(Affiliated with Dogs NSW)

The Post

January Issue 2013

Contact Us

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 Website
 www.hornsbydogtrainingclub.org.au

Post P O Box 3257, Asquith NSW 2077



WHERE: Rofe Park, Galston Rd, Hornsby Heights

WHEN: Sundays (rain, hail or shine except long weekends)

CHECK-IN: All dogs must be checked-in prior to training. Please do not allow your dog to approach

others until check-in is complete.

COST—A \$2.00 ground fee is payable at check-in—Put your money in the tin on the table

Please keep your dog on lead and under control at all times both before and during class.

Please ensure your dog or puppy has been

FULLY VACCINATED before coming to training.

We also recommend vaccination against kennel cough. Talk to your vet for further information.

The Hornsby Dog Training Club teaches

obedience exercises for dogs of all ages, shapes and sizes on Sunday afternoons.

The club is run entirely by friendly volunteers who enjoy seeing new dogs progress through the classes to become good canine citizens.

The Club welcomes new members looking for an obedient and friendly family pet, and those wishing to proceed further to the field of competitive obedience trialing.

Annual Membership fee \$30.00

CLASS TIMES:

Puppy Class: 1:00 - 2:00pm

Introduction Class -New

Members 2:00 - 3:00pm

Class 1: 3:00 - 4:00pm

Class 2: 3:00 - 4:00pm

Class 3: 3:00 - 4:00pm

Class 4: 3:00 - 4:00pm

Advanced & Trialing: 2:00 -

3:00pm

TESTING: All Classes 2:00 -

3:00pm

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Free Barbecue every 2nd Sunday from 1.30pm

Come along for a free bbq.

Drinks can be bought from the clubhouse and free tea and coffee available. Have a chat by the Barbie before class.

Don starts cooking early and it is ready from 1.30pm onwards. For Members and family.

Always keep your dog on lead—until end of classes.



Did you know there is a toilet inside the club house members can use? - just in case!

The Post

Christmas Party 2012

At the 2012 Hornsby Dog Club Christmas party there was plenty of festive green & red, a number of Father Christmas look-a-likes, quite a few reindeer impersonators and some sparkly blue tinsel of the schnauzer variety.

First off was the fancy dress parade - A young German Shepherd appeared in a red Father Christmas jacket and hat and proceeded to literally prance his way into first place.

Next, and I imagine the most important part of the day for some, was a great smorgasbord of food. The 2 legged club members headed towards the 'spread' and filled themselves, fighting the turbulent gusts of wind before facing the 'games'. I understand that some of these games have been traditionally played for years at the club's Christmas parties.



There was an obstacle course - It was interesting to see the enthusiasm and speed (thongs abandoned rather than lose precious seconds) of some of the dog owners.

Next, a race to see who was the greediest canine - Such focused dogs — eyes and noses glued to pieces of frankfurt! Happily, the large dogs and small dogs ran separately. The winner was, not surprisingly, something that looked to be of the Labrador persuasion and hoovered up that Frankfurt in warp-lightning speed. I think this race is an absolute hoot!

Then musical bowls, a variation on musical chairs - Hurray for the friendly, competitive, and very strategic, spirit. It is alive and well!

Last but not least, came 'egg throwing' - by people - not dogs. It seems that the trick was to actually catch the egg. But sadly, with the distance between catcher and thrower increasing, more and more innocent eggs ended up splat on the ground. The upside of this game was that some lucky dogs got to lick up the eggy grass later!

Sue Williams



Editor's Report

Hi Everyone

In November we became a two dog household and while this has proved a huge learning experience for hubby and I, (we love challenges) no doubt it will also provide lots to write about over the next year. A second dog can bring enormous change to a household—I can't stress this enough and a decision to get a second dog should be for the right reasons. (Not to keep dog number one happy) Graeme has watched Syrus and I form a unique bond and while he loves and cares for Syrus there is nothing like having your own special buddy.

So for Graeme's birthday and Xmas present (for the next 5 years) we were lucky to acquire Syrus' sister Holly from Troymere Poodles in Kenthurst. She is absolutely beautiful with a gentle bubbly personality. She did not know sit or how to play with a ball or toy and couldn't manage the steps or the doggy door. I could see this was going to need some full on work on Graeme's part and I know with lots of positive reward and relationship building she will be wonderful!

Holly had to bond with Graeme so we made sure he held her coming home from the breeders, and I made a conscious effort not to get involved (gosh that was hard!) This has enabled Holly to trust and look to Graeme for her needs —she follows him everywhere.

Syrus is not pleased. He is waiting for her owner to come and take her away. In the early stages he was sick with fear (vomited regularly) and was terrified that I may give her some attention. He constantly attempts to protect me and so we have had to take settlement slowly. The first few days were spent installing safety gates, working out how we were to keep them separated.

After two months I can now report that Holly can sit, use the doggy door, manage steps, walk beautifully on lead, and is learning to drop and stay. Syrus is still not happy—although I am sure I caught him laughing at us trying to teach Holly to sit......

And... just recently Graeme has commenced taking both Syrus and Holly on walks together with no problems!

Please send hints, tips, articles - to share with members to gurang@optusnet.com.au with Subject Hornsby Dog Training Club

Happy New Year to all! Narelle Brown

PS Please consider putting your hand up for the Obedience Trial in March see page 6- please, please!

Dog Training commences again on Sunday 3rd February 2013 see you there!!

Law-Woman Charged

Animal welfare officials say they cannot believe a dog left in a hot car near Cessnock did not die.

A 25-year-old woman left her 11-year-old Border Collie Cross in her car at Hunter Valley Gardens in the vineyard precinct on Saturday and did not return for three hours.

Police charged the woman with committing an act of cruelty upon an animal after they found the dog distressed and unresponsive.

RSPCA New South Wales CEO Steve Coleman says dogs should never be left in hot cars.

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-01-08/woman-charged-for-leaving-dog-in-car/4455980

Law—Family Law - Domestic Violence

The definition of domestic violence under the Family Law Act has changed to include :

emotional manipulation, withholding money and harming the family pet.

Read more: http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/political-news/taunts-cruelty-to-pets-now-domestic-violence-20120602-1zp1z.html#ixzz2HSahJmJJ



The Post

Dog Health Issues — Nails and Clipping



http://www.dummies.com/how-to/

content/how-to-trim-your-dogs-

When to clip:

- ⇒ If your dog's nails are getting caught in the carpet,
- ⇒ If you can hear the dog's nails tip tapping along the ground
- ⇒ You find your dog chewing their nails
- \Rightarrow The nails are ragged and long
- ⇒ The dew claw is curling around digging in to the fur

The quick

A dog's nails have a blood vessel, called the quick, which extends down into the nail. It is like a vein. Do not cut this or the nail will bleed and cause discomfort to the dog.

It is easy to see the quick if your dog has light pink to white nails. If your dog has black nails, you won't be able to see the quick, and you need to be so be very careful when clipping.

How much to clip

Clip the nails no shorter than the base of the digital pad. That is, when your dog is standing, the nail should still just touch the ground. You can buy clippers that make sure you don't cut any shorter.

If the nail bleeds

If you do clip the quick, the nail can bleed profusely. To help stem the bleeding, apply pressure with a soft cloth. There is also a special stick you can get to stop the bleeding called a styptic powder.

Dew claws

Most dogs have four digits with nails on their front and back paws, but some have a fifth called the dew claw, on the inner side of their leg, near the paw. Dew claws are mostly found on the front legs, but some dogs also have them on the back legs. As these claws aren't being used they can grow quite long and curl back and dig into the dog's leg causing pain and can result in infection. Make sure you check these and trim also.

Tools — Nail clippers. Styptic powder, nail file, treats, patience and time

How to clip—watch the video clips below to see how it is done—the positive way!

- Gain trust with dog around the tools you use (this may take some time)
- Have the dog lie down so that you can access all four paws
- Ensure you do not cut the quick
- Plan to take off a small amount only
- Clip on a 45 degree angle
- If the nail splinters, file the nail with a nail file
- If the nail bleeds apply pressure and the styptic powder
- You don't have to do all the nails at the one time—if your dog is stressing out—just do a few, praise and leave it for another day.

Video clips

- 1. http://www.youtube.com/watch?
 v=Bqc4OW Iz9A
- 2. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHgBvnQ71ss
- 3. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsZ4UvldBl
- 4. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rcx-HG7kaGU&feature=fvwp&NR=1

Hint - start early with your puppy. Regularly touch their nails, praise and pretend to clip and praise. Most of all you need to be calm—they will pick up very quickly if you are stressed about cutting their nails.



"Just a cut and polish while I have a snooze ... I mean read this book"

clipart

Most popular puppy names 2012 (out of 1.26 million puppy registrations—Vetstreet)

Male - Max, Buddy, Charlie, Rocky, Cooper, Bear, Bentley, Duke, Jack and Toby

Female— Bella,, Daisy, Lucy, Molly Lola Sophie, Sadie, Chloe, Coco and Maggie

Owner's Health Issues — Correct Lifting Technique

Manual handling is an inevitable part of daily life, whether it be at work or in the home environment.

The majority of people don't realize how important lifting posture is and the effects it can have on your spine if not performed correctly. Whether is lifting a bag of dog food, grabbing a crate out of the car or lifting Fido at home, the importance of correct posture cannot be stressed enough. Manual handling of loads can result in cumulative disorders due to gradual and cumulative degenerations of spinal structures repetitive actions or it can also lead to acute trauma and injury.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the most common injury is low back pain. Factors that are directly related to increasing the risk of back injury include the weight of the load, the ability to grasp the load with a comfortable grip, the need to use a bad posture to lift the load,

insufficient space, bad light and uneven surfaces.

The spine has four major natural curves. The muscles/joints in the spine are under the least amount of stress when the spine

is neutral (upright), as it maintains it's natural curves. With correct lifting technique, the load should be held or manipulated as close to the body as possible. Twisting, turning and bending of the back needs to be avoided. Perhaps one of the best prevention techniques to avoid manual handling injuries is to better prepare your body to take the load.

While the below checklist is ideal, we all know that sometimes it isn't practical to tick all the boxes every time!

Core stability training and functional strength training can be the difference between that severe back injury and coming through unscathed.

Functional strength such as squats, dead lifts and glute training can be great for your strength if performed correctly. Core stability such as bridges, swiss ball exercises and pelvic floor activation will assist your lifting posture.

However, first and foremost is the discipline of following the below vital points!

- 1. Know where you are going—is the area around the load clear of obstacles?
- 2. Is there a clear path? Are the doors open and no trip hazards?
- 3. Get a good grip on the load
- 4. Feet around the load and body over it
- 5. Use your leg muscles to push up
- 6. Keep your back straight
- 7. Carry the load as close as possible to your body
- 8. Carry the load with straight arms

Provided by Northern Districts Physiotherapy—Phone: (02) 9874 8410 Treatment available at Eastwood or Epping



Owner Issue —A small Italian Greyhound use to shake and shiver when being held in the car on the way to the beach. Whilst at the beach this little dog was very brave and independent—it was the car trip that was stressful.

Solution—Owner used a small crate to secure this tiny thing in the back seat of the car

Outcome—Owner and dog happy to travel in car—safe and secure.

Most dogs feel more secure in a small cave like place. It is also not safe holding a dog in the car.

Picture provided by Susie's owner.



ANNUAL OBEDIENCE TRIAL & RETRIEVING ABILITY TEST FOR GUNDOGS 16 MARCH 2013

Background

In March every year, HDTC holds its annual Obedience Trial – a competition that attracts around 150 if the best-trained dogs in NSW. This is one of many similar trials held throughout the year by obedience clubs around the country and is one way HDTC contributes to the dog training community. There are several levels of competition ranging from the basic exercises you are familiar with (heeling, sitting, recall etc) to quite complicated exercises involving jumping, retrieving and scent work. Successful competitors attain titles and awards.

The main trial is held on a Saturday evening, however, preparation starts months beforehand and, in particular, setting up the oval ready for the event commences around midday on the Saturday. Equipment (jumps, ropes, scoreboards, tables) needs to be transported from Rofe Park to Montview Oval and then the competition rings assembled (usually 8 roped-off areas 45m x 15m). The judging starts in the early evening and usually finishes around 10pm.

Each ring is presided over by an accredited Judge and, depending on the level of competition, they will judge 10-20 dogs during the evening. The Judges are assisted by Stewards drawn from our HDTC membership and their role is to ensure the smooth operation of the trial – making sure the competitors are available on time, setting up jumps and other equipment and generally helping the Judges. We try to allocate 2-3 Stewards to each ring.

We need as many HDTC members to volunteer as possible. This is a chance for you to help your Club and at the same time provides you with an opportunity to see some of the best-trained obedience dogs in the country. It is a great night and you will certainly pick up some hints that will help with your own training.

When Hornsby Dog Training Club will hold its 60th Annual Obedience Trial and Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs on Saturday 16th March 2013

Where At Montview Oval, Montview Parade, Hornsby Heights.

Time Judging commences at 2.30 pm for the Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs. And 5.30pm for the Obedience Trial. Judging finishes 10pm approximately.



We need volunteers to move equipment from 12:00 and to act as Stewards during the trial from around 4:30 pm

Can you help????

- Transport gear from Rofe Park to Montview Oval (trucks/trailers greatly appreciated)
- Set up Montview ready for trial
- Assist in trial rings
- Pack up after the event

No experience required – we will 'train' you beforehand and we always have at least one experienced Steward in each ring

please leave your name and phone number at the Clubhouse or email Tony Farmer on tonyandquita@bigpond.com

Rowena and Jatz - the Rhodesian Ridgeback

I've been asked to provide a short story about our journey in obedience training. Many of you reading this have probably only seen Jatz in advanced or class 4 sessions and think that he's so easy and does everything so well and that obedience training would only be easier if my dog did the same thing... well, I'll let you in on a little secret - getting Jatz to where he is now, has taken hours of effort.

Training Jatz has always been a challenge. Ridgebacks are particularly head-strong dogs and really have a great ability to ignore whatever they want to or press your buttons to get what they want. Anyone who's been around long enough will remember me literally jumping around and yelling in class to try desperately to get my dog's attention - (the FIRST step to training) as without this, I could not get my dog to do anything! I tried different foods, different voices, different sounds, EVERYTHING - until I found what



At 12 Weeks of age

Calm perseverance was important with Jatz. I found that he would lose focus frequently during the hour long training session so we would excuse ourselves regularly from class and have a quick 30second walk around and return again - just to re-focus. At home I would always have play-time during our 5-10 minute daily training sessions so it was fun and different. If I got frustrated in classes I came to know that my consistency would go out the window and Jatz would become totally unresponsive, exacerbating the problem! I would occasionally leave 30 minutes early if I was really feeling it.

worked for Jatz. Even now, getting another handler to maintain his focus is a struggle (unless your name happens to be To-

Eventually Jatz started to understand each exercise and the baby-steps we'd been aiming for were coming together. I started to enjoy coming each Sunday rather than being nervous of how he would perform, and that in turn helped Jatz and I focus better leading to more consistent results and passing class exams. I think that doing something new with your dog helps you to maintain good training techniques, so we're going to give tracking a go in 2013, as Ridgebacks are hunting hounds after all!

And don't get me wrong, I could point out a million things my dog does wrong: like he'll pull washing off the line if I'm out at 'silly-hour' between 4-6pm; or urinates on the unsuspecting at the dog park - people and dogs; or pesters you when he wants something to wear you down... but I choose to ignore these faults and have come to realise I have a great dog that suits my lifestyle who's pretty good to be around, and for that I'm grateful!

A few things I've learnt from training Jatz:

ny!).

- <u>Try anything once</u> and if something isn't working, you're either doing it wrong (yes you, not the dog) or you're advancing the dog to the end of the exercise when it may not even know the beginning so it's guessing!
- Understand what affects your dog so you can be aware of those triggers and work on them. For example, Jatz is a really sensitive dog (weird I know!) and is affected greatly by mood and attitude - if he is scared at training he won't do anything, if I yell at him he'll hide for two hours and not come back etc.
- Repetition and consistency are crucial for any dog to understand an exercise. Jatz will keep doing the right thing without knowing what the goal is - if I do the exercise exactly the same every time. Eventually he'll have a 'light bulb' moment a few weeks/months later and get it!
- Have fun with your dog and have fun when you train otherwise it's a burden for you and your dog. Take heart in the small things they can do, not in the mass of things they cannot.
- Ask around all dogs are different and train differently, you may need alternative ideas so ask the same question to each instructor and try their ideas!
- Know you and your dog's weaknesses and strengths and work on them!

Jatz and I enjoy coming on Sundays and I love doing new things with him. Please come and say 'hi' if you see us about - but I will discourage you from feeding him as he does have a severe food allergy! I hope this article encourages you to persevere with your dog. There's no secrets -we're here to help you with your dog. So please come and chat to us and we'll try to help you whenever we can!





Here Mum-put the food here!!!



The very handsome Jatz !!!

More on the Rhodesian Ridgeback

The **Rhodesian Ridgeback** is a <u>dog breed</u> developed in <u>Southern Africa</u>. Its European forebears can be traced to the early pioneers of the Cape Colony of southern Africa, who crossed their dogs with the semi-domesticated, ridged hunting dogs of the <u>Khoikhoi</u>.

In the earlier parts of its history, the Rhodesian Ridgeback has also been known as **Van Rooyen's Lion Dog**, the **African Lion Hound** or **African Lion Dog**—because of its ability to distract a <u>lion</u> while awaiting its master to make the kill.

The Rhodesian Ridgeback's distinguishing feature is the ridge of hair along its back, running in the opposite direction to the rest of its coat. It consists of a fan-like area formed by two whorls of hair (called "crowns") and tapers from immediately behind the shoulders down to the level of the hips. It is believed to originate from the dog used by the original African dog population, which had a similar ridge. Male Ridgebacks should stand 63–69 cm at the withers and weigh about 39 kg; females should be 61–66 cm tall and about 32 kg in weight. They are loyal and intelligent and somewhat aloof to strangers. This is not to be confused with aggression; a Ridgeback of proper temperament will be more inclined to ignore, rather than challenge, a stranger. This breed requires positive, reward-based training, good socialization and consistency; it is often not the best choice for inexperienced dog owners. Ridgebacks are strong-willed, intelligent, and many seem to have a penchant for mischief, though loving. They are protective of their owners and families.

From Wikipedia—http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dog_breed

5 Easy Rules of Training

- ATTENTION get your dogs attention i.e. use their name
- LURE the dog into desired position using food with the appropriate hand signal (introduce word once dog is displaying action i.e. SIT)
- ♦ MARK the action using voice i.e. "good"
- REWARD with the lure (food) and a pat and praise
- RELEASE the dog with a word i.e. "OK"

What I learnt today in Class 1

- 5 minutes every day adds up to 35 minutes per week
- ♦ Get your dog use to hand signals—the sign language between you and your dog
- ♦ Train your dog when they are hungry—they will work harder to get the food
- ♦ If they don't like cheese or treats, try a ball or squeaky toy
- ♦ If they are having an off day as we all do—get a positive response even if it is just a sit and then finish the training
- Make it fun and always finish positively with lots of pats and cuddles

Getting to Know our Instructors—John Sharp

When and why did you first take an interest in dog training?

My wife Kathleen, now President of the Club, and I had an unruly pair of Setters, Mine was a cute but stubborn English named Sasha and Kathleen's a rowdy and boisterous Gordon, Jessie. Training was really needed, so we joined Hornsby Dog Training Club in the spring of 1986.

How did training differ from what it is now? Training was very formal, interaction between dogs was minimal and food was not used for training. Dogs were trained with check chains and rewarded with heaps of praise. More physical effort was needed to train successfully. With the introduction of food rewards many, but not all, aspects of training became a lot easier and results obtained quicker.

What dogs do you have now? Tell us a little about them.... All our early animals were gun dogs. Anne Eddins, the Club's Treasurer, had a litter of German Shepherd pups and invited us round to have a play with them. We fell in love with a rather sooky long haired boy and Dylan was added to the family. He is large and gentle, or rather slow to anger, and will befriend any dog as long as it accepts him as boss; unless it is small, white and fluffy or a black and white Border Collie!! Our younger Shepherd was bred by Bill Jeffrey, one of our senior instructors, and was the only



bitch in a large litter of boys. We called her Chelsea, mainly because Arsenal seemed inappropriate. We think she picked up too much testosterone from the boys in the womb, as she is, to be kind, super lively. Chelsea would run through a Mac Truck and is phased by nothing except Dylan to whom she is very respectful.

You have a wonderful sense of humour – is this something that has aided your dog training? Any dog stories? Trying to cope with a difficult dog in a class situation can be very frustrating and trying for handlers. Creating a relaxed atmosphere in a class is fundamental to the success of participants. Injecting some humour, even if, as in my case, sometimes a little cynical, helps to keep some level of morale. It is surprisingly difficult to recall humorous events during dog training. One time a visiting trainer with a large reputation came to the Club to give us the benefit of her experience. She asked to borrow a dog and took on a very large German Shepherd, not, I hasten to add, Dylan. As she walked by the dog was heard emitting a low growl and was rapidly returned to its owner. Instructors handle student's dogs at their peril!

What other dog events/ clubs do you participate in? What happens there?

I am interested in breeding Budgerigars although Kathleen must have the credit as the driving force. So if you want a budgie you know who to see. The Budgerigar Club we belong to has the same problems as we do in getting its members to actively participate. There is no easy answer to this problem as people today are time poor. I am a keen photographer and the dogs provide many photo opportunities.

What keeps you busy when you are not dog training?

I am now retired from a varied career as a retail manager and staff trainer. I enjoy playing table tennis and play at a club with many players in my age group. They are very competitive. Three hours a day are spent walking the dogs, my favourite place is Fagan Park which is good for photography as well.

Some of us get stuck in our ways with our dog training - how can we challenge ourselves a little more?

Instructors have very different life experiences as well as a wide variety of problems to overcome in training their own dogs. Not surprisingly, they differ in the way they see dog training and this comes out in the classes. We do try to be on the same page although sometimes it appears we are in different books. As a student it is important to see these differences as an advantage and experiment to see what works for you and your unique dog. If it is not working for you try something new. If you really want a challenge there are difficult breeds. One ex instructor had a Bull Terrier. It jumped out of their unit window three times; they lived on the fourth floor.

What would you like to see Hornsby Dog Training Club doing in the next few years?

2013 will be a challenge for many social clubs. People have less and less time available to participate in the running of Clubs such as ours. We are hard pressed to maintain let alone increase our instructor numbers. To any member who is considering becoming an instructor I would encourage you to put your hand up. You will be welcomed with open arms and given the tools you need to enjoy the experience.

John Sharp Instructor and Vice President of the HDTC

The Post

Resources

Magazine

- 1. Urban Animal—now available at the Clubhouse—this is a free magazine for pet owners—it is an easy read and has lots to offer. Grab one next time you are at the club. Urban Animal have agreed to provide our club with 100 of issue 30 + the latest issue 32. They would also like feedback on the magazine from our members. Please either email Urban Animal direct at editorial@urbananimal.net or link to them on Facebook or send feedback to me (gurang@optusnet.com.au) and I will pass on with our thanks.
- 2. Dogs Life Magazine and website http://www.dogslife.com.au/competitions

Websites—Food and Accessories

- 1. My Pet Warehouse http://www.mypetwarehouse.com.au/
- 2. Paws for Life http://www.pawsforlife.com.au/

Books

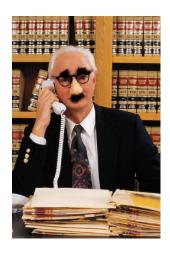
Dr Hugh—My Life with Animals - Dr Hugh writes about his life working as a vet in Melbourne and an Animal Rights advocate.

Interesting Websites

2GB Talking Pets http://www.2gb.com/newsletter-only-item/talking-pets (Skin problems—itch and dermatitis issues)

Need a holiday—Want to take the dog? Check out Stayz pet friendly accommodation http://www.stayz.com.au/pet-friendly-accommodation/nsw

- 2. Doggie Rescue http://www.doggierescue.com/index.html
- 3. Animal Welfare League NSW http://www.awlnsw.com.au/
- 4. Camp K9 website www.campk9.com.au Book now for the September 2013 camp.



Now I have your

attention—take a look

at the resources!

Clipart

For Sale or Wanted?

Would you like to advertise in this

Newsletter?

If you have doggie items that you would like to give away or sell or need.

Send your email to

gurang@optusnet.com.au

Subject line: Hornsby Dog Training Club.

For Sale section

Can you recommend any pet friendly

accommodation?

I am sure our members would be interested in somewhere that is secure and safe for pets and equally relaxing for owners.

Beachside?????? Chalet???? Resort????

Email

to: <u>gu-</u>



