



Michael Tucker and his border collie, Pippa, were the star attraction at the first AGM of FOMDAC on November 11th 2008



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Friends of Manningham
Dogs and Cats

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TRAINING DOGS...OR THEIR OWNERS?

A summary of Michael Tucker's talk at the FOMDAC AGM

Michael began by demonstrating the stages of teaching a dog basic obedience.

- Give a command such as sit, guide the dog gently into a sit and then praise the dog.
- As the dog masters this move, use voice only (no hand guidance)

Michael then demonstrated some tricks including Pippa weaving through his legs; jumping over his leg, jumping through a hoop and jumping into Michael's arms. These tricks are based on basic obedience and if you have the respect of your dog, you can teach it tricks.

Michael then pointed out some principle keys to successful training:

PRAISE when it is due

CORRECTION when needed

CONSISTENCY at all times

It is important to vary your training, and to keep your dog interested and focused by training in short sharp bursts.

Don't use your dog's name for stationary commands - it is OK to say "Fido come" but not "Fido stay" as the dog may well move towards you when it hears its name.

Questions from the AGM attendees included:

How to stop a dog jumping?

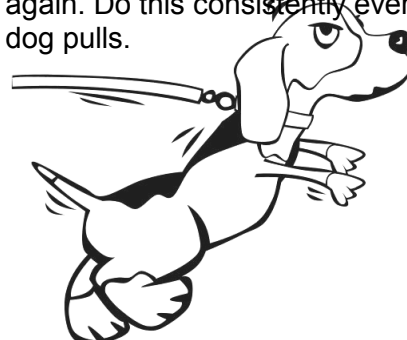
Grab the loose skin on the sides of the dog's neck, give one shake and use the command "off". Then praise the dog. This is a natural method of correction for a puppy from its mother!

Should treats be used in training?

There is danger in using treats in obedience training and Michael is against this because the dog may only be obedient for food and not purely for the owner. It may well result in an inconsistent response from the dog.

How to stop a dog pulling on the lead?

Give the command "steady" pull the lead back to correct the dog and stop still. Praise the dog. Talk to the dog calmly and set off again. Do this consistently every time the dog pulls.





FROM THE AGM:

Secretary's Report:

The FOMDAC Committee has met monthly at the Council offices

There are 40 financial members

FOMDAC has liaised with Council on the following issues:

Dog Activity Centre	Domestic Animal Management Plan
Dog Attacks	Nuisance Dogs
Microchipping	Desexing
Cat curfews	Ruffey Lake Park
Dog Faeces Disposal Bins	Mullum Mullum Linear Park
Draft Management Plan	

The 2009 committee consists of:

Ted Donelan – President	Doreen Burge – Vice-President
Joan Ray – Minute secretary	Sue Collier – Membership secretary and publicity
Vicki Pound–Treasurer	Melissa Plant
Michael Tucker	Mal Lynch
Pearl Lubansky	Kelly Bell
Sue Terdich	Pam Shah

Meg Downie has been secretary and agreed to continue in that role if she was not elected to Council. She has been elected which is wonderful news - congratulations Meg. Thank you for all your efforts on FOMDAC over a number of years and our best wishes in your role as Councilor in the Mullum Mullum Ward. Zevia Schneider and Wendy Spratt resigned at the AGM and we wish to thank them for their work on the committee.

Treasurers Report:

Since its incorporation FOMDAC has received \$555 in membership fees and \$366 as a donation for printing from Cr. Bill Larkin. Our outgoings to this point have all been paid for out of committee members' pockets and total approximately \$1450. These expenses have included:

Post Office Box rental; advertising banner; Incorporation fees; printing and web site costs.

Committee Members will be reimbursed as our membership income allows.

This is obviously a serious situation however most of the large expenses are "one-off" rather than recurring. The committee is also actively involved in developing its communication with its membership and the wider community, which we hope will improve our membership base



COMMUNICATING

FOMDAC is aware that our communication with our members needed improvement. You will receive email advice of the projects that the committee members are working on and updates will also be included on the web page. A quarterly newsletter will also be sent out.

FOMDAC is now on-line at www.fomdac.org.au so logon and have a look!

As you can see we have produced a brochure explaining FOMDAC. In fact we have sent you two copies so you can pass one on to someone else. We are relying on YOU to spread the word. **THE STRONGER OUR MEMBERSHIP THE LOUDER OUR VOICE**

You can support FOMDAC by:

- Paying your membership dues - if you have not already done so
- Encouraging other people to join
- Supporting the submissions that FOMDAC make to council and to other bodies

