

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Lead Training 1-2
- Rottweiler wins award 1-2
- Puppy Socialisation 3-4
- Book Review 4
- Microchip Days 5
- Walk to School - Frankston 5
- CDC Diary 5
- CDC Application Form 6

Rottweiler Wins Community Award

Nicki Abell loves to tell the story of the first time she took a Rottweiler (Eddie's cousin, Britty) to an aged care home after she passed her Therapy Dog temperament test.

"They said 'you can't bring a Rottweiler in here, it'll scare everyone.' So I dressed her up with a big red Christmas bow on her head," laughs Mrs Abell. "You couldn't be

scared of a dog that looked so ridiculous."

Of course, the gentle Rottweiler was a big hit as were others to follow in her paw-steps, including Eddie, who is now a favourite among those at the home.

Along with the many other Therapy Dogs in the program that Mrs Abell
(Continued on page 2)



Training Tip - Walking On Lead

The Companion Dog Club will be reprinting a series of training tips from the AKC

magazine "Family Dog" in each of the 2009 quarterly newsletters.

purchased a puppy or just have a dog that could use a bit of extra training.



This article was written with a focus on training adopted adult dogs, but we believe these are great lessons that apply across the board whether you have just adopted an adult dog,

From the January/February issue of Family Dog, written by Kathy Santo and reprinted here courtesy of the AKC:

Have you hesitated to adopt an adult dog because you wonder how - or if - an older dog can be trained? Or do you already have an adult dog who's just never gotten the hang of obedience commands?

(Continued on page 2)

New Commands (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Here's good news:
You can teach an old dog new tricks.

The Leash You Can Do

You love your dog's enthusiasm for walks, but he pulls so hard that one of your arms is longer than the other. For whatever reason, you've allowed your dog to believe that pulling as hard as he can is an acceptable way for him to walk you.

There are so many reasons why dogs pull, and so many solutions to the problem, that the subject probably warrants a column of its own. But with the addition of a proper collar (check with a trainer to make sure the one you're using isn't adding to the problem) and a new attitude



If your dog pulls on the lead, STOP. Soon he'll learn that if he wants a walk he's got to go at your pace.

(your own), pulling can become a thing of the past.

Old Routine: He pulled – you followed.

New Routine: He pulls, you stop moving forward. He stops, you praise, reward and move forward

again. Champion pullers may require that you actually back up a few steps in order to impress upon them that not only does pulling end the forward momentum, it actually causes them to lose ground. Expect a look of complete shock from your dog the first few times you do this, and be prepared to reward him with treats and praise, both when he stops moving and when he walks more calmly.

Another strategy is to make yourself the most interesting thing in the world to your dog during your walks. Usually this involves having a bag stuffed with irresistible food, at least initially. In the beginning stages of training, praise and reward your dog with a treat anytime he looks at you. You'll notice your dog checking in with you more often, and staying closer to you, too.

If you think there is room in your life for an adult rescue dog, visit the [CDC Adoption Directory](#).

Rottweiler Wins Community Award (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

coordinates, Eddie has helped bring joy to many people in aged care facilities and shows that all dogs can be wonderful members of society.

Eddie's contribution to the dog community was formally recognised when he became the first dog to be honoured with an award for "Outstanding Contribution to DOGS Victoria." Eddie (registered as Invictus Desperado) was given an embroidered lead and collar that he can wear with pride.

The Outstanding Contribution award is made annually to one deserving human and, now that Eddie has set a great precedent, we hope to see more canines honoured this way as well in coming years.

Any dog can get involved with Therapy Dogs provided they have a suitable temperament.

For more information please contact Nicki on 9889 4415 or visit the DOGS Victoria website - www.dogsvictoria.org.au.

Dogs must pass a temperament test to qualify for this important role in society.



A group of Therapy Dogs visit an aged care facility. Nicki and Eddie, centre.

Paws for Thought - Puppy Socialisation



Animal behaviour experts agree that one of the most important aspects of responsible pet ownership is socialising your dog from an early age.

“Socialising is simply a term for activities that introduce your puppy to a variety of experiences in a positive and safe environment so that he or she learns how to be a confident and friendly, well-behaved member of society,” says local veterinary behaviourist Dr Jacqui Ley.

The latest research shows that there has been significant progress in socially responsible pet ownership in the decade between 1994 and 2006. The research surveyed over 1,000 people and shows that pet owners are becoming more responsible in key areas including selecting the right type of pet, socialising and training dogs, health checkups and exercise and being a responsible neighbour.

“Our puppy, Lucy, has just got to the stage where she can meet other dogs and seeing the pleasure she gets from going to the park and playing with other dogs is priceless. We are all more active since Lucy joined the family and the good thing about that, apart from the extra exercise, is that it is

helping Lucy to be a happy, well adjusted dog,” says Melbourne mother Jenny.

The Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS) agrees that more people are becoming aware of the importance of socialising a dog from a

young age and says if there is one thing the owner of a new puppy, or even an older dog, needs to know it is the importance of exposing your dog to as

many new experiences as possible in a positive and safe environment

“A well socialised dog is a pleasure to have as part of the family and it is now quite usual for puppies to attend classes and other activities that help with their socialisation. Unfortunately, under-socialised puppies can grow into adult dogs that are fearful and defensive which can lead to aggressive behaviour,” says Susie Willis from PIAS.

“The most important period for socialising your dog is when they are still very young, between three and 12 weeks, but it remains important throughout their life as a puppy and young dog. Even older dogs benefit from positive exposure to different environments and situations,” says Dr Ley.

(Continued on page 4)

Dr Jacqui Ley's Tips for Puppy Socialisation

- **Puppies need to complete their vaccination program before interacting with other dogs.**
- **Socialisation begins at 3 weeks old so ensure the breeder has been properly socialising the pup before you take her home.**
- **Ensure your puppy meets people of a variety of ages including gentle, dog-savvy children**
- **Groom your puppy daily and handle his paws, ears and mouth so this does not become an issue as he grows**
- **Expose your puppy to as many different experiences as possible so nothing surprises her later in life. Always make it positive and rewarding.**
- **Be around your puppy and praise him for eating without being defensive around his food. You can also make him sit and wait for his food once he learns these commands.**
- **Keep all socialisation sessions short so your puppy does not become tired or overwhelmed.**
- **Puppy classes are a great way to socialise with other puppies. Contact a DOGS Victoria Obedience Club or Breed Club to find out about these opportunities.**

Puppy Socialisation (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

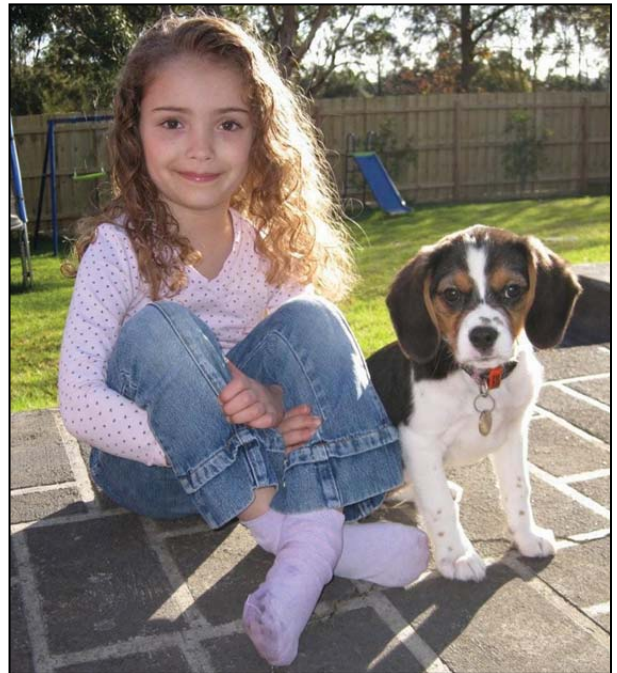
“Remember, exposing your dog to positive experiences and rewarding good behaviour is the key to having a well-socialised dog. Commitment to working with your dog will result in a happy and confident dog that you can enjoy life with,” says Dr Ley.

For further information on “selecting the right pet”, “how to have a well adjusted dog” and “how to help your pup become man’s best friend” watch PetNet TV on www.petnet.com.au.

“Remember, exposing your dog to positive experiences and rewarding

good behaviour is the key to having a well-socialised dog. Commitment to working with your dog will result in a happy and confident dog that you can enjoy life with,” says Dr Ley.

For further information on “selecting the right pet”, “how to have a well adjusted dog” and “how to help your pup become man’s best friend” watch PetNet TV on www.petnet.com.au.

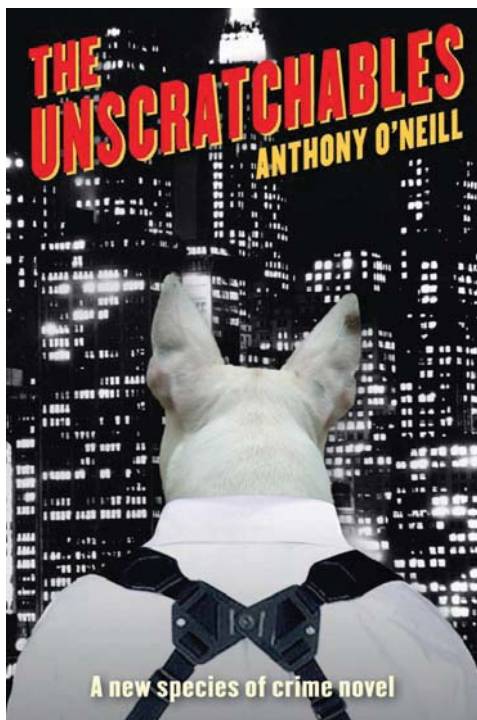


Mia’s family have become more active with Lucy.

Book Review - The Unscratchables

By Heather Simpson

This book is different, to say the least. A fictional work that could easily be adapted into a full length animated movie, it appears to be a cross between the television series *The Shield* and *NYPD*, but with dog and cat characters. The characters Detective Max (Crusher) McNash, his off-sider Bud Borzoi, Flasha Lightning the Whippet, Dr Barnabus the Basset, Humphrey MacFluff the Scottish Fold cat and many others are



involved in this complicated crime tale.

Set around New York, with a name change to Kathattan for where the fat cats lived, the descriptions of

places is unique to say the least. Take where Crusher lives – in the Tenderloin district near Dog Force HQ in Dishlick. Then there is Fly Picnic, near the newly gentrified suburb of Staffordshire.

This is where two weiler bodies were found. The case is

wrapped around finding the killer/s of these weilers. There is also the murder of Corky Farr-Fetch from Chump’s Incorporated, another case to solve.

Special Agent Cassius Lap from the Feline Bureau of Investigation is brought in to help solve the cases, much to the annoyance of Crusher. You see, Crusher has this hatred for cats, especially Siamese cats, but he has to control his emotions while he works with Cassius Lap.

The book is difficult to follow because of the lingo it is written in. Very hard to follow what Crusher is talking about, the reader will need a vivid imagination to follow the cases as they unravel. Anthony O’Neil has devised a language unique to Bull.

The library would like to thank the publishers Penguin Australia for their donation of this book. Now available at all good book stores RRP \$32.95.

CDC members can borrow books from the DOGS Victoria library. Visit www.dogsvictoria.com.au for details.

For more doggy events, visit the [Companion Dog Club Diary](#) online regularly.

Microchipping Days

Microchips Australia and DOGS Victoria have teamed up to offer microchipping days to all dog owners in conjunction with dog shows at both

DOGS Victoria venues before the end of 2009.

The cost is \$25 per dog. Microchipping is now compulsory in most councils across Victoria in order to register your pets.



DOGS Victoria recommends that all dog owners ensure their dogs are microchipped and registered with up-to-date details on the database.

State Dog Centre (KCC Park)
Melway Ref 128 J12
Saturday, 31 October
10am - 2pm

Bulla Exhibition Centre
Melway Ref 177 F8
Sunday, 1 November
10am - 2pm

State Dog Centre (KCC Park)
Melway Ref 128 J12
Sunday, 13 December
10am - 2pm

www.microchips.com.au for more upcoming microchipping days.

Walk to School Day - Frankston

Frankston City Council is launching a new Walk to School program on **October 21.**

Students, parents, council workers and police among other community members will be walking together on Warrandyte Road in Langwarrin.

This is a great opportunity to promote responsible dog ownership, show that dogs are an important part of your community and also encourage health and fitness among all humans and canines.

The council has extended an invitation to all dog owners in the area to come along, too, provided your dog/s are suited to walking in a group of people including children.

Please contact Kathleen van der Weerden on 9784 1022 to register your interest or for any further details.



Phillip Island Walk & Talk, Rhyll Fishing Park, Rhyll, 6:00pm
Topic TBD

Friday, 4 September

KCC Park Walk & Talk, 655 Westernport Hwy, Skye, 6:30pm
Topic TBD

Thurs, 24 September

Phillip Island Birthday Bash, Purple Hen Winery, 6:00pm
Help us celebrate the Phillip Island Branch's **FIRST BIRTHDAY**

Friday, 2 October

KCC Park Walk & Talk, 655 Westernport Hwy, Skye, 6:30pm
Tentatively scheduled for Agility as we got rained out in July

Thursday, 29 October

BIG DAY OUT FOR DOGS - ALL DOGS WELCOME - FREE TO ATTEND
ALL DAY FROM 10:30am - KCC PARK (STATE DOG CENTRE)

Sunday, 13 December

CDC DIARY

What is the Companion Dog Club?



The club provides pedigree and non-pedigree dogs and their owners with a club that will promote and appreciate the uniqueness of all types and breeds of dogs. It also recognises that each one of our canine friends is in a class of its own and is a companion in its own right.

As a member of the Companion Dog Club you and your dog will receive a number of benefits that encourage responsible dog ownership and welfare from within your own community.

The Companion Dog Club is an initiative of DOGS Victoria.

DOGS Victoria



KCC Park
655 Westernport Hwy
Skye VIC 3977

Phone: 03 9788 2500
E-mail: office@dogsvictoria.org.au

Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership

Victorian Canine Association Inc.—Trading as DOGS Victoria
Locked Bag K9, Cranbourne, 3977 Telephone: 03 9788 2500 Website: www.dogsvictoria.org.au

Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____

Ph: _____

Mob: _____

Email: _____

Dog's Name & Breed _____

Dog's Name & Breed _____

Referred By _____

Breeder's Kennel Prefix and/or DOGS Victoria membership number, if applicable

Proudly
sponsored by:



For only \$25.00 including GST, you and your family can become members of the Companion Dog Club. Yes, the \$25.00 covers everyone in your family AND you can include as many dogs as there are in your household!

\$25 (GST incl.) Payment can be made by Cheque, Money Order, Visa or MasterCard (Cash accepted in person only)

Name on Card: _____

Card No: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Refer a friend to the club and receive a special gift from Purina. Be sure they put your name in the "Referred by" section.