
Newsletter



October 2026



YOUR COMMITTEE

Office Bearers

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

General Committee

Andrea Sciberras, Debra Conway, Rebecca Carlin

Instructors

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

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, and haven't the past few weeks been a whirlwind? I wear two hats while writing this report... My President's hat, briefly; and my Trial Secretary's hat, mostly. So, a warm spring welcome to our October Newsletter. And, a very special welcome to all our recently joined new members. I do trust you will find your training time here at the club both rewarding and practical.



On Sunday 4th October we were on target and super organised to hold our annual Obedience and Rally trials. Mother Nature however had other plans, and decided that an extreme weather event was scheduled for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday and dumped enough rain to fill a gazillion swimming pools..... Simpson Park was awash, and we all know from experience, that our ground was never going to drain enough by Sunday morning. So, the incredibly sad decision was made to cancel the competition. To date we have refunded trial entry monies, notified our two sponsors, packed up the beautiful brand new ribbons and sashes, packed away the trophies, cancelled and apologised to 9 contracted Judges, shredded page after page of competition paperwork, and I am currently deciding how to store 13 amazing raffle prizes / baskets that Dodo made up from all your fabulously generous donations.



We will reuse everything, ...eventually. The BM Animals 1st prize packs have been kept aside as prizes for our Christmas break up... Between those and some of the raffle prizes, you are all in for some amazing Fun Day prizes.....

Of course, there is one reason why any club hosts such a competition.... It is to provide a venue, (a safe home-based venue) for our own club members who are ready to compete, to enter. Sadly our members missed that home ground opportunity this year. I feel sorry for you guys too.



I wish to thank all our amazing club members who offered donations, or time and support for the various jobs on the day. From Dodo coordinating all the raffle prizes, Brian, Roger and the grounds crew. Everyone on early morning set ups, to gatekeepers, bbq'ers, raffle ticket sellers, dining room helpers, ring stewards, even admin support for myself, I am incredibly blessed to have your support and thank you all for your generosity.

President's Report cont'd

We were blessed again with generous sponsors, BM Animals, and Mega Pet Warehouse. Please grab their details, and support them by buying their products. In today's big business/corporate world, it is truly a great feeling to help our local small businesses thrive. The generosity of our sponsors, our club members with raffle prize donations, the offers of help for the day, and all the help along the way.... You are all amazing, and yet again, I thank you.... And nope, I'm not going to try to list everyone, for fear of missing one or two very important names.... I do hope I have personally thanked you already, and from everyone in the club, thank you.

End of the Year

So, where to from here.....? We are in the final seven weeks of club/training for 2026. Our Christmas Breakup 'Family Fun Day' is Sunday 6th December. This is a training day that is packaged like a whole lot of fun. Bring the family down, there's a free sausage sizzle (and veggie patties), there are games for the whole family, and prizes for all the games, even a 'Christmas themed' fancy dress competition. I encourage you to start shopping around now for your costumes because both YOU and YOUR DOG need to be dressed up in order to scoop the prizes..... Try to match or merge your cozzies for your best chance.



Following the Family Fun Day is our AGM - we would love to see you there. The AGM won't be a long meeting, but does highlight all our greatest achievements throughout the year, elects a new committee for the year ahead, and finishes off with presentations of club trophies to all our trialling members who have gained titles throughout the year. This is something we are very proud of, and truly worth rewarding and celebrating with our members.

To wrap up this very long message, thank you everyone for your support and commitment to your training. It is lovely seeing you all in classes, scattered across the field every Sunday with your dogs and the wide variety of coloured mats. I love watching you all, keep up the great work.

Happy training,
Rhonda Cheesman



Welcome to our New Members

Handler	Dog	Breed
Margaret	Tilly	Golden Retriever
Rohan	Shelby	Golden Retriever
Kim	Poppy	Cavoodle
Pearly, Paul & Alyssa	Molly	Border Collie
Nicholas & Bethany	Sadie	Greyhound
Vicky	Tilly	Ridgeback
Cecilia	Lucy	Havanese
Alex & Eliot	Bjorn	Staffy x
Brody, Madeleine & Tallulah	Monty	Groodle
Michelle & Andrew	Daisy	Golden Retriever
Lorraine	Pip	Chihuahua x teacup poodle
Kerrie	Winnie	English Staffy
Lisa & Scott	Sansa	Finnish Lapphund
Zoe	Ollie	Golden Retriever
Huey	Moli	Havanese
Julian & Wendy	Apollo	Kelpie
Toni	Clover	Mini Schnauzer

Chief Instructors Report

Training news and tips

Spring is definitely upon us with the weather springing all over the place. It is certainly nice to have more daylight and sunny weather to be out and about with our dogs. This newsletter I'd like to dive deeper into understanding the beginning stage of the learning process for dogs ...

Silence is golden

In the very first stage of teaching a new skill, often called the Acquisition Stage, we like to say silence is golden. (This is silence of the human!)

Dogs don't speak or know English; it's a foreign language to them. They are expert body language communicators, and we can use this to our advantage. Therefore, during the first step of teaching them how to physically do the behaviour, we lure them into position, with no other input.

Staying silent during this stage stops us from saying, and often repeating, the word before the dog understands the desired behaviour. Repeating the cue word before the dog understands can lead to them attaching the word to the wrong behaviour or tune it out altogether because dogs will always choose visual information (our body language) over what we say.

What does this look like in practice? Say you're teaching "down", hold a treat at your dog's nose and slowly lure it towards the floor. Stay silent. The moment their elbows and tummy touch the ground, say your marker word, then reward and release them. Repeat this many times without saying "down" at all. Your dog is



learning what to do and your body language is doing all the talking.

When your dog is offering the behaviour reliably and quickly, with the lure becoming smaller or disappearing, then they are ready for you to add the cue word. To do this say the cue word, "down", then give the hand signal, wait for them to do the behaviour, mark as soon as their tummy is on the floor, follow with the reward and then give their release word. With practice the dog learns that the word predicts the behaviour.

Next time you are teaching something new (perhaps a spin or bow) remember to be silent (except for using your marker and release words) and let your body language do the communicating.

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*



Come and be a part of the team

Committee positions vacant

As some of our long-standing committee members have stepped away, we are looking for a few new faces to join the team and help us keep the club thriving!

You don't need to be an expert, have previous committee experience, or take on a big job. We're simply looking for members who care about our club and would like to contribute to the direction and future of our club.

Why join the committee?

- **Be involved in decisions** about how the club operates, what we offer and how we can continue to improve
- **Shape the club's future** by bringing your ideas, experiences and suggestions to help us meet the needs of our dog training community
- **Give a little back.** Our club provides a valuable service to the community - helping dogs and their owners learn together. Being on the committee is one way to help make that possible
- **Get to know the people behind the club.** It's a great opportunity to connect with fellow members who share your interest in dogs and help make our club a welcoming place for everyone.

What's involved?

Our committee meets just once every six weeks during the training year. Committee positions are general committee roles, so there are no extra responsibilities unless you choose to volunteer for a particular task or project.

You can contribute your thoughts, join in discussions and help with decisions without having to take on a major role. Every contribution counts!

Help us keep our club thriving

If you love being a part of our club and would like to help it continue to grow, we'd love to hear from you!

Have a chat with one of our committee members or get in touch to find out more. There's no pressure – just an opportunity to get involved, share your ideas and help make our club the best it can be.

After all, a great club is built by its members, and every helping hand makes a difference.

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.

Trial Round Up



Werribee Obedience Dog Club Trial - Saturday 17 October

Cassie & Nugget 83 points Rally Excellent (am trial)
Cassie & Nugget 88 points Rally Excellent (pm trial)

RATG Trial, KCC Park - Saturday 26 September

Dodo & Heidi 2nd place



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:

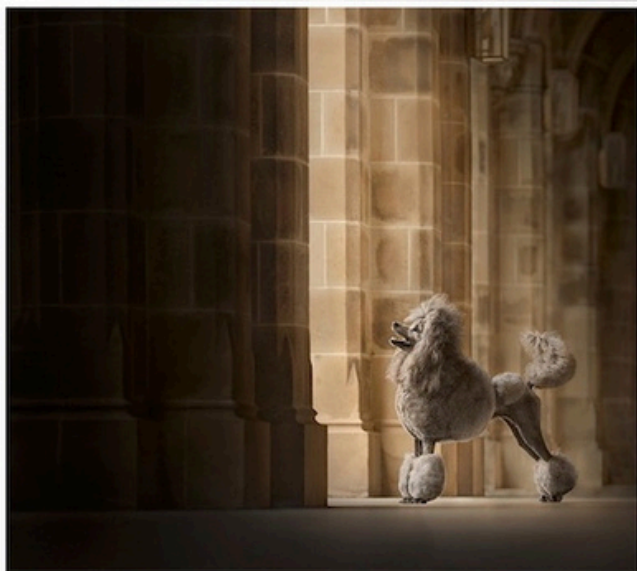
- Raw meats
- Raw meaty bones (assorted cow, duck, emu, chicken, kangaroo, turkey, veal)
- Ready made meals (raw and cooked options)
- Treats and chews
- Supplements
- and more

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

BM Animals
ph: 0488 144 675

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



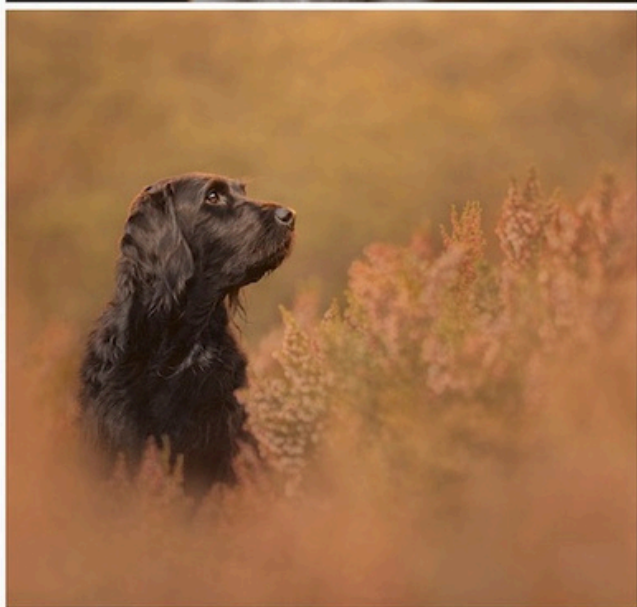
DOES YOUR DOG WANT A FREE PHOTOSHOOT?

With an award-winning photographer,
experienced in dog behaviour
and training

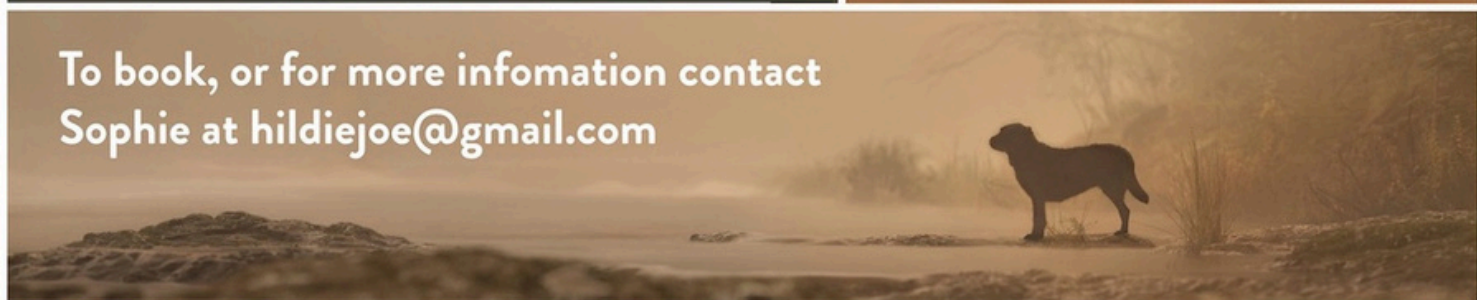
Around an hour-long session at either
sunrise or sunset

Choose between several locations
across Melbourne, hand-picked to suit
you and your dog

All breeds, ages, training levels
and any humans wanting to join in are
more than welcome



To book, or for more information contact
Sophie at hildiejoe@gmail.com



What is Under Effective Control?

You have likely seen the phrase on a sign at the park: “Dogs must be under effective control”. But what does that actually mean?

In the “Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act: Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Dogs”, it states

Dogs should be on a leash at all times in public areas unless in an off-leash area at which times they should be under effective control of the owner/carer.

*Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act
Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Dogs*

Each local council will articulate the rules in different ways, so it's best to check your local council's rules. The City of Whitehorse, for example, asks that when your dog is off-lead, you:

Designated Dog Off-Lead Public Spaces

When exercising a dog off-lead, the person controlling the dog must:

- Have the dog under effective control to sufficiently prevent the dog from behaving in a manner that threatens or causes a nuisance to any person or animal.
- Carry a leash, chain, cord or similar not exceeding 1.5 metres in length so that the dog can be brought under effective control if it is behaving in a manner that threatens or causes a nuisance to any person or animal.
- Have the dog within 25 metres and have a clear unobstructed view of the dog at all times, and
- Have the dog immediately return upon command.

*City of Whitehorse,
Dogs in Public Spaces
www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au*

Generally, under effective control means that the person responsible for the dog must be able to give a command and the dog immediately respond as instructed.

Dogs under effective control:

- do not bother or worry other people or animals – they respect the personal space of humans and animals
- respond to cues given, such as recall on verbal cue or hand signal

What we often see ...

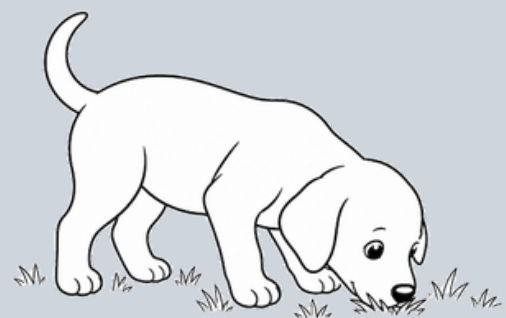
Your dog is off-lead and starts running over to another dog (on or off lead), or a person (adult or child), and you call out “My dog is friendly!”.

We hear this a lot and it is usually true. However, it does not take away your responsibility of ensuring your dog is under effective control. We never know how another dog or person will react when faced with a dog (big or small) running up to them, however good their intentions.

Under the above rules, you must be able to recall your dog and have them immediately return to you around any distraction (a dog, a person, a child, etc). Best practice is to keep your dog on lead until you have a reliable recall around distractions. It's the kindest thing for your dog and it protects the off-leash spaces we all enjoy.

Effective control is about being able to guide your dog, wherever you are.

Recall, maintaining attention and loose-lead walking are the skills that build effective control and they are exactly what we practice in class. These skills help your dog be a good member of the community, behave in a courteous manner and be responsive to us.



ESODC Family Fun Day

on

Sunday 6 December

Bring the whole family for a morning of fun activities and games including:



Simon says
Red Light, Green Light
Egg & Spoon race
Mini agility
Best trick
Jelly bean guess
Best dressed Christmas dog & owner

Prizes awarded to winners

Plus enjoy the BBQ and get your raffle tickets to win some amazing prizes.



We invite you stay for our short AGM to celebrate the achievements of our members and learn more about our club.

NOTICE OF MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
EASTERN SUBURBS OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC will be held at**

Venue: Simpson Park Mitcham

On: SUNDAY DECEMBER 6th 2026 Time: 11.00am

Clause 27 (1) of the Club's Constitution

Every member who was a financial member of the club for not less than three months of the financial year preceding the Annual General Meeting and is currently a financial member shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible to nominated as an office bearer or member of committee.

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE POSITIONS WILL BE DECLARED VACANT.

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

&

SIX COMMITTEE POSITIONS

The nominations for the above positions close 16th November 2026

Please forward nomination form, duly signed etc. To the Secretary, Mrs Liz Bruhn on or before November 15th 2026

Items to be included in the Agenda of the General Meeting must be received by the Secretary, on or before November 15th 2026

NOMINATIONS CLOSE NOVEMBER 15th 2026

AGENDA ITEMS CLOSE NOVEMBER 15th 2026

EASTERN SUBURBS OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

NOMINATION FORM

We wish to nominate.....for the position of.....

Nominated by Dated.....

Seconded by.....Dated

Nominee.....Dated.....

NOTE: All three persons involved must be financial members of ESODC. The person nominating for the President, Secretary, Treasurer must be a financial member of Dogs Victoria.

Please forward complete form to the Secretary Liz Bruhn at esodcmitcham@gmail.com or at the club on or before November 15th 2026.