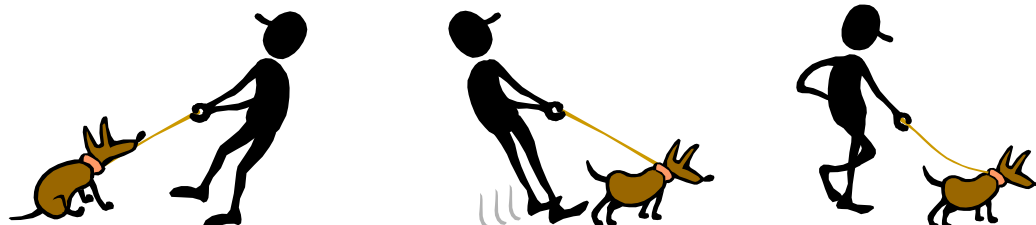


Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club



April 2005 NEWSLETTER

Committee Stuff _____	1
Up and coming dates: _____	1
Ways of increasing instructors and membership _____	1
Life Members Board _____	2
Club maintenance _____	2
Dear Dogs and Cats _____	2
Up and coming shows _____	3
Shouts _____	3
Boarding Kennels – Which ones best for us and our canine friends. _____	4

Due to commitments the next TBCOC newsletter will not be until June 05.

Committee Stuff

Up and coming dates:

Enrolment – 5 April 05
First night of term 2 – 12 April 05
AGM – May 05
Our June Ribbon Trial – 26 June
Nationals – 23, 24, 25 September
Our October Championship – 15 October
NDTA – Taupo – Labour Weekend

Ways of increasing instructors and membership

Our instructors are all volunteers and offer their time and knowledge term after term with usually little more than a \$5 petrol reimbursement each night. 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.

If you are interested in becoming an instructor please ring Lianne Hodges on 232 8057.

Remember you do not have to be competing or even coming along that long to start thinking that you would like to learn how to take a class. We offer full instruction and you would be expected to understudy with a current experienced instructor before we would let you loose on your own class. Once we have enough interested instructors we will be definitely looking at running the Instructors Seminar like we did last year. That was really good and everyone regardless of their experience got something out of the seminar.

There are also things like puppy class or the Canine Good Citizen Award classes to consider. It is a lot of fun and you get all sorts of bonus like; free class fees (if you take more than two classes a year), end of year instructors/committee dinner plus Instructors Meetings where we provide supper and sit around and discuss methods, problems and the latest gossip.

Life Members Board

Have you seen it? Doesn't it look great.

Club maintenance

Oh dear – our working bee was held on Sunday 6th March starting at 10:30. Unfortunately only two people managed to turn up. Cheryl and Geoff were there for 2 hours. They did managed to do the following:

- * fix the toilet door that wasn't closing properly
- * clean the barbecue
- * fix the drip on the cold water tap in the kitchen
- * pick up all the dog poo and checked the bins
- * tidy up the box of documents on top of the filing cabinet

These are the things that still need to be done:

- * Trim the hedge along the fence line
- * Trim the hedge behind the clubrooms
- * Check out the toilet drains (they are a bit smelly). This could be done when we get a plumber to look at the leak.
- * Put some of the merchandise in the new cabinet.
- * Tidy the garage and clubrooms.

With the poor turnout we have had at the last two working bees (and not much better at a lot of the others) I think the club needs to be realistic and start looking at having to pay people. This will mean we will either have to increase membership or cut back on services. If you have any other ideas or comments please email me on many_paws@yahoo.co.nz.

One suggestion we have had to have a list of things that need to be done and people to do them on club night.

Dear Dogs and Cats

Dear Dogs and cats,

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs and cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximise space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years - canine or feline attendance is not mandatory.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog or cat's butt. I cannot stress this enough!

To pacify you, my dear pets, I have posted the following message on our front door:
Rules for Non-Pet Owners Who Visit and Like to Complain About Our Pets:

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. (That's why they call it "fur"niture.)
3. I like my pets a lot better than most people.
4. To you, it's an animal. To me, he/she is an adopted son/daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.

Canine Good Citizen Award

We had our first assessment of our new Canine Good Citizen Award at our last graduation in March. Well done to all those who passed. This is a first for our club and I feel is a positive step. Please remember these awards content is set by the New Zealand Kennel Club and not TBCOC. It's also not as easy as it looks. Once again well done to those who passed, good luck with the next step and good luck to those of you who are about to commence the class.

Up and coming shows

Show	Type of Show	Place	Date	Entries Close
Wainuiomata	Championship	NZKC	16 & 17 April	31 March
Central	Championship	?	21 May	?
South Rangitiki	Championship	?	22 May	?

2005 Annual Membership

2005 Membership is due now! Membership is \$20 per annum. Membership forms are due now.

Shouts

We have been a little slack on these over the past couple of months but I was reminded that there were a few members out there that have done so well over the last couple of months the club is indeed owed a pretty spectacular shout. The next winners shout will be on 19 April. If you have won at either a championship event or at a ribbon trial you are more than welcome to bring a plate along to celebrate with your fellow members. For those of you that have won three or more events since the beginning of the year a reminder that we will be expecting a plate for each of the wins.

Boarding Kennels

Which ones best for us and our canine friends.

Recently I booked my dogs into a boarding kennel for the weekend. I picked the kennel closest to our house (directly across the road) and didn't really pay a lot of attention to whether it was the best facility for me or my dogs. I was going to drop them off on Friday evening and collect them on the Sunday evening. I arrived 30 minutes prior to the deadline for dropping or picking up dogs so we wouldn't be rushed and I could have a good look around and ask them any questions. The lady, who seemed nice enough, took Bounce first. They looped a yellow lead around his neck and lead him away. The lady gave me another yellow lead for Visa and said she would come back to collect her. I followed after her as she lead Bounce behind the big security gates and asked if I could view the kennels that my dogs would be staying in. She replied that this was not possible as "No public was allowed access into the back kennels, although they were the same as the few that were out the front and I was welcome to check them out." She pointed to a sign, which clearly stated this. I froze – something didn't seem right. At this point Bounce was disappearing with the lady through the second set of security doors which were boarded up with tarpaulins so you could not see through them. In one hand I held the second yellow lead but at no point could my feet move any closer to my car to get the dog.

When the lady returned I asked her why I was not allowed to view the area. She said that it was because it upset the dogs and made it very clear that there was absolutely no way that I was going to be allowed to view the kennels. By this time I had imagined all sorts of reasons as to why I was not allowed to see the kennels, any of which could be true or there could in fact be nothing wrong with them. Either way I'll never know and to me it didn't matter anyway. My dogs were not staying in a facility that I could not view. No matter how much it disrupted my well laid out plans, they simply were not staying here. They deserve better than this! How many parents would drop their children off at school or childcare for the first day and happily hand them to caregivers at the gate because there was a policy of no parents allowed on the grounds. I don't think there would be many! I told the lady that my dogs would not be staying and her reply surprised me "Are you serious?" "Yes I'm very serious!"

I no longer want to know what is behind the tarpaulins at Judgeford Kennel where they lead away our canine friends. This article is not designed to circulate bad press for a kennel I wasn't happy with but simply to warn other people to investigate the boarding kennel they place their dogs in so they don't end up HAVING to leave their dogs in a place they are not entirely happy with.

I did ask myself how many people had, like myself, only discovered this information on arrival at the kennel and left their dogs anyway because they felt they didn't have any options. After all Judgeford Kennel do advertise in the Yellow Pages stating "Inspection Welcome" which I feel could be misleading to potential customers but I guess "If you insist limited inspection of some of our facilities okay" doesn't quite have the same feel.

Luckily for me I had organised for Billy to stay with Sandra Gow and on arriving told her the story. She totally agreed and would have done the same and took all of them. Billy, Bounce and Visa all had a great weekend. Thank you Sandra!

I decided to do a quick investigation to help our members make an informed decision when placing their dogs so had a quick ring around some local kennels. I haven't finished this yet but hope to have this finished by the next newsletter.

If anyone has any comments about things they have heard (good or bad) please email me. Many_paws@yahoo.co.nz It would be good to do a follow up in the next newsletter.

I have been told there is a new kennel that has opened in Tawa - **Glenside Kennels**? Has anyone had any feedback about this kennel?