



ISSUE 121 | AUGUST 2022

CLICK!

BUILDING BETTER TRAINERS THROUGH EDUCATION

PUBLIC RELEASE

Inside

Why do dogs smile?

A dog's nose is truly unique!

How do dogs compare to young children

Membership renewals and updates

What's life like for a wild dog in India?

Cover dog story

Membership benefits

... and so much more!

MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PET DOG TRAINERS AUSTRALIA INC.

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Disclaimer

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Cover Dog

This edition's cover dog is Sidney, a 5 year old Border Collie living in Frankston South, Victoria with his guardian and APDT Committee member, Tom Heeren.

Sidney was re-homed at 4 months and has benefited greatly from concept games-based training to grow his calmness, optimism and confidence. Sidney loves nothing better than long leash-free walks in and around the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.

Read the Sidney story on page 24.



From the editor's desk

The winds are changing, and with it, so is the Click! magazine. After many years as your Editor, I have decided that it is time for me to step aside and investigate other roles I can fulfil within our wonderful committee. Hence, with much excitement, I introduce your new Click! Editor to you – Tom Heeren.

I have enjoyed my time as Click! editor, but they say a change is as good as a holiday, so I am looking forward to this next step in my committee 'life', and I know I am handing over the reins to someone keen to move Click! forward. I'm not disappearing forever, as I will still be loitering in the background, providing my assistance in proofreading and other important matters. You may even see the odd article or review from me. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Tom as your new Editor and show him the same support you have shown me previously.

I will end my final report with a reminder for all members to update their profile details on our website and join the Members' Facebook page to be kept up to date. Don't forget to send in your articles/reviews

or your dog's photo to be featured as the next cover dog on Click!

That's all from me, adios, take care and train well.

Jude Tuttleby

Dear reader,

This edition of the APDT Australia Inc. Click! Magazine is a public-release preview of our much larger publication available to financial APDT Australia Inc. members.

Each members-only edition is filled with science-based training articles from around the world and other APDT information. The front cover features a member's dog, and the magazine is published in both hard and soft copy three times a year.

If you wish to access the full edition of this magazine and all of our other publications, consider joining APDT Australia Inc. at www.apdt.org.au.

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President's report



Welcome to the Spring edition of Click! Magazine.

So what has your committee been up to these last few months? We have embarked upon the APDT monthly chat series and have had three excellent speakers present, Dr Conor Brady, Dr Neil Jordan and Dr Susan Friedman. By the time you get this magazine, our fourth speaker Sarah Kalnajs will have given her talk on small dogs – which we know you loved. All the webinars are recorded for registered members, so even if you cannot make it to the live chat, you can always watch the recording later. Some of the talks will be available for 3–6 months, while others will be only available for a short period, so make sure you jump onto the event page of the APDT website to catch-up with your registered talks. We appreciate the incredible speakers, the wealth of knowledge and information each has given us. Thank you, also to all our members who have supported this initiative by registering and attending.

The committee has been focusing on developing a pathway for dog trainers who would like to join at the Professional Dog Trainer level but do not know any accredited trainers who can verify their force-free status. This can happen for many reasons, including where the trainer lives, as they may not have access to other trainers nearby. The pandemic has prevented many trainers from attending in-person events; therefore, building friendships, relationships, and networking opportunities have been limited between new and accredited trainers. For this reason, the committee has been working on an alternate pathway for those trainers to verify their force-free status to

enable them to join as a Professional Dog Trainer and access the trainer's directory. At the time of writing, this new process was in its final stages of testing before going live on the website.

There have also been some role changes on the committee, with Tom Heeren taking over the Click! editor and APDT communications role. Tom comes highly qualified for this role with a background in graphic design. We hope you enjoy the new look and feel of our Click! magazine and our electronic e-newsletter. Jude Tuttleby has moved from the editor role to managing the APDT public and member Facebook pages and supporting conference coordination. Denise Bergin is assisting the membership secretary. , Sharon Carroll our incredible treasurer has resigned due to competing workloads. Sharon gave that role her all; we were so blessed when she joined us in 2020. So the committee is seeking a new treasurer. If you have the necessary skills, please get in touch with the committee as this is an essential role for our organisation, and we hope to fill it as soon as possible. Sharon is available to assist the new treasurer while you learn the ropes, so please lend APDT a helping hand if you can.

Finally, APDT attended the Million Paws Walk in Sydney in May. It was so wonderful to return to the dog-owning public and provide much-needed education with handouts and copies of the Click! magazine eagerly taken. The Dog Lovers Show, Melbourne is fast approaching. We need volunteers to man stalls, so please put your hand up to help out for a few hours or a day (or two). It is a lot of fun, and you get to take advantage of the show and wander around to check out all that is new in the world of dogs. Thank you to everyone who helped in the recent Sydney show!

Until our next edition of Click, keep enjoying the APDT monthly chat series; some excellent speakers are coming up, so keep learning and growing, and we will see you again soon.

In the meantime, happy training!

Your president,

Louise Ginman

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RSPCA Million Paws Walk

AFTER TWO YEARS of lockdowns and constant venue cancellations due to the pandemic, we now see the scheduling of regular dog-related community events more often. That means that APDT Australia is also promoting modern, effective dog training methods to the general public by handing out free educational content and answering questions!

The first event this year was at the RSPCA Million Paws Walk at Olympic Park, Sydney, on 29 May, which we have attended for many years. It was a lovely sunny day, a real treat amid many weeks of dreary rain, and was only slightly hampered by the frequent intense gusts of wind that blew items off multiple stalls! Jokes about the popularity of our handouts, while they were “literally flying off the table”, were well received as we worked to rebuild the stall and pin everything down repeatedly.

There were multiple identical enquiries of “is my two-year-old dog too old to be trained?” Clearly, the backlog of pandemic puppies needing assistance is still out there! Past editions of Click! were a big hit with the visitors, as were the brochures promoting our Trainers’ Directory. Those inquiring about potentially becoming a

new dog trainer were excited to hear about our Members’ Library. It was also great to chat with our Members’ Benefits Partners like DOOG, who had their stalls at the Walk.

The Million Paws Walk was our last community stall to use our old banners and signage. We will reprint them with our new logo in time for the subsequent two events this year: Dog Lovers Show Sydney (6–7 August) and Dog Lovers Show Melbourne (14–16 October). Keep an eye out for calls for volunteers closer to these dates, as these events always have a huge turnout and provide valuable opportunities to promote the APDT’s mission. We are also always looking for new community events all around the country to attend. If you know of a local event that you think the APDT should run a stall at, get in touch communityevents@apdt.com.au.



Alisa Sannikova looks after the APDT stall

The 5 biggest dog training myths busted by science

Does your dog know who's boss? Does the wolf in him need taming? What's the best way to stop bad behaviours? And when reaching for those dog biscuits, who, exactly, is training whom?

As the fields of animal behaviour, ecology and veterinary sciences continue to evolve, traditional ideas we once had about how best to train dogs are beginning to wobble. Pulling on the expertise of a range of scientists, here are five of the biggest dog-training myths busted.

DOGS WANT TO DOMINATE

The idea that dogs spend every waking moment trying to usurp their human masters and become 'the alpha' in the house is one of the most pervasive myths in dog-training lore. The idea, first introduced by a wolf ecologist in the mid-20th Century, was later debunked after ecologists realised that the original observations of dominance behaviours were based on captive wolves (unrelated to one another) kept in a zoo enclosure.

By the time ecologists had righted the error, the idea was firmly rooted in dog training circles, many of whom continue to promote the so-called "dominance theory" when working with dogs.

"It's hard to know how long it will take to wash out of the dog training community," wild carnivore biologist Gabi Fleury said.

Based on an original article by Jules Howard

Published: 19 May 2022 at

www.sciencefocus.com/nature/dog-training-myths-busted/

REWARDS ARE BRIBES

"I'm especially irritated by the idea that rewards are a form of bribery," says Madeleine Goumas, animal behaviour researcher. Misgivings like these are based on the hard-to-budge idea that dogs should follow requests out of respect rather than seeking rewards.

"Why should we expect our dogs to repeat behaviours without reward once they have learnt them?" says neuroscientist (and dog-lover) Alice Gray. "I'm paying my dog for their hard work – with food, play or praise!"

YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS

Everyone has fallen for this fallacy. Once your pup reaches adulthood, you consider their training regime to be somehow complete. Not at all. The truth is, training is a life-long thing – something that needs reinforcing again and again. Make training part of your daily routine by playing games while out on a walk or in the backyard.

"This is especially important for recall and walking to heel, which are important for the safety of the dog and other people, as well as wild animals," says Dani Rabaiotti, a wild dog researcher.

YOU HAVE TO BE THE BAD GUY SOMETIMES

“Many dog trainers still rely on punishment to get the behaviours they want, but positive rewards work much better,” argues Nicola Clements, animal welfare researcher. Indeed, reward-based training can correlate with greater obedience and a closer human-canine bond when compared with punishment-led training. It can also help dogs learn new tricks more effectively.

“There’s this popular belief that you need to act like a really mean person when training your dog,” says evolutionary biologist (and dog-lover) Ben Garrod. “You don’t. You need confidence and continuity, with lots of patience.”

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO TRAIN A DOG

In the 1950s and 1960s, long-term behavioural observations of dogs reared in different conditions showed how their adult personalities could be influenced by genetic components (linked partly to breed) and through life experiences, mainly during puppyhood.

“This means that there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ when training dogs,” says ecologist Charlotte Dacre. “Without wishing to anthropomorphise, every dog has a ‘personality’ that every trainer needs to be mindful of.”

Those seeking specialist advice on training their dog should turn to their vet for advice or seek help from the list of APDT professional and accredited dog trainers.

www.apdt.org.au/trainer-directory



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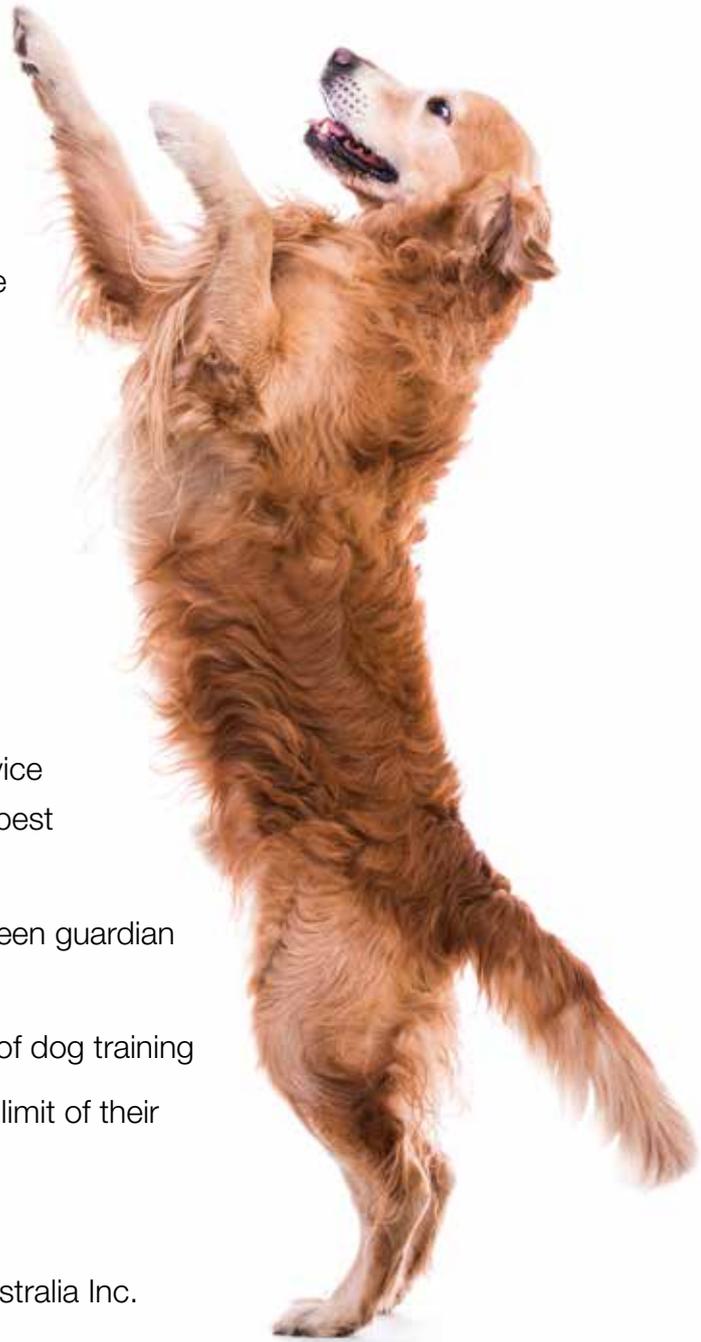
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APDT Code of Ethics

All APDT Dog Trainers and members have agreed to follow our code of conduct, including:

- Perform services to the best of their ability within this Code of Ethics guidelines
- Employ only humane, dog-friendly techniques in the training of dogs
- Actively reject the use of harsh, physical, psychological, coercive and aversive methods in the training of dogs, including the use of electric shock collars, correction, pinch or pronged collars
- Make the welfare of the dog of primary importance
- Be honest and trustworthy
- Treat all dogs with respect
- Do no harm
- Promote responsible dog guardianship
- Actively pursue ongoing education to provide a service based upon sound scientific principles and current best practices
- Promote a positive human/canine relationship between guardian and dog
- Work at developing and applying positive methods of dog training
- Provide a service of the highest standard within the limit of their skill, knowledge and ability
- Respect the confidentiality and privacy of clients
- Not advertise themselves as a member of APDT Australia Inc. without prior approval of the Association
- Not represent themselves as a spokesperson for APDT Australia Inc. without prior approval of the Association.



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