

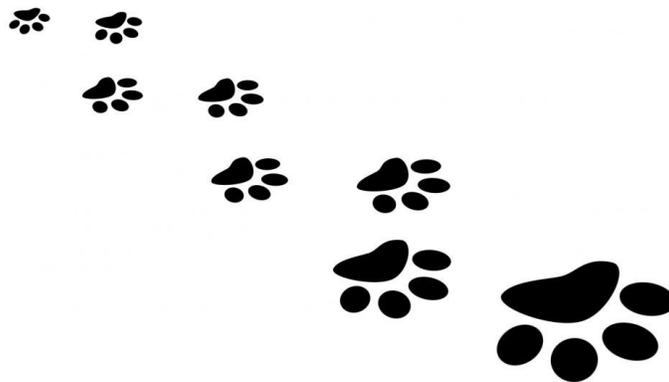
**May 2021**

# **THE GROWLER**

**Newsletter of the**



**Established 1974**



*Note: Articles appearing in this Newsletter are considered to be of interest to our readers and do not necessarily express the opinions of the Committee of Editor of the S&DODC Inc. Who accept no responsibility for the accuracy of claims made by the advertisers in this Newsletter.*

# **SHEPPARTON & DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB Inc.**

Inc. No. A0017293M  
PO Box 6230, SHEPPARTON VIC 3632

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

|                 |                  |                |                 |                   |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Derick DEANE    | Vern DEARICOTT   | Paddy DEANE    | Anna HATTON     | Cath GRIFFITHS    |
| Barbara STADING | Sue POLKINGHORNE | Val BIRCHELL   | Dianne PELL     | David BIRCHELL    |
| Merle HOSIE     | Malcolm MCLEOD   | Marie MCLELLEN | Olive BARKAUKAS | Marg DELAI        |
| Paul GEESON     | Fred MURLEY      | Kath MURLEY    | Les BESWICK     | Elva BESWICK      |
| Julie RAFFERTY  | Iola IBRHAIM     | Chris THOMSON  | Sharon ALLEN    | Sharon VAN BUUREN |
| Darryl WALKER   | Leigh WILLIAMS   | Helen VERNON   |                 |                   |

## **OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE 2019/2020**

**President:** Leigh Williams 0419 315 991 (no private numbers, no calls after 8pm please)  
**Vice President:** Paul O'Bryan 0418 114 910 (no private numbers, no calls after 8pm please)  
**Secretary:** Paul O'Bryan  
**Assistant Secretary:** Vacant  
**Treasurer:** Vacant (Leigh Williams Acting Treasurer)  
**Committee:** Marg Delai, Daniel Mitchell, Sharon Allan, Jillien Van Bommel, Mellissa Moore, Helen Vernon & Jillien Van Bommel  
**Trial Manager:** TBA      **Trial Secretary:** TBA  
**Property Steward:** TBA      **Editor:** Paul O'Bryan

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## **Class Times**

Beginners/Newcomers and Novice and above Classes: 9.00am to 9.45am

Intermediate and CCD Classes: 10.00am to 10.45am

### **Every Sunday – Beginner Class: 9.00am – 9.45am**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: 9.00 am Obedience for Beginners and Novice  
10.00 am Agility, Rally-O and Obedience (CCD and Intermediate). The attendees on the day will be split into three (3) groups and each group will rotate through the three disciplines.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Obedience 10.00 am to 10.45 am, Committee meeting 11am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Obedience 10.00 am to 10.45 am, Agility/Rally-O 10.45am to 11.45am

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Obedience 10.00 am to 10.45am, Every second month on the last Sunday; Graduation testing only 10.00am

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## **Heat Rule**

When the weather forecast for Sunday by the BOM for Shepparton is 36 deg, or above as declared on the prior Saturday night, there will be no training on Sunday morning even if the weather forecast is revised.

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear Members,

Welcome to all our new members that have joined, it is great to see all the new excited dogs out making new friends and learning some skills to have them as a well-mannered member of your family. It is important to remember that your dog will not learn everything in a Sunday morning lesson, it will require regular practice with lots of patience and perseverance from you, but the reward is well worth it. Just remember short sharp regular training that is fun and exciting for your dog (it should be the highlight of their day and they should look forward to doing it) will give the best results.

It is great to hear all the stories and see the odd Facebook post of our members out trialling in so many different disciplines and achieving some great results, for those unaware we have this year had members compete in Obedience, Rally-O, Agility, Tracking and the new sports of Tricks and Scent Work. Keep up the great work and if any members who have not trialled and are considering it please reach out to myself and I can point you to members that trial in those sports and I am sure they would be more than happy to help you get started.

We have secured a date to be able to run a Tracking Workshop, tracking is a dog sport where the dog is in charge, they get to use their wonderful nose power to follow the scent trail of where someone has walked to locate them, getting a reward for their hard work at the end. Tracking harnesses the dog's natural ability and from my experience is something that they love doing. One of our members Kerryn Buckley has kindly agreed to facilitate this day, for those of you who don't know Kerryn she has been well and truly bitten by the tracking bug, with her husband Michael they have spent many winters travelling around Vic attending tracking trails and have achieved the highest level with both their dogs Max and Darcie. Kerryn is also very close to becoming an accredited Tracking Judge, so we are very lucky to have Kerryn for this day. Thank you in advance for making time for us in your very busy winter schedule.

The workshop will be held on Saturday 26 th June starting at 8.30am at the club rooms, there will be a cost of \$10 to participate, to put your name down please see Paul or myself, but get in early to secure your place.

With such nice autumn weather, it is great to get out and spend time with your dogs, but please keep snake awareness in mind, they may still be out sunning themselves on these lovely days.

Regards,

Leigh Williams

President

## WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Please remember to wear your name badge each week. This is the only way instructors get to know your name as they have no problem recognising your dog.

| <b>Member:</b> | <b>Dogs Name:</b> | <b>Breed of Dog</b>                  |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mellisa        | Jimi              | Jack Russel                          |
| Lee            | Bjorn             | Bloodhound                           |
| Robyn          | Rodger            | Golden Retriever x Poodle            |
| Paulette       | Gromit            | Staghound                            |
| Margaret       | Florence          | Dachshund                            |
| Nil & Sid      | Asterix           | Britany                              |
| Alison         | Yang & Paddy      | Staffordshire x Kelpie & Jack Russel |
| Susan          | Fern              | Staghound x Bull Arab                |
| Maureen        | Shirley           | Poodle                               |
| Christine      | Wizard & Dozer    | Jack Russel's                        |
| Laura          | Arlo              | Belgian Shepherd                     |
| Sharleen       | Ajax & Francis    | American Staffordshire               |
| Jack & Linda   | Buzz & Neil       | German Shepherd & Japanese Spitz     |
| Finnian        | Spooky            | Koolie                               |
| Lilly          | Link              | Koolie                               |
| Sarah          | Poppy             | Kelpie                               |
| Sharon         | Rory              | German Shepherd                      |
| Elizabeth      | River             | Border Collie                        |
| Nathan         | Kobie             | Kelpie                               |
| Cheryl         | Pippa             | Border Collie                        |
| Emma           | Pippa             | German Short haired Pointer          |
| Simon & Karen  | Ripley            | German Shepherd                      |
| Sue            | Daisy             | Staffordshire                        |
| Barb           | Willow & Hugo     | Golden Retriever/s                   |
| Sarah & Jamie  | Harvey            | Golden Retriever x Poodle            |

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# MEMBERSHIP

With effect from 2020, the membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.

Membership Fees are due for Renewal until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

If you fail to renew before 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, you will be required to pay the joining fee again.

Membership fees have changed for the first time since 2011:

Junior \$20.00

Singles \$30.00

Family \$60.00

The joining fee is \$10. Class fees have not changed and remain at \$3.00

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## Here when you need us 7 days per week



2 Wanganui Road, Shepparton

03 5821 3188

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Your pet is a very important member of your family, which is why we set the highest of standards for our hospital and clinics. We are passionate about doing the very best for your pet, and believe in working together, in alignment with our shared values. We are dedicated to delivering the best veterinary care and expertise at our 2 great locations.



# Shepparton & District Obedience Dog Club Inc.

Incorporation No. 402127008  
Affiliated with the Victorian Canine Authority (VCA) (Registered)

President: Leigh Williams

Secretary: Paul O'Brien

PO Box 6230 Shepparton 3632

## Introduction to Tracking workshop Conducted by Mrs Kerryn Buckley

Saturday 26 June 2021 8:30am to 1pm approx.

Theory – S&DODC Clubrooms  
Practical - Reserve off the Boulevard, Shepparton

Cost \$10 per person, payable to acting Treasurer by Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
Due to covid no shared meals or refreshments please BYO.

### About Kerryn;

Kerryn is a long-standing member of the club and passionate tracking aficionado; Most often Kerryn and husband Michaels winters are spent in cold paddocks attending tracking events. Kerryn is presently about to complete her tracking judge exam to become our first ANKC registered dog sport judge and her knowledge from this workshop will help anyone looking to enter the sport.

## Registration Form

Please note: All dogs participating in this workshop must be over 6 months of age.

Do you have experience with tracking and what is your interest in attending this workshop:

.....  
.....

Name .....

Email Address .....

Dog Breed .....

Dogs name.....

What you need to bring on the day.

- Your dog, which will need to be crated or secured in your vehicle while we do the theory session
- A harness for your dog (if you have one). Club members will have some harnesses to use on the day.
- A 5 to 10 meter lead (if you have one) Club members will have some leads to use on the day
- Rewards for your dog, Needs to be high value that the dog doesn't get for anything else. Example Small tray "My Dog" Liver, Roast Chicken ~~ect~~
- Five (5) socks. Socks need to be dark in colour, old work boot socks work best!

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**Stacey 0400 782 239**  
[staceysmassage4paws@gmail.com](mailto:staceysmassage4paws@gmail.com)





# Shepparton & District Obedience Dog Club Inc.

Incorporated No. 401120000  
Affiliated with the Victorian canine authority The Dogmate

President: Leigh Williams

Secretary: Paul O'Brien

PO Box 6130 Shepparton 3632

## Introduction to Scent works workshop Conducted by Ms Sonia Needs

Saturday 24 July 2021 9am to 4-5pm approx.

Theory – S&DODC Clubrooms  
Practical S&DODC Clubrooms -

Cost \$70 per person with dog, \$20 without dog, payable to acting Treasurer by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Maximum of 20 dogs in attendance bookings essential first in first reserved  
Due to covid no shared meals or refreshments please BYO.

### About Sonia

Sonja is currently the primary researcher for The University of Melbourne Detection Dog Projects, Sonia's skills in training dogs for odour detection make her an expert in the field. To date she has completed several small projects with the aid of Animal Science research students. Completed projects include; using dogs for *Eutypa* in grapevines, *Brettanomyces* in wineries, invasive weeds and if detection dogs are able to distinguish single component target odours when trained on odour mixtures. This workshop should be fantastic for those wishing to attend and learn about the subject and sport.

## Registration Form

Please note: All dogs participating in this workshop must be over 6 months of age.

What is your interest in attending this workshop;

.....  
.....

Name .....

Email Address .....

Dog Breed .....

Dogs name .....

What you need to bring on the day.

- Your dog, which will need to be crated or secured in your vehicle while we do the theory session
- Rewards for your dog, Needs to be high value that the dog doesn't get for anything else.

## Into the Digital Age

The Club has moved into the digital age with its own website and Facebook page.

The website can be found at [www.sheppartonobedience.net](http://www.sheppartonobedience.net) and will go through a facelift in the near future.

You will now be able to view copies of the Club's newsletter, The Growler each month on both the website and Facebook page.

The Facebook page will be the place to go to find out any information about cancelled training or upcoming events.

We also have an email address if any one wish to get in contact with the Club: [sheppartonobedience@gmail.com](mailto:sheppartonobedience@gmail.com)

# ARTICLE; **Loose Leash**

## **Guide To Loose Leash Walking**

While getting your dog not to pull isn't complicated, it does require consistency. In this article I'll let you in on the top three most likely reasons your dog is a puller and the things you need to stop and start doing if you want things to change.



### **1) Don't reward pulling**

Dogs are fast learners, especially when it comes to reinforcement. And the more frequent you reinforce something, the more "stuck" the behaviour will become - good or bad.

Your dog's number one goal when going on walks is to move. Dogs typically want to investigate everything around them, be it smells, other dogs or anything else. Since you let your dog move forwards when the leash is tight, the dog will quickly realise that when he pulls he is allowed to move. In other words, the dog understands in his own way that a tight leash = moving forward.

Just think about how many times you have reinforced this behaviour. Is it any wonder that your dog pulls?

To change this behaviour you need to stop rewarding it. In short, when the dog pulls - you stop - when he calms down - you walk. Don't yell, don't jerk or don't even acknowledge him. Just wait for him to calm down, then start moving again.

Depending on how ingrained pulling behaviour is in your particular dog (and of course the temptation of what he is pulling towards), you may have to repeat this process many, many times. This is seldom an overnight fix. But eventually he'll start to get the picture, and once he

does, the behaviour will last - unlike what you see in most "quick fixes" that stop working after a short while.

Remember, it's not his fault he pulls - you taught him, after all.

## **2) Get an anti-pull harness**

Stop using regular collars, especially choke chains, as they are even more prone to causing serious damage.

Go to your nearest pet store and ask them to show you an anti-pull harness. Unlike a harness that connects in the back, which gives your dog a lot of power to pull, the anti-pull variation connects in the front - namely across the dogs' chest.

As soon as the dog pulls, he'll be pulled to the side and off balance. This will take a way a lot of his force, which in turn serves two important functions. 1) The dog will gradually learn that pulling isn't that effective, and 2) it will become much, much easier for you to control him when he does pull.

Using this type of harness effectively eliminates the very real threat of collapsed tracheas, nerve damage and so forth.

## **3) Reward loose leash walking**

Most dogs don't work for free. That's why you need to reward them when they do good. Find a motivator - be it food, play or whatever else he likes - and make sure you reward him when he's walking without pulling.

The idea is to make him understand that walking calmly next to you is rewarding.

Video training: step by step guides to loose leash walking

<https://youtu.be/jJ-qvYh7TVU>

Article extracted from Respectyourdog.com



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- X-rays, ultrasound, hip and elbow scoring
- Behavioural consultation and veterinary behavioural referral



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COURTNEY

KERRY

BEN

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## **GRADUATION RESULTS: [enter date]**

**Intermediate: Judge – Paul O’Bryan**  
(Qualifying score – 170 points)

| <b>Place</b>          | <b>Name</b> | <b>Dog</b> | <b>Score</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> | Sharon      | Shelby     | 194 – Q      |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> | Alicia      | Emmy       | 150 – NQ     |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> | Les         | Ben        | 116 - NQ     |

**Community Companion Dog: Judge – Leigh Williams**  
(Qualifying score – 85 points)

| <b>Place</b>          | <b>Name</b> | <b>Dog</b> | <b>Score</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> | Robyn       | Leni       | 78 – NQ      |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> | Tracey      | Scarlett   | 76 – NQ      |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> | Donna       | Charlie    | 75 – NQ      |

**Novice: Judge – Nil Conducted**  
(Qualifying score – 170 points)

| <b>Place</b>          | <b>Name</b> | <b>Dog</b> | <b>Score</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> |             |            | 196          |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> |             |            |              |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> |             |            |              |

**Open: Judge – Helen Vernon**  
(Qualifying score – 170 points)

| <b>Place</b>          | <b>Name</b> | <b>Dog</b> | <b>Score</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> | Anthony     | Alan       | 197 - Q      |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> | Xandre      | Bear       | 165 - NQ     |

**Agility: Judge – NOT CONDUCTED**

| <b>Place</b>          | <b>Name</b> | <b>Dog</b> | <b>Score</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> |             |            |              |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> |             |            |              |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> |             |            |              |

## ARTICLE; **FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS!!**

### **5 Ways to Increase Your Dogs Impulse Control**

How attentive is your dog? Whether you realize it or not you're probably already the centre of his universe — at least until a squirrel runs by.

Trying to keep your dog's attention when a squirrel runs by is something all of us have struggled with, but luckily working on your dog's focus (or lack thereof) is something that can always be improved upon. It's called increasing your dog's impulse control, and it's an important part of teaching your dog good manners.

And you'll notice that once you start working on your dog's impulse control everything will start to get a little easier, from teaching them new tricks to going for your daily walk. Teaching your dog good impulse control is a big part of having a well behaved dog. Here's 5 ways to increase your dog's impulse control.

#### **What is Impulse Control in Dogs?**

In dogs, impulse control is the ability to resist urges and impulses. If you've ever watched a dog doing agility and wondered how on earth they're able to concentrate and run through all those obstacles while there's a bunch of barking dogs on the sidelines it's because they have excellent impulse control.

On the other hand a lack of impulse control leads to dogs doing things without thinking about the consequences. If your dog rushes through the front door anytime you open it they're exhibiting a lack of impulse control. The same goes if they jump up all over your guests. We tend to call dogs that have poor impulse control pushy and impatient, but in most cases it's just due to a lack of training.

Dogs aren't born with what we consider good manners, just like nearly everything else they have to be taught. And like any other behaviour you can improve your dog's impulse control through training & consistency.

*But just like we teach our toddlers, who share a similar weakness for giving in to temptations, we can also teach Rex and Sadie that patience, calm and polite behaviours are more effective in getting what they want than jumping, pushing, pawing or barking. – [Impulse Control: The 6 Keys to Teaching Dogs Calm & Polite Behaviour](#)*

#### **Dogs Need to Learn Impulse Control**

If you're raising a puppy or teenage dog you already know how challenging it can be. Puppies aren't exactly known for their amazing attention spans. And when they hit adolescence it's like they suddenly wake up one day and forgot everything — they stop listening to us and start acting on their own impulses.

Luckily practicing impulse control with your dog can help. And trust me when I say this — great focus & impulse control will make all of [your training so much easier](#).

Have you seen those agility trials where those dogs are constantly focused on their handler? I used to watch those shows and wonder in the world they were able to get that sort of focus from their dogs.

Turns out any of us can get that sort of attention — it just takes consistency and practice.

So you want to teach your dog better manners? It all starts with impulse control. Here's 5 ways to increase your dog's impulse control that you can do today.

#### **Is Your Dog Easily Distracted?**

When it's time to train your dog do you find yourself competing for his attention? Does your dog get easily distracted by other dogs or people? Does he go off and follow his nose rather than listen to you? Is he get overly excited by any noise or movement?

If you answered yes to any of the above working on impulse control work will benefit both you and your dog. Having your dog focused and attentive to your commands will make all of your future training sessions easier. It all starts with a good foundation built on trust, focus, and lots of impulse control work

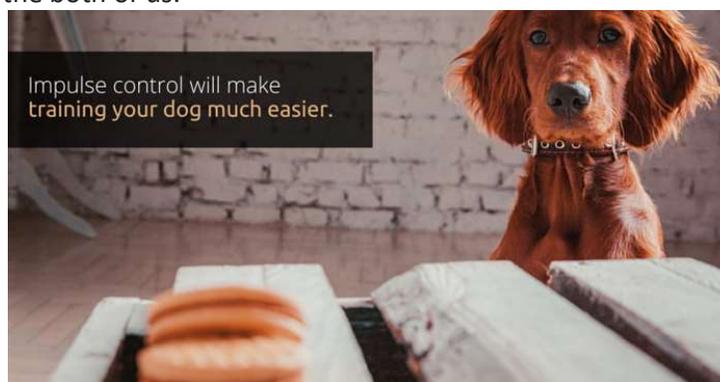
### Start with Realistic Goals for Your Dog

Imagine yourself at the dog park with Fido on a nice summer day. When you open that gate I bet your dog is interested in everything *but you*.

For most of us dog owners having great focus while surrounded by such chaos doesn't seem obtainable, it actually seems impossible. It's something only advanced dog owners do; they've even got dog training classes specifically for that purpose.

While it's certainly not easy it *is obtainable*. If you start with realistic goals and build on your success you can have an attentive dog in those sorts of situations as well. But like many other great things in life it's not quick, it's not easy, and it takes a lot of hard work.

Since my own dog is reactive a trip to the dog park isn't going to happen, I needed something more realistic for the both of us.



### How Impulse Control Makes Dog Training Easier

Once your dog has great focus & impulse control all of your training goals will be much easier to accomplish. Many of my dog's problems had to do with our daily dog walk, so instead of just focusing on making the walking easier blindly I decided to build up her impulse control & focus first. It made everything so much easier.

Laika used to be extremely leash reactive – anytime we encountered another dog, cat, horse, or creature on a walk she'd become a trembling, howling, pulling mess. Luckily it never ended up with any serious consequences, but it was always a possibility, and that behaviour was completely unacceptable. It's not only completely embarrassing, it's a major liability.

While she's not perfect, and I still make my fair share mistakes, we're a much better pair these days. 99% of our walks are completely uneventful, even when we have to walk by a trio of horses or a pair of loose dogs. That 1% is reserved for the neighbourhood cat Danny that likes to walk along with us from time to time.

That was my biggest goal with Laika – keeping her calm on walks. And having her already focused on me as we set out the door for our walk made conquering those trouble spots easier.

Your goal might be teaching your dog 100 new tricks, learning some nose work, or maybe even the ultimate test – keeping your dog calm at the dog park.

Whatever your training goal is it'll be much easier if you've got your dog's full attention; and luckily increasing your dog's focus and impulse control isn't very difficult. Once you've got the basics mastered you can move on to more distracting locations.

*Remember that **impulse control** in one situation will affect arousal and control in another. So that if our dog goes bonkers over squirrels and over tennis balls, say please by sitting in order to play fetch is important for getting him to behave well around squirrels too. – Sophia Yin*



### **Should You Use a Clicker?**

I've found training my dog much easier since I started **clicker training**. When relying on treats or praise it's easy to miss the right "Aha!" moment, and I've also found that using different rewards yields different results.

To keep things consistent when working on obedience or basic commands I prefer using a clicker. When I've got that clicker in my hand it's always the same exact cue every single time, and it's easy to make sure I'm marking the exact moment to offer praise.

Not everyone loves clicker training and that's perfectly fine; dogs respond well to any kind of positive reinforcement. As long as it's given consistently and something yummy or fun your dog will be willing to keep at it.

### **5 Steps to Increase Your Dogs Impulse Control**

When it comes to teaching your dog good manners an impulse control remember to start small, set realistic goals, and build on your prior successes. It all sounds so simple — but being consistent is where a lot of us fail.

*The general goal of all **dog training** is to teach our pets impulse control. We want them to resist their immediate desires and, instead, comply with our cues or commands. Accomplishing this allows us to keep our pets under control, ensuring their safety and comfort, as well as the safety and comfort of others. – APSCA*

When I first got Laika I was pretty lax with a lot of behaviours. She'd push my hands around with her nose or paws when I had treats in my hand, and she had a really bad habit of jumping up on everyone she met. I'd try redirecting her with toys, vocal commands, and pretty much everything under the sun. None of it was working — she was already so excited by the time I'd try to intervene.

Offering her more toys when she's already excited? Yelling while jumping up? These were just adding to the chaos and confusion. I wasn't doing anything consistently; if something didn't work the first time I'd try something else.

Once I started working on building up her focus and teaching her some impulse control things went much smoother. When a dog begins to automatically look to you for his next cue you can only imagine how much easier things get. Once your dog trusts that you are in control, and that you can help them make the right decision they'll start looking to you for all the answers. You can try one, two, or all of these suggestions to increase your dog's focus and impulse control. They've all worked well for us; I'm glad to say while Laika might not be perfect (and neither am I) she's the closest thing to perfection I could ask for in a companion. Once I took the extra time to work on the basics we developed a much better relationship. Yelling out random commands wasn't working, and neither was just saying "no" to everything. I had to learn how to communicate with her, and once I did all training became so much easier. Does your dog need a little help with manners? Here's 5 steps to increase your dog's impulse control.

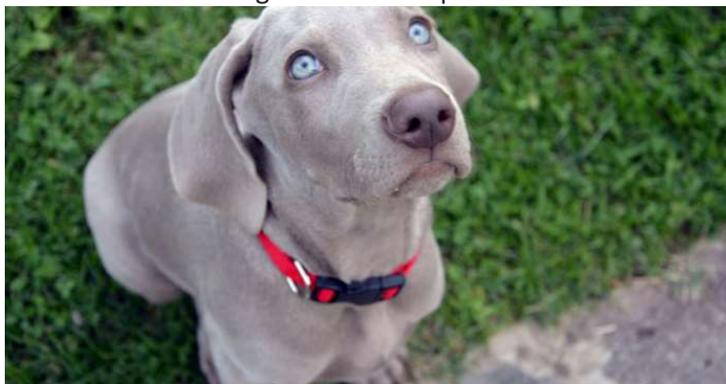
### **1. Start by Teaching Your Dog to Look at You**

The first step in increasing your dog's impulse control is to have them offer you their focus willingly. With your clicker and/or yummy treats in hand make some sort of noise to get your dog's attention. As soon as he looks at your click and drop a treat for him.

After he's had that first treat he'll make his next choice – either to look back up at you, or to explore everything else around him. Once he decides to look back up at you click and reward again – don't be afraid to show him how proud you are with lots of praise.

You don't need a verbal cue for this (although some people do teach a "look at me" cue). What you're looking for is your dogs willingness to stop, look at you, and wait patiently before proceeding. When you build on this behaviour your dog is not only learning to focus more on you because you're the bearer of all good and exiting things – you're also teaching him impulse control.

Gradually increase the amount of time your dog has to look at you for his reward. If he gets pushy or jumps up to get more treats ignore him. Only click when he's calmly looking up at you. Eventually your dog should be able to sit calmly looking up at you for 5-10 seconds. Keep these training sessions short and sweet (3-5 minutes each session). Just like many of us our dogs get bored when asked to do the same thing for extended periods of time.



The first step to increase your dogs focus and impulse control is to teach him to sit and look up at you calmly.

### **2. Have Your Dog Wait for a Highly Prized Treat**

Grab a big piece of ham or some other highly valued treat (or toy) and repeat the first step – waiting for a calm look. If your dog is anything like Laika this will be quite challenging. She would nudge, push, and try to claw her way through my hand just to get one scrap of ham. We had to go back to rewarding some really quick 1 or 2 second looks before we could proceed further. Eventually Laika got it and I was able to get her attention for 10 seconds while holding the ultimate treat – a fistful of sugar snap peas.

### **3. Play the Open Hand Game & Teach “Leave It”**

While sitting down or leaning over place some treats in your hand and leave it open for your dog to see. If your dog goes to grab the treats close your hand – only open it again once he’s sat back down or backed off. Keep your hand open at all times unless your dog goes to snatch the treats out of it.

If your dog nudges or scratches your hand keep it closed and wait. Only open it back up once he’s calm and not actively trying to get the treats. Reward him if he chooses to look at you rather than the treats. Eventually your dog will learn to respect your space and look at you for their next cue.

This video shows the game perfectly:

You can also work on leave it by placing a treat or toy on the ground and rewarding your dog for ‘leaving it.’ With Laika I started with a few pieces of kibble on the floor. As soon as she went towards them I’d say leave it and call her over to me while I had her favourite tug toy. When she decided to leave the treats and come over to me I’d reward her. We’d play a quick game of tug and then give her permission to follow up with the treats.

### **4. Teach Your Dog The “Settle Down” Command**

Not all dogs are naturally calm; some need to be taught to relax. To start this command with Laika I chose to focus on dinner time. Before I told her what was expected of her she’d be following my every step in the kitchen – just waiting for me (her clumsy owner) to drop something. I can’t tell you how many times she made off with a carrot or apple I’d dropped. I chose to have her go to her special place while I made dinner, and in my case it’s a chair placed at the bar in the dining room. She still gets to see everything from her spot. But now I don’t have to worry about stumbling over her, nor do I end up with nearly as much [dog hair](#) in my food. She sits in that chair automatically when I’m in the kitchen without me saying a word. And yes, the command I use is simply “go to your chair.”

Many people choose to use a mat or dog bed for the “settle down” command. Whatever you prefer; it’s your house and your rules after all. If you’d rather have your dog lying in the living room rather than waiting at the kitchen bar I certainly understand.

Laika also knows “go to the couch” which comes in handy when I’m cleaning up or having visitors over. Whichever position or place you choose for your dog the training is the same. Start by teaching them where to go and reward them when they go to it. Gradually build up the amount of time they need to stay “settled” before you reward.

### **5. Reward Patient Behaviours From Your Dog**

Once you’ve done a few impulse control sessions with your dog you can apply it to any other daily routines or experiences. A lot of people have their dogs sit and wait before eating. Others make sure their dog is sitting calmly before letting visitors inside. Many people wait for their dog to sit calmly before leaving for the daily walk.

Decide how you’d like your dog to react in given situations and give him a chance to work at it. Some situations will be much tougher than others but with consistency you can teach your dog to remain calm.

After a while it becomes so natural that you might not even have to ask your dog for certain behaviours – he’ll start doing them on his own. Don’t forget to keep up with the praise and consistency.

Don’t leave your dog guessing – if he does something desirable make sure to let him know. With every positive reinforcement he receives the more likely he is to repeat that behaviour in the future.



Our dogs look to us for cues all the time; don't leave them guessing. When your dog gives you, a nice calm behaviour remember to reward him for it.

### **Impulse Control Makes Training Easier**

Increasing your dog's focus and impulse control will make tackling any new so training much easier. Once your dog starts looking to you for the next cue **you become** his main focus. Dogs are always looking to us for cues. Don't leave them hanging, and don't give them mixed messages. They spend a lot of time trying to figure out what we want; make it easier for them by showing them.

When I took time to work on some basic impulse control with Laika I realized what I'd been missing all along. I was trying to teach advanced skills without having the proper foundation in place. I was expecting her, a hyper adolescent dog, to understand what I was saying without actually showing her how to do it. Once I took a step back and started increasing her focus, I saw an immediate difference – she began listening.

A great canine human relationship is about more than just food, love, and shelter – it's also about maintaining good communication.

Article from [www.puppyleaks.com](http://www.puppyleaks.com)

# the causeway

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### Handlers

**If you forget to bring treats  
to class, remember the  
Club has bags of sausage  
available for \$2.00 a bag.**



## ROVER REPORT:

### TRIAL: All reported results

| DISCIPLINE             | HOSTING EVENT         | MEMBER & DOG              | RESULT                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Novice Tricks</i>   | <i>Bendigo ODC</i>    | <i>Robyn &amp; Bella</i>  | <i>Qualified</i>                   |
| <i>Novice Tricks</i>   | <i>Bendigo ODC</i>    | <i>Julie &amp; Jasper</i> | <i>Qualified</i>                   |
| <i>Endurance</i>       | <i>Dalmatian Club</i> | <i>Helen &amp; Tia</i>    | <i>ET Title</i>                    |
| <i>Scentwork</i>       | <i>Bendigo ODC</i>    | <i>Helen &amp; Lill</i>   | <i>Qualified</i>                   |
| <i>Rally Advanced</i>  | <i>Albury</i>         | <i>Julie &amp; Davey</i>  | <i>RA Title</i>                    |
| <i>Rally Excellent</i> | <i>Geelong</i>        | <i>Julie &amp; Davey</i>  | <i>RE Title</i>                    |
| <i>Rally Master</i>    | <i>Geelong</i>        | <i>Julie &amp; Jasper</i> | <i>Pass towards Rally Champion</i> |
| <i>Rally Masters</i>   | <i>Albury</i>         | <i>Helen &amp; Lill</i>   | <i>Qualified</i>                   |
| <i>CCD</i>             | <i>Southern</i>       | <i>Helen &amp; Tia</i>    | <i>2 passes</i>                    |
| <i>CCD</i>             | <i>Albury</i>         | <i>Helen &amp; Tia</i>    | <i>CCD Title</i>                   |
| <i>Rally O Adv</i>     | <i>Albury</i>         | <i>Helen &amp; Tia</i>    | <i>2 passes</i>                    |
| <i>CCD</i>             | <i>Wangaratta</i>     | <i>Karen &amp; Topsy</i>  | <i>CCD Title</i>                   |
| <i>Rally Advanced</i>  | <i>Wangaratta</i>     | <i>Karen &amp; Savy</i>   | <i>Rally Adv Title</i>             |
| <i>CCD</i>             | <i>Wangaratta</i>     | <i>Karen &amp; Savy</i>   | <i>CCD Title</i>                   |

\*Can all persons competing in the Jip perpetual Rally trophy please notify Helen of all scores as you accomplish them.





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## OH&S REMINDER

Please wear appropriate footwear when training your dog in class

### No thongs,

If your dog steps on a thong, you can fall and may need medical attention, plus the noise from thongs can distract or upset your own dog or other dogs. Long coats and flappy skirts/dresses can also distract your dog from training.



**WARNING:** Please do not touch or walk close to unattended dogs that are tied to a fence or post etc. This also includes dogs that are in crates





'When dogs are tethered or contained they see the area around them as **"their"** space and will protect it. Be aware and walk about 2 metres away from them.



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## **PROGRESSION THROUGH THE OBEDIENCE CLASSES:**

### **Beginner Class: First 4 weeks at the club**

Exercises are basic – loose lead walking, sit, stay, drop, recall and turns

### **Intermediate:**

Exercises same as Beginner Class plus –

- Heel pattern with Figure 8, Stand for Examination, Sit Stays, Stand and Drop, Change of Pace
  - Requires graduation pass to train at the next level, Exercises taught in class are the focus of the graduation, Sit, Drop, Heeling, Stand & Stand Stay (without food)

### **Community Companion Dog – CCD:**

All of the above exercises to Trial level plus

- Dumbbell and Finish
  - Requires graduation pass to trial conditions for next level

### **Novice - CD:**

All of the above exercises to Trial level plus

- Change of Position, Off Lead work, longer timed Sit and Drop Stays
  - Requires graduation pass to trial conditions for next level

### **Open - CDX:**

All of the above exercises to Trial level plus

- Heel Free, Broad Jump, Dumbbell Retrieve over the Solid Jump, Dumbbell Retrieve on the Flat, Distance Control, Drop on Recall plus Out of Sight Sit and Drop Stays
  - Requires graduation pass to trial conditions for next level

### **Utility Dog and Utility Dog Excellent – UD & UDX:**

These two classes are the top two obedience levels and will be taught on request.

---

The Club polo shirts and zip front fleece jackets are now available.

Check out your size in the Clubhouse.

Colour: Royal blue with white trim plus club logo.

Fabric: Driwear mini-waffle knit, easy care.

Polos: \$30 each, Zip Front Fleece Jackets: - \$38 each



## Club Merchandise Items for Sale

- Club badges (enamel) \$6,50
- Club cloth decals
- Correction chains-quality steel, various prices
- Dog leads (soft) - from \$8.50
- Dumbbells -from \$10 (plastic, floats in water)
- Liver Treats \$3.50
- Pigs ears \$1.70
- Ponchos and Harnesses (various sizes)

## “Please give me space”

At some time, you will see someone wearing these vests. Please respect a member and their dog when wearing this fluoro yellow vest and keep a reasonable distance away from the dog. If possible attract the handler's attention before approaching. Remember not all dogs are 100% confident or friendly, they may be scared, or reactive around other dogs, or being rehabilitated which is why they are attending the club classes. If you wish to use a vest please speak to one of the instructors.



# SHEPPARTON & DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.

ESTABLISHED 1974

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