



HOLDFAST DOG CENTRE

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NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2015

This year, at the RSPCA paws walk, and in media outlets everywhere, the RSPCA released their "Lead by Example" campaign. Focus is placed on Force free training, the use of Positive reinforcement as the recommended training method and the use of front leading harnesses, or soft collars when walking or training your dogs. We also follow these guidelines and are pleased to be on the RSPCA's Force Free training list. The RSCPA are to be congratulated on this campaign, a huge step forward for dogs. Their website has full details.

www.rspcasa.org.au/the-issues/lead-by-example

Winter is upon us, well soon anyway. But it has been very cold so far. We are truly full of admiration for our club members who have shown up for classes, all rugged up and ready to train. You know the benefit of education, for you and your dog, and your relationships and bonds with your dogs will be the ultimate reward.

TTouch Seminars. We have sponsored two TTouch seminars at the centre, and plan a couple more soon. One is on the 14th June (Fully booked) and the other is on 26th July, spaces still available. Details of this wonderful, calm and effective way of massaging and interacting with your dog are available through Millie Miller at TTouch SA, on www.ttouchsa.com.au and on their facebook page

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM is being held on Friday July 10th at 7.pm
Supper, including tea and coffee will follow.
Please bring a basket supper to share.

RSVP June 30th.

We are planning a Doggy Fun Day Out on Saturday, 11th July from 10 am – 3 pm.

There will be stall holders, with toys, clothes, doggy goods and doggy services to explore and buy. Food, for humans and dogs will be available, some demos, some discussions on relevant dog topics and other points of interest. More details will be emailed to all members once the program is fully developed.

But until then, mark the date in your diary, and plan on dropping in.



The Phoenix Files

Hi my name is Phoenix and I am a seven year old Leonberger. I live with my Mum Karyn, Dad Pete, and my Afghan Hound brother, Baker. He is very regal and dignified. But I am smart. I know this because my mum calls me Doofus a lot, and that means Very Smart Dog!

When I was young (I was never little) I did lots of Doofus stuff, I was about the smartest dog ever! Now that I am older I don't get called Doofus as much. I worried that I wasn't as smart as I used to be! But I think it is just that Mum is so used to me being smart by now, she forgets to tell me.

It has been very cold and wet so far this year. I love cold and wet. I like getting in the pools to get wet, and getting out and staying wet. But I have a big thick coat. Some dogs don't have big thick coats. I feel sorry for them, but mum says their houses are probably not as messy. I see hair around the house sometimes, but I don't know how it gets there, are houses meant to grow hair? If your dog doesn't have a lot of hair he should have a coat. I don't like coats. Baker loves coats. He has a lot of hair and still likes coats. Mum says he doesn't have much body fat. I have body fat. I wondered if she was being rude, because she laughed. Then I figured out that if you are a Doofus you probably have extra body fat to keep all that smartness warm.

My mum has been talking about respect and good manners. I have them. My mum taught me to sit to say please, and I have played with lots of dogs so I am good at it. But some dogs aren't. So we need to be extra polite and helpful when we meet them. If you come to the club to run your dog when we aren't here, you need to be polite too. Don't bring your dog in without checking if there is a scaredy cat dog in here or a Doofus that knows how to play. Some people forget their manners sometimes, mum said that is being a Doofus, but that doesn't seem very smart to me at all.

Do you know that sometimes dogs bite people? And sometimes people smack dogs? That doesn't seem right. But I think it happens because people and dogs don't listen to each other properly. My mum talks with words, and body language, and I try really hard to figure it all out. I talk body language, words are too hard. I am lucky. My mum and family and friends at day care work really hard to listen to dog language. And they are good at it. So we all get along pretty fine. I think people should try really hard to understand dogs, cos dogs already try really hard to figure out people. I know this cos I am a Doofus, and that means very smart dog! If we all try really hard, no one will get upset, or confused, or scared as much. And when we do, we can help each other feel better.



Phoenix (Baker doesn't do newsletters cos he isn't a Doofus!)

DOG BITE PREVENTION

Dog Bite Prevention Week is May 17-23, 2015. Did you know that 77% (USA stats but similar worldwide) of dog bites come from the family dog or a friend's dog? It's time to "Get Smart, Listen Up and Speak Out" and a great way to start is with this free infographic from [The Family Dog](http://www.thefamilydog.com).

Being aware of your dog's body language can lead to better understanding and respect. Dogs have many conflict avoidance strategies, but these are often ignored so the dog is left with little choice when stressed or overwhelmed.

STAY SAFE AROUND THE DOGS YOU KNOW

THEIR BODY	THEIR FEELINGS
<p>Pet dogs gently with one hand, collar or tail (not on the head).</p>	<p>Sit WITH dogs, not ON them.</p>
<p>DON'T kiss, hug or pick up dogs.</p>	<p>DON'T yell, scare, hurt or tease dogs.</p>
RESPECT	
<p>Always invite dogs into YOUR space instead of going into theirs.</p>	<p>Walk away from dogs when they're in crates or resting anywhere.</p>
<p>DON'T go up to dogs when they're eating or chewing.</p>	<p>DON'T put your face in dogs' faces.</p>
<p>Train and play with dogs using treats and toys.</p>	<p>Let grown ups take care of dogs when they have something they shouldn't.</p>
<p>DON'T take anything from dogs...</p>	<p>...EVEN if it's yours! Ask a grown up for help.</p>

THEIR SPACE

Created by **the family dog**
dog training for the whole family

STOP THE 77

stopthe77.com

THEIR STUFF

Sponsored by

Please watch the following video

"Never Saw it Coming" And help your dogs.

<http://www.thefamilydog.com/>

Keys to Supervising Dogs and Kids

There are an estimated 800,000 Americans seeking medical attention for dog bites each year, with over half of these injuries to children ages 5-9. **The problem is not lack of supervision.** The problem is no one has taught parents what they should be watching for.

Intervene when any of these things are happening:

<p>1. Tense canine body language</p> <p>Stiff or frozen, not loose</p>	<p>2. Inappropriate human behavior</p> <p>not comfortable</p>
<p>3. Three really-easy-to-see stress signals in your dog</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Yawning</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Lip licking</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Whites of eyes showing</p> </div> </div>	
<p>4. Avoidance behaviors</p> <p>I really don't want to be bothered. I will go away.</p>	<p>5. Growling</p> <p>I am warning you.</p>

Robin Bennett
Helping Owners Learn How to Keep Dogs Safe

GROUNDS ACCESS – IF YOU USE OUR GROUNDS OUT OF HOURS PLEASE READ

Members of the Holdfast Dog Centre are most welcome to run their dogs on the club grounds when day care, classes, seminars or meetings are not being held.

Membership must be current, and is valid the year of enrolment until the 31st December of that year. Times and details are below and on the website under Visitors page. We also advise of our of normal times closures for seminars and workshops on our facebook page.

The system of self-management, self-regulation and good manners has made this successful for over a decade. However, over the last few months, a few minor, and more recently, a couple of major issues have arisen. It appears that in some instances, tolerance and respectfulness are not always being used.

We would like you to read the following points and adhere to them with respect for the club, the grounds and the other members. It would be a shame for issues to develop that would deprive everyone of this privilege.

- On arrival, check that the grounds are empty before entering. The three gate system allows you to enter the first gate, and check before entering the grounds.
- If other dogs/members present, check that their dogs are social before entering
- If not, then please wait until they leave (should be within 15 minutes)
- If someone arrives while you are inside, and your dogs are not dog savvy, or you would prefer privacy and no interaction, then please leave within 15 minutes.
- For extra safety, a chain and clip have been placed on the final entry gate, so you can secure the gate. This will also hopefully remind others to check before entering
- At all times be respectful, polite and generous with other members. Bad language, tension and disregard for members and their dogs will not be tolerated. Not all dogs are social, not all have had perfect upbringings, and people with anxious, reactive or shy dogs need somewhere to exercise. This helps dogs' confidence too.
- Pick up after your dog. Scoops are available, place waste in small lined, green bin
- If your dog starts digging in the lawn, redirect them to the sandpit.
- We are a Non Smoking Venue. Please do not smoke... or at least put butts in the bin
- If the cleaner is here, he has priority. If his and your dogs are fine together then you are welcome to run your dogs. If not you will have to come back another time.
- Do not leave chairs, cubby houses or any objects up against the fences.
- Close all gates as you leave.

Times: Times are subject to change and website will be updated if permanent changes are made. Seminars and workshops will be advertised on our facebook page and a sign will be placed on the entrance if a seminar is running.

Saturday – 4 pm onwards – Sunday – all day – Wednesday and Friday evenings after 6pm provided day care dogs have been collected. Some Saturdays during school holidays, I will endeavour to get these dates on website asap.

If you do have any issues, problems, concerns or questions, please get in touch with Karyn, 0405 559 150, or email me.