

# Dogs ACT newsletter

## K9 Capers



## From Dogs ACT

Remember when visiting the Dogs ACT office that you will need to check in using the “Check in Cbr” app on your phone. Sanitise your hands then walk through to the office. The ACT Government are removing the ability to be able to sign in using a paper form & Dogs ACT are investigating currently whether this will affect us also. Watch this space for more news if it applies to Dogs ACT.

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## From the Office

The Office would like to remind members that for the time being the entry to visit the office is via Gate 9 – look for 2 large brick columns along Well Station Road. The entry to Dogs ACT is well signposted but if you haven't visited for a while, please give the office a call on (02) 6241 4404 if you get lost. If the situation changes, we will let you know.

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**Training Classes** – These have restarted on Sundays 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. Come along, have fun as well as help socialise your dog.

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**Lost & found** – have you come to the Dogs ACT grounds for an event? Have you visited the office to conduct business? Dogs ACT have a drawer of lost & found articles which need reclaiming. If you think you have lost an item, please email the office on [admin@dogsact.org.au](mailto:admin@dogsact.org.au) where they will ask you to describe the lost item. We have items from a small pin to a man's suit in a suit bag! Please contact us to take them home.

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Dogs ACT has an ever increasing **library** & if you want to know about a breed or thinking of getting a dog, then why not come in & have a browse. Dogs ACT are implementing a come, look & relax day on Sun 8<sup>th</sup> August from 1pm to 2pm, following the training classes. Come along, look at the books, have a coffee & cake & see how Dogs ACT can help you learn more about your breed & dogs in general.

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## From the ANKC

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.

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## **For Afghan Hound owners**

In accordance with Regulations Part 6 – The Register & Registrations Section 1.11 an online survey is now available from the link provided below where ANKC is seeking feedback from owners of **Afghan Hounds** regarding proposed minimum breeding age requirements. Details of the proposal and rationale are noted below for reference:

### **PROPOSAL:**

The ANKC Ltd and the ANKC Ltd National Canine Health and Wellbeing Committee recommend that:

The ANKC Ltd have resolved to conduct a Survey of all **Afghan Hound owners** recommending that Litter Registration Limitations are to be applied to litters mated on or after *1st June 2022*:-

The Minimum Breeding Age for Afghan bitches is 24 months at the time of mating (unless a veterinary certificate is produced stating that for health reasons the bitch should be mated before 24 months).

If litter registration limitations are approved for the Minimum Breeding Age for Afghan Hound bitches, breeders of litters whelped on or after 1st June, 2022, will be required to comply with the requirements as a prerequisite to registration of any litter on the ANKC Ltd Main Register. Litters which do not meet the above requirements will only be able to be placed on the Limited Register and will be flagged not to be upgraded.

A majority of registered owners within the breed and responding to this survey must be in favour before approval is given by the ANKC Ltd.

### **RATIONALE:**

*The National Afghan Hound Breed Council does not presently have any rule regarding the minimum breeding age for Afghan Hound bitches so is governed by ANKC Regulations Part 6 Clause 8.2 which states ‘the minimum breeding age for bitches across all breeds is 12 months at the time of mating.’*

*It is considered that an Afghan Hound bitch:*

- is not of adequate maturity to be bred at 12 months of age as she is still developing at this age*
- the Afghan bitch’s health is of prime concern to responsible breeders*

The online survey can now be accessed from

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NWC7NF2>

The link is also available from the ANKC website

at: <http://ankc.org.au/AboutUs/?id=3298>

Please note responses to the survey are required by **COB 8 October 2021**.

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For those wanting to know what happens at an ANKC Board meeting the Minutes summary can be found on their website at this [link](#).

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## From the FCI

The FCI have notified all members that the Venezuelan Kennel Club has met all their obligations therefore the suspension of their membership to the FCI has been removed.

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FCI judges and officials are in the same position as those in Australia with the Covid-19 restrictions impacting on many events throughout all FCI countries. They are conducting events as often as practicable.

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## New Members

Dogs ACT would like to welcome the following new Members:

Baily Dunn with her Dobermann  
Kayla Price with her Collie Rough  
Alexandra Kirk with her Dalmatian  
Mariona Jarvis with her Lab/poodle  
Julianne Archer with her Minitaure Pinscher  
Amanda Johns with her German Shepherd Dog  
Outi Brenna with their Havanese

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](mailto: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!

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## News Dots

Since 01 July 2021, all dog owners **must** register with the ACT Government digital database annually. Owners who fail to sign up may face a \$150 fine. Dog details must be updated every year as at present approximately 95 per cent of dogs found had out of date details listed. This registration is for all pups over 8wks of age & must be updated if you move home. Owners will receive an annual registration reminder at least 14 days before

the renewal date & if your dog is already registered, there will be **no cost** to renew their & your details.

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DID YOU KNOW? That all bitches in season are prohibited from a public place in Canberra? This has been in place since at least 2000, & is included in the *Domestic Animals Act 2000*. If you have a female dog on heat, please be aware of this rule & don't take her to a dog park or outside the home into a public place. Also anyone selling an entire puppy over 6 months must inform the Registrar of Domestic Animal Services of the contact details of its new owner.

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The Kennel Club (UK) has released a new DNA reporting scheme aimed at combating inherited disease in the Tibetan Terrier of pituitary dwarfism. This breed is liable to develop the genetic condition, caused by a deficiency of growth hormone. The KC scheme will not be able to track this hereditary condition.

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On an Olympic note while the Games are on – an Australian farmers wife is writing to the Australian Olympic Committee to ask that sheep dog trialling become an Olympic event. She claims that if surfing & skateboarding are entered then so could sheep dog trials. We wish her luck!

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A dumped dog, adopted by the AFP, was trained & became a sniffer dog. As part of their Op Ironside with the FBI, which investigated large drug organisations \* importations, this abandoned dog was able to sniff out cocaine worth a fortune as well as \$100,000 cash hidden in a kitchen of an alleged criminal. Well done to the black Labrador (name of which is suppressed due to his secretive work...lol) he certainly landed a great job.

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Have you seen those ads to get your dog a fluffy bed which claims to ease their stress & let them not worry if you have to go back to work? They are circular, fluffy with a raised edge for the dog's head to rest. This business was started in 2019 by two mates in Adelaide now has sales over \$1 million per month! Now that more pups are being bought to ease us during the lockdowns & our stressful times, looks like these guys got in at just the right time! Wow

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While our newsletter comes out at the end of each month, it is time to let you know that during August some organisations want it to highlight teeth so have nominated it as pet dental month. Signs of dental disease in dogs and cats include bad breath, reduced appetite,



behavioural changes around eating and drinking, broken or loose teeth, lumps or bleeding in the mouth, discolouration or build-up of plaque and tartar on teeth, redness or inflammation of the gum, drooling, chattering of the teeth or pawing at the mouth. Make sure that your dog's teeth are healthy & in a good condition but if concerned don't forget to get to your vet.

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## Show news

The White Swiss Shepherd Dog National hosted by their Victorian Club was due to be held at KCC Park, Skye on 25 & 26 Sept 2021. Due to ongoing Covid restrictions it has been rescheduled to be held at the same venue on 24 & 25 Sept 2022. It will not clash with breeds at the 2022 Royal Melbourne Show.

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The Royal Melbourne Show & the Royal Brisbane Show have been cancelled for 2021 due to ongoing covid-19 restrictions.

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The NSW Spring Fair has been postponed & Dogs NSW will advise those wishing to enter at the earliest possible time. All events in the Hunter region have been cancelled until the NSW Government advises it is safe to attend.

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The National Show which was to be held on 9 to 12 August 2021 by the Rottweiler Club of Queensland at Dogs Queensland Showgrounds, 247 King Avenue, Durack, Queensland has been rescheduled to now take place on 13 to 16 September 2021 at the same venue.

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The Labrador Retriever National due to be held in Qld in August has been postponed until 2022.

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## Sports news

ANKC wishes to advise that with the continuing uncertainty of travel restrictions both nationally & internationally due to Covid-19, Dogs West advised the 2021 dates for many of the Australian **agility** community are not achievable. They confirm the new dates for the trials will be 24 to 29 May 2022 at the same Dogs West showgrounds, Southern River, WA.

As a result of these trials being rescheduled, Dogs Qld & NSW have agreed to move their National trials which were to be held in 2023 & 2025 as follows:

Dogs NSW – New dates 25-30Jun 2024, same venue, Bill Spilstead Complex, Orchard Hills NSW

Dogs Qld – New dates 24-28Jun2026, same venue, Dogs Qld showgrounds, Durack Qld.

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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.



AUGUST Issue – next month we will commence Breed Profiles. Would you like to see your breed in our newsletter? Please send all articles & your comments to Dogs ACT office at [admin@dogsact.org.au](mailto:admin@dogsact.org.au)

# Rear End Awareness

## Your Diary –August/September

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 15 August | Tracking Trial, Canberra Region, details to be posted on website when available |
| 28 August | Double Obedience Trials BDOC - 9am start  |
| 30 August | Agility Trial – Ribbon & Jumping BDOC – 8.30am start                            |
| 04 Sept   | Double Obedience Trials CDC – 9am start   |
| 05 Sept   | Tracking Trial CDC – 8am start Braidwood area                                   |
| 11 Sept   | Agility Trial BDOC – 9am start  |
| 14 Sept   | Agility Trial – Ribbon Agility CDC – 6pm start                                  |
| 19 Sept   | Double Trick Dog Test CDC – 10am start  |

