

Scholars in Collars®

Behavioural Consultations—In home training
Classes held in Balhannah—Mt Barker—Murray Bridge

Calm. Controlled. Centred.

Does your dog get over excited before a walk, whine excitedly in the car, bowl visitors over in excitement, lunge or bark at other dogs on walks, become frantic when seeing other dogs playing or bark at you to play or for your attention?

Calm. Controlled. Centred. is a 6-week course designed to help you teach your dog self control and consequently to behave calmly. The course is suitable for all breeds and sizes of dogs that are fully vaccinated.

Calm. Controlled. Centred. will teach you how to train your dog to behave calmly, especially in the presence of other dogs or events which your dog finds exciting. We will teach your dog how to relax, focus, be self-controlled and control impulses.

This course is not suitable for aggressive dogs. If you are unsure as to whether or not this course will be suitable for your dog, please contact Alexis to discuss your dog's behaviour.

Below: Molly of Bridgewater is very intent on her food bowl but has learnt to show self-control, thanks to this class.



Photo credit: Scholars in Collars®

Feedback is important

We all need feedback on how we're doing. This goes for our dogs too! Dogs learn best when they know which behaviours you like and which ones you don't. You need to reward good behaviour straight away. Don't reward any behaviour you don't like. Be consistent in everything you do.

If you would like to give feedback on this newsletter or there are articles or tips you would like to see in future editions, please let us know! Contact details are on the back page of this issue.

This way you send clear messages to your dog and this makes learning things so much easier!



Top 10 breeds in Australia

1. Labrador Retriever
2. German Shepherd Dog
3. Staffordshire Bull Terrier
4. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
5. Golden Retriever
6. Border Collie
7. Pug
8. Rottweiler
9. Cocker Spaniel
10. Boxer

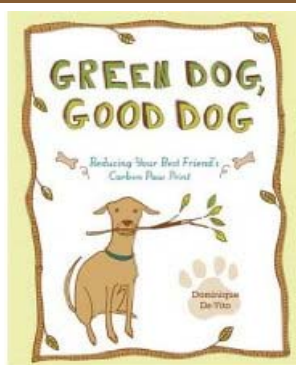
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Book review



Your dog's carbon paw print is so greatly influenced by yours. This new book is full of practical tips on ways to live with your dog that minimise the environmental impact in our world and maximise your dog's health and well-being. This book encourages you to think about what you can do for your dog and ways to make positive changes. Each

chapter contains check-lists and action plans for you to start improving your dog's health and to tread softly on

Are the poo-bags you use biodegradable? Do you buy a lot of throw-away toys? What's in the food you buy? What are your dog's food bowls made from? Find out why these things are important in this nifty little new book.

the earth with her paws. This book is easy to read and understand and is written in a non-preachy way. It encourages you to learn more and has a useful resource section as well as ways to improve on what you are currently doing and in ways that are comfortable for both you and your dog.

Stockists in SA include: Borders, Dymocks, Angas & Robertson

De Vito, Dominique **Green Dog, Good Dog: Reducing Your Best Friend's Carbon Paw Print** New York, Lark Books, 2009

The magic of puzzles



Above: Chester road-tests the Nina Ottoson Dog Magic Puzzle.

Dogs need fun and interesting activities. Puzzle toys get dogs thinking and keep them busy. Toys range in difficulty and new ones are coming on the market all the time. Kong toys are one example and are now very popular. These are stuffed with food and the dog needs to chew, lick and paw at the toy to get food out. Stuffing a Kong with wet food, then freezing it will keep your dog busy for longer. Buying different kinds of toys is important so that your dog has the opportunity for different kinds of play. Puzzle toys encourage problem solving. In the photo [L], Chester is busily looking for pieces of dried liver hidden under the plastic bones in the Nina Ottoson's **Dog Magic Puzzle**. With this toy, dogs need to use their paws, nose and brains to work out where the treats are hidden. Great fun for dogs and a real time waster for humans watching!

Good fun toys to exercise your dog's mind & body.

SA stockists of this puzzle toy & others: Pets Need a Life Too showroom 52 Main North Road, Prospect SA 5082 or to shop online, go to www.petsneedalifetoo.com

What's in a name?

The **Top 5** most popular dog names in Australia:

1. Max
2. Jessie
3. Molly
4. Sam
5. Jack

For more fun with names go to:
www.bowwow.com.au



Above: Jasper of Bridgewater

Or something different:

Bagel for one who loves to roll

Beecher said the dog is "the God of frolic"

Carmen for the drama Queen in your life

Diggory is a boy from the magical land of Narnia

Errol is a charming rogue

Raffles was the British founder of Singapore

Games to play with your dog

Dogs need to be kept physically and mentally active throughout their lives. The tricky bit for us is being creative so they're not playing out their own ideas, which may not be so good! Games are a great outlet for an energy release and are a good fun alternative if you're juggling kids, dogs and making dinner.

Kids and adults have great fun with these simple games that are based on old childhood favourites. Games entertain and tire your dog *and* your kids at the same time *and* Rover is getting some sit-stay practice in between weekly classes. It's all good!

Hide n' Seek

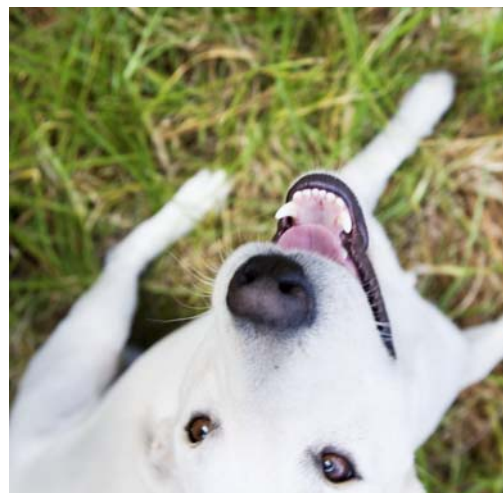
You can play this game with people or toys or food or in different combinations of these things. Ask your dog to sit and stay, then go and hide his toy or a piece of food in another room. Encourage the dog to "go find". This works well with people too. A dog will learn individual family members and will easily remember their name with a few repetitions. This is a great game to play together, with family members taking turns.

Or what about a **treasure hunt** around the garden? Start off with easy to find treats, to encourage him to find

the trail. As he gets better at this, you can hide food in all sorts of nooks and crannies and really get him snuffling and truffling around. Remember the longer this takes, the busier he'll be and the more tired he'll be.

And a tired dog is a happy dog.

You can also get the kids to make a treasure chest—an old cereal box is perfect! Wrap up food treats or a raw meaty bone and hide it inside the box for your dog to discover and unwrap. Tape the box up to make it a bit trickier!



Being a good leader



Photo credit: Scholars in Collars ©
Above: Visitor Chester (L) from Upper Blessington, Brodie (c) of Birdwood & Bella (R) of Oakbank showing nice kitchen manners.

Being a good leader is about communicating effectively.

You can practice your leadership skills as you go about your normal routine at home. Integrate some training into your day, rather than practicing in one long session. This way your dog learns that good things happen when she does and as she's asked. No two households have the same house rules, so it's important that your dog understands what your house rules are.

A good leader sets boundaries.

Kitchens are full of interesting sights and smells and can often be a place of high excitement for dogs.

Instead of getting underfoot, teach your dog to wait or sit calmly while you prepare meals. This is not only easier for you, it is safer for dogs. Giving your dog a designated space in one of the busiest hubs of the home and rewarding good, calm behaviour is one way of achieving this.

Kids and dogs

It is up to you to teach your children how to treat dogs respectfully and how to interact safely with your family dog—or other dogs they come into contact with.

Show children how to pat a dog on the chest or under the chin, rather than on top of the head.

Encourage children to play "fetch" with the dog. This way the dog brings a toy back to the child, rather than games where children

are chasing the dog or where the dog may be inadvertently encouraged to hold onto possessions.

Make sure your dog has plenty of interaction with friendly children. Get them to toss toys and treats his way so he associates good things with children.

It is up to you to make sure your dog is safe around children. And a happy dog is usually a safe dog.



Make sure your dog has plenty of interaction with friendly children.



About Scholars in Collars®

Alexis is a nationally accredited Dog Behavioural Trainer and holds a Certificate IV in Dog Behavioural Training. She is an internationally Certified Professional Dog Trainer and a professional member of the Association of Animal Behavior Professionals and the Association of Pet Dog Trainers both in the USA and Australia.

Courses: Alexis offers a range of family friendly courses designed to have a well mannered pet dog. The courses are 4-6 weeks in duration and are held at indoor venues in Balhannah, Mt Barker and Murray Bridge. Class numbers are limited to 5-7 dogs (depending on venue) to ensure individual attention.

Behavioural and in-home training: Alexis conducts private training and behavioural consultations throughout the Adelaide Hills, Murray Bridge and metropolitan Adelaide. In home visits may be for problems such as barking, digging, roaming, destructive behaviours, house soiling, shyness and aggression amongst others. Alexis is also available for private tuition in your home, for general obedience and behavioural training.



Above: Fritz of Naime in the Basic Training course.

Contact:

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Below: Buddy of Mt Barker lying quietly in the Calm. Controlled. Centred class.



Above: Labradoodle pup, Gracie of Mt Barker in Walk This Way.

Did you know?

- ◆ Over **4 million households** in Australia have at least one dog.
- ◆ **3 dogs survived the sinking of the Titanic:** a Newfoundland, a Pomeranian and a Pekingese.
- ◆ Over **60% of dog bites** occur at home or in the yard of a family member, friend or neighbour.
- ◆ In 2008 **63,387 purebred dogs** were registered with the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC).
- ◆ The **most popular** purebred dog in Australia today is the Labrador Retriever.

Superdog: 18 month old Chocolate Labrador, Bella of Oakbank has lovely manners. Bella shows that with training, it IS possible to sit calmly and be a teenage Lab at the same time!

