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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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apdt™

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Disclaimer

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Cover Dog

This edition's cover dog is ready for summer and all the fun at the beach!

Have you prepared your dog for summer? Can they walk beside you and not bother other beach-goers? Do you know how to spot potential toxins on the beach or protect your dog from the sun? The December *Click!* Magazine has you and your dog covered.

Why not share photos of your dog enjoying their summer on the APDT Facebook page? We would love to see what your dogs get up to and how they are keeping cool.

From the editor's desk

Welcome to the Summer Edition of *Click!* Summer is a great time to spend with your dog – the days are longer, especially down south, and the weather allows for more trips to my dog's favourite place, the beach!

Many Australian beaches are now often off-limits to our furry companions during the daylight saving months. However, many councils and shires have set aside places or times for your dog to roam free. Please ensure you follow the rules to maintain harmony between all beach goers.

Inside you'll find advice and information on how to ensure your dog doesn't bother others while out walking, protect your dog from the sun and the heat we will no doubt endure, keep them safe from toxins down at the beach, and teach your dog how to enjoy the water and learn to swim.

Donna Marchiori, an APDT member, has also contributed a heartfelt story about her rescue Greyhound, Draco Malfoy, and his life and tribulations.

If you wish to contribute anything to *Click!* (photos, articles, book reviews or training tips), email me at

communications@apdt.com.au. I would love to see photos of your dogs enjoying the summer.

That's all from me. Enjoy your summer break, and keep safe and well until next 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.

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The new UFO bowl in action

President's report



The last two years have been a blur, a time of slowing down, being home, living life online as we connected with family and friends. For many dog trainers, we connected with our colleagues and mentors worldwide from the comfort of our home office. While it has been great to slow down and work out what is essential in our lives, online conferences are not the same. Yes, they are convenient and save on travelling and pet sitter costs, but the opportunities to network, browse exhibitor stalls and make new connections are lacking. So I am pleased to announce that APDT Australia will hold our 2023 conference in NSW.

In 2021/2022, Committee brought our members a series of free monthly chats from an incredible line-up of gracious and generous speakers. All of the talks were recorded and are available to those who registered. There will be three additional speakers announced shortly for early 2023. We strongly encourage members to register for these events to be able to access and listen to the recordings later.

This year, Committee spent countless hours working behind the scenes to update our Strategic Plan, develop the new website and launch the new logo. These updates allow APDT Australia to create a multi-level membership structure and create a more authoritative Dog Trainer's Directory and membership options from Accredited Professionals down to Student Level. We welcome feedback about your experiences with the new website and renewal or joining process. You can send your feedback to the Secretary at secretary@apdt.com.au.

At the beginning of the Committee year in November 2021, we began with nine members. We welcomed Brooke Foy and later farewelled our Secretary, Anne Robertson and

Community Event extraordinaire Corinne Bozsoky. We then welcomed Chris Woodgate as our new Secretary and are eternally grateful to her for stepping up into this critical role. We also welcomed Denise Bergin and Tom Heeren, who took up the roles of assistant Membership Secretary and Communications Coordinator, respectively. With Denise's process-driven mind and Tom's incredible graphic design skills, these new team members jumped straight into their roles. Later this year, we also welcome Isabel Romero Cetin, who is slowly finding her feet and position on Committee. Sadly, we farewelled Tom later this year, but I am pleased that he has taken on the role of *Click!* Magazine Editor in a non-committee capacity.

In an additional blow to Committee, Sharon Carroll, our Treasurer, had to reduce her role to a non-committee role. She still ensures our accounts/bookkeeping is up to date, but with competing pressures and workload outside of APDT, we know Sharon needs to move on. It's been a tough year for some on our Committee, with obligations, health challenges and increasing external pressures of full-time jobs and busy lives. In addition to the losses over the year, we recently lost Denise Bergin and vice president Kathleen Kemp. Committee numbers are at an all-time low.

Presently there are six committee members, and without additional volunteers stepping in to lend a hand, I am concerned about our future. We are volunteers who are passionate about APDT and the continual development and progression of our Association, but we cannot do it alone. We need more member support! Committee understands how precious your time is and how hard it can be to find time in the day. We are no different, but we need your help, and we need it now. APDT urgently needs two Committee members and someone to take on the Treasurer role. Most Committee roles require 1–2 hours per week, sometimes less, sometimes a little more.

Please consider lending a hand, whether in a Committee role by filling one of our casual vacancies or joining a Sub Committee and working on a specific project. We cannot move forward without you.

In the meantime, happy training!

Your president,

Louise Ginman

WHAT IS MY DOG THINKING?

NEW RESEARCH YIELDS SURPRISING INSIGHTS
INTO YOUR DOG'S MIND

Adapted from www.inverse.com/science/inside-dogs-mind-science-study



As much as we love our dogs, we still don't fully understand what's going on inside their minds. Researchers are on the hunt to solve the mystery of canine cognition, starting with answering the most basic question: How do dogs think?

Research published in June 2022 in the journal *Animal Cognition* offers rare insight into how dogs' minds form a representation of the world through their favourite objects: toys.

"If we can understand which senses dogs use while searching for a toy, this may reveal how they think about that toy," says Shany Dror, lead author of the study and a PhD student at the Ethology Department at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest.

WHAT'S NEW

The researchers conducted two experiments testing the abilities of typical dogs and Gifted Word Learner dogs — canines that can quickly learn the names of toys — to discriminate between familiar objects like toys in different circumstances.

Based on the ways the Gifted Word Learner dogs used their senses to seek out and find the toys, researchers concluded they formed "multisensory mental representations" of the toys. In essence: These dogs create a mental image of their toys using different senses like smell and vision.

"The findings of this study suggest that when the Gifted Word Learner dogs hear the name of a familiar toy, it evokes in their mind a mental image that includes the different features of that toy, such as the way it looks and smells," Dror says.

WHY IT MATTERS

If you're still confused, Dror offers a simple comparison to the human mind.

"Let's say I am asking you to imagine a lemon. What would you imagine?" Dror asks.

You might form a picture of a yellowish fruit in your mind, or perhaps you recall the citrus fruit's sour taste and crisp scent.

"For humans, thinking of a lemon often evokes a mental image that includes different senses. This study suggests that the same is true for dogs," Dror explains.

It's a remarkable finding, offering new insight into the similarities between human and canine thinking. Previously, researchers knew Gifted Word Learner dogs could learn the names of their beloved toys rapidly, but it was more challenging for the researchers to pinpoint what the dogs thought when they heard the name of a familiar object.

But now, researchers have a better idea of how dogs form a mental representation of familiar objects, bringing us one step closer to understanding how Fido's brain works.

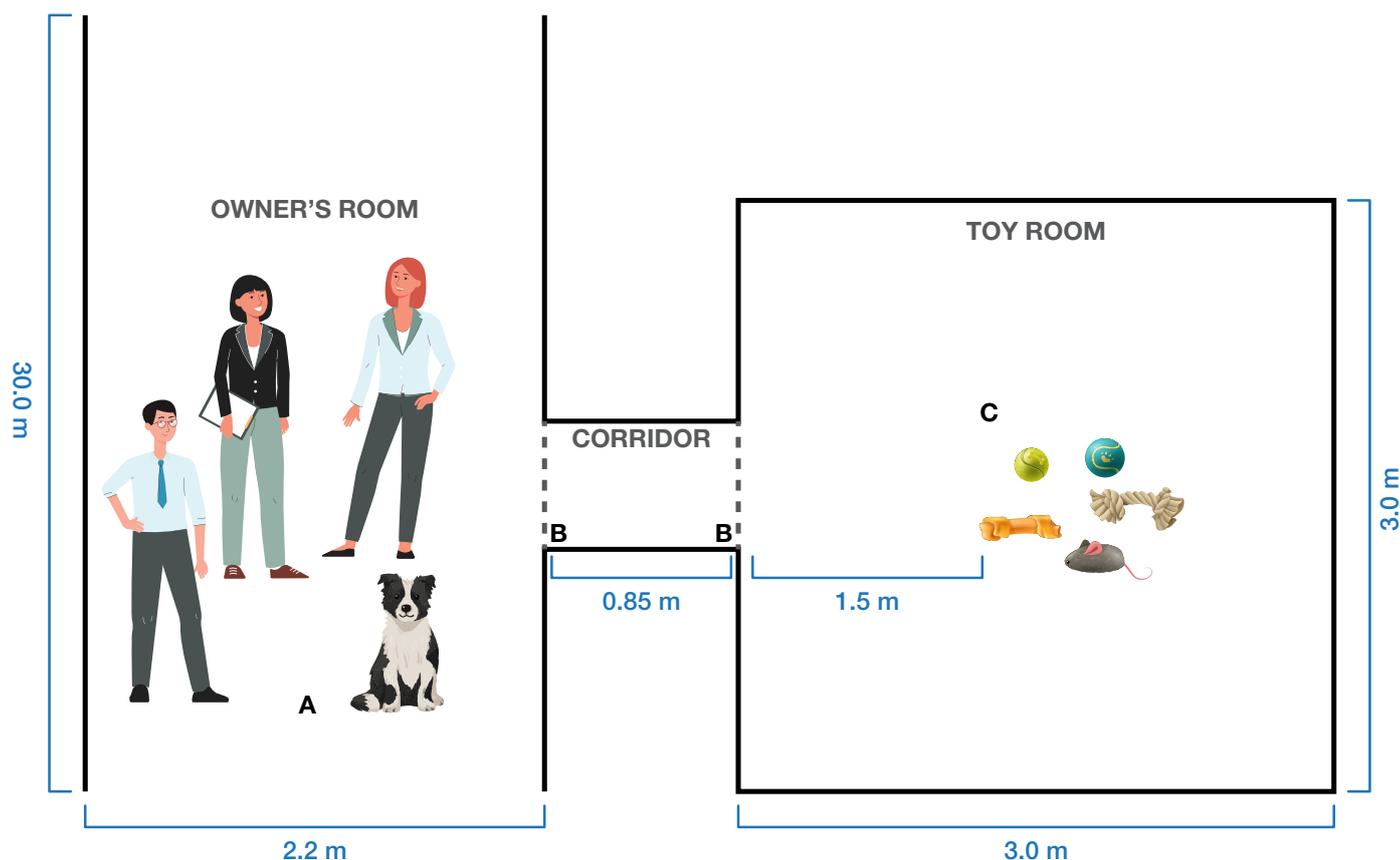
"Examining how Gifted Word Learner dogs think about their named toys is fascinating because it allows us to see how verbal labels may influence how other species think of objects," Dror says.

But the study is no mere thought experiment — it could also help dog owners better comprehend how their pets perceive the world around them.

"These findings can help dog owners better understand how their dogs think of their environment and the objects in it," Dror concludes.

HOW THEY DID IT

In the first experiment, researchers conducted two tests to see how the two groups of canines — three Gifted Word Learners and 10 typical dogs — distinguish between and recognise their toys in light and dark settings. In the second experiment in the study, researchers tested whether Gifted Word Learner Dogs could identify their toy based on its name — again, in both light and dark settings. In both experiments, the toys were placed in a separate room from where the owners and researchers were standing.



The experimental setup. A. The dog, its owner, and experimenters were positioned in the owner's room; B. Two sets of heavy curtains (dotted lines) were hung at both openings of the corridor to prevent light from the owner's room from entering the toys room; C. The toys were positioned out of the owners' view in the toys room. The measurements in the figure are from the laboratory of ELTE University. For the Gifted Word Learner dogs that were tested at their owners' homes, the experimental setup was identical, but the room dimensions were different.

Both groups of dogs could discriminate between familiar objects, and all dogs sniffed longer in the dark because they could not readily see the toys. Without light, dogs had to use other senses to identify their toys, which they did successfully. Dror says this finding suggests that owners' training sessions with their pets — in which dogs learn to recognize their toys — helped the dogs “encode” different features of the toy, such as its smell or appearance.

WHAT'S NEXT

In this study, researchers assessed how dogs discriminated between objects using multisensory representation. In future research, Dror hopes to tackle “the other side of the coin” and how typical and Gifted Word Learner dogs categorise objects.

“Understanding this may bring us a small step closer to understanding how verbal labels influence the internal mental processes of another species,” Dror says.

IS YOUR DOG IS A GIFTED WORD LEARNER?

The researchers are still looking for these genius pups to participate in future canine research. If your dog is especially adept at learning the names of toys, you can reach out to the study coordinators via the Genius Dog Challenge website. Your dog might bring us closer to understanding the canine mind.

<http://geniusdogchallenge.com/how-to-apply/>

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New members

It is our pleasure to warmly welcome you all as valuable assets to the association, and we can't wait for you to make your mark in the APDT community in 2023. Take advantage of all we offer – monthly webinars, the annual conference, client handouts, our library, and special member discounts!

If you would like to join the APDT please visit our website to discover more.

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CONFUSED ABOUT THE NEW APDT WEBSITE?



If you:

- are using the new website, and your login hangs
- update your listing, and the submit box is greyed out
- can't see if your membership is current or,
- think you are a Full Member or Associate Member,

it may mean that you haven't changed your membership to your chosen level on our new website.

Why is this happening?

At the 2019 AGM, members voted to accept various levels of membership for APDT, and since January 2020, we've been working hard to get everybody on board and change their membership level so they can log in to the new website.

You can find the information from APDT as to how to change your membership in the August 2022 *Click!* Magazine. If you still need help, please contact Rhonda Sclanders our membership secretary at membership@apdt.com.au who will be only too happy to help.



MEMBERS' BENEFITS

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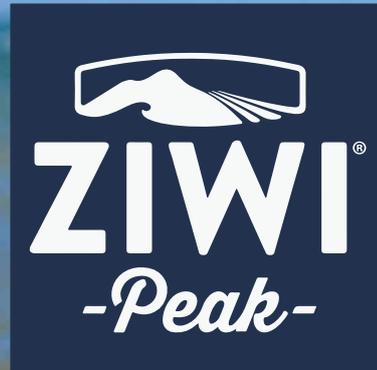
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All APDT Dog Trainers and members have agreed to follow our code of conduct, including:

- 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.

