

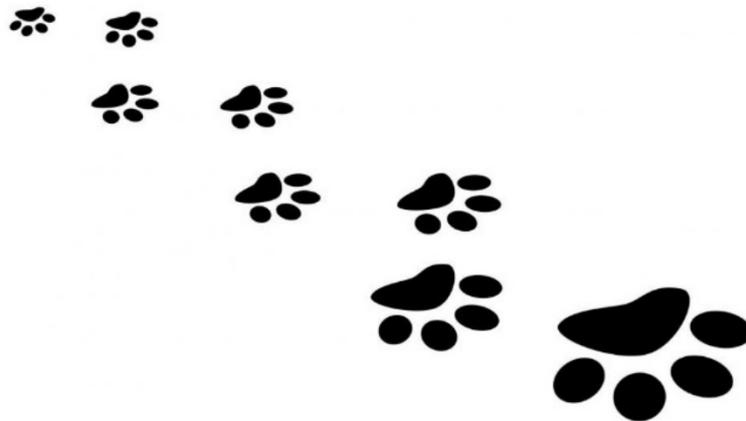
NOVEMBER 2018

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 or 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

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OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE 2018/2019

President: Paul O'Bryan 0418 114 910 (no calls after 8pm please)
Vice President: Darryl Walker 5826 6378 (no calls after 8pm please)
Secretary: Jillien van Bommel
Assistant Secretary: Donna Sharp
Treasurer: Daniel Mitchell
Committee: Sharon Allen, Kerryn Buckley, Sharon Daivis,
Marg Delai, Cheryl Jones, Robyn Masterson,
Julie Rafferty, Helen Vernon, Leigh Williams

Trial Manager: TBA **Trial Secretary:** TBA
Property Steward: Robyn Masterson **Editor:** Kerryn Buckley /
Jillien van Bommel

Class Times

Note: Intake for new members is on the 1st Sunday of the Month

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

Intermediate and CCD Classes: 9.45am to 10.45am

Every Sunday – Beginner Class: 9.00am – 9.45am

1st Sunday Fun Agility 9.45 am (Beginners 9.00 am & Intermediate 9.45 am class only Obedience, no other obedience classes)

2nd Sunday Obedience 9.45 am to 10.45 am, Committee meeting 11am

3rd Sunday Obedience 9.45 am to 10.45 am, Agility/Rally-O 10.45am to 11.45am

4th Sunday Obedience 9.45am to 10.45am, Graduation practise: 10.45am to 11.45am

Heat Policy

When the weather forecast for Sunday in the Northern Country 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

Wow this first month with my new role has flown by, but like everyone on the committee we are all taking it in our stride to move onwards and upwards and better the club. I'd also like to extend the warmest of welcomes to our newest members, I hope you learn lots and enjoy your time with us.

Updates on committee happenings; We have begun the process of updating our constitution and bylaws to reflect changes in the incorporations reform act 2012. These revisions are a work in progress and we hope to have a final draft submission ready in the New Year when we resume club activities. A change to the constitution will require a special general meeting to be called for the members to vote on. I ask that you please attend when it occurs to have your vote.

We have also been busy behind the scenes too busily planning the end of year break up. The current round out for the year will be

- **Sun 25th Nov** - Graduation (last chance for those interested in vying for the top handler awards) either way come along and have a go with your best buddy!
- **Sun 2nd Dec** – Club break up, BBQ breakfast (Bacon, Eggs, Sausage, Fruit etc), lucky door prizes and also with some fun activities for people and pooches alike... I hear Santa may make an appearance too! Please let Donna Sharp know if you will be attending (for catering) by the **25th Nov**.

On a sadder note the club regrets the loss of our Patron Bruce McNeill and express our deepest condolences to his wife Millicent on his passing.

I would also like to pass on my and the club's sympathy to Helen Vernon; on the passing of her Border Collie, Jip. Not all knew that Jip was battling liver cancer but you couldn't tell watching her; she still wanted to be out and about "working" for Helen. Jip and Helen have accomplished so much in their time at the club, Jip and Helens teamwork has been a constant reminder to many of what you can accomplish as a team and an inspiration to many. **"Who's a good girl? Jip is. Run free at Rainbow Bridge until recall Jip"**.

While the trialling scene has cooled a bit with the warmer weather starting there has still been some excellent work out there, with quite a few pass cards going around. Special mention goes to Robyn Masterson with Bella getting three passes recently, this year she has now gained titles in Obedience, Jumping, Agility and Rally O.

Just a note on training too, I like to say we get as much out of it as the dogs do. However not all dogs learn at the same rate, don't be discouraged if Fido takes longer than a classmate to do an exercise. The 3 P's (Practice, Patience & Perseverance) really do apply. Keep your nightly training fun, fast, and engaging 5 to 10 minutes like this a few nights a week is enriching for your dog and you, and you will come along in leaps and bounds – Just remember the dog needs to work for you not the other way around!

Finally, we are in a new club year now, so renewals are now due. Our membership year is 1st October to 30th September please have your renewals completed by 24 Feb 2019. Renewals after this date may incur a joining fee again.

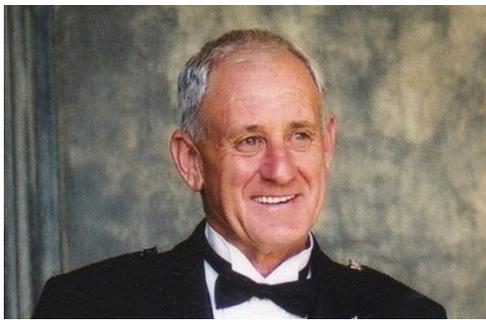
Thanks, and see you all soon
Paul

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.

Member:	Dogs Name:	Breed of Dog
Nicole McElhinney	Roxy	Border Collie
Madison Scott	Hugo	Maltese Shihtzu
Amanda Roberts	Zoe	Kelpie X
Holly Pringle	Charlie	Border Collie
Del Love	Billy	Kelpie X Staffy
Ebony Sleeth	Ollie	Jack Russell X
Sue and Jacob Preston	Zues	German Shepherd

VALE – BRUCE MCNEILL



25 April 1937 - 9 October 2018

Bruce was Patron of the Shepparton & District Obedience Dog Club from circa 1994 to 2016 (unfortunately Bruce eventually became too ill to continue in this role).

Bruce was a Councillor at the time he became our Patron and was instrumental in sourcing three grounds for us as a permanent home, from which we chose Chas Johnson Reserve.

He was very generous with his time and support to our Club.

Bruce and wife Millicent always loved dogs and owned 2 or 3 at any one time; they came to every Christmas Party to present end of year awards even after Bruce left Council.

He just loved the dogs and talking to doggy people.

Thank you for your devotion - RIP

Can my Dog eat that?

Many of us feed our dogs scraps or food from the table. Whilst in many instances this is fine we all need to be aware that dog stomachs are designed to digest different food to us. Some foods are dangerous and possibly deadly to dogs.

Macadamia Nuts

Raw and roasted macadamia nuts can be a danger for pets. The toxic compound is unknown, but the effect of macadamia nuts is to cause locomotory difficulties. Dogs develop a tremor of the skeletal muscles and weakness or paralysis of the hindquarters. Affected dogs are often unable to rise and are distressed, usually panting. Some affected dogs have swollen limbs and show pain when the limbs are manipulated.

Dogs have been affected by eating as few as six macadamia kernels (nuts without the shell) while others had eaten approximately forty kernels. Some effected dogs have also been given macadamia butter.

Cooked Bones

Cooked bones can splinter and cause gut perforation, as well as blockages in the intestine, tooth fractures and cooked chop bones can get stuck across the roof of the dog's mouth.

There are many resources available on the Web that contain a full list of foods you definitely shouldn't feed your dog. For examples check out the website:

www.rspcasa.org.au/what-not-to-feed-dogs/

Did you know Plants can also be toxic to dogs?

For an exhaustive list of common plants that are toxic to your dog visit:

<http://www.australiandoglover.com/.../common-plants-toxic-to-...>

REMINDERS

- **Memberships for 2019** are now due. The membership year runs from 1st October to 30th September each calendar year. Membership Fees are due for Renewal until 28th February 2019. If you fail to renew before 28th February 2019, you will be required to pay the joining fee again.
 - **Mobile Phones:** Please refrain from using your mobile phone in class. If you expecting an important call, please inform your instructor and if the call occurs, remove yourself from the class prior to answering.
 - **Give Me Space:** Please remember to give other members and their dogs who are wearing a yellow high-vis vest space before and after class as well as during training. Please show your respect and support for these handlers by following this as they work hard to help their dogs overcome their barriers.
 - **Dogs on lead at all times** unless instructed to be off lead by an instructor.
-

LAST GRADUATION FOR THE YEAR – 25TH NOVEMBER 2018

Registrations: 9.00 am
Start Time: 9.30 am
Eligibility: All Members from Intermediate up.

The exercises that are practiced each and every week in your current class are the exercises upon which you and your dog will be judged. Sit stay and Down stay are group exercises just like in class. It is fun and great practice if you intend to enter Open trials.

Certificates and ribbons for place getters, plus a trophy for the highest score on the day. Also, this is your last chance for this year to earn point towards the End of Year Trophies.
Good Luck Everyone.

LAST TRAINING DAY FOR 2018:

Our last training day for 2018 is Sunday 25th November 2018.

Training will resume on Sunday 3rd February 2019.

See you all at the Christmas Party on Sunday 2nd December 2018 at 9.00am

Don't forget to fill in the form at the back of the Growler

What do our members think?

Earlier this month a member of Committee interviewed one of our new members to gain feedback on Club matters and this is what they had to say:

- I was a member of the SDODC 8 years ago and now have returned to the club in May this year with my new 6 month old dog American Staffy Nugget.
- I would like my dog to learn to be sociable and obedient.
- I enjoy the Club because it has friendly volunteer staff and knowledgeable trainers.
- I find the volunteers also are passionate, helpful and encouraging to our members.
- I am currently learning Obedience and Rally O with Nugget.
- The areas that I enjoy is the bond between members and getting to their dogs.
- I have mentioned to people outside of our club it is the best place for training your dog.

The Committee would like to thank the Member for their feedback, keep training and have fun.

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Snake bite and your pet

Armed with curiosity and natural hunting instincts it is not uncommon for our favourite four legged friends to cross paths with a snake. At this time of year, even city dogs and cats can have these encounters in local parks particularly those near bodies of water such as lakes and beaches.

As snakes hibernate or are inactive during cold weather, snake bites usually occur in the summer months. Australia has a large number of venomous snakes but the tiger snake and brown snake (Dugite) account for the majority of snake bites in domestic pets around Perth.

First Aid

If you even suspect your pet has been bitten by a snake you should immobilise your pet and try to keep him/her as quiet as possible. It is vital that you take your pet to a veterinarian as quickly as possible. The sooner your pet is treated, the better their chances of survival.

Do not put you or others at risk by attempting to identify the snake. Individual species of snake can vary in colour and pattern considerably and are all but impossible to definitively identify other than by experienced snake handlers.

Signs of Snake bite

Several factors will determine what sort of reaction your pet has to a snake bite. The type of snake (some species of snake are more venomous than others), the amount of venom injected (depends of the size and maturity of the snake) and the site of the snake bite are all contributing factors.

Dogs and cats are most often bitten around the head and limbs. Usually the closer the bite is to the heart the quicker the venom will be absorbed into the pet's system and distributed around the body.

At the beginning of summer, when snakes first emerge from hibernation, their venom glands tend to be fuller and their bites at this time are much more severe. The length of time since the snake last struck can also be a contributing factor.

The signs of snake bite by a tiger or brown snake are varied. They may show some or all of the following signs:

- Sudden weakness followed by collapse.
- Shaking or twitching of the muscles.
- Vomiting.
- Dilated pupils not responsive to light.
- Blood in the urine.
- In the later stages paralysis may occur.

Veterinary Treatment

Firstly, your veterinarian will examine your pet, assess the clinical sign they are showing and determine the best course of action. Further diagnostic tests may be required to determine if your pet has actually been bitten and sometimes it is useful to identify the type of snake via a snake bite detection kit.

Veterinary treatment varies with each individual case, how severe the symptoms are and how rapidly the symptoms progress. Treatment usually consists of intravenous fluids and the

administration of antivenom to neutralise the snake venom in the pet's body. Some patients require multiple vials of antivenom.

Other supportive care may also be required - including oxygen supplementation and even breathing for the pet if they are not breathing well on their own. This needs to continue until the circulating antivenom has been neutralised and any bound venom has worn off.

If your pet is given antivenom for a snakebite, it is only being used to neutralise the snake venom in your pet's system at that time. It does not protect your pet in future from further envenomation from a snake. Antivenom is not a vaccination or a preventative medication.

Recovery

Approximately 80% of pets survive snake bite if treated quickly. The survival rate is much lower however for pets that are left untreated, and death can occur.

Recovery from a snake bite usually takes 24 to 48 hours if the pet receives prompt veterinary attention and the snake bite is not severe. However, some pets will take substantially longer to make a full recovery due to tissue damage to internal organs and will require intensive and prolonged nursing care.

The deadly bite!

When a snake bites an animal, it injects venom via the fangs into the tissue below the skin. Venom is rapidly absorbed from the site of the bite and carried mainly by the lymphatic system into the animal's circulation.

Snake venom carries a large range of toxins that damage tissues and impair many of the body's vital functions; they attack the nervous system and interfere with the body's clotting mechanisms.

Remember... if your pet is bitten DO NOT try to catch or kill the snake, all Australian snakes are protected and you may expose yourself to unnecessary danger.

Antivenom

Antivenom is produced by gradually immunizing horses to the venom of a species of snake. The horse's blood is then collected, and the serum is separated and purified to make antivenom, containing specific antibodies to the toxins in the snake venom. Snake antivenoms are expensive to produce and have limited shelf life; these factors are reflected in their high costs.

Precautions

Dogs are inquisitive by nature. When exercising them in bushland (particularly near water) or near beach dunes during the warmer months of the year, use a leash. This unfortunately can lead to an unpleasant end, if he/she encounters a snake. If you live in the outer suburbs or semi-rural areas, keep your backyard clear of long grass, and remove any piles of rubbish. This will help to reduce the number of hiding spots for snakes to reside in.

Article Courtesy of VetWest.

the causeway

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ROVER REPORT:

- Anthony Lockett with Allan recently ventured interstate to compete at the Blue Lake Dog Obedience Club trial at Mt Gambier on 20th and 21st October. Coming home with the following achievements:
 - Three passes in Novice with a scores of: 187/200 and 2nd place; 186/200 and 2nd place; 179/200 and 1st place. Alan also gained his CD Title.
 - Passes in Rally Excellent with scores of 83/100 on the Saturday and 94/100 and 1st place on the Sunday. Alan also gained his Rally Excellent Title.
- Kezz Buckley and Darcie gained her Track and Search Dog Title at the Bendigo Obedience Dog Club TSD Trial over the weekend of 19th-21st October 2018.
- Robyn Masterson and Bella have had excellent run with their trialling over the past month with achievements as listed:
 - Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club 28.10.2018:
 - Pass in Rally Excellent and 1st place in class.
 - Bairnsdale and District Dog Obedience Club 10.11.2018:
 - Pass in Rally Excellent and 1st place in class.
 - Pass in Novice and 1st Place in class.
 - Gippsland Obedience Dog Club 11.11.2018:
 - No passes but two (2) placed 2nd in event.

Note: All members who are have competed in Rally Excellent, throughout the year can you please provide Helen details of your pass scores by Sunday 25th Nov 2018.

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.

THE DANGERS OF GRASS SEEDS TO DOGS AND CATS

Grass seeds: Seemingly innocent but unequivocally dangerous and potentially lethal, these little brutes can easily get caught on your pet's fur and embed themselves to their skin very quickly. If left untreated, grass seeds can cause a whole heap of problems. These problems range across the spectrum from a minor irritation all the way to the worst consequence imaginable.

Grass seeds are great carriers of bacteria and once they penetrate the skin, infection is inevitable. If left untreated, the infection could spread or the seed could move around internally and cause severe internal damage. Once they are inside the body, there is no treatment plan other than surgery to find them and remove them along with prolonged use of antibiotics and antifungals to prevent reinfection at the site of the surgery. It's a lot of avoidable stress.

What does a grass seed look like?

Grass seeds are tiny, generally 1-2cm in length, and they come in a variety of shapes. They are usually dart shaped and are made with spikes in such a way that once it pokes through the outer skin barrier, it easily lets gravity push it in further. One end of it is very pointy and could very easily penetrate the skin whilst the remaining bit is the tail that expands the seed's surface area to increase the chance of it being picked up by a being or by wind.



What are the symptoms?

Depending on where the grass seed penetrates or enters the body, a variety of different symptoms would make it apparent that your dog or cat may have a grass seed invasion. Keep in mind, wherever it breaks the skin, there will be an infection on the skin including redness and swelling. If you spot this then immediately take action and head straight to the vet.

Affected Area	Symptoms	The damage and consequences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matted hair Could move and get lodged in a different area of the body, causing severe complications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaking their head Redness Rubbing and/or scratching their ear with their paws or against surfaces Head held at a tilted angle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ear infection Loss of hearing Rupture of the eardrum Could prove fatal if the infection spreads (metastases)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eyes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redness and inflammation Discharge Tears Corneal Ulcer Rubbing of the eye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corneal Ulcer Loss of eyesight from one or both eyes Eye removal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nose & Lungs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pawing their nose or rubbing it against surfaces Sneezing Nasal discharge Difficulty breathing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lung infection Airway blockage Severe pain Pneumonia Internal tissue damage Surgery may be required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chewing on the area of the skin that where a seed could be lodged in or stuck to Swelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abscesses Open draining sores If swallowed, it could get lodged in the gums, teeth or tongue. Could get stuck to the back of the throat

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visible seeds sticking out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once it's penetrated through the skin, it would cause significant internal tissue damage and infection • Surgery may be required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mouth & Throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coughing • Retching • Gagging • Struggling to eat and swallow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling and inflammation of tonsils • Struggle to eat and swallow • Could easily poke and cause tissue damage to the internal organs • Surgery may be required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licking of paws • Redness • Swelling • Limping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the seed can migrate internally, it could get lodged in joints, ligaments or tendons, causing severe pain. Surgery may be required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licking around the area • Swelling • Redness • Difficulty or pain when urinating • Blood in urine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent internal and/or external damage • Surgery may be required

How to get rid of grass seeds?

If you feel as though there is a slight possibility that a grass seed is in or on your dog, head straight to the vet because it's most likely that it is in a position where you cannot reach it. If you see a grass seed tangled within the coat of your pet, immediately get rid of it with a pair of tweezers.

If you see it embedded into your pet with some of it still sticking out, act with caution and use a pair of tweezers to extract it from the base where it meets the skin. Do not pluck from the top because there is a chance it could break, making the extraction of the remainder still in the skin a difficult task for the vet. Even once you've removed it, keep it in a tissue or sandwich bag of some sort and head to the vet to take extra caution and let them fully investigate the potential seeds that may be lingering elsewhere on your pet as well as the one(s) you've plucked.

If you can see inflammation, redness or swelling but cannot spot a grass seed, you have to go directly to the vet because it's likely that the grass seed has submerged itself into their body and as a result would cause significant internal damage rapidly. In this case, surgical exploration would be required.

Should you not be able to get to a vet, you have very limited options. If you suspect the seed is in the ear, by no means try and extract it because you could push it deeper and cause eardrum or tissue damage. Try filling their ear canal with warm olive oil and massage their ear. There is a possibility that the grass seed could float straight up. Even if doesn't float up, the oil would have softened the tissue where the seed is lodged, making it easier for the vet to extract.

Finally, for grass seeds lodged in paws but undetectable, you could smear some magnoplasm paste – a drawing ointment that helps lure out foreign objects embedded in the skin.

Please remember that these are only options to consider if you are unable to get to a vet immediately.

How do I keep grass seeds away from my pet?

Whilst there isn't much that can be done to prevent the disastrous effects of grass seeds from affecting your pet, there are a couple of things that could go a long way.

Firstly, keep your pet away from long grassy areas and dry grassy areas since the seeds can catch on to their coat and skin very easily and are present in massive proportions within these areas. You should also keep your own lawn mowed to add a substantial layer of protection at home. Keep it as tidy as possible and sweep away any plant materials or offending seeds to reduce the risk even more.

In addition to that, make it a daily routine to groom their hair as that is one of the best ways to identify any potential infection spots. Keep in mind that any matts could be concealing grass seeds. Carefully trawl through and evaluate their eyes, ears, nose, armpits, groin and the middle of their toes – which is where the seeds get lodged very often. You should especially do this every time they come back from walks or have gone through grassy areas to be cautious and early at spotting and swatting them out. You could even just cut their hair short to reduce the surface area upon which the seeds could attach themselves.

For a more barrier type protection, there are some accessories you can purchase to protect them when out for walks including vests that cover their chest and abdomen. For their feet, use some doggy boots that are thick enough to not have the seeds poke into. They would also help keep mud and dirt away from the inside of your car and house – double win! A nifty little trick for their ears when out on walks is to tie a bandana or some partially permeable material, e.g. pantyhose, around their ears to protect them but also enable airflow to not block their hearing entirely.

Most importantly though, you must always be on a look out for these symptoms, particularly during the spring and summer months. If they shake their head a lot, frequently sneeze, have become sluggish and lazy, etc. they may have a grass seed somewhere so get to it sooner rather than later because later isn't a fun nor healthy track to go down.

They may be small but they can do a lot. Be vigilant and get those grass seeds before they get your pet.

Sourced: <https://www.mypetwarehouse.com.au/my-pet-blog/pet-care/general/the-dangers-of-grass-seeds-to-dogs-and-cats>

Homemade dog biscuit recipe:

This recipe was sourced from the internet and it has been tried and tested (by the four-legged family members) and they love them. They keep for ages and it's good to know what you are giving your dogs in terms of ingredients.

Cheesy Bone Treats

4 cups of flour
2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese
2 tbsp-1/4 cup of oil
1 1/3 cups of water



Combine flour and cheese. Stir in oil and water. Adjust liquid as necessary to make stiff dough. Roll on floured cutting board to 3/8" thick. Cut with bone shaped cutter (if you have one) otherwise roll into small balls. Placed on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for approx. 1 hour in 200 degrees oven until thoroughly dry.

Optional Ingredient: Add some vegemite as an extra treat! Max and Darcie especially like the addition of vegemite!



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PROGRESSION THROUGH THE OBEDIENCE CLASSES:

Beginner Class:

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

Community Companion Dog – CCD:

All of the above exercises to Trial level plus

- Dumbbell and Finish

Novice - CD:

All of the above exercises to Trial level plus

- Change of Position, Off Lead work, longer timed Sit and Drop Stays

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

Utility Dog and Utility Dog Excellent – UD & UDX:

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



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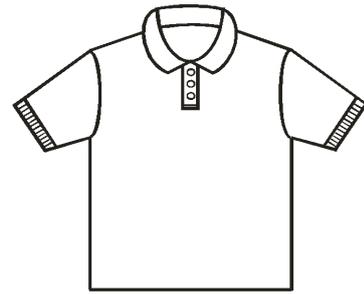
The Club polo shirts and zip front fleece jackets are now available.

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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.



KEEPING YOUR DOG SAFE IN SUMMER

Pet library

With extended daylight and warm weather, the summer can be a great time to get active with your pet. However, it's important to be aware of the dangers of heatstroke – a life-threatening condition, caused by the elevation of a dog's body temperature. While people can also suffer heatstroke, the risk is much greater for dogs as they only perspire around their paws and nose (which is not sufficient alone to cool their body). The most effective means for a dog to expel excess heat is panting, which moves cool air through the nasal passages and around the body. If a dog doesn't have access to cool air – either because of high outside temperatures or a confined environment – they are at risk of overheating.

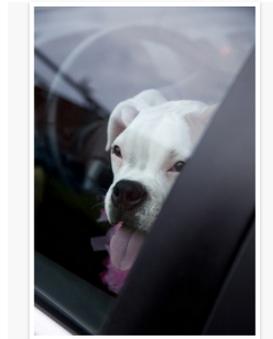
Risks for Heatstroke

Symptoms

The biggest risk for heatstroke is the dog's immediate environment. If your dog is in very humid conditions or a confined space without fresh air (such as a car), he or she will quickly overheat. Brachycephalic breeds of dogs (those with short muzzles e.g. British Bulldogs and Pugs) are also more prone to heat stroke because their nasal passages are smaller and it is more difficult for them to circulate sufficient air for cooling.

Early signs of heatstroke include:

- High body temperature (more than 40 degrees)
- Distress
- Excessive panting
- Excess saliva
- Bluish-purple or bright red gums, due to inadequate oxygen supply to the tissues.



Avoid leaving your dog in the car!

First Aid

If your dog's body temperature reaches above 40 degrees or it is exhibiting the above symptoms, apply immediate first aid. The most important thing is to get his or her body temperature down to a normal level.

1. **Cool your pet on your way to the vet.** Get them in the car to the vet and run the air conditioning to keep them cool. You can also use a spray bottle to lightly cool them with water. Do not submerge your pet in ice water as this can be more dangerous.
2. **Get them drinking.** If your dog is able to drink, give him or her a large bowl of water.
3. **Seek veterinary attention.** Heatstroke is a serious condition that requires immediate attention and intensive care is generally required to save your pet's life. Intravenous fluids cool the body, maintain blood pressure, support the kidney system and generally help speed recovery. Any initial home treatment greatly increases the chance of surviving but it is only in mild cases that the initial home treatment is sufficient.



Ensure your dog has plenty of clean water at all times

Prevention

Fortunately, heatstroke is a preventable condition. By following the tips below, you'll be well on the way to ensuring your dog stays safe this summer:

- **Never leave your pet unattended in a car.** Within ten minutes, a closed car can reach temperatures of 45 degrees. In such temperatures, a dog is unable to shed its extra heat and may quickly suffer dehydration and heatstroke. If you are getting out of the car, take your dog with you.
- **Keep your dog well hydrated.** Ensure your dog has easy access to fresh water. Water dishes should be placed in the shade or kept cold (frozen water bottles are handy). Dogs also have a tendency to knock water over, so it's recommended you have a few bowls in different places.
- **Carry water.** When exercising your dog, take a collapsible water dish or run a route where you know your dog will have access to clean water.
- **Provide shade.** If your dog lives outside during the summer months, make sure you have adequate shade to shelter him or her from the sun.
- **Avoid walking on hot days.** During the summer months, walk your dog of a morning or an evening. Temperatures below 25 degrees are optimum.

Protecting Your Dog's Paws in Summer

Summer is here and dog paws can burn easily. Hot sand and a few seconds on the hot asphalt can hurt your dog's paws. Here's some tips on paw safety that will also help with heat stroke.



Signs of burned pads:

- limping or refusing to walk
- licking or chewing at the feet
- pads darker in color
- missing part of pad
- blisters or redness

Be careful if you take your dog swimming and then go on hot pavement. The time in the water softens their pads so dry off the paws and walk on the grass. It is important to keep the foot area cool and clean. As soon as you notice the problem (limping along on the road), flush with cool water or a cool compress if available. Get the dog to a grassy area or if possible, carry him. At first chance, your vet should examine your dog for signs of deeper burns, blisters and possibility of infection. Your vet will determine if antibiotics or pain medication is needed. Washing the feet with a gentle cleanser and keeping them clean is important. Bandaging can be difficult to do and to maintain (monitor and change often), but licking must be kept to a minimum.

Dog boots works great to stop the licking because the double straps keep it secure. Some dogs will tolerate a sock to keep the area clean, but caution is advised for dogs that may chew and ingest the sock.

Lick deterrents (bitter sprays) may help reduce the damage caused by licking. Best advice is to be mindful of hot surfaces -- asphalt and metal (i.e. boat dock, car or truck surfaces) -- and walk your dog on the cool side of the street or in the grass. Another tip is to lay down a wet towel for your dog to stand on when grassy areas are not available.

There are several measures that dog owners can take to prevent burns and injury to a dog's paw pads. Some of these preventative measures designed to prevent pad injuries will also make the dog less vulnerable to other summertime pet dangers, like canine heat stroke and sunburn.

Tips For Dog Summer Safety

- Walk the dog in the early morning or evening to avoid paw pad burns. Avoid walking the dog in the heat of the day, when the sun beats down, heating the pavement and sand.
- Walk the dog on the grass. The grass remains cooler than the sidewalk, lessening a dog's chance of paw pad injuries in the summer. This makes a trip to a shady park a good option for an afternoon walk in the summertime. However, if you walk your dog on the grass, be sure wipe down his paws to keep allergens away & beware of bees.
- Take frequent dog walks on the pavement during cool times of day. This will help toughen a dog's paw pads by promoting the formation of callus. This makes the skin of the dog's foot pads thicker and less prone to injuries like burns and cuts. Dogs who rarely walk on pavement will have more sensitive paw pads and they require more frequent nail clippings, as walking on pavement files the dog's nails.
- Moisturize the dog's paws on a daily basis. Keep a dog's paws well moisturized with Vaseline® or a special paw pad balm or cream, like Musher's Secret®. Moisturizing the dog's paw pads will prevent cracking, peeling and minor pad cuts. These injuries will cause the dog's pads to become more sensitive once healing is complete, so preventing injury is key.

Article Credit; KeepDoggiesafe.com

End of Year Break-up, Christmas Party and Member's Title Presentations

Sunday 2nd December 2019 @ 9.00am



- BBQ Breakfast
- Games
- Lucky Door Prize
- Best Dog Trick - **Adult and Junior sections**
- Fancy Dress – YOU AND YOUR DOG

10 min notice is given to dress dog - Adult and Junior sections

FATHER CHRISTMAS ARRIVES

END OF YEAR TITLE PRESENTATIONS

Please advise by **Sunday 25.11.2018** so numbers can be catered for accurately.

Breakfast - Eggs, Bacon, Sausages, English Muffins, Toast, Tea & Coffee; Fruit Platters

B.Y.O. tables, chairs, umbrellas, sunscreen etc.

Father Christmas will arrive later in the morning. Present value should be approx. \$15.

Wrapped & labelled presents to be left at the club house prior to arrival of Santa.

Please be fair – only the member & partner plus children up to the age of 16 years are free, other guests will need to pay \$5.00 per head.

Please Print Names of Member/Partner/Children attending

Adults: _____

Children: _____

Guest: _____

**SHEPPARTON & DISTRICT
OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.
ESTABLISHED 1974**

PO Box 6230, SHEPPARTON VIC 3632

Email: sheppartonobedience@gmail.com

Website: www.sheppartonobedience.net

CHAS JOHNSON RESERVE

Cnr Balaclava Road and Packham Street, SHEPPARTON

BEGINNER CLASS Starts 9.00 am: 1st Sunday of each month February to
November

Bring current vaccination certificate, toy/food for positive
reinforcement.



**Basic Obedience to high competition standard taught, plus
Agility/Jumping, Rally-O, Tracking, Flyball**