



HOLDFAST DOG CENTRE

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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2014

Early August saw the fruition and construction of our latest piece of equipment, the high rise doggy playground. Needless to say it has been a resounding success, talking point and source of entertainment for all of our day care dogs, clients and staff alike. It was constructed over 2 very busy days by 3 dedicated staff and friends of the club, along with some of their very helpful canine assistants. Huge thanks to Trevor Pengilly who designed and oversaw construction alongside his eager and exhausted labourers in Jenny Molloy and Simon Mills.



The equipment is cleverly constructed of a plastic composite that will resist fading, cracking and rotting, and will likely outlast most of us. We kindly ask that during Saturday and Thursday night training hours, that clients refrain from allowing their dogs from using the equipment, as staff are busy otherwise and unable to supervise, as well as it being very distracting for other dogs and their guardians who are training and trying to maintain focus.

MONDAY DAYCARE



August has seen some changes at Holdfast Dog Centre, as well as our impressive new doggy playground, for the first time in over 10 years we are offering daycare 5 days a week due to increasing demand. We started by imagining that Mondays would be run as a 3 month trial, but after only 1 month numbers have grown to a level that is feasible for the club. Monday daycare has been introduced as a stepping stone for many puppies who have outgrown Fridays smaller dogs and puppies, but are not ready to move up to Tuesdays and Thursdays bigger, and adult dog days. Monday daycare is suitable for puppies aged 4 – 6 months, as well as any small to medium sized dogs who are adequately socialized to attend daycare.

NEW ENTRANCE

August has also seen us change our daycare drop off and pick up point to the Northern or Stopford Road side of the big green clubhouse. Many of you are becoming accustomed with our new system, and we appreciate your patience while we have been ironing out the bugs.

The new system seems to be working well, as well as it being easier for staff to manage, it has become a calmer environment for the dogs. We have a red light above the external gate that when on, we ask that you wait aside until the previous client departs. When the light is switched off you are free to enter the exchange point.

We ask that clients arriving for training enter through the old entrance on the south side of the clubhouse and depart through the north side. This will enable a cohesive flow and prevent any traffic jams at training session change over times.

What do you do with your dog poo?

Until recently I had always put dog poo in the waste collection bin, but I did wonder if there was a greener solution out there.

Fortunately I heard an interview on the radio with a person from Kesab who advised that although it is not OK to put dog and cat poo in your home compost it is now OK in many council areas to dispose of it in the green recycling bin. It is also OK to place used kitty litter in the green bin, provided that it is the type made from used paper.

Refer to the following Pet Waste Fact sheet from zerowaste for further information and for a list of the council areas which now accept dog and cat poo:

www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/upload/at-home/fact-sheets-for-home-users/PetWasteFactSheet.pdf

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR DEAF MEMBERS

Julie Hancock has been a member of our club for 9 ½ years, she completed the Canine Good Citizens test with 'Hope' her Tenterfield Terrier and they also took up agility together. When 'Hannah' an English Springer Spaniel joined Julie's household she also came along to training and agility with her little big sister!

Julie worked at Lions Hearing Dogs at Verdun, the only Certified Training Centre for Hearing Dogs in Australia for 7 years, 6 of those years as a Hearing Dog Trainer. Dogs were selected from the RSPCA or the Animal Welfare League among other shelters and rescue organisations around Australia. Dogs would be trained to respond to many household sounds i.e doorbell, oven timer, door knock, alarm clock, mobile phone txt sound, baby cry, smoke alarm and trained to 'go get'. 'Go get' is used for multi-person households, if someone fell or needed help, being unable to call a deaf person in the house, instead they call the dog telling the dog to 'go get'. At this command the dog would search for someone and take them to the person in need. If there were other sounds that the client needed to identify, the dog would be especially trained for this. For example: A Client on Dialysis overnight, if the machine malfunctioned, an alarm would sound and the dog would be trained to work that alarm. The dogs were also trained for public access to go to shops, travel in buses, trains or go to work with the client. As another part of this work, Julie delivered dogs to the clients either locally or interstate and was required to communicate effectively with them using their preferred method of communication, often using Auslan (Australian Sign Language). Having completed 5 levels of Talking Hands at Deaf SA as a part of her work she learned she loved the language and decided she wanted to pursue learning Auslan at Adelaide TAFE.

After leaving Lions Hearing Dogs she undertook Auslan study, with the view of either becoming an Interpreter or working within the Deaf community in organisations that offer services for the Deaf. Having completed Certificate 2 in Auslan over 2 years part time, she had just started Certificate 3 when she suffered a severe crush injury to her right arm, losing the ability to use her right arm and hand. Now 3 surgeries and 2 years rehab later, Julie has returned to TAFE this year to study Certificate 3 in Auslan. A few additional challenges with a hand disability, requiring a change from previously being right handed to now being left handed. It requires a lot of extra work needing to catch up to other students as they had been consistently signing for the past 2 years and Julie had come from 2 years without signing.

Julie received a phone call from Karyns daughter Megan, to see if she could help with a Deaf couple Tanya and Tim who had a new puppy 'Bossy', and wanted to train her, but dog school for Deaf people is not an ideal environment for obvious reasons. Gaining access to dog training had become a potentially expensive option as they would need to pay for a professional Interpreter at an hourly rate which was not going to make it viable. Julie felt it was important that they had access to a dog school environment and thought this would be a win win situation. Julie needs to take every opportunity to practise Auslan as a part of her studies especially with the additional challenges she faces to regain the skill and speed she had as a right handed signer at the same time 'Bossy' could learn to socialise with other dogs and Tim and Tanya would have access to learn about dog training and dog care. What better place could be offered than Holdfast, it is such a privilege to introduce them to positive dog training.

Tim and Tanya are both profoundly Deaf and their godson Jay who is 'hearing', have been attending Holdfast with their Great Dane 'Bossy' for Basic Training. Both Tim and Tanya were born Deaf and come from families with Both Deaf and Hearing family members. Tim's parents and sister are hearing and he has 2 deaf brothers. Tanya's parents are deaf and she has 1 Deaf sister and 1 hearing sister. At present they share their home with Tanyas sister who is Deaf and her son Jay who as mentioned attends club with Tim and Tanya, he has excellent signing skills having grown up Bi-lingual in a family with both Deaf and hearing members.

If you have been attending classes on Saturday morning you may have seen Julie signing the classes for Tim and Tanya, with our wonderful club set up Jay also attends as a member of their household and Bossy's mate, he is also able to learn about training in a positive way. With the opportunity to train 'Bossy' Tim and Tanya have been working really hard with her as 'Bossy' is a strong, bouncy, baby Great Dane who is loving the opportunity to learn and socialise. They have made great advances with her and look forward to continue training at Holdfast despite the hour drive to get to the club. Julie looks forward to continuing her commitment to sign for Tim and Tanya as long as they wish to train with us. Maybe this will be an opening for other Deaf dog owners to attend a dog school.

MEET JASPER



Recently we were asked by a club member to help an elderly friend rehome his dog. Jasper, a ten year old Maltese Shih Tzu cross needed a new family because his people were no longer able to care for him. Jasper came to day care on a Friday to meet the other little dogs and their people, we put a notice on our Facebook page and signs up at the centre. Luckily for Jasper it didn't take long. Penny and Mel, mums to regular Friday daycare dogs, Spike and Ernie, offered to foster him until a permanent home could be found. They took him home with them on Friday. Saturday he was treated to a new haircut and style (complete with ribbon) and a check up at the vet. By Sunday night he had won their hearts, and Penny and Mel were "foster fails" and the three dogs are now happily settled together. Brothers forever. Thanks girls you warmed our hearts. Jasper is a lucky boy.

SPRINGTIME

With the colder months behind us, and spring well and truly on its way, there are things as dog owners and guardians that we need to be more aware of.

Spring is mating and nesting season for birds, and at this time they start swooping to fend away intruders and defend their nests. If you frequent an area on a regular basis, familiarize yourself with the location of nests and try to avoid them. Birds have as much right to further their species as any, and we don't want our dogs chasing them either. A dog chasing a bird (including seagulls) is not under effective control, and you can be fined by the council if discovered.

Spring is also rye grass seed season. The bane of dog owners at this time of year, these little devils can burrow their way into your dogs coat and through their skin, where they can cause drastic health issues.



If you've ever got one of these seeds caught in a piece of clothing, like a sock, you'll understand just how efficiently they burrow their way in, and just how difficult they are to remove. Your dogs coat and skin is no different, these seeds can enter your dog through the skin, eyes, ears, nose or mouth. Your dogs paws are most susceptible, and for the next few months we should all be performing thorough daily checks of our dogs to locate and remove these seeds as we find them. A seed that makes its way into our dogs eyes, ears and noses will require a visit to your veterinarian for removal.

A dogs eye damaged by a grass seed.



A grass seed entry wound in a dogs ear.



A grass seed entry wound on a dogs paw.



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.

OTHER SITES

www.soe-bioremedies.com.au

www.rosehipvitalcanine.com.au/

www.apdt.com.au

www.lostpetfinders.com.au/pet-alert

<http://positively.com>

www.deltasociety.com.au