

WGSDCA

Dog'sport Magazine



WINTER 2020

WGSDCA

Editor

from the desk

KARYN WORTH

Welcome to WGSDCA's winter edition! This edition is jam packed with interesting articles.

Thanks to Mia Skogster and her team from Inspire Ur Dog inspireurdog.com a new on-line training website where Mia and the team will inspire you to be a better trainer/handler.

Also a big thank you to Nicky Wright for sharing her story on Koala detection with her GSD Ada.

If you have been having trouble trimming your dog's nails then there is an article here you should read. Thanks to Glynis Hendricks from Haveloc Kennels for providing the article.

We also take a look into our IGP future with an interview with two of our Junior handlers.

In closing thanks to the clubs who have submitted a story about what they have been doing during lockdown. Now as restrictions are easing in some states we will see more activity from everyone.

Stay safe and enjoy reading our winter edition!

Dogsport: the preservation of the working dog.

Mission Statement

To maintain and improve the temperament and physical soundness of the German Shepherd Dog in Australasia.

To promote responsible dog ownership to our members.

Our Vision

To be a progressive dogsport organisation in partnership with the international dogsport community.

Contents

WGSDCA Editor	2
A Word From The President	3
What Talented Handlers are Made of?	6
Interview with Our Young Members	10
The German Shepherd Dog Saving Australia's Native Fauna	12
Club News: Metro Dogsport Club	16
Club News: Norwest Dogsport Club	18
Club News: Sydney Dogsport Club	20
Introduction to Nail Trimming	22

SCOREBOOKS, SPORTS PASSES AND FORMS

When filling out the forms for your score books, sports passes, membership and in particular trial validation forms it would be appreciated if the forms could be typed rather than hand written, where possible, to ensure accurate records are kept and scorebooks and sportpasses reflect the correct information. Also when scanning please make sure the scans are of good quality in black and white.

Please ensure payment forms accompany all payments so the money can be allocated to the correct person and item eg. Smith – scorebook.

INDIVIDUAL WGSDCA MEMBERSHIP

Whether your interest is breeding or training the German Shepherd Dog, or simply enjoying the company of people like you who love to spend time with their dogs, WGSDCA has something for you. Send us an email to learn more.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You can join WGSDCA through one of our Club Affiliates or directly. We have five categories of Individual Membership of the WGSDCA:

- Individual Membership
- Dual Membership
- Youth Membership (free)
- Life member
- Social Membership

Members of WGSDCA have to renew their WGSDCA Individual Membership annually.

Send us an email for further information.

secretary@wgsdca.org.au

A Word From The President

In the Storm of a Pandemic

As I'm sitting here with a cup of coffee on a cold Saturday morning to write the President column for our Winter Edition, I read the column from the last edition which was written 11 March 2020. Two days later was Day 1 of 50 days of shutdown in Australia.

In the months that followed we slowly witnessed the cancellation or postponement of every canine flagship event, not only in Australia but worldwide. Our own National Championship was postponed and is currently pending the re-opening of international borders, unless we of course choose to use our own SV Trial Judge, Mr Reg Worth. This is an open question and subject to how long the Australian international borders remain closed. The effect of the international border closure has however proven very powerful, and Australia crushed the spread-rate almost instantaneously. For that we should all be grateful.

The shutdown has been challenging for all of us – and our dogs – on so many levels. Personally, I suddenly experienced my dogs starting to



Photo credit: Crystal Lakatos

dig holes, chewing stuff and becoming very restless. Behaviours I have never seen in them before. I believe this is a true testament to the mental health and welfare that is the foremost interest of IGP dogsport.

Our Club Affiliates faced hibernation and hence the content of this Edition is slightly slim on updates from our Clubs. Nevertheless, as we are experiencing the ongoing lifting of restrictions, our Clubs are slowly picking up training as provided for by the various state specific COVID-19 laws. The return to training and hosting trials must put first and foremost an interest on appropriately managing the risk of COVID-19 and prioritise the health and

safety of the individuals partaking in our training and upcoming trials. Early June, the FCI Utility Dogs Commission circulated a memorandum to their members in which they addressed the challenges that countries are facing with respect to being able to host IGP trials in full, partially or not at all. For the moment, the FCI is postponing any international events, but the following recommendations have been communicated for country specific trials due to each country dealing with the pandemic in different ways. The FCI has communicated that each organisation catering for IGP trials is responsible for their own decision-process. The FCI has provided the below **temporary changes** which are subject to the restrictions set by the law in a given country:

- » The foremost interest should be on protecting the health and safety of our members. For Australia that means following the rules about gatherings, physical distance, practice good hand hygiene and stay at home if experiencing any flu-like symptoms, even if they are mild.
- » **Microchip checking:** the person and handler should wear a face-mask
- » **Reporting in/out:** no handshake and the social distancing rule applies.
- » **BH-VT Part B:** The group exposure should abide the social distancing rule.
- » **Tracking, indication of foreign articles:** The dog handler wears gloves. After the dog has indicated the article, the article is placed behind the dog. The tracklayer will pick up articles.
- » **Dumbbell exercises:** Each dog handler hands over their own set of dumbbells marked with their name. The Trial secretary handles these with gloves and places the individual sets of dumbbell to the dumbbell stand just prior to the teams reporting in.

- » **Obedience Group:** The social distancing rule applies. I.e. a minimum of 1.5m must be observed between the group members and a tight circle around people must not be undertaken for as long as a country has a 1.5m social distancing rule in place.
- » **C-work:** In IGP1 and if not doing a call-out from the blind, then the handler cannot step closer than 1.5m to the handler in the blind and has to call the dog into basic position from there. The 1.5m social distancing rule applies to the sidetransport and the stick is not taken from the helper. The pickup after out/guarding: After instruction by the judge, the handler goes to the helper and stops a minimum 1.5m away and from where the dog is called into a basic position. Alternatively, the handler can ask the dog to sit/stand, and then ask the helper to step 2m back. The handler then goes to the dog and take it into a basic position.

The WGSACA BOM will be discussing these recommendations and the extent to which they are necessary in light of Australia rolling out the next phase of further lifting restrictions in July. Nevertheless, we trust the WGSDCA Club Affiliates have implemented a COVID-19 Safe Training/Trial Plan as part of getting back to looking after the mental health and welfare of our dogs.

For those Clubs planning a Club trial in the near future. Please re/submit your Trial Notification form as well as the precautions put in place to ensure the health and safety of all involved.

On behalf of the WGSDCA BOM - Train safe and be considerate of your fellow dog enthusiasts.

SANNE PEDERSEN | WGSDCA PRESIDENT



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What Talented Handlers are Made of?

EMMA HIETARINTA
MASTER OF PSYCHOLOGY
& SPORT PSYCHOLOGIST





It is inspiring to follow training and competition performances of famous handlers around the world. We admire their achievements. We might wonder how they became so successful. How much time do they spend on training? What does their training routine look like? How come they are not affected by the pressure? How often do they do physical exercises with their dog?

What we see in championships is just a small glance of the hard work they have done for many, many years.

But what actually makes a talented handler?

In addition to the more mechanical sport specific skills, there are abilities and traits that handlers need to train and improve. It is not only a matter of how well you are able to train your dog and the abilities your dog might have.

I have worked with several talented and successful dog handlers. One of them is the double world champion Mia Skogster. We worked closely together this spring when preparing our On-line lecture 'How to reach the Flow'. Based on these discussions with Mia, the picture of a good dog handler became clearer in my mind.

I have listed here my view of the top ten skills and abilities of a good dog handler, which can be present and trained at any level. You can become a talented dog handler even before your first competition. You will notice that some of these skills you probably already have, and luckily all these elements are something we can improve and train.

1. Love and respect your dog.

The relationship with our dog is unique, and many studies have shown what we already know by experience: the attachment and affective bond between owner and dog is strong. The will to succeed should not blur your empathy or override your love for your dog.

Tip: You can learn to be grateful about your dog, and you can learn to focus more on positive thinking regarding your dog. Speak nicely about your dog and remind yourself daily about the positive traits and habits your dog has.

2. Understand your dog's individuality.

Learning to understand your dog's personality is one of the intriguing challenges of dog sports.

Tip: Read research articles about dog's personality, emotions and cognition. Try to observe your dog objectively in different environments and situations. For example: How does your dog approach new things? How much support your dog might need?

3. Clear and consistent **communication** between a dog and handler is highly important. This applies to both verbal and non-verbal communication. If your dog doesn't understand you, he won't be able to work with you.
Tip: Sometimes it is helpful to train your tone of voice, gestures or postures first without your dog. Giving the commands every time exactly the same way will help your dog to understand you.
4. Use every opportunity to gain more **experience**. Great dog handlers aren't just born that way! It is often helpful to observe other handlers when they are interacting with their dogs, maybe you can copy something from them. Also use critique and feedback wisely to evaluate your behaviours. Consider feedback as a tool to improve your performance and behaviour, rather than getting defensive or upset.
Tip: You can ask someone to film your training in order to improve your handling skills, observe both your dog's and your behaviour. Be inspired about other handlers and ask for tips and advice from handlers you admire.
When you use criticism wisely, it can be your tool to improve performance and to do better the next time.
5. Cherish a **growth mindset**. Great handlers understand that there is still much to learn. Be curious and excited about learning more, and dedicate yourself to knowledge and improvement.
Tip: You can start to develop a growth mindset by slightly shifting your perspective. Understanding that you are never ready, and there is always something to learn and to improve. Try to see failing in a training or in competition as a learning experience. Next time you are better prepared. Consider setbacks and challenges as learning opportunities. Pay attention how you speak about yourself as a trainer and how you speak about your dog. If you are constantly putting yourself down, this might also have an impact on your behaviour and body language.
6. Cultivate **self-reflection** and **responsibility**. Don't just blame others when things don't go as planned; look at yourself also. Frequently the mistakes are ours, not that of the dog or anyone else for that matter. If we accept our responsibility when things go wrong, then we can improve and take whatever actions are needed to correct our performance.
Tip: You can practice self-reflection by keeping a training journal: when you are writing your thoughts out in a journal it is easier to organise them. Keeping a training journal will also help you to evaluate your progress.
Ask yourself important questions after each training; what we achieved in this training? How did the training feel? What could I improve next time?
Sometimes it is good to analyse a particular training event more deeply: Why did that training make me feel that way? What was good about that training session? What could be done better?
7. Train **mental skills**. Training your dog can be sometimes stressful and competitions can increase your tension, stress and anxiety even more. You can develop and train coping mechanisms that will help you to deal with the stress of competition.
Tip: Learn to think more positively. When we are trying to see things in different ways and also trying to find something positive from the setbacks, the easier it will become to stay more positive. You can also try different relaxation techniques: learn deep breathing, ways to enhance your concentration, maybe you would enjoy meditation and relaxation techniques. Also seeking social support in stressful situations often helps, speaking with your friends about your thoughts and feelings.
8. **Spend time** with your dog! Doing things together also outside the training field will benefit you both. This free time will enhance your connection and the wellbeing of both of you will increase. Surely we all appreciate some leisure time and relaxation.



Tip: Go out for long walks in the forest, or swimming. The time you spend in training sessions is much less than the time you spend with your dog in other activities and your free time. So the time outside the training field counts. Do things together that you both enjoy, as this will improve your relationship and connection with your dog. And also decrease the stress levels after hard training.

9. Pay attention to the **small details**. Use your *inner critic* intentionally to help you evaluate your training progress and to recognize areas of improvement. Be consistent with your training, but do not forget to build flexibility. Sometimes you might need to adjust your training methods.

Tip: When you are in the field with your dog it is all about trusting your gut feeling and going with the flow. If you are constantly evaluating and criticizing your own handling you are not present in the moment. Try to get your inner critic out of your way. When you are training, you should focus on your dog. If something surprising happens we often need to make fast decisions and just trust our intuition. Once the training is done, it is time to use the inner critic and think of ways to improve the handling and how to perform even better the next time.

10. Have **patience**. Learning takes time, and teaching processes cannot be rushed. The handler and the dog both need time to learn new things and to get to know each other. The magic lies in the excellent basics. Everyday training happens step by step, and some parts might take a very long time.

Tip: Tendency to hurry up things does not work as the process of learning and growth takes time. You can practice to slow down, maybe you can take several deep breaths before you start your training. You can even make a habit of taking deep breaths in every basic position you make. There is no hurry.

Remember to think realistically about time and effort. It takes time to learn. Don't expect to master every exercise in just a few training sessions. 🐾

LOVE TO LEARN MORE?

WE LOVE TO INSPIRE DOGS

We have devoted ourselves to explore and understand dog's mind. Our mission is to inspire dog handlers worldwide and help them to affect and control their dog's emotions and behaviour.

Whether you are already an experienced competitor or a complete beginner, **join the pack** and let us help you to inspire 'ur dog and reach your next personal level together!

inspireurdog.com

Interview with Our Young Members

WGSDCA's next generation of dog trainers and competitors. Great to see the dedication of these two young and talented trainers who are prepared to put in the time to train their dogs as well as spending time just having fun with them.

Name: Evie

Age: 12

Club: Valley Dogsport Club

What Breed are you currently training?

Breed: Belgian Malinois

Age: 12 months old

Name: Amethyst

When did you start training dogs and is this your first dog you trained?

I started last year and this is my first dog that I have owned and trained.

When did you start IGP training?

I started IGP training in July 2019

Have your family always had dogs and how did you get involved or interested in IGP?

My family breeds dogs at Craftmaster Kennels and my Father is training to be an IGP Helper, I would go to training with him and watch others training their dogs. One day my Mum asked me if this is a sport that I would like to do and I said yes. Mum let me pick a puppy from her litter to keep and train.



What phase of IGP training do you like best and why?

I like C Work because I love watching how much my dog enjoys it. Amethyst loves the sleeve and plays, it makes me happy to see her like that.

What do you like about training at an IGP Club?

I love my Club. Everyone is supportive and patient and are very helpful. Being apart of an IGP Club has helped me bond with my dog and helped my confidence.

How often do you train your dog and what other fun things do you do with your dog?

I train with Amethyst about twice per week sometimes more. I love to take her for a walk and play in the park near my house.

What do you hope to achieve in IGP?

I would love to see how far I can go with Amethyst. It would be great to get to IGP3 with her.



Name: Corah

Age: 11

Club: Valley Dogsport Club

What Breed are you currently training?

Breed: German Shepherd

Age: 6 months old

Name: Torvi

When did you start training dogs and is this your first dog you trained?

My brothers and sister and me have always helped my parents with their puppies and dogs that stay on for training to go to working jobs. Last year I asked Mum and Dad if I could have a dog of my own. Mum then gave me the responsibility to help her with her dog Aztek. She let me work with him in obedience. I fell in love with training him, and I asked Mum if I could have a puppy from Aztek. Mum must have thought I done ok with him because I started training my very own dog, Torvi, at the end of 2019. Torvi is my very first dog so she is special to me.

When did you start IGP training?

I started training in IGP at Valley when Torvi was 8 weeks old at the start of February 2020.

Have your family always had dogs and how did you get involved or interested in IGP?

Yes, my family breed German Shepherds and own Von Darcor Kennels. I think really I became interested when I was little and Mum sometimes took us to Club training when Dad had to work. I would watch Mum train her dog for IGP at home and liked the different training and exercises. I then asked if I could go to some seminars Mum went to and I met nice people from other Clubs and from overseas and I thought this is a sport I would like to do.

What phase of IGP training do you like best and why?

I really enjoy Tracking, because we face different challenges every day, like today, a Hawk landed on the track and started taking the food away. It didn't bother Torvi though! I also like working on Obedience because I feel Torvi and I have formed a special bond through this training. I like training Torvi to search the blinds, because I love how happy and fast she is when she is running around them.

What do you like about training at an IGP Club?

I really like my Club. All the people at Valley are kind and helpful and have supported me training at the Club even though I am young. Valley and Torvi have helped me become a little more confident. I also enjoy watching people improve and love watching the dogs grow as they learn with their trainers. I like learning off other trainers to help me become a better trainer.

How often do you train your dog and what other fun things do you do with your dog?

Torvi and I train 5-6 days each week, but I would train more if I could. I like to ride my horse with Torvi, she runs alongside us. I also go swimming with her and take her for a walk, I pretty much do everything with her.

What do you hope to achieve in IGP?

I still have a lot to learn but my first goal is to achieve a BH with Torvi. Of course the big goal is to train her to IGP3, but I'd love to one day be able to go to the Nationals with Torvi and trial alongside the best IGP trainers and IGP dogs in Australia. 🐾

The German Shepherd Dog Saving Australia's Native Fauna

NICKY WRIGHT

The koala is an Australian national icon, it's natural range is confined to the east coast of mainland Australia, inhabiting Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and south east corner of South Australia.

Unfortunately for the koala this is also the most human populated region of Australia, creating habitat loss and habitat fragmentation which in turn means that the species is having to travel further to find resources such as food trees, territories and mates. In the southern states the koalas are so densely populated they are competing for food and are inadvertently killing their food trees; increased population density also results in a poor genetic pool, and increased exposure to disease such as *Chlamydia pecorum*, which can effect conjunctiva and eyesight, or the urogenital system causing painful cystitis and ovarian cysts, along with reproductive sterility; additionally, koalas suffer from koala retrovirus, which is an AIDS-like immune deficiency syndrome, making the individual susceptible to illness.

The urbanisation and lack of wildlife corridors in koala habitat also means that individuals have an increased likelihood of becoming struck by a motor vehicle, or pass through a private property and be attacked by a domestic dog.



Up until the 1920's koalas were hunted for their pelts, causing localised extinction in some parts of South Australia and Victoria; in 1937 the koala was listed as a protected species. The koala is currently listed on the IUCN RED List as Vulnerable, with a decreasing trend in population. Currently there is no legislation to protect identified koala habitat. The summer of 2019/2020 was a horrifying time of year for koala conservationists, as areas with robust populations, particularly within the Central – Northern NSW, were bombarded with ferocious bush fires.

Koala's can be difficult for ecologists to locate in the wild, despite their large cumbersome appearance they seem to disappear into the canopy of tall eucalyptus; they are crepuscular, meaning they are mostly active around dawn and dusk; undesirably for us, they are rarely active during the daytime and prefer the nocturnal lifestyle. However, as they consume a diet high in fibre and low in energy they do produce a lot of faecal pellets which can be used to detect the presence or absence of a population or an individual. Many of the pellets range in size from about 10 – 40mm; in the zoological world we call these pellets "scat"; when dropped from a height they scatter far and wide and quickly become buried in the leaf litter and scrub surrounding the gum tree the koala is feeding and/or napping in.

A study conducted by the University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, found that using

a trained detection dog was 19 times more efficient than current scat survey techniques and 153% more accurate (when off leash) than human-only teams. They concluded that using a dog was significantly faster, significantly more accurate and therefore more economically viable as a research method (Cristescu, et al. 2015)

The canine's olfactory system is reported to be as much as 100 000 times that of a human being. Their nasal cavity has approximately 50 times as many as receptors as a human; they have a unique nose shape that allows expelled air to exit without disrupting the inhaled air, as well as the vomeronasal organ for chemoreception (Tyson, 2012). The olfactory cortex in the dogs brain is 12.5% of their total brain mass; ours is less than 1%(Williams, 2011).

Studies conducted on efficacy of several breeds used for drug detection found that German Shepherd Dogs had higher accuracy than the other breeds. It is known that breeds that are specifically bred for scent work demonstrate higher olfactory acuity than other breeds (Polgár et al., 2016). Additionally, odour discrimination is not exclusive to the physiology of the breed, much comes down to the trainability and the motivation of the dog (in one study, 90% of greyhounds had to be excluded for "failure to participate").

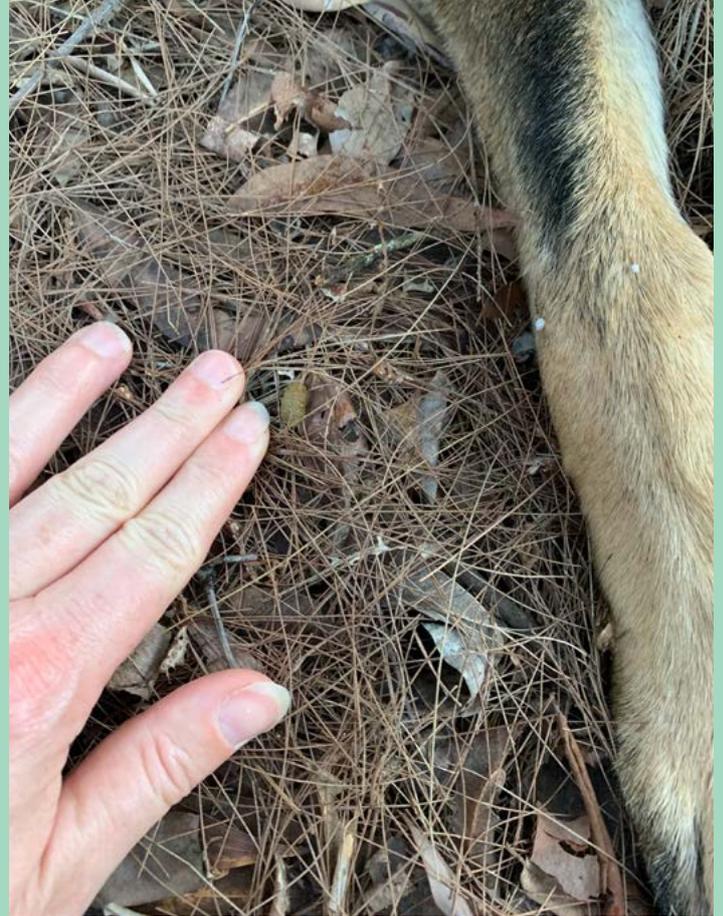


Conservation detection dogs come under a range of role descriptions: native fauna (wildlife) and flora detection, invasive fauna and flora detection, poacher and ammunition detection and apprehension (such as the elephant and rhino dogs in Africa), and some may include feral animal hunting.

From conception, Morekos Dasyurus aka Ada, was destined to become a wildlife detection dog. She was initially trained on spotted-tail quoll scat; a native carnivorous marsupial, approximately the size of small cat. Ada was indicating on the odour at a young age, this is largely thanks to her breeder who was able to provide a puppy enrichment program and encourage the puppy from a very young age to fetch as well as engage in tug-o'-war. These are key behaviours sought after in any working dog prospect: building desire for her ultimate reward and motivation at an early imprinting life stage.

Ada was certified at 11 months old with the Canine Detection Certification Council on the target odour of spotted-tail quoll; this is currently the only recognised conservation detection dog certification process with an independent assessor (a very poignant fact). To become certified the handler must demonstrate that they have complete control of the dog, demonstrating the following tasks: recall, a duration out-of-sight stay, a stop (with distraction), and change of direction. The target odour is left to set for 30 minutes and the dog has 7 minutes to locate the target odour. Upon certification Ada was the first dog independently trained and certified in Queensland, and the first German Shepherd certified through the CDCC.

The GSD was chosen for this task, as previously mentioned they have the olfactory necessary to be efficient at the task; additionally they exhibit good prey-drive, and they are attentive to their handler and easy to train. Hunt drive should be assessed in any dog intended for detection work. The genetics of the dog required a pedigree of dogs that have proven scent/tracking skills to ensure the utmost success. Many rescue dogs are used for conservation detection work, however the science tells us that known genetics



(pedigree) sets the foundation for efficiency; we really have to ask, with so much at stake, is using off-breed unknown parentage the best outcome for our endangered species?

At two years old Ada was certified with the CDCC on koala scat; this was trained as more work is available on koala scat: Ada worked successfully and intensively for a road construction site in northern NSW. Being the brilliant dog she is, we were able to do a short training/handover process with an ecologist to handle her on this job and have the “team” certified.

It had become apparent that working on the road-works was losing sight of why Ada was initially trained as a conservation detection dog; the long term goal had always been to help native species, and not necessarily to clear habitat to increase the capacity of a highway. Since finishing up on that worksite we have endeavoured to be available for local koala rescue groups, including over the recent bushfire season of 2019/2020 where we assisted in identifying locations which had not had a confirmed koala population prior to the fire going through. We were able to confirm that there was a population present, and we found a live large male koala for the koala rescue group to monitor.

Ada is capable of finding minuscule sized scat buried under a lot of leaf litter; she finds old scat, disintegrated scat, burnt scat and fresh scat. Recently it has become apparent that she has (self-taught) started to track koala odour back to scat, as well as indicate on specific trees where a koala is, or has evidence of a koala using it; as a dog trainer it makes sense, as dogs will use the most efficient route to gain their reward, however the brilliance of the GSD comes through in this process.

Ada has been trained to maintain a stand and “stare” at the location of the source of odour, this was specifically trained as I did not want her to have to perform a sit or a drop in terrain in which it would be difficult, however Ada has self taught a drop when I begin moving towards her. Wildlife detection dogs must have a passive indication, they should not bark, and the team should be mindful of minimal disturbance. The koala scat has such strong associative learning paired with it that Ada will indicate on the scat while she has her ultimate reward – her ball.

Wildlife detection dogs are not allowed to chase wildlife, not even feral or introduced species. Therefore they MUST have a reliable “stop” and recall trained. Although Ada has a strong prey drive she has never overlooked a recall whistle; she has my guarantee (and the history to prove it) that when she comes back she WILL get her ball and we will have a play. The relationship an owner builds with her GSD will ensure trust and reliability abounds.

Whilst we have been tasked by the local wildlife rescue agency to add a new endangered marsupial odour to Ada’s repertoire; Ada’s daughter Greta will hopefully be the next Morekos GSD to be certified as a koala detection dog. Greta was sold as a puppy to a service dog home and 18 months later was returned, she was labelled as “unmanageable”, having been confined to small courtyard and lacking the training and enrichment a working dog requires, not the home we were led to believe she would have. In her new home she is blossoming, doing the job her genetics are aching to do. We are excited to see where her future will take her and her owner. 🐾





CLUB NEWS:

Metro Dogsport Club

LAUREN BUCKSATH

2020... not much has happened yet as far as dogsport goes, but what a year it has been for the entire world!

We had our first IGP trial for the year planned to take place at the end of April, but with everything “COVID” going on, we regrettably had to postpone our trial to later in the year. Isolation wasn’t easy, we all definitely missed training and hanging out as a club, but we made sure we stayed connected as a team during the lockdown restrictions by posting training videos and articles through our club page and participating in the “toilet paper challenge” – that was a lot of fun!

While restrictions meant that we couldn’t train together as a club in person for a while, that didn’t mean we stopped training or doing things with our dogs. Whether it was going for bush walks in the local forests, taking a hike or going for a track in our suburbs, we made sure COVID didn’t get us down! Being in isolation even gave some of us the opportunity to train MORE with the “working from home” arrangements meaning lunchtime tracks and backyard obedience sessions became a thing!

Now that Queensland restrictions are easing, we are all very excited to be back at club training and are working hard getting ready for our club trial which has been rescheduled for 31 July – 1 August. Some of our Rockhampton members recently made the trip down to Brisbane which made for an awesome weekend of training at the club. Trial prep is now well underway for a number of teams!

On a side note, congratulations to our very own MDSC member, helper and Rottweiler enthusiast, Shane Asanuma, for gaining WGSDCA Teacher Helper status earlier this year in March - we are all very proud of you!!

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members of Metro and IGP teams in the making who have recently embarked on their journey in the sport – Karyn and Logan, Shelley and Steele, Felipe and Lasko, Lyn and Jogi, Margaret and Jinnie, Tom and Geva, Cameron and his little Mali girl, John and Max, Glenn and Phizz Bang, Elisabeth and Izzy, Glynis with Phantom and Ghost, and Shane with Vinnie. Lots of new puppies coming through the club at the moment and we are all very excited to be part of their development – watch this space!

Happy training everyone and all the best for the remainder of 2020 – stay safe and well, together we will get through these crazy times. 🐾



Jogi



Brando



Chief



Chanz



Issy



Finn



Havoc



Logan



Ghost



Phantom



Phizz

CLUB NEWS:

Norwest Dogsport Club



JACQUELINE FABIAN

Norwest Club Training resumed on 24 May, with a full complement of members. Everyone was so excited and pumped to be back to training. The club had put social isolation measures in place to protect members due to the Covid19. These measures have now been changed to social distancing, as the government changes their COVID-19 measures.

The amount of work that the members of Norwest have put into training their dogs, while in social isolation, has been fantastic. Most members had even managed to track with their dogs, whilst in lockdown. Currently, the club has 4 – 6 dogs that hopefully, once borders are open, and trials start running again, will be ready for BH; and we also have dogs ready to go for IGP1 and IGP2. This is an outstanding achievement for such a young club. All club members are looking forward to putting new titles on their dogs, now that we are back to training.

During the break, Mel Cunningham's beautiful GSD 'Quincey' had a litter of 3 stunning puppies. On return to training, the club members have all been introduced to Mel's new bi-coloured tracking machine B.B. (Busta Bunker). B.B thinks Tracking is the World's greatest activity along with showing great potential for the other 2 phases.

This year the club now has 5 x GSD's who are either handler, owned and trained or bred, handled owned and trained. This is a massive achievement; we are looking forward to these dogs being titled in the next 6 – 12 months. With such a large amount of GSD's in the club, I, (Jacqueline Fabian) have been running members through breed survey training and show training. This is certainly a passion of mine and a wonderful contribution to my fellow members to educate them in something other than IGP, and hope to see these dogs breed surveyed in the near future.



It was lovely to welcome Jake Cvjetican from Wollongong Sportdog Club. Jake kindly gave up his Sunday to act as a helper for our club members, so that the club's dogs could get used to yet another helper, as well as increasing Jake's skills as a helper. A big thank you to Jake for his time and effort, travelling up from Wollongong. The club members were very appreciative, and we hope you enjoyed the day with our club.

Samantha Hendricks has also given her time to do Helper work for the club. Sam is a machine, working all breeds, GSD's, Malinois, Rottweilers and Dobermanns, and really shows off her talent as a Helper. We thank you, Samantha for all your hard work, we really do appreciate it.

The members have also shown great dedication in their tracking. All the members have been tracking in their own time and in various groups together throughout the week as we have such a large club and so is hard to do club tracking as a massive group, which is done every Sunday morning. All members have been working extremely hard to get their dogs tracking to a 'Trial standard', as we all know that we need to spend many hours for tracking training as there is no quick way to get high points for this phase. It's very refreshing to see such enthusiasm for the tracking phase from our members. It really does take a team effort when training in the IGP sport.

The club would also like to welcome Meer Awny, back to the club. Meer had joined our club last year, but his dog 'Remy' did himself a bad injury and has been in Rehab for the last 3 months. Meer who is new to the sport, has shown great dedication and will now be apprenticing under John Daniel as a Club Helper.

Currently, the club can only train on a Sunday morning due to an infestation of Corellas. The Corellas are doing a lot of damage to club equipment, having destroyed the A-Frame! Thank you to Garry and Lisa Carter for making a Corella proof top. In addition, the Corellas have trashed the field lights, including destroying the bird proofing on the light stanchions. We are very lucky that Maurice is looking to get the lights repaired as soon as possible.

The Norwest Club members would like to pass on their thanks to Maurice Dell Coste and Pro K9 Supplies, for allowing us to use the wonderful facilities of a dedicated IGP field and use of the kitchen, toilets and break room as a club house. Without Maurice's generosity, it would be hard for our club to find training facilities.

We hope to see our fellow WGSDCA Club members on the trial field in to not too distant future.



CLUB NEWS: Sydney Dogsport Club

Joining Sydney Dogsport Club and the IGP Fraternity

SHANTELE KORBER

I first became acquainted with the world of dog sport after seeing an ad on Facebook showcasing the 16th WGSDCA IPO National Championship June 2018 hosted in Sydney and I wanted to learn more.

I was that lay person in the crowd and went away from this event with stars in my eyes, "inspired for a long-term enthusiasm for the sport of IPO" (Sanne Pedersen - President WGSDCA 2018 Trial Brochure).

Two stand out teams on the field that day for me were Chris Loverseed with Ninja and Sanne Pedersen with Sandro.

The connection or electricity between the dogs and handlers was obvious from the grandstand; and I wanted to feel that with my own German Shepherds at home. I'm sure many people can relate to this and their first experience being just as powerful.

Two years later, I'm preparing for a BH, in the same grandstand, its surreal...

Since then, I've tried to watch as many trials as I can to get a better understanding of the sport and be able to witness some of the amazing talent we have in Australia.



I've been incredibly lucky to meet and talk to so many wonderful people that share the same passion and level of enthusiasm about their dogs on a local and international scale and I look forward to watching Dogs Sports grow and develop in Australia. I've been able to learn so much in the last two years, and I'm still hungry to learn more and develop as a handler.

For the other new people to the sport, I'm sure you would also now recognise the amount of mental and physical hours you now dedicate to your new "lifestyle". The blood, bruises and tears. The hours of travel, the early mornings and late nights. The frustration and elation of it all. But you can't stop now, your addicted!

Happy training! 🐾



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Introduction to Nail Trimming

(Creating a positive emotional response to nail trimming)

GLYNIS HENDRICKS

Many dogs really dislike having their nails trimmed. The main reason this occurs is because they have had previous negative experiences with nail trimming or the dog does not like having their paw held in general, especially with the amount of restraint needed for nail clipping.



The key to teaching your dog to tolerate or hopefully even enjoy having their nails trimmed is to break down the process step by step. By going slow and training each step, you make it much easier for the dog to tolerate the procedure.

If your dog already has negative emotions to nail trimming you should change the environment when starting to retrain nail trimming. eg place the clippers in the same cupboard as you keep the dog treats, do it in a different area etc. It is easier to train nail clipping if the dog already has some skills like - down, touching a target, lying on his back between your legs (upside down settle), settle calmly on a mat etc.

Nails should be trimmed almost every week so that they don't get too long. If you hear the nails when the dog is walking on your house floors then they need trimming. The nails shouldn't touch the ground when the dog is standing.

A good pair of dog nail clippers is necessary to cut the nail and a dremel to file the nail.

Cut small shavings off the nail, mainly taking off the nail from the top which is the hard part. The under part is soft and has the quick which will bleed if you cut it. Work slowly and stop if the dog is uncomfortable. Every nail doesn't need to be cut on the same day.

You can take it slowly and work at the rate that suits the dog. One nail in a session is easier on the dog. Keep it short and relaxing. Better to cut the nails frequently to improve your dogs' emotional response. If you cut the nails after a bath then the nails are usually softer to cut. Using mealtimes can create a positive emotional response to nail clipping.

Step One

Have the dog lying on his back between your legs in an upside down settled position with his tail facing you so that you can see the underside of his nails, or have the dog in a down or have the dog in a calm settled position on a mat.

Click and treat. Repeat until the dog is calm and happy.

Step Two

Setup as above.

Touch dogs' paw, click, treat. Repeat many times.

Step Three

Setup as in step one.

Hold dogs' paw firmly, click, treat. Repeat many times.

Step Four

Setup as in step one.

Produce the clippers, hold paw firmly, click and treat. Remove clippers. Repeat until the dog is calm and happy.

Step Five

Setup as in step one.

Produce clippers, hold paw firmly, touch nail, click and treat. Remove clippers. Repeat as necessary.

Step Six

Setup as step one.

Produce clippers, hold paw firmly, place clippers around nail DO NOT CUT, click and treat, remove clippers. Repeat as necessary.

Step Seven

Setup as in step one.

Produce clippers, hold paw firmly, clip a sliver of nail, click and treat numerous times with high value treats. Remove clippers. Stop for this session and repeat in another session.

Do not attempt to do all of the nails in one session. Rather end before the dog is uncomfortable. Repeat these steps in another session until the dog is used to the clipping of his nails.

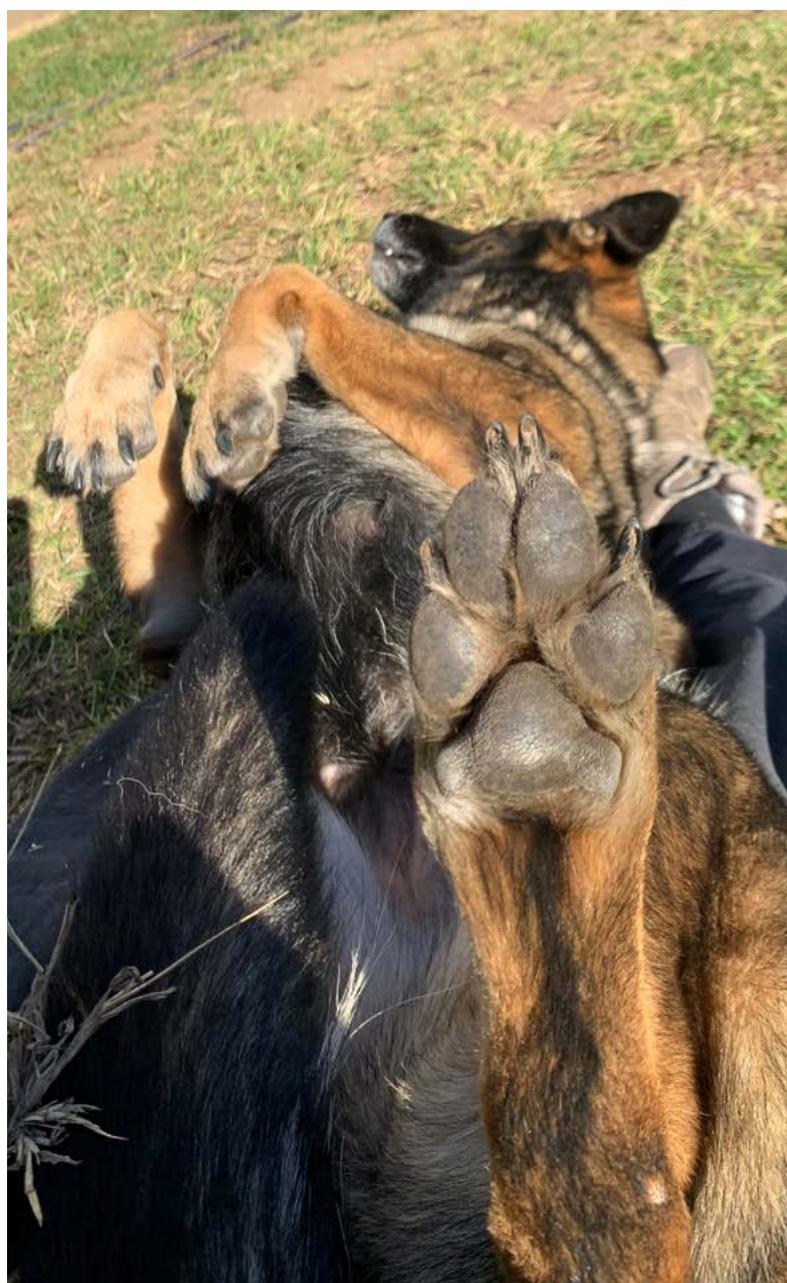
Step Eight

Repeat the above steps with the dremel to get the dog used to it. Remember the dog also has to get used to the noise of the dremel before it touches his nails. Use the dremel from the bottom of the nail to the top.

Do everything in small steps and stop before the dog is unhappy. It may take a month or more, each dog is different.

Frequently do small bits of trimming, work at the dogs' pace.

Use high value treats eg roast chicken etc. 🐾



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