



HOLDFAST DOG CENTRE

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Great thanks to our sponsors Century 21 – The Bay for our brand new signage!

Thankyou Phil Rogers!

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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014

Welcome to 2014!

The committee, staff and volunteers at the centre wish you all a happy new year. We hope you all had a safe and enjoyable holiday season, and wish all our members the best for the coming year. All of us here at the club enjoyed our time off, and we are raring and ready to help you obtain the training and care for your dogs that we provide.

Doggy Day Care has been up and running since the 7th of January, and numbers are starting to build after the holiday break.

Training classes have recommenced as of the end of January, and spots have been filling quickly. Check our website for upcoming course times, prices, and to book your place in your desired course. We have a new system this year for membership application and for booking courses. In the past all of this has been handled manually. Now in 2014 all of these services are provided through our website. Please take the time to complete your membership online if you have not already done so.

A word on membership

Holdfast Dog Centre is a not for profit community organisation run by a committee of volunteers, and supported by the Holdfast Bay Council. As a community run organisation, just as local sporting clubs are, we're compelled to charge a nominal annual membership fee for said members to access our services. With membership you gain access to our training classes, doggy day care and even access to the grounds after hours for you to have a safe and secure environment for you to bring your dogs for a walk or play fetch. Please consider the comfort and safety of others on the grounds when you are there, clean up after your dog and remember we are a no smoking site.

Doggy day care regulations and etiquette

All of our regulations are listed on our website, and as members we have all agreed to abide by the terms and conditions. We all lead busy lives and we understand not all of us read the "fine print", so here are listed some of the more pertinent terms and conditions.

Tuesdays & Thursdays are available for all sizes of dogs who are well socialized with other dogs.

Wednesdays are available for larger dogs and dogs who may have a more robust style of play.

Fridays are for smaller dogs, puppies and dogs friendly to their smaller friends.

Fridays are also available for members to pay us a visit with their dogs at no charge, between the hours of 9:30am-11:30am and 2:00pm-3:30pm.

However, on hot Fridays when the forecast maximum temperature is 34 degrees Celsius or above, we will not be admitting visitors with their dogs to the grounds for a visit.

Cont...

When visiting on a Friday your children are welcome to join you, as long as they are well supervised and don't cause any distress to other clients and dogs. There are toys available for the dogs to play with, but they are not there for us humans to play with, or to throw etc. for the dogs.

Wednesday drop off times are limited from 7:00am-9:00am, and pick-ups from 4:30pm-6:00pm. Tuesday and Thursday times are the same as Wednesday with the exception of half-day clients, where we have a 12:00pm-2:00pm pick-up time available.

Friday dogs can be picked up or dropped off at any time from 7:00am-6:00pm.

During designated drop-off and pick-up times the gate will be attended by staff, and we ask for safety sakes that only one client at a time be in the entrance area. We know you are busy and we will always attempt to get you all through as efficiently as possible.

During day care your dog needs to be fitted with a properly fitted collar, and that collar needs to have a quick release clip. Traditional "belt buckle" style collars are not suitable for day care.

Collars also need to be fitted with identification, either on the collar itself or upon a dog tag, with a contact phone number on it that can be reached during our business hours so that we can readily contact you if any unforeseen emergency situation should arise.

Again, all of these terms and conditions are available on the website and agreed to by members within the membership application. These terms and conditions have come about from more than 10 years of experience with Doggy Day Care, and are there to provide your dogs with the safest, most comfortable and enjoyable experience we can offer. Holdfast Dog Centre treat dogs as family members, and their care and comfort is paramount.



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Meet Charlie. He has a story to tell. His mum Marie and Charlie have been members since early 2013. Marie brought Charlie to training and passed Advanced just before Christmas. Charlie has also enjoyed daycare twice a week too. On the weekend before Christmas Marie became ill and needed to go to hospital. We were asked to help Charlie. Monique, our Advanced/Master instructor picked Charlie up and took him home with her. Club members came to the rescue. Sandy

with her lab Zara took him for a couple of days and Cheryl and her lab Annie agreed to foster for a couple of weeks. Marie was very grateful and rather than rehoming Charlie she was confident her recovery would allow him to return to her. Monique took him back for another week. Charlie was struggling with the changes but still coming to daycare to keep things as normal as possible. Marie came home and Charlie was so excited to be back with his Mum.

Very sadly Marie passed away at home a week later with Charlie by her side. Monique again came to the rescue and took Charlie home again. The search for a home began. And ended a day later.

Another long time club member Cathy had just lost one of her dogs to cancer and was ready to help another grieving soul out.

So Charlie has his forever home. A match made in heaven. Marie would approve.

This is to say thank you to the members who helped Charlie in need. Especially Cheryl who was so kind and supportive for those weeks. And to Cathy for opening her heart and home.

But mainly this is saying Thankyou to Monique, who dropped everything whenever Marie and Charlie needed her. Who visited Marie's ailing husband, helped with his washing, cooked him meals and kept him company. And on Marie's final day on this earth, Monique was there too, helping a poor frightened little dog who had lost his Mum.

Monique you are a treasure and we are eternally thankful that you are part of our team.

Marie..safe journey. You loved angels. You were always one on earth..now you are in their company.

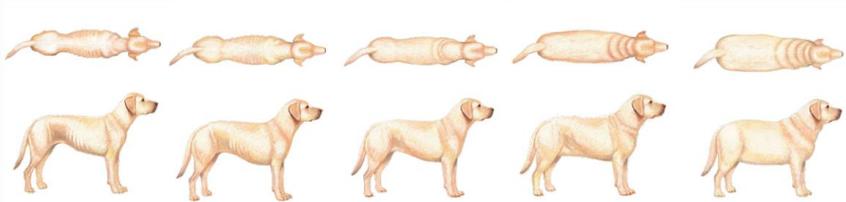
WHAT IS A HEALTHY WEIGHT AND SHAPE FOR OUR DOGS?

As a provider of Doggy Day Care, we at Holdfast Dog Centre encounter almost all sizes and shapes of dogs on a daily basis. We all want the best for our dogs, and a dog who is maintained at a healthy weight will live a longer and happier life, providing us humans with fewer veterinary bills and less distress over an unwell 4 legged family member.

We hope this gives everyone a clear picture of what a healthy dog should look like.

WHAT SHAPE IS YOUR DOG?

A little extra weight can be a **BIG PROBLEM**. Whether it's once a week or once a month, check your dog's body score regularly to make sure he's staying happy and healthy.

BODY 1 SCORE	BODY 2 SCORE	BODY 3 SCORE	BODY 4 SCORE	BODY 5 SCORE
<p>VERY THIN < 5% body fat</p> <p>Ribs – Easily felt with no fat cover Tail Base – Bones are raised, no fat cover Side View – Severe abdominal tuck Overhead View – Accentuated hourglass shape</p> <p style="font-size: small;">20% below ideal body weight</p>	<p>UNDERWEIGHT 5-15% body fat</p> <p>Ribs – Easily felt with little fat cover Tail Base – Bones are raised with slight fat cover Side View – Abdominal tuck Overhead View – Marked hourglass shape</p> <p style="font-size: small;">10% below ideal body weight</p>	<p>IDEAL BODY WEIGHT 16-25% body fat</p> <p>Ribs – Easily felt with slight fat cover Tail Base – Some contour with slight fat cover Side View – No abdominal tuck Overhead View – Well-proportioned waist</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: red;">Ideal body weight</p>	<p>OVERWEIGHT 26-35% body fat</p> <p>Ribs – Difficult to feel under moderate fat cover Tail Base – Some thickening, bones palpable under moderate fat cover Side View – No abdominal tuck Overhead View – Back is slightly broadened at waist</p> <p style="font-size: small;">10% above ideal body weight</p>	<p>OBESE > 35% body fat</p> <p>Ribs – Difficult to feel under thick fat cover Tail Base – Thickened and difficult to feel under thick fat cover Side View – No waist, fat hangs from abdomen Overhead View – Back is markedly broadened</p> <p style="font-size: small;">20% above ideal body weight</p>
				
Consult your veterinarian!	Consult your veterinarian to see if you are underfeeding your dog.	Great job! Keep doing what you are doing.	Consult your veterinarian about the right nutrition for your dog and about ways to increase activity.	Extra weight can cause serious health problems for your dog. Consult your veterinarian about the right nutrition for your dog.

A very thin or obese dog in general is obvious to most of us, but the line between an underweight, healthy or overweight dog can be a subjectively fine one.

LABRADOR RETRIEVER



VERY THIN / UNDERWEIGHT / HEALTHY WEIGHT / OVERWEIGHT / OBESE



STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

We should all be providing our dogs with regular parasite treatments and annual vaccinations, which require a weight measurement for correct dosage. Vet clinics should all have a set of scales in their reception area. If you are unsure, why not pop into your vet for a weigh in and advice, which can also be a chance for your dog to have a positive experience at the vets instead of the usual prodding and poking. With regular weigh-ins they may even come to enjoy their visits to the vet.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

More history – how did we recruit new members in the good old days?

Today we have around 400 registered members. This has grown over the years from a base of around 50. It might be of interest to reflect on how we achieved this growth. Here are some of the strategies we employed:-

Brochure handouts

We had committee members deliver brochures to all vets and pet shops in our area and neighbouring areas such as Plympton, Hallett Cove etc.

Talk-back radio

We developed contacts with talk back radio programs. Interestingly, one of our best contacts was with 5RPH (radio for print handicapped). This often involved May Raffen or myself joining a discussion at very late hours. Karyn also did a lot of this in more recent times.

Attend Urban Animal Management conferences

This is a conference mainly attended by council animal management offices from all around Australia. We were probably the only dog organisation that attended. Initially May Raffen paid her own way to attend – later we were able to subsidise other committee members to attend. I well remember attending a conference in Alice Springs where Phil Kirkpatrick and I presented a joint paper on how Councils and dog organisations can work together to mutual benefit. In those days, this was not the way things were and we were swamped with questions after the session. The council AMOs could not believe that this could happen. One outcome of this was that Phil was asked to prepare guideline papers for the West Australian and Northern Territory governments.

Advertising in local papers

We sparingly spent money on advertising with local papers.

Editorial/feature articles in local paper

From time to time we were able to get feature articles in local papers

Beachfront displays

Once or twice a year, we ran displays of obedience and agility training on the beachfront near Kingston Park Caravan Park.

Relationship with other dog-owner bodies

May Raffen established communication links with the Charles Sturt Dog Owners Association and with the Kingston (Tasmania) association? We still have a reasonably active relationship with Charles Sturt.

Word-of-mouth

Today, this is our main and most effective means of getting new members

You might say “what is the big deal about membership”? The answer is simple and ties in with our mission which is to train dog owners and thereby achieve a community of well-behaved dogs and responsible dog owners while safeguarding the right of non-dog owners in the community.

INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST

DOG RESCUE GROUPS

Looking for a new friend? Speak to us too, we are often looking for a great new home for a dog that we know.

www.sadogrescue.com

www.rspcasa.asn.au/ or

www.adoptapet.com.au

www.awlsa.com.au

FACEBOOK

Find “Holdfast Dog Centre” or “Karyn Molloy” on Facebook for clips, fun stuff and updates.

YOUTUBE

Search KarynM to see dog day care clips.

OTHER SITES

www.soe-bioremedies.com.au

www.rosehipvitalcanine.com.au/

www.apdt.com.au

www.lostpetfinders.com.au/pet-alert

<http://positively.com>