



THE BARKER



• FEBRUARY 2023 •



BRUSH FARM DOG TRAINING CLUB

Training Grounds Location:

Brush Farm Park, Corner of Marsden Road & Lawson Street Eastwood

Mailing Address: 18 Railway Street, Baulkham Hills, 2153

Clubhouse Phone: 9858 5281 (From 1pm Sundays)

Website: www.brushfarm.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/brushfarmdogtraining



BRUSH FARM DOG TRAINING CLUB INC.

Established 1967. Affiliated RNSWCC (Dogs NSW) 1969.



WHAT WE DO

- ❖ Brush Farm Dog Training Club is a non-profit organisation run by a dedicated team of volunteers, committed to serving the local community and promoting responsible dog ownership. We teach people to train their dog to be socialised and obedient, and promote participation in canine obedience sports.
- ❖ Each year our club delivers over 300 hours of training classes, trains over 500 dogs, & runs three trials, attracting over 250 competitors from across Sydney
- ❖ Training provides a benefit to both dog owners and the wider community - dogs that have participated in obedience training are less likely to be surrendered to pounds and animal shelters due to behavioural problems or aggression than dogs with no training.
- ❖ Attending training for just one hour each Sunday afternoon at Brush Farm Park will give you the skills to train your dog to be a happy, well behaved member of your family.

MEMBER INFORMATION

- ❖ Sunday training times:
 - 12:00pm – 1:00pm – Puppies
 - 2:00pm – 3:00pm - Brown & Green classes
 - 3:30pm – 4:30pm - White, Yellow & Red classes
- ❖ New member registration – available every Sunday from 11:30AM with orientation starting at 2PM (without your dog)
- ❖ For sale at the Clubhouse - collars, leads, halters, dumbbells, bum-bags, polo shirts, caps, snacks and drinks
- ❖ Training is rarely cancelled due to rain or extreme heat (35° C and above) – more often than not we are lucky with the weather! If in doubt, please call the Clubhouse after 11am (for puppies) or after 1pm (for all others) to check if classes are on— phone 9858 5281. We try to keep our Facebook page updated as well.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- ❖ Payable in February each year, and covering all training and ground fees for the full calendar year:

Adult members \$90	Pensioner members \$75	Junior (under 18) members \$75
Dual/family members \$100 (one dog)	\$120 (two dogs)	(EFTPOS available)
- ❖ There is a \$10 joining fee for new members upon signing up.

GET INVOLVED

- ❖ General Meetings are held bi-monthly at Brush Farm Club House, Eastwood at 8.00 pm. All members are welcome to come and have a say in our Club's affairs. Supper is served after the meeting.
- ❖ Our Club is run by volunteers - please see Noel, Heidi or your instructor if you would like to assist by helping set up the training equipment, serving in the canteen, working on our website, training to become an instructor, or assisting with a myriad of other jobs that makes the club run !!!
- ❖ Steward at club trials – Approximately 20 people are needed on each trial day to set up equipment, marshal competitors, record results, staff the kitchen, and pack up. See Noel to join the Steward Squad.

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS

President: Noel Reilly 9639 4291
 Chief Instructor: Heidi Richardson 9801 8797
 Treasurer: Kylie Williams
 Secretary: Richard Watkins
 Vice Presidents: Anne Affleck, Anna Steinberg
 Dep. Chief Instructors: Janelle Woodward, Danielle Leong
 Trial Secretary: Alan Luc
 Registrar: Karen Forsyth, Ivy Sherry
 Equipment Officer: TBA
 Editor 'The Barker': Natalie Leong

Committee Members: Angela Munge, Colin Richardson, Karen Lamb, Anne Martin, June Johansson, Caitlin La Rose

Instructors: Anne Affleck, Tania Cochrane, Geoff Craine, Vivien Dunkerley, Simon Gray, Peter Hewitt, June Johansson, Carmen Kong, Karen Lamb, Danielle Leong, Natalie Leong, Alan Luc, David Marcellino, Anne Martin, Noel Reilly, Heidi Richardson, Anna Steinberg, Colin Richardson, Richard Watkins, Kylie Williams, Janelle Woodward

Patrons: Steve & Vicki Austin; The Mayor of Ryde; Dr Sarah Short



WELCOME TO ALL MEMBERS



Welcome to Brush Farm Dog Training Club in 2023!

First of all on behalf of myself and our committee and Instructors I would like to wish all our members a Happy New Year. Whether you are a current member of the club or you are just joining us for the first time this year, we would like to welcome both handlers and their dogs to our club and we hope you have a very successful year – whether you are competing in trials or shows or just training and socializing your dog along with other club members.

The entire club is run by volunteers, so from the time you arrive at the club whether you are re-joining or a new member you will be greeted by and looked after by our dedicated team of volunteers So in the coming months if you feel you would like to be part of our team please do not hesitate to talk to us and we will be only too happy to include you.

We currently hold 2 Obedience Trials a year in March and in August and a Rally O Trial in October and a new Trick Dog trial in June on those days we will require up to 20 volunteers to help out on the day and it will give you a chance to see the top dogs in the state competing and may encourage you to compete at a later stage.

All our members are the eyes and ears of any club, so if you see anything that you think we can improve on or that you are not happy with, please let us know. In many cases we have implanted those suggestions. The Barker is our club magazine and if you wish to contribute to you are most welcome. You will find all those details in the magazine – this includes photographs and stories that are of interest to our members.

So let's hope that 2023 will be a happy and successful one for the club. I look forward to meeting you all again in February to commence another year at Brush Farm.

Regards, Noel Reilly (President Brush Farm Dog Training Club)

HELP NEEDED!

We currently need new volunteers to help with member registration and equipment sales each Sunday. This role involves several hours in the clubhouse each week – answering general questions, assisting new member sign-ups, general admin and product sales.

We are also always in need of NEW INSTRUCTORS. If you have a passion for training dogs (and people) and would like to know more, please have a chat to Chief Instructor Heidi.



FIRST AID & OUR HEARTSTART HS1 DEFIBRILLATOR

A reminder that we now have a defibrillator on our premises. It is situated next to the first aid box inside the main entrance to the clubhouse. We encourage all members to be aware of its location. There are fact sheets available upon request.



A message from The Chief Instructor



A big welcome to our new members and welcome back to our existing members.

To our new members:

Welcome, and well done for bringing your dogs to school. It is important that your dog learns what you expect of him/her to fit into your lifestyle. It is your responsibility to teach him/her what is and isn't acceptable. Dogs have no concept of right or wrong, they aren't naughty; they just haven't worked out what it is that you want from them. The difficult part is that they don't speak English or any other language, and you don't speak Dog; shouting doesn't make it any clearer for the dog.

It is important to establish a good relationship with your dog, so we use Positive Reinforcement (R+) to help them learn. We reward the behaviours we want and ignore those that we don't want. Remember, you will need lots (and I mean lots) of small, soft, tasty treats to use as reinforcers. As you move through the classes, your instructors show you how to make training a happy experience for both you and your dog.

To our existing members:

Welcome back to another year of training, and fingers crossed we will have fewer disruptions for weather and muddy grounds this year. I am very pleased that you have decided to continue your dog's education. Hopefully, you have been able to include some training and fun activities during the break and I look forward to seeing many of you entering trials this year.

For all members:

As February is usually the hottest month, sometimes, the instructor may finish class before the full hour is up if she/he feels that the dogs are no longer able to learn. However, if you are in a class and feel that it is too hot for you or your dog, then don't hesitate to cut your class short. Do let your instructor know that you are leaving and why.

We cancel classes if the temperature is forecast to be 35C or higher.

Remember, it is all about the dog.

Looking forward to a positive training year

Heidi

Chief Instructor



CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with us and keep up date with all the latest club news! We also have a FB Group where you can post updates, ask questions and stay connected. We like to post training challenges and videos whenever we get a chance – there's a lot of great info to be found there!

Link to our FB page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BrushFarmDogTraining>

And our FB group called "BFDTC Members Chat" can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/377721072947770>





TRIALLING TEAMS



BRUSH FARM DOGS DOING AWESOME THINGS!

It was really great to see that we had a large number of club members entered in the Northern Suburbs Rally Trial in January. Well done to everyone who entered! Here are some of the results:

Wilbur & Belinda Young placed 2nd in Rally Novice.

Allie & Anna Franklin placed 3rd and achieved their RALLY NOVICE TITLE.

Hadley & Gemma-Louise Sherlock qualified in Rally Novice at their first ever trial.

Two other teams - Fenrir & Byron Usmar and Cello & Elizabeth Donohoo – were also successful in achieving Rally Novice qualifications.

Wilbur & Belinda followed up with more success the very next day – placing 4th and achieving their TRICK DOG STARTER TITLE.

There are many dog sports you can choose to participate in with your dog. Here at Brush Farm, you can learn all the skills you need to enter an Obedience or Rally competition (heeling, position changes, stays, and much more).

We also encourage members to learn more about Trick Dog Tests and will be holding Tricks classes throughout the year.

Other ANKC sports include Agility, Herding, Tracking, Lure Coursing and Scent Work. Some of these are breed specific (you need a terrier to do Earthdog and a gundog to do Retrieving), but most dogs can try most things!

Although the ANKC regulates purebred dog breeding in Australia, your dog does not need to have a pedigree in order to enter ANKC dog sport events. Any dog can be registered as an Associate in order to enter competitions. For more information, contact DOGS NSW or ask at the clubhouse.



For a greater understanding of how competitions work, please consider volunteering at our own Brush Farm trial in March. There will be both Obedience and Rally taking place. We always need helpers and we'll show you everything you need to know!

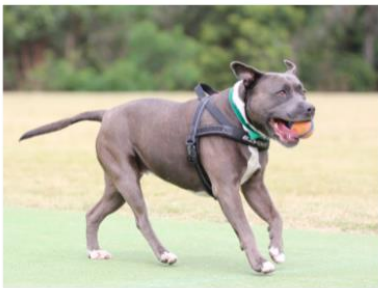
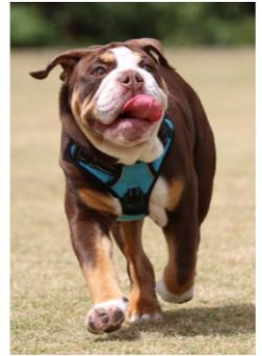


XMAS PARTY 2022 PHOTOS





XMAS PARTY 2022 PHOTOS





MEET OUR MEMBERS!

Carmen Kong



This year we will be featuring Q&As with several of our members. First up is one of our fabulous Instructors: Carmen Kong!



Tell us about your current training partner and what you have achieved with them!

Ben, a Chinese Crested dog, is my current training partner. Together we've attained titles across obedience, rally, tricks and agility. We've also been on TV a couple of times, including a segment with Dr Harry demonstrating things dogs can be trained to do.

How did you first become interested in dog training?

Our family had dogs when I was growing up and my parents were actually members of Brush Farm! When I got Ben, I knew that dogs have to go to school, so I joined my local dog training club. When we moved back to Sydney, I joined Brush Farm.

What do you enjoy about dog sports and competitions?

The different dog sports all help build, deepen and strengthen the relationship between dog and handler in their own unique ways. I compete because I enjoy challenging myself, and I have found that having a set of criteria as my goal helps prevent me from being a sloppy handler. I also think entering a competition ring changes the dog-handler relationship, you become more equal partners.

What is your favourite thing to train with your dog?

I enjoy all the disciplines we've titled in, because there's a lot of interaction between dog and handler in those. Ben's very interactive, and he loves to add his own creative flair, which can be both frustrating and entertaining during a competition!

What is your dog's favourite thing to do?

Eat! He does also love climbing things, I think Chinese Crested dogs are half goat.

What is your dog's funniest or most ridiculous/annoying habit?

Ben loves video conference calls! Somehow he knows when I'm on a video call for work and he has to be picked up so that he can appear on camera and join in on the meeting.

What is something you are working on currently or would like to work towards?

Ben's approaching retirement from trialing, so we're just working towards maybe getting a few more passes here and there to complete some titles. I'm not too fussed whether we do or not, we'll only keep competing for as long as he's enjoying what he's doing. As Ben gets older, my main focus is maintaining his mental and physical health. Even if we're not competing, we'll still continue training and attending classes. Ben loves coming to school and it's very healthy for dogs (just as for humans) to know they can achieve something.

What do you wish you knew back when you were a dog sport newbie?

How to better listen to my teammate. Really listen, with respect for him as my equal partner both in training and in the competition ring.

Anything else you'd like to say?

While I'm proud of our titles, they just point to something more important: our relationship. The fact my dog willingly walks into a ring by my side. That he'll do tasks and activities that seem pointless or confusing or even scary to him simply because I ask him to. His trust in me. I feel honoured every time he chooses to work with me, in a strange place, amongst strange people and dogs. Whatever happens in the ring, I make sure he walks out knowing he's a champion, because he is one in my eyes.





HOW NOT TO GREET A DOG

*Most people do this stuff and it stresses dogs out so they BITE!
Please show dogs some respect.*



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick your hand in his face



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick your hand on top of his head



DON'T
Grab or Hug him



DON'T
Stare him in the eye
(This is an adversarial gesture)



DON'T
Squeal or shout in his face



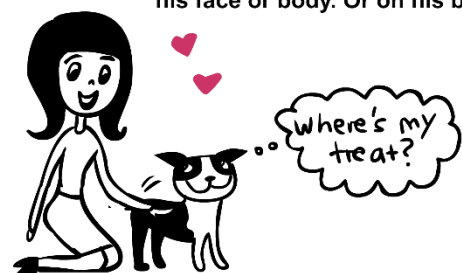
DON'T
Grab his head and kiss it
(This is an invasion of space)

Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

The correct way:



- * No Eye contact
- * Let the dog approach you in his own time
- * Keep your SIDE towards the dog (non-threatening posture)



- * Pet or stroke him on the SIDE of his face or body. Or on his back.



DANIELLE'S DOGGY DIARY

Dogs & Cats



Hi everyone and welcome to 2023!

I'm going to start the year by confessing that I am actually not just a dog person, I am 100% a cat person as well. I adore cats. And there are five of them at my house. Five gloriously weird and wonderful rescue cats. Alongside the three dogs.

People often ask "how do they all get on?" incredulously when I disclose this information. It is also very common for my clients to have problems when introducing new puppies or dogs into a house with a resident cat (or two or three). So I thought I would discuss how go about creating a harmonious household with multiple dogs and cats.



Keep Everyone Happy

What is important here is asking yourself: IS EACH AND EVERY ANIMAL HAVING THEIR SPECIFIC NEEDS MET? In any relationship (dogs and humans alike!) the best outcomes will often be achieved if each individual has a high level of wellbeing and happiness... away from the relationship itself. I think it can be helpful to look at the concept of the FIVE FREEDOMS that forms the basis of many animal welfare regulatory frameworks. They are:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. Freedom from discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease: by prevention through rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
5. Freedom from fear and distress: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.



Is Your Home A Cat Paradise?

We tend to do a good job of providing shelter, food, water and medical care. But for cats, I think many people can probably do better at creating the kind of safe and enriching environment that addresses the final two freedoms for cats specifically.

The issue of containing cats is a topic for another day, but my cats are all wholly contained on my property ("indoor" cats). This means that I need to ensure they have space and opportunities to engage in natural cat behaviour, and to feel safe and secure.

My cats have access to an exterior cat enclosure where they have hammocks, resting spots and perches to birdwatch. They have multiple cat tower structures inside the house to play, scratch, climb and rest on. They have tunnels and boxes to play and hide in. And they have plenty of toys and enrichment items provided (cat grass and catnip are favourites).





DANIELLE'S DOGGY DIARY

by Danielle Leong (Confident Canines)



Cats Need Their Own Space & Can Be Weird About Toilets

For cats to live cohesively in a community, they often like to have their own space to retreat to. Make sure that everyone has PLENTY of comfortable sleeping options to avoid conflict over choice spots.

And it is incredibly important to address the issue of cat litter. Many cat behaviour issues can be traced back to stress caused by inadequate toileting options. Cats need to feel comfortable with the options you provide taking into account: the type of litter tray (enclosed/open/large/shallow); the type of litter used (clay/wood pellets/recycled paper/crystals); the position and location of the tray; and the NUMBER OF OPTIONS. The more cats you have, the more litter trays you need (the rule of thumb is the number of cats plus one more). And when living with dogs, I cannot stress this enough... place the cat litter in a spot the dogs cannot access. For everyone's sake!

OK The Cats Are Happy... Now Let's Add In A Dog

My aim is always for peaceful coexistence. Friendships are a nice bonus but not essential! When introducing new animals into the household, ALWAYS PLAN FOR SEPARATION AT FIRST. This goes for a new puppy or a new kitten. If you have worked on setting up plenty of safe and enriching space in your house for a cat, you need to ensure that the puppy/dog cannot have access to this area. Cats care deeply about territorial integrity! Baby gates and pens are your friend.

The initial goal is simply to get everyone used to the sight and smell of each other without fear or over-excitement. You can rotate access to rooms as a way to get everyone used to sharing space. You can have animals calmly sniff each other through barriers. The process of habituation or desensitisation takes as long as it takes (days/weeks/months/years)!

When you do decide that more sharing of space can safely occur, ALWAYS HAVE OPTIONS FOR YOUR CATS TO RETREAT EASILY. This means that they should be able to get somewhere safely WITHOUT RUNNING. Use cat towers and strategic furniture arrangement to your benefit. As much as possible, you want to avoid any scenario where the dog is chasing the cat. You may have to wait for puppies to grow up a bit (or a lot) in order to avoid this!

What About Training?

So we have gotten up this point without talking about any specific training. However there are plenty of training skills you can work on. The thing is... it's all of the usual foundation skills that are helpful to train any dog or puppy! Recall, sit/down, go to your mat, stay/wait, hand touches, walk with me this way... the more cues your dog is able to respond to, the easier it is to manage them around other animals. And don't forget that cats can be trained too! A recall and a station cue (go to this spot) are very handy for all cats.





2023 CALENDAR



JANUARY

Sunday 29TH

First Day of Training for Current Members Plus New Member Registrations

FEBRUARY

Sunday 5th

Training / **Puppy Class Starts**

Sunday 12th

Training

Wednesday 15th

General Meeting

Sunday 19th

Training

Sunday 26th

Training

MARCH

Sunday 5th

Training

Sunday 12th

Training / **Puppy Class Starts**

Wednesday 15th

Committee Meeting

Sunday 19th

Training

Sunday 26th

NO TRAINING Obedience Trial

APRIL

Sunday 2nd

Training

Sunday 9th

NO TRAINING – EASTER

Sunday 16th

Training

Wednesday 19th

General Meeting

Sunday 23rd

Training

Sunday 30th

Training

MAY

Sunday 7th

Training / **Puppy Class Starts**

Sunday 14th

Training

Wednesday 17th

Committee Meeting

Sunday 21st

Training / **Handlers' Day**

Sunday 28th

Training

JUNE

Sunday 4th

Training

Sunday 11th

NO TRAINING – King's Birthday / Double Tricks Trial

Wednesday 21st

General Meeting

Sunday 18th

Training / **Puppy Class Starts**

Sunday 25th

Training

JULY

Sunday 2nd

Training

Sunday 9th

Training

Sunday 16th

Training / **Handlers' Day**

Wednesday 19th

Committee Meeting

Sunday 23rd

Training / **Puppy Class Starts**

Sunday 30th

Training

AUGUST

Sunday 6th

Training

Sunday 13th

Training

Wednesday 16th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 20th

Training

Sunday 27th

NO TRAINING Obedience Trial

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 3rd

Training / **Puppy Class Starts**

Sunday 10th

Training

Sunday 17th

Training / **Handlers' Day**

Wednesday 20th

Committee Meeting

Sunday 24th

Training

OCTOBER

Sunday 1st

NO TRAINING – Labour Day

Sunday 8th

Training

Sunday 15th

Training / **Puppy Class Starts**

Wednesday 18th

General Meeting

Sunday 22nd

Training

Sunday 29th

NO TRAINING Double Rally Trial

NOVEMBER

Sunday 5th

Training

Sunday 12th

Training

Wednesday 15th

Committee Meeting

Sunday 19th

Training

Sunday 26th

Last Training for the Year

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd

Dogs' Christmas Party!

REMINDERS:

- ❖ Please do not leave your children unsupervised. Children running around may frighten or over-excite some dogs. Please remind your children NEVER to approach any dog without the handler's explicit permission
- ❖ Dogs wearing **BRIGHT YELLOW KNITTED COLLARS** may be uncomfortable around other people and dogs. Please give these dogs the space they need. If in doubt, MOVE YOUR DOG AWAY from stressful situations.
- ❖ All handlers must wear enclosed shoes for safety.
- ❖ All dogs must be kept ON LEASH unless an instructor tells you otherwise.
- ❖ Dogs that have a history of running off during off-leash exercises must use a long lead in class.
- ❖ Please pick up after your dog. Bags and bins are provided.