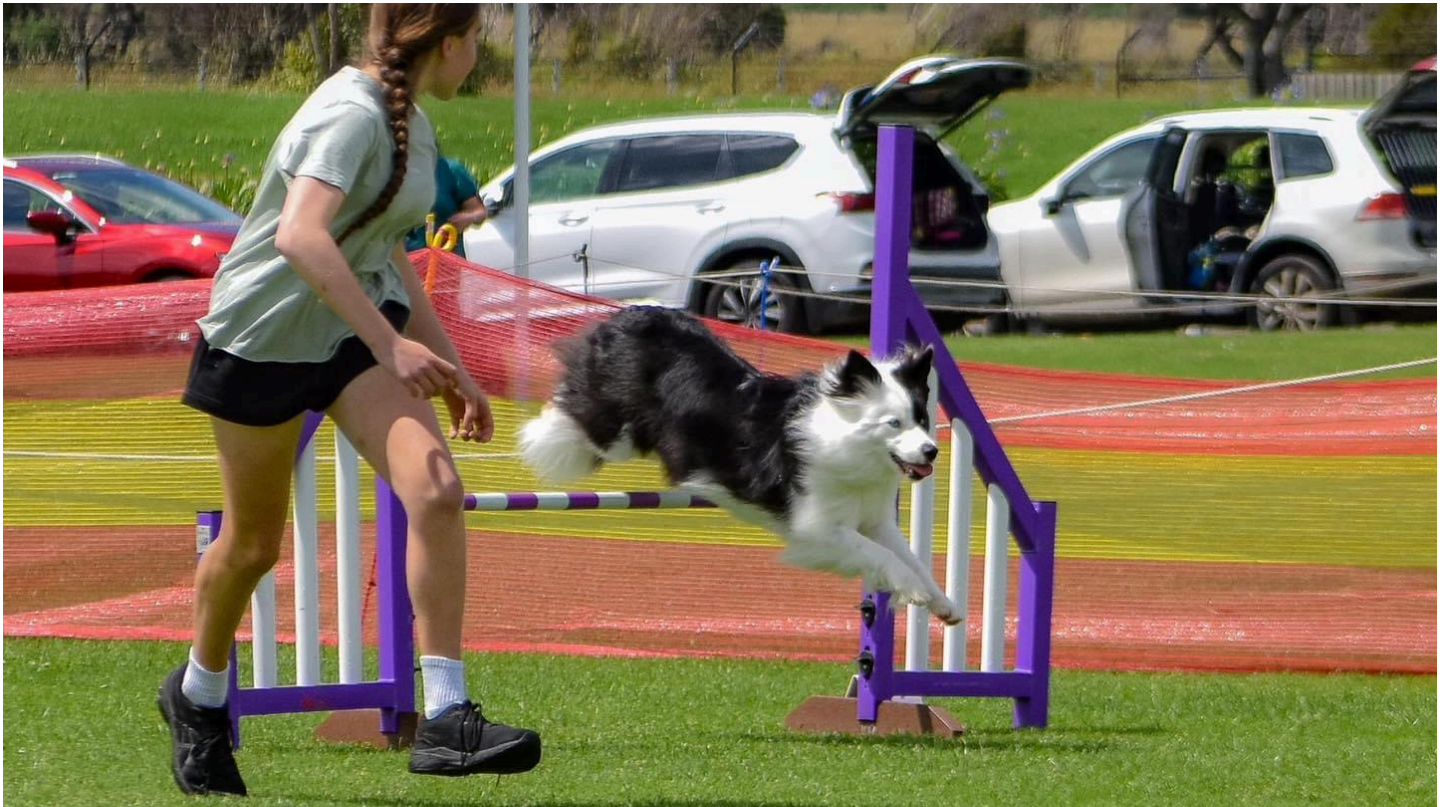


Frankston Dog Obedience Club Inc

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with Victorian Canine Association A0024447E



Winter 2024

I am delighted to share with you the latest updates and successes of our club in this month's newsletter.

Firstly, our Club Competition day was a resounding success! The enthusiasm and participation from all members made it a truly memorable event. It was wonderful to see the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship in action.

Our Rally training sessions have also commenced with great zeal. It is heartening to witness the dedication and progress of our participants. These sessions not only help in honing skills but also strengthen the bond within our community.

We are thrilled to announce that our very first Noseworks course was conducted recently. The response was overwhelming, and it was fantastic to see so many of you eager to explore this new avenue. The feedback has been immensely positive, and future sessions are being discussed.

Looking ahead, we have a host of exciting events lined up for the year. Your enthusiasm and participation are what make these events special. Stay tuned for more details and get ready to be a part of the action!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. Together, we are making our club a thriving and vibrant community.

Kim Dearden, FDOC President

We acknowledge that we train and gather on the land of the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nations. We pay respect to their elders, past and present. And also extend this respect to any First Nations People reading this edition of the FDOC Newsletter.



Important Dates for 2024 & beyond

Club Competition Days: 19th October 2024

Agility Trials:

Saturday 7th September @ KCC Park

Flyball Competitions:

Sunday 18th August @ FDOC

Sunday 15th September @ FDOC

Sunday 27th October Co-hosting @ FDOC

Sunday 26th January 2025 @ FDOC

Scent Works Trials:

Sunday 25th August @ FDOC Clubrooms



2024 Year's End

Last Training Day: 30th November 2023

Breakup Day: 7th December 2023

Annual General Meeting: 14th December 2023
@ 11:00 am

Presentation Dinner: 14th December 2023 @
6pm

Into 2025...

Working Bee: 25th January 2025

Training Resumes: 1st February 2024



Have you seen the FDOC cleaning roster?

Each month, a different group from FDOC is enlisted to clean our club rooms each week. 2-3 people each week need to clear, sweep and mop floors, change bins, wipe surfaces & clean the toilets. This is a quick and easy job when it is shared among our members. Check our notice board for our roster this year and sign up with your coordinator when it is your discipline's month!

CLEANING ROSTER

2024

FEBRUARY	OBEDIENCE
MARCH	FLYBALL
APRIL	AGILITY
MAY	OBEDIENCE
JUNE	FLYBALL
JULY	AGILITY
AUGUST	OBEDIENCE
SEPTEMBER	FLYBALL
OCTOBER	AGILITY
NOVEMBER	OBEDIENCE

Thank YOU

To all of our amazingly fantastic volunteers in any and all capacities- thank you. All your help is appreciated by your peers and it truly keeps the club running.

Do you want to volunteer? Get involved! We are a volunteer only club that relies on our volunteers to make sure that training happens every week. There is always a chance to assist and it's always appreciated.

2024 FDOC Management Committee

President - Kim Dearden

Vice President - Lauren Dolley

Treasurer - Tammy Beattie

Secretary - Peter Gibson

General Committee - Zach Day

Danielle Marsh

Lisa Retford

Charles Mouton

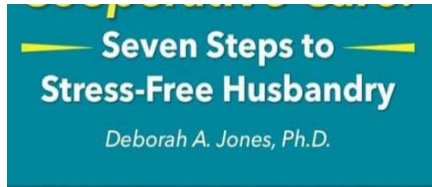
Jessica Thompson

Mailie Gibson

Lauren Monohan

Bruce Saunders

Editor's April Picks



READ: Cooperative Care: Seven Steps to Stress-Free Husbandry by Deborah A. Jones

This insightful book by Deborah A. Jones is a must-read for any dog owner looking to improve their pet's care routine. "Cooperative Care" offers practical steps to make husbandry tasks, such as grooming and veterinary visits, less stressful for both you and your dog. Jones's clear guidance and positive reinforcement techniques make this a valuable resource for ensuring your dog feels comfortable and safe during essential care activities.



LISTEN: Drinking From The Toilet Podcast

If you're looking for a podcast that combines humor with expert dog training advice, "Drinking from the Toilet" is the perfect pick. Hosted by Hannah Branigan, this podcast covers a wide range of topics from basic obedience to advanced training techniques. Branigan's engaging style and wealth of knowledge make each episode both entertaining and informative, providing listeners with practical tips and insights into the world of dog training.



WATCH: Train Me Please on YouTube

"Train Me Please" is a fantastic YouTube channel dedicated to helping dog owners train their pets with positive reinforcement methods. The channel offers a variety of training videos that cover everything from basic commands to more complex behaviors. The clear, step-by-step instructions and real-life demonstrations make it easy for viewers to follow along and achieve great results with their own dogs. Whether you're a novice or an experienced trainer, "Train Me Please" has something valuable to offer.



Vale: Champion Jodie

With a heavy heart, we announce that our beloved Jodie crossed over the rainbow bridge on May 27, 2024. Jodie was a remarkable Black Labrador who touched the lives of many with her incredible spirit and achievements. Born on November 30, 2008, Jodie graced our lives for nearly fifteen and a half years.

Jodie was a true champion in every sense of the word. She was a loving mother to 19 puppies, including her daughter Amber, who continues her legacy. In the obedience ring, Jodie excelled, earning two obedience passes in trialing thanks to the guidance of Joy. Her dedication and skill were further showcased in Rally Obedience, where she achieved first place three times in a row to earn two Rally titles.

However, it was in Flyball where Jodie truly shone. Her love for the sport was evident every time she stepped onto the field. Jodie had the unique ability to run in any position on the team, and she even achieved a perfect start time of 0.000 seconds. Her fastest time was an impressive 4.8 seconds up and back. Jodie retired at the age of 13, having become both a Grand Champion and a National Champion, leaving an indelible mark on our flyball team.

Jodie's presence in our lives was a gift, and her memory will continue to inspire us. She was more than a champion; she was a cherished companion whose loyalty and joy enriched every moment we spent together.

Rest in peace, Jodie. You will forever be missed and remembered with love.

Diane & Family

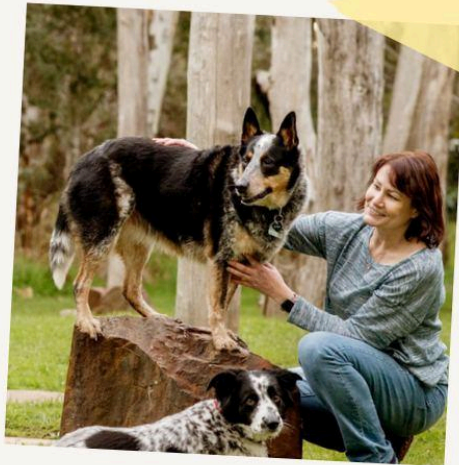


Consider Enrolling in the Delta Institute's Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training

We encourage our members to explore the Delta Institute's Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training. This nationally recognized vocational course provides a comprehensive education in positive reinforcement dog training. Developed by experts, it covers essential topics such as animal welfare, behavioral assessments, and training program design. By completing this course, you'll gain valuable skills to enhance your training techniques and potentially pursue a rewarding career in animal behavior and training.

For more information and to register, visit

<https://www.deltainstitute.edu.au/certificateivanimalbehaviourandtraining>



THE DELTA DIFFERENCE

Our positive reinforcement methods create sustainable, healthy, and happy relationships.



Editor's Bowl Toppers

Best efforts have been put into making sure these bowl toppers are safe for the average dog. If you are unsure about adding them to your dog's bowl, contact your vet to be sure. I have also provided links for you to peruse about these toppers if they are not mentioned on the graphic.

NATURE'S TRAINING TREATS

Raw, unsalted pumpkin seeds (organic pipitas) make great grab-n-go training treats because they're loaded with vitamin E, amino acids, minerals, phytosterols and phenolic compounds like **cucurbitacin**, which has natural deworming properties, antidiabetic, antidepressant and cytoprotective properties.

sciedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468227620303136

THE FOREVER DOG LIFE BOOK

WHAT IS THE BEST TYPE OF YOGURT FOR DOGS?



SCIENCE WEIGHS IN!

In a more recent veterinary study, scientists found that *dogs* fed *Kefir* had a healthier looking gut within 2 weeks, concluding *Kefir* may be used as a probiotic food supplement to **improve a dog's quality of life!**

Peptides, bioactive compounds & specific strains in *Kefir* can influence *low-grade inflammation* and *intestinal permeability*, which can generate health benefits. Animal model studies have found *Kefir* may also benefit other conditions, including obesity, diabetes mellitus, liver disease, cardiovascular disorders, immunity, and neurological disorders.

sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0022030219301961#

**15 BILLION - 4 TRILLION
LIVE PROBIOTICS**

**1-5 BILLION
LIVE PROBIOTICS**



**1-5 BILLION
LIVE PROBIOTICS**



THE
FOREVER
DOG
BOOK



**GROCERY STORE·CULINARY
MUSHROOMS
ARE **NOT**
TOXIC TO DOGS!
IT'S AN URBAN MYTH BACKED BY **ZERO** SCIENCE**

New Peer-Reviewed study found when dogs were fed Shiitake mushroom powder it slowed down the signs of aging.

frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2024.1355560/abstract



Our Flyball Team Conquers Adventure Dog 2024

Our Flyball team had an unforgettable time at Animal Aid's Adventure Dog 2024 event in April. Joining forces with five other flyball teams, we represented Victorian Flyball with pride. The event course was packed with various obstacles, challenging us and our dogs in exciting ways. From tunnels to jumps, mud and jelly, each challenge brought out the best in our teamwork and cooperation. Beyond the fun and excitement, our collective efforts shone through as we became the biggest fundraising group, raising over \$2000 for Animal Aid. This achievement showcased our dedication to our sporting community and supporting a worthy cause. Thank you to everyone who contributed and supported us!



Understanding Local Dog Control Laws and Safety Tips

In our local community, understanding the rules about on and off-leash dogs is crucial for ensuring everyone's safety and enjoyment. According to Frankston City Council's bylaws, dogs must be under "effective control" at all times. This means that whether your dog is on or off-leash, you must be able to control your dog with verbal commands, ensuring it responds immediately to your direction.

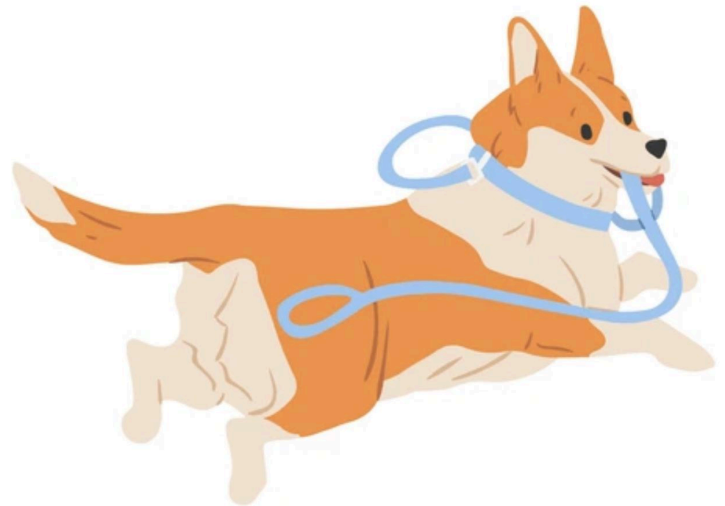
Effective Control Explained

"Effective control" involves several key points:

- **Visibility and Proximity:** Your dog should be within sight and within 50 meters of you at all times. This allows you to quickly intervene if necessary.

- **Recall Ability:** Your dog must reliably return to you when called, even in the presence of distractions such as other dogs, people, or wildlife.

- **Leash Requirement:** In designated on-leash areas, your dog must be on a leash at all times. In off-leash areas, you must carry a leash and be ready to use it if needed.



Tips for Keeping Your Dog and Others Safe

1. Use Long Lines: If you want to give your dog some freedom while maintaining control, consider using a long line. This allows your dog to explore while still being within your control range.

2. Bring Treats or Toys: Carrying high-value treats or a favorite toy can help keep your dog focused on you. This is particularly useful for practicing recall and rewarding good behavior.

3. Training: Regular training sessions can reinforce commands and improve your dog's response to you. This can be particularly useful in off-leash areas where distractions are high.

4. Be Aware of Other Dogs: Not all dogs are comfortable with others. Keeping your dog close and under control can prevent unwanted interactions and ensure a pleasant experience for everyone.

By adhering to these guidelines and utilizing these tips, we can create a safer and more enjoyable environment for our dogs and the community. For more detailed information, you can refer to the Frankston City Domestic Animal Management Plan - https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/our-community/animals/pdf/domestic_animal_management_plan_-_2020-2024.pdf and other local resources provided by the council.

Remember, responsible pet ownership benefits everyone, ensuring that our public spaces remain welcoming and safe for all.



A Dog's Emotional Cup

Every dog has a cup that needs to be filled—with social connection, security, access to reinforcers, and enrichment.

Some dogs seem to have a full cup most of the time, either because of a genetic pre-disposition, or because they have learned good ways to get a refill.

Most things that dogs do are completely normal—including the annoying stuff, like DIGGING up the garden, CHASING cats, or BARKING at the mailman. But all dogs show signs of stress when their cups get near empty.



Signs your dog may be coping with an empty cup

- * hoarding resources, over-protective
- * over-reacting, or shutting down when exposed to new things
- * restlessness
- * slow to recover from exciting events
- * changes in appetite
- * escalating behaviors to get something or to get away from something
- * increased grumpiness, or flare-ups
- * intense social appeasement

What refills a dog's cup:

- ♥ Doing Dog Things: SNIFFING, CHEWING, FORAGING, BARKING, DIGGING, PLAYING
- ♥ Being included in the family (dogs/humans)
- ♥ Freedom to move
- ♥ Freedom to make choices
- ♥ Ability to control outcomes and get reinforcers
- ♥ Unconditional love and attention
- ♥ Good health: nourishing food, no parasites, etc.
- ♥ Having a safe, quiet place to rest
- ♥ Predictable routines and interactions
- ♥ Getting to do things a dog loves to do

Words by Sarah Owings

Art by Lili Chin

What empties a dog's cup:

- ♣ Social isolation
- ♣ Long periods of confinement with no enrichment
- ♣ Poor nutrition, untreated illness, or pain
- ♣ Denied access to reinforcers
- ♣ Scary or unpredictable reactions from important humans
- ♣ Over-stimulation (over-exercised) or not enough
- ♣ Set up to fail, and then punished for it
- ♣ No preparation for challenging situations
- ♣ Unclear training: not knowing how to get reinforcement
- ♣ No one responding when expressing a need
- ♣ Too much "impulse control" (i.e. no sniffing, no eating, no exploring, no barking, no doing Dog Things) for too much of the day

Inspired by THE EMOTIONAL CUP by Upbility



The **PLAY** WAY with Amy Cook PhD

playwaydogs.com

Social Play is an excellent way for a dog to be in a happy state of mind and to be physically relaxed or loosened up. Playing also lets us know if a dog is truly relaxed or concerned about anything, so we can more effectively help them feel better.

Good play is an **INVITATION**. We invite our dog when they are looking at us, not when they are busy. We don't pressure them, as grabbiness, pushiness, and nagging are a turn-off. Pause and greet again before making a new suggestion. If your dog doesn't take up your suggestion but is still attentive, try something new.

FLIRT! Use SUSPENSE.

Not all play involves touching, but good play will have an element of suspense! Take pauses. Do not rush.

- ✓ Start with slower, softer energy.
- ✓ Give your dog plenty of room to move around freely.
- ✓ Invite, wait, listen to your dog's response (body language)
- ✓ Take "no" as an answer. PAUSE. Try something different.
- ✗ Don't make your dog feel trapped or overwhelmed.
- ✗ Don't make your dog wrong.

You want your dog to feel **SAFE** to open up and play with you. IF you touch your dog, use the **3-SECOND RULE**. Pull back after 3 seconds, staying engaged. Does your dog come back to you?



With **SOCIAL PLAY**, the use of toys or food is not essential because you are not teaching your dog how to play. You are **playing** with your dog and learning what they like!



Be in your dog's ENERGY RANGE!

What is your dog's energy level?

If your dog is overexcited (eg, 8) slow down to a 6-7.

If your dog is unsure or shy (eg, 2) try 1-3.

Play is a **CONVERSATION**. Here are some ideas to develop a "play vocabulary" with your dog:

YOU are the **PREDATOR!**

* Stay on the floor

"Claw" Hands

Flat Hands

"Bitey" hands

"HAR" mouth

YOU are the **PREY!**

Hiding face

Pulling Away

"Piano Hands"

Rolling, Flopping over

AUT

How is your dog responding?

need to look

If your dog disconnects from you and looks towards something more interesting or concerning (that is not too close), let them process the other thing. Don't pressure them to come back to you.

When you let your dog **look and dismiss** the other thing on their own, the more of their attention that you really have when you get it!

NOPE you are being WEIRD

Look away

Shake Off

Stress Yawn

Busy Sniffing

At first you may get a lot of "Not Now"s. If your dog shows confused signals or becomes busy doing other stuff, hold back. (Especially with the "shy" dogs) Your dog may not understand what you are doing.

When they approach you again, check your energy level, greet again, and try something different.

BITE YOU! ha ha ha, **YES!**

PANT PANT PANT

When you do something that your dog likes, they will keep coming back to you. Their bodies are loose and curved. They may roll around, jump on you, or fake-bite you. They may even laugh!

Now that you know what your dog likes, you can do it over and over again!

illustrated by Lili Chin doggiedrawings.net

Rally Success at FDOC: Celebrating Our First Novice Foundation Course and Future Plans

In our last newsletter, we introduced the concept of Rally and announced the launch of our first-ever Rally Novice Foundation Course in early April. Rally is a fun and less formal form of obedience training where handlers guide their dogs through a course marked by signs, each requiring a specific movement. Unlike higher levels of obedience, Rally allows handlers to talk and interact with their dogs, making it an engaging activity for both.

Our inaugural course saw 12 enthusiastic handlers start, all new to Rally, with 9 completing the 6-week program. Each week, participants were introduced to Rally Novice signs and had the chance to practice on a full course. The program culminated in a mock trial on week 7 and two competitions during our Club Fun Day on week 8. Despite challenging wet conditions, the class members performed admirably under the guidance of Rally Instructor Helen Campbell, who served as the "judge" during the mock trial.

We are thrilled to report that three course participants went on to compete in official OTEC Rally trials, with all three earning their Rally Novice Titles and others achieving passes. Congratulations to everyone involved! Here's some of the feedback we received:



- "Look! We did it!! We got our first pass. Thank you for organizing the intro to Rally through the club. We would never have felt confident enough to go out and do it otherwise."

- "Helen's courses are harder than the ones yesterday, which is appreciated as it makes us better for trial days! The dogs had a ripper day with both earning their Rally Novice titles! I have sent the paperwork to DV this morning."

- "The best thing about the course has been the practice courses we got to run through after each session. This made it all make sense and gave us valuable practice."



To accommodate our growing Rally program, we have relocated activities to the flat ground between the rally ring rope and flyball fence. Rally's linear format adapts well to this space, and it preserves the existing walkway between the Agility and club rooms along the flyball fence.

We will continue to offer Rally classes on Saturdays at 10:30 and 11:30 for club members with Rally experience, incorporating Advanced signs into practice courses as interest dictates. Starting June 22nd, Helen will pilot an Advanced course at 11:30, which requires sound off-lead skills and good attention from your dog. For inquiries, please contact Helen at snowfaery@icloud.com.

Additionally, we will host ad hoc "come and try" days for anyone interested in experiencing Rally. Keep an eye out for announcements at the kiosk. Our next Novice

Foundation Course is slated for late August. Interested participants should email our Head Instructor, Bruce, at bruce@scorpion.asn.au. Participants must be training at Pink level or above due to the skill and control required, though there is no obligation to compete in trials. Rally is a fun, varied form of obedience that can enhance your training experience.

Sadly, Clare Donovan has been sidelined due to foot surgery but plans to resume teaching another Novice course from August to the October Fun Day.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made our first Rally course a success. Rally is alive and well at FODC, and we look forward to continuing this exciting journey with you and your dogs. Come on down and have a play—it's a great way to bond with your dog while improving obedience skills!

Helen & Clare



Celebrating Success: Club Competition Day Recap

We are delighted to share the exhilarating results from our recent Club Competition Day, held on June 1. Thanks to the outstanding dedication and enthusiasm of everyone involved – volunteers, competitors, judges, and supporters – the day unfolded seamlessly!

The event showcased not only the remarkable talent and passion within our club but also highlighted the strong sense of community that defines us. Whether you participated as a competitor, generously volunteered your time, or expertly judged the performances, your contributions were invaluable.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each of you for your commitment to making this day truly remarkable. Your support underscores why our club continues to flourish.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our next Club Competition Day scheduled for October 19. It promises to be another opportunity to celebrate our achievements, push boundaries, and strengthen our community bonds even further.

Once again, thank you all for your invaluable contributions. Let's continue to inspire and support one another on our journey of growth and excellence.

Funday Agility Results 1st June, 2024

Patchy weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of FDOC agiliteers. We did not have an official judge so the job was shared around our most experienced competitors. Thank you Tammy, Sandra, Leonie and Joanne. Many thanks to Sue Gonelli who provided us with a set of most enjoyable courses.

Masters Jumping

- 1st Nicci Bayswater with Moo
- 2nd Leonie Jasper with Flik
- 3rd Nicole Wain with Leevi

Excellent Jumping

- 1st Sandra Scafocchia and Bosco
- 2nd Michelle Raki and Boo
- 3rd Michelle Raki and Dusty

Novice Jumping

- 1st Therese Lambert and Gracie
- 2nd Nicci Bayswater and Happy
- 3rd Emma Arthur and Harli

Novice Jumping Not trialled

- 1st Willow Vanderwall and Duski
- 2nd Juliann Bowe and Nikki
- 3rd Donna Dinsdale and Nala

Masters Agility

- 1st Leonie Jasper and Drama
- 2nd Leonie Jasper and Flik
- 3rd Nicole Wain and Leevi

Excellent Agility

- 1st Michelle Raki and Dusty
- 2nd Michelle Wheatley and Molly
- 3rd Eva Zubcic and Molly

Novice Agility

- 1st Sandra Scafocchia and Bosco
- 2nd Michelle Raki and Boo
- 3rd Emma Arthur and Harli

Novice Agility Not Trialled

- 1st Donna Dinsdale and Nala
- 2nd Willow Vanderwall and Duski
- 3rd Juliann Bowe and Nikki

Beginners Agility

- 1st Nicole Wain and Tinsel
- 2nd Katrina Turner and Edge
- 3rd Maureen Upston and Romy

Obedience Results

Puppy		
Charlie	Linda Jessop	1
Nyorie	Donna Dinsdale	2
Millie	Stevee Griffiths	3
Beginners 1		
Gem	Heike Godwin	1
Lilo	Beth James	2
Max	Simon Cotzikiris	3
Beginners 2		
Angel	Georgina Williams	1
Mirri	Dona Dinsdale	2
Roxie	Diane Gnieslaw	3
Pink		
Minty	Isabel Freeman	1
Sophie	Fran Mills	2
Turson	Andre Torpy	3
Yellow		
Lulu	Juli Bowe	1
Maxie	Sharon Paeglis	2
Gracie	Therese Lambert	3
CCD		
Raffi	Trish Stewart	1
Turbo	Mark Herbstreat	2
Tinsel	Nicole Wain	3
Open		
River	Erica Hogan	1
Delilah	Jenny Pepper	2
UD		
Delilah	Jenny Pepper	2
Rally 1		
Oliver	Jenny O'toole	1
Barney	Jenny O'toole	2
Skye	Denise Medo	3
Rally 2		
Oliver	Jenny O'Toole	1
Raffi	Trish Stewart	2
Barney	Jenny O'Toole	3
Veterans		
Amber	Diane Gnieslaw	1
Blue	Peter Gibson	2

Flyball Update & Results June

Our Flyballers have been hard at work over the Winter period, with fewer events we have been focusing on improving specific skills including reruns, crossing, distraction and box turns.

Our handlers and dogs have really enjoyed the challenge of some different drills and activities during training.



The rain couldn't spoil the June Flyball Fun Day, with plenty of our Beginner and Team dogs braving the weather. The day was a huge success, with many new handlers and dogs participating and gaining valuable experience.

Congratulations to our place winners:

Beginners Recalls

1. (Tie) Star and Gigi
2. Lucy
3. (Tie) Osha and Oscar

Beginners Full Runs

1. Juno
2. Jesus
3. Billie

Division 2 Teams

1. Mocha and Minx
2. Sami and Tilly

Division 1 Teams

1. Cobber and Milo
2. Joey and Storm
3. Casper and Kona



A special shoutout to Elizabeth and Lulu for earning our Encouragement Award!

If you're interested in joining Flyball, join us on Saturday mornings from 11:15am. Or email me flyball@fdoc.org.au for more information!

Jessica Thompson

Frankston Storm Flyball Coordinator

Lulu's Debut at Flyball Fun Day

At the recent Flyball Fun Day, Lulu took her first steps into the world of competition with Beginners recalls. The atmosphere was electrifying, with dogs and handlers exuding enthusiasm and energy throughout the event.

For Lulu, it was an exciting yet overwhelming experience. Despite the initial jitters, she participated wholeheartedly and received an encouragement ribbon. I am incredibly proud of her achievement and grateful for the supportive environment that made it possible.

The day itself was a whirlwind of fun, speed, and camaraderie, showcasing the vibrant spirit of our Flyball community. It's moments like these that remind us why we love this sport and cherish the bonds we build along the way.

Looking forward to more adventures and growth for Lulu in future competitions!

- Elizabeth & Lulu



Lilly the Spitz

Joining a dog club over a year ago transformed both me and my dog. Initially, my dog had behavioral issues like excessive barking, leash pulling, and trouble socializing. Walks and outings were stressful. The club's supportive community and structured training sessions addressed these problems. Consistent participation taught me effective positive reinforcement techniques, greatly improving my dog's obedience. The experienced trainers provided personalized advice, helping me understand and manage my dog's behavior better.

Attached are some photos from our recent Nosework course.

Rosemary & Lilly



Leevi

On Monday the 10th of June, Leevi and I went to Gippsland Dog Obedience, Obedience and Rally trial. Leevi and I started Rally when he was just over 1 year old and got his Novice, Advanced, Excellent and Masters title by age 6 amidst other sports titles. In the last year we have entered a few Rally trials in the hope of getting his Rally Champion Title.

Our judge for the morning session was Helen Evans. My aim was to keep it light and fun and trust my gorgeous boy. The course was amazing and the grounds at Morwell are fantastic.

We completed the course and it felt great with Leevi concentrating on me even though there was a lot of barking, and when Helen handed us our score sheet, I almost cried. We finally hit the perfect score of 100 out of 100, won first place, and got his Rally Champion title and Dual Champion title, the first Australian born Finnish Lapphund to have achieved this status.

It is so great to see Frankston Obedience Club has started Rally Training as there are not many clubs that teach/ train Rally. Rally is such a great way to have fun with your dogs.

Have fun with your dogs
Nicole Wain



Disengagement - Bree's Story

I joined FDOC this year with my rescue German Shepherd, Bree. I had been a member years ago with my other dogs, Goldie and Russ. After my last dog, Spud, I yearned to get a shepherd, particularly a female. Our first family pet was a shepherd named Russ, who I adored until his tragic death at eleven months. This emotional connection to Russ kept me going when things with Bree got challenging.

The challenges began immediately due to Bree's reactivity towards my three established cats. The shelter staff couldn't tell me how she was around cats, but having previously owned dogs and cats, I assumed I could manage. However, Bree, likely never exposed to cats and driven by her breed's high prey drive, was highly reactive. She would fixate on them, pace, and lunge, pulling me over several times.

Within weeks, overwhelmed, I contacted the shelter to return Bree but changed my mind after speaking with their behaviorist. She reassured me that Bree wouldn't be euthanized and offered practical advice and activities to help manage Bree's behavior. Bree's friendliness towards people and love for chasing games with other dogs also encouraged me to keep her.

A few months later, I attended an excellent workshop at Burwood RSPCA called "Reactive to Responsive." I learned about the underlying causes of reactivity and its purposes, such as increasing or decreasing distance from triggers. We practiced management strategies like the engage/disengage clicker game, which helps change a dog's emotional state about triggers, and practical skills like correct lead handling and using the right equipment. The workshop emphasized that owning a reactive dog can be difficult and isolating, but understanding and empathy for both yourself and your dog are crucial. I highly recommend this workshop, run regularly by trainer and behaviorist Jari Castle. You can find more information at [www.jaricastle.com.au](<http://www.jaricastle.com.au>) or contact Jari at [jcastle@rspcavic.org.au](<mailto:jcastle@rspcavic.org.au>).

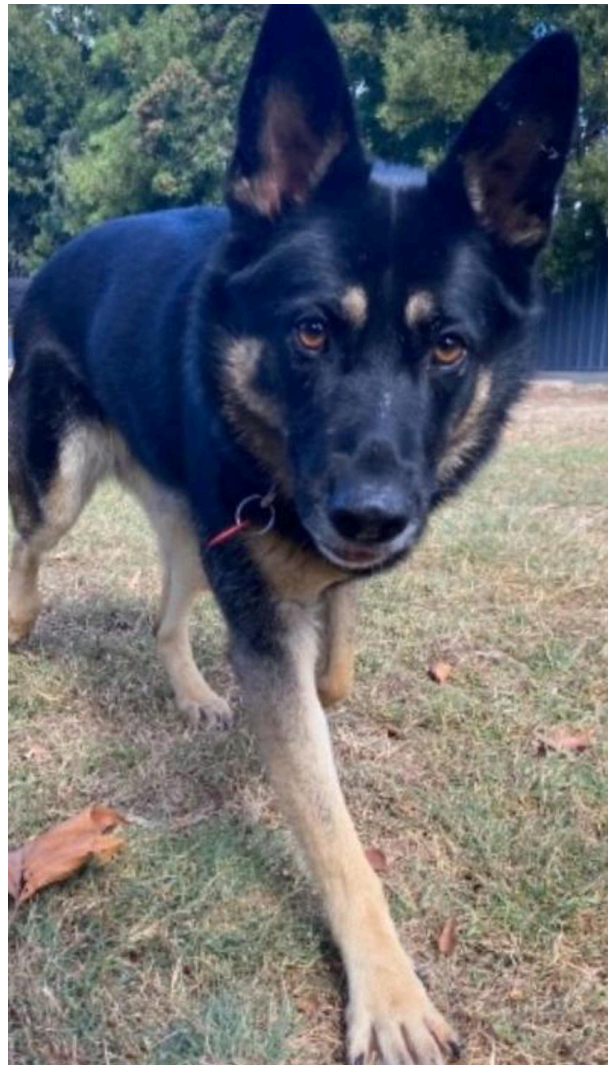
Since getting Bree, I've consulted several trainers. Despite my experience with dogs, Bree's issues required specific strategies. Trainers advised me to give things time, use a gentle and positive approach, and implement short, sharp corrections followed by praise. They also suggested associating a harsh word and throwing something soft at Bree when she was around the cats. Although this advice

left me feeling inadequate, Bree's reactivity has lessened as I've managed things better. Currently, Bree lives in the backyard while the cats have access to the house and front garden. It's not ideal, but it's manageable.

Recently, I came across an article by British trainer Emma Lee on the importance of disengagement in managing reactivity. Instead of drawing attention to triggers, we can help dogs build their attentional muscles. Realizing Bree had lost interest in looking at the cats from a distance while being treated with food, I changed our approach. Now, we keep moving during cat encounters, and I sense Bree's relief, indicating we're on the right track, though there's still a long way to go. You can find more about Emma Lee's methods at [www.lightenupdogtraining.co.uk](<http://www.lightenupdogtraining.co.uk>).

Owning a reactive dog like Bree has been a challenging journey, but with the right support and strategies, we've made significant progress. For anyone dealing with a reactive dog, I highly recommend seeking out resources and support to help navigate this journey.

Cathie & Bree



Welcome to our Newest Members

Thank you for choosing Frankston Dog Obedience Club for you & your dog. We hope your experience is enjoyable! If you have any questions or concerns please email our Secretary Peter secretary@fdoc.org.au

Mahmud Abdelgani with Zara	Linda Jessop with Charlie
Kom & Brendan Yin - McMahon with Hunter & Doug	Jillian Reiss with Jenna
Tracy Davis with Billie	Val Fletcher with Bailey
Colleen Fall with Oscar	Whitney Calladine with Walter Sterling
Brent & Tabitha Pannell with Cash	Elyssa Max Perkins with Duke
Karen O'sullivan with Bunji	Andrea, Rod & Jayden Lyons-Briggs / Briggs with Koda
Tina Woodthorpe with Alice	Lauren & Ash Wright with Lucy
Angela & Ziva Jurisic with Peppa	Jessica Johnson with Louie
Bethany & Travis James - Murrells with Lilo	Justin Scott with Pickles
John & Taija Whitaker - Mackay with Roxy	Tiana Newman with Howie
Marg & Sue Piggott with Scooter	Emma & Jessica McDonald - Hilet with Bronte
Audrey Campbell with Bobby	Breanna Luna with Dexter
Braeden & Danielle King - Mulady with Theo	Tina Vallance with Jethro
Nathan & Brooke Buschkuehl with Winnie & Marlee	Christina & Peter Archer with Lola & Tezza
Lindsay & Andrew Evans - Smith with Pepsi	Didi & Alex Yucel - Kain with Cookie & Bali
Mary & Alexander Sofis with Maisie & Cosmo	Bronwyn & Michael McGlade with Moose & Millie
Chelsea Hunter with Arnold	Holly & Shane Martin with Roxy
Brendan Van Wichen with Luna	Allegra Newman with Betty
Sandra & Andrew Pyke with Pepe & Parker	Sarah Watson with Ares
Lynette Cleary with Sammy	Sarah Meek with Pumpkin & Potato
Erica & Timothy Smith with Maple	Lisa & Tim Sulzberger with Teddy
Louise Frew with Peaches	Alexander & Eliana McDonald - Armas Morocho with Choccy
Anita & Cameron McMahon - Towes with Blue	Kate & Matt Davis - Dobson with Bailey
Sarah & Cameron Inman with Phoenix	Karen & Quinten Morris - Weetman with Roxy
Joanne & Frank Prentice with Lucy	Melissa Robbins with Aria & Molly
Céline Boutteçon with El	Sue & Lee Bennett - Patterson with Jamie
Cathie Dethick with Bree	Grant & Naomi Barran with SNICKERS
Bianca & Philip Burgess with Luna	Kristal & Paul Carayannis with Daisy
James & Alex Keagan - Briggs with Elizabeth	Michael & Suzi Downey - Major with Dave
Carolyn & Ray Hughes with Indie	Luke Warren with Archer
Helen & Ben Grey with Lexi	Dorothy & Alex Maude - Doyle with Rolex
Stevee & Callum Griffiths with Millie	Steph Daska with Zeppelin & Indy
Nicci Torres with Minnie Moo	Cassy Canterford with Roxy
Jake & Jessica Geddes - Xi with Stan	Eilis & Noel Gunning with Finn
Louisa-Anne Hendrickson with Odin	Liam & Audrey Devlin - Hepburn with Sherlock