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CLICK!

BUILDING BETTER TRAINERS THROUGH EDUCATION

PUBLIC RELEASE



MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PET DOG TRAINERS AUSTRALIA INC.

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Disclaimer

All articles appearing in this publication are considered to be of general interest to the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) Australia Inc. members and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Association Committee Members. The Editor and Committee of the APDT accept no responsibility for the accuracy of claims made by contributing members or advertisers within this publication.

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Cover Dog

This edition's beautiful cover dog is Wynter, a 2½ year-old Shetland Sheepdog owned by Louise Ginman.

The Shetland Sheepdog, often known as the Sheltie, is a breed of herding dog that originated in the Shetland Islands of Scotland. Their original name was Shetland Collie. However, this caused controversy amongst Rough Collie breeders, so the name was changed. This diligent small dog is clever, vocal, excitable and willing to please. They are incredibly trustworthy to their owners and are often called "shadows" due to their attachment to family.



Editor's message

Welcome to the Winter Edition of *Click!*. This edition is jam-packed with information to help you become a better dog trainer for your clients.

As trainers, we sometimes lose sight of who needs the most help in a dog-owner relationship. While owners will tell you that they are coping or understand what they must do to achieve behavioural change in their dog, all guardians can benefit from a shift in mindset and discussion of what change looks like in an everyday context – how it can be achieved and what to do when things don't go according to plan.

While we train the owner, this process needs to go deeper so that their fears, anxiety and apprehension to change are addressed too. Progress, not perfection, should be the goal of all learning and training. Minor breakthroughs often lead to life-long relationship change and growth.

This edition also includes articles by two presenters of our forthcoming APDT Conference

and a member article about how moving house was made easier through forward planning and understanding of her three dogs' needs.

That's all from me. For those attending the APDT conference, have a wonderful time.

Tom Heeren

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.

15% Registration Discount for 2023 APDT/CAPDT Conference

apdtconference.com



The Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT) would like to provide APDT Australia trainers with a 15% discount on conference registration to the 2023 APDT/CAPDT Conference. The conference will take place Oct. 18–20, 2023. You can receive your 15% discount on conference registration* by completing the registration form found on the conference website (apdtconference.com) and using the following discount code: **Aus2023APDTREG**

**Conference discount does not apply to student, military and shelter/rescue volunteer registration.*

Please contact the APDT office at 800-PET-DOGS or apdt@apdt.com if you have any questions.

President's message



My beautiful young Shetland Sheepdog boy, Wynter is this month's cover dog. Is your dog photogenic? Do you have a good photo or two of your dog? Then make your dog a cover dog. Send your high-resolution and sharp images to the

Committee so we can feature your dog on the front cover of future *Click!* magazines. Sure, we could use stock images, but we prefer to highlight our members' beautiful dogs. Go through your photos or take some the next time you and your dog are out. Feel free to send it to me at president@apdt.com.au.

What's the Committee up to right now – **we are looking at a new membership web-based program**. You may have noticed that the new membership process is not quite as smooth as we had hoped, so rather than continually tweak the code, we are moving to a new web-based membership system that has come highly recommended and should make our membership process a seamless experience. Have you received your renewal email? Many of us haven't had notification that renewals are due. This is one issue with our current system – it isn't working as planned. To see if you are financial, log into the APDT Website and see your existing membership. Please renew to receive all the benefits of being an APDT member – like discounted conferences and other events both in person and online, including to APDT USA conference, *Click!* magazine, e-newsletters, APDT Awards, APDT merchandise including our new APDT T-shirts that will be available for purchase at the conference and online. Once the new membership system is complete in the next month or two, the membership database will be accurate, so only financial members will continue to benefit from their membership. Check your financial status now by logging into the APDT website and updating your details.

The Committee is looking at the membership levels and making changes to ensure the new Membership 360 system meets the needs of those that apply or have an existing membership with APDT Australia. As a reminder, before the 2019 APDT AGM change, our trainers' directory contained trainers from all walks of life and non-dog trainers who worked in other areas of the dog world. Our members consistently gave us feedback that there was a lack of confidence in our trainers' directory as a source of **professional, qualified, skilled and knowledgeable** positive reinforcement dog trainers. APDT listened to

the concerns and, during the 2018 AGM, presented our proposal for new membership levels. This strategy was formalised in 2019 when members voted at the AGM with overwhelming majority support, and we saw this would be the transition moving forward. Since that vote, we are continuously improving the process to make it easier for members to gain access to the higher levels, but we stand firm that the trainers' directory will contain only **Professional and Accredited force-free dog trainers**. APDT Australia stands firm that there is no place in dog training for aversive methods. As an animal professional who has worked in the animal care industry for 33 years and has been a professional and accredited dog trainer for 13 years, I applaud APDT Australia's and the members' stance that helped drive this direction. Using aversives to train dogs or people (or any animal) is unnecessary. Numerous scientific studies indicate a dog's welfare is compromised when these training methods are employed.

The Committee also notes that there are vocal members from other Australian organisations that object to **APDT Australia's stance on accepting Associate members** – those who are still on their training journey and may not yet be force free. Why do we do this? Because we, as a dog training community, are divided, the divide seems to be getting larger, with people on either side being very vocal about their beliefs. Regardless of which side you are on – 'force free' or 'balanced', we all believe we can help dogs and their people. APDT's mission is to enhance the human-dog relationship by educating trainers and the broader community by advocating positive reinforcement and force-free training methods and envisioning that all dogs will be trained using positive reinforcement methods. This goal cannot be achieved if the force-free community does not welcome those people and trainers who need more guidance, support and mentors to move to force-free methodology. This is why APDT Australia has a membership level to give these people a safe space to learn and evolve. If ever you have questions or concerns about any membership issue or a concern about a member, please reach out to me at president@apdt.com.au or our secretary at secretary@apdt.com.au. We are here to assist and listen.

Please enjoy the rest of this edition of *Click!* magazine and, as always, happy training.

Your president,

Louise Ginman

Events roundup

MILLION PAWS WALK



Alisa in the APDT stand during the RSPCA Million Paws Walk

The weather was lovely at the RSPCA Million Paws Walk this year! As you can see, we're rolling out our updated banners with the new logo, and the new treat pouches are proving very popular. There's nothing better than a fun day out with good music and seeing the excitement in people's faces when they learn about modern positive dog training.

DOG LOVERS FESTIVAL

Sydney 25–27 August 2023

Do you have time to volunteer to help with our stall at this event? Contact Alisa at communityevents@apdt.com.au to volunteer and help promote the APDT and enjoy a day at this major event on us.

Melbourne 13–15 October 2023

This event clashes with our conference dates so there will not be an APDT presence.

VOLUNTEERS

We are currently planning to run more stalls at events around the country.

Are you available to help promote the APDT and educate dog owners about force-free training in your local area?

Please get in touch if you'd like more information about being a stall coordinator or know of any events we should attend. Contact the events coordinator at communityevents@apdt.com.au.

APDT merchandise

Support and promote your APDT by purchasing dog training related merchandise with the APDT logo from the APDT website. Go to **Member Area > Online Store** – you will need to login first.

Please note some older items have the older APDT logo printed on them.



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New members

Please welcome our newest members to the association. We can't wait for you to make your mark within the APDT community in 2023. Do remember to take advantage of all we offer – webinars, the annual conference, client handouts, our library, and special member discounts!

If you want to join the APDT visit our website.

ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINERS

Cathy Beer, Angela Davies, Vivienne Goodwin, Katherine Peterson, Di Randall, Sarah Rutten, Jess Sandstrom

ASSOCIATES

Carina Boudierlique-Barnett, Sheri Fitton, Katia Grimmer-Laversanne, Toni-Anne McFarlane, Arna Meldrum, Cathi Napa, Rebecca Oakley, Michelle Ravenscroft, Joanne Samuelson, Madeleine Ross, Annie Thorne, Shelly Turner

PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINERS

Liana Ben-Mudie, Adriana Gonzales, Krysteen Keen, Robin Oliver, Tara Thomas, Claudia Weber

STUDENTS

Vicki Bennie, Karen Hill, Jill Howlett, Jacob Price, Meg Ryan, Jessica Ward, MaryKay Wren

PET CARE PROFESSIONALS

Bianca Spencer, Olsen Kaynak, Jayde Metcalfe, Sarah Toedter, Bronwyn Ward

Keep the APDT in your back pocket



Stay connected

Ensure your email and contact details are up-to-date by logging in to your account on the APDT website: www.apdt.org.au

Social media

Public Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/APDTAustralia

Private Member's Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/2284963898421379

Did you know?

The APDT provides its members with a wide range of benefits, including product discounts, educational opportunities, client handouts, our biennial conference and much, much more.

Make sure read your *Click!* magazine, e-newsletter, emails and social media posts to keep informed of what's happening.

Dog owners need to be more vigilant as Postie attacks spike

Dog owners need to keep a closer eye on their pets after Australia Post released data which showed an increasing number of Posties have been attacked, harassed or chased this financial year.

Adapted from: www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-05/how-to-protect-yourself-and-your-pet-against-dog-attacks/102310310



According to Australia Post, 1,885 incidents between dogs and Posties occurred during July 2022 and March 2023. This significant increase in attacks is partly due to the over 1 million additional dogs entering Australian households between 2019–2021.

Australia Post data showed NSW had 650 attacks in nine months, QLD had 555, and WA had 329. VIC and TAS had 218 dog-related incidents combined, and SA and the NT had 133 dog-related attacks.

The following were the areas in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia with the highest number of dog attacks on postal workers between July 2022 and March 2023:

NSW – The Nepean, New England, Hunter, Alexandria, Wollongong, St Leonards

Queensland – Darra, Bundamba, Toowoomba

Western Australia – Palmyra, Geraldton, Rockingham

HOW TO PREVENT DOG ATTACKS AS A DOG OWNER

Australia Post spokesperson Susan Davies urged dog owners to put their dogs inside or out in the backyard to protect the Posties while they make their deliveries.

“We’re seeing increased instances of our Posties sustaining injuries by either falling off their vehicles while trying to avoid unrestrained dogs or getting physically attacked by dogs jumping up and biting them,” Ms Davies said.

Australia Post’s tips for keeping your dog secure include:

- securely close your front gate
- where possible, secure your dog in the backyard (rather than the front yard) and keep side gates closed securely
- when expecting a delivery, be careful when opening your front door to ensure your dog doesn’t run out or keep them safe in another room when you answer the door.

RSPCA’s Emma Lagoon told ABC there are several reasons a dog might attack someone, and there are several ways to prevent it.

“Some owners don’t know what their dog is capable of [so], we need to have more education with people who own dogs,” Ms Lagoon said.

“Make sure to properly train your dog so they are not a danger to family or the public.”

She said training your dog will help you learn the basics of a dog’s body language and what signs to look out for if the dog feels the need to attack.

Ms Lagoon said one of the main things people need to remember when out and about is, “Don’t approach dogs you don’t know. Let them come to you and give them some soft neck pats if they show interest in you.”

RSPCA’s School for Pets behaviour trainer Bec Collyer said letting your dogs socialise from a young age will also help them become more comfortable around strangers.

“Make sure you’re proactive. Watch what is happening in their environment and how they respond to things,” Ms Collyer told ABC. “Growling is a way a dog is communicating they are worried.”

She added a dog’s reaction to something could be based on many factors, including upbringing, the environment they are in, who is around and how the people in the area are behaving.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU DON’T WANT TO BE APPROACHED BY A DOG

Ms Collyer said if a dog comes up to someone and they don’t want to engage with it, there are ways they can avoid this.

“Don’t freak out. Remain as calm as possible and just really slowly move away,” she said.

“Don’t make direct eye contact with the dog or turn your back. Step to the side and try to get indoors if you can.”

Ms Collyer added if you have food on you that the dog can safely eat, “you could also try chucking it subtly to the side to distract the dog”.

Both Ms Collyer and Ms Lagoon told ABC that education is key regarding dog ownership and how to prevent attacks.

“At the end of the day, you’re responsible for your pet,” Ms Collyer said.

Ms Davies said Australia Post had established a Cross Industry Dog Safety Taskforce, where it will work with other organisations that deliver to households or need to service them to share insights on preventing and avoiding dog attacks.



Training Tip: Teach your dog to go to their bed when they hear the Postie!



MEMBERS' BENEFITS

APDT is proud to partner with the listed companies to offer our members great discounts on their products and services.

To view the latest offers, discount codes and how to redeem them, visit the **Member Discounts** page in the Member Area of the APDT Australia website.

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The 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.

