

Most Liveable City for Pets

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Three Australian cities may have made it to the top ten most liveable cities in the world in the latest liveability ranking but Australian companion animal experts say Australia is falling behind other countries in liveability for pets and their owners.

"In Canada, which led the index with Vancouver and had a number of other cities in the top cities, people

appear to have more opportunities to take their



dog with them as they go about their daily life. Well

behaved dogs are a common sight in outdoor cafes and shopping areas and it is not unusual to see dogs in carrier bags on public transport," says Dr Kersti Seksel of the Australian Companion Animal Council.

"In Geneva, which ranked eighth, dogs are accepted in many restaurants and can travel on public transport – although

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Training Tip - Toilet Training

The Companion Dog Club has reprinted a series of training tips from the AKC magazine "Family Dog" in each 2009 newsletter. This is the final part of the series.

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

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?

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

Way to Go!

If your adopted dog spent time as a stray before beginning his domesticated, indoor life with you, there's a fairly good chance he subscribes to the "when you gotta go, you gotta go" philosophy. Or perhaps

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New Commands (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

you've had your dog since he was a puppy and he still can't get the hang of this housebreaking business.

In either case, you can teach your old dog this new behaviour, although it's going to take a lot of consistency on your part.

Important: As always, before beginning training to correct a problem, check with your veterinarian to make sure a medical condition – for example, a bladder infection – isn't at the heart of the trouble.

By monitoring your dog's whereabouts at all times – and confining him in a crate when you can't be with him – you can strive to prevent him from ever eliminating inside. Normally a dog will not foul his den – in this case his crate. And if you watch him the rest of the time,

you can get him outside when it is time to "go".

Eventually this will teach him that the only acceptable potty area is the great outdoors.

Corrections of any sort for housebreaking transgressions should never be given; whenever an accident takes place, the responsibility falls squarely on the shoulders of the humans in the house.

By never allowing your dog to have an accident indoors, you'll end his habit of using the floor (or the rug, or the couch) as his personal porta-loo.

And of course when he does go in the proper place outside, be sure to follow up with lots of praise.



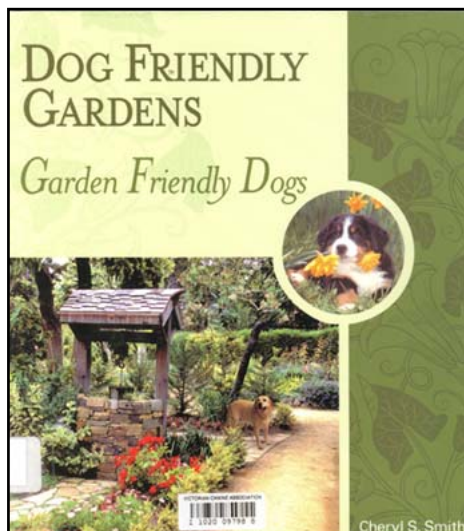
Old dogs, new tricks? No problems. Old owners, new habits? More challenging, but definitely do-able.

If you think there is room in your life for an adult rescue dog, visit the [CDC Adoption Directory](http://www.cdcadoptiondirectory.com).

Book Review - Dog Friendly Gardens

This is the only book that the library has found that covers this topic. It is produced by DogWise, from America, and is fairly comprehensive.

Millions of people have dogs with gardens; it does not mean your backyard has to look like a war zone. Planning the garden and training your dog to restrict its digging and rearranging abilities to a minimum, will give both your family and the canine equal happiness.



This book tells how to plan out your garden, what plants are best suited, prioritising such things as the digging pit, toilet area, shading areas, pool safety and fences/borders.

Dog runs don't just have to be chain wire fencing, creepers and vines that will give a

pleasant smell and shade can be planted along these sometimes not so attractive sights.

The book explains which herbicides and fertilizers to use around dogs, also what plants NOT to put in your yard if you have dogs (or children for that matter).

Overall this is a very interesting book, well set out, now available from the DOGS Victoria library for loan.

CDC members can borrow books and movies from the library. Visit www.dogsvictoria.org.au for details.

Review by Heather Simpson
Dog Friendly Gardens by Cheryl S Smith

Most Liveable Cities for Pets & People (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

their owners are required to buy them a half price ticket.

“Even in New York City and London, which didn’t rank highly on the list of most liveable cities, pets are able to join their owners in some stores, outdoor restaurants or pubs. It is also very common in these cities for dogs and cats to live in apartments with no outdoor area,” Dr Seksel added.

Some churches in the US and UK are welcoming pets along with their owners, with a church in Weymouth, near Boston, starting “woof and worship” services which are open to dogs and their owners.

Dr Seksel believes there are five key criteria that make a city liveable for people and pets. They are:

- the commitment of pet owners to manage their pet in a way that is responsible and respectful of other people and pets;
- pet-friendly regulations for tenants and owners wishing to keep pets in their homes;
- the provision of open space for dogs to play off-leash under supervision;



- the ability of owners to take their pets on public transport; and
- the ability of owners to take their pets into public areas such as shopping precincts, gardens, churches or outdoor cafes.

“With research showing that people who don’t own pets have lower levels of health than those that do own pets, it is unfortunate that in many parts of Australia we seem to have developed a default position which restricts the ownership of pets and their interaction with the community. Pet owners report feeling concerned about where they

can and can’t take their dogs and some even feel guilty about wanting to have their dog with them when they are out and about. This means that, as individuals and as a community, we are missing out on the full benefits of pet ownership,” Dr Seksel says.

“There is a well-established body of research that shows people that own pets have better health than non-pet owners but there is also new research that shows pets bring benefits to the community as a whole,” says Dr Seksel.

Visit the Australian Companion Animal Council at www.acac.org.au for more information and tips on living with pets.

Shar Pei Rescue joins Adoption Directory

A new breed rescue group has been added to the breed-specific rescue section of the Adoption Directory - www.dogsvictoria.org.au/cdc/rescue.htm.

Shar Pei Rescue (Victorian Chapter) helps to rescue and rehome Shar Pei and Shar Pei cross dogs.

The group says that Shar Pei are

more clownish than they may appear at first but can also be quite stubborn and are therefore not ideal for first-time dog owners.

These wrinkly dogs can make great family pets given appropriate training and care.

Visit www.sharpeirescue.com.au to learn more about the breed and the rescue program.



Get fit for summer for FREE

Spring has sprung and summer is on its way. So it's time to pull yourself off the couch and get fit again.

There are many ways to get fit but they generally all cost money.

Did you know that dog walking is one of the cheapest as well as the most enjoyable ways of ensuring your own fitness as well as that of your dog?

In fact, owning a pet has been linked to the reduction of mental stress and 70% of owners find it comforting to be with their pet when things go wrong. (Australian Companion Animal Council 2006).

But what if you don't have a dog?

Why not become a Seeing Eye Dog puppy carer?

You can experience the joy of looking



after a cute puppy without any of the associated costs and, at the same time, assist someone who is blind to live the life they choose.

Seeing Eye Dogs Australia is in need of loving homes for puppies in Melbourne, Warrnambool and Geelong.

So what are you waiting for?

For more info ring 5560 2300 or visit www.seda.org.au.

Visit the Adoption Directory at www.dogsvictoria.org.au/cdc/adoption.htm for more fostering opportunities.

How a dog can improve your health:

- They make you feel good
- Just having a pet around can help you lower your blood pressure
- Pet owners have a lower risk of dying from any cardiac disease, including heart failure
- Pet ownership can help fight loneliness and depression
- Dog owners tend to be more physically active and less likely to be obese than people who don't have a dog
- It's sociable; people are more likely to stop and talk when they see you walking your dog.

Companion Membership in DOGS Victoria

Currently membership in the Companion Dog Club is a separate entity to DOGS Victoria but starting early next year, Companion Membership will be integrated into DOGS Victoria membership.

What does this mean for CDC members?

Most changes will take place within the DOGS Victoria data system so you won't even notice them.

One great benefit is that your membership will be allocated via the

ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council) database and you will be issued with a DOGS Victoria membership card which will allow you to take advantage of membership benefits, such as discounts at participating businesses.

A further benefit is that if you purchase your next pet from a DOGS Victoria breeder, your membership allows you to transfer the puppy and its pedigree papers into your name at no cost.

Another great benefit of this merge is that Companion members can receive

the DOGS Victoria monthly magazine for an additional \$30 per year.

You will still need to join DOGS Victoria as a full member if you wish to compete in shows or trials.

The Companion Dog Club will continue to run fun, social events for all dogs. Please see page 5 for our 2010 diary.

If you have any questions please ring Karen on 9788 2509 or send an email to media@dogsvictoria.org.au.

Mark your 2010 Diary - CDC meets Sundays

**Big Day Out
for Dogs -
Sunday, 13
December at
KCC Park.**

FREE Entry!

**Bring your
dog and your
whole family!**

The 2010 format is changing!

Instead of the Walk and Talks on Thursday at KCC Park and Friday at Phillip Island, we will hold social dog walks at various dog-friendly locations around Victoria.

As a Companion member you will still have access to the off-lead areas and dam at KCC Park at any time.

Metro/suburban walks will be the third Sunday of each month starting in January and Phillip Island walks will be the first Sunday, starting from February 2010.

Members from both locations are invited to submit their favourite off-



lead venue. Please let us know the name of the venue, where it is located and why you and your dogs love it. This could be a park, beach, vineyard or anything!

Members will be asked to host a walk scheduled at their nominated area. As the host, you simply need to arrive a bit early to greet the other members and then be in charge of directing the walking route.

A DOGS Victoria staff member will no longer attend the walks so that they will be entirely in the hands of club members.

We will promote the walks through the Companion Dog Club website and

newsletter and also in the DOGS Victoria magazine.

Members are also invited to start their own branch of the Companion Dog Club in their area. In order to start your own branch you will need to host regular (at least once per month) dog walks. This could be at the same

location each time or at varying locations - whatever suits you, your dog and your particular area.

Members can also hold one-off events at a favourite location.

All of these types of events will be published on our website and in this newsletter.

The purpose for this change is to include more members in more areas and help all dog owners discover the many dog-friendly areas in Victoria.

Check the website regularly for each month's location!



www.dogsvictoria.org.au/cdc/diary.htm

Phillip Island Walk - Blue Gum Reserve - Settlement and Dunsmore roads, Cowes, Phillip Island - 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

Sunday, 6 December

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

Sunday, 13 December

Social Dog Walk - hosted by Sarah - Brighton Beach fenced dog area - Melways Ref 67 C9 - end of Bay Street, along the beach walking track - 2:00pm

Sunday, 17 January

Do you want to host the February (or other) Phillip Island event? Contact us now!

Sunday, 7 February

Do you want to host the February (or other) metro/south east event? Contact us now!

Sunday, 21 February

**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.