
Newsletter



August 2026



YOUR COMMITTEE

Office Bearers

President	Rhonda Cheesman	0408 388 066
Vice President	Brian Arter	9874 1432
Secretary	Liz Bruhn	0410 258 944
Treasurer		

General Committee

Andrea Sciberras, Debra Conway, Rebecca Carlin, Tamara Taylor

Instructors

Tamara Taylor, Rhonda Cheesman, Liz Bruhn, Brian Arter, Dodo Kelly, Susan Poyner, Debra Conway, Miranda Watkins, Matt Elder

Email	esodcmitcham@gmail.com
Website	www.esodc.org.au
Facebook	<u>Eastern Suburbs Obedience Dog Club</u>

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 so successful in this regard 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 when it can reach another dog.
3. Dogs must be fully immunised before coming to classes which needs to be kept up-to-date.
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 dogs' 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 of 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. If directed by ESODC, you agree that your dog must wear a yellow bandana/coat and/or soft muzzle while training and participating in club activities.

President's Report

Welcome to our August Newsletter. As I write, my hands are freezing, and although I've kept busy and worn many layers of clothes, today I have struggled to stay warm I, for one, will be very happy to see the arrival of the warmer days of Spring.

I do however, offer a very warm club welcome to all our new members. I trust by now you are settling in to your new routine of Sunday morning classes, and are inspired to find time every day (regardless of the winter weather) for your daily homework / training.

Heads Up..... We are now just 8 weeks away from hosting our annual Obedience and Rally Trial. This year it is being held on Sunday 4th October, and there are NO classes that day. We encourage all our members to come along at some stage during the day (without your dogs of course) to watch a little (or a lot) of all the competing dogs, performing their very best obedience and rally work. There will be a few club members entered in the trial too, and it's always lovely to see our club members outside the rings silently cheering on those competing inside the rings. We will need a lot of helpers though. We certainly can't run a trial without your help. There are quite a few early morning jobs - set up all the competition rings/equipment, set up the kitchen/dining, and the bbq ready for the days' cook fest, and set up the trial secretary's office/registration desk. And, generally, get ready for the hundred or so visiting competitors and their dogs, ready to start judging at 11am.



So, if you can offer a couple of hours of your time to help, we'd love your support. There's a clipboard at the clubrooms where I'm collecting names... please drop by and add your name to the list... Feel free to choose what time/s, or what job suits you best too.

And, it's that time again, where we call for donations towards the trial raffle. If you have something brand new, but perhaps no longer your style, we'd love you to donate it for the raffle. Both doggy things, and human things. Dodo does an amazing job grouping together lovely prize packs from all your donations. Donations can be dropped off to the clubrooms any Sunday morning, and in advance, thank you once again for your generosity.

On the subject of competing with our dogs, I wish to congratulate our amazing club members who trial their own dogs in a variety of dog sports (when they're not at club that is...). We regularly update our Facebook and Instagram pages but as not everyone is on social media, we repost all recent trial successes here in the Newsletter too..... Please enjoy reading through them all.



President's Report (cont)

And, back to dog training. Thank you everyone for your ongoing support and commitment to your own dog's training. I so love seeing our huge variety of breeds/colours/sizes scattered across the field every Sunday. Especially on the cold and frosty mornings! Keep up your good work, please stay warm, and stay dry.

Happy training,
Rhonda Cheesman



Raffle prize donations

ESODC is putting together raffle prize baskets for our annual Obedience and Rally trial to be held on Sunday 4 October.



Items need to be:
- suitable for dogs or humans
- new or in excellent condition



Donate your items to the clubroom before Sunday 27 Sept.

Thank you for your support.



Calling for volunteers

Can you volunteer at our upcoming Obedience and Rally trial on Sunday 4 October?

We are looking for people to help with:

- Set up (approx. 8am)
- Pack up (approx. 2pm)
- Kitchen helpers
- Car park helpers
- Registration check in
- Photographer
- Stewards (need to be a Dog's Vic member)

Please see Rhonda, let your instructor know you are available to volunteer, or drop us an email (esodcmitcham@gmail.com)

Thank you for supporting our club.

Welcome to our New Members

Name	Dog	Breed
Mary	Millie	Groodle
Dawn and Sven	Remi	Border Collie
Roberta and Ron	Casper	Mini Schnauzer
Melissa	Dash	Golden Retriever/Labrador
Alison	Tilly	Border Collie
Zarah and Angus	Missy	GSP
Carolina and Dinh	Lucas	Alaskan Malamute
Wendy and Colin	Benny	Jack Russell x Cavalier KC Spaniel
Melanie	Zoe	Weimaraner
Daniel and Amanda	Sven	Cavoodle
Natalie and Tom	Louis	Border Collie Kelpie cross
Nidhi and Divya	Milo	Miniature Groodle
Karen	Shelby	Australian Shepherd
Jack and Grace	Dodo	Shiba Inu
Anmol and Robin	Jazzy	Labrador
Kirby and Claire	Vince	Hungarian Vizsla
Margaret and Rohan	Matilda	Golden Retriever
Owen	Luffy	GSP
Kiran	Ziggy	Bernedoodle
Leo	Harley	Aussie Shepard
Andy	Kaiya	Australian Shepherd

Name Badge

Remember to wear your name badge in class.

- ensures you are covered by our insurance.
- ensures only members are on the grounds/in class.
- helps us remember & use your names.

** Forgot yours? See us in the clubroom or your instructor for a temporary card.*



Chief Instructors Report

Training news and tips

A big acknowledgement to all our members who have continued to come to classes on Sunday mornings during the last couple of cold winter months. We've mostly been lucky with the weather with Sundays generally being dry, and even though the ground has been a bit muddy, we've managed to keep running our classes out on the oval. Your commitment and improvement doesn't go unnoticed!

Advocating for Your Dog

When you're out and about with your dog – whether a young puppy or a seasoned adult – you're allowed to advocate for them. If another person or dog approaches and wants to say hello, you don't have to let it happen. It's perfectly okay to simply say, "My dog is in training," or "No thank you, we're working right now."

This is especially important for young dogs still building confidence and social skills. Just because someone calls out "My dog is friendly!" doesn't mean your dog has to interact. Not every dog wants to greet every dog they pass – and that's completely normal. Just like people, dogs are individuals with their own comfort levels, and we need to respect that.

Part of advocating for your dog is learning to read what they're telling you, so you can judge when they're genuinely comfortable and happy to say hi, and when they'd rather not. Once you've made that call, it's also our job to make sure any interaction that does happen is a respectful one.



That includes interactions with people, too. It's easy to let an adorable puppy jump all over a visitor who says "Oh, it's fine, I don't mind!" – but if we want our dogs to grow into well-mannered members of the community, we need to set the standard early. Encourage your dog to keep four paws on the ground, or to sit, when greeting someone who wants to give them a pat.

Remember: you are always allowed to say no. If your dog is in training and you'd rather they didn't interact with another dog, say so clearly – "We're training, thanks" is more than enough. If another dog approaches and yours would rather not engage, put yourself between the two as a physical barrier, and don't be afraid to ask the other handler to call their dog back.

Advocating for your dog isn't rude – it's responsible. Plus, it builds trust in you, and it sets them up to be calm, confident and comfortable wherever their lead takes them.

If you have any questions, please let us know. You can reach out to anyone wearing ESODC uniform, drop us an email or send us a message on Facebook.

Tamara Taylor, Chief Instructor

Delta Therapy Dog Training

There are moments in life that quietly change your heart, and for Paris and I, this is one of them.

After successfully passing our Delta Therapy Dogs assessment, we're excited to begin our volunteer journey. Paris doesn't know she's about to become someone's reason to smile, a comforting presence on a difficult day, or a gentle friend who asks for nothing in return.

A wagging tail, a warm cuddle, and a little time shared can make an incredible difference. We feel honoured to be part of a team that brings comfort, connection, and joy to people who need it most. This is just the beginning of our adventure, and we can't wait to see where those four paws and one grateful heart will lead us.



If anyone in the club is interested in becoming a Delta Therapy Dog volunteer, their last assessments for 2026 are in Aug & Nov. Approx. 1,000 volunteers and their dogs support program beneficiaries in Delta's partnering schools, hospitals, aged care homes, youth services, mental health services, correctional facilities, and other health and community services right across Australia. The commitment is generally 90 mins per fortnight on a day that suits you and as far as you are prepared to travel from home.

Feel free to come and have a chat to me before or after classes or take a look online Volunteer with Delta Therapy Dogs or give Carly a call on 0466 084 256

Sue Poyner



Canine Cough

Canine cough (also known as Kennel cough) is a contagious upper respiratory infection in dogs caused by several different highly infectious bacteria and viruses, most commonly *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. It is named due to its primary symptom being a persistent dry hacking or honking cough, and spreads easily in any places where dogs interact, including:

Dog parks
Daycare centres
Groomers
Boarding kennels
Obedience classes

How Do Dogs Get Canine Cough?

It spreads through the air via coughing or sneezing, and by contact with contaminated surfaces such as food bowls, toys, and even human hands or clothing.

Greencross Vet Dr Daniel van Geuns says it can be hard to pinpoint the source of the infection, as it can take anywhere from 3-10 days before dogs start showing symptoms. Once you notice your pet is unwell, be sure to keep them away from others. That means no trips to puppy school, the dog park, or groomer.

“Canine cough is highly contagious. Infected pets should be separated until the disease has resolved.” Dr van Geuns says.

Signs and Symptoms of Canine Cough

The most common symptoms include:

- Dry, hacking cough (may sound like gagging or honking)
- Sneezing or snorting
- Eye and nasal discharge
- Lethargy and fever
- Occasional gagging or retching after excitement or eating

Symptoms typically appear 3 to 10 days after exposure.

What Does Canine Cough Sound Like?

It often resembles a goose honk or a persistent dry cough that may end in gagging.

Is Canine Cough Dangerous?

For most healthy adult dogs, kennel cough is mild and resolves in 1-3 weeks. However, it can develop into pneumonia or chronic bronchitis, particularly in puppies, elderly dogs and dogs with underlying health issues.

The symptoms of canine cough can be distressing for dogs and for you as a pet parent. If your dog is coughing excessively, struggling to breathe, or becomes very lethargic, contact your local Vet immediately.

Kennel Cough in Puppies

Kennel cough in puppies can be more serious due to their immature immune systems. If your puppy shows signs like a persistent cough or loss of appetite, contact your Vet as soon as possible. Whilst vaccination is not 100% effective, it does help reduce the severity of symptoms, so we encourage all puppies to have their vaccinations as soon as possible.

Prevention & Vaccine Options

Like most of the diseases we vaccinate for, canine cough is not as common as it used to be. We are able to vaccinate against two of the main pathogens responsible for canine cough: Parainfluenza virus and *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. A vaccine is now available which allows the vet to administer the vaccine into either a dog's mouth or nose using an applicator (instead of a needle). These routes of vaccination allow us to administer the vaccine directly to the areas which are going to be exposed to the disease, providing a better immune response and more rapid onset of protection.

Greencross Vet

<https://www.greencrossvets.com.au/canine-cough/>

Trial Round Up

Hastings & District Obedience Dog Club Trial - Saturday 13 June 2026

Bec & Daisy	95 points	Rally Novice	
Tamara & Harvey	97 points	Rally Master	3rd place
Monica & Oska	94 points	Rally Master	



Albury & Border Kennel Club Sprint Dog Trial - 19 June 2026

Melissa & Bandit achieved Sprint Dog Title

Rottweiler Obedience Dog Club Trial - Saturday 20 June 2026

Cassie & Nugget	85 points	CCD	
Cassie & Nugget	86 points	Rally Excellent	
Tamara & Harvey	95 points	Rally Master	



Hobart Dog Training Club - Saturday 11 July 2026

Sophie & Hildie	197 points	AM trial CD	1st Place
Sophie & Hildie	194 points	PM trial CD	1st Place & Title

Gippsland Retrieving Club - Saturday & Sunday 26&27/7/26

Dodo & Heidi	Retrieving Novice	3rd place
Dodo & Heidi	Retrieving Novice	3rd place



DV State Dog Obedience Trial - Saturday 2 August 2026

Debra & Cody	88 points	AM trial CCD	3rd place
Debra & Cody	87 points	PM trial CCD	



Can You Help Us?



Due to unforeseen personal reasons, we currently have vacancies with the position of Treasurer, and two General Committee positions, and we seek your interest to fill them.

Treasurer's role (brief summary)

The accounting software, Xero, already operational, so all the hard work to set up and practical systems created

- Ideally filled by someone already finance savvy
- Computer/internet access and computer literacy is essential
- Approx 2hr per month to undertake the role
- Will be supported by Tamara (past Treasurer) for as long as you need.

General Committee Member's role (brief summary)

- Attend committee meetings (approx every 6 weeks)
- Join and work in subcommittees (where appropriate)
- Support the week to week running of the club (including fun days, trial).

The successful members will be selected and appointed by the committee and will hold that position for the remainder of 2026, until our AGM in December (where they can nominate for a further 12mth term). If you'd like to try out being on the committee with a shorter commitment time, this is a great opportunity.

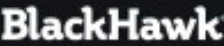
If you think either of these roles on the committee are something you might like further information about, please feel free to talk to any of the committee members at the club or call anyone from the executive committee.

For Sale at the Pavilion

We are now stocking a small range of equipment available for sale at the Pavillion. If you are interested in buying any of the items please talk to your Instructor or to anyone in uniform around the Pavillion and they will be able to help you.

There are yellow scarves and jackets for our nervous dogs, pouches for treats, and pivot steps for practising turns on and rear end awareness.

There is also a rack of collars and leads and other sundry items outside the pavillion that are free to any member who can use them.



Every ingredient matters



Mix up puppy meal times

Discover the benefits of feeding wet and dry puppy food with Black Hawk



Ideal 85g pouch size for Small breed puppies



Ideal 135g pouch size for Medium to large breed puppies



Variety of tastes and textures



Gut health support



Helps with hydration



Etiquette for dogs wearing yellow



Dogs wearing yellow bandanas, leads or coats **need extra space**.

Remember to:

- Give the dog space
- Ask the owner before approaching
- Follow the owner's instructions

Yellow does not mean "bad dog". It means they may be nervous, anxious, protective or need space to feel safe.

Respecting dogs wearing yellow supports positive training outcomes for everyone.



Special Offer



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



PETS OF THE HOMELESS
Keeping best friends together

DONATION DRIVE

We are currently accepting :

- ☒ Flea + Worming treatments (Dog + Cat)
- ☒ Wet Food for Dogs + Cats (Unopened)
- ☒ Dry food for Dogs + Cats (Unopened)
- ☒ Dog + Cat Treats (Unopened)
- ☒ Dog + Cat Toys
- ☒ Doggy Poop Bags + Puppy Training Pads
- ☒ Pet Accessories (Bowls, Jackets etc)

We can accept second hand pet accessories, as long as they are washed and clean, and in a condition that you would be happy to receive yourself. All food donations must be in sealed, unopened packaging.

Your donations will provide support for the beloved animal companions of people experiencing hardship and homelessness. To find out more, visit petsofthehomeless.org.au

Thank you so much for your support!