
Newsletter



February 2025



YOUR COMMITTEE

Office Bearers

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President | Rhonda Cheesman | 0408 388 066 |
| Vice President | Brian Arter | 9874 1432 |
| Secretary | Liz Bruhn | 0410 258 944 |
| Treasurer/Chief instructor | Tamara Taylor | 0407 096 261 |

General Committee

Anne Smith, Andrea Sciberras, Dodo Kelly, Debra Conway

Email esodcmitcham@gmail.com

Website www.esodc.org.au

Facebook [Eastern Suburbs Obedience Dog Club](#)

INTRODUCTION

Our Club was founded in 1969 to cater for those owners of purebred dogs who were interested in training their dogs to Obedience Trial standard. The club was successful enough that it was granted

affiliation with KCC (Kennel Control Council). In 1979 Victorian Canine Association (now Dogs Victoria) accepted all dogs into Obedience trials and the club was then also opened to all dogs.

CLUB RULES

1. Your dog is to be kept on leash at all times. The only exception is when given explicit instruction to work off lead in class.
2. Handlers wishing to leave their dogs tethered on Club grounds should only do so if their dogs are safe with people, especially around children. No dog may be tethered where it can reach another dog.
3. Dogs must be fully immunised before coming to classes which needs to be renewed annually.
4. Any sick dog, or one suffering from a communicative illness, are not to come to classes until Vet cleared.
5. Handlers are responsible for removal of their dog's excreta from the training area.
6. We teach rewards-based training. Physical and excessive verbal abuse of dogs is not allowed. Any observed behaviour of this type will lead to expulsion from the club.
7. Instructors have authority over their classes and may ask a member to take their dog out of class if it is overly disruptive.
8. While at the grounds, before and after classes, please remain in control your dogs, and respect the space of other dogs and handlers.
9. Dogs in season should not attend training for four weeks. However, this does not mean you should stop attending classes nor cease the training of your dog.
10. If an Instructor considers your dog to be aggressive, the Chief Instructor will evaluate your dog as to its suitability to be trained at ESODC. If required, the dog may be asked to wear a muzzle while at training or private professional instruction / organisations may be recommended. Remember, we are a Community Dog Club, we do not offer specialised behavioural modification training.

President's Report

A very warm welcome to 2025. With tongue in cheek I did write warm, because on our first day back, we trained in temperatures hovering between 27deg and 29.7deg (well short of the cut off 35deg thankfully). Special mention, and huge congratulations to our dedicated Instructors, trainee Instructors, Ground crew, committee and helpers who amazingly set up rings, ran classes, new member registrations, and then packed it all up again. Truly a wonderful example of dedication, efficiency and coordination. The sun broke through the clouds after we'd left the field and the balance of the day was literally too hot to handle. Again, well done to our amazing ESODC team. A fantastic start for a fantastic year of training.

Also, of course, a warm ESODC welcome to all our New Members. I trust you will enjoy your year/s ahead at our club. Our Sunday classes and the occasional Family Fun Day throughout the year are all designed to keep you learning and joyously engaging with your dog. We will offer you exciting training techniques and fun games/challenges, your job is to attend regularly, and commit to a daily practice routine. Special thanks to all the new members that joined via our new online registration. This recent addition to our club's administration processes allowed our Chief Instructor to allocate Foundation class members ahead of our first day back, comfortably splitting the high February intake into two manageable sized classes. Foundation group enjoy your next few weeks, we have so much to teach you...



Last year was a huge year of change for our club. This year we will focus more with on-field training activities, and off-field processes utilising our electronic systems/communications more efficiently and effectively. You will have experienced this already if you've filled in our renewal or new member registration forms. Our Newsletters will hit your in-boxes every two months and are chock full of club news, helpful training advice, occasional recipes, and photos of recent trailing successes. Our website and Facebook will remain updated with all our latest news.

We pride ourselves on being a small community based dog training club. We are 100% run by volunteers who love our dogs; and in turn, love helping others find the best results with their own dogs. Please remember though, we are all volunteers, and kindness and appreciation is a generous gesture to be shared often. We all trial our own dogs in a variety of competitive dog sports, so although we don't teach ALL sports at ESODC, we can definitely offer advice or redirect you to specialist centres that do, please feel free to drop in to the clubrooms for an informal chat anytime.

President's Report (cont)

Although I covered our Committee in December, I'd like to thank our 2025 Committee members yet again.
President – Rhonda Cheesman;
Vice President – Brian Arter;
Secretary – Liz Bruhn;
Treasurer – Tamara Taylor;
Chief Instructor – Tamara Taylor;
General Committee – Andrea Sciberras, Anne Smith, Dodo Kelly, Debra Conway.

The prosperity of every club relies on the many hands helping out. Our club is filled with amazing and generous people, and, if you too would like to offer your time, or can assist with any specialised skills, please reach out, we'd love to hear from you, or share the load....



Thank you for trusting ESODC, and we look forward to a long and successful training adventure together.

Happy training,
Rhonda Cheesman



CLUB DATES FOR 2025

| Date | Event |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8/3 (Labour day Weekend) | No classes |
| 20/4 (Easter Weekend) | No classes |
| 8/9 (Kings Birthday Weekend) | Fun Day (to be confirmed) |
| 5/10 | Club Obedience Trial, no classes |
| 30/11 | Last formal class of the year |
| 7/12 | Fun Day and AGM |

Welcome to our New Members

November

| Handler | Dog | Breed |
|------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Monique & Matt | Bonnie | Border Collie |
| Jess & Sean | Milo | <u>Cavoodle</u> |
| Linh & Maddie | Beau | <u>Pugali</u> |
| Kylie & Ruby | Sparky | Border Collie |
| Brie & Will | Harvey | Kelpie |
| Sharyl & Fai | Lonny | Kelpie X |
| Sina & Olga | Toffee | <u>Cavoodle</u> |
| Rhonda & Geoff | Lucy | Labrador |
| Judith | Billie | Maltese X Jack Russell |
| Marion | Snowy | Maltese X |
| Erik | Phaedra | Shepherd X Poodle |
| Ruby | Theo | German Shepherd X Poodle |
| Cameron & Bernie | Chloe | Golden Retriever |

February

| Handler | Dog | Breed |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Duncan & Rebecca | Coffee | Kelpie |
| Simon & Jessica | Piper | <u>Poochon</u> |
| Beth | Boston | Labrador |
| Lyn | Charlie | <u>Cavoodle</u> |
| Sue | Albert | Lab X Golden Retriever |
| John & Cathy | Lucy | Labrador |
| Colleen & Freya | Eevee | Mini American Shepherd |
| Fiona & Grant | Snickers | Cavalier King Charles Spaniel |
| Keely & Larhni | Plum | Whippet |
| Liesl | Harry & Raven | Shih tzu & Bernese Mountain Dog |
| Matthew & Ashlyn | Scout | Hungarian Vizsla |
| Claire & Joshua | Sadie | Staffy X |
| Ellyse & Blake | Miley | Golden Retriever |
| Kumar | Iyla | Rough Collie |

Training News and Tips

Welcome back to training!

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee and trainers for the appointment as Chief Instructor and give my heartfelt thanks to Martin for all he achieved in this role last year. He really laid a great foundation for the role, and I have big shoes to fill. Thank you once again.

I'd like to welcome our new trainee instructors: Debra, Matt and Miranda. They started their instructor training last year and are now shadowing Instructors in each of the different class levels. They are learning the class content, available to assist and will begin to instruct. If you have questions, or need assistance with any element of your training, please don't hesitate to ask a trainee instructor. We are delighted they are here to support our club and members, and I thank them for volunteering their time and sharing their wisdom to be able to give our members the best training possible.

If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please let me know, we are planning to run another instructors training course later in the year.

Training tip – Cues

The cues you use with your dog are vital, as they form the basis of your communication with your dog. Your cues need to be consistent, clear and simple.



I encourage you use the same cues (both verbal and physical), i.e. don't have different words for the same action. When you use the same cues with your dog, it makes it so much easier on your dog. If you don't use the same physical and verbal cue, you are effectively asking your dog to simultaneously learn several languages and this can become very confusing for your dog, which slows down the training.

The main cues used are:

Sit – the dog is to put their bottom on the ground

Down or drop – the dog is to lay down, elbows and tummy touching the ground

Stand – 4 paws on the ground, legs square.

Stay – remain where you are

Here – come close to me. You can use a different word, e.g. close, with me, etc

Let's go – walk with me. This is good for heading off on loose lead walking

Free – this is your release word

Training News and Tips (cont)



You may prefer to use different words for these cues, provided everyone interacting with your dog is aware of what the desired action is. And uses the cue word consistently.

The final very important key to cues is only say it once. Please do not say the cue word repeatedly. Make sure your dog understands the action by luring first, then add the cue word during your practices. Remember to mark and reward only the correct action.

Lastly, it has been lovely to watch members in classes and see the progress everyone has made over the holiday break. Well done on maintaining your training away from club classes.

Tamara Taylor (Chief Instructor)



BM Animals is committed to providing you and your dog with high quality food and treats for optimum health and vitality. Locally sourced, chemical and preservative free, salt and sugar free, high quality food for your furry family member.

Products available:

- Raw meats
- Raw meaty bones (assorted cow, duck, emu, chicken, kangaroo, turkey, veal)
- Ready made meals (raw and cooked options)
- Treats and chews
- Supplements
- and more

Have a dog with a sensitive tummy or health issues? Chat with John or Maree and they will happily share their knowledge to help you and your dog.

Show your ESDC badge or this flyer to receive 10% off your purchase.

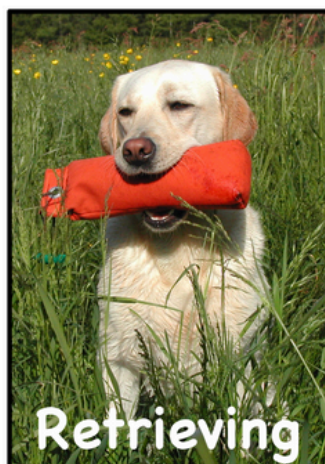
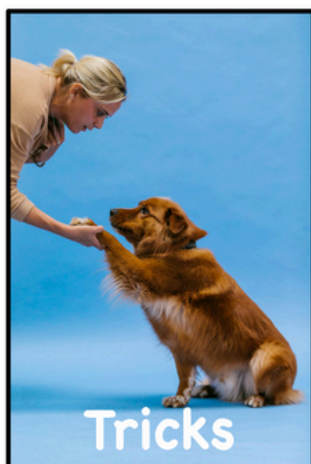
BM Animals
ph: 0488 144 675

1 McLellan Street, Bayswater
w: www.bmanimalscompletenutrition.net

Social Class

The social class is designed to give you an opportunity to learn a variety of skills that we don't have time to cover in the 3 basic levels (Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced). The class does not follow a structured program. Different skills are taught each week.

- 🐾 learn about different dog sports, including obedience, rally, retrieving, tracking, scent-work, etc.
- 🐾 post games
- 🐾 tricks, including speak, hand shake, weaving through legs, reverse, spin, and more
- 🐾 change of position
- 🐾 gate & door manners
- 🐾 street / pack walk
- 🐾 tethering
- 🐾 games of all sorts
- 🐾 toy hold / exchange
- 🐾 guest speaker / demos
- ... and more



Social class is run at 9am, at the **orange flag**, and is open to those who have participated in at least one 8 week Intermediate course.

Five tips to keep it cool this summer

Whether you crave long days at the beach in the sunshine, or grimace through sweltering days with an ice-coffee in hand, we've all got our ways of coping with the heat.

But for our furry friends, cooling down isn't as easy as flicking on the air conditioning remote, or driving down to the local pools. As a loving pet owner, it's up to you to keep them happy and healthy as the thermometer soars during the warmer months.

Here are five tips to help your animals keep their cool this summer

Stay shady

We recommend bringing your pets indoors on hot days. If you're feeling warm, chances are they are too. If your pet has fair skin and will be outdoors even for a short period of time, we suggest using pet-friendly sunscreen to keep skin cancers at bay.

Short nosed or flat faced dog breeds are also more susceptible to heat stroke e.g. Pugs, English bulldogs, French bulldogs.

Water, water, water

You might be surprised to know that your pets sweat too. Keep your cat or dog hydrated with plenty of fresh water bowls. You can even add some ice to keep them extra cool.

If you're on the go, consider investing in a portable dog water bowl. If you have a dog, consider making a mini 'pool' for them to cool down by filling a clam shell with water. Remember to secure your yard and provide fencing in order to keep children safe.

Exercise caution with exercise

You might want to reconsider your daily dog walk on really hot days. A ground that feels hot to touch can do serious damage to your pooch's paws. Alternatively, you can walk them early morning or evening, when the weather is cooler.

By doing this you'll also avoid dehydration, sunburn and heat stress that can occur.

Park the car trip (literally)

Did you know that all it takes it six minutes for a dog (or cat) to die in a hot car? Never leave your pet unattended in the car as temperatures in the car can rapidly reach double the outside temperature, even on mild days.

If you see an animal locked in a hot car, immediately phone police on 000.

Clip and snip

Grooming is particularly important to keep your dogs cool during summer. This can help prevent matting and also ensures your pets are regularly checked for ticks, fleas and mites.

You can ignore this tip if you have a double coated dog, like a Husky or a Golden Retriever. These guys naturally shed their undercoat during summer, allowing their skin to remain cool. If shaved, growing back this undercoat can make dogs even hotter.

Meet the Committee - Anne Smith

Anne is our latest life member of the club. She has been with us for 10 years and has been training and on committee for most of that time.

Anne remembers her first dog was a Border Collie she got when she was in her early teens, she had hung out to get that dog and took it to obedience classes. Obedience was not the same all those years ago. Loose lead walking was achieved by “popping” the leash, literally a short sharp tug when the dog didn't stay close. She feels that training is much better now and that it leads to a better relationship between dog and owner.

Her love affair with Yellow Labradors started when she lived in Mt Isa though and she acquired Mira to keep her company when she was working as a Geologist.

It was Tosca who brought her to the club. She was trying to teach Tosca tracking without much success in trials and met our then Secretary and Treasurer , Andrea. Andrea took Anne under her wing and helped her train Tosca to track and also introduced her to Obedience and our club.



Over the years Anne has had some success in trialling. She got Tosca to Tracking Champion, though she was quick to tell me that its much harder to get tracking champion now than it was then!

Her older dog, Callie, has titles in Rally Novice and completed CCD in obedience and is now working on Novice. She has a second Yellow Labrador, Sunny, who is not up to that standard yet.

Anne loves our club because it is friendly and supportive. Everyone is happy to see someone else succeeding. What a wonderful recommendation for our club.

When I asked what advice she would give to herself when she started out Anne said, “Do more practice at home, but not so much the dog gets tired”

Liz Bruhn



Yellow Scarves on Dogs

You may have noticed a dog around as you were walking that had a yellow scarf, harness or vest on. Sometimes there is writing and sometimes not, but a dog wearing a yellow marker like this is nervous around other dogs or people and the owner has done this to keep their dog safe, and yours.

If you see a dog wearing a yellow marker there is no need to panic. Just give them more space and ask the owner before you approach either alone or especially with your dog. You should, of course, always ask before approaching or socialising your dog with one you don't know, but it is even more important for a nervous dog.

It may be that the dog is fine with dogs but not people, or vice versa. It may be that it is fine with some breeds or sizes of dogs, but not others. The dog's owner will be able to explain and will appreciate the respect you are giving them and their dog.

For a number of our members teaching their dogs social skills is an important factor in their training. They may be really happy to socialise with your dog but need to limit the time or level of contact. Of course, be aware of how both dogs are responding.

If you feel that your dog would benefit from having a yellow marker they can be easily acquired online or through a pet shop. If you have questions please talk to your instructor or a member of the committee.



Liz Bruhn

