



Your quarterly dog club update: all the latest on the dogs, people, events and happenings at Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club.



Our loss is Oamaru's gain...

Sadly, one of the stalwarts of our club has left to retire in Oamaru. Geoff Neill has been with the club for about as long as I have. I first met him when we were in the same class at Club. I somehow ended up on the committee with him and we put our hands up to water the grass after training until it wasn't brown anymore. My wife regrets letting me do that, because that started many years of Geoff and me at the grounds until midnight trying to keep healthy, the grass that we had.

At that time, we did not lock the grounds and the locals would meet at about 5pm for a chat and Geoff became our link with the community. Even at working bees we would have non-members helping. Unfortunately, a few summers ago, following a very wet winter, we lost about 40% of our grass. At the end of that summer, we had to close the grounds to the public – and poor Geoff fielded complaint after complaint when we locked it; and then more after we re-sowed it, but he never complained himself. Geoff helped me put in most of the small gates and with the help of a builder mate, regularly repaired the damage done by the council mower. He also built shelves in our garage. Geoff came up with the current cunning plan that we have for watering the grass - one person puts out the hoses and sprinklers and texts Geoff. Two hours later Geoff puts them away. This cut the time from hours to about 20 mins. This has worked fantastically well over the last 5 years and if you look at our grounds you can see the proof.



With Geoff gone we are now short of helpers so text me on 0272066467 if you could help for 20-30mins a week. We are in the process of getting quotes for an inground watering system but

Geoff was also our unofficial security guard: he visited the club grounds each day and would turn off lights, taps, lock gates, pick up someone else's dog poo, paint over the graffiti, fix the fence, let the electricians, plumbers and council in. He was an amazing help when I had to deal with the council – he took all the swear words out of my emails (especially the ones when they cut the hedge down) and changed them so they got a positive response. He would listen to all of my crazy ideas about things we could do and either bring me down to earth or tell me to keep dreaming – “you may be on to something”. I'm sure he will find a committee to help down in Oamaru and they are bloody lucky to have him. Thanks for everything mate.

Craig Prattley

President, TBCOC



2022 Committee Executive:

Craig Prattley - President

Geoff Collins - Vice-President

Kat Thorstrand Mitchell - Secretary

Claudia Samitz - Treasurer

2022 Committee Members:

Lianne Davies - Class Co-ordinator

Antonia Allum - Comms/Web

Jan McKenzie

Bronwyn Weir

Jacqui Austin

Iain Clarke

Glen Robinson

Erin McKenzie

Hamish Blank

As you know all of our Committee members are instructors but there are a number more, whom you will be introduced to along the way, so every Newsletter we will dig deep and publish a profile of one or more of our members and their lovely dogs.....



Sandy Fea and Heidi

On the 18th December 1984 my life changed in very many ways. The day I picked up my beautiful Golden Retriever Heidi.

I grew up with a sister and brother and we were a very much an animal-loving family. My mother bred and showed Sydney Silky Terriers and I was occasionally taken to shows with her. In those days they were held in the warehouse/hay stores on Wellington Wharf. I was always drawn to the retriever dogs and my mother was often having to find me in one of the wooden stall/kennels that the dogs were kept in.

Miramar and a beautiful Golden Retriever lived across the road. It used to wait in front of their garage for the owners to come home from work. I really loved that dog and my wish was to save up for a pedigree Golden Retriever with the intention to show and breed a litter of puppies, keeping one of course!

A couple of years of working and saving I saw an add in the paper from the Golden Retriever Club and contacted Eileen Curry to place my name on a list. They were in demand and I had to wait. I'm not good at that and started to hound her. She had a young bitch that had been wandering and asked if I'd look after her until the owners were found. Yay...I had a dog, but only for a couple of weeks as the owner had been found. Eileen was pretty kind to me after that and only a week later I met my first Golden Retriever – Heidi. She was the love of my life and even writing this a tear is falling.

When Heidi was 8 weeks old there was a knock at my door with a lady collecting for the Salvation Army. Heidi ran and met her and she said “oh, I have a little Golden Retriever Amy who is only a week older”. She ended up offering to do one side of the road that I was collecting on, as I had been her last call and I was only just about to set out to do my bit. From that day we have been the closest of friends.

Jennie Ellmers was the one who actually got me into obedience. I had never heard of such things, only showing. Anyhow we both joined Wellington Canine Obedience Club and from then on we both were completely hooked. My days there were just magic. I soon was thrown into being an instructor, Newsletter editor, committee member, show catalogue co-coordinator and Vice President. Such a wonderful crowd and we had the most amazing dog walks after shows, and oh the fun we had travelling away competing all over the country. Many a tale told over a few glasses of wine in the evenings at motels.

In 1990 I shifted out to Lower Hutt. Over the years I had made many friends in TBCOC and Avis Gollop encouraged me to join with Heidi. I had kept a puppy and was training her at the time. Jennie had shifted by that time to Christchurch. I lost Heidi at the age of 7 when she was being speyed sadly but Jodie her granddaughter was such a lovely working dog and I got her up to test C with many 3rd placings - but always seemed to miss out on a challenge by a half point! I was on committee for many years and took puppy class but my main love was working with members that competed. I took the Senior Obedience class for many years and loved watching the owners picking up ribbons, but more so the happy working dogs doing their stuff.

TBCOC is the most wonderful club. The Committee and trainers are just the best and it has deservedly earned the inaugural Best Domestic Club in 2017.

I was truly surprised and honoured to have been made a life member a couple of years ago. Many thanks to such a lovely club.



- Graduation, Term 4 is on Mon 5th and and Tues 6th December.
- Annual **Dog's Christmas Party**: 6.00pm, Wednesday 7th December – details below.
- **Enrolment** for Term 1, 2023 – is open 8pm 11th January until 12pm 15th January.
- Term 1, 2023 begins on 30th/31st January (Puppy classes begin 23rd/24th January)
- All Term 1 classes with be held at the [Club grounds, Ngatitoa Domain](#).
- Waitangi Day Observance 6th & 7th February - there may be no classes on this week, please check with your instructor.
- Annual **TBCOC Obedience Championship Show**: 14th-15th January 2023.
- Our next **CGB Assessment** (Canine Good Basics) is 12th December, 6.30pm. It is open to anyone who has passed Dom 2. [Email Kat](#) to register for a place. Once you have passed your CGB you can go straight into CGC Foundation. More info is available [here](#).
- Don't forget, all enrolment, start, and graduation dates can be found on the [Important Dates](#) page of our website.



It's true - Santa Claws is coming to town!!

This year's Dogs Christmas Party is on 7th December at 6pm at our [Club grounds, Ngatitoa Domain](#). Along with all the usual Christmas fun, there will be Fetch-The-Sausage, Musical Mats, running races and more.

- BBQ food and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided by club, but **please bring a plate**.
- There will be prizes for **Best Dogs Fancy Dress**, so dress to impress.

- If the weather is bad the event will be cancelled. This will be announced on our [Facebook](#) page.



Over the last few months again, our members and their dogs have had *considerable* success in a large number of various tests and trials and continue to have fun!

Maybe it's time for you to take your training to the next level and join our competitors at one of the shows....

Obedience Champ Shows

These shows have 5 levels starting at Beginners, through Novice to Tests A, B and C – Test C being the most senior.

Horowhenua DTC:

Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky: 3rd in Test A on Day 1.

Angelique Aamodt & Orix: 5th in Novice on Day 1; and 2nd in Novice on Day 2.

Sherrie McIntyre & Ditto: 4th in Test A on Day 2.

Rosemary Mortimer & Hector: 3rd in Test C, at Horowhenua Day 2.

Vicky Disbury & Freya and **Jan Voss & Halley** gained CD (Companion Dog) titles.

2022 NDOA held in Auckland over Labour Weekend: **Angelique Aamodt and Turbo** were 1st in Test C on Day 1 with an amazing 298.5/100; and on Day 3 they were 6th in Test C. On Day 2 **Irene Kilford and Robbie** also placed in Test C and were also the highest qualifiers in CDX Silver.

Upper Hutt triple Champ Show:

Jo Kilmister and Marley came 2nd and 1st in Beginners are Marley is now a Novice dog. They also competed in Novice and came 5th. In the 3rd Show **Angelique and Orix** also came 3rd in Novice.

In Test A **Sherrie with Ditto then Sizzle** came 4th in both shows on the Saturday and **Cheryl and Juno** came 3rd on Saturday afternoon. **Sherrie and Ditto** also came 1st in Show 3.

In Test B **Sarah Elliot and Saoirse** came 2nd in Show 2 and Show 3; and **Alannah with Sky Sky** came 4th in Show 3.

In Test C **Angelique and Turbo** placed in both Saturday tests with a 2nd and a 5th; as did **Royce and Blade** with a 5th and a 4th. On Day 3 they both placed **with Angelique and Turbo** with a 2nd and **Royce and Blade** with a 5th.

Taupo Champ Show, in Test A Sherrle and Ditto came 1st and Cheryl and Juno 2nd

The results from the Hawera Champ Show will be published in the next newsletter.





Rally Obedience (Rally-O) Champ Shows

Rally-O has 6 levels – Novice A&B, Advanced A&B and Excellent A&B. Competitors earn Qualifying Certificates to move up a level and to gain titles.

Horowhenua Show:

Jan McKenzie & Geordie: Qualifying Certificate in Advanced B and 2nd to top Qualifier in Rally Encore on day 1 at Horowhenua; and 2nd in Excellent A on day 2 at Horowhenua.

Marion Holman & Eszty: 1st in Rally-O Novice B with Qualifying Certificate at Horowhenua.

Upper Hutt Show:

In Show 1 in Novice B and Advanced A, **Marion Holman and Eszty** were 3rd in both with Qualifying certificates as well; and in Show 2, they came 3rd with a Qualifying certificate in Advanced A.

Jan Voss and Pearl received a Qualifying Certificate in Novice B in Show 1.

In Show 1 **Jan McKenzie and Geordie** were 2nd in both Advanced B and Excellent A on full points with Qualifying Certificates; and in Show 2 they received a Qualifying Certificate in Advanced B and were placed 1st In Excellent A.



Dogs NZ Scentwork Trials

At the end of August, TBCOC combined with Wairarapa DTC to run a Dogs NZ Scentwork

Qualifying Certificate in at least one of the searches; and also, 4 of the Judge's Awards were given to TBCOC entrants.

Claudia Samitz & Layla gained Qualifying Certificates in all 3 searches plus a Judge's Award for the Interior Search.

Jan McKenzie & Poppy gained Qualifying Certificates in all 3 searches plus Judge's Awards for both the Interior and Exterior searches.

Shiree Brockie & Twiggy qualified in all 3 searches.

Jo Searle & Daisy Jane qualified in all 3 searches.

Vicky Disbury & Freya qualified in Vehicle and Exterior searches with also a Judges Award in Exterior.

Kim Paice & Bolt qualified in the Vehicle and Exterior searches.

Pam Heath & Jackson qualified in the Vehicle and Interior searches.

Jan Voss & Halley qualified in the Exterior search – Jan was also the Judge for the Vehicle search.

Jeanette Dawson & Tess, Judith Parkinson & Cosmo and Kat Thorstrand Mitchell & Opal all qualified in the Vehicle search.

Scent Sports Association of NZ (SSANZ) Intermediate Nose Work Trials

These trials have involved 4 Searches – Container, Interior, Exterior and Vehicle which contribute to the Intermediate Title.

Three TBCOC members travelled to this trial which was held by the *Hastings DTC*: **Claudia Samitz & Layla** and **Jan Voss and Halley** qualified in all 4 searches and **Kim Paice & Bolt** qualified in three. **Jan & Halley** now move up to Advanced level.

Claudia Samitz and Kim Paice travelled to the *SSANZ Nosework trial in Palmerston North* recently – **Claudia and Layla** gained another 4 qualifying Certificates at Intermediate level and are now able to trial at Advanced level. **Kim and Bolt** went for 2 intermediate searches and qualified in both with superfast times; and then **Kim with Indi** also qualified in all 4 Novice searches and received the Judges' Choice award for their exterior search.



Canine Good Citizen Assessment

On Saturday 12th November we held our first full CGC assessment since COVID started, and we had a pretty intense day, with a large number of entries and mischievous weather...

Just as the first dog was about to start the Foundation course, the skies opened, and everyone ran for shelter! Fortunately, we had set up 3 gazebos on the course so all helpers could get under cover quickly, and handlers huddled under the veranda until the worst passed.

About half an hour later, the first of 14 Foundation dogs got going, as did the first of the 6 Silver dogs - assessors Sue Cooper and Sonia Calvert shared the Foundation job, and Brent Packwood looked after the Silver dogs. By early afternoon ribbons were handed out to 6 happy Foundation handlers, from 3 different clubs, and 1 proud Silver handler: TBCOC's Claudia Samitz and her lovely Labrador Layla. Claudia and Layla then went on to also pass Gold on the same day, so we are very proud of her!

After lunch was the Bronze assessment with 7 dogs entered, and all but one passed. We handed out the final ribbons at 15.45, in hot, hazy sunshine to tired, but very pleased handlers and dogs.

While disappointing for Foundation handlers who didn't pass, for several of them it was their very first attempt, and they came away with a much better understanding of what is required from both dogs and handlers to pass the assessment. The biggest challenge for the Silver entrants was the out-of-sight Stay - especially with the added complication of rain! This is a very testing exercise in a distracting environment (trains, sports, public with and without dogs), so it is easy to understand why some dogs were finding it difficult.

We were pleased to have entries from all over the region, and happy that many of those who came from other clubs passed their assessments with us. Although it was a long day, it was nice and relaxed, and everyone there helped keeping things on track with a smile. It wouldn't have worked without our wonderful helpers, who jogged, cycled, clapped, ate biscuits and had numerous 30 sec conversations with nervous handlers, so many thanks to them all!

sure gazebos were built and 'helper dogs' were in place where and when required!

Kat Thorstrand-Mitchell

(edited)



Ten Summer Tips for Dogs

Summer is fun for dogs, with lots of outdoor exercise, walks, picnics, swimming and games. However, there are some things we need to remember to keep our dogs safe and well....

- **Never, ever leave your dog in a hot car.** It can take only minutes for a dog to develop heat stroke and suffocate in a car. On a 25-degree day, temperatures in a car can reach 32 degrees in the shade and top 71 degrees in the sun. Your best bet is to leave your dog at home but if you must take it with you, bring water, bowl, park in the shade and ensure there is plenty of ventilation (vent-locks are good); or try to take your dog with you when you leave the car. Remember - dogs heat up much faster than we do!
- **Make sure your dog is protected from parasites** – make sure your flea, lice etc. treatments are all up to date.
- **Keep your dog's paws cool** – surfaces like asphalt and metal can get really hot and not only burn paws, but lead to overheating. Try to walk in the cooler hours of the day.
- **Access to fresh drinking water and shade** – dogs get much thirstier than we do in the heat and other than panting and drinking they really have no other way to cool down.
- **Give your dog their own 'kiddy pool'** – dogs who love water, naturally love it more in the summer heat and getting wet keeps them cool.
- **Don't assume your dog can swim well.** Just because dogs instinctively know how to swim doesn't mean they are good swimmers. Small dogs can quickly be swept downstream in a swift-flowing river. Make sure your dog can't get into a swimming pool without you around.
- **Dogs get sunburned too** - especially short-haired or light-coloured dogs and pink noses can suffer. Talk to your vet about suitable sunscreens and don't assume that the ones for people are suitable for dogs.
- **If you are travelling to a different area** and there's no fence where you are staying, keep your dog on a leash when it is outside. Summer means all sorts of exciting sights, scents, critters running around and new and exciting places to explore. You don't want to lose your dog because it became excited and distracted in an unfamiliar environment. Make sure you know your dog's tendencies and remain cautious.

will come off. A pet that maintains a good, healthy body weight will live 2-3 years longer than an overweight pet.

- **Guard the Garden.** Choose pet-friendly plants for your garden. Azalea is a very common plant that can make your dog very ill if ingested! Lock up the rose and garden plant foods containing insecticides that are potentially fatal compounds for your dog. Be careful of lawn fertilizers and mulches like blood/bone meal and ones containing cocoa chips!

And don't forget with the **festive season** approaching to keep dogs away from eating and choking hazards - tinsel and Christmas baubles, chocolate, fatty leftovers, ribbons, gift tags....

Download our [Summer Sense](#) pamphlet or pick up a copy from the clubhouse today.



Fancy doing a little Christmas baking for your dog this festive season? [Here](#) are 9 of the best recipes for your pup to enjoy: Apple mint Christmas dog bones, dog candy canes, gingerbread dog cookies, nutty bacon dog treats...



What's the SCOOPER

Ever wondered if you picked the right breed of dog?

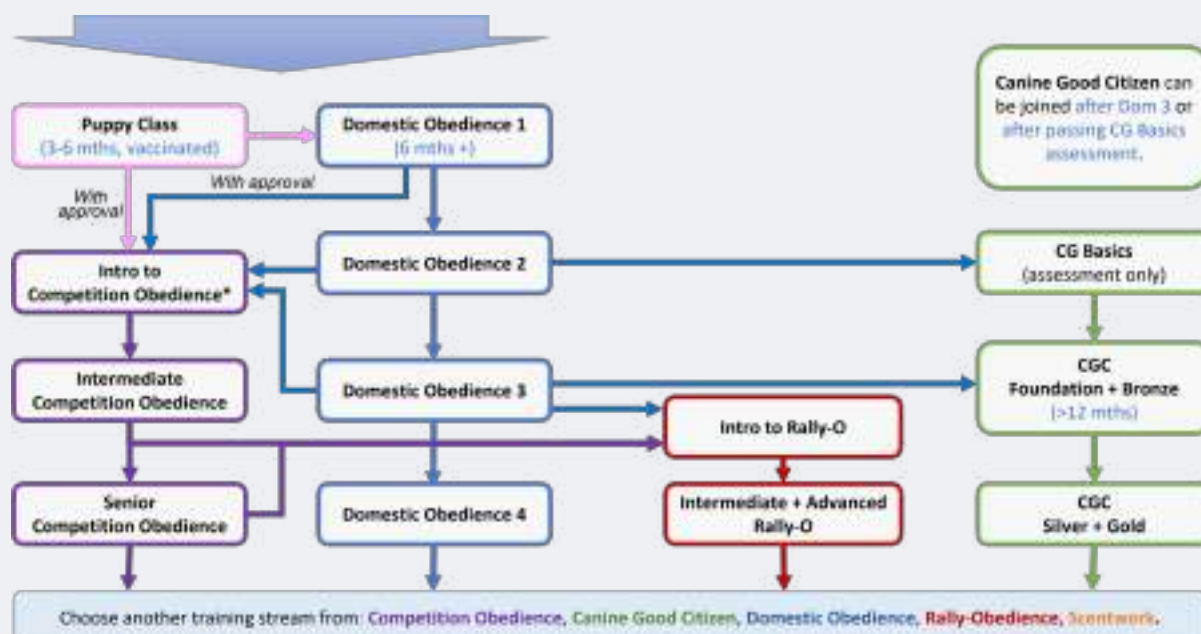
It turns out that behaviour has far less to do with *breed* than we previously thought. In fact, on average, breed explains only around 9% of the variation in how a dog behaves. And that percentage is even lower for markers of aggressive behaviour.

Check out the full article [here](#).

Thinking about which class to take next?

- Puppy classes – join after 2nd vaccination, from 3-6mths.
- Domestic Obedience – from Domestic 1 through to Domestic 4.
- Canine Good Citizen – from Foundation through Bronze and Silver to Gold.
- Competition Obedience – from Introduction through Intermediate to Senior.
- Rally Obedience - from Novice through Advanced to Excellent.

Have a look at your next training path and which pre-requisites you'll need by clicking on our Quick Reference Guide:



We hope you have enjoyed our new newsletter!

Please email titahibayobedience@gmail.com if there is something in particular you would like to see in our next edition.

See you next quarter,

The Lamppost Editorial Team



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