

Dogs ACT newsletter

K9 Capers



From Dogs ACT

FOR ALL CLUBS—All Club secretaries were sent a copy of a draft Covid-19 Template, which is to be used when holding all events on Dogs ACT grounds. While the ACT Government are easing restrictions Dogs ACT are still located within the EPIC precincts & as such must abide by their boundaries. Latest information from EPIC (May21) is that there will be no lifting of restrictions for the foreseeable future. Please make sure you check with the office when booking your events on the grounds to ensure you have completed all necessary documentation & if your Club is not able to clean the necessary areas you will need to book your own or the EPIC cleaner.

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. We need to refer new members to you who may wish to help with your events. The newsletter is sent to all Members by email so if we don't have your correct email, you will be missing this document too. The newsletter is also sent to the Dogs ACT [app](#) which has a great deal of information at your fingertips. Check it out by downloading it to your phone & never miss anything ACT related!

From the Office

For those Affiliates holding shows, please know that if you hold your shows at the same time as an event on the EPIC showgrounds which requires the use of Bicentennial gardens for campers, that your Club will not be required to clean the facilities block near the office. This will be undertaken by EPIC cleaners.

From 24May21 the new arrangements from EPIC regarding access to the EPIC grounds changed. All members coming to the office & meetings must come into EPIC via **Gate 9**. **Entry** is on Well Station Road & has 2 large brick columns as the entrance. Follow this road to the T junction then left onto a small dirt road, which takes you to the next gates where a security guard will be located. Advise them of where you are heading & turn left immediately through that gate. The road leads you to the Dogs ACT office, on your left. Your departure is a reversal of this. If you have any difficulties call the office on 624 4404.

However, on show days only, the usual Gate 6A will be open so that exhibitors can come into the car park behind the Dogs ACT office. Entrance to the Dogs ACT show rings/grounds will be via the 2 gates in the fence line. Please remember on those days that you WILL be required to register via the QR code placed at the entry gate to the grounds or sign in on the sheets provided. Covid-19 restrictions while eased within the ACT are still in place; EPIC restrictions are in place to prevent/restrict the possibility of virus spread. Dogs ACT encourages everyone to download the 'Check in Cbr' app.

From Sunday 30 May Dogs ACT changed their Wednesday night training classes to a Sunday. The onset of very cold winter nights has prompted this move. The Sunday classes will start at 12 noon on days when there are no shows in the local area. Entry remains at \$5 a class which must be prepaid via Show Manager under ACT Events. If classes are cancelled or not happening a note will be placed on the Dogs ACT Facebook page.

The 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.

EPIC have changed their testing facilities at the showgrounds recently. If you want to get Covid-19 tested, they are now using the QUOKKA Building & a temporary structure next to it. Entry for testing only is through Gate 1 where security guards will guide you to the testing centre.

Other News

Have you heard of [ORCHID](#)? No, not the flowers but a website about dogs called the 'Official Registered Canine Health Information Database' – for the ANKC. The site allows online recording of health information by health professionals & to make statistical information derived from that data publicly available. ANKC encourages dog owners to provide ORCHID with the information on their dogs' health & they can also specify

whether each test result is made public or private. We encourage you to take a look at the site & know that all health results are useful for research. We also support all breeders to be health conscious & aware of the potential health issues in their own breed.

New Members

Dogs ACT would like to welcome the following new Members:

Kathleen Bush with her Bull Terrier

Rebecca Collis with her Pomeranian

Adam Cheer with his sports Associate

Leanne Hayes with her Border Collie

Sarah Beaver & Nicolas Tangey with their Border Collie

Claire Weekes with her German Shorthaired Pointer

Please check out all our communication channels from the website, facebook, instagram, our app and this newsletter. We hope that you enjoy your dogs and please contact us via email on admin@dogsact.org.au or telephone (02) 62424404 between 9.30am & 2.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. Dogs ACT is only open on those days. Our other communication channels such as Facebook will have the latest news & information for you on events, training, education sessions & lots more. Our website contains an event calendar & information for Members on their own page, which would be of interest to you all.

Welcome to Dogs ACT!

News Dots

Do your dogs pull you along when taking them for a walk & want to just run for ages? Then perhaps Sled dog racing is for them, and you. While winter is upon us here in Canberra you don't need real snow to participate. In past years there used to be sled dog trialling in Corin Forest mid-winter & not only did the dogs have fun but also spectators. If you are interested, please contact the Dogs ACT office & we can put you in contact with your local group of interested people. Check out the ABC article about the sport [here](#).

Do you have a gentle dog? Are they not attuned to dog sports or showing? Then why not consider getting them qualified to be a pet for therapy dog. These animals are used in many different environments from hospital visits for the sick, old peoples' homes to give

comfort, calming companions for those attending court & many more. There are several organisations to approach but the Delta organisation is the largest.

Are you a new pet owner? Did you know that while you have a new pet the constant pounding on pavements while walking or running with them are causing some injuries? Vets & pet insurance companies are noticing an increase in cruciate ligament damage as we meet the covid situation by getting a pet then constantly walking them. It's important that pet owners do not over exercise their animals as it could increase pressure on ligaments/tendons & bones. Take note if the animal shows signs of stiffness or lameness.

While Covid-19 tests are common everywhere, it is believed that as dogs have more scent receptors than we do it's possible that they can be trained to sniff out covid infections, including in those people without symptoms. They have an estimated 300 million olfactory receptor cells whereas we have about 5 million.

These receptors are why it's important you allow your dog to sniff. When you return from being away from your pet, its first instinct is to sniff you to see what smells you have brought home. Have you seen them sniff your clothes on your return, or want to sniff your hand when saying hello – this is why they do it? Dogs have the ability of smelling with each nostril individually allowing them to detect the direction of a smell. Slits on the side of their noses allow the old air to exit at the same time as it is sniffing new smells. With this information at hand, why not try your dog with the ANKC sport of scent works? Check with Dogs ACT to find out when the next scent work trial or try out is on for you to see how enjoyable it is for your pooches. Remember too that their sniffing is also their way of communicating so its worth watching their habits.

There are many things we can feed our dogs but one recipe we saw was that sourdough discarded can be turned into dog treats. For those sourdough makers, or those who had not thought of making their own treat for their pet, take a look [here](#) & see what you think. Could it be your next business?

Do you think your dog is too old, too sick, has a permanent injury & so cannot compete in a dog sport? Take a look [here](#) & see what Gus, the Boston Terrier is doing in the UK. Seems being blind cant stop the little guy from winning major agility titles even after his accident.....Amazing!



Think it's just **you** who have put on a few kilos during the covid lockdown? Think again. It seems our pets have also put on a few pounds. A recent Australian study showed that at least 50% of dogs were overweight with 90% of pet owners not even realising it. Best idea is to know what your dogs ideal weight should be; your vet

usually have some scales if you cant weigh them yourself. Put them onto a good quality diet, try to lose all the 'treats' (that's the hard part) & make sure you give them an exercise plan. Make it a family effort (so no sneaking treats from the softies in the family) & take it slowly. It took a long while to put on the extra kilos so like humans it will take a while to lose them too. Good luck, if this sounds like your pet!

Dogs ACT does not promote one dog food company over another, however there is a new bowl in the market which syncs to an app on your phone so you can tell how much food it in the bowl. Naturally the food company wants you to use their product as it offers a diet for your pooch but it could be something you hadn't thought about? A link to an article about the new bowl is [here](#).

Did you know that Canberra has truffle farms? On Mon 21st June, the shortest day of the year, marks the official start of the truffle season. Its short lived though as it only has a 10-week season. As we have a climate similar to the famous truffle regions of Italy, Spain & France our truffles are the winter black or Perigord truffles. The farms around Canberra have only been going for about 20 years but Australia is the 4th largest truffle producer in the world, although competition is growing. If you want to check them out & take part in all the festivities check [this](#) out. (Late edit: Truffle season now starts on Sun 13th June).



We hope that when out with your dog, any 'message' left by them is picked up & put into a bin. However, a man in Victoria was so fed up with dog owners leaving their dogs poop on the pavements, beaches etc that he put up a sign which we have put here. It clearly asked dog owners why they didn't pick up their dogs' faeces.

It was placed on an access road to a beach but reports claim that the messes were left everywhere.

We know that our members are not like this but thought you might like a giggle.

Does your dog love you? There are various pointers according to research that state for them to love you they must trust you. This trust starts when they learn your routines. For example, if you feed them every day at 6pm, take them for a walk as soon as you get back from work, they then become conditioned to expect those things at those designated times. Once a routine is set, they will be on time to get that food or the walk; however, they will expect you to also keep up those times.

Research has shown that dogs staring at your eyes could mean they are trying to form a bond with their new owners, a sign of trust. However, not every stare means this & if your dogs' eyes are cloudy, it could mean they are sick. Dogs sleep in a place that's comfortable but you might want to weigh the pros & cons before letting your new dog sleep on your bed or in your bedroom. Dogs also react to your moods, so they are less likely to trust you when you are in a bad mood.

Show news

Dogs ACT is 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](#) is now 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!

There are four new dog breeds competing at Westminster this year in New York. They are the Barbet, Belgian Lakenois, Biewer Terrier & the Dogo Argentino. If you want to see them compete Westminster has a streaming service when the events are being run.

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Sports news

It has been great to see all of the ACT clubs starting back with their events. There have been numerous rally trials, agility ribbon, pair, snooker & jumping trials, obedience trials to name just a few.

The new sport of Scent work is letting Dogs ACT hold several single element trials commencing in May. Its first trial was novice containers & the trial ran smoothly thanks to the efforts of officials, helpers & triallers. John Sam performed his first judging appointment; trial manager was Elaine Temby (her helpers were Jacqui Vdb & Nic Cleo Jones). Stewards were Marion Jarvis, Sally Nott, Janice Clemson, Maxine Robinson & Cathy Stirling our administrator who was the hot box steward.

There were 23 entries with 20 qualifiers & there were 6 dogs which completed the search in under 10 seconds! Wow! Congratulations to all that passed & place getters & we hope that we see them again at the next element trial on 17th June.

For more information, please take a peek at our [FB](#) page where we have happy participants & their dogs.

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.



Do you have any interesting information or news about which other Members would benefit? Then contact the office with the information, state it is for the Newsletter & it will be passed to the editor for inclusion.

Dogs ACT encourages all members to download the 'Check in Cbr' app, the 'Dogs ACT' app (Android & Apple compatible) & remember that we promote responsible dog ownership.

Rear End Awareness

Your Diary –June/July

05 June	Double Obedience trial at CDC – 9am start
12/13 June	Agility Jumping & Games CDC – 9am start
12 June	Breeds of East Asia 8 th Champ Show – 9am start
12/13/14 June	ACT Ladies & Canberra ABKC – 4 Champ shows
17 June	Dogs ACT Scent Work Element Trial – 6pm start
19 June	Double Rally Trials CDC – 9am start
03/04 July	Dogs ACT – 4 Champ shows – 8.30am start
15 July	Dogs ACT Scent Work Element trial – 6pm start
24 July	Trick Dog Tests BDOC – 9am start
25 July	Hound Club of ACT - Lure Coursing Trial – 8am start Dancing with Dogs BDOC – 9am start
31 July	Agility Trials TDTC – 9am start

