



HOLDFAST DOG CENTRE



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NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

We haven't had a newsletter for a while, we have been busy with training and day care and time gets away from us.

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Training: We had a huge number of people enrolling into our classes at the beginning of the year and ran some extra classes to take up the overflow. Now we are heading into winter it is easy to decide to wait until better weather. There are pros and cons. While you are waiting, your dog is still learning. So make sure you are teaching things that you want them to do and get better at. If you do decide to enrol anyway.. and we would love it if you did... there are some things you should know. We very rarely cancel classes, we run back to back courses and it is hard to offer back up lessons. If the weather is extreme though, we may call off a class, particularly the evening ones and offer a make up class on a Wednesday night. In most cases however, we continue on. Basic gets access to inside if it is raining and higher levels get to use the verandahs and paths. And your dogs get to learn that you can be fun and learn stuff even if the weather is challenging.

If you find a six week commitment too much when you have completed basic you could always look at our Single Topic Courses. Enrol in a three week course, one lesson by one hour per week on the following topics: Loose lead walking (includes a walk around the street): Stays to improve reliability : Recalls to help your dog learn that being with you is more fun than absolutely anything else! : Tricks and Games – this course includes lots of fun games and activities that increase bonds, proof all sorts of things like walking nicely, stays and recalls and teaches you and your dog how to have fun together.

All bookings available on line.



Day Care: Day care runs from Monday to Friday, with different dogs being suitable for various days depending on breed, age, play style, confidence and energy levels.

The dogs do spend most time outside, and always have access to outside, but on bad weather days (hot or cold), they do have access to inside to, including air conditioning or heating if required. Today is such a day – it's cold and raining. The doors are open, some are inside, resting or wrestling and others are enjoying the rain. They come and go as they please.

We sometimes get asked why we have firm gate rules, why dogs need to be dropped in by 9 and picked up after 4.30 (Fridays are the exception). And we know that this is not always convenient for everyone and we hate saying no if you get here early.

But this is best for your dogs. And the carers. Dogs like routine, they like knowing what to expect and how things works. Many of the day care dogs know it is there day, even if they come once a fortnight! Knowing what to expect helps with confidence and behaviour.

Our dogs know that the gate closes at 9 am. We then do yard rounds, refill pools and water bowls, integrate the dogs that have been placed in separate yards to prevent crowding at the gate and that play time begins. If a dog shows up after nine, once we have moved away from the gate, the dogs find this stressful. This change of routine, change of expectations, bothers many of them. Some of them get bossy and pushy, others fidgety. It makes it very hard to get the late arrival in. The late arrival may become nervous because he can see the arousal his arrival has caused. So being on time is important. For your dogs. And for us.

Early pickups cause a similar problem. We have a very set routine that we follow from around 3.45 onwards. The dogs recognise all these cues, routines and tasks as precursors to pick up time. We divide the dogs up into groups, some in the small yard, some inside, some in the settling bays to alleviate pressure at the gate, not only for the dogs but the carers too. As we get nearer to 4.15, the dogs get ready: they know who is going where and line up in "their" spot. This routine makes it easy for them and us ... stress free division of the group into the right area. If someone turns up early to pick up a dog, particularly if they knock on the fence or gate, the dogs become confused. The timing is wrong. It throws their routine out and makes the last half hour difficult instead of predictable.

Anyone who has picked up early would attest that the dogs become very aroused and bark and squabble, whereas later, at normal pick up time, they are mostly relaxed, chilled, waiting for their parents to get them.

So we ask nicely that you please adhere to the gate times. If a true emergency arose and there were no options (medical, children sick etc) we would cooperate by bringing your dog out to you if you text us and pick up prior to 3.45. Anything after that is difficult.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

AGM – Our AGM will be held on Friday, July 15th at 7 pm. All members welcome. The meeting will be followed by a light supper.

Dogs and Storks and Dogs and Toddlers –

“We are Pregnant.... Now what? “

So you are expecting a human baby, you couldn't be happier. But now is the time to prepare the dog/s for the new arrival.

Babies bring so much joy but what are the realistic expectations of our four legged babies when the little human arrives?

Should we bring home the baby blanket?
Does the dog know I'm pregnant?
What about carrying a doll?

There is so much advice out there, but Canine Interaction offers the only licenced program in South Australia.

This June long weekend we are running both our Dogs and Storks (TM) and our Dogs and Toddlers (TM) programs. These are seminars for the parents to attend about how to prepare the home. Discount in home consult deals will also be available on the day if you need extra help.

You are welcome to attend either or both sessions.

Dogs and Storks 10am - This program is all about preparing for the arrival and how to manage the introduction of baby to dogs safely. Recommended for those currently pregnant or planning to become pregnant in the near future.

Dogs and Toddlers 1pm - This is to help make the adjustment to mobile babies. This has its own unique challenges that need to be managed safely to prevent stress and/or injury.

June 12th at the Holdfast Dog Centre - Brighton Oval Complex, Stopford Rd Hove.
To book please contact Megan at megan@canineinteraction.com.au

Megan Eberhard



Old Friends

We have been running classes here since 2001 and day care since 2003. In that time hundreds of dogs have trained with us, and many dogs have also joined us for day care. Some are short term, it helps get dogs through their teenage years, through the destructive stages. Some stay longer. Tia, our longest regular day care dog started in May 2004, and I still here two days a week – we are convinced she thinks we work for her!

But now, after all this time, some of our dearest doggy friends have passed on, made their journey to Rainbow Bridge and left holes in the hearts of their families, and ours.

This last year has been particularly hard, so we want to say thank you to all those lovely dogs, the ones that became family, and their humans too who also become welcome familiar faces and were kind enough to allow us to share in the lives of their lovely dogs.

*George Hall Labrador: Tammie Kelly Cocker Spaniel: Woody Maley Boston Terrier:
Dougal Davies-Martin Golden Retriever: Lou Jones ACD: Mishka Henderson Mini Schnazuer:
Kira Campbell Bf x Cavy: Zac Corby Sheltie: Bruce Lee Labrador : Rupert Roy Finn Labrador:
Boston Gronthos Bernese Mountain dog.*

Our own: Kola Molloy, Jenny's Afghan : Fletch Hobba Morgan's Acd :

And any others who we may have missed but were no less important or loved.

We loved you all, we will see you at the Bridge:



Tammie Kelly Sponsorship.

Tammie, a darling cocker spaniel came along to classes with her mum Cynthia when we first started running classes here. Tammie loved training and successfully graduated from our highest level classes. Tammie and her mum remained involved in the club, joining in all our social activities, becoming regular visitors to our Friday drop in sessions and even brought along their new pup Halle to classes and social events too. Last year when Tammie passed, her lovely mum and dad decided to respect her memory with a five year sponsorship for one dog a year to be donated a Basic and Advanced package. This generous memorial is very much appreciated. The first dog to receive this sponsorship package is Nina, fittingly a darling cocker spaniel who has just finished her Basic course and will be continuing into Advanced in a few weeks. Congratulations Nina on passing. And a big thank you to Tammie, who brought us all together and made this possible with her winning smile, her happy wag and love of all things beautiful.

SNUFFLE MATS: Have you heard of Snuffle Mats: They are great for making meal times or treat times interesting and fun for your dog and encourage the sniff and search behaviour that dogs love. You can order through us or on facebook at :



<https://www.facebook.com/everydoggysnuffling/>

Check out the videos to see the tail wagging experiences of Every Doggy Snuffling

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