

Scholars in Collars®

Behavioural Consultations—In home training

Classes held in Balhannah—Mt Barker—Murray Bridge

Walk this way

A dog that walks nicely on a loose lead makes walking with your dog pleasurable and comfortable, for both you and your dog. If your dog walks well on lead then it is more likely that you will go for more walks and your dog will be better exercised – this leads to a happier relationship for both you and your dog, and a better behaved dog! *Walk This Way* is a 4 week course that is suitable for friendly dogs of all ages and abilities with a current vaccination. This course has been specifically designed to teach your dog to walk nicely on a loose lead and also to teach your dog to walk closely by your side (heeling). We include: management options whilst teaching your dog to walk on a loose lead, how to improve your dog's attention when there are distractions, fun games to practice your lead walking, great tips and also a Walk This Way booklet.

Please contact Alexis for further information on this course. Details are on the back page of this issue.



Above: Gracie of Mt Barker learning to walk nicely on a lead.

Is your dog a social butterfly?

Dogs are very social animals and should be included in family activities whenever possible.

Make sure you include your dog in your everyday routine, including outings. Socialising is not just for puppies! Make sure you continue to practice your dog's social skills right through their life. This way your dog gets to meet all sorts of people in different places and this will make a happy, calm and confident companion who is a pleasure to be with.



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Top 10 Working dogs

1. German Shepherd Dog
2. Border Collie
3. Australian Cattle Dog
4. Shetland Sheepdog
5. Collie (Rough)
6. Welsh Corgi (Welsh)
7. Australian Shepherd
8. Australian Kelpie
9. Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog
10. Belgian Shepherd (Malinois)

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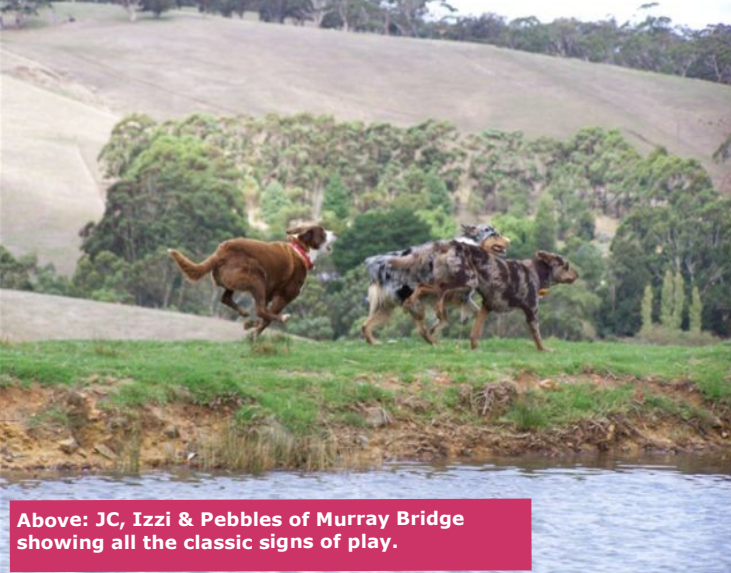
Playing with other dogs

When dogs play, they use all of the same body language that they use for other things in life.

The classic play signal is the play-bow. This is where the dog invites play by going down on front elbows, with their rear-end up in the air. Dogs ask other dogs to play and also sometimes invite humans to play this way too! It is important that dogs pause and take breaks and sometimes use the play-bow to turn down the intensity. This allows the dogs to calm down and stops the play from escalating to something else. To keep play as play, dogs alternate their moves in doggy games so that chasing, mouthing and even standing still are only done for a few moments at a time.

Right: Rosie & Newton play after Basic Training in Mt Barker

Photo credit: Bill Pfeiffer



Above: JC, Izzi & Pebbles of Murray Bridge showing all the classic signs of play.

When dogs play with each other they use a combination of different body language. Here are some of the signals dogs use to say "no worries" to their play-mates and to have fun with each other:



Photo credit: Scholars in Collars®

- ◆ Relaxed postures
- ◆ Squinty eyes
- ◆ No direct eye contact
- ◆ Regular role swapping
- ◆ Open mouth
- ◆ Relaxed face
- ◆ Tails gently waving
- ◆ Floppy, relaxed ears
- ◆ "Goofy" expressions
- ◆ Lack of body tension
- ◆ Constant movement

What's in a name?

Butterscotch: a cheerful name for a dog with a caramel coat

Cocoa: for a chocolate dog

Ginger Meggs: for a red head

Jason: of the Golden Fleece (or the 80's Golden Boy, Jason Donovan)

Jet: a black dog

Mars: a red planet, a Roman God or a red dog.

Ruby: for a red dog who is a jewel

Sooty: for the obvious black dog or in jest for a white one!



Exercise & play

One of the best forms of exercise for dogs is letting them run off-lead. Make sure you are in a safe area before your release your dog. If your dog does not come reliably when called or you are in a busy area, use a long lead or an extension lead. This way your dog can still run back and forth and sniff around, whilst still remaining safe. There are also a range of clubs you can join and doggy games and activities to play with your dog, which combine running and playing. If you are interested in meeting others doing the same, have a look at activities such as agility or flyball - there are even doggy dancing competitions! All of these combine exercise, play and training, which are good for physical as well as mental exercise.



Photo credit: Scholars in Collars®

Right: Ned of Lobethal enjoying an agility session.

Preparing for training



Photo credit: Scholars in Collars®

A little preparation goes a long way to enhance your chances of success when training your dog.

Here are some tips to help prepare you and your dog for training:

- ◆ Use food that your dog REALLY likes
- ◆ Use food in small pieces so you're not waiting for your dog to stop and chew

Left: Dash of Mt Barker & Cooper of Nairne are paying good attention to their owners during class.

- ◆ Don't use food which is too crumbly or your dog may end up truffling around on the ground rather than looking at you!
- ◆ Keep food treats in a bum-bag or treat pouch and take it with you wherever you go with your dog
- ◆ Put food in containers around the house (so you can reward your dog in any room), not just in class

Kids and dogs

Even dogs who are comfortable and safe around children need some down-time! Dogs need to be able to get away if they are feeling overwhelmed and retreat to their own space. It's up to you to make sure your dog has a safe retreat and that he has access to it when needed.

It's important that there are exit routes for the dog and that doors aren't blocked off with toys or other things. It's a good idea to have two exit routes—so if one is blocked off, the dog can still get out through the other.

Set up a den or a crate which is a kid-free zone. Don't let kids play in or on the crate (even when the crate is empty). This is the dog's safe space, not a shared one. Alternatively, you can use a baby gate to partition off a room. This way the dog is not completely isolated and can see and hear what's happening without being bothered. Some gates are now designed with a pet-door, so the dog can put himself on the other side of the baby gate, without you having to open the gate for him.



Above: Chester of Upper Blessington, having a rest in his crate.



What's happening?

Walk This Way: 24 Oct (Balhannah)

Really Reliable Recall -27 Sept (Mt Barker); 8 Nov (Mt Barker); 21 Nov (Balhannah)

Calm. Controlled. Centred. 13 Nov (Balhannah)

Beyond Basics - 24 Oct (Balhannah) 27 Oct (Mt Barker), 20 Nov (Balhannah)

Basic Training - 20 Sept, 20 Oct, 1 Nov (Mt Barker), 9 Oct (Murray Bridge), 10 Oct, 13 Nov & 21 Nov (Balhannah)



Photo credit: Scholars in Collars®

Above: Rosie of Bridgewater learning to stay with distractions

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Our services

Alexis offers a range of training courses at indoor venues in Balhannah, Mt Barker and Murray Bridge. Class numbers are limited to 5-7 dogs to ensure individual attention.

She also conducts behavioural consults and provides in-home training throughout the Adelaide Hills, Murray Bridge and metropolitan Adelaide.

Left: Alice of Bridgewater taking a refreshment break from training.

Did you know?



- ◆ This ever popular dog was originally bred to herd sheep.
- ◆ The **German Shepherd Rin Tin Tin** was one of the most famous canine film stars of all time. He starred in 24 films and is credited with saving Warner Brothers from bankruptcy.

The German Shepherd Dog is the most popular working breed in Australia today.

- ◆ This breed was re-named the *Alsation* during World War I and World War II, to avoid affiliation with Germany. The name was reverted back to the **German Shepherd Dog** in the 1970's.

- ◆ In the aftermath of September 11th, 2001 **German Shepherds** were part of a group of more than 300 dogs used in the search-and-rescue operations.