

ONE JUMP AHEAD

October 2016 Edition

Our Newest Agility Champion

AgCh Mysticskye

ADM, GDM, ADO, GDO, GDX, SDX, SPDX



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE AGILITY DOG CLUB OF SA INC.



Visit our website: www.agilitydogclubsa.com

“Agility Dog Club of SA”





COMMITTEE 2016



President:	Geoff Sykes	8373 0751	gsykes7@bigpond.com	Records Officer
Vice President:	Michelle Vuaran	0417877080	msvuaran@gmail.com	Historian/ Minutes Secretary/ Newsletter
Head Instructor:	Ingrid Hanegreefs	8556 7385	ihanegreefs@bigpond.com	Public Officer
Treasurer:	Lynn Fuller	8353 5558	llands@bigpond.com	
Secretary:	Rosalind King	0433 403 410	rosalind.king @adelaide.edu.au	Fundraising
Committee:	Sharon Milne		Sharon.Milne@hss.com.au	Assistant Trial Secretary
	Kathy Bannister	0400 148 674	kn.bannister@bigpond.com	Catering
	Cathy Warcup	8538 7217	KateWA440@gmail.com	Equipment
	Tam Holmes	0409 630 391	tamara.holmes @tattslotteries.com	Fundraising
Sub Committee:	Jo Shirlock	8277 2271	koojar1@bigpond.com	Trial Secretary
	Julie Brown	8338 4405	julie@collieston.com	Website

Membership Fees 2016

Single \$60.00*

Single \$15.00 Joining Fee
(new member) \$60.00 Annual Fee

Family \$90.00

Junior (under 17) \$30.00

Social, Instructors \$25.00
&
Committee

Committee and Instructor \$15.00

*if paid by 31st March in the
current year

Instructors

Head Instructor -

Ingrid Hanegreefs

Ass. Head Instructor -

Michelle Vuaran

Instructors

Neville Cox

Karen Moralee

Julie Brown

Ros King

Tanya Mellar

Geoff Sykes

Mika Peace

Aspiring
- Kathy Brown

FROM THE EDITOR

Well the big news since the last newsletter for me is that Skye got her Agility Champion title. Skye is an awesome little dog who always gives her all when she competes. When she gets it right she is awesome to watch! I am so lucky to have the honour of competing with such a wonderful friend, she is just so much fun.



A big thank you to all who have supported us through this not so easy journey. Those that helped us with our training (Tam, Cathy, Mel, Neville, Danni), those who always provided support and friendship especially on those days when I thought we were never going to pass again (that damn one bar!), and when Skye was injured (Judy, Geoff, Ros, Mika, Pin, Lesley and Ingrid) and a big thank you to Adelaide Dog Mobility/Glenside Veterinary Clinic for looking after Skye through her injuries and also for putting up with me in a teary mess on a number of occasions. I have mentioned a few people but there are many more.

I hope everyone feels such happiness when they run their dogs.

Enjoy the Newsletter and any contributions are very welcome, just email me!

Michelle, Taz and Skye





Training Information

2016 Training Schedule

	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4
6:50 - 7:30pm	Set up Equipment			
7:30 - 8:20pm	Introductory	Beginners &	Graduate	Advanced
8:20 - 8:30pm	ANNOUNCEMENTS			
8:30 - 9:30pm	Trialling 200/300/400/500/600			
9:30 - 10:00pm	Pack up			

The committee appreciates our members that come regularly every week and help set up and pack up. Your help is invaluable and helps us start training on time, which benefits us all!



Reminder

Membership Fees and Trial Entry Fees can be paid directly to our club bank account.

Account: 6129 7807 BSB: 805 050

Payment by bank deposit is encouraged as it reduces cash handling, fees and is traceable.



Club Shop

Cloth Title Badge \$5.50



Dog Leads (various sizes) \$10.00



Cloth Logo Badge \$5.50

Bag of Dog Treats \$2.00

Club Metal Badge \$5.00

Sublimated Polo Shirt \$45.00



Club Sticker (round) \$4.00



Rugby Jumper \$75.00

Club Sticker (long) \$4.00

Soft Shell Jacket \$75.00

Agility Bumper Sticker \$2.00

(All clothing orders will require a deposit)

Tea & Coffee 50¢

Water & Soft Drink \$1.00

Chocolate Bars \$1.00



PLACE ORDERS NOW!!!

The club uniforms are made especially for our club so we need place orders now!

Email Michelle—
mvsuaran@gmail.com or
 ring 0417 877080

Thomas ADMJDM ET ADOJDO SPDM SDM GDM

18/10/2001 - 19/10/2016

Thomas was my first dog and I am so grateful to Mum and Neville for letting me have the best dog in the world. That day Mum said I could have him was the best day ever. When we got home from the shops that day I couldn't wait to give him a big hug and call him mine. Mason gave him the best name, one that suited him very much (but being a Thomas the Tank Engine Fan his name wasn't going to be anything else). He was the best first dog anyone could ever ask for. He didn't dig, didn't chew and loved life. He was just perfect and over his life touched so many hearts. Anyone that came over he had to bring a ball or toy too. He would just play non-stop, he loved the ball. Thomas had an outstanding agility career, my Mr Ever Reliable. He was the first dog in SA to gain his Excellent Snooker Title and followed that up with also being the first dog in SA to get his Masters Snooker title. Along with his strategic pairs partner "Taz" they were both the first in the State to gain their Master Strategic Pairs title together. Both Masters titles coming on the same day. In 2007 Thomas won the Top Agility Award at club level, an achievement I am so proud of. Thomas ended up winning the State Top Strategic Pairs Award three times in 2008, 2009 and 2010. In 2008 he also won the state Top Snooker Dog Award. One of his last big achievements was in 2010, winning Masters Agility at the Royal Adelaide Show. Thomas never became a State Champion or an Agility Champion, but he is my Champion. He taught me so much through our agility career and I am forever grateful for our journey together. That journey has now come to an end, together til the very last moment. He will be dearly missed.

Run free my beautiful boy, I love you so much. Forever in my heart xxx

Written by Mel Mailo



Presidents Report

By the time this report is published I will be in North America enjoying the summer and early autumn (fall) over there. Michelle Vuaran will be deputising as President in my absence and the August Trial will have been run and won. Congratulations to Michelle and Skye on achieving an Agility Champion (500) title. That took a lot of talent, effort and dedication to overcome one or two setbacks along the way. Well done!

We are a little concerned about there being less entries for the August Trial than in past years. That could be a hangover from the Nationals, it might be a reaction to Separate Height Trials and the way we run them, or another theory is that it was too much for our Trial to be on one day and the Gawler Games Trial on the next day.

The Committee will be considering this carefully in the coming months. So Committee members will be very interested to hear any comments that members want to make on this problem so we can ensure that our Trials are catering for the needs of our members in particular, and the SA Agility community in general.

It is not too early to start thinking about the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 3rd November. Since Ingrid Hanegreefs resigned, Ros King has taken over as Secretary with Vice President Michelle Vuaran acting as Minute Secretary. It would be preferable to have someone doing the entire job and not burden Michelle with two jobs in addition to being the Newsletter Editor.

Lyn Fuller has indicated that she wants to step aside as Treasurer so that is another position that needs to be filled. Jo Shirlock does a terrific job as Trial Secretary but next year she wants to run both of her dogs. So, although she will still accept Trial entries and prepare the Catalogues, Jo will not be processing the results at our Trials.

This is the way things go in volunteer organisations. As time goes by people's ability to work as volunteers change and Clubs need other members to fill these positions. So, if you are interested in nominating for the Committee to help the Club in any of these capacities, please submit a nomination or discuss this with one of the existing Committee members. The duties and responsibilities of the Committee are outlined later in the Newsletter

Our next Trial is in the evening of Saturday 19th November. If you are available to help as a Steward please see me when I get back from my trip.

Finally put the date of Thursday 24th November in your diary. That's our break-up night. As well as presenting club awards we will be holding some fun events with our dogs. The evening features supper and members are asked to bring a plate of food to share. That can either be a savoury platter, a salad or a yummy dessert.

Until then, enjoy your dogs and remember to have fun at Agility.

Geoff Sykes



Gwenda Baker Award 2016



Gwenda Baker and her dog Gus



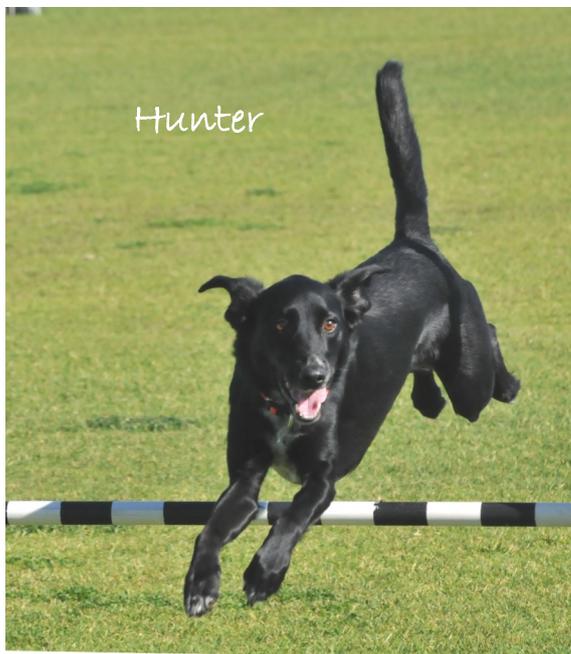
This year at our August Trial the Gwenda Baker Award was presented to Victor Jordan and Ashwyn. This award is presented in honour of one of the clubs founders Gwenda Baker. The award is presented to the best performing dog in the Agility Classes on the day.



Munno Para Trial 6th August 2016



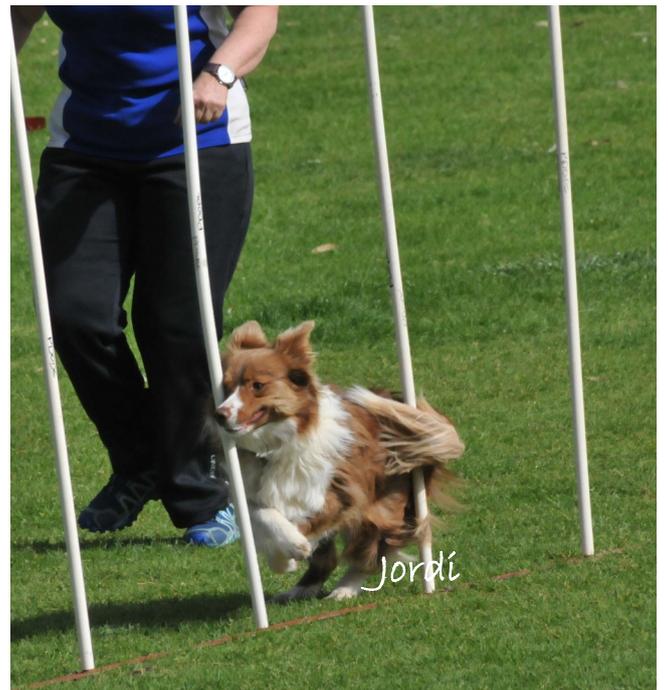
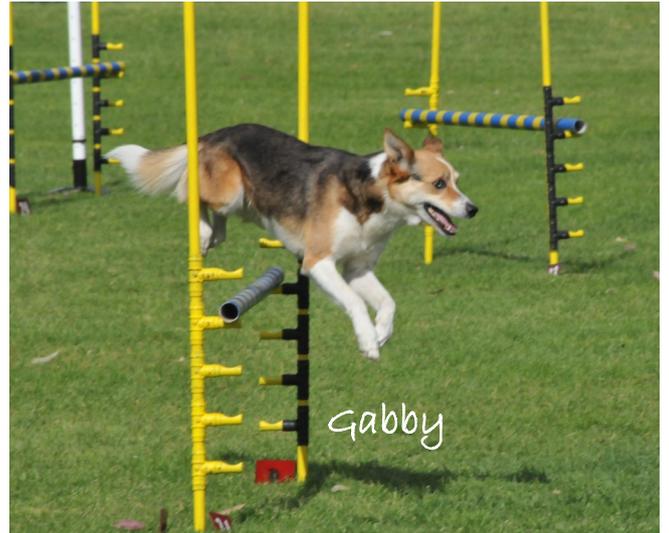
Munno Para Trial 6th August 2016



A special THANKYOU to Dr Pin Needham (Glenside Veterinary Clinic)
for his fabulous photos



Para Districts Trial 17th Sept 2016



Para Districts Trial 17th Sept 2016



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for his fabulous photos



Assistant Instructors Report

We have had a number of training nights cancelled do to the wild and crazy weather, but hopefully that's the end of it.....balmy nights from now on please!

Yet again the club members did really well in this years Royal Adelaide Show:



Masters Strategic Pairs

1st Mika and Mason with Misty and Ian
2nd Rio and Neville with Kaisias and Karen

Novice Strategic Pairs

1st Mika and Dash with Mac and Ian

Excellent Snooker

2nd Hunter and Tam
3rd Maggie and Rebecca

Master Agility

2nd Rio and Neville

Excellent Agility

1st Jasmine and Jenny

Open Jumping

1st Jordi and Judy

Agility Master 400

1st Rio and Neville

Excellent Strategic Pairs

2nd Kim and Cathy with Hunter and Tam

Master Snooker

2nd Rio and Neville

Open Agility

3rd Kaisias and Karen

Novice Agility

1st Jordi and Judy

Excellent Jumping

2nd Dash and Mika
3rd Zuma and Tash

Jumping Master 400

1st Rio and Neville

Novice Jumping

1st Jordi and Judy

Keep training and helping each other out with all the new techniques which are emerging. I am so proud of my guys in the introduction class who have all move up and are doing so well. Before you know it your names (and your dogs names) will be on this list!

Well done to all our members!

Michelle Vuaran



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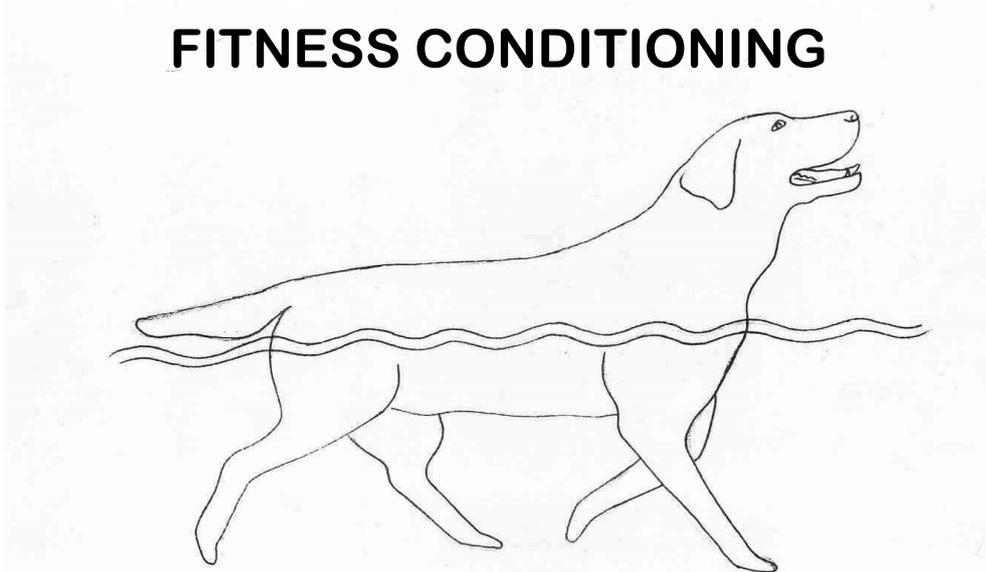
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Move of the Month

Who is up for the challenge of learning a new move...try this one

From Frenzy to Focus

By Emma Parsons

When I am giving my “Click to Calm” seminars, a couple of questions invariably come up: “How do I get my dog to pay attention to me during an agility trial? How do I keep my dog from going ‘nuts’ when another dog is running the course?” These handlers then explain how, in class, their dogs manage to stay focused, but at a trial, become so frenzied or overwhelmed by the stimuli in the environment that they cannot function and cannot perform the obstacles efficiently. Agility trials are fast-paced and intense. Dogs and handlers wait eagerly for the chance to complete their courses quickly and accurately. No wonder, then, that in this highly distracting, intense environment, competitors may become reactive to the barrage of stimuli swirling about them. The biggest challenge for a handler is to teach a dog to concentrate on cue and to remain attentive to direction until the completion of the course. For this to happen, a dog must be taught to “think” in the midst of all this chaos. In addition, because dogs are in close proximity to each other at agility trials, one reacting dog may cause a chain reaction as others explode in response. With clicker training, however, we can sculpt our dog’s emotions no matter how intense the environment. We can teach our dogs to remain calm despite the heavy distractions surrounding them. Then they can focus on us, their handlers, and perform the obstacles to the best of their ability. We can also teach them to tolerate another dog’s rude behaviours that might otherwise trigger an aggressive response.

Clicker training, a positive-reinforcement training system, is based on the principles of operant conditioning, which incorporates the use of a marker signal (the click) to tell the animal precisely what he is doing right at that point in time. Behaviours that are marked by the click, even if you are reinforcing an emotional state, will be strengthened and are more likely to happen again. The handler clicks the desired behaviour and then gives the dog a food treat or favourite toy. The benefits of using the clicker are many: it is easy to carry, easy to use; it means the same thing all the time no matter what the circumstance (and no matter how nervous you might be). Even in the distracting excitement of a trial, the strength and meaning of the clicker remains constant. Learning is quicker simply because there is no emotional variability involved. Let’s look at a common example of how this learning could be applied.

Dogs That Respond Aggressively When Watching Other Dogs Run

If you have a dog that cannot watch another dog run an agility course without getting overstimulated, then you will want to teach your dog to observe the running dog calmly and to give you automatic eye contact when this process begins. Once you have his attention, then you can ask your dog to perform a series of incompatible behaviors. This will keep him busy while he waits to enter the ring.

To start this process, click and feed your dog at a high rate of reinforcement for simply being in the environment. You will want to work within your dog’s tolerance level. It doesn’t matter what body position your dog is in as long as he is tolerating the environment better than he has in the past. This type of reinforcement is known as the Differential Reinforcement of Low Intensity Behaviour or DRL. Click and feed him at the lowest points of intensity of the reactive behaviour. If you cannot tell where this is, watch your dog breathe. Click as he takes a breath and then feed. By marking the behaviour at its lowest points, you will cause an overall decline in the intensity of the behaviour. You will start to see small windows of calm behaviour.

Move of the Month

Who is up for the challenge of learning a new move...try this one

The more you continue to click, the calmer your dog will become. Then progress to clicking and feeding him for actually watching another dog move in the ring. As you continue this process, your dog will start to give you automatic eye contact when he sees the stimulus that produced the click/treat originally. When he begins to look at the running dog in the ring and gives you eye contact immediately after, you will want to switch your criteria to clicking about 98% of eye contact and 2% of watching dogs run in the ring. This behavior will become very automatic and noticeable. The result is that the problematic stimulus, in this example the running of the other dog, becomes the cue, in and of itself, to look at you, the handler. So the more chaotic the environment, the quicker your dog will give you eye contact. Not a bad quality for a highly competitive dog. As you continue to work this behavior, the more focused and relaxed your dog will become. Now, if you choose, you can insert your cues to perform the incompatible behaviors before you enter the ring.

Secrets of Success:

- Determine how close your dog has to be to the dog running the course before he reacts.
- Make a note of this distance.
- Back up a couple of feet. This will become your dog's threshold.
- Start clicking and feeding your dog from this distance. You will want your dog to be somewhat stimulated but not completely out of control. If your dog is constantly out of control, no matter what the distance, start clicking and feeding somewhere in the middle. Try to time your click as he takes a breath, but even if your timing is off, windows of hesitation will still slowly open. (Clicker training is very forgiving of handler errors.) As this hesitation happens, it will allow you to time your clicks better. Now you can start testing to see where your threshold is and continue from there.
- Use a high rate of reinforcement when beginning and use a type of treat that your dog never gets unless he is doing this work. (You can play tug with your dog as a reward only if your dog will take the toy and drop it on cue.)
- Click your dog for looking at and hearing other dogs in the agility ring. This will produce automatic eye contact.
- Work speed and distance separately. For example, if you have a friend that could practice running her dog at a slower pace in the agility ring, then you could get closer to the ring and click and feed your dog for watching the other dog's movements. If you are at a real agility trial, click and feed your dog for watching the other dogs run, but in this case, remember to work at your dog's threshold. Adjust your distance accordingly.
- Wear gloves if your dog takes the treat forcefully. This behavior will start to disappear as your dog's tolerance level improves.
- Click and feed the dog for watching other dogs moving at a fast pace both on the agility field and off. Capture the behavior with a click as often as you can.
- As with any training method, if you do not see improvement, stop and re-evaluate your training plan. Consult with a clicker trainer in your area.

Move of the Month

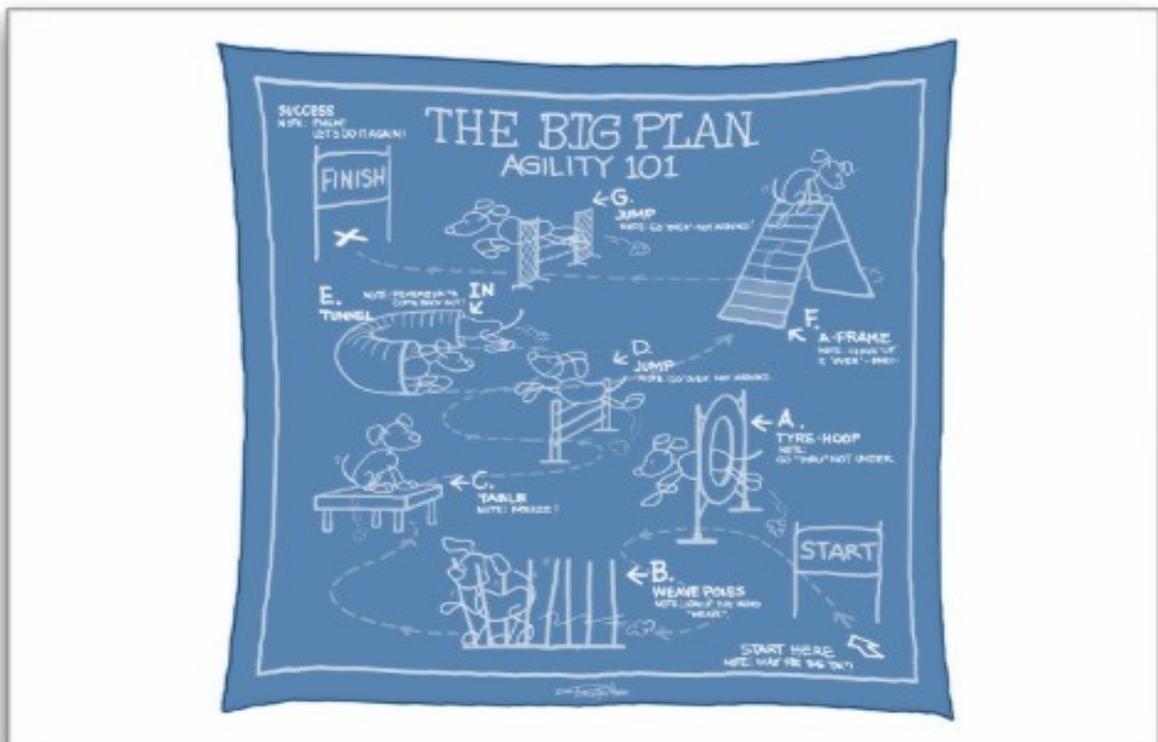
Who is up for the challenge of learning a new move...try this one

In my reactive dog classes, we work the agility obstacles usually by the third week. Handlers are quiet and dogs are concentrating. Not only are we teaching the dogs to perform the obstacles

accurately, but as we are working one dog at a time, the handlers on the sidelines are clicking and treating their dogs for watching and listening to the potential triggers that previously might have sparked their dogs' aggressive episodes in the past. The result: automatic eye contact followed by the performance of previously learned cued behaviors. Now, instead of merely reacting to the challenging stimuli in the surrounding environment, these dogs have become thinking beings.

Author's note: If you are going to bring your clicker to the agility trial, be sure to click at a distance away from the ring. Be respectful of the trial rules and the people around you.

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more information.

KateWA440@gmail.com

Positions Vacant



Secretary

Record and maintain minutes, receive and sent out correspondence. Prepare and circulate documents for meetings (both committee and AGM) e.g agenda and minutes.

Trial Secretary Assistant — Our current Trial Secretary has a huge workload with 5 Agility Trials per year and we are looking for someone who can share the workload. In particular, we would like to train someone up this year so that they can take over the two Games Trials next year. No prior experience necessary as you will be fully trained by our current Trial Secretary. Would suit someone with some interest in administration or a willingness to learn. Be trained by one of the best!

Example of duties – Receives Trial entries and monies; publishes Trial Catalogues; registers competitors and oversees vetting; prepares Qualifications Cards; pays Judges and Stewards; issues Marked Catalogues.

Stewards — A steward's job is very important, they assist the judge in the running of the ring. They help set up the course, change the heights, pick up knocked equipment at the end of a dogs run, time accurately, record times and faults on the judging sheet, call for competitors to be at the ring and ready to go, take dog leads and help pack up the equipment. Lunch and a gift are provided.

Treasurer -

Treasurer—will receive all monies payable to the club and give receipts. All money received will be placed into a bank account of the club. Present a financial balance at each committee meeting (monthly) and AGM (annually). Keep proper accounts of all monies received and disbursed. Examples of duties— pay monthly rental on grounds, prepare monthly financial balance, bank monies received from trials and membership



Calendar of Events 2016

October		
16th (Saturday)	Gawler Dog Training Club	Agility Trial 9am and 1pm
22nd/23rd (Saturday/Sunday)	Blue Lake Dog Training Club	Agility Trial 9am and 1pm
29th (Saturday)	Munno Para Dog Club	Agility Trial 9am and 1pm
November		
3rd Thursday	Club AGM	7:30pm
12th(Saturday)	Southern Districts Dog Club	Agility Trial 6pm
19th (Saturday)	Agility Dog Club SA Training Club	Agility Trial
24th (Thursday)	Club Break Up Night	7pm
December		
31st (Saturday)	Gawler Dog Training Club	Agility Trial 6pm

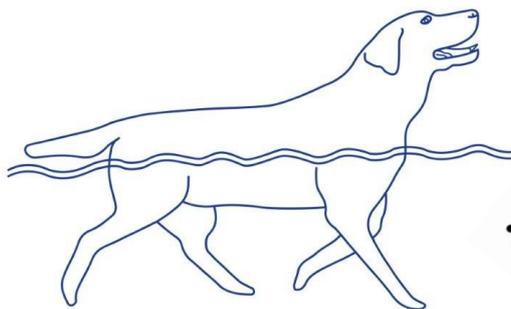


ADCSA End of Year Break UP Night 7pm

– bring a plate of food to share and BYO drinks.



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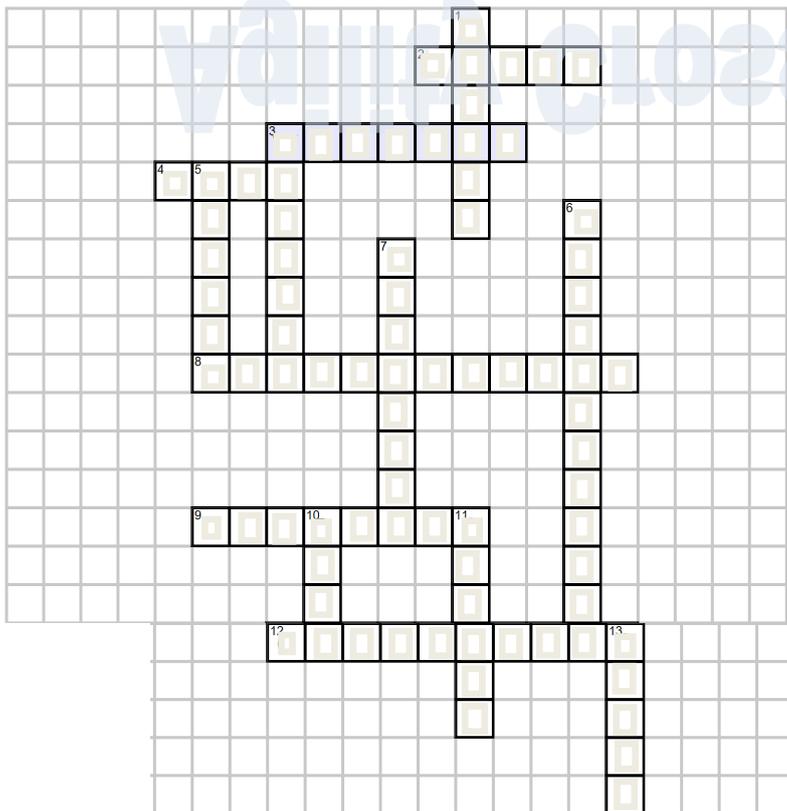
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Agility Crossword



Across	Down
2 Person who grades you whilst you compete in the ring?	1 Long stretched out cylinder?
3 Where were the National held this year?	3 What are 12 poles lined up in a line called?
4 How many qualifications required for Novice?	5 First name of the Head Instructor of ADCSA
8 If you perform an obstacle in the wrong order?	6 Geoff owns what breed of dog?
9 Type of game in agility	7 Large contact obstacle
12 President of the ADCSA	10 Colour of the contact zone
	11 Tipping obstacle
	13 How many qualifications required for Masters?



Try this exercise!

This months challenge comes from the 2015 AWC Team Agility Large Course.

Which wrap at #3 results in the best time for you and YOUR dog?

