



BANKSTOWN SCHOOL FOR DOGS

THE WEEKLY WAG NEWSLETTER

October 2009

c/- 3 Barker Close
Camden South 2570

Office Bearers

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Show Instructor	Vivienne Zavattaro	

Committee
Josef Siefen
Peter Smith
Kevin Lahiff
Wendy Marfleet
John Walsh
Maria Baldi
Flyball Liaison- Alan Casey
Flyball Coordinator- Craig Edwards

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Yeshim Sumaktas & Rocky – Maltese X
Janelle Johnson & Chinta – Chinese Crested
Lynette Harrison & Bella – Border Collie X
Enks Skinkis & Ava – Kelpie

Rita Kazzi & Gracie-May – Maltese X
Monique Ivanisevic & Rocky – Jack Russell X
Karen, Ryan & Tara Edmiston & Ben – Border Collie
Ian Shaw & Penny – Jack Russell

CLUBS AGM & SAUSAGE SIZZLE

On Sunday 27th September we held our annual AGM and I would like to thank all outgoing committee members for all their help through the year. Welcome to our new committee members, Maria Baldi, John Walsh & Peter Smith, I hope you will enjoy working with us.

A big thank you to all those who stayed for the AGM and also the sausage sizzle and demo, it was good to see so many of you taking an interest in your club. A big thank you must also go to Harlene for the great obedience demonstration that Remi and her put on. Hopefully this will encourage all those beginners in the club that it is possible to train your dog to do what you want it to, with a little patient and lots of perseverance. Thank you must also go to Josef for the usual great bbq.

CHRISTMAS BREAK UP PARTY

I know it is early to be thinking about Christmas and the break up party we will be having, which will be on Sunday 13th December, but once again we are including a challenge for you and your dog. There will be a competition on the day for the dog that can do the best trick, so everyone get working and teach your dog something he or she can perform on the day. There will be prizes for the cleverest trick. The theme for the party this year is space age, so get busy with fancy dress for your dogs, again there will be prizes for the best dog.

SUMMERTIME

Now that summer is well on the way, handlers don't forget a sunhat and sunscreen for training.

Remember to have water available for your dog at all times. Do not leave your dog in the car, even with the windows open. A dog will become dehydrated in less than 10 minutes during the warmer months. It is a good idea to treat your dog for fleas & ticks, if you haven't been doing so all year. Try to walk your dog early morning or in the evening when it is cooler, better for all concerned.

FLYBALL

Since the last newsletter we have had two more flyball competitions. One at Merrylands Pets day out, in which we had two teams competing. As we had such a successful day at Kioloa we entered the same teams. The "Road Runners" performed well with all dogs working despite the very hot conditions and this time Sam got to run for three full races and was really great.

The "Coyotes" though after running so well in the last comp decided, not this time thank you very much. Gidget was red carded in the first race (this means she crossed over to say hello to the other team twice. A real NO NO) Quickly followed by Roxy. So this left them to run with only three dogs and so had to run non-competitively. Then Burton thought "They crossed over, so I will too" and was also red carded. That left just 2 dogs, Digger and Sophie who were just perfect. All told though 3 dogs earned their first flyball title (FD) Sophie, Roxy and Sam, Well done.

Our next comp was at Dapto on a particularly windy day and the team captain Craig after consulting the team decided to withdraw for safety reasons. Good on you Craig, the dogs are much more important than a few points.

Lucky Dog...

Anyone who has pets will really like this. You'll like it even if you don't and you may even decide you need one!

Mary & her husband had a dog named 'Lucky'

Lucky was a real character. Whenever Mary & Jim had company come for a weekend visit they would warn their friends not to leave their luggage open because Lucky would help himself to whatever struck his fancy. Inevitably, someone would forget and something would come up missing.

Mary or Jim would go to Lucky's toy box and there the treasure would be, amid all of Lucky's other favourite toys. Lucky always stashed his finds in his toy box and he was very particular that his toys stay in the box.

It happened that Mary found out she had breast cancer. Something told her she was going to die of this disease... in fact, she was just sure it was fatal.

She scheduled the double mastectomy, fear riding her shoulders. The night before she was to go to the hospital she cuddled with Lucky. A thought struck her... what would happen to Lucky? Although the 3-year-old dog liked Jim, he was Mary's dog through and through. If I die, Lucky will be abandoned, Mary thought. He won't understand that I didn't want to leave him! The thought made her sadder than thinking of her own death.

The double mastectomy was harder on Mary than her doctors had anticipated and Mary was hospitalised for over two weeks. Jim took Lucky for his evening walk faithfully, but the little dog just drooped, whining and miserable.

Finally the day came for Mary to leave the hospital. When she arrived home, Mary was so exhausted she couldn't even make it upstairs to her bedroom. Jim made his wife comfortable on the couch and left her to nap.

Lucky stood watching Mary but he didn't come to her when she called. It made Mary sad but sleep soon overcame her and she dozed.

When Mary woke, for a second she couldn't understand what was wrong. She couldn't move her head and her body felt heavy and hot. But panic soon gave way to laughter when Mary realized the problem. She was covered, literally blanketed, with every treasure Lucky owned! While she had slept the sorrowing dog had made trip after trip bringing his beloved mistress all his favourite things in life.

He had covered her with his love.

Mary forgot about dying. Instead she and Lucky began living again, walking further and further together every day. It's been 12 years now and Mary is still cancer-free. Lucky – He still steals treasures and stashes them in his toy box but Mary remains his greatest treasure.

Remember.... Live every day to the fullest. Each minute is a blessing. And never forget...the people who make a difference in our lives are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care for us.

If you see someone without a smile today give them one of yours! Live simply. Love seriously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.