

The Beat

*Newsletter of the
Dances with Dogs Club
Queensland*



Christmas Edition 2010

Office Bearers 2010

President

Gay Westmore

Vice President

Maree Rablin

Secretary

Sharon Clark

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**Assistant Trial Secretary &
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Val Bulte

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Robyn Kirkman

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Equipment Officer

Eddie Kirkman

Committee Members

Barbara Murfet Robyn Thomas
Pam Kettle Wendy Russell

Introduction

Hi everyone, it's almost that time of year again & everyone is getting busier as the silly season approaches. Don't forget to be extra vigilant about ticks & fleas at this time of year, so many dogs become ill or die from paralysis tick poisoning every year, it pays to physically check your dogs thoroughly every day in addition to using a chemical tick treatment.

I have had email & computer troubles for the last month or so which is why this edition of "The Beat" is a double one.

Don't forget, if you have anything you'd like to be included in future newsletters, please feel free to email it to me, my email address is remok@pacific.net.au.

I'd like to wish everyone a healthy & happy Christmas & look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Robyn



Apology

Apologies to Tabitha & Flame who got bumped down a position in the Grafton Trial results. They actually came 3rd on Saturday & 2nd on Sunday both in the HTM novice class. Sorry Tabitha & Flame!



DANCES WITH DOGS CLUB, QUEENSLAND

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1st November 2010

Entry forms

DWDCQ competitions are advertised in the Dogs Queensland Dog World magazine, via Club emails and on the website (<http://www.danceswithdogsaustralia.com/queensland-competitions.html>).

While reminder emails are often circulated, it is the responsibility of competitors to ensure that their entries (entry forms, fees and S.A.E. – Stamped Self Addressed Envelope if required) are forwarded to the Competition Secretary by the published closing date. Entries received after the closing date may be declined. If you miss the closing date and still want to submit an entry, you should contact the Competition Secretary to ascertain whether a late entry will be accepted.

Arrival and vetting

Competitors should arrive at the competition venue, at the very least, approximately one half hour before music checks and vetting.

The first requirement is to present yourself to the Competition Secretary to check in and receive your catalogue and entry receipt. You should then present your dog for vetting – if you do not pass the vetting check, you cannot compete. All dogs/puppies at the competition (even visitors) are required to be vetted regardless of whether or not they are competing. The vet check principally ensures that no in season bitch is present on the grounds and that all dogs competing are in good health and are not exhibiting any evidence of lameness.

Music check

After passing the vetting check, take your music to the Music Steward for checking. It is a good idea to have at least two copies of your music in pristine condition. Your CD should have your full name, the division and class entered, dog's name and song title written on the disc for quick and easy identification.

The Music Steward will check that the CD plays on the sound system in use at the competition and the volume. If the CD will not play on the Club sound system, an attempt will be made to play it on any other CD player which may be available on the day.

Remember, it is your responsibility to retrieve your music when you have finished competing.

Division, class and music selection

A competitor will compete in the division and class as specified on the entry form. Where a dog has completed the necessary qualifying scores for a title at a particular level at a competition which took place after the closing of entries for the competition in question and has applied for that title, the competitor may apply and the Competition Secretary may approve that the competitor be transferred to the next higher class in that division. If a competitor wishes to change the piece of music they wish to perform to they must inform the Competition Secretary prior to music checks. The Music Steward and the MC must then be informed and the marked catalogue sent to the CCCQ must be amended in accordance with the new title of the music.

Once a piece of music is handed to the Music Steward for checking it must remain with the Music Steward until after the conclusion of the class in which the competitor is entered.

Concerns and clarification

If a competitor has any concerns or questions, they should be directed to the Competition Manager.

Inspection of the ring

The ring will be available for access by competitors as advised by the Competition Manager in consultation with the Judging Panel. Unless otherwise specified, no competitor may enter the ring later than 15 minutes prior to commencement of competition. After that time the ring must not be used for any reason other than actual competition.

No food/toys/motivators or bum bags are to be used in the competition ring at any time – nor taken into the assembly area (unless this area is more than 12M in distance from the competition ring).

Ring order

The competition will run in the order published in the catalogue. The absentees will be posted at a suitable point – it is competitors' own responsibility to check who is absent and how it will affect their own position in a class. Keep an eye on the progress of the competition so that you will have your dog warmed up and ready to go in when it is your turn. Remember that the dog performing before you may in fact withdraw quickly after starting their routine – therefore you may be on sooner than you expect.

Entering and exiting from the ring

Each competitor should be in or immediately adjacent to the assembly area while the previous competitor is in the ring. Where entry into and exit from the ring are both through the assembly area, there should be sufficient space maintained so that the dog exiting the ring and the dog waiting to enter the ring do not come in undue proximity; the ring steward may in fact ask the competitor to wait outside the assembly area until the previous competitor has left the ring.

Where a competitor has props which need to be placed in the ring, the competitor and/or ring steward will position them and leave the ring before the competitor enters the ring with his/her dog. Where necessary, the competitor may ask another responsible person to hold their dog while they place or remove the props in the ring. Props must be put in place and removed from the ring promptly so as to avoid delaying the competition.

The dog must enter and leave the ring on lead, under the control of the handler.

The Ring Steward will proceed into the ring with each dog and handler and take the lead (and, where relevant, collar) from the handler, then exit the ring immediately and before the commencement of the routine. After entering the ring, the competitor may choose at what position within the ring he/she removes the lead and hands it to the Ring Steward. (Note: It is suggested that competitors use a lead that slips easily over the dog's head, for entry to and exit from the ring, to facilitate unobtrusive removal of the lead.)

Once having entered the ring, the competitor should proceed immediately and by the most direct route to his/her starting position and at some point should acknowledge the judges (whether or not they are watching at the time). The competitor then locates him/herself and his/her dog in the position for commencement of the routine. When ready, the competitor indicates to the Music Steward to commence the music. From this point, the competitor and his/her dog are being judged.

At the conclusion of the routine, the Ring Steward will enter the ring and present the handler with his/her dog's lead. The competitor and/or Ring Steward should remove all props as promptly as

possible. Once that dog has left the ring, the Ring Steward will ensure that the next competitor is in the assembly area, awaiting advice from the judges to enter the ring.

Withdrawal or disqualification during a routine

If you decide during the routine that you wish to discontinue your performance, you should indicate same to the Judges and the Music Steward. The Ring Steward will then bring your dog's lead to you and you may leave the ring.

If your dog leaves the ring during the routine, but returns to you, the Judges may allow you to continue the routine, even though the result will be a disqualification. If the dog leaves the ring after entering but before commencement of the routine and you are able to regain control of the dog, you may perform the routine.

The Judges may also indicate that a routine should stop immediately and/or order the removal of the dog and handler from the ring for a number of other reasons (eg the dog attacking or displaying aggressive behavior towards any person or another dog or a prop; a dog which is disorderly or unmanageable (this includes the dog repeatedly nipping at the handler or a prop); the dog fouling/eliminating in the ring; the handler using harsh or punitive treatment in the ring (or in the precincts of the competition venue); excessive physical manipulation of the dog in the ring; violation of the rules relating to dog attire or adornment; costume, music or routine that is offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation; use of a real or simulated firearm or other weapon or sound of gunshot; use of any food, toy or motivator, or having them on the handler in the ring; use of human or animal props; continuous barking; or a routine which significantly exceeds the guidelines re duration or the judges consider that the dog is unfit to compete.

Posting of results

During the competition results from the classes will be posted as soon as possible.

Completion of competition and presentations

At the completion of the competition, competitors should collect their music from the Music Steward. Some time is required to enable the judges to complete qualifying cards. Competitors are encouraged to attend presentations (whether or not they have qualified) at the conclusion of the competition.

Assistance at competitions

As there are many tasks to be undertaken to enable each competition to be run, it would be appreciated if competitors, and others, could assist in undertaking the required tasks. Although not formally assigned, assistance at the end of a competition, when everything has to be packed up and put away, is greatly appreciated.

Applying for a title

Once your dog has gained the required number of qualifying scores for a title, you should complete an Application for a Non-Championship Title, which will have been sent to you with your dog's registration certificate. You must record the dog's and your own details and all the results gained (each judge's mark and the aggregate score for each competition in the relevant division/class) on the form; where the qualifying certificate has been obtained interstate, you must attach a copy of that certificate. You must also pay the fee according to the schedule published in the *Dog World* magazine, and send the form and accompanying documents/payment to Dogs Queensland.

SEE ALSO: CLARIFICATION FOR COMPETITORS IN DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITONS, ISSUED BY CORAL PETHERS, CHAIR, CCCQ DANCES WITH DOGS SUB-COMMITTEE.

DANCES WITH DOGS CLUB, QUEENSLAND

PROTOCOLS RELATING TO COMMITTEE AND CLUB OPERATION

1st November 2010

Operation of the Dances with Dogs Club, Queensland (DWDCQ) is subject to the Club Constitution, and the rules and guidelines of Dogs Queensland. The following protocols include a summary of some of the requirements contained in those documents, together with operational guidelines to facilitate the smooth functioning of the Club. In the event of any conflict between the protocols set out in this document and the Club Constitution or any Dogs Queensland rules or requirements, the latter take precedence over the protocols.

1 Meetings

Under the constitution of the DWDCQ, general/committee meetings are required to be held at least once in every two calendar months. A Committee member who does not attend three consecutive Committee meetings without leave of the Committee ceases to be a member of the Committee and, if an office bearer, also ceases to hold that office.

No business can be conducted without a quorum being formed – a quorum is a simple majority of the elected Committee members. Where a quorum is not present, urgent essential actions may be taken by the Office Bearers but any such action needs to be ratified at the next meeting. Normally voting, where required, is by a show of hands and the matter is determined by the majority of votes of the members voting on the matter at the meeting.

(Note: This will alter after incorporation when a Committee of Management will be established.)

The principal business of the Club will normally be dealt with at its scheduled general/committee meetings. Where matters arise between meetings, they may be dealt with by email exchange between all members of the Committee, facilitated through the President and/or Secretary. If the majority of the Committee indicates agreement, the matter may proceed, and will be reported in the agenda for the next meeting. If the majority of the Committee does not indicate agreement/does not respond, the matter will be listed for consideration at the next general/Committee meeting.

2 Agendas for meetings

The Dogs Queensland rules for Club Administration provide that the Secretary will prepare meeting agendas in consultation with the President. The Secretary will circulate the agenda to all Club members by email normally at least five days in advance of the meeting date.

3 Minutes of meetings

The minutes of meetings will be prepared by the Secretary and a draft provided to the President for review. The draft minutes as endorsed by the President will be circulated by the Secretary to all members of the Committee by email, normally within fourteen days of the meeting date.

The minutes will be circulated to all Club members via the next monthly Club Newsletter (*The Beat*).

The draft minutes will be subject to confirmation at the next regular meeting of the Committee.

The President (as Chair) must sign the minutes of each meeting, certifying their accuracy. This occurs after the minutes have been confirmed at the next regular meeting (or AGM for AGM minutes).

4 Communications

4.1 Correspondence

The persons authorised to correspond on behalf of the Club and the matters on which they are authorised to so correspond are as follows:

- 4.1.1.1 President and Secretary:** Any matter arising in relation to the business or operation of the Club, where relevant in execution of Committee decisions/discussions or after consultation with members of the Committee. A copy of any such correspondence sent by the President should be provided (in electronic or hard copy) to the Secretary.
- 4.1.1.2 Treasurer:** Any matter arising in relation to the financial transactions of the Club. A copy of any such correspondence should be provided (in electronic or hard copy) to the Secretary.
- 4.1.1.3 Competition Secretary:** Any matter arising in relation to the conduct of or reporting on any competition conducted by the Club. Subject to item 4.5 below, this includes judges' contracts, venue bookings, ordering of trophies and provision of required reports and documentation to Dogs Queensland. A copy of any such correspondence, including judges' contracts, should be provided (in electronic or hard copy) to the Secretary.
- 4.1.1.4 Publicity Officer:** Any matter relating to publicity, including arrangements for demonstrations. A copy of any such correspondence should be provided (in electronic or hard copy) to the Secretary.
- 4.1.1.5 Other members:** Other members may undertake correspondence on behalf of the Club only with the specific prior authorisation of a general/committee meeting. A copy of any such correspondence should be provided (in electronic or hard copy) to the Secretary.

The Secretary will read all correspondence (inwards and outwards) at the next general/Committee meeting and/or will have a copy of correspondence occurring since the last meeting available for perusal at the meeting, if required.

4.2 Emails to Club members

The Club email address (dwdcq@live.com.au) should normally be used for all email correspondence related to Club matters.

All broadcast emails to the Club's membership should be circulated by the Secretary or, in the case of arrangements for demonstrations, by the Publicity Officer. The 'blind copy' facility should be used to protect the identity and address of recipients.

If any Committee or Club member wishes any matter to be distributed/notified to Club members, he/she should provide the relevant material to the President for review and the President will, if appropriate, forward it to the Secretary for circulation. If the President does not endorse its circulation, he/she will discuss the matter with the originator and, if the matter

cannot be resolved, will refer the matter to the Committee for discussion at its next meeting.

The Secretary will keep an electronic as well as a hard copy of all such broadcast emails, as well as other emails sent formally on behalf of the Club and will report on same as correspondence at the next general/committee meeting.

4.3 Judges and venues for competitions and their timing

Preliminary work in relation to the identification of possible judges and venues for competitions and the timing of competitions will be undertaken by the Competition Secretary. The Competition Secretary will provide a proposal for the year's schedule (if possible) for endorsement by the Committee. Any subsequent variation of that schedule also requires endorsement by the Committee before any judge's contract is issued or venues are formally booked.

5 Documents/guidelines relating to DWD

Any member who wishes to develop any document to assist the future development of DWD or to assist DWDCQ members in the pursuit of their sport, with the intention that such document be circulated to the membership and/or published on the website, should prepare a draft of the document and forward it to the President, for inclusion and consideration in the business of the next general/committee meeting.

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining all financial and property records for the Club and preparing financial reports to each general/committee meeting. The President must sight and sign the reconciled books of account, including bank statements, periodically. **(This too will change with incorporation.)** All expenditure should be approved at the general/committee meeting (and be recorded in the minutes). Any or all expenditure needs to be supported by appropriate confirmatory documentation, printouts, invoices etc which are then signed by the President once approved for payment by the meeting.

Petty Cash accounts maybe established under the imprest system where an advance is made and documentation confirming expenditure is lodged at each meeting to recoup expenses.

Any out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the Club by any member will only be reimbursed following documentary proof of expenditure and with the approval of members at a general/committee meeting.

7 Demonstrations

If any member becomes aware of an approach by any person or body regarding a possible demonstration, he/she should notify the Secretary who will consult with the Publicity Officer regarding the proposal and, where relevant, will invite participation from members. Unless otherwise authorised in writing, any formal correspondence regarding participation in demonstrations should be conducted by the Secretary.

This rule only applies for approaches to the DWDCQ. Individual members approached as individuals may carry out a demonstration provided no reference to the DWDCQ is made.

8 Booking of Venues

Booking of venues, following a proposal regarding the purpose, the venue and the cost, must be endorsed by the Committee prior to any booking being confirmed. Receipts for all deposits and other hire payments must be furnished to the Treasurer.

9 Newsletters

The Publicity Officer will provide a draft of all newsletters to the President and Secretary for sign-off before distribution to members by the Secretary.

10 Acknowledgement of sponsors

Where known at the time of advertising, the advertising schedule/notice should acknowledge the major sponsor(s) (ie the provider(s) of trophies/prizes). Any other significant donors/supporters for that particular competition, as well as the major sponsor(s), should be acknowledged in the catalogue.

11 Website content

Any policy or procedures documents must be submitted to and endorsed by the Committee prior to its being posted to the Club's website.

12 Annual reports

The Club is required to submit an annual report to Dogs Queensland which includes a report on activities as well as all required financial statements. A copy of all materials constituting the annual report will be circulated to all members.

13 Videotaping and photography at DWDCQ events

- 13.1** Videotaping and photography at DWDCQ events may be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines below.
- 13.2** Videotaping and photography may be undertaken by individual club members or other persons attending the event, for their own personal use.
- 13.3** The filming of video footage or photographs with a primary purpose of sale may be approved by the Committee either in general or for any particular event/activity.
- 13.4** At competitions or other performances, any competitor/handler may request that his/her routine with his/her dog not be videoed (or photographed), either generally or by any particular person(s) taking videos at the event. Any such request should be made as early as possible on the day of the competition/performance and in any event before commencement of the routine in question. It would be preferable that any such request be made in writing. In the absence of any such request, the person taking the video may film the routines of any/all competitors.
- 13.5** Any competitor/handler may request that footage/photos of his/her routine with his/her dog be removed from any video/photos before its/their distribution (see item 13.6 below).
- 13.6** In the case of DVDs to be sold/distributed, where any competitor has requested that footage of his/her routine with his/her dog be removed before distribution of the DVD,

there will be two types of DVD produced –

- 13.6.1** a complete DVD including all routines videoed at that competition/event (ie all routines excluding any in which the competitor/handler/owner has requested that the routine not be videoed); any such DVD may be sold/distributed only to competitors/handlers/ owners of dogs competing in that competition (including Rookie class) and judges officiating at that competition;
- 13.6.2** an edited DVD from which the routine of any handler and dog, in respect of which the competitor/handler/owner has requested removal of the footage in accordance with Section 13.5 above, has been removed; any such DVD may be sold/distributed to other persons in accordance with these protocols.
- 13.7** A summary note of the above will be included on all DWDCQ competition catalogues.
- 13.8** There will be no payment made to any competitor/handler/owner whose dog/routine is included on any such DVD prepared for sale/distribution.
- 13.9** The actual sale price of DVDs and photographs will be determined by the person(s) producing/compiling/selling them; in the case of DVDs, this will be dependent on the number of competitors and hence the duration of the competition/video and number of DVDs in the set.
- 13.10** The person producing/compiling the DVD/photographs will notify competitors /handlers (through DWDCQ if necessary) of the availability and cost of the DVD(s)/photographs and procedures for ordering a copy (which will be direct to the sellers, and not conducted through DWDCQ).
- 13.11** The person producing the DVDs will include a statement that they are not for re-sale but it is recognised that this cannot be policed.
- 13.12** DVDs/photographs of DWDCQ competitions/events will not be sold/distributed overseas without the prior specific written permission of every handler whose dog(s)/routine(s) appear on the DVD or of the persons/dogs featured in any photographs.

14 Management of Dogs at DWDCQ events

14.1 Competitions and other events

- 14.1.1** It is the responsibility of every competitor/handler/owner at every DWDCQ competition, training or other activity, to ensure the safety of their dog and that it in no way interferes with or behaves in a way which could potentially impact negatively on any other person or dog. This may include the need to crate the dog at a distance from where other people and dogs are gathered.
- 14.1.2** All competitors/handlers/owners must exercise caution in the movement of their dog in and out of the crate and within the environment with other people/dogs.
- 14.1.3** Competitors/handlers/owners whose dogs are aggressive or reactive should ensure that others are alerted regarding their dog's potential behaviour. As a common strategy, competitors/handlers/owners of such dogs are requested to put a large yellow ribbon or similar both on the dog's crate and on the dog's collar (other than when in the competition ring). Competitors/handlers/owners of other dogs who want their dog left undisturbed for any other reason can adopt a similar strategy.

14.1.4 Final responsibility always lies with the competitor/handler/owner to ensure that both the correct procedures and common sense are followed for their own dog and in respect to other competitors/handlers/owners and their dogs.

14.2 Competitions

14.2.1 At any DWDCQ competition venue, sufficient space must be available for dogs to be crated in such a manner as to allow the safe entry and egress of the dog from the crate. Particular care should be taken where crates are set up in facing/opposing rows in close proximity, and in corners.

14.2.2 The Competition Manager can direct any competitor/handler/owner to relocate their dog/crate if in his/her opinion the dog's behaviour is causing (or there are reasonable grounds for apprehension that it may cause) interference to or impact negatively on any other competitor/handler/owner or dog.

14.2.3 Vetting should be conducted in an area which enables the free movement of dogs without undue crowding

14.2.4 Not only the assembly area but also access to the assembly area must be clear of dogs/handlers. If the 'main' area adjoining the assembly area is occupied with people, dogs, crates and/or other gear, an alternative, clear route to the assembly area must be available.

14.2.5 Access to and exit from the ring, through the assembly area, must be managed in such a way as to avoid the exiting and entering dogs interacting. Where feasible, separate entry and exit gates should be considered.

14.2.6 Any person who has any concern regarding matters pertaining to the competition or competition environment should approach the Competition Manager who will take such action as he/she deems appropriate.

14.3 Training and other events

14.3.1 At any DWDCQ activities at which dogs are in attendance, sufficient space must be available for dogs to be crated in such a manner as to allow the safe entry and egress of the dog from the crate. Particular care should be taken where crates are set up in facing/opposing rows in close proximity, and in corners.

14.3.2 The President, Secretary or event organiser can direct any handler/owner to relocate their dog/crate if in his/her opinion the dog's behaviour is causing (or there are reasonable grounds for apprehension that it may cause) interference to or impact negatively on any other handler/owner or dog.

14.3.3 Any person who has any concern regarding matters pertaining to the event/activity or associated environment should approach the President, Secretary or event organiser who will take such action as he/she deems appropriate.



Club Treasurer

We are still looking for a club Treasurer, Debby Lamprecht has very kindly volunteered to step into the role but this is NOT a long term solution & due to other commitments Debby is only available to do the job for a limited time. This is a great opportunity to become more involved in the club while having Debby available to support and train you in the requirements of the role.

Please contact either Sharon Clark or Gay Westmore to further discuss the requirements of the Treasurer position if you are interested.



Think Quick

Two men are walking their dogs, a Chihuahua and a German Shepherd & decide they'd like to go into a bar for a drink. "But we can't take our dogs into that bar," says the Chihuahua's owner. "No problem," says the German Shepherd's owner. "Just watch this." He pulls out a pair of sunglasses & walks into the bar. "Hey, no dogs allowed!" yells the bartender. "But this is a seeing eye dog," says the German Shepherd's owner. The bartender apologizes & shows them to a chair. The Chihuahua owner decides to follow suit, whips out his sunglasses, & walks into the bar too. "Hey, no dogs allowed!" yells the bartender. "But this is a seeing eye dog," says the Chihuahua's owner. The bartender objects, "Chihuahuas can't be seeing eye dogs!" The Chihuahua owner gasps, "Chihuahua? They told me they were giving me a German Shepherd!"



Top 10 Human Foods That are Poisonous to Dogs

1. Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine

2. Alcohol

3. Avocado

4. Macadamia & Walnuts

5. Grapes & Raisins

6. Yeast Dough

7. Onions, Garlic and Chives

8. Xylitol (artificial sweetener)

9. Mushrooms

10. Nutmeg

Upcoming Workshop

In 2011 DWDCQ is holding a 2 day workshop with top UK trainers Kath Hardman & Karen Sykes, more details about Kath & Karen, including info on how to register, are below

Registration form available at
<http://www.danceswithdogsaustralia.com/dwdcqregformapril11.html>

Dates: 1 - 3 April 2011

Venue: Main Pavilion, Dayboro Showgrounds

Registration Fee: Full workshop – \$200 Daily rate – \$100

Registration fee includes the workshop, lunch, morning and afternoon teas on Saturday 2 April and Sunday 3 April. **Registration fee is payable by 25 February 2011.**

Top Handlers, Top Judges, Top Trainers.



Karen Sykes & Fly



Kath Hardman & Spice

Kath Hardman and Karen Sykes are known around the world as highly successful handlers in both Heelwork to Music and Freestyle. They are also respected international judges and have travelled around the world to hold their popular training seminars.

Success in Competition

Kath and Karen are the only handlers in the UK to have qualified their dogs to compete in both the Crufts Heelwork to Music and Freestyle Competitions every year since Crufts first recognised the sport. They have also been consistently within the top 10 handlers in the UK for over a decade.

Karen Sykes

2008 winner of Crufts Heelwork To Music Competition with her working sheepdog 'Fly'

Kath Hardman

2007 Joint winner of the Crufts Heelwork To Music Competition with her working sheepdog 'Ginnie'

2008 winner of Crufts British Freestyle Competition with her crossbreed 'Spice'

2008 winner of Crufts International Freestyle Competition with her crossbreed 'Spice'

2010 winner of the FCI Heelwork to Music Championships at the World Show in Denmark with her Border Collie 'Amber'

International Judges

Both Kath and Karen have judged in Japan, USA, Switzerland, The Czech Republic and Denmark. They were individually honoured to accept invitations to be 'Head Judge' at the Scandinavian Heelwork to Music Championships and the World Heelwork to Music Championships in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

International Trainers

Renowned for their excellent training seminars both at home and abroad, Kath and Karen have taught in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Japan, USA, Israel and The Czech Republic. Seminars are being planned for Russia and France in 2010 and Australia, Sweden and France in 2011.

Their combined experience and teaching skills enable them to cover every aspect of training for heelwork to music and freestyle from choosing music, motivating a reluctant dog, calming an over-excitable dog, teaching individual moves and choreographing a routine, to improving performance in the ring. Their relaxed style and sense of humour ensures that their seminars are fun as well as informative.

[Learn more about Kath and Karen by visiting their website \[www.dancingdogs.co.uk\]\(http://www.dancingdogs.co.uk\)](http://www.dancingdogs.co.uk)

Upcoming Events

DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITION

Toowoomba Dog Obedience Club

Glennie Junior School

Herries St Toowoomba

- Date:** 5th February, 2011
- Time:** Judging commences 10am
- Vetting:** 9am - 9.30am
- Music Check:** 9am - 9.30am
- Judges:** Barbara Murfet, Val Bonney, Lionel Blumel
- Entry Fee:** \$10 per entry
- Entry Form:** Entries to be submitted on the DWD Entry Form (Rules and entry forms available from the ANKC website)
- Entries close:** Friday 14th January, 2011
- Entries to:** Mrs. Coral Pethers, 18 Noll St, Toowoomba, 4350.
- Enquiries:** Coral Pethers; Phone (07) 4635 7936 email : pethers@ozemail.com.au
- Classes:** Dances with Dogs Freestyle - Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced
Dances with Dogs Heelwork to Music - Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced
- Note:** A dog may only be entered in one class in each division
- Venue:** Competition will be conducted outdoors, under cover on a rubberised coating over concrete. The ring area will be approximately 15 m x 15 m & marked by cones. Put email address on entry form please.
- Other:** Entry to grounds is via Anzac Ave.

KASHA'S STORY

I would like to tell you about our German Shepherd Dog Kasha. Kasha has done her breed proud by being instrumental in the development of a completely new sport here in Australia.

TC Jaimon Kashmere 'A''Z' UD was bred in Tasmania by Monica Stewart in 1998. Kasha joined us, Coral Pethers and Trevor Telford, in Toowoomba, Queensland and quickly became a wonderful member of our family.

Kasha was a very keen and intelligent worker and by the time she was six years old had achieved her Utility Dog Title in Obedience and her Tracking Champion Title. She was also part of the Toowoomba Dog Obedience Club Display Team, the Australian Veterinary Association Pet People Education Program going into schools, and the Toowoomba City Council School Animal Care Education Program. Like many of her breed she was not ready to sit back and just enjoy life. Kasha was constantly under my feet wanting to do things.

Having seen a video of Mary Ray doing a dances with dogs routine at Crufts I thought "what great fun". So began Kasha's and my life as a dancing duo. We started off doing it just for the experience of learning something new that we could do together. Kasha was a natural and took to it like a 'duck to water'. It was not long before we were performing as part of displays around Toowoomba.

It was a great honour to perform at the GSD National in Brisbane in 2005. This was the first time such a sport had been show cased at a dog event. In 2006, during the celebrations for the Toowoomba Dog Obedience Club's 40th anniversary, the President of the Canine Control Council, Qld witnessed the performance by Kasha to the tune of the 'Pink Panther'. The concept totally blew him away and from then on Mr Vickers has been a very active supporter of 'Dances With Dogs'. It was not long before we were organising displays at the Brisbane Royal Show and at the 2008 'Ekka' conducted a full demonstration trial in the dog pavilion. Dances With Dogs has been a part of the Brisbane Royal every year since.

There were a group of people in Dogs NSW who had been working and conducting demonstration competitions as well and with their support and the backing of the CCCQ, a rule book and submission was presented to the annual ANKC conference in October, 2008. The result of which is that 'Dances With Dogs' is now a fully accredited sport within the ANKC. Competitions commenced in 2009 all around Australia.

'Dances With Dogs' is a very important and well supported dog activity around the world, in USA, UK, and Europe. There were people and dogs in Australia, some to a very high standard, who had been experimenting with dancing with their dogs, however, without the wonderful PR that Kasha demonstrated to the general public and the dog community, this fun and visually exciting dog sport would not yet be an official part of the dog world here in Australia.

Kasha has now left us, at nearly twelve, and rejoined the friends that have been such a wonderful part of our lives. Still, almost right up to the day she died, put on a piece of 'her' music and she was up, the body and head would lift proudly, and she was ready to go. While most of the breeds now performing are the mid size breeds like border collies, Kasha, from the first time she stepped out had the audience enthralled – a great ambassador of her breed and Dances With Dogs!

