

THE BARK

Newsletter for the
WILTJA DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB
INCORPORATED A0023144z



SUMMER 2026

Now in our 35th year of Dog Training

 Find us on Facebook



Wiltjadogobedienceclub@gmail.com

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2025/2026****PRESIDENT :**
Shaun Lowdell**VICE PRESIDENT :**
Morgana Jones**SECRETARY :**
Robyn Edwards**TREASURER :**
Debra Caddy**GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS :**
Cam Kinder
Vicki Masocco
Eric Maxey
Nicole Jahne
Eva Butcher**SUBSCRIPTION OFFICER :**
Keryn Arnold**ATTENDANCE MONITOR :**
Pauline Arnold**NEWSLETTER :**
Carol Craig**SOCIAL MEDIA :**
Vicki Masocco**DIRECTOR OF TRAINING :**
Ralph Sherry**SOCIAL SECRETARY :**
Vicki Masocco**VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS :**
Cameron Kinder
Daniela Burazin
Eric Maxey
Eva Butcher
Helen Lowdell
Helen Tootell
Michael Madden
Mike West
Morgana Jones
Ralph Sherry
Robyn Edwards
Sam Failla
Sandra Jones
Steve Bracher
Lani Andersen
Linda Garner
Luke Judd
Shane Collins
Stephanie Chamorro
Latoya Chamorro
Nicole Jahne
Jonathon Truscott**HOUSE RULES**

Every Club requires its members to observe rules. Ours are not demanding and are based on common sense and courtesy.

1. WILTJA DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB inc. is not responsible for any misdemeanour caused by a handler or dog.
2. All Members must wear their Membership Card when attending classes.
3. Bitches in season or sick/injured dogs are not allowed on the training ground.
4. Dogs must be on lead at all times whilst on the training ground, except when engaged in "off lead" exercises in advanced classes.
5. Dogs droppings must be picked up and placed in the bins IMMEDIATELY by handlers with the equipment provided.
6. Children 12 years and under must have adult supervision at all times whilst on the training ground and at the toilets.
7. Smoking is not permitted in class.
8. A dog that has bitten or shows undue aggression must be reported to the committee.
9. Members are not allowed to use SPIKED COLLARS or ANY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, or ANY OTHER DEVICE NOT APPROVED BY THE CLUB, on their dogs on the training ground.

" OFF LEAD EXERCISES "
DOES NOT MEAN YOU SHOULD ALLOW
YOUR DOG OFF LEAD IN PUBLIC PLACES

LIFE MEMBERS :

Claude Tonna	David Conway	Shaun Lowdell
Tony Ellis	Donna Ellis	Carol Craig
George Griffiths	Sandra Jones	Mike West
David Goldstein	Rosine Goldstein	Milton Embling
Robyn Edwards	Keryn Arnold	Syd Ellis
Ralph Sherry	Stephen Bracher	Pauline Arnold
Daniela Burazin	Helen Lowdell	

"NEW INSTRUCTORS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED"

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTOR
PLEASE SPEAK TO RALPH SHERRY, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING**

If you have any articles or pictures you would like to contribute to The Bark please send an email to cwcraig@bigpond.com

WELCOME BACK FOR 2026

Happy New Year to all of our loyal members.

We hope you and your furry families and friends enjoyed your Christmas and new year festivities.

We welcome you all back for our first training day, Sunday 1st February, 2026, as we begin our 35th year of dog obedience training.

We are also looking forward to meeting lots of new members, who will be joining us on our first week back.

Best wishes for the coming year, and thank you to everyone for your dedication and continuing support.



CHRISTMAS BREAK UP FUN DAY - SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER 2025



Our Christmas Fun Day was a great success with lots of fun as always!

A huge thank you to each and every one of our organisers and helpers, whose efforts we are very grateful for.

Thank you to all our participants, and furry friends and families, and we mustn't forget Santa Claus of course, for his surprise visit!

Congratulations to our raffle winners too!!



CHRISTMAS BREAK UP FUN DAY - SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER 2025



A special thank you to Vicki once again, for taking all of these wonderful photos, capturing the happy festive Christmas spirit !



NEW WORDSEARCH

Have some fun finding all the dog names !



M	H	S	A	L	F	E	A	R	B	M	Y	E	N	O	H
A	A	G	O	W	J	E	D	D	A	O	A	S	T	O	M
D	E	R	R	X	S	A	M	B	D	L	B	X	C	I	C
D	I	F	L	A	G	U	I	I	D	N	I	B	L	H	O
I	T	X	N	E	C	N	F	S	L	R	X	L	Y	U	O
S	O	D	E	U	Y	I	U	U	E	O	Y	L	Y	G	P
S	Y	U	O	L	R	E	E	K	R	T	L	D	Z	O	E
E	W	S	V	F	Z	P	C	A	N	A	D	O	L	C	R
A	I	T	A	M	B	E	R	W	S	E	C	E	A	H	U
D	L	Y	R	M	D	P	L	E	T	S	I	S	M	A	S
R	L	Z	T	A	O	P	V	D	U	R	T	P	O	R	T
E	O	U	I	T	R	E	B	J	A	N	B	O	L	L	Y
G	W	S	H	D	G	R	I	E	H	N	E	T	L	I	J
G	Y	S	K	Y	C	U	L	T	L	A	L	L	Y	E	M
I	A	R	E	V	O	R	L	Q	U	L	S	P	T	O	L
D	O	T	T	I	E	P	Y	N	I	A	A	N	U	L	E

BOBBY
DECKER
PEPPER
LUNA
SALLY

COOPER
MADDI
WILLOW
LEXI
BERT

MILO
CHARLIE
HONEY
TEDDY
ROVER

AMBER
BELLA
DOTTIE
ARIEL
BINDI

MILLY
ZOE
MOLLY
SANDY
RUSTY

ELSA
ZELDA
DAISY
ACE
FLASH

JEDDA
DIGGER
DASH
DUSTY
JET

HUGO
GRACIE
LUCY
BILLY
OSCAR

TOM
ZEUS
MAX
SAM
SOX

SPOT
RUFUS
MARLEY
NALA
LILY



"IMPORTANT DATES TO KEEP IN MIND"



SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2026 - First Training Day for 2026

SUNDAY 8th MARCH 2026 - Labour Day Long Weekend - NO TRAINING

SUNDAY 29th MARCH 2026 - BBQ and Easter Raffle Drawn
(Tickets for the raffle are available at the front desk)

SUNDAY 5th APRIL 2026 - Easter Sunday - NO TRAINING

A Tribute to Erok

Our Cairn Terrier Erok joined Wiltja Dog Obedience club in April 2012 following in the paws of his sister Ebony. He moved up through the grades until 2018.

He was such a gentle boy and suffered a few health set backs but always bounced back.

Recently he had not been himself but we couldn't find the reason. Two weeks before Christmas he seemed to be getting worse so once again we had more blood tests done as well as X-rays and an ultrasound. This time the results showed chronic renal failure, pancreatitis and elevated liver enzymes. Through it all he was so brave but sadly on December 27 we knew it was time to say a very sad goodbye to our beautiful boy of almost 14 years and send him across the rainbow bridge.



We treasure the love and memories we have with him. He has now joined his two cairn sisters Ebony and Ripley who both passed away in 2022.



Keryn and Pauline.

Ten signs that you are obsessed with your dog (in a good way)

You talk to them like a person.

You pamper them like your child.

You only feed them the best food.

You include them in family portraits.

You spend more time on their grooming than your own.

You have their picture as your background.

You arrange play dates with other furry friends.

You constantly trip over toys.

You can't remember the last time you weren't covered in hair.

You can't remember your life before your pooch.

Source unknown

PET REGISTRATIONS

*Just a reminder that pet
registrations are due
10th April each year.*



*If you have any questions
regarding pet
registrations, please
contact your local council
for advice.*

Body Checking

When checking the overall body condition, the most common health problem we see is obesity. This can lead to chronic issues including arthritis and diabetes. Being able to weigh your dog regularly and getting the vet team's opinion on their body condition score is so important. Some things owners can look out for include being able to feel the ribs (should not be too visible), and a tuck under the pelvis.

Arthritis is another common issue, one that the nurses see many of for monthly injections. This can be prevented with weight management.

Changes in behaviour and appetite are the most subtle yet telling signs that your dog can communicate that something isn't right. A quote that I use myself, as well as nurse Annabel, is to trust your instincts and come and see us when you're not sure. Dogs can't tell us that something is wrong, so it is up to us as owners and animal professionals to advocate for them.

Doing a nose to tail check for lumps, bumps, fleas, ticks starting from the very beginning will help you know your dog well, and when something new arises. Desensitising your dog with positive reinforcement while touching their face (including around the eyes, mouth and teeth, nose and ears) will help to detect some really important issues early.

Incorporating Veterinary Care with Training

We would like to note that we are ALWAYS here to work collaboratively with behaviouralists and obedience clubs. We recommend you (WILTJA) regularly. There is a need for medicine and biology to be incorporated with behavioural issues. Medication isn't always the answer, but it's there, it should not be feared, we have seen incredible improvements when collaborating with training.

Quote : "You're not desensitising your puppy to create an obedient dog, you're desensitising your puppy to potentially save their life. A dog that cannot be medically assessed is at risk of living a low quality or shortened life, and I want to see EVERY patient live as comfortably as possible for as long as possible – Annabel Agius.

Special thanks to Vet Nurse Caitlin, Dr Emily, and Nurse Annabel, for the above information, which Nurse Caitlin shared with us at last year's AGM, as our guest speaker.

Summer tips

During the very hot days over summer, it is always best to walk your dog either early in the morning or later in the day, when the temperature is usually cooler. Always avoid walking on hot surfaces and footpaths. If the pavement is too hot to feel with your hand, then it's too hot for your pet to walk on.

On hot and humid days, try to bring your dog inside if the indoor environment is cooler. Make sure your dog has access to plenty of clean fresh water. It's a good idea to have more than one container, in case the water spills out or becomes too warm. You can also put ice blocks into their water to keep it cooler.

If they are outside, it's important to provide your dog with a cool, shaded area with good ventilation, which will help them cool down when they are panting.

Please don't ever leave your pet in a car or vehicle. Temperatures in a car can reach more than double the outside temperature even on mild days, and parking in the shade or leaving the windows open doesn't really help.

If we stay aware, we can keep our beloved pets safe and happy and healthy in the hot summer months.

**Happy
Doggie
Quotes**

*Happiness
is a warm puppy*

-Charles M Schulz

*Children are for people
who can't have dogs*

-Author unknown

*A man may smile and bid
you hail, yet wish you to
the devil,
But when a good dog
wags his tail, you know
he's on the level*

-Author unknown

TRAINING GUIDE and CLASS EXERCISES

Teaching your dog to respond to your commands is fun and rewarding. However, it does take dedication on your part – **Patience Persistence and Perseverance**. Your dog will learn by repetition and by how you learn to communicate with it using your tone of voice. The three basic tones being – **Praise Reprimand and Command**. You will be taught these tones from the first day you begin training your dog at our Club.

Only 5 –10 minutes a day is needed to train your dog and if at any stage you become frustrated in the progress, it is best to stop the session and commence again later or the next day. Always end each session on a positive, so you can praise your dog for something well done. Include some playtime either in between or after each training session.

Tones of Voice should be practised on your own so as to be instinctively used. Explanation of tones will be given to you by your Instructor in Introductory Classes.

PRAISE REPRIMAND COMMAND	High pitch happy tone Low deep growl tone (do not shout when reprimanding) Middle range - Authoritative tone
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YOU

SHOULD ONLY PRACTICE THOSE EXERCISES AT YOUR OWN CLASS LEVEL

Class 1

- * Heel on lead with guidance & encouragement
- * Sit at heel with guidance
- * Right about 180 deg. turn
- * Left and right 90 deg. Turns
- * Basic stand exercise with guidance
- * Sit for examination – human socialisation
- * Basic sit stay on lead – handler close in front and stepping side to side. Approx. 1 min.
- * Drop exercise from sit – treats allowed initially to encourage dog
- * Start of recall – on lead
- * Dog Socialisation

All returns are back to dog's side

Class 2

- Class 1 exercises with dog responding more readily to heelwork and commands*
- * Left about turn
 - * Slow pace heelwork
 - * Stand Stay to end of lead.
 - * Down from sit with command & hand signal
 - * Sit Stay on lead – 3 to 5 mtrs for 1 min.
 - * Down Stay on lead – 3 to 5 mtrs for 1min.
 - * Stand for examination to end of lead – minor movement allowed
 - * Recall on 3mtr lead from sit stay
 - * Sit at heel with less guidance
 - * Drop from Heel
- All returns are back to dog's side**

Class 3

Dog to heel with less correction and guidance Lead held left hand over right. More consistency with Class 2 exercises

- * Sit at heel on one command when handler stops.
- * Sit and down stay to 5mtrs off lead for 1min.
- * Recall on and off lead to 5mtrs. Dog to take up sit position in front of handler.
- Off lead is Optional**
- * Stand stay to end of lead for 1 min.
- * Fast and slow pace heelwork.
- * Stand for examination to end of lead – no movement allowed
- * Finish to heel exercise – done separate to recall exercise. Quick response, minimal guidance.
- * Figure of eight heeling exercise

All returns by handlers are behind dog to the heel position

Class 4

All heelwork on loose lead held in left hand. No commands to heel. Heel command allowed only when starting exercise or after a stop.

- * Automatic Sit
- * Offlead work (**optional**)
- * Sit and down stay 3 mins. with distractions
- * Stand stay to 6 mtrs for 1 min.
- * Stand for examination at 6 mtrs
- * Sit stay out of sight for 1 min.
- * Down stay out of sight for 3 min.
- * Drop, sit and stand hand signals at 6 mtrs.
- * Recall from 30 mtrs.
- * Recall from free walking off lead (optional)
- * Drop at random

All returns by handlers are behind dog to the heel position