

Temporary
Shut down

Howler



www.hillsdogclub.com

www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub

June 2020



*Synch catching -
Quinn, Nova, Brad.*



Michelle's Darcy -and a little model made from Darcy's coat after grooming. :-)



This is fun!



Ta daa! Now hang it on the wall.

The mission of Hills Dog Club Inc. is to enhance the human-dog relationship through training, education and the promotion of good breeding practices within our community.

Important Dates.

General meetings: 2020:

10 Jun.8 Jul.....12 Aug.9 Sept.
14 Oct.11 Nov.9 Dec.

25 Jul

26 Jul Championship Shows

24 Oct Suzanne Clothier talk.

31 Oct. Evening Trial

**All dates CANCELLED
until further notice**

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EDITOR'S NOTE.

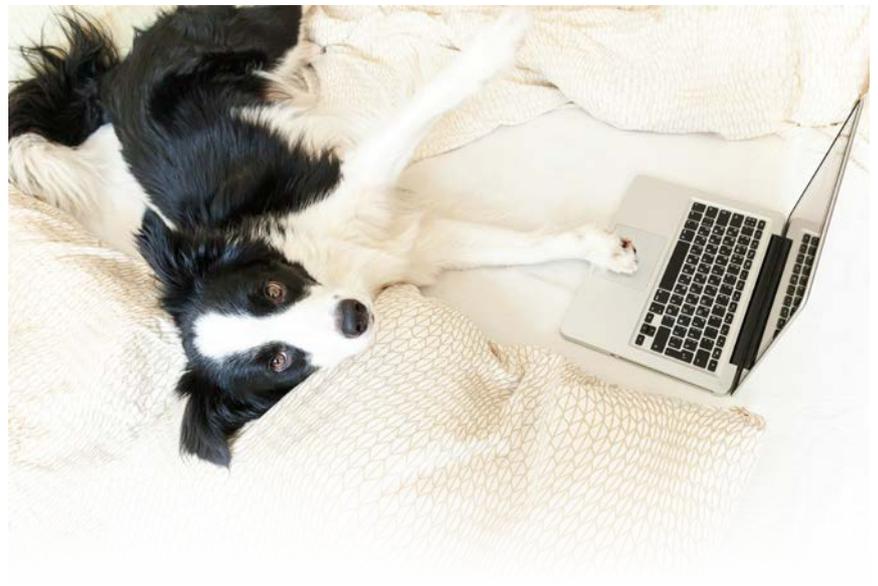
Dear readers,

This has certainly been an unusual time for all of us adjusting to changes in routine and living our lives under different circumstances. I know that both instructors and members have learnt new skills preparing and attending our online training sessions (Monday nights, 7 pm [on Facebook](#)) as well as our committee doing behind-the-scenes planning. But it has been the dedication, enthusiasm and resilience of all our members which has kept our community training!

We also want to build this confidence, resilience and adaptability to change in our dogs. So this edition of the Howler is about "life skills".

Instructor Michelle has some tips on preparing your dog for grooming, handling and veterinary exams. It's inevitable that your dog will need this kind of care at some point in his/her life and being prepared will make this easier on you and your dog. Check out this must-read on page 3.

We've also got an introduction to muzzle training, a useful skill for your dog to have in case of emergency. Take a look at instructor Carolyn's advice on page 7.



Is your dog ready for you to go back to work / school? Instructor Vanessa has a gentle reminder to continue working on your separation anxiety prevention, particularly for those dogs acquired during this period of isolation. Her great tips are on page 6.

Don't forget, the Howler is for members, by members, so if you have any requests, stories or suggestions, please drop us a line at hillshowler@gmail.com.

Happy reading!

Ellen, Editor

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Ellen Mok, Tony Vink
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GROOMING AND HANDLING YOUR DOG

by Michelle Raymond

Throughout your dog's life, they will need regular bathing, grooming and those essential visits to the vet, so it's really important that your dog is prepared for being handled for these occasions. At home, you may also need to check for fleas or ticks, check their paw if they develop a sudden limp, maybe administer oral medication, eye drops or even bathe a wound. Without regular handling, your dog may feel very uncomfortable and unprepared during these situations when intervention is necessary.

From Puppy classes to Beginners 5, handlers are reminded to have daily training sessions to help prepare their dog for all these situations.

It's so important, especially for puppies, to become used to being touched all over, particularly in more sensitive areas like feet, between pads, mouth, ears and tail.

Sniff your dog's ears and feet so you are familiar with their normal healthy smell, as the presence of an infection often makes an unpleasant odour. Practise gently opening your dog's mouth as vets will usually check their teeth during a routine check-up. Groomers often need to steady a dog by gently holding the chin or snout when scissoring, so if your dog needs regular clipping, that's another skill to train.

Whether your dog is bathed at home, at a DIY dog wash

station or with a groomer, ensuring your pooch is used to thorough handling will no doubt help to make bathing a smoother and much more pleasurable process.

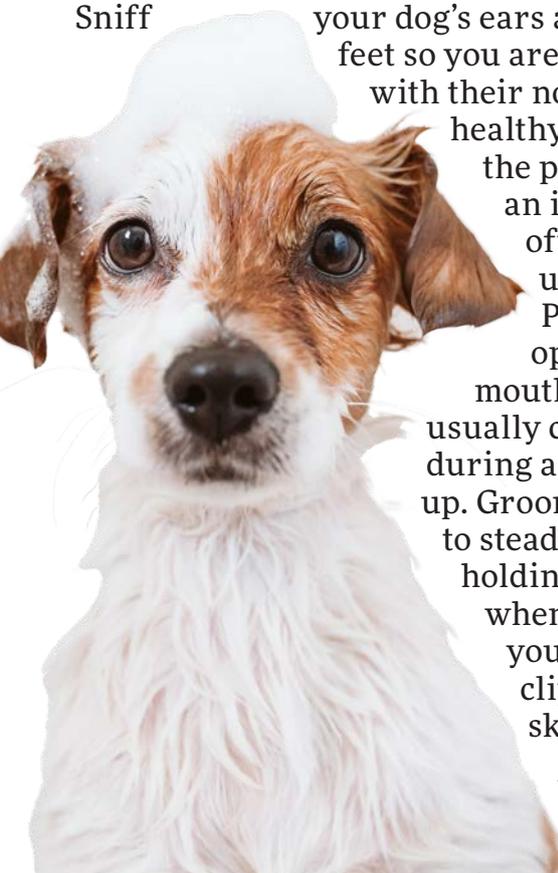


Apart from regular handling, here are some other tips to help prepare your dog for that visit to the vet or for regular grooming, whether it's at home, a mobile groomer or perhaps at a salon.

Make sure your dog is used to being near other dogs and people so they'll be comfortable in waiting rooms or crates. Keep them on a short lead so they're under control and not socialising with other animals that may be sick or injured.

Have other people pick them up, so they're relaxed when a vet, nurse or groomer has to handle them.

Use a table, a bench or perhaps the washing machine as a platform, so your dog will become used to being up high just like the vet's or groomer's tables. Get them to stand,



put your hand under their belly, through their legs and also practise lifting the tail for that inevitable temperature check by the vet!

For young puppies with a non-shed coat, who will need constant clipping, use an electric toothbrush,



shaver or clippers if you have them, to zoom over and around their body, especially near the ears to condition them to the noise of clippers. Expose them to the hair dryer and pretend to use blunt scissors and nail clippers near them. There are also mobile phone apps that simulate some of these sounds and vibrations to help desensitize dogs to these new and sometimes frightening noises and sensations. Most importantly, set them up for a pleasant and

successful experience with short sessions, a gentle approach, praise and rewards.

Cutting your dog's nails can be very tricky and nerve-racking, especially for the first time. Ask your groomer, vet, breeder or experienced handler to show you how. Lick mats and treat puzzles can be helpful as a distraction.

For a young pup, once they're vaccinated, maybe arrange to take them to meet the groomer so they're more prepared for the new smells, sights and especially the noise.

Ensure your dog is brushed regularly and free of knots, especially close to the skin. Depending on their type and length of coat, there are many combs, brushes and grooming products available to keep your dog feeling comfortable and their coat in great condition.

When you drop your dog at the vet or groomer's, especially for the first time, it is important to be calm so your dog doesn't pick up on any possible anxiety. Make sure you have an idea of any requests or questions, so communication is clear.

All these tips are common sense, but they ensure that regular grooming as part of your training sessions are easier for you, the vet and the groomer, and a positive and less stressful experience for your dog or puppy.

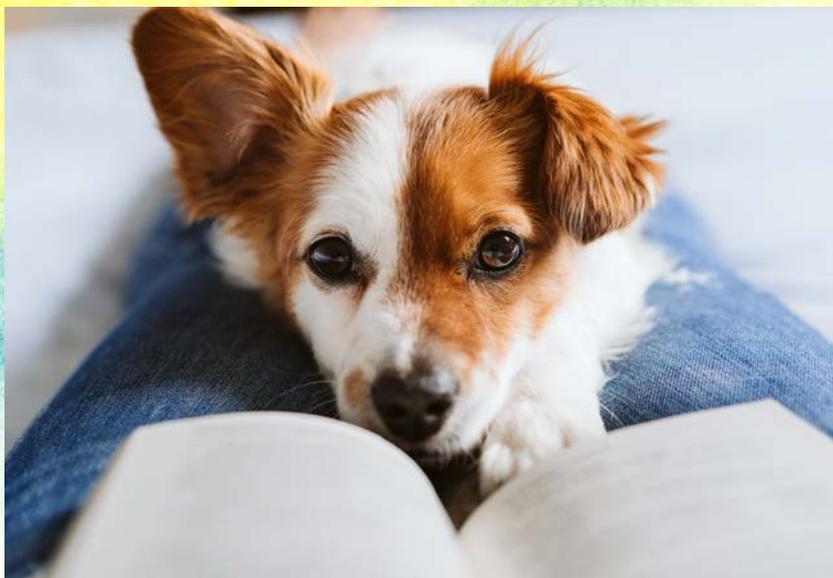


We train we're fine come rain or shine

FOR NOTICE OF CLASS CANCELLATION

In the event of ext... her
con...
... OR
... BOOK:
facebook.com/hillsdogclub
Pages updated Monday 4pm &
Tuesday 8:45am

On hold till further notice



DOG-EARED II

Need a good laugh or cry? Looking for inspiration for the future, or distraction from the now? This month we asked you for your favourite dog novels. Most are memoirs or based on true stories, with a couple of works of pure fiction thrown in. Enjoy!

The Wonder of Lost Causes - Nick Trout

A Dog's Journey - W. Bruce Cameron

Marley & Me - John Grogan

From Baghdad with Love: A Marine, the War, and a Dog Named Lava - Jay Kopelman

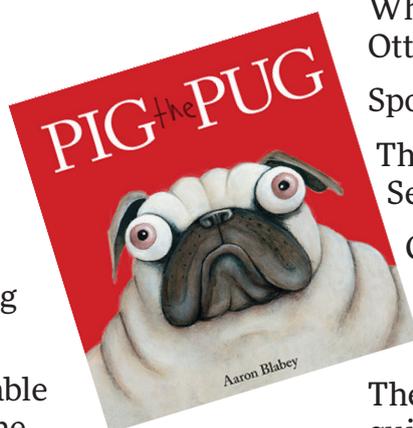
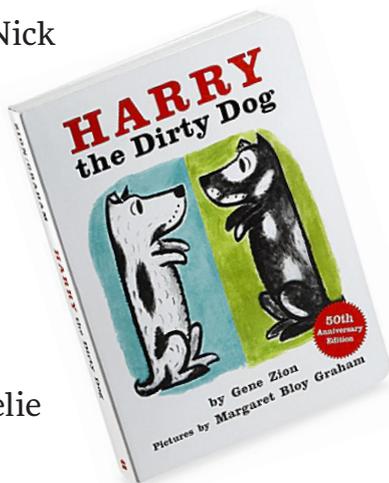
Two Dogs and a Garden - Derelie Cherry

Being A Dog: Following the Dog into a World of Smell - Alexandra Horowitz

Sergeant Rex: The Unbreakable Bond Between A Marine & His Military Working Dog - Mike Dowling

Ralf: How a Giant Schnauzer brought hope, happiness & healing to sick children - Anne Crawford

A Friend Like Henry: the remarkable true story of an autistic boy and the dog that unlocked his world - Nuala

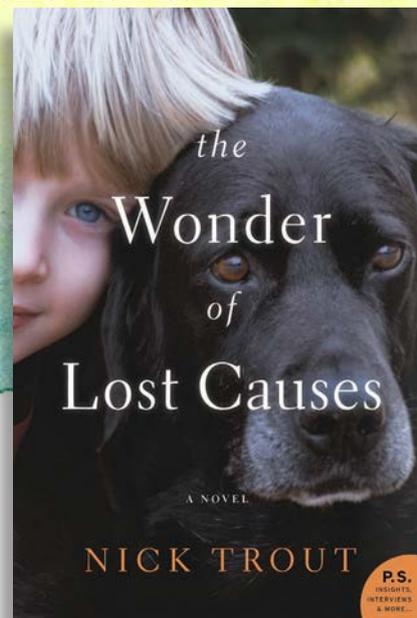


Gardner

Saving Private Sarbi: the true story of Australia's canine war hero - Sandra Lee

The Dogs That Made Australia: The Story of the Dogs That Brought about Australia's Transformation from Starving Colony to Pastoral Powerhouse - Guy Hull

James Herriot's Favourite Dog Stories - James Herriot



For kids:

Harry the Dirty Dog - Gene Zion, Margaret Bloy Graham

Dogs - Emily Gravett

Pig the Pug - Aaron Blabey

Hairy Maclary - Lynley Dodd

Fearless - Colin Thompson, Sarah Davis

What Faust Saw, Faust in Space - Matt Ottley

Spot - Eric Hill

The Poky Little Puppy - Janette Sebring Lowrey, Gustaf Tenggren

Clifford the Big Red Dog - Norman Bridwell

Selby - Duncan Ball

The Sheep-Pig - Dick King-Smith (not quite a DOG book!)



SEPARATION ANXIETY TIPS

by *Vanessa van Vugt*

So it's time to separate... without the anxiety...

Here are three tips that can help:

1. Keep calm.

Teach your dog that your leaving the house and coming home is nothing to get excited or anxious over. Keep your greetings quiet and low key. It doesn't mean you can't hug, kiss or pat your dog, just do it without being over the top about it. Quiet and calmly is the key!

2. Start a desensitising and counter-conditioning plan.

Most of us still have a few more weeks working from home so now is a good time to start, as it's not as hard as you think but you will need to dedicate some time and focus.

3. Never correct or punish your dog after the event.

Actually, this goes for ALL dog behaviour, but is really relevant to dogs who are anxious when left alone. Your dog may look guilty when you come home to ripped up pillows or a poop on the carpet, but your dog's forever happiness to see you is designed to avoid your wrath, not because "they know they shouldn't do it". Getting cranky with them when you get home will likely do nothing but make it worse the next time you leave.

But what does desensitising and counter-conditioning mean?

Desensitisation is the process of exposing your dog to a stimulus (a thing that arouses activity or excitement) by starting at a very low intensity. Counter conditioning is a useful strategy to train your dog to display a behaviour that is different from their current reaction/behaviour to that stimulus. Counter conditioning and desensitisation need to be used together to be effective and are often used to change an unwanted behaviour in dogs, to assist in separation anxiety.

Here's an example...

You plan to take your dog for a walk, you pick up their leash and your dog starts getting really excited, maybe jumping or barking... the leash is the "stimulus". Therefore, we need to 'desensitise' the excitement when your dog sees the leash.

We can do this by picking up the leash a few times a day and moving it around the house. Pick it up from where it is normally kept and take it with you to the kitchen and leave there until you move it the next time. Place it all about the house. The hardest thing will be remembering where you left it when you do decide to go for a walk. When your dog is calm, reward with a treat.

See the example below:



PICK UP THESE ITEMS AND PLACE THEM IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE HOUSE THROUGHOUT THE DAY



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Leash/Lead							
Sneakers							
Car keys							

MUZZLE TRAINING.

by Carolyn Becker

A muzzle is a device that goes over your dog's snout, preventing him from biting people or other animals. Many people only associate muzzles with aggressive / dangerous dogs. Whilst muzzles are a safety tool, they are not only for use on dangerous dogs. In fact, they are regularly used on injured animals.

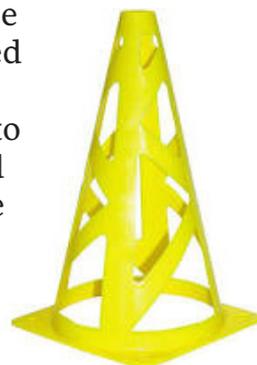
The idea of muzzle training is to reduce stress involved in the event of accident or injury and prevent injury to anyone, including owners, if an animal is injured. Most of us will never need to actually "use" a muzzle on our animal, however, if the animal can be a willing participant in having one put on their face, then in a stressful situation like after an accident, when they may be afraid or in pain, we can ensure handlers' safety without adding to their stress. I like to think of it a bit like a seatbelt in a car, or even an insurance policy – you hope you will never really need either but there are times when you are so grateful when you have them.

Muzzle training should be perceived as just another type of socialisation / experience training, just like we get our puppies used to noises, different types of people, walking on different surfaces, being handled etc. It is a case of getting our dogs used to something different and restrictive over their face.

Muzzles may also be needed for veterinary or medical procedures at times. Hopefully none of you will need a muzzle on your dog but if you ever do, you will be glad you trained it!

Don't think that because it's your dog, it won't bite you when in pain

or fear. It can happen. Trying to introduce a muzzle into this situation can make the dog more agitated and escalate the fear causing them to become more dangerous. Having them used to a muzzle through prior training will make it easier to use this safety device should the situation arise. And once on, you will be able to feel comfortable that you and those handling your dog can't get bitten.



Open cone

This exercise has a lot of similarity to teaching "touch" or target exercises. A good option for training this exercise is to use a small open cone (see image of open cone) with a

piece of food on your hand at the bottom of it. An open cone works well because the pup can see through it and also smell the food.

When the pup is quite willing to put his face in the cone, mark the behaviour with your marker word and reward. If you have access to a muzzle (see image) we introduce the



Muzzle



Muzzle training by Carolyn

muzzle using the same procedure. Keep rewarding the pup for putting its nose in the cylinder or the muzzle. You are aiming for the pup to be a willing, happy participant.

It doesn't matter if you don't have these tools, you can improvise and use any type of cylinder you may have but try to have it fairly open (eg. for a small breed you could cut some slits in a disposable cup or for larger breeds you could improvise with a plastic milk bottle).

Key things to remember: do not rush this exercise or force the muzzle onto the pup. We are not training this for a daily occurrence, we are training this for emergency situations.

During the training process don't worry about fastening the muzzle. We are initially training them to willingly accept having something over their snout, rather than actually wearing it for any length of time.

There are many great videos online which show you a step-by-step process to muzzle training!



**"Please remember that soft/fabric muzzles are less comfortable than basket muzzles and restrict panting so they are ONLY for VERY short supervised periods!"*

Obviously if your animal accepts it easily, you could progress to allowing him to wear it for a very short time.

This exercise is about training the experience of having something put over their face in a positive way to try to reduce stress should an emergency happen where they need to be muzzled.



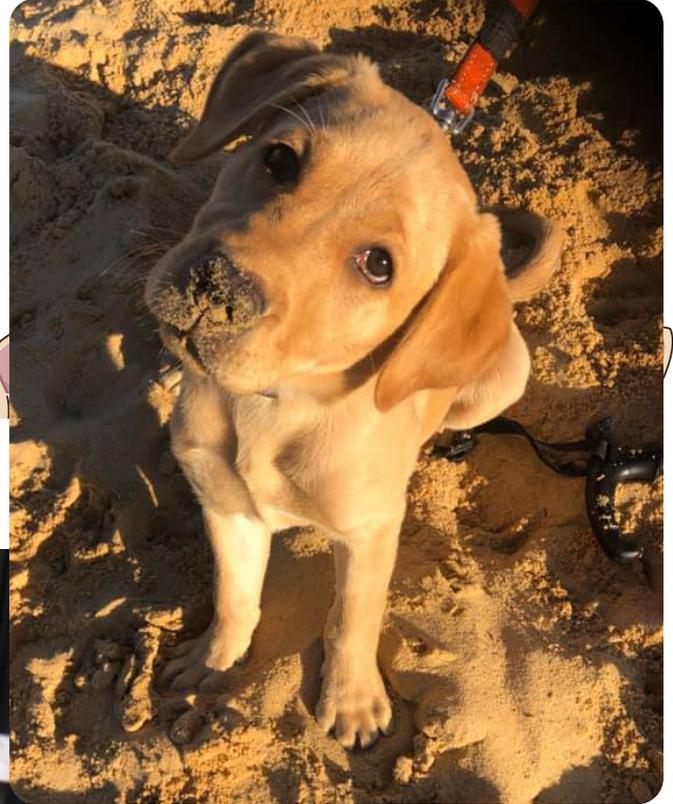


NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Who doesn't love a new puppy? Here are some of our club members' new fur babies. If you have a cute photo of your recent new pup, send it to us at Howler. We'll make you famous.



Carole Hately's Ryder



Eve Ryan's Bess



Todd Hartwell's Bentley



**NO TUESDAY CLASSES HELD
IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

Hills Dog Club Inc.

TRAINING TIMES

Mon. 7pm -> Puppies*,
Beginners, Graduate &
Advanced

8pm -> Competitive Trialling
dogs class

*Puppy classes are for dogs
12-20 weeks.

Tue. 10:30am -> All Classes

**NO CLASSES HELD ON
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

NOTE: NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!

**Forgotten to bring treats to
training?**

Lamb Treats are on sale at the
office for \$5 a packet

CLUB MEETINGS

The club meets monthly on
the 2nd Wednesday of the
month, except January, in the
clubhouse. Meetings start at
7.30pm. All welcome! Tea and
coffee provided.

Club financial year is 1st
January to 31st December.

CORRESPONDENCE AND NEWSLETTER

All Club correspondence or
enquiries should be addressed
in writing to The Secretary,
PO BOX 392

Round Corner NSW 2158 or
infohillsdogclub@gmail.com

Hills Howler is available at the
clubhouse on training days/
nights and online. All mem-
bers are encouraged to con-
tribute. For admin purposes,
please keep us informed of
change of email address.

NOTICE:
Election **Obedience- and
Rally Judges** will take
place at the general meeting
**On hold till further
notice**
Information
for the year **2022**
(April & 2 September shows)
will be held at the **May 2020**
general meeting

Get digital **Howler** via email?
QR to sign up page or type in
<https://bit.ly/2jtekhB>
It is **FREE**



GROUND RULES

1. As a condition of membership,
all dogs are required to be
properly vaccinated according to
current veterinary guidelines.
2. Members are responsible at
all times for the behaviour of
their dog/s whilst present on the
training grounds or representing
the club.
3. All dogs must have properly
fitted equipment and remain on
lead at all times (unless instructed
otherwise by a club instructor).
No check/choker chains are to
be used on any dogs in Puppy,
Beginners or Graduate classes.
4. A member shall not ill-treat a
dog at any time. Any such action
may give rise to suspension
or expulsion from the Club by
resolution of the Committee.
5. Bitches in season and/or
dog/s which are un-well or have
an infectious condition are not
permitted on the obedience
training grounds.

6. Members are to pick up after
their dog/s and help keep the
grounds clean and tidy.
7. Adequate sensible dress with
appropriate footwear (no thongs,
scuffs or bare feet) is required
to be worn by Handler during
training.
8. Dogs are not to be left
unattended whilst on the training
grounds unless crated or tethered
in a safe area. Members are
reminded not to approach dogs
that are confined. All dogs are
to be kept under control and
supervised while at the counter
or in the clubhouse.
9. The Club reserves the right
to ask any member to muzzle or
in extreme cases, remove their
dog/s from the training grounds.
If a muzzle is required this must
remain in place whilst on the
club grounds. This will be at the
discretion of the Committee.
10. Members who use Club
equipment must ensure it is

- returned to the storeroom and
stored correctly after classes are
conducted.
11. Children are welcome to
attend classes provided they are
supervised by an adult/parent/
guardian at all times.
12. Child members (aged 7 to 11 are
to be accompanied by an adult/
parent/guardian in classes) and
Junior members (aged 12 to 15
under adult/parent/guardian
supervision on grounds) are
welcome to train providing they
have sufficient control of their
dog during classes. This will be
at the discretion of the class/chief
instructor.

**Check us out on
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Club updates.**
<https://www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub/>



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- - - - - **Dr Michelle Byrne, Mayor, The Hills Shire Council**
- - - - - **Mrs Luci Ellem**

LIFE MEMBERS: Peter Guenther, Hazel Baldwin (deceased), Dianne Atkins, Janet Power, Belvane Parsons, Anne Small, Betty Cansdale (deceased), Robyn Jones, Janice Lyons, Vicki Gresser, Lynne Sheather.

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ages also contain web links.

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