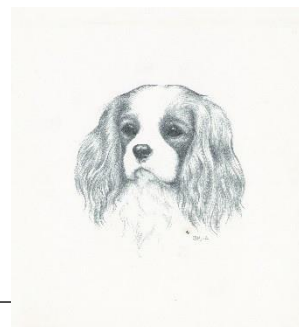


Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Victoria

incorporated



Newsletter June 2020

2019 – 2020 Committee

President

Will Henderson Phone 03 97447377
cavpresident@cavalierclubvictoria.com

Vice President

Charlotte Taylor

Secretary

Joy Mcinnes
Call 0403 535 649
cavsecretary@cavalierclubvictoria.com

Assistant Secretary

Aimee Petersen

Treasurer

Andrew Twiddy
cavtreasurer@cavalierclubvictoria.com

Membership Secretary

Jan Kelly
membership@cavalierclubvictoria.com

Committee Members

Greg Browne
Jan Kelly
Karen Taylor

Newsletter & Web page

Aimee Petersen
website@cavalierclubvictoria.com

Life Members.

Mrs. A. Bagnall, Mrs. P. Mrs. K. Beckett,
Ms. L. Bolden, Mrs. P. Fernleigh ,
Ms. P. Finnie, Mrs. B. Henry, Mr. E. Howden,

In this issue:

- Secretary's Message
- AGM notice to members
- 2019 AGM and SGM minutes
- "Do more with you dog" Trick Training
- Easter facebook photo comp winners
- These interesting times – by Penny Windlow.

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editors or the Committee and Office Bearers of the CKCS Club of Victoria Inc. The Editor/s reserves the right to refer any material of a dubious nature to the Committee for final say in the matter of publication.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc Proudly supported by



FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings to all our members hoping everyone is well and safe in this difficult time. Covid-19 has changed our world and impacted many of us personally. Cancelling our Championship shows was a given due to the current climate. Our judges for this year are unable to attend next year so have been moved to 2022 and thus no nominations for judges will be needed for our AGM to be held on 4th August 2020. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are planning to hold our AGM via Zoom format. Details will be sent out prior to confirm.

We are calling for nominations to join the cavalier club 2020/21 committee-details will be sent out . If you wish to nominate yourself please email the secretary.

Please keep safe and if anyone needs help financially or emotionally in dealing with Covid-19 issues in anyway please contact myself or any committee member.

Thank you

Joy McInnes
Secretary
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Victoria
cavsecretary@cavalierclubvictoria.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Hi fellow members,

I hope everyone is OK in these difficult times, I apologise for the delay in getting a Newsletter out but can promise there will be another three more in 2020.

If anyone has anything that you would like to be featured in the newsletters please let me know.

Keep safe

Aimee

AGM NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The Club's AGM will be held on Tuesday 4 th August 2020 at 7.30pm & held via Zoom at this stage.

Attached is a nomination sheet for the 2020-21 CKCSC of Victoria's Office Bearers & Committee.

This sheet needs to be returned to the Secretary either electronically, (as a word document only), to:

cavsecretary@cavalierclubvictoria.com

or to:

CKCSC of Victoria,
60 Rickard Drive Churchill,
Vic 3842

by Tuesday 6 th July 2020.

They will be published electronically by Tuesday 20 th July 2020. Voting will then take place at the 2020 AGM.

The AGM will be followed by a Special General Meeting.

Nominations are not required for 2022 Championship show judges due to the cancellation of our 2020 show cancellation. Our 2020 Judges will be contracted to 2022 due to their inability to attend in 2021.

Members who wish to have agenda items listed for discussion at the Special General Meeting must lodge these in writing with the Secretary either electronically, (as a word document), to:

cavsecretary@cavalierclubvictoria.com

or to:

CKCSC of Victoria,
60 Rickard Drive Churchill,
Vic 3842

by Wednesday 8 th July 2020.

Any motions must be proposed & seconded.

They will be published electronically by 22nd July 2020.

Discussion & voting will then take place at the 2020 SGM.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc.

(Affiliated with the Victorian Canine Association Inc.) Reg. No. A002354OM

NOTICE OF MEETING

Annual General Meeting of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc. will be a **Zoom Meeting Tuesday 4th August, 2020**

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE BEARERS 2020-2021

Persons offering themselves for nomination for election to any position on the Committee

must be financial members of the Club on 30 June. 2020. They must also undertake to ensure their membership of the Victorian Canine Association Inc. remains current during their term of office.

Both the Proposer and Seconder of any nomination must also be financial Club members on the 30 June, 2020 and each must sign where indicated on the form below.

Nominees must clearly print name and have signed where indicated on the form below. This form, when signed by all persons as required, must then be lodged with the Secretary of the Club by midnight, 15 July, 2020.

Signed: Joy McInnes

Secretary, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc., 60 Rickard Drive Churchill,
Vic, 3842

NOMINATION FORM

POSITION	NOMINEE	SIG. OF PROPOSER	SIG. OF SECONDER	SIG. OF NOMINEE
PRESIDENT				
VICE PRESIDENT				
SECRETARY				
ASSISTANT				
TREASURER				
COMMITTEE (3 required)				

POSTAL VOTE: Members are reminded that Applications for Postal Votes for the Election of Office Bearers and committee are available on application, in writing, to the Secretary at any time up to 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting ie 4th Aug 2020. Postal Votes must be received by the Secretary by 22/7/20

AGM: on Tuesday 4th August, 2020 via Zoom-at this stage

CKCS CLUB OF VICTORIA 2019 AGM

DATE: Tuesday 6th August 2019

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: KCC Park

Open: 7.34pm

Present: As per attendance book

Apologies: As per attendance book

Minutes of Last AGM: Published in the last newsletter. Taken as read.

Moved: Joy McInnes

Seconded: Jan Kelly

President's Report:

Dear Members

More than ever, I believe the role of the Cavalier Club is a necessary vehicle to promote and champion our breed. The anti-dog lobby, the promotion of crossbreeds, state legislation and educating the public of where they should find the ideal Cavalier are some of the issues we face. Our role must also be about welfare; we need to help our members breed animals that are healthy, well-adjusted and raised and conditioned in ideal accommodation. It is important that our Club advocates the community for purpose bred dogs than to simply hold just another dog show. If our Club is to thrive then we need to encourage new people into the breed. We are only the custodians of the breed for a short time. Apart from breeding dogs for show specimens and pet owners, our commitment needs to be about fostering a love for our breed, mentoring new and beginning breeders in order to produce a typical and healthy specimen. They need to know our Blue Print, the Breed Standard and we have an obligation to help them.

Often there is the talk of how Clubs will survive in the future. Will we be able to furnish our clubs with a committee and find people willing to do the work? I think for the reasons already mentioned we must strive to continue to exist. Support health testing, contribute to the online newsletter, be willing to fundraise, join the committee, offer to help out at functions and events. I think this is the situation facing all our breed clubs across the country. It is sad that South Australia may no longer be able to stay in existence and I think we need to heed the warning. More than ever we need to support the other clubs - travel to their shows and enter our dogs. Win or lose, enjoy the company and wisdom of other passionate breeders. The opinion of specialist judges from different parts of the world is imperative if we are to see dogs that are rewarded who possess breed characteristics and those that embody what it is to be a toy spaniel. If we truly love the breed then we will want to see it flourish. We need to continue to support the ongoing education of our judges to ensure they are able to recognize and appropriately award the virtues and hallmarks of our breed.

It is not, however, all doom and gloom in Cavaliers, on the contrary. My husband and I have had the chance to judge the breed in many parts of the world. It is always exciting to come across top class exhibits, find families of influential sires and dams and assess their strengths and weaknesses compared to our dogs. The best dogs here in Victoria could and would win in any part of the world. It has been the opinion of most visiting specialists that Australia have some of the very best and that there is quality and depth in abundance. So keep producing beautiful dogs, look to bring in new and fresh lines and work together as breeders.

In June, we welcomed Mr Roger Madec of De La Goede Cavaliers from France and after a last minute change Mr Markus Kirschbaum of Bonitos Companeros Cavaliers from Germany to judge our 53rd and 54th Championship Shows. We again ran two successful days, with positive feedback from both judges on the management of our shows and the

depth of quality in their entries. We look forward to welcoming to Australia for the first time in 2020 Mr Philip Carthy of Ardgrove Cavaliers from Ireland and Ms Wendy Waters of Sweetbriar Cavaliers from the UK.

Our Open Show continues to prove a success ran in conjunction with the Garden State Kennel Club All Breeds shows. Our 2018 show was well supported with trainee judge Mr Paul Nichols of Dunsfold Cavaliers receiving a strong entry. We hope you will join us for our show in November where we have trainee judge and club member/breeder Mrs Vivienne McLaughlin of Kqrac Cavaliers judging our 2019 entry.

I know I speak on behalf of all committee when I express that it is a great honor to continue to serve as your committee. I would like to make special mention and thank Andrew Twiddy for stepping up to take back on the role of Treasurer part way through the year. Andrew continues to do a wonderful job of presenting our club finances in great order. Many thanks also to Steven Wynn, who for many years has managed the club's website and publication of our quarterly newsletters, and to Jacqie Giggins for her service over the past few years on general committee. Stephen and Jacqie have decided to not re-stand for nomination this year.

We are very grateful to members who have provided their support this past 12 months in the running of events and fundraising activities. I would like to make special mention and thank Judy Thomas for her donation to the club's rescue fund on the sale of the USA Cavalier Calendar, to Linda Hocking and helpers for managing the breed stand at the Melbourne Royal, to Karen and Charlotte Taylor for running a very successful Silent Auction at this year's Championship show, Jacqie Giggins in hosting the Dogs Big Day out and to Joy McInnes for the organization and fundraising from the sale of Cavalier vet bedding and the organization of the heart clinic.

We are always keen to hear your ideas as to how we can make improvements in the running of the club, our calendar of events, fund raising endeavors and to look at other ways of promoting our beloved breed. Please contact myself and/or email your ideas to cavsecretary@cavalierclubvictoria.com where your suggestions will be forwarded on to the committee for further discussion at meetings.

Good luck to all those exhibiting at Melbourne Royal in September.

Best wishes,
Will Henderson
President.

Moved: Will Henderson

Seconded: Sandra Ingpen

Secretary's Report

Thank you to this years committee for all their hard work and wish the outgoing members all the best.

This years Championship show was a challenge to say the least with losing our Judge Sean Martin with less than 2 weeks till our show. Thanks to lots of calls and messages we were able to successful replace our judge and get a very capable replacement in Markus Kirschbaum from Germany. Numbers were consistent with previous years exhibitors and due to some extremely generous sponsorship we were not financially impacted.

Volunteer support is crucial to running a club of any sort and we are finding the number of people willing to help is reducing. If you have time and a passion for our breed please consider offering your services. We need people to commit to various jobs within our club not just on champ showweekends.

Our next be event is the Royal Melbourne show in September. Breed judging is Friday 27th September. We are holding a Breed stand on that day and are looking for people to attend with or without their dogs to talk to the general public. IF able to offer even an hour please contact me.

The Open Show will be held once again in November in conjunction with Garden State KC on their double show day 17th November. Schedule now on Easydogs online
Judge is Breed Specialist and club member Ms Vivienne McLaughlin -Kqrac Cavaliers. Please support her first Toy appointment with a entry.

Thank you to everyone that has supported the club this year
Joy McInnes
Secretary
Cavalier Club of Victoria

Treasurer's Report:

In the 2018-19 Financial Year the Club made a deficit of \$3142.18 , and the overall assets of the Club were valued at \$19953.09 . These assets were comprised of 3 elements:

- General Account \$5025.31
- Rescue Account \$7508.30
- Term Deposit \$7419.48

The Club Finances were audited in July by W.M.Fleming Cert. IV in Financial Services (Bookkeeping)

To maintain and enhance the economic viability of the Club it will be crucial that members continue to take an active part in Club activities and any fund raising events the Club organizes.

One must understand the context in which this loss over the financial year occurred as it is not as bad as it appears. Last year's profit was "inflated" by the fact that membership renewals for the 2018-19 year were brought forward before the end of the last financial year so that a significant amount of our membership income actually appeared in the 2017- 18 financial year. Furthermore the Dog Victoria levies and the Photographers fee for the 2018 Championship Show appeared as liabilities in the 2018-19 year as they normally appear in the financial year in which they occur. The Dogs Victoria levies for the 2019 Championship Show were paid in this financial year and membership for 2019-20 will appear in the next financial year as was the case prior to last year. In addition to this the Club also has a significant amount of dry bed as assets that have not yet been sold as part of the Club's fund raising.

On behalf of the Club I would like to acknowledge the generosity of Judy Thomas who again donated to the Club's Rescue Bank Account from the fundraiser for her chosen clubs with the calendar produced in the USA. A special thanks also needs to be given to Mimi Kleber who covered the financial gap caused by the air fare that needed to be organized at the last minute for our replacement judge at the Championship Show. In addition the work put in by Karen and Charlotte Taylor in organizing the Silent Auction and raffle at the Championship Show and the outstanding amounts they raised needs to be acknowledged. Thanks also to members who made financial donations, helped set up and pack up at our shows and to those who made items available for the Auction.

Moved: Andrew Twiddy

Seconded: Jan Kelly

**CAVALIER KING CHARLES CLUB OF VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2019**

INCOME

Open Show 2018	826.5
membership 2019/20	94
Membership 2018/19	975
Fund Raiser (Dry Bed Sales)	1360
Championship Show 2019	8598.7
Championship Shields	
Donations general	
Donation of J Thomas to Rescue Ac	271
Perpetual trophy Engraving	
Pay Pal	
Website Breeders page	85
Postage Club M'Ship Newsletter	
Bank Return Rejected Payment	
Dogs Vic re ANKC Judges mix up	
Pet Pal Raffle	
Bank Interest	151.59
Income on general Account	
Was \$12210.20 prior to	
adding Bank Interest	
	12361.79
Loss for year	3143.18
	15504.97

EXPENDITURE

Bank Charges	4
ANKC Judges Approval 2020	100
ANKC Judges Approval 2019	100
fund Raiser (Dry beds)	1237.5
Championship Show 2018	1617.75
Championship Show 2019	9489.87
Department of Justice	57.8
Dogs Victoria Affiliation	333
Dogs Victoria Room Hire	26
Honorariums	570
Members Sublimated Plates	171
Open Show 2018	654.51
Computer sashes Royal melb. Show	84.59
Dry bed Fund raiser postage	28.35
Dogs Vic Non members Levy	256
Web Page for two Years to USA	71.8
Perpetual trophy Engraving	200
Transfer General Ac to Rescue Ac.	271
Auditing Club accounts 2017/18	100
membersChampionship Plaque	48.5
Rescue Account Expenditure	83.3
	15504.97
	15504.97

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

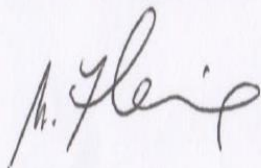
GENERAL ACCOUNT	5025.31
RESCUE ACCOUNT	7508.3
TERM DEPOSIT	7419.48
	19953.09

LIABILITIES

Members Funds at 1/7/17	22825.27
Profit Rescue Account for the year	271
Profit Main account for the year	3143.18
	19953.09

AUDIT REPORT

I have examined the accounting records of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc for the period ending 30 June 2019, and in my opinion the attached financial statement is a true record of the financial transactions of the club for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and of its financial position as at 30 June 2019.



W.M.Fleming

Cert.IV in Financial Services (Bookkeeping)

19-Jul-19

Honouriums:

\$250.00 – Secretary – Joy McInnes
\$200.00 – Treasurer – Andrew Twiddy
\$120.00 – President – Will Henderson No increase
needed.

Moved: Karen Taylor Seconded: Jennifer Wynn

Nominations for 2019/2020 Committee:

President: Will Henderson
Nominated by: Joy McInnes

Vice President: Charlotte Taylor
Nominated by: Joy McInnes

Secretary: Joy McInnes
Nominated by: Sandra Ingpen

Assistant Secretary: Aimee Petersen
Nominated by: Joy McInnes

Treasurer: Andrew Twiddy
Nominated by: Linda Hocking

Committee: Jan Kelly
Karen Taylor Greg Browne

All positions run unopposed.

Motion to Engage an Auditor for 2019/2020:

Wayne Fleming will be appointed as auditor for 2019/2020 books.

Membership fees:

Current: New Fees:
\$25.00 Single \$27.00 Single
\$28.00 Family \$30.00 Family
\$21.00 Pensioner/Student \$22.00 Pensioner/Student

Moved: Sandra Ingpen Seconded: Karen Taylor

The club has decided to remove the \$5.00 joining fee.

Moved: Jan Kelly Seconded: Greg Browne

2020 Championship Show & Open Show

Entry fees:

Championship Show

New Fees:

Current:

1 st entry member (inc. Catalogue) \$25.00	\$25.00
Subsequent entry member \$15.00	\$18.00
1 st entry non-member (inc. Catalogue) \$27.00	\$27.00
Subsequent entry non-member \$17.00	\$20.00
Baby puppy entry \$10.00	\$12.00
Property class entry \$6.00	\$10.00

Moved: Mathew Morse Seconded: Greg Browne

Please note the above figures for current were incorrect at the AGM and the fees were resolved at the SGM

Open Show

New Fees:

Current:

1 st entry member (inc. Catalogue) \$13.00	\$15.00
Subsequent entry member \$9.00	\$10.00
Baby puppy entry \$5.00	\$5.00
Property class entry \$5.00	\$5.00

Moved: Vivienne McLaughlin Seconded: Greg Browne

2020 AGM:

Tuesday 4th August 2020. Located Bulla Exhibition Centre at 7.30pm

Closed: 8.21pm

CKCS CLUB OF VICTORIA 2019 SGM

To follow the AGM

DATE: Tuesday 6th August 2019

Time: After AGM

Venue: KCC Park

Open: 8.22pm

Present: As per attendance book

Apologies: As per attendance book

Minutes of Last previous meeting: The AGM minutes passed.

Moved: Joy McInnes

Seconded: Vivienne McLaughlin

Correspondence: AS PER JOY'S BOOKLET

Moved: Joy McInnes

Seconded: Sandra Ingpen

Business Arising: Moved to general business section

Treasurer's report: As per AGM

Moved: Andrew Twiddy

Seconded: Jenny Wynn

Membership report: Renewal of memberships has now been moved to EasyDogEntries and many members are finding it easy to use and navigate, some teething problems. Currently 71 members renewed. Jan Kelly to check in with those who have not renewed and help them to renew their memberships.

Moved: Jan Kelly

Seconded: Jackie Giggins

Rescue Report: No rescues for some time. Now have issues with the Pet Exchange Register and getting involved in rescue work especially seeing as members currently have a source number for their own breeding. Rescue running may be too hard to do alongside this. Will look at helping those that rescue cavaliers. Look at adding a donate to the club button on facebook and website to raise money for the club and not rescue.

Moved: Greg Browne

Seconded: Jenny Wynn

Newsletter and Website Report: Stephen Wynn resigned from newsletter and website manager, discussed at previous committee meeting. The club is looking at free or not so expensive options including the use of the club's facebook page more and leaving the website as is. Newsletters are a struggle to put information into the newsletter and no one is sharing information, having minimal value to the club. The committee is looking at stopping newsletter production as they have little interest. The club has 2700 people following the facebook page. The committee feel that social media is the way of the future for the club and we are looking at putting more into our facebook page with regular posts. Jackie Giggins has volunteered to start a CKCS club of Vic Instagram.

Moved: Joy McInnes

Seconded: Karen Taylor

Health Report: The club held one heart clinic this year for a short amount of time due to the American Staffordshire club. The clinic had little interest compared to previous years with only 30 dogs attending. Questionable for a heart clinic at our show for 2020. No eye clinics held this year as they are too hard to host at shows due to drops etc. that must be placed into dogs eyes. **Introduce a health symposium?**

Moved: Joy McInnes

Seconded: Vivienne McLaughlin

General Business:

1. Judge 2021 voting

Scrutineers: Mathew Morse, Sandra Ingpen

In order of preference:

Kirsty (UK)

Anita (UK)

Mary (USA)

Liz (UK)

2. Perpetual Trophies

Perpetual trophies were given to Will Henderson on the 06/08/2019. Linda Hocking to keep 4 trophies: BIS, President's BIS, PIS, and OPEN. The committee have been exploring options to 1. Put the remaining trophies in a cabinet at Bulla Exhibition Centre, Trophies cannot be taken out of here once they are in. 2. Offer back to the donators or for sale if the donators do not want the trophy. Greg Browne has suggested an 'Adopt a Trophy Program' the committee will be looking into this further.

3. Open show prizes

Donated Prizes from previous show wins.

4. Fundraising

Jacqie Giggins to look at BBQ puppy party and to follow up. Charlotte has suggested club jackets with the club's logo and members kennels embodied on there.

5. King Charles Spaniel Club

The CKCS club of Victoria committee has decided to help the KCSC of Victoria with offering our judges (if they are licensed to judge KCS) to their club **at a fee of one nights accommodation. As per previous committee meeting minutes.**

6. Championship and Open Show entry fees

The committee found that the entry fees listed in the AGM were incorrect and entry fees will now be as follows:

Championship Show

Current:

1st entry member (inc. Catalogue) \$27.00
Subsequent entry member \$15.00
1st entry non-member (inc. Catalogue) \$30.00
Subsequent entry non-member \$18.00
Baby puppy entry \$10.00
Property class entry \$6.00

New Fees:

\$27.00
\$18.00
\$30.00
\$20.00
\$12.00
\$10.00

Moved: Vivienne McLaughlin

Seconded: Jenny Wynn

Next SGM : Tuesday 4th August 2020 following AGM

Closed: 9.27pm



*Are you part of the
World's Leading Trick Dog Program?*

*Join Amy Curran, Australia's own Gold Medal
Certified Trick Dog Instructor and
'Do More With Your Dog!'*

Whether through sport, tricks, or companionship, the program encourages the integration of your dog into more areas of your life. Dogs have a way of making the activities we share with them more fun, and by giving them training, we allow them to participate in more areas of our life. Earn your Trick Dog title or attend an in-person workshop.



Visit the AUSTRALIAN ALLSTARS TRICK TRAINING TEAM on facebook to start training & earn your title, or visit www.domorewithyourdog.com

Easter Photo Comp Results

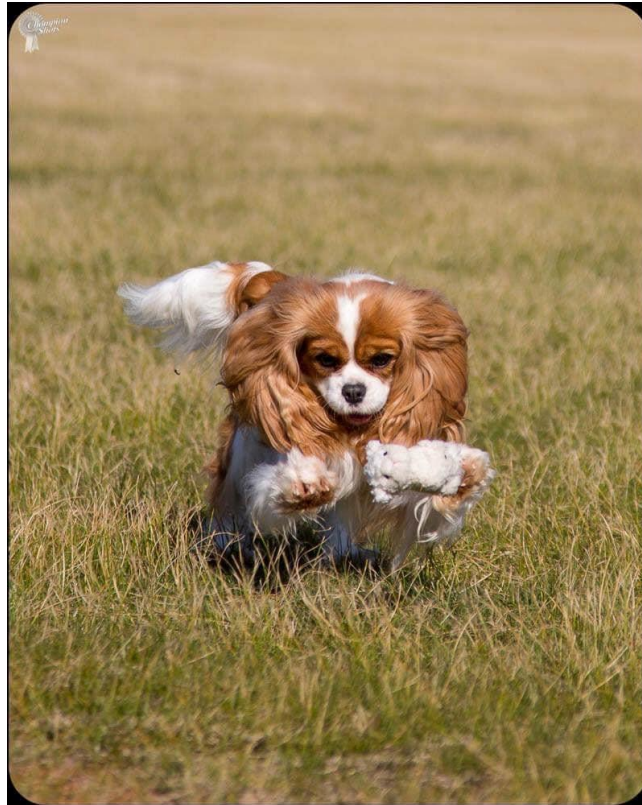
Best Easter Photo – Bec Sennett



Cavaliers in Clothes – Catherine Parker



Action Shots – Aimee Petersen



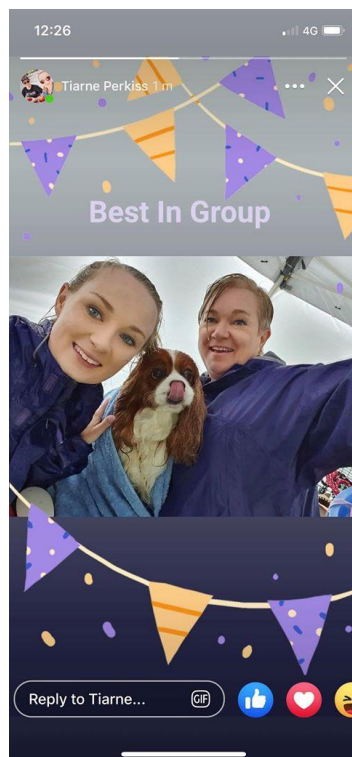
I Love My Family – Jan Kelly



Perfect Portrait – Ell Roberts



The Great Unwashed – Kim Perkiss



One Thing Better Than A Cavalier – Kim Perkiss



Beautiful Babies – Clare van der Wolde



Best Snap Chat – no entries

Best Mates – Glenda Smith



THESE INTERESTING TIMES

Written by member Penny Windlow

Greetings, everyone.

These are certainly interesting times that we are experiencing!

Since my last article, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit us in earnest, and our beloved hobbies were suspended. However, I am glad we got a few activities in under our belt – we enjoyed a trip over to South Australia for some shows, staying at a gorgeous caravan park and sampling some local wines, and Fletcher and I made a VERY early morning trek down to Warrnambool for their club's Labour Day weekend agility trial, where the little man earned a wonderful pass in Master Jumping – his third pass towards his title out of a required seven passes. Then, just as we were gearing up for our first Dances With Dogs trial for the weekend, COVID-19 reared its head, and that was that. All plans for 2020 are now firmly on hold while we wait and see what pans out. However, does that mean we are just twiddling our thumbs at home? Anyone who is a long time reader of my articles knows this couldn't be further from the case!

It did take me a little while to get myself into a new routine (especially as my work has directed us to all work from home for the foreseeable future), but the boys are enjoying a multitude of activities!

Some of the things we are doing are:

- Fitness training (cavaletti and bike riding for 5.5km a couple of times a week),
- Learning new tricks,
- Rehearsing parts of our new Dances With Dogs routines,
- Going over Obedience and Rally Obedience exercises,
- Practising Agility sequences, made handy now that my lovely partner helped me move my (very heavy) agility equipment over to where the dogs' training area will be, and
- As of this week, Tracking training!

Somewhere in there, I find time to maintain the boys' coats with regular grooming and bathing, let them romp around in the backyard, keep up their physical wellbeing with massage and chiro treatments, and also let them have a couple of well earned rest days each week.

To give you a flavour of some of what we are doing, I have included a short video montage:

https://youtu.be/BX_wZhsfyzY

Clip 1 is of Fletcher learning how to walk backwards over a distance of several metres – he was already able to do this for three or four steps, so I am now upping the ante for him. Walking backwards is a wonderful exercise for the dog's rear end awareness, and we will also use this for our Dances With Dogs routines. The click you can hear is my clicker, which tells Fletcher that he has done the right thing and that a reward is on its way. And yes, I am very aware that I cannot walk in a straight line ;)

Clip 2 is of Soldier learning how to operate our new treat dispenser by himself. You can see him actively trying to put two and two together – he knows that pushing the button makes a “beep” and the treats come out, but when he doesn't push the button hard enough or merely bats it around, the treats aren't forthcoming. I love watching my dogs actively try and problem solve. As you can see, towards the end of the clip, Soldier has worked it out and is loving the game of “beep for treats”!

(For anyone who is interested, this fabulous treat dispenser is available from Kmart at a bargain \$39!)

Clip 3 is of my interloper, George the King Charles Spaniel, practising his cavaletti in our outdoor undercover area. The cavaletti are 15cm high, so he really has to pick his feet up. I really like how he is briskly trotting through them, and exercises such as this have done wonders for strengthening his thigh muscles.

(Again, for those who are interested, the cavaletti I am using are a set of hurdles from Hart Sport. Hart Sport are a Queensland based business who have some fantastic equipment that can easily be used for dog activities/training).

So for those of you who are sitting at home waiting for shows to recommence, I strongly encourage you to look at what else you might do with your dogs. Why not teach your dog how to give a high five or spin in a circle, or put out three upturned containers with a treat underneath one of them and encourage the dog to use his nose to find the treat?

Alternatively, you might like to explore some online activities – you can upload videos and earn titles in Tricks, Parkour, or (for the bold) Treibball with your dog!

While we are all missing our hobbies, this is an amazing opportunity to deepen the bond that we share with our beautiful dogs, and to allow them to broaden their minds by learning new things.

Stay safe.

Penny Windlow