

DOG TRACKS



July / August

2026

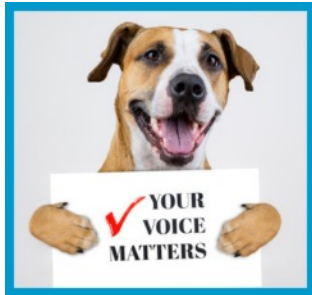
President's Message

Cooler weather has gripped our training sessions but luckily with little rain so that our grounds have been in relatively good shape.



The agility group has had outstanding recent months with many of our agility members participating at the Agility Nationals in Queensland and more recently at our club agility trial held at St Ives Showground.

Our club annual general meeting will be held on the last Monday of September. Prior to that you will receive an email including positions form for the next committee and grounds roles.



I encourage you all to consider volunteering for a position as this club cannot run without volunteer contribution.

Even though we are in the midst of the winter season we will be welcoming new members each month so expect that you will be encouraged to try out for the next level classes which will challenge your skills and help you build your relationship with your dog.

Peter Coulthart
with editorial help from his English Setter, Venice
Regards
Peter



Manly Club Agility Trial

Our club's annual agility and jumping trial at St Ives Showground on Saturday, 1 August was a fantastic day, proving that even the wet weather can't dampen the spirit of the dog agility community! Although the sporadic rain made for some muddy conditions throughout the day, everyone embraced the challenge with positivity and good humour. Thanks to everyone's patience and teamwork, the trial ran smoothly and was a great success from start to finish.



We were delighted to welcome Murray Sharman and Danielle Lyonne as our judges. There was no end praise for their course design, and their positivity and thoughtful judging throughout the day were greatly appreciated, particularly in the of challenging conditions.



Our incredible club volunteers deserve special recognition. Whether they were setting and changing courses, stewarding, scribing, timing, dealing with admin or packing up at the end of the day, they were always ready to step in wherever they were needed. It was wonderful to see everyone working together, supporting one another, with smiles all round.



Congratulations to all of our competitors, with a special mention to our own club members, who achieved some fantastic results throughout the trial. It was wonderful to see so many successful runs and ribbons earned by familiar faces, making it a particularly rewarding day for the club.



A big thank you to our generous sponsors, Carnivore Pet Kitchen, Zuna's Puppyporium and KP&Co, whose continued support of our club is greatly appreciated. It was fantastic to have both businesses on site with trade stalls, giving competitors and visitors the opportunity to browse a great range of quality products throughout the day.

We were also pleased to see members of the general public stopping by to watch the action. Agility is always an exciting spectator sport, and it was great to share our sport with visitors who enjoyed cheering on the dogs and handlers as they tackled the courses.



Another highlight of the day was our raffle, featuring a fantastic collection of prizes generously donated by our agility and flyball club members. The raffle was a huge success, raising funds for our club's Education Committee. These funds will help support future educational opportunities and events for our members, and we sincerely thank everyone who donated prizes and purchased tickets.



The agility trial was a wonderful example of our club community coming together to put on a successful event, and we look forward to seeing everyone again at our next trial... hopefully with a little more sunshine!



Huge Congratulations to Our Members

Clarissa Mattingly & Mochi: Excellent Agility 300 2nd Place, Novice Jumping 300 2nd Place

Daniela Ferri & Cody: Novice Jumping 300 1st Place

Emma McGinley & Bindi: Open Agility 2nd Place

Emma Wood & Raffie: Excellent Agility 200 2nd Place, Masters Jumping 200 3rd Place

Karen Poon & Tali: Novice Agility 300 3rd Place

Katie Budd & Athena: Novice Agility 400 2nd Place, Excellent Jumping 400 3rd Place

Kerry Hides-Pearson & Margot: Novice Jumping 500 3rd Place

MollyMorgan & Buddy: Masters Agility 500 1st Place, Open Jumping 3rd Place

Molly Morgan & Pickles: Masters Agility 500 2nd Place, Open Agility 1st Place

Molly Morgan & Topsy: Novice Agility 500 1st Place, Excellent Jumping 500 2nd Place

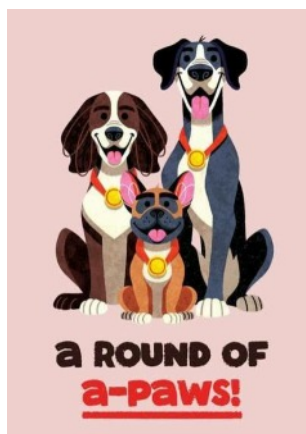
Rachael Fullerton & Strike: Masters Agility 500 3rd Place

Rachael Fullerton & Zari: Masters Jumping 500 1st Place

Ren Astono & Poncho: Excellent Agility 200 1st Place

Rosalie Degabriele & Arya: Novice Agility 300 2nd Place

Rosy Booker & Peppa: Excellent Agility 400 2nd Place, Excellent Jumping 400 1st Place



Lights, Camera, Dogs!

It's not every day you get to take your dog to the movies, but that's exactly what we did when MDKDTC joined the Top Dog Film Festival 10th Anniversary celebration at Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace in Cremorne.



The Top Dog Film Festival celebrates the many ways dogs are part of our lives, with a selection of short films from around the world. There were plenty of funny, heartwarming and inspiring stories, and it was easy to see why the festival has become so popular with dog lovers.

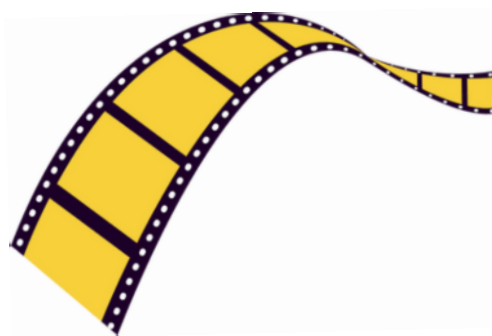


Picking a favourite wasn't easy, but *Giants of the Valley* was the one that really stood out to us. It spoke to something that many of our members will understand very well: our sometimes slightly obsessive love of dogs! Our dogs become our companions, training partners and a huge part of our lives. That same enthusiasm is what brings so many of us together at MDKDTC, whether we are involved in obedience, agility, flyball or simply enjoying time with our dogs. All the films captured that wonderful combination of dogs, adventure and the people who are lucky enough to share their lives with them.



We were delighted to be invited to be part of the Sydney celebration and took along some of our wonderful club dogs and handlers. Georgie, with handler Liz, and Mulan, with handler Meisha, were on hand to greet guests as they arrived. They quickly became firm favourites, enjoying plenty of pats and attention during the intermission before saying goodbye to guests as they headed home.

There was also a chance for Vixen and handler Siobhan to take to the stage and show the audience a few tricks. Siobhan also spoke about MDKDTTC and the many opportunities our club provides for people to have fun and build a stronger partnership with their dogs through training and dog sports.



It was a great opportunity to meet people who love dogs as much as we do and to tell them a little about what happens at our club. We hope we may see some familiar faces at training in the future!

A big thank you to Top Dog Film Festival for having us as part of the 10th Anniversary celebration. And of course, thank you to Liz, Meisha and Siobhan, and our three club dogs Georgie, Mulan and Vixen, for representing MDKDTTC on the night.



We had a wonderful afternoon, met lots of fellow dog lovers, and hopefully inspired a few people to get out there and have some fun with their dogs!



Too Cold vs Too Hot

CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?



TOO COLD



SHIVERING

Shaking or trembling



CURLING UP

Tight body,
nose tucked in



LIFTING PAWS

Trying to keep paws
off the ground



SEEKING WARMTH

Looking for blankets
or staying close



LOW ENERGY

Sluggish or
reluctant to move



TOO HOT



EXCESSIVE PANTING

Heavy, noisy or
rapid panting



DROOLING

More drool
than usual



SEEKING COOL PLACES

Laying on cool floors,
in the shade



RED GUMS

Gums may look bright
red or darker pink



RESTLESS THEN LETHARGIC

Hyper, then unusually
tired or weak



EMERGENCY SIGNS (BOTH)

Collapse • Vomiting • Confusion • Weakness



Dogs can't tell us when they're uncomfortable.
Know the signs. Protect them always.



Flyball News



Manly's flyball dogs will be taking to the Vitapet Arena at the Sydney Dog Lovers Festival on 22–23 August, and we'd love to see plenty of familiar faces in the crowd!

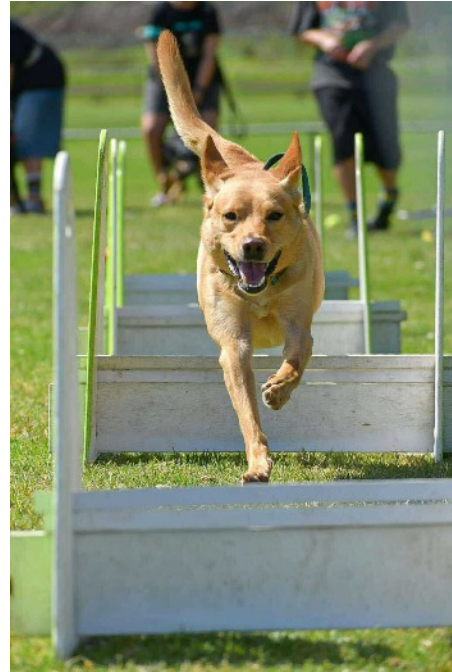


As NSW's biggest celebration of dogs, the Sydney Dog Lovers Festival is packed with exciting attractions, including spectacular dog sports demonstrations, expert talks, shopping, entertainment, breed showcases and plenty of activities for dog lovers of all ages.

Flyball is one of the fastest and most exciting canine sports, with two teams of dogs racing head-to-head over hurdles to trigger a spring-loaded box, catch a tennis ball, and race back over the jumps before the next dog is released. It's a thrilling display of speed, precision and teamwork between dogs and their handlers.



If you're heading along, be sure to catch our team in action at 11:30am and 2:15pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Come along and cheer loudly as we showcase the excitement of flyball to thousands of festival visitors!



Following the festival, our club will be proudly represented by seven dogs across two teams at the 2026 Flyball Nationals in Bendigo, Victoria, on 26–27 September. We wish our handlers and dogs the very best of luck as they compete against the country's top flyball teams!



WINTER Joint Care



KEEPING YOUR DOG COMFORTABLE
AND ACTIVE ALL WINTER LONG



WHY ARE JOINTS STIFF IN WINTER?

Cold weather doesn't cause arthritis, but it can make existing joint problems more noticeable. Lower temperatures may reduce blood flow to muscles and joints, causing stiffness and making movement less comfortable after periods of rest.

You may notice:

- 🐾 Takes longer to get up
- 🐾 Reluctant to jump or use stairs
- 🐾 Slower on walks
- 🐾 Stiff when first moving
- 🐾 Hesitation on obstacles



KEEP THEM MOVING

Regular, gentle exercise is one of the best ways to support healthy joints.

Try two or three shorter walks instead of one long session. Movement helps lubricate joints, maintain muscle strength and reduce stiffness.

For sporting dogs, adjust intensity to suit the conditions.



WARM UP BEFORE TRAINING

Begin with a brisk walk for 5–10 minutes, then gentle turns, circles and basic obedience before more demanding activity.

A proper warm-up prepares muscles and joints and may help reduce the risk of injury.



KEEP YOUR DOG LEAN

Extra weight puts additional stress on joints.

Maintaining an ideal body condition is one of the most effective ways to slow the progression of arthritis and keep your dog moving comfortably.



PROVIDE A WARM RESTING PLACE

Cold, hard surfaces can increase discomfort.

A well-padded bed away from drafts gives joints a chance to recover. Orthopaedic or memory foam beds can be especially helpful for older dogs.



SPEAK TO YOUR VETERINARIAN

If your dog is showing persistent stiffness, limping or signs of discomfort, don't assume it's "just old age." Many joint conditions can be managed successfully with appropriate veterinary care.

Your vet may recommend:

- 🐾 Weight management
- 🐾 A tailored exercise program
- 🐾 Physiotherapy or hydrotherapy
- 🐾 Joint supplements where appropriate
- 🐾 Pain relief or anti-inflammatory medication if needed

Remember

A little stiffness doesn't have to mean the end of an active lifestyle. With sensible exercise, a healthy weight, good warm-up routines and appropriate veterinary care, many dogs continue to enjoy training and competition well into their senior years.

HEALTHY JOINTS TODAY
HELP KEEP TAILS
WAGGING TOMORROW.



The Benefit of Bone Broth for Dogs

So why would you give your dog bone broth? Well, it can help them in a number of ways including supporting their joints and mobility, keeping them hydrated, helping their digestion and keeping their skin and coats healthy.

It's especially good for older pets, sensitive stomachs, and to add to dry food. Pets recovering from an illness or after surgery also find it easier to start off with bone broth when regaining their appetite.

Remember, dogs only need a few spoons to a quarter cup of bone broth at a time and it shouldn't replace their regular balanced meals. It's best used as a supplement or topper rather than a full meal on its own.

Ingredients

1–2 kg x Beef, Chicken or Lamb Bones
2 x Carrots
2 x Sticks of Celery
1–2 x tbsp Apple Cider Vinegar



Method

Place bones and chopped vegetables into a large pot or slow cooker. Cover completely with water.

Add apple cider vinegar.

Simmer (12–24 hours for chicken bone and 24–48 hours for beef/lamb bones).

Let cool slightly.

Strain thoroughly and discard all bones and vegetables.

Chill and remove excess fat from the top.

You can serve the bone broth as is, pour it over their food or freeze it into cubes for treats (excellent for the summer).

How much bone broth per day for dogs?

The general guideline is:

Small dogs: 1–2 tablespoons per day

Medium dogs: 2–4 tablespoons per day

Large dogs: ¼–½ cup per day



Start with a small amount of bone broth to make sure it agrees with their stomach, especially if they're trying it for the first time.



How Do I Get My Dog To Listen Without Treats

Excerpt from *Chill Out Fido!* by Nan Kené Arthur

Once your dog knows a behaviour well, and can perform it in many locations and with many distractions, you can fade the use of your marker signal and rewards. In other words, you don't need to click and treat every time your dog sits for you. However, it's also important to pay off every now and then to keep your dog in the game and gambling. "This time might be the time the reward happens, so I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing, just in case."

Here's an example of how you can fade the use of treats when using a verbal marker while teaching a behaviour like "sit":

1. Ask your dog to "Sit."
2. As his butt hits the ground, say, "Good boy," give a treat (praise and treat paired together) and release him with a release cue such as, "All done."
3. Ask your dog to sit again, but just say, "Good boy," without the treat (builds anticipation of the treat), and release him.
4. The next time, give the treat after your verbal praise (score!).
5. Ask for the sit once again and give the treat again after your verbal praise (score again!).
6. Use just the verbal praise for a couple of rounds, and so on until you are only using treats occasionally but still getting good responses from your dog.
7. You can also add in other rewards that your dog likes, such as asking him to sit and when he does, saying "Good boy," and throwing a ball or playing a little tug. You could also open a door, pet him, or allow him access to something like the car if he enjoys car rides. These are called "real life" rewards, and anything your dog wants or likes can and should become a reward as you progress in your training.

Reducing the use of food rewards should be a goal, but always be ready to go back to using more or better treats when you add more distractions, duration, or distance to a behaviour – at least until your dog has a clear understanding that this is the same training as before, just in different context.



If a well-trained behaviour falls apart when you go out into the world, that's information for you. It's time to help your dog by going back to food – usually a high value reward.

Once your dog demonstrates that he can stay focused on the task at hand, you can switch to a lower value food as long as you maintain the successes you achieved with the high-value food in that same location or with the same distractions.

Once you have decided to use fewer treats, bear in mind that never using treats again would be like asking yourself to give up ice cream, cake, or other goodies. There is nothing wrong with using food to reward your dog, just use it to your advantage – to help him get better with his skills. Sometimes it is fun to give your dog a treat, just like it is fun for us to get unexpected rewards. Also, if your dog does something really amazing that you would like repeated, then food is the best paycheck you can give him to keep him in your employment.

For more advice on training your dog, purchase [Chill Out Fido!](#) from Whole Dog Journal.

Agility Nationals 2026



From left to right: Siobhan and Vixen; Liz; Molly and Topsy; Gunilla and Taffy; Ashley, Jake and Blaze; Jo and Caddy; Lauren and Tattie; Ren & Poncho; Kim and Zara; Emma and Bindi

It was a big trip north for Manly & District this year, with 12 of our members heading to Queensland for the 2026 Agility Nationals!

We had an impressive 10 competing teams representing the club, along with two members there to provide plenty of support from the sidelines. With competitors travelling from all over Australia, the Nationals are always a fantastic opportunity to see some great agility, catch up with old friends and soak up the atmosphere of a major competition.

For our members, it was a chance to put all those hours of training to the test and experience the excitement of competing on the national stage. Whether they were running in the ring, cheering on their fellow club members or helping out behind the scenes, everyone played a part in making it a great week for Manly & District.

We're incredibly proud to have had so many of our members make the trip and represent the club. A huge congratulations to everyone who competed, and a big thank you to those who travelled along to support the team.

We hope you all had an amazing time, made some great memories and came home inspired for the next challenge!
Well done, Manly & District!

Nationals Results

Novice Agility

500 Height – Topsy & Molly – 1st Place – National Champion

400 Height – Peppa & Rosy (run by Jamie Hamilton Buchman) - 8th Place

Masters' Agility

500 – Pickles & Molly – 1st Place – National Champion

500 – Blaze & Ashley – 3rd Place

400 – Phoenix & Rachael – 3rd Place

500 – Buddy & Molly

Open Agility

Buddy & Molly - 1st Place - = National Champion

Zari & Rachael – 3 rd Place

Pickles & Molly – 10th Place

Novice Jumping

500 – Topsy & Molly – 1st Place – National Champion

Masters' Jumping

500 – Zari & Rachael – 3rd Place

500 – Buddy & Molly – 7th Place

500 – Pickles & Molly

200 – Poncho & Ren

Open Jumping

Bindi & Emma – 2nd Place – Runner Up National Champion

Zara & Kim – 16th Place

Topsy & Molly – 18th Place

Buddy & Molly – 19th Place

Peppa & Rosy – 26th Place

Zari & Rachael – 28th Place

Blaze & Ashley

Pickles & Molly

Novice Snooker

500 – Topsy & Molly – 1st Place – National Champion
300 – Bobby & Sarah – 17th Place
400 – Tattie & Lauren – 24th Place
400 – Peppa & Rosy – 25th Place
500 – Caddy & Jo – 26th Place

Excellent Snooker

200 – Daisy & Sarah – 2nd Place – Runner Up National Champion
500 – Blaze & Ashley – 2nd Place – Runner Up National Champion
500 – Zara & Kim – 5th Place
500 – Taffy & Gunilla – 12th Place

Masters' Snooker

500 – Zari & Rachael – 2nd Place – Runner Up National Champion
500 – Strike & Rachael – 3rd Place
400 – Phoenix & Rachael – 10th Place

Novice Gamblers

400 – Peppa & Rosy – 1st Place – National Champion
500 – Blaze & Ashley – 1st Place – National Champion
400 – Tattie & Lauren – 6th Place
200 – Daisy & Sarah – 9th Place
500 – Zara & Kim – 11th Place
500 – Topsy & Molly – 25th Place
500 – Caddy & Jo – 33rd Place

Excellent Gamblers

500 – Vixen & Siobhan – 10th Place
500 – Taffy & Gunilla – 26th Place

Masters' Gamblers

500 – Pickles & Molly – 1st Place – National Champion

400 – Bindi & Emma – 2nd Place – Runner Up National Champion

200 – Poncho & Ren – 3rd Place

500 – Buddy & Molly – 4th Place

Novice Strategic Pairs

500 – Taffy & Gunilla– 2nd Place – Runner Up National Champion

400 – Vixen & Tattie, Siobhan & Lauren – 3 rd Place

500 – Topsy & Molly – 6th Place

Masters Strategic Pairs

300 – Bindi & Poncho , Emma & Ren – 1st Place – National Champions

500 – Buddy & Molly – 1st Place – National Champion

400 – Pickles & Molly – 2nd Place – Runner Up National Champion

The following members achieved qualifications in their heats and are amongst some of the best teams in the country.

Bindi & Emma – Open Jumping

Blaze & Ashley – Open Jumping

Buddy & Molly – Open Agility x 2, Open Jumping x 2, Masters' Agility & Masters' Jumping

Peppa & Rosy – Open Jumping, Novice Agility

Phoenix & Rachael – Masters' Agility, Masters' Jumping

Pickles & Molly – Open Jumping, Masters' Agility, Masters' Jumping

Poncho & - Ren – Masters' Jumping

Topsy & Molly – Novice Jumping

Zara & Kim – Open Jumping x 3, Masters' Agility, Masters' Jumping

Zari & Rachael – Open Agility x 2, Open Jumping x 2, Masters' Jumping x 3





Bye Bye Till Next Time !



Editor Wendy Jones

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