

Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club



September 04 NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter help

Thanks very much to those who sent me stuff for the newsletter. Keep it coming!!!!!!

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.

Please see later sections in the newsletter regarding Instructors meeting and Instructor seminars.

Life Members Board

Keep your eye on this space. There are going to be some important advances on this notice board. I hope.

Canine Good Citizen Award

A working group has been set up to start this running in the next term. The CGCA will be available to people who have completed Basic 1 & 2. We are all looking forward to this and it will be good to see how it goes. The CGCA will replace the currently grade 3/4 classes. See later sections for our new class structure and CGCA 1 class sheet.

Club maintenance

We have compiled a list of things that need to be done around the club. If you feel anything else needs to be looked at please put a note on the blackboard inside the club – NOW.

Instructors Seminar

An instructors Seminar was held on 29 August. It started at 8.30 in the morning and finished up at nearly 6 pm that night.

I received a huge amount of positive feedback and I think that everyone there learnt something.

The seminar was well attended including the foursome from the Wairarapa Club making it even though the Rimitakas were closed. They travelled through to Palmerston North and made it about 11.30.

Karen Sadler did an excellent job of presenting the seminar despite earlier reports that she may have needed to be admitted to hospital due to illness.

We should all be able to look forward to seeing some of these tips and hints coming through all our classes.

This is a very exciting time for our club with the introduction of the new class structure and inspired and enthusiastic new instructors.

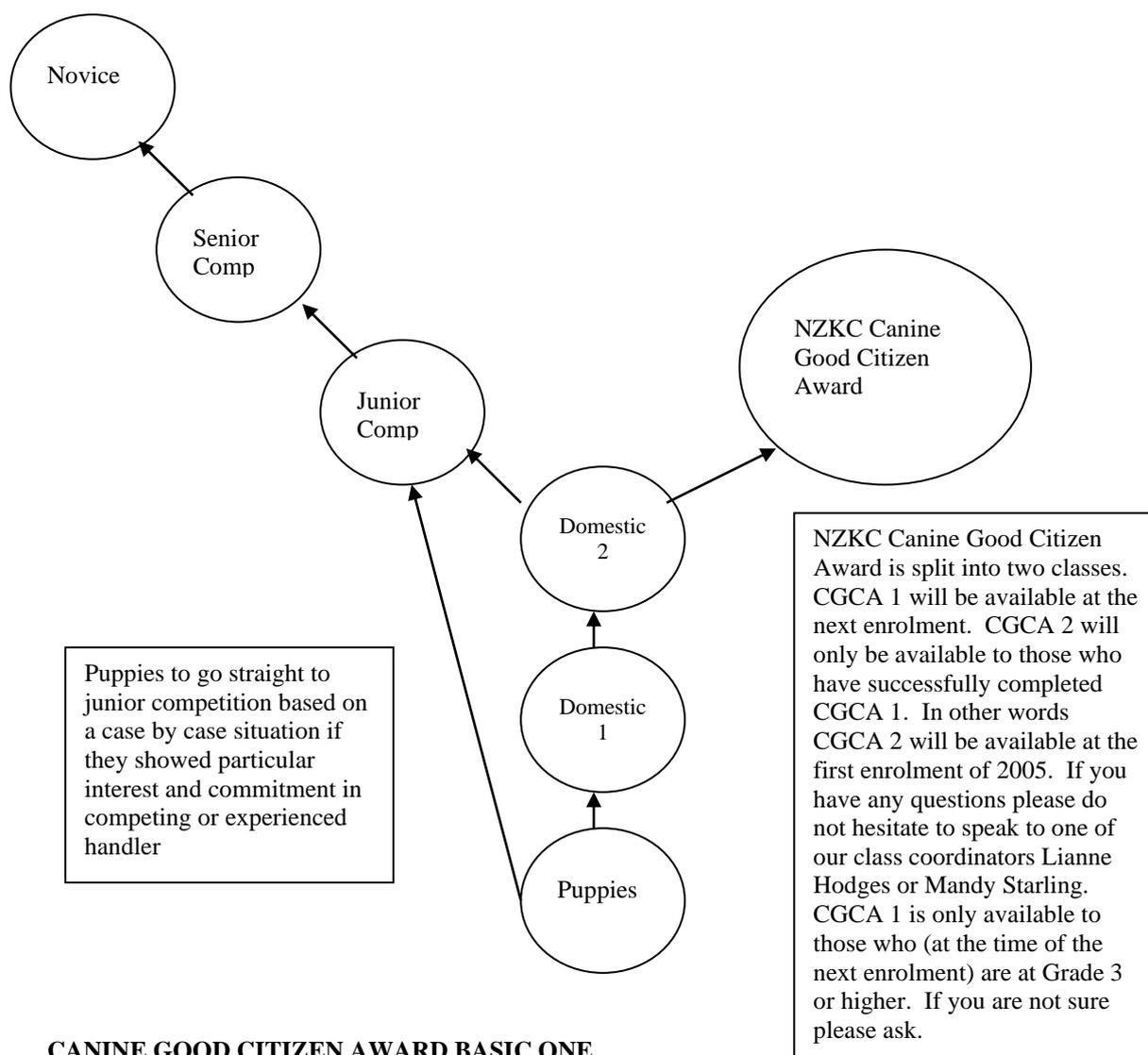
Karen mentioned that she might be running another seminar on Competitive Obedience if the interest level is high enough. It will hopefully be held in December. The seminar has not yet been organised but if you are interested please send me an email.

Class Structure

At a recent Instructors meeting it was recognised that we needed to look at our current class structure. It was felt that it was not meeting the needs of many of our members.

We will be introducing this new class structure at the next enrolment. The Canine Good Citizen Award is quite exciting and will give some of our domestic handlers something to really aim towards. It will replace the current classes known as grade 3 & 4.

Please note: There are new class sheets available to look at in the clubrooms. These have been finalised although there are still some little bits and pieces that need to be tidied up.



CANINE GOOD CITIZEN AWARD BASIC ONE

Night One: Introduction to CGCA concept and explanation of increased rigour in assessment, i.e. failure of one element requires re-sit of whole assessment. Handout of full details of final assessment standard required. Explanation that certificate is issued by NZKC, not TBCOC [so possibility of delay in receiving certificate☺]. Discussion that some dogs may be temperamentally unsuited to achievement in this award.

Test 1 Appearance and Grooming [Work commenced in Puppy Class and Domestic One]

This practical test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so. It also demonstrates the owner's care, concern and sense of responsibility.

a. Cleanliness and Identification [Work commenced in Puppy Class] - Each handler must carry with them some form of 'poop scoop' and all dogs must wear a restraint and identification/registration tag, and to be attached to a lead throughout all the tests in this grade of CGC unless otherwise instructed.

b. Grooming the dog [Work commenced in Domestic One] - The evaluator inspects the dog to determine if it is clean and groomed. The dog must appear to be in healthy condition i.e., proper weight, clean, healthy and alert. The handler should supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog. The evaluator then softly combs or brushes the dog, and in a natural manner, lightly examines the ears and gently picks up each front foot. Grooming and inspection should be performed relevant to the individual dog. *This is a test of ability to keep the dog clean etc, without a struggle.* It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and the handler may be close by and may talk to the dog, praise it and give encouragement throughout.

c. Examination of the dog [Work commenced in Puppy Class] - At this stage the dog is to be handled by the owner. This is a most important exercise and will require considerable care, expertise and patience on the part of the examiner. The dog will be placed for examination of mouth, teeth, throat, eyes ears and feet when standing, sitting or lying down. Other than mild avoidance the dog should allow inspection without concern by its handler.

d. Responsibility and Care - The object is to test the handler on this subject when asked questions by the evaluator from the "Responsibility and Care" list. The questions should not be phrased in an ambiguous manner and where necessary rephrased in an attempt to bring out the correct answer from the handler. The handler must be able to give six out of eight correct answers from the three 'Responsibility and Care' sections listed. *Only one numbered item may constitute a question.* Responsibility and Care Information section. Below are lists intended as a guide only and should not be considered as an exhaustive list of dog owner's responsibilities.

1 A dog's Needs

A dog owner must be aware of a dog's needs.....

1. Water - a dog needs a constant supply of clean drinking water.
2. Food - one or two meals a day are suitable for most dogs.
3. Exercising - all dogs need exercise and where possible they should be taken to places where they can safely run free.
5. Leadership - dogs need to be able to feel part of the pack, a dog knows there will be leaders within the pack and the leaders **should not** include the dog.
6. Company and affection - dogs need company and affection without this being excessive.

2 Illness

A dog should display the same demeanour from day to day. So should any of the following occur you should immediately seek veterinary advice: -

1. A dog with a normal healthy appetite refuses to eat.
2. A normally active dog becomes lethargic.
3. A dog continuously vomits.
4. It's motions are very loose or worse it has diarrhoea
5. There is a loss of blood.
6. A dog doesn't want to get up.
7. A dog is unconscious.
8. A dog has a fit or seizure.

3 Responsibilities of Ownership

These should be taken very seriously for the benefit of your dog, you and the general public.

1. Register your dog with a veterinary practice.
2. Feed the dog regularly a nutritionally balanced diet.
3. Do not feed the dog from your plate but from it's own bowl.
4. Dogs like a bed of their own, so provide one.
5. Rub your hands over the dog's body to check for burrs, thistles ticks or lumps and bumps.
6. Regularly clean and groom your dog, ensure no part of the coat becomes matted.
7. Bathing is sometime necessary but should be done in moderation.
8. **Do not** allow the dog to be a nuisance to others, ensure control is maintained at all times.
9. Where there are other animals such as horses, sheep or cattle keep your dog on a lead.
10. Your dog should not be allowed out on its own.
11. Do not allow the dog to foul in an inappropriate place.
12. If fouling does occur in a public place **always** clean up after the dog.
13. Remember barking is a nuisance to others.

14. Never take your dog into a restaurant or a shop that sells food.
15. Do not leave your dog unattended if you go away from home or go on holiday.
16. You should give, along with your contact details, your Vet's address & phone number to the person looking after your dog whilst you are away.
17. Discuss neutering with your Vet to avoid unwanted puppies.
18. If you want your bitch to have puppies seek the advice of your Vet before taking her to stud.
19. Always ensure that your dog is wearing a restraint of some type with a current identification tag.
20. Remember not everyone is a dog lover and they may dislike even a friendly approach from your dog.

e. Food Manners [Work commenced in Domestic One] - Human Food to be handled and/or consumed whilst in close proximity of the dog. The dog should not unduly respond to this temptation, i.e. not beg or steal the food. The 'examiner' should be satisfied the dog has been taken close enough to the food to be aware of it.

Test 2 Accepting a Friendly Stranger [Work commenced in Domestic Two] - Walk on lead passing people. Behave in a controlled manner whilst owner holds a conversation for one minute with one person. The owner will be holding the lead with the dog by their side throughout this test. The dog should walk on the left side of the handler without undue pulling forward or back (completion heelwork is not the aim), the dog can stand, sit or lie down in a quite relaxed manner whilst the owner is holding a conversation for 1 minute. This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation. The evaluator walks up to the dog and handler and greets the handler in a friendly manner, ignoring the dog. The evaluator also shakes hands with the handler at the beginning or end of the exchange of pleasantries.

The dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness, and must not break position or try to go to the evaluator.

Test 3 Accepting being politely patted by a friendly stranger [Work commenced in Domestic Two] - A return of Test 2 but this time the friendly stranger may pat the dog. This Test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with you. Patting of the dog's body and head only, the dog must show no sign of shyness or resentment & must not break the position selected by the handler (sit, stand or down). The friendly stranger is to be a different person than the person in test two.

Test 7 Stay Tied on a Lead Tied Supervised Separation. [Work commenced in Domestic One]
For this exercise the dog is to be placed in the down position, tied on the lead in an area on its own. This assessment is to simulate a dog being tied up in a public place and still under control with the handler having to do something a distance away from the dog.

Dog to be left for five minutes while the handler converses with other people in sight at least 20 paces away. The handler can talk to the dog but only as encouragement to keep the dog settled, the dog can move posture position. The dog is to stay settled, not bark, strain on the restraint being tied and should stay calm and polite for the time away from the handler. Upon the handlers return, the handler is to untie the dog and be able to walk off with the dog for a few passes without the dog jumping or being over energetic with the greeting.

Test 9 Supervised Separation - This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with another person and will maintain its training and good manners while the owner goes out of sight. No time limit is set for this part. The dog is to be left with an experienced dog handler and walked around on a lead, with the owner/handler out of sight for a short time. The dog is to show the same good manners as expected in all other exercises.

Assessment of these exercises will be carried out in accordance with NZKC CGCA assessment criteria.

Graduation and Enrolment

This is our current calendar of how graduation and enrolment should be running. Hopefully we will have no more cancelled classes and not need to reschedule any dates:

GRADUATION

7th September: Last class night of Term 3

14th September: Graduation commencing at 6.30

21st September: Committee meeting - note this is during school holidays – 6.30 start.
28th September: Night off!! (still school holidays)
5th October: Enrolment from 6.30 – 7.30 (for those not pre-enrolled at graduation)
(Instructors Meeting 7.30)
12th October: First class night of Term 4
21st November (Sunday): End of year party
30th November: Last class night of Term 4
7th December: Graduation

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ENROLMENT

We are running a trial pre enrolment at the end of Term 3. This will ensure members get first pick into our classes, which fill up very quickly.

How it will work. Directly after your graduation your instructor will advise you which is the appropriate class you should be going into next term. You will be given a slip with these details on it. Take this slip to the people inside the clubrooms who will fill out the appropriate details on your file and let you know what classes at that level are available. You will then pay your class fee and you will not need to come to the Enrolment for Term 4 on 5 October.

This should make enrolment less busy and also means that you don't need to make an extra trip to the club just to enrol.

Please note: No Money means you will have to come to enrolment on 5 October. So remember to bring your class fees on graduation night for classes in Term 4.

Instructors Meeting

There is going to be an instructors meeting after enrolment on 5 October at 7.30 pm. This is to make sure we are all ready for the Canine Good Citizen Award classes and new class structure that will start the following week. Anyone who is, has been, would like to, might be interested is invited to attend. Goodies provided (if we get there before Mandy).

NDTA 2004

NDTA (National Dog Training Assembly) – This is the dog obedience show of the year. It is the nationals not only for obedience but also agility and trials.

The trials have now finished and the team that will represent us at Timaru are:

Test C Angelique Aamodt and Kadin
Test B Tanya Shand and Legend
Teat A Simone Hoskin and Britt, reserve dog Robin Fraser and Kerry
Novice Kim Hoskin and Chase
Special Beginners Kate Butler and Kayne

Our congratulations and best wishes go to all handlers and dogs, we know you will represent us well in Timaru.

Go Angelique and Robin. An excellent effort. Robin Fraser and Keri were selected as the Test A reserve dog. This is for any reason the current Test A dog is unable to fulfil their duties Robin and Keri will take up their place.

Shop News

SPECIAL - fibrous ball and bone treats.

Now 50c each to clear stock or 5 for \$2.00.

Christmas Party – End of year Party

I do realise it is very early to be letting you all know the date for our Christmas Party but it was decided that rather than leave it until it was too late to organise we would get in early. Accordingly all members and people attending classes at Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club are invited (along with their dogs and/or family) to attend a fun day and BBQ. We will be organising games (with prizes) for you and your dogs.

Date: Sunday 21 November - Venue: Club Grounds - Ngatittoa Domain

I will keep you updated and reminded in future newsletters. Please keep this date free.

Thirty Reasons Why Men Have 2 Dogs and Not 2 Wives

1. The later you are, the more excited they are to see you.
2. Dogs will forgive you for playing with other dogs.
3. If a dog is gorgeous, other dogs don't hate it.
4. Dogs don't notice if you call them by another dog's name.
5. A dog's disposition stays the same all month long.
6. Dogs like it if you leave a lot of things on the floor.
7. A dog's parents never visit.
8. Dogs do not hate their bodies.
9. Dogs agree that you have to raise your voice to get your point across.
10. Dogs like to do their snooping outside rather than in your wallet or desk.
11. Dogs seldom outlive you.
12. Dogs can't talk.
13. Dogs enjoy petting in public.
14. You never have to wait for a dog; they're ready to go 24-hours a day.
15. Dogs find you amusing when you're drunk.
16. Dogs like to go hunting and fishing.
17. Another man will seldom steal your dog.
18. If you bring another dog home, your dog will happily play with both of you.
19. A dog will not wake you up at night to ask, "If I died would you get another dog?"
20. If you pretend to be blind, your dog can stay in your hotel room for free.
21. If a dog has babies, you can put an ad in the paper and give them away.
22. A dog will let you put a studded collar on it without calling you a pervert,
23. A dog won't hold out on you to get a new car.
24. If a dog smells another dog on you, they don't get mad, they just think it's interesting.
25. On a car trip, your dog never insists on running the heater.
26. Dogs don't let magazine articles guide their lives.
27. When your dog gets old, you can have it put to sleep.
28. Dogs like to ride in the back of a pickup truck.
29. Dogs are not allowed in Bloomingdale's or Neiman-Marcus. And, last but not least.
30. If a dog leaves, it won't take half of your stuff.

SPCA Volunteers

Would you be interested in doing volunteer work for the SPCA? I have not attached the information sheet as it is quite lengthy but some of the details are:

Areas where volunteers can work include Dog run, puppy run, cattery, and clinic. They are asking for volunteers who are available either 8 am – 12 pm or 2 pm – 3 pm seven days a week. For example you could work 8am – 12pm every day of the week or only one morning per week. Weekend Volunteers work one weekend in three (either Saturday or Sunday). Morning work involves cleaning and feeding (socialising animals as time allows). Afternoon volunteers solely animal socialising.

They also have heaps of other ways you can help including fundraising with you dog, visiting hospitals and resthomes with your dog, fostering, administration, mailouts, data entry, appeals and assisting with working bees plus many more.

There is more information on their website as well as an application form on www.wellingtonspca.org.nz

Classifieds

Have you got anything dog related you'd like to sell, trade etc. Why not advertise it here for free!! Maybe that old puppy crate or play pen, or dog bed that seemed like a good thing at the time, kennel, dog runs, books etc. Please contact the editor with details.

WANTED: Large fold away crate either to buy or borrow. Ph Jenny 918 5051 or 235 8881

DOG WISE EDUCATION PROGRAM

I (Mandy Starling) have developed this 'Dog Wise Program' as a result of the hype over the recent dog attacks. It appeared that there was a lot of discussion on how to improve the dog problem by making dog owners more responsible and accountable.

Unfortunately dog attacks are more complex than just making the owner more responsible or banning certain breeds.

I feel prevention can be better than cure, so I decided to create a child friendly education program that teaches children and adults how to be 'Dog Wise'.

The program consists of Kaiser and Kaiser how a dog is likely to react if he program also demonstrates how a will very likely provoke a dog to

The children are taught how to likely to bite because it feels

I then deliberately show how easy it is is, to attack unprovoked if it is given a big enough fright. This part is obviously controlled however we do have to be realistic and inform people that any dog, no matter what the size, sex or breed has the capability to attack if put in an uncompromising situation.

This program has become highly successful and the feedback from parents, teachers and pupils has been amazing. One little girl thanked me weeks later, after a school visit, as she had avoided being bitten by a dog when she was riding her bike, because she followed the instructions that I gave her at the school visit.



myself. Throughout the program I demonstrate with is teased, threatened or given a fright. The person's frenzied reaction to an attack become more frantic in it's attack.

avoid situations where a dog is more insecure, threatened or frightened.

I strongly believe that every child and adult in New Zealand should have access to this effective education program, just as much as I believe every domestic dog in New Zealand should have at least 12 months training at a training facility.

Through presenting the 'Dog Wise Program' I have come to the conclusion that there is a real lack of knowledge and understanding on why dogs do attack and how to avoid situations that may provoke a dog to attack.

I am dedicated in educating as many and hopefully in time this will help friend has felt compelled to instinct.



people as I possibly can to be 'Dog Wise' eliminate some situations where our Canine defend himself the only way he can

KAISER'S A FILM STAR!



Last year Kaiser and another Rottweiler – Tama, were used in a movie that was made in Wainuiomata and Lower Hutt called "Without a Paddle".

This film also starred Burt Reynolds and Bart the grizzly bear.

The film came out on the big screen in America this month and should be here in NZ next month. (Hopefully).



To see the trailers to this movie - visit:

www.paramount.com/ and click on - Without a Paddle.

Kaiser and Tama had to be guard dogs and do a number of things. One shot Kaiser had to do was jump up at a window and bark angrily. I wasn't on the set but the man who trained Kaiser (James from Hero Animals) said Kaiser did very well. Kaiser wore black dye over his body to make him look darker, so it might be hard to tell the two dogs apart!

I can't wait to see Kaiser on the Big Screen!

WOMEN'S WEEKLY ARTICLE

The New Zealand Women's Weekly recently did an article about the Dog Wise school visits. This article was in the August 16th issue, which came out on Monday the 9th of August. (The issues are always a week ahead!)

The reporter and I had a great chat by phone (as they are in Auckland) about children and dogs. She organised for the Wellington photographer to come over so he could come and take some photos for the article.

The day he came was one of the coldest and windiest days we have had (that was until the storm hit us!). I had been off sick with the flu so my dogs hadn't had a lot of exercise the week prior. So there I was trying to get Kaiser to sit still while we had our photos taken.

Kaiser was jumping up and down, Jayde my 3-year-old daughter kept trying to sit on my knee, 2 of my cats kept walking in front of Kaiser and I, which of course made Kaiser even more excited and fidgety!

Kaiser wouldn't look at the camera, so in the end Jamie my 10 year old daughter had to hold onto Jayde's hand to keep her still, shoo one of the cats away, as well as hold the other cat up so Kaiser would look up for the camera, while I tried to hold Kaiser still on my knee!!!!

What a performance!

We got a few photos in the end. So for those of you who didn't see the article, here it is.

A doggone good idea

Mum-of-two Mandy Starling was so shocked by the injuries suffered by little Carolina Anderson, the seven-year-old who was attacked by a dog in an Auckland park, she's set up a scheme to help kids stay safe around dogs.

Mandy, who owns four dogs and teaches canine obedience, first offered to talk to her 10-year-old daughter Jamie's class.

"The school was happy to have me come along and, after that, calls came in from other schools, asking me to speak to their children," she says.

Mandy has taken her Dogwise programme into many Wellington schools during the past 18 months, teaching students the basics of dog safety.

"For example, never ever run from a dog or scream. You stop and stand still so they realise you're not a threat to them," says Mandy. "It's all about understanding how dogs behave and learning ways to deal with that behaviour."

She is surprised at how well-received the programme has been. "I've done more than 30 schools, and most have heard of me through word of mouth," adds Mandy. "As a parent and a dog owner, I wanted to make sure Jamie knew what to do if she was put into a particular situation and it has struck a chord with people."

Mandy has been a member of the Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club for 14 years, where she teaches classes, and says the biggest mistake owners make is to treat their dogs like humans.

"When people get dogs, they often make the mistake of babying them," she says. "A dog can end up ruling their lives. Most dogs think it's their duty to protect their owners but they also use aggression to protect themselves and that's when attacks can occur."

Even though she loves her dogs, Mandy will never leave her daughters alone with any of them. "I think some dog owners do tend to put their dogs in a situation where things can go wrong," she adds. "You don't leave kids alone with dogs, especially when the dogs are eating. No matter how friendly a dog is, they still have a potential to be aggressive. You don't take chances."

The solo mum usually takes one of her dogs along on visits to help her with demonstrations and says she would like to visit more schools.

Wellington Central Rotary has helped fund some of her expenses and she's looking for more help from other organisations so she can continue her voluntary work. "It's very rewarding, especially when you know the kids are genuinely interested in what I'm explaining to them," says Mandy.

"I've heard of stories about kids who remembered what they learned and applied it when they were confronted by a dog. It's satisfying to know they got away unscathed. If I can save one child from being hurt, it's all worth it."

Mere Mulu

*To contact Mandy, e-mail dogwise@xtra.co.nz



Mandy with Keiser, one of her four dogs

'If I can keep one kid from getting hurt'

A Wellington mum takes lessons on dog safety into schools