



# Midland Dog Training Club





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Caversham <b>9377 1270</b>	Malaga <b>9249 3125</b>	Geraldton <b>9921 2648</b>	
Clarkson <b>9408 5100</b>	Port Kennedy <b>9524 5450</b>		
Kelmscott <b>9390 4290</b>	Wangara <b>9309 6300</b>		

Individual store times may vary. Some stores open later on Thursday nights. Check our website for details.



# Midland Dog Training Club

## TERM 2, 2015



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## The Committee

PRESIDENT	PAUL SKEWES	0419 942 282
VICE PRESIDENT	SALLY PLEECE	93775848
SECRETARY	JANET	9377 6821
TREASURER	PAULA WILKINS	9297 3606
TRIAL SECRETARY	JILL HOUSTON	
NEWSLETTER ED.	MILLCENT HAYES	
<u>COMMITTEE</u>		
CHARMAINE GILL		
MICHELLE BAIRSTOW		
CARMEN WONG		

## Our Instructors

Karina Famlonga,  
Jill Houston, Lesley Lynam,  
Sally Pleece, Paul Skewes,  
Jan Welyky, Kyron Bromilow,  
Maja Pitts, June Page,  
Millicent Hayes.



**Remember to check out our website at  
[www.midlanddogtraining.com](http://www.midlanddogtraining.com) or our Facebook  
page [https://www.facebook.com/  
MidlandDogTrainingClub](https://www.facebook.com/MidlandDogTrainingClub)**



- When the dog performs the behaviour, mark with a “yes” and reward with a treat.
- Repeat a couple of times and end your training session with the goal of getting rid of hand signals in the next session.

### TIPS AND TROUBLESHOOTING

It's helpful to understand the difference between a reward and a bribe. When you ask your dog to perform a task that they have proven to know and they do it, giving them a treat afterwards is a reward and a reinforcement. If you ask your dog to sit, something they know how to do, and they do not do it until you lure them with food, it is a bribe. Teaching them to work, without luring them into position with food, teaches them that they must complete the task before earning the reward.

If possible, food lures should be removed in the first training session of a new command. If the behaviour is more complicated or if the dog is young, try removing the food lures by the second or third training session.

When fading the hand signal, if the dog doesn't do the behaviour, help him out by repeating the hand gesture a few more times.

### If progress is slow, try these intermediate steps:

Give the verbal cue, then wait a bit longer to give the hand signal. Allow them a few beats to think it out on their own, before prompting with the hand signal.

You can also fade the gesture gradually by modifying the amount of movement in your hand signal. For example, if you typically move your whole arm up when signalling your dog to sit, you would gradually decrease the gesture until you are only moving your hand upwards. Once they are reliably providing the behaviour, try fading that modified hand signal all together.



## Fading the Lure

Why Fade? Lures and prompts are excellent tools for helping dogs to understand what we are attempting to teach them. Luring a dog with food helps them interpret what we are asking them to do. However, the longer you continue to use lures and prompts, after your dog has already learned the new behaviour, the more dependent upon them your dog becomes and the more difficult it will be for them to respond to a verbal cue alone. In the case of food lures, you wind up bribing, rather than training your dog.

There are different reasons for the necessity of fading food lures and hand signals, but the most practical reasons for doing so are: you won't always have food with you and your hands won't always be free to gesture. Teaching your dog to listen to a verbal cue alone provides more security in a variety of situations.

### HOW TO FADE THE FOOD LURE

- Once you are reliably getting the behaviour that you desire (such as sitting) with the food lure and hand gesture, you can begin to fade the visual presence of the food.
- Leave the treat in your pocket or in your other hand, then move your empty hand exactly as you did before.
- When the dog responds with the correct behaviour, mark with a "yes" or a click, then deliver the food reward from your other hand.

### HOW TO FADE THE HAND SIGNAL

- Add the verbal cue once the behaviour is reliably occurring ninety percent of the time with the hand gesture. The verbal cue should be given just before the hand gesture.
- After using the verbal cue and hand gesture successfully, just use the verbal cue.
- The dog will likely pause. Wait until he does what you have asked. Let him think it out.



## President's Report

Presidents Report Term 2, 2015.

Welcome back to training for term 2, I hope that you all have a successful training term.

We are holding our Open trial on the 2nd of May and we still need volunteers to help run the trial, so if you would like to see an obedience and Rally O trial this would be an ideal opportunity. We also have an added bonus this trial (Thanks to Jill Houston who arranged this with Dogswest for the club) we will be offering ONLY TO Midland Dog Training Club Members a CCD and a NOVICE Rally O competition. You do not need to be a member of Dogswest to compete. This is a chance to have a trialling experience which will only benefit you and your dog. I would hope that class 2 and 3 take this opportunity that has been given to them.

Many of you would know that we also have a facebook account. If training is cancelled due to the weather, I try to post as soon as possible.

Happy Training,  
Paul Skewes

## Obedience & Rally O Trial

Date - Saturday 2nd May, 2015

Where - Jack Mann Oval, Bishop Road, Midland.

Gates Open - 8am

Vetting Time - 8.45am to 9.15am

Judging Time - Obedience 9.30 am, Rally O 10.30am.

Entries are now closed.



## Class Description & Times for 2015

*\* Tuesdays \**

Beginners	6:30pm	Beginners. Any age dog can join.
Class 1	6:30pm	Basic pet training
Class 2	7:30pm	Obedience training.
Class 3	7:30pm	Obedience training
Class 4	7:30pm	Preparation for CCD and CD
RallyO	7.00pm	Rally Obedience

## Doggy Etiquette

Please ensure you have full control of your dog at all times. Like humans, dogs need their personal space. Please check with other handlers before letting your dog approach another. Some timid dogs can be greatly stressed when boisterous dogs approach, sometimes causing aggression. Some of our dogs are still learning to be nice to each other and progress can be hindered after an unpleasant encounter. You may see a yellow ribbon or scarf used to indicate a very timid dog.



## Code of Conduct

1. Closed shoes must be worn while training.
2. No smoking.
3. It's your responsibility to supervise your children at all times.
4. Dogs must be on a lead at all times, unless instructed otherwise.
5. Membership badges must be worn.
6. Remember to pick up after your dog.



## Classes for Term 3, 2015

### Beginners

Registration - 21st July  
Commence - 28th July

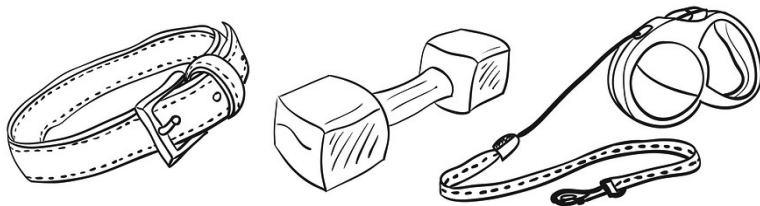
### All other Obedience Classes

Resume - 21st July

## For Sale

We have a selection of leads, collars and dumbbells available. Come and see us at the front desk for some assistance with our products.

- **LEADS**
- **COLLARS**
- **GENTLE LEADERS**
- **DUMBBELLS**



## Thursday Nights

### Dancing with Dogs

DWD Beginners and DWD advanced will be held on the following dates in term 2.

21st May  
18th June

### Agility

Agility training will only be held on the following nights during Term 2.

23rd April  
7th, 14th and 28th May  
4th, 11th and 25th June

If you are interested in agility please ring Jan on 95722907, or catch up with her at training on Tuesdays.





## How Dogs Learn

Dogs learn through consequences, just like humans do. Our training handouts teach dogs by using positive reinforcement, such as treats and praise, to increase desired behaviours, like sitting and staying.

### **Positive Reinforcement:**

Positive reinforcement utilizes anything that, when presented immediately following a behaviour, causes the behaviour to increase in frequency. The most commonly used reinforcers are treats and verbal praise, but some dogs respond well to favourite toys and activities. The most important thing is that the reinforcer must be pleasing to your individual dog.

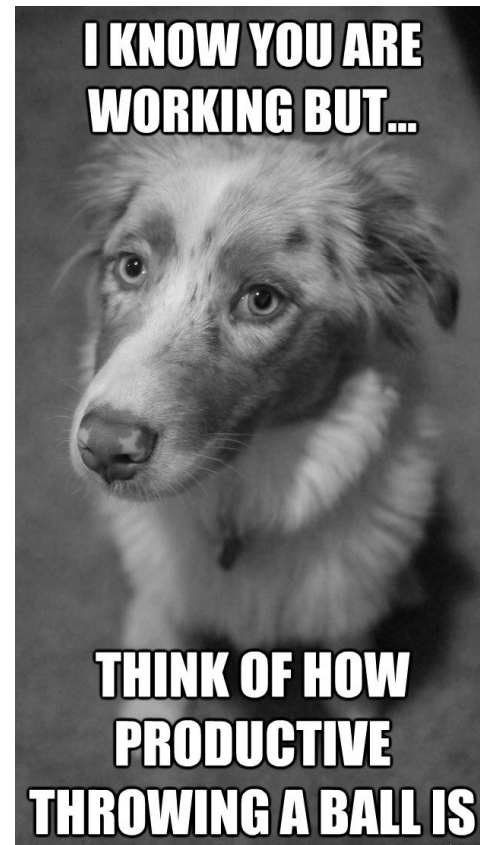
After you determine what to use as a positive reinforcer with your dog, you can then utilize it to strengthen your dog's behaviour in various scenarios by presenting the desired item immediately following your dog's actions. By rewarding them for their behaviour, your dog will be more likely to repeat his actions the next time he encounters a similar situation.

### **Here's an example of Positive Reinforcement:**

- You ask the dog to sit.
- He sits.
- You give him a treat.
- He is more likely to sit the next time you ask.

### **Tips for using positive reinforcement effectively:**

For maximum effectiveness, a reinforcer should be given immediately after the desired response. Immediately means within seconds of your dog performing the desired action. This very small window is when dogs can make the connection between their actions resulting in a reward. If more time goes by, your dog may not understand why he is being rewarded. For example, if your dog stands up, after they successfully perform the desired sit, but you give them the reward anyway, they'll think you've rewarded them for standing up, not sitting. Remember, the reinforcer can only strengthen the behaviour that it immediately follows.



- Please remember to sign in at the table and pay your \$2 grounds fee to your instructor each week.
- Please clearly print your name (not your dog's!) and which class you are in to help with our records.