

Dogs ACT newsletter

K9 Capers



From Dogs ACT

FOR ALL CLUBS –All Club secretaries have been sent a copy of a draft Covid-19 Template, which is to be used when holding events on Dogs ACT grounds. The template is also on the Dogs ACT website and can be found [here](#). It is compulsory to submit your completed template with your schedules and advertisements when applying for shows on the Dogs ACT grounds. If there is no Covid plan in place and approved by the ACT Government, prior to any event, we are unable to hold events on the grounds.

Your COVID PLAN – Do not be put off by having to complete the Covid-19 plan, its an easy document to complete and since the start of the year restrictions have eased. Dogs ACT has their own QR code so that's what exhibitors must check in with or put their name and details on a sheet of paper. Both forms of check in can be done at each of the two gates so once an exhibitor has passed through, they are good to stay. We don't advertise for the general public to attend so that we can have less than 500 people in attendance but if the Royal Canberra show managed to get through the weekend of shows, then your club can also. Why not rethink your shows for this year and if you have any questions, please contact the office?

DID YOU KNOW? EPIC or Exhibition Park in Canberra holds many events and the Dogs ACT Office and grounds is located within its premises. However, last year it was transformed into Australia's first drive through Covid-19 testing site. Days after the WHO declared Covid-19 a global pandemic many staff from Canberra health services worked to transform a venue ready for testing. It was done within 3 days!

It has been among the most popular of Canberra's testing facilities as Canberrans can drive in, be tested while sitting in their car, then exit from the site and head home, making it very convenient. No appointment is necessary and motorbikes are counted as a vehicle. There has been over 71,000 people tested at EPIC, which operates 7 days a week from 9.30am to 5pm. It is staffed by experienced nurses and admin personnel.

While some events can still run at EPIC while the venue is being used as a testing clinic, Covid-19 restrictions remain in place (see above re your Covid plan).

All members are reminded to keep their contact details up to date. If you change internet providers, telecommunication providers or move, please send all new details to the Dogs ACT office. The newsletter is sent to all Members by email so if we don't have your correct email you will be missing this circular. The newsletter is also sent to the Dogs ACT [app](#) which has a great deal of information at your fingertips. Check it out!

There will shortly be a conformation stewards' course at the Dogs ACT meeting room. If you wish to attend please register your interest with the office on admin@dogsact.org.au as soon as possible so that we can advise the trainer of numbers.

From the Office

When updating your official position information after an AGM can you please supply the following to the office: Names, Membership Numbers, phone numbers and emails of those elected.

FCI NEWS

For those interested in FCI nomenclature, they are setting up an app very soon for both androids and iphones.

The World Dog Show will be held on 30Sep through to 03Oct21.

The FCI General Committee Meeting determined that FCI judges are not allowed to officiate at events organised by the USCA (United Schutzhund Club of America).

Good news for one of our breed clubs. The Dalmatian Club of the ACT put in a proposal and had approval to hold a Dalmatian National in 2022. Not only will there be a championship show but also a trial. Check the Dogs ACT website under calendar events for more information.

Congratulations to the Dalmatian Club!

On 6th March 2021, the ACT Government made some amendments the Covid-19 requirements for the Canberra population and visitors. One major issue was that every Canberra business MUST have a QR code so that it can be scanned, as they encouraged Canberrans to install the 'Check In CBR' app on their phones. Dogs ACT has had a QR code for a few months and every visitor to the office, meeting room or grounds (socialisation classes on Wed nights) must use it. The code is pinned to both noticeboards on the outside walls of the office, inside the door of the office and on the office counter, there is no excuse.

The amendments reminded event holders that if they anticipate more than 500 attendees, they were to apply for an exemption permit and that Covid-19 plans for every event must be in place and able to be perused by inspectors. Dogs ACT has given an approved Covid-

19 template to clubs who wish to hold events on the grounds; Dogs ACT Covid-19 plan covers the meeting room, office and grounds for Wed night classes. However, Clubs are reminded that at present when they want to hold a meeting in the meeting room, the maximum number allowable is 25 persons. Anyone holding a meeting must request the date through the office and let us know how many people will be attending plus number of cars. This information is passed to EPIC for potential covid tracing.

POOCH AFFAIR is on again!

Dogs ACT encourages all Clubs to show off their dogs and activities at the next Pooch Affair to be held on 19Jun21 in various buildings in the EPIC complex, due to the largest two being used for Covid testing. While it was cancelled in 2020, the organisers would like to see everyone turn up and it is a great opportunity for the general public to see your dogs, their activities and the benefits of owning a dog.

We have put the information about this event on the Dogs ACT website under Members News/News for Members & Affiliate Clubs.

UK NEWS

Sadly, the UK Kennel Club have had to cancel CRUFTS 2021, which had been delayed from February/March this year until July. The current pandemic situation has made enabling Crufts to continue this year unviable. However, they hope all will be back to normal in 2022 and the new date is now 10 to 13 March 2022.

New Members

Dogs ACT would like to welcome the following new Members:

Claudine Corbett-Clay & Mark Clay with their Basset Hound
Simone Georg with her German Shepherd
Rebecca & Matthew Trayling with their St Bernard
Kayla Weir with her Basset Hound
Natalie Brown with her Siberian Husky

Welcome to Dogs ACT! Please check out all our communication channels from the website, facebook, instagram, our app and this newsletter.

News Dots

After a year long break, therapy dogs are back in NSW court houses in regional and urban areas. The programme of Canine Court Companions uses Labradors and they play an important role by easing the stress of coming to court for children, victims of domestic violence and vulnerable witnesses. Each dog receives up to 2 years of intensive training with the Guide Dog association and started work in 2017 to alleviate stress and anxiety.

Thousands of pet lovers are calling on the Australian Government to allow dogs and cats to fly in the cabin with their owners on domestic flights. This practice is usual in several other countries and pet lovers want Australia to get in line with other nations.

However, Virgin Australia and Qantas have now outsourced their pet flight booking system to approved pet travel specialists due to Covid-19. This means that while you can book your flight with them all the pet ticketing, departure and arrival formalities are organised by other companies. As a result, some owners are angry as these animal tickets have skyrocketed, in some case fivefold. One example cited in the news was a one-way ticket in 2019 from Sydney to Perth was \$180, now the same journey through a pet booking agency is \$765 or \$925 if flying on a Saturday. This does not include the fit to fly vet exam fee (in some cases it is \$125), if required. Both airlines have said prices may vary depending on the breed but at present there is nothing they can do.

A Coles store in Queensland is trialling a 'pick and mix' section for dog food and dog treats. Pet owners are spending more money on their pet's food so Coles believe this will take off in other states. They are also including salmon and liver 'training treats' and these items come out of around 20 dispensers.

In the recent downpours of rain, a number of homes have seen a rise in spiders and in Qld a woman posted a picture online when she saw a giant one. Many stated, including arachnid experts, that it was a male northern tarantula. This then prompted the woman to become very anxious as she worried that the giant spider might eat her dogs as she was worried it might have found her spare house key. It seems that while a bite to humans can cause nausea and vomiting it can be fatal to dogs. Of course, this is one spider, imagine the horror when Philippine customs opened a package from Poland to discover 119 live tarantulas inside....

Woolworths has advised pet owners that while the herbs and vegetables in their Discovery Garden promotion are safe for human consumption, they are advising pet owners not to allow their pets to eat the flowers, herbs or vegetables in the collection. It has been found that some of them are toxic or mildly toxic to dogs and cats.

Did you know there are several museums specifically dedicated to Dogs? In Australia we have the David Roche Foundation (in Adelaide) which has *Fermoy House* together with the adjoining gallery and each shows off not only his art collection but many of these combine his love of dogs. When we can travel overseas some others to visit are the *Musee et Chiens du Saint-Bernard* at Martigny, Switzerland; the *Museum of Dog* in North Adams, Massachusetts USA; *Foof* in Mondragone Italy; *Dackelmuseum* in Passau Germany and the *Akita Dog Museum* in Odate Japan.

Want to know what it takes to have a working sheepdog and getting them into competition? This [article](#) tells of the National Sheep Dog trials just outside Canberra (Hall) in March and an 82-year-old competitor.

From 1st March until 24th April this year Ina J Photography is launching the Canberra Paws 2022 Calendar contest in partnership with the ACT Pet Crisis Support group to raise funds for those who need help paying for pet medical expenses. If you are interested, please contact her at ina@inajphotography.com Further details can be seen in this [article](#).

The Aussie Night Markets are on Fri and Sat evenings from 4-10pm at Queanbeyan Showgrounds, off Glebe Avenue. Entry is by gold coin.



For those of you who are reading this newsletter via our app (see google or apple play store) then we have a bonus in store for you.

For the first 35 people who send in \$6.00 to the office can avail themselves of this pocket torch to keep in your car, bag or pocket...for those times when its just not light enough to see. This offer will not be posted anywhere else.

Each torch comes with its own battery! Get in quickly before they all go!

The following article was provided to the **ANKC National Canine Health and Wellbeing Committee** and it was agreed that all States/Territories would add it to their journals and newsletters for all members (2 pages).

Emerging Disease – Ehrlichiosis in Dogs by Dr Karen Hedberg BVSc. 2021

Ehrlichiosis is a tick-borne disease affecting primarily dogs. It is not transmitted from dog to dog, transmission only occurs through infected ticks, the main one being the brown dog tick. The brown dog tick is widespread throughout mainland Australia. No brown ticks have been found in Tasmania. While ticks are mostly coastal, they can be found further inland.

Ehrlichiosis is the disease that is caused by a tick-borne bacterium called Ehrlichia Canis. Once a dog has been bitten by an infected tick, there are 3 stages of infection: -

1. Acute or early phase (3-4 weeks)
2. A subclinical phase (months to years)
3. Chronic or long term stage. (months to years)

Symptoms include fever, lethargy, enlarged lymph nodes, loss of appetite, discharge from the eyes and nose, weight loss, anaemia and bleeding disorders such as nosebleeds or bleeding under the skin that looks like small spots, patches or bruising.

The severity of symptoms varies considerably between dogs. The incubation period is 1/3 weeks after the tick bite, but the chronic form may not manifest for months or years following infection. PCR and ELISA tests give the most accurate diagnosis along with comprehensive blood tests. Affected dogs require veterinary treatment and supportive care, the earlier this is diagnosed and treated the better. Usually, these dogs are treated with tetracycline drugs for a minimum of 4 weeks, shorter treatment periods may result in subclinical carriers. Seronegative PCR tests will indicate if the infection has cleared.

If not properly treated these dogs can and do die.

Distribution

This disease can be found worldwide, particularly in tropical and subtropical areas. Once the disease is in the brown dog tick population, it is very difficult to control. German Shepherds and Siberian Huskies are predisposed to develop more severe signs of disease with a worse prognosis (reduced cell-mediated immune response).

In extremely rare cases, infected ticks may infect people, however the species of Ehrlichia that affects humans have not yet been detected in Australia.

Ehrlichiosis is a *nationally notifiable* disease and the Government is conducting surveillance testing of dogs, particularly in the far north of Western Australia, Northern Territory and far north Queensland. The Kimberly and Pilbara regions are two areas affected in WA, along with Katherine and Alice Springs in the NT.

Dogs from affected areas are being monitored and their movement limited. Dogs moving from these areas could be required to be tested prior to movement and only travelling with healthy dogs that are on an effective tick control program.

Three dogs bought into NSW from the NT have tested positive for Ehrlichia and have since had veterinary treatment. Similarly, in Queensland, a small number of infected dogs have been detected that were brought in from the NT. Human assisted movement of dogs is considered the most likely means of introducing *E. Canis* into Queensland. Wild dogs and foxes can also carry the disease.

In SA, a few infected dogs were detected in the far north of the state, however on testing, few ticks were found to carry the disease. However, this tick is found throughout the state.

Prevention

Maintain dogs on a tick control program – ensure you do not run over time before treating again, even 2-3 days late could cause issues.

Avoid taking dogs into tick infected areas such as the bush and long grass, especially on coastal areas.

Inspect your dogs for ticks daily for 5-6 days after being in tick infested areas.

Travelling

The most likely way this disease will spread is by the transport of dogs interstate. Dog exhibitors like to travel far and wide for shows, often interstate. We should all be vigilant with providing tick control measures, and renewing these before we travel!

Do not take dogs running along beaches, through the bush etc without adequate tick prevention. Be aware at some shows, the grounds may back onto bush, do not walk your dogs through these areas.

Long Term

We have to be aware that this disease will in all probability become far prevalent and widespread over the next 10 years. Tick prevention should become second nature especially when travelling.

Show news

Now that the year has begun, we are now on the way to having clubs run shows and trials as usual. Every club using the Dogs ACT grounds must complete a Covid-19 plan which we hope will encourage them to start up their shows for 2021. Each Club has been sent a template to use from Dogs ACT to make paperwork easier. Clubs are to submit their Covid-19 plan when they submit their schedules and adverts.

Dogs ACT are organising 4 championship shows for Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th July 2021. Each morning will see an all-breeds show followed by 7 group specialties. A schedule will be posted in Show Manager, on the Dogs ACT website and Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you there. Several specialist judges will be officiating. Keep these dates in your diary!

The AKC (American Kennel Club) has this year recognised the Biewer Terrier (pronounced beaver). Named after its founder Gertrude Biewer whose Yorkie produced the first blue, white and gold puppy, this breed has silky long hair, tri-coloured coat and signature ponytail. It is placed in the Toy group.



Sports news

CDC (Companion Dog Club) made the [news](#) in Jan when the Canberra Weekly advertised that they are collecting containers for funds to assist the club with their grounds. Great idea guys!

Do you run trials at your Club? Would you like others to celebrate your results with you? Then send us your Club trial results and we will put them into our newsletter, so we can congratulate those Dogs ACT Members dogs.



Rear End Awareness

Your Diary –April/May

03/04 April	Agility Trial CDC – 9am start Jumping, Pairs, Snooker
10/11 April	Canberra Toy Group Autumn Carnival – 4 Champ Shows 9am start both days
10 April	Obedience Trials (2) BDOC – 9am start
17April	ACT Gundog Soc Retrieving Trial TDTC – 10am start
19April	Agility Trial BDOC – 6pm start
24/25/26 April	National Capital KC 3 Champ Shows – 9am start
24 April	Gundog Society Champ Show – 9am start
04 May	Agility Trial CDC – 6pm start – Ribbon, Jumping
13 May	Dogs ACT Scent Work Element Trial – 6pm start
15May	Agility Trial Gundog Society at CDC – 9am start

