Ribbon Trial was at Horowhenua 13th January 1996. I traveled up with an old club member Kim Schwass and her Rotty. I competed with Tach in Elem 2 and came 3rd on 68 ½ out of 70 points. I was also placed 2nd in Special Beginners on 71 ½ out of 75 points.

It was very nerve racking but exciting also. I was so proud of my achievements.

So I just carried on competing from there.

Although a few times a certain couple of judges used to pull me aside and have a word with me in those early days. I don't know if they were having me on or were serious (we all used to have a good laugh, usually at my expense, nothing has changed there!), but they would asked me if I was pissed or hung-over, as I was walking so crookedly. What a laugh, I guess I was so nervous I just couldn't stay walking in a straight line. Well that's my excuse and I'm sticking with it! Someone told me (I think it was either Alannah or Elaine), to keep an eye on something in front of me and head for that object, to help you to walk straight. It works!

3. Do you still get nervous before you compete?

I haven't competed in a long time. But if I went back in the ring, I would be very nervous.

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

I have also trained my 2 Rottweilers, and my 2-eye dog crosses.

Other pets at home, mmm where do I start? Kaiser my Rottweiler male, Liebe my Rottweiler bitch, Paddy a male eye dog x, Storm a male eye dog x German Shepherd, 3 cats, 3 horses, 25 fish, 4 chickens, 2 birds, and 2 children!!!

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

There are many. I have made many friends and learnt a lot about dogs, obedience and life through them. One of the most memorable times was when I was given life membership (at only 21 years old!) that was a real buzz, I was wrapped.

My most memorable though has to be my mentor Arty Knapp. I started going to Arty with my Rotty x, Chevy. Arty told me I talked and walked like an elephant (what's changed!). He said I should tippy toe quietly and talk in a quiet voice! I don't think I have done anything quietly in my life!

When we had club dinners or outings, Kim Schwass and I would always get Arty up for a dance, he was such a groover and a real laugh. Kim and I used to buy him Gins and sneak them to him when Alannah wasn't looking, but we always got caught, and we'd all get a right telling off or 'the look' from Alannah. (: Those were the good old days. Alannah is still talking to me so I guess I'm not in too much trouble.

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?

I believe that every domestic dog should have at least 12 months of training from when they have had all their puppy shots. It is so important in every day life in owning a dog. There wouldn't be half the problems there are with dogs and owners if they had done this from the start, instead of waiting until the dog has a problem and then deciding to do something about it. Then it is a learnt behavior and it can be hard to undo.

Coming to an obedience club has taught me that an obedient dog is a happier owner and dog and safer for the public. I have also learnt a lot about owning and looking after a dog.

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

Something I was guilty of and have learnt, is not to overdo the training, it should be fun and rewarded with lots of play. Teach the exercise correctly from the start without trying to rush the dog into learning the exercise too quickly.

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

I have tried a bit of Agility and some breed showing, but I have lots of other interests that I don't have the time to do much showing, or competing with my dogs these days.

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

Currently I have a school education program going called 'Dog Wise' where I go into schools and teach children about dog safety and being wise around dogs. Education like this also needs to be addressed with adults. So I hope to develop this further and carry on educating the public about dogs.

I hope Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club continues to thrive and grow with the constant demand of training dogs. I would like to see more people join the club and committee and continue enjoying their dogs.

Competition

Design a logo for our club!!!!!!

The logo will be used on the profile page on the NZKC website, on letters and advertising for the club and possibly on our bumper stickers. The logo must be original eg. Don't use anything that Copyright Law may apply.

All entries must be in the editors hands no later than 8 June. So get drawing – there is a great prize – basket of goodies at the club rooms. Will be there by next week (17th May).

Entries can either be emailed to the editor or left in the entry box by the basket (fm 17 May). Emailed entries will be printed out in black and white and placed in the entry box.

Include on your entry – your logo and also your name and contact telephone number. Please put entries in an envelope before placing in entry box.

You can enter as many times as you like. Three judges have been selected (none of the judges have submitted an entry). Entries will be given to judges without names.

Have a go!!!!!!

Shouts

Thanks Cheryl for the great shout. The next will be May 25. Sooo, please if you owe a shout please bring it along on the 25th of May. As from the next newsletter we will be taking a lot more notice.