

# Warringal Obedience Dog Club Inc.



---

‘WAG’

December 2011

## Club Rules

Every club requires its members to observe certain rules. Ours are not demanding and are based on common sense and courtesy.

1. Warringal Obedience Dog Club Inc. is not responsible for any misdemeanour caused by a handler or dog.
2. All members must wear their membership card when attending class.
3. Bitches in season or sick/injured dogs are not allowed on training ground.
4. Dogs must be on lead at all times whilst on training ground, except when engaged in "off lead" exercises in class.
5. Dog droppings must be picked up and placed in buckets IMMEDIATELY by handlers with the equipment provided.
6. Children must have adult supervision at all times whilst on training ground and at toilets.
7. A dog that has bitten or shows undue aggression must be reported to the Director of Training.
8. No dogs allowed in the clubhouse or on the ramp.
9. Members are not allowed to use spiked or electric collars on their dogs on the WODC grounds.
10. Under NO circumstances is food to be spat at any dog on WODC grounds. Discreet use of food in class is acceptable.

### **CAUTION - BEWARE OF TETHERED DOGS**

#### Class Times

Introductory:	9:30 am
Puppies (After the 2nd vaccination & up to 6 mths )	9.45 am
Beginners	9:00 am
Advanced Beginners	9:45 am
Class 1	9:45 am
Class 2	9:00 am
Class ¾	9:00am
Ring Work	9:00am
Agility	10:30am

# From the Editor,

This month your friendly 'WAG' has been produced by one of your friendly Agility Instructors, Rochelle. Anyone wishing to contribute to your friendly 'WAG' can email me at:

[loveamutt@hotmail.com](mailto:loveamutt@hotmail.com)

So as we near the end of the year I'd like to wish every 'man and his dog' a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to more doggy fun into the New Year. I hope all your canine BFFs enjoy their Christmas and don't get into too much Christmas pudding, but instead have a great day with their family. I started Christmas shopping for my four legged fur kids right back in November!

Remember on New Years Eve to be watchful of your dog as there will be lots of fire works happening and many dogs can become frightened and escape their yards, often harming themselves, as they try and escape the loud noises. If you do go out for New Year's Eve it may be an idea to leave Fido inside, or celebrate the New Year at home where you can see if he is getting distressed.

Our club finished the year with the December Agility trial held at Bulla Exhibition Centre, and club Christmas party at our Monty grounds. Both days were great, and although I missed the agility trial due to ill health ( ☹ ) the Christmas party was lots of fun!

So until next time, have fun with your dogs!!!

Rochelle Manderson



-----

Please remember to pick up your dog's droppings during class and to dispose of it at the end of your class. Thank you!!!



## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

It's the end of 2011 and the club has managed to make it through the year and still keep going. We have lost some members as the move didn't suit everyone but we are getting new members all the time.

This will be my last presidents report as I am handing over the reins to Gordon Strachan who most you will know as our class 2 instructor. I hope Gordon will enjoy his time as president and move the club forward and continue to improve things along the way.

The club has held its June and December Agility Trials this year and both went well thanks to our Agility Trial Secretary, Chris Wong. Thank you Chris for doing such a good job. Most people are not aware of how much time and hard work goes into running Trials, so it is really appreciated. The Agility Trials also always make a profit which is great.

We also ran a BBQ at Best Friends Pet Super Centre in Thomastown which went well and helps get our name out there. One of our committee members, Jade, organised and ran this event with only a small group of helper but they enjoyed themselves and handed out plenty of our brochures. We also held a small demonstration at the Templestowe Festival which was also enjoyable and went well.

We currently have 10 members standing for committee for 2012 which is great but we don't have anyone for assistant secretary so if anyone is able to assist and fill this position it would be great as it takes a little bit of pressure off the secretary. There are also some straight committee positions still available so if you are interested please come and see us, new people are always welcome to committee as they bring new ideas and enthusiasm.

I hope that this will be a good year for the club. The enjoyment that you can get from being with your furry four legged friends is wonderful and the more we interact with them the more we get from them. Please remember if you have any problems or if you have any ideas relating to the club and how we can make things even more fun come and see any of the instructors or committee members.

Gayle Baxter  
President  
Home Phone: 9478 2270  
E-Mail: [gaylebaxter50@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gaylebaxter50@yahoo.com.au)

## **Member Update: my Three Tracking Champions of Brunswick. Wendy Seng Hpa.**

### **“SMAUG” aka T.CH. Meinway Fire N Smoke C.D.**

Smaug is the senior member of my canine pack, and is a proud member of the G.S.D.C.V. “The 1<sup>st</sup> Club”, being almost 14 years old. Although his eyesight and hearing have faded, his nose still functions superbly. He loves short walks around the streets of Brunswick and the occasional romp in the park. He revels in a weekly swim in a heated pool and his following warm blow-drying, which helps keep him in the great shape that he's in for his age.

Smaug was born in Gippsland in 15<sup>th</sup> December 1997, his dad, Iwan, being one of the first of recent great champions being imported from overseas. In 2000 Smaug



was the very first dog in the State Government “Responsible Pet Ownership” program to go into classrooms to help Primary School students gain an understanding of looking after pets in the family. He gained his Companion Dog title in 2002 and his Tracking Champion Title in 2004. He is now happily retired and enjoys life with his related two female canine companions: Asta (Iwan’s grand-daughter) and young Tigerlily, (Iwan’s great-grand-daughter). He’s the grand old gentleman of my household!

### **“ASTA” aka T.CH. Rodatt Asta T.S.D. U.D. A.D.M.2 A.D.O. G.D.X. J.D.M.2 J.D.O. S.D.X. S.P.D. H.T. E.T.**

Just look at those titles: all gained just having fun! No other German Shepherd Dog in Australia has proved such versatility by achieving as many. Asta’s my star in every sense of the word. She’s a beautiful, happy lady who loves to please. She was born on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2003 and achieved her first tracking title before her second birthday, followed closely by her first obedience title. She’s willing to do anything she’s asked and has enjoyed both trialing and being a “show-off” to the public in various ‘Demo’ teams. She continues to be just a puppy at heart! One of the highlights of her Agility career was at the Royal Melbourne Show in Agility Games Strategic Pairs, where she and her best friend, Morgan the Rottweiler, together gained First Place in 2009. She loves to run, to jump, to chase balls, to play, to do tricks, to tease, to be patted and also just to be herself, at home and happy with “mum” and her two other canine companions.





## **“LILY” aka T.CH. Kazkiri Tigerlily**

Lily was born in Elphinstone in Valentine's Day in the Year of the Tiger: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010. This youngster has very big paw-prints to fill and she's proving herself well up to the challenge. She's wickedly full of life, constantly on the go and enjoys every moment of each day. Lily began her tracking competition just this year and has gained her Tracking Dog, Tracking Dog Excellent and Tracking Champion titles, the latter at 18 months of age. All in just one season! Our next aim is Agility trialing, but that will be some time away yet. Lily has a personality all of her own. She enjoys “helping” with the gardening, playing with her toys and teasing her two older companions. She especially loves visits to the park and is overjoyed if there is any other energetic canine, large or small, who is happy to join her in play. She has fitted in so well to the Brunswick pack, it's now hard to imagine my life without this trio of champion “good Shepherds”!



### *Footnote:*

*Due to injury and surgery early September, I haven't been able to take the dogs out or drive and thus their training has really suffered. They have been very understanding and we hope to be out and about soon.*

*Wendy Seng Hpa. November 2011.*

*Editor's note: We all wish Wendy a speedy recovery so we can see her out and about with her dogs again!!! It was wonderful to see Wendy and Asta at a recent trial in November, not only running courses but passing them as well ☺*

## 2011 TITLE WINNERS!

Highest Scoring Warringal Member 2011



*Czara Blackvelvet CDX TD  
Grazyna Mackiewicz and Czara*

195 points!!!

## Agility Titles



*Barragij Sylvie AD*

*Chris Wong and Sylvie earned their Jumping Dog title (ANKC) and their Novice Agility Course (NADAC) title*



*Kambirra Pure Pirate ADX JDM SPDX SDX QD*

*Chris Wong and Cody earned their Snooker Dog Master title (ANKC), their Outstanding Novice Jumpers title and their Outstanding Novice Agility (NADAC) title*





*Timmar Black Thunder CD ADM JDM2 ADO QD SDX SPDX  
Chris Wong with Xander earned their Snooker Dog Master title (ANKC) and their Outstanding Open Agility title (NADAC)*



*Skipper  
Gayle Baxter and Skipper earned their Novice Jumpers title and their Novice Touch N Go title (NADAC)*



*T.CH. Rodatt Asta T.S.D. U.D. A.D.M.2 A.D.O. Q.D.X. J.D.M.2 J.D.O. S.D.X. S.P.D. H.T. E.T.  
Wendy Seng Hpa and Asta earned their Jumping Dog Master 2 (ANKC)*



*B'Elanna  
Rockelle Manderson and B'Elanna earned their Outstanding Open Tunnelers title, their Outstanding Elite Jumpers title, and their Superior Open Agility title (NADAC)*



*Zane*

*Rockelle Manderson and Zane earned their Novice Jumpers and Outstanding Novice Jumpers title, their Outstanding Novice Agility title and their Novice Tunnelers title (NADAC)*



*Adelaide*

*Rockelle Manderson and Adelaide earned their Novice Jumpers title (NADAC)*



*Glentress Bets CCD QD SPD*

*Samantha Wilde and Gas earned their Jumping Dog title (ANKC)*



*Shelby*

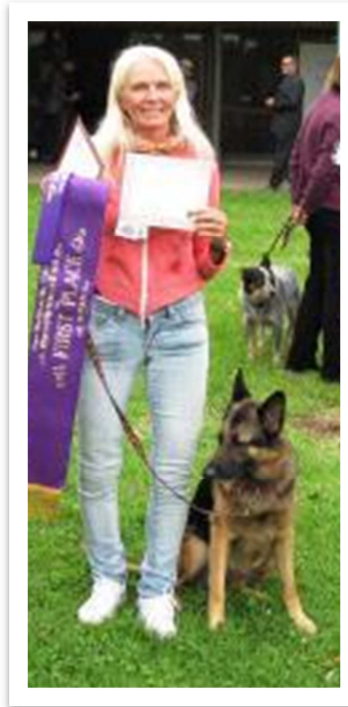
*Marie Fabris and Shelby earned their Novice Jumpers title and their Outstanding Novice Tunnelers title (NADAC)*



*Harvie*

*Janice Crooks and Harvie earned their Novice Agility title, their Novice Tunnelers title, their Novice Jumpers title and their Outstanding Novice Jumpers title (NADAC).*

## Obedience Titles



*Czara Blackvelvet CDX TD*

*Grazyna Mackiewicz and Czara earned their Companion Dog Excellent title*



*Skeena CDX*

*Grant Kema and Skeena earned their Companion Dog excellent title*





*Prepelica Thunder Boy CDX ET*  
*Gaye Penny and Jasper earned their Utility Dog title*



*Lineox Xero The Hero*  
*Leigh Finnin and Xero earned their Companion Dog Excellent and Utility Dog titles*

## Tracking titles



*T.CH. KAZKIRI TIGERLILY*

*Wendy Seng Hpa and Lily earned their Tracking Dog, Tracking Dog Excellent and Tracking Champion titles*



*Czara Blackvelvet CDX TD*

*Grazyna Mackiewicz and Czara earned their Tracking Dog title*



*Dual Ch (T) Talcott Mackason TSD*

*Wally Mossop and Macca earned their Track and Search Dog title.*

## Dances with Dogs



*Lady Belanna ADX JDX SPD SDX QD DWDF.S HTM.S*

*Rochelle Manderson and B'Elanna earned their Dances with Dogs Freestyle Starters title and their Heelwork to Music Starters title.*



*Gr Ch Hapipet Mystery Solved JD DWDF.S*

*Rochelle Manderson and Zane earned their Dances with Dogs Freestyle Starters title.*

## Showing



*Gr Ch Hapipet Mystery Solved JD DWDF.S  
Rockelle Manderson and Zane earned their Grand Champion title.*



## Wedding Bells!!!

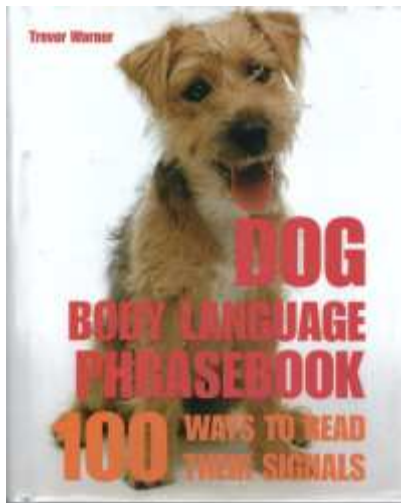


*Wedding bells rang out recently when club member Jade wedded her man Scott in a lovely and intimate ceremony and reception in Elstham. Jade (and sister Megan) train working dogs down at Warringal on a Sunday morning in the Obedience and the Agility classes. Jade also organizes fund raising events for the club, the most recent being a fundraiser B.B.Q. at Best Friends Pet Superstore in Thomastown where the club made a nice profit and talked to some dog people as well. We all wish Jade and Scott a great life together with each other and their dogs. Congratulations to the happy couple ☺*

---

## Book review

Dog Body Language Phrasebook: 100 ways to read their signals  
Trevor Warner



This is a handy little book that is easy to read and very well set out, making it easy to comprehend. Different aspects of dog behaviour is covered under broad classifications such as 'The pack instinct', 'feeding time', and 'the urge to mate', to name a few. Within each of these topics the author covers 100 brief explanations of dog signals under 100 different pages such as 'This is strange and I don't like it' regarding barking, 'How was it for you' regarding mating, and 'I'm not stronger than you' regarding submissive behavior, to name a few. Each topic is accompanied by a photo of a dog or dogs displaying the behavior or signal that is being discussed.

The great thing about this book is that you can use it in two ways, you can read through the book as an informative non-fiction work about dog behavior and I'm sure everyone will learn something they didn't previously know. Or you can use it as a reference book if you are unsure of what your dog is trying to communicate. So long as you have some idea what it is generally doing (ie: play), you can then look up that chapter.

I found this book an interesting overview of dog communication, not getting too in-depth but covering the field of body language and posture you are likely to see from your best mate.

## 2011 WODC Winter Agility Trial



Our annual winter Agility trial was held at Bulla Exhibition Centre and offered all Agility and Jumping classes, plus the Strategic Pairs class. It was run by trial secretary Chris Wong, and involved plenty of helpers from the club behind the scenes (equipment, catering, pass cards, raffle, stewards etc), and to Chris and *ALL* those who helped out before, during, and after the trial the club thanks you greatly!!!

Our trial attracted 585 entries with 115 qualifying rounds for the day, earning the club a little over \$1000 profit to pay for the equipment changes that will come into force 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. The trial demonstrates the proficiency of which Warringal holds in the sport of agility and allows for our club members to continue to train in this sport, and then to trial alongside non-club members in competition.

Warringal's December trial was recently held at Bulla Exhibition Centre and again attracted an entry of over 500 runs, with over 80 qualifying runs for the day! The raffle was a huge success selling over 600 tickets! The weather was kind to trailers and the temperature was pleasant for the time of year. Thank you to everyone who helped at these trials and made them the success they were.

Please support those companies who supported our raffle by donating prizes. They were:

Bunnings	Eltham
Plenty for Pets	Bundoora
Monty Pet Shop	Montmorency
Pauls Butchery	Montmorency
Mudd Café	Montmorency
98 Lower Gifts	Rosanna
Frosts Pharmacy	Rosanna
Macleod	
Newsagency	Macleod
Pets Paradise	Greensborough

Also a big thank you to those members who donated prizes for our raffle table:

Gayle Baxter  
Gordon Strachan  
Marie Fabris  
Rochelle Manderson  
Chris Wong  
Colleen Paterson  
Yvonne Manderson

Well done to Janice for organizing the raffle, and to Chris our trial secretary, for a great day.



## Feedback from our trial:

Hi Christine,

I have just returned from my local Club (Hastings and District Dog Obedience Club) where I was surprised to be presented with a Third place sash from yesterday's Warringal Agility trial. This was done in a small impromptu "ceremony" by our Trial Secretary, Greg Milner, who accepted the sash on my behalf on Saturday.

I wanted to apologise for not being there to graciously accept the sash personally, but I was led to believe that because we didn't get a "pass" it was unlikely that we would be a place-getter. You see this was our very first agility trial at the novice level.

The second thing I wanted to do was congratulate you and the Club for making the event so enjoyable and welcoming for a newcomer. A particular thanks to the Judges, Stewards and Timekeepers, etc. (including kiosk staff) for being so friendly, helpful and encouraging. The Judges especially interacted in a way which saw gentle "corrections" given for minor ring etiquette deficiencies, where needed, without compromising the spirit of the rules or the integrity of the ring discipline. This is how newcomers learn and are encouraged to return. This is especially appreciated as some I have spoken to relate very different experiences on their first day (not at Warringal, I hasten to add). In one case the person was turned off VCA-affiliated trialling.

I hope that you can pass on to those concerned and your Committee, and especially Murray Tyler and Peter Buykx my thanks for the way event was conducted. Both Peter and Murray approached me not once, but twice, to offer their congratulations and encouragement for our performance. Much appreciated.

Regards,  
Garry Heinze

---

*"Pedigree indicates what the animal should be.  
Conformation indicates what the animal appears to be.  
But performance indicates what the animal actually is."*

Author unknown



## **A Dog's Purpose?** (from a 6-year-old).

*Being a veterinarian, I was called out to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to him, and they were hoping for a miracle.*

*I found Belker to be dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for him, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog, in their home.*

*As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old son to observe, believing he might learn something from the experience.*

*The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.*

*The little boy seemed to accept his dog's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are so much shorter than ours.*

*Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."*

*Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try to live.*

*He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?"*

*The Six-year-old continued:*

*"Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."*

*Live simply.*

*Love generously.*

*Care deeply.*

*Speak kindly.*

*Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:*

*When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.*

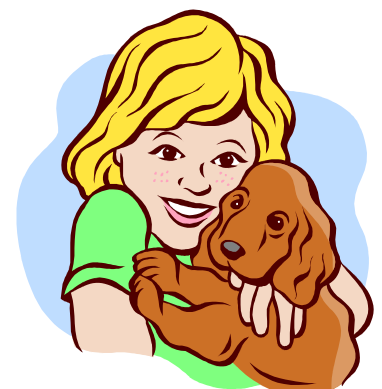
*Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.*

*Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy.*

*Take naps.*

*Stretch before rising.*

*Run, romp, and play daily.*





*Thrive on attention and let people touch you.*

*Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.*

*On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.*

*On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.*

*When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.*

*Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.*

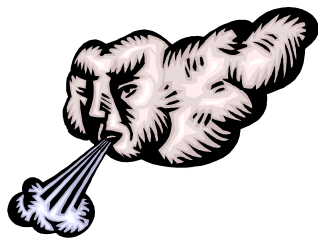
*Be loyal.*

*Never pretend to be something you're not.*

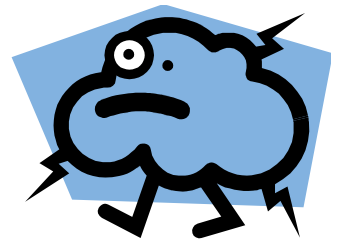
*If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.*

*When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.*

**ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY!**



Is your dog scared of  
thunderstorms???



We received news of a product that may help dogs with storm-phobias. I have personally not used this product so cannot offer an opinion on its effectiveness, but below are some details that some members may find interesting and can further investigate...



Hi,  
Here's link to the Thundershirt, if you know anyone who has dogs with issues like storm fear, barking, separation anxiety etc, pass it on. I used it on Senge on Wednesday, the first day I got it, and it was brilliant!!! Previously he'd hyperventilate and vomit with fear, even when inside with us. We'd started using (vet prescribed) valium. With this on he was calm, even ate and slept during the storm. Please share, it's only \$45, and if it doesn't work they'll refund the money!

<http://waggle.com.au/special-needs-m41/anxious-dogs-c61>

## Happy snaps from the Christmas break up party!

*Sadly my camera died on me at the party, but I did manage 4 shots that were okay ☺*



Socialising!



Christmas bon bons!



Morning tea!



Come and Try Agility!

## Presentation night and AGM

*This year we had the Police Dog Squad come and give a talk at our presentation night and AGM. I'm sure our members found it interesting, not to mention the very CUTE GSD puppies!!! Here are a couple of photos of the night.*



Dog bites are a hot topic right now and this article may be of interest to some of our readers. It is from the *Medical Journal of Australia*, issue dated 5/19 December 2011 ([http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/195\\_11\\_121211/kim11319\\_fm.html](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/195_11_121211/kim11319_fm.html)). It is fully referenced. (Editorial MJA 2011; 195 (11/12): 635-636 Received 16 Oct 2011, accepted 16 Nov 2011 doi: 10.5694/mja11.11319)



## DOG BITES IN AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN

### Teaching children how to behave around dogs can reduce the incidence

Roy M Kimble, Natalie Dallow, Richard Franklin and Belinda Wallis

*Dogs never bite me. Just humans.*

*Marilyn Monroe (1926–1962)*

Dogs have been companions of humans for over 12 000 years and have become an inseparable part of rural and urban life. Many breeds continue to do valuable work — managing livestock on farms, guiding the visually impaired, sniffing out contraband, and as guard dogs. Most of the 3.4 million dogs in Australia are family pets, with 36% of households owning a dog.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, as a result of this close relationship, dog bites are common.

Statistics on dog bites often seem alarming, but most bite injuries are relatively minor, not requiring hospital admission.<sup>2</sup> In 2008 and 2009, 928 children aged 0–14 years attended accident and emergency departments in Queensland with dog bites, equating to nine bites per week (Access Information Service, Queensland Health). The Queensland Trauma Registry (QTR) contains data on 186 children (aged 0–14 years; mean age, 5.5 years) who were admitted to Queensland hospitals for more than 24 hours in 2003–2009, equating to one such hospitalisation for a dog bite injury every 2 weeks (own unpublished data). No children died from dog bites in this period. Of the dog bite injuries recorded in the QTR, 88% occurred in the home environment, and almost all (98%) required at least one operation under general anaesthetic. In 2003, the Royal Children's Hospital conducted a telephone survey on 45 consecutive children who were admitted with serious dog bites during 1997–2002. This survey showed that the child had physically interacted with the dog immediately before the attack in 63% of cases. Most attacks (92%) occurred in a setting familiar to the child, usually the family house or garden, or that of a relative or friend. Most bites were to the head and neck region (72%) and most children (93%) were left with permanent cosmetic scarring (own unpublished data). These results are consistent with those of other Australian studies.<sup>2,3</sup>

While most dog bite reports attempt to identify the breed, this information is commonly not documented in the patient record and, when stated, relies on correct identification by the family. No one breed stands out, but breeds commonly mentioned in Australian articles include Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Cattle Dogs and the Bull Terrier group.<sup>2,3</sup> Data on an array of other breeds and cross-breeds provide evidence that any dog is capable of biting. An American study examined 238 dog-bite-related deaths over 20 years to 1998, and identified at least 25 different breeds.<sup>4</sup> Breed identification may not be accurate. For example, the general public might have difficulty differentiating between several breeds in the Bull Terrier group. Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers and American Pit Bull Terriers all appear very similar. To add further confusion, a recent Queensland Supreme Court ruling stated that there was no distinction between the American Staffordshire Terrier and the American Pit Bull Terrier.

Dogs are highly regulated in Australia with mandatory registration laws. It is now prohibited to import certain breeds, including American Pit Bull Terriers, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino and Fila Brasileiro. State laws on the ownership of such breeds vary, but generally require desexing (unless registered for breeding), microchipping, the use of a leash and muzzle in public places and a locked enclosure at home with a warning sign. The laws are based not so much on evidence that these breeds are inherently dangerous, but rather that they are breeds which have been traditionally used for dog fighting. Much debate continues whether this is good and fair legislation, as studies have failed to show improvement in the incidence of bites after the legislation was passed.<sup>5</sup> Breed-specific legislation fails to take into account that any breed of dog can be dangerous in the hands of an

irresponsible owner who fails to provide good and early training. Further, these restrictions may create the risk of higher numbers of unregistered animals or irresponsible owners simply turning to other breeds. It is clear that all breeds bite, and that the severity and commonality is related to the size of the dog and how many of a particular breed exist.<sup>6</sup> In the Netherlands, where good data on breeds and bites exist, breed-specific legislation was repealed because they found no one breed more dangerous than any other. They recommended there be a focus on owners of dogs in cases where the people bitten did not interact with the dog that bit them.<sup>6</sup>

Training for dogs and education for dog owners and children can reduce the incidence of dog bites. A recent United States study reported that knowledge about dog bite prevention among young, school-aged children is poor.<sup>7</sup> However, education programs in the primary school setting have been shown to alter a child's interaction with dogs.<sup>8</sup> In general, children should be taught:

- to ask permission from the owner before slowly approaching an unfamiliar dog;
- never to run from a dog or scream;
- to stand still if approached by a strange dog and, if knocked over, roll into a ball and lie still;
- to avoid eye contact with the dog by looking at their own feet;
- not to disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies; and
- not to pat a dog without supervision or without allowing it to see and sniff them first.<sup>9</sup>

Furthermore, dog owners should take their dogs to obedience classes, and dogs should be taught to obey commands from all family members. Dogs used for hunting or as guard dogs should not be allowed to mix with children.<sup>9</sup>

Competing interests: No relevant disclosures.

Provenance: Commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

#### Author details

Roy M Kimble MD, FRCS, FRACS, Professor of Paediatric Surgery 1 Natalie Dallow Research Officer 2 Richard Franklin PhD, Associate Professor of Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion 3 Belinda Wallis BBEEnv(Dist), Prevention Research Officer 1  
1 Queensland Children's Medical Research Institute, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD.

2 Queensland Trauma Registry, Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD.

3 Anton Breinl Centre, School of Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences, James Cook University, Townsville, QLD.

#### References

1. Australia Companion Animal Council. Contribution of the pet care industry to the Australian economy. 7th ed. Mornington, Vic: ACACt, 2010. [http://www.acac.org.au/ACAC\\_Report\\_2010.html](http://www.acac.org.au/ACAC_Report_2010.html) (accessed Nov 2011).
2. Podberscek AL, Blackshaw JK, Nixon JW. The incidence of dog attacks on children, treated at a city hospital. *Aust Vet J* 1990; 67: 79-80.
3. Ozanne-Smith J, Ashby K, Stathakis VZ. Dog bite and injury prevention analysis, critical review and research agenda. *Inj Prev* 2001; 7: 321-326.
4. Sacks JJ, Sinclair L, Gilchrist J, et al. Breeds of dogs involved in fatal human attacks in the United States between 1979 and 1998. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2000; 217: 836-840.
5. Klaassen B, Buckley JR, Esmail A. Does the dangerous dogs act protect against animal attacks: a prospective study of mammalian bites in the accident and emergency department. *Injury* 1996; 27: 89-91.
6. Cornelissen J, Hopster H. Dog bites in The Netherlands: a study of victims, injuries, circumstances and aggressors to support evaluation of breed specific legislation. *Vet J* 2010; 186: 292-298.
7. Dixon CA, Mahabee-Gittens EM, Hart KW, Lindsell CJ. Dog bite prevention: an assessment of child knowledge. *J Pediatr* 2011; Aug 30. [Epub ahead of print.]
8. Chapman S, Cornwall J, Righetti J, et al. Preventing dog bites in children: randomised controlled trial of an educational intervention. *BMJ* 2000; 320: 1512-1513.
9. Dogs 'n' kids: a resource kit for health professionals promoting dog bite prevention and socially responsible dog ownership. 3rd ed. Melbourne: The Safety Centre, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, 2009. <http://www.rch.org.au/emplibrary/safetycentre/DogsAndKidsV3.pdf> (accessed Sep 2011).



From [www.ozpets.com.au](http://www.ozpets.com.au)

## OVER HALF OF AUSTRALIANS THINK THAT THEIR DOG IS A BETTER LISTENER THAN THEIR PARTNER

Over half of Australians think that their dog is a better listener than their partner  
Sydney, Dec 2, 2010 - 1.3 million Australian dog owners would rather confide in their pet than their partner according to the Purina Pet Study\* results revealed today. Over half (58 per-cent) of Aussies with a partner think their dog is a better listener than their significant other.

In surveying more than 1,000 pet owners across Australia, the report found 64 per-cent of females nominated their dog as the better listener compared to just under half (48 per-cent) of males.

The study also reveals that after a stressful day four in ten Australians said they would prefer a warm welcome from their dog than a cuddle from their partner.

With almost four million (3.979) households across Australia housing a cat or a dog, the findings from the Purina Pet Study highlight just how passionate Aussies are about their pets with a massive 86 per-cent of dog owners considering their dog more than just a pet. One in five Aussies sees their dog as a companion for life and a further one in ten perceives their pet as a child.

"The findings from Purina's Pet Study aren't surprising, they only further reinforce the positive effect that pets have on their owners," states Purina's resident animal behaviourist, Dr. Jo Righetti.

"Previous studies have shown that a furry friend can result in positive benefits to our health and wellbeing\*. This research echoes this sentiment and shows that our pets are emotionally available and love giving attention as much as they love receiving it."

Interestingly, pet owners who have these special relationships spend more on their pet each month on average (including all food, accessories, flea and worming and veterinary bills):

- Respondents who nominated their pet as a better listener than their partner spend \$103.90 a month, which is 10 per-cent more than the average

The Purina Pet Study found that the average spend by Aussie dog owners each month is \$92.90 and for cat owners the average spend is \$64.10. This equates to an average spend of \$1,114.80 per dog per annum and \$769.20 per cat per annum, highlighting that dogs are fifty percent more expensive to keep than cats.

Findings from the study highlight that both cats and dogs play a valuable role for Australians and for most are more than just a pet. An investment of both time and money results in a relationship that goes far beyond pet and owner.



Merry Christmas to everyone at  
Warringal Obedience Dog Club,  
their friends, family and canine  
mates!

