

# Association of Pet Dog Trainers New Zealand

Newsletter Issue 26

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### Page 2. NEWS FLASH! APDTNZ's

- Trainer Endorsement Programme (TEP)

### Page 3. BEHAVIOUR MATTERS:

- CANINE COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION SYNDROME (CCDS)  
- My dog's gone la-la

### Page 8. CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

- Karen Pryor Academy -

## 2016/17 Committee

- Margaret Marshall** - President
- Rebecca Roper** - Vice President and Treasurer
- Darran Rowe** - Secretary
- Shelly Turner** - Newsletter
- Susie Londer** - Conference Coordination and Education
- Kate Butler** - Website
- Ann Kenny** - Membership
- Angelika Cawte** - PR and Media
- Paula Denby-Gibbs** - Committee Member
- Deborah Chadoutaud Maslet** - Committee Member
- Lisa Sturm** - Committee Member

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I must say what a fantastic conference experience it was this year. The venue was superb, the company was great, and the presenters were all I had hoped for. Thanks to everyone for making this one of our best annual events and thanks to our wonderful presenters, sponsors and Waipuna Hotel staff. We also welcomed new members to APDTNZ during conference and to the Annual General Meeting.

A new committee was elected for the 2017-18 year and it was very satisfying to see three new committee members offering to be involved with APDTNZ operational and planning decisions for the forthcoming year. Welcome to Darran Rowe from Hamilton who is the new Secretary, Lisa Sturm and Deborah Chadoutaud Maslet both from Christchurch.

Trainer Endorsement – was officially launched at the AGM. Details are available on the APDTNZ website along with bios for the four members of the Review Panel. I extend appreciation to the Review Panel members who are looking forward to receiving your applications for APDTNZ trainer endorsement.

Group Insurance – the committee have been very disappointed that this has not moved more positively towards a scheme whereby members can access a group insurance at a competitive premium. I am in the process of discussing a group insurance scheme with another company and hopefully we can give you better news soon.

Post conference the new committee met to discuss where APDTNZ will be in 10 to 20 years' time, and what will be required to make the organisation a professional "go to first" organisation for dog related services. The future looks exciting and with foresight and care, APDTNZ can become a prominent and professional first call organisation, giving the public confidence, respect and trust for our members and the services they provide.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and contributions towards improvement of our services for members. Contact the Secretary Darran Rowe [secretary@apdtnz.org.nz](mailto:secretary@apdtnz.org.nz) or myself [president@apdtnz.org.nz](mailto:president@apdtnz.org.nz) with your ideas.

Kind regards, Maggie Marshall



# NEWS FLASH! APDTNZ's Trainer Endorsement Programme (TEP)

**We're taking applications now!**

The Trainer Endorsement Programme (TEP) recognises and endorses those APDTNZ members who, as dog trainers, have a level of knowledge, experience and academic qualifications, or accreditation that is of a high calibre and is in line with the Association's Code of Ethics promoting dog friendly training techniques.

Dog training is an unregulated industry in New Zealand, and formal qualifications are not required for dog trainers. The APDTNZ released the TEP in June 2017 with the aim that over time endorsement will become a benchmark for dog-friendly, qualified, and experienced trainers so the public, as well as other dog trainers, can confidently seek them out.

Endorsement is maintained every 3 years via continuing education and activity points to encourage trainers to further their own knowledge across the fields of dog training, education, and behaviour.

Endorsed trainers will be highlighted on the APDTNZ website and have the right to use the APDTNZ endorsed trainer logo.

How to apply

The TEP is open to Full Members after 12 months of full membership. Before lodging your application, you should complete a self-assessment against the entry criteria. Once confident you meet the criteria, submit an application for endorsement along with any relevant supporting documentation plus application fee of \$80.

A review panel reviews the application, checks the applicant is eligible to apply, and seeks further information (if required) before making a decision, to approve or decline the application for endorsement and informing the APDTNZ President.

[Trainer Endorsement Programme - document and application form \(PDF, 820K\)](#)

## INITIAL APPLICATION PROCESS

### Step 1

**Applicant:** Completes a self-assessment against the entry criteria and once confident they meet the criteria, submits an application for endorsement along with any relevant supporting documentation plus application fee.

### Step 2

**Review Panel:** Reviews the application, checks the applicant is eligible to apply (refer to Criteria for Endorsed Trainer Applicants) and seeks further information (if required) before making a decision, to approve or decline the application for endorsement and informing the APDTNZ President.

### Step 3

**APDTNZ Committee:** Notifies the applicant of the outcome of their application and updates relevant records e.g "Find a Trainer" page within 2 months of receiving the application.

## BEHAVIOUR MATTERS:

### - CANINE COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION SYNDROME (CCDS) -

#### My dog's gone la-la

By Cath Rivron

Senile, doggy-dementia, mad, old age brain, la-la or just not all there... call it what you will, mental decline in our elderly dogs (and cats) is real and it's not being talked about enough. In this article I aim to highlight some of the more common features of elderly dog behavioural change as it relates to brain aging and wellness.

Canine Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CCDS) and other brain aging conditions lead to a range of behaviours that are often put down to "just old age". Belief that these changes are something to put up with in an elderly pet means many pets are going without treatment or help. Your vet may not ask specific questions during an old dog consult so please do tell your vet team about any changes, however small, as these can often stimulate further discussion, examination and medical work-up. There are many other medical conditions in our elderly pets that also contribute to behavioural change and I have included some of the main ones where appropriate. It is well worth having any dog or cat over the age of 9 years examined by your vet at least yearly but ideally 6 monthly. There are many conditions for which early detection and treatment provides the best situation for successful management, comfort, longevity and quality of life.

Please remember that any change in behaviour, particularly sudden or very out of character, in any age of dog/cat can be a sign of medical illness. Also please bear in mind with behavioural cases that are not going how you would expect there may be un-detected medical conditions blocking progress. It is important that your client questionnaire or information gathering about a case asks the age, breed and health status of the dog so that you can consider the dog and its behaviour as a whole.

Here are some things you may hear clients or dog owners say about their elderly or older pet...

"She is stubborn, she knows how to jump into the car, she just wants a biscuit..."

"He is lazy and doesn't want to go outside in the cold"

"She is just being silly, she never used to feel the need to bark at people coming to the house"

"He is just trying to get our attention, he has always been fine with fireworks"

"She's grumpy/jealous/being mean towards the new puppy/kitten/grandchildren"

"He knows to come when called, he is being purposefully naughty"

They may also come to you with a new, specific behavioural problem...

"Can you stop him barking?"

"She wakes in the night and disturbs us, how do I crate train her?"

"I need to teach him to come back when called"

"How do you toilet train an older dog?"

"I think we have allowed him to think he is alpha, because he is aggressive now if we try to move him..."

"She is jealous of the new puppy"

I am sure some of those situations will be familiar to you. Brain aging, when the brain tissue starts to degenerate and lose branches that connect thoughts, ideas and behavioural patterns can occur with cancers, chemical or free radical change and build up of amyloid plaques (similar to the process of Alzheimer's in humans). Lack of oxygen, compromised blood flow and degeneration of sight, hearing and touch



### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED!

Would you like to  
contribute to the  
newsletter?

We love hearing from  
our members,  
whether it be a  
training article, case  
study, dog gear or  
book review. If you've  
got something to  
share with your fellow  
members, please get  
in contact with the  
editor to let us know.

Deadline for  
contributions to be  
included in the next  
issue:

**15 OCTOBER  
2017**

(Continued from page 3)

also influence how the brain copes with aging.

Signs that a dog may have CCDS are listed below. These are sometimes referred to amongst vets as “DISHA”. Your dog/cat does not have to have them all to be suffering with mental decline:

D – Disorientation

I – Interactions altered

S – Sleep-wake cycle changes

H – House-soiling

A – Activity changes & Anxiety

### **Disorientation**

Getting lost in the house, on walks or struggling to come in from the garden. Dogs may stare at the wrong side of a door to be let out, get stuck in corners or seem to wander about aimlessly. Vocalisation, often “at nothing”, during the night or at things that they didn’t worry about before. Stress and vocalisation associated with being left alone or change to routines. Appearing to ignore recall requests or a loss of prior learning.

Medical considerations: Brain tumour, ear disease, eyesight or hearing impairment (for example: cataracts, progressive retinal atrophy), **Pain**.

### **Interactions altered**

Dogs may be more or less cuddly and affectionate than normal. They may be less tolerant of handling or not want to play so much with usual playmates. They may start to interact with people they wouldn’t normally go to or display signs of aggression or avoidance towards visitors. You may feel that your canine friend is distant or overly needy. Being more grumpy can be sign that things are not right.

Medical considerations: **Pain!**

### **Sleep-wake cycle changes**

Sleeping more during the day. Sleeping less during the night. They may wake frequently through the night and pace. You may find a once reliable and easy bedtime routine becomes drawn out and fussy.

Medical considerations: **Pain**, liver disease/nausea, tumours, endocrine disorders, heart disease, skin disease.

### **House-soiling**

A loss of reliable clean toileting habits and routines. Asking to go out frequently without going to the toilet. Peeing/pooing in their bed or within the house. Not asking to be let out when they usually would. Asking to be let out too late or in the wrong place. Toileting in strange places inside.

Medical considerations: Arthritis leading to a loss of mobility and ability to reach appropriate place at all or in time, **Pain**, diabetes, Cushing’s disease, kidney disease, gut disease, tumours, incontinence, bladder disease. Increased discomfort in cold, slippery, dark or wet weather will also influence a dog’s access to outdoors.

### **Activity changes**

Reluctance to play or exercise as normal or at all. Being awake more in the night and less in the day. Struggling to maintain the activity levels they would have previously managed with. A loss of previously learnt routines, behaviours, tricks or other set pieces. Stopping games with owners or other dogs.

## **MEMBER BENEFITS**

### **PetTech Pet First Aid Courses**



As an APDTNZ member you can get a discount when you attend a PetTech Pet First Aid course.

The amount is up to the instructor taking the course but Rhiannon offers a whopping 30% discount to our members.

If you are interested in attending a PetTech Pet First Aid Course, get in touch with your local instructor and enquire about what discount they may be able to offer.

[www.pettech.net.nz](http://www.pettech.net.nz)

Isn’t it great when our fellow members support each other? We think so. So thank you Rhiannon and our other PetTech instructors who are willing to support their fellow trainers continuing their education.

If you want to offer your fellow members a discount on products or services, please get in touch. We’d love to hear from you.

(Continued from page 4)

Medical considerations: **Pain**, heart disease, tumours.

### **Anxiety**

These behavioural problems may appear as a new thing or more usually, become overwhelming or more obvious/harder to ignore: separation anxiety, aggression, noise phobias, resource guarding, fear at vet visits/strangers/children/boisterous dogs. Depression-type withdrawal from family life. Fear of new situations. Less interest in food or toys. Loss of eye sight and hearing increases vulnerability and can lead to other signs too.

Medical considerations: Any of the body's systems that are diseased can contribute to an elderly pet feeling vulnerable, confused, **painful**, frightened and anxious. Do not underestimate the role of pain in all and any behavioural problem – owners will.

### **What to do...**

The following checklist is a useful step-wise approach for a client's dog or your own dog. I had an owner phone me about their 11 year old Labrador that had started to bark more when left alone during the day... as far as they were concerned this was an annoying problem, embarrassing and the dog being difficult... so they put an anti-bark collar on her and declined treatment or vet work up. The welfare implications for that dog are huge. So, yes it's fiddly, expensive and potentially going to give you a piece of bad news but you do need to get the dog fully checked out.

- Get a medical check up including dental check, bloods, urine analysis, pain medication trial, diagnostic imaging where appropriate and discussion of behaviour with a vet.
- Treat, manage or limit any medical conditions present. If there are still behavioural signs present start looking at brain aging and mental health.
  - A pain relief trial can help to rule painful conditions in or out, guiding the need for other treatments.
- Get a thorough behavioural history done.
- Mental health and brain aging are veterinary medical conditions. Work with a vet to treat the brain as required:
  - Anti-anxiety medications
  - Brain support supplements
  - Brain support commercial diets
  - Brain aging medication
- Behavioural modification and training (see below) has a place but a lot of the management of older dogs is creating an environment that is supportive, user friendly and comfortable.

### **You can teach an old dog new tricks!**

Just slowly, gradually and gently. You will have more success if you focus on behaviours that the dog has previously learnt or can still do to some degree or modify previous behaviours to suit current situations. For example, if a dog used to be great at fetch but is less mobile/less visually able/tires easily now, instead of expecting them to run after a ball or giving up entirely think up a way to use those skills without the running about. You could set up a series of boxes with balls nearby that they can walk to and deposit into a box.



## **APDTNZ Member Only Facebook Group!**

Did you know there is a member only facebook group for APDTNZ members (and is a secret group so you will need that link to join).

[www.facebook.com/groups/APDTNZMembers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/APDTNZMembers)

The rules for this group are in a pinned post at the top of the page. Please make sure that you read these carefully and abide by them so that the group can operate fairly autonomously and free from admin interference.

(Continued from page 5)

Mental stimulation is key – Kongs, puzzle feeders, a sandpit, stimulating walks, Golden Oldie agility – tailor the level appropriately for the size, health and brain function of the dog. Adaptil can help with feelings of security and familiarity.

For dogs that are visually impaired consider different floor surfaces to help them navigate, keep rooms arranged in the same way and try scent trails or ramps for access and navigation. Both deaf and blind dogs can be walked with a long line, harness, owners wearing bells or laser pointers to aid with keeping them safe and with their humans.

For arthritic dogs that liked to dig in a sandpit, try switching plastic ball pit balls or shredded paper for the sand – these are easier to dig through to find a treat or toy. There are lots of options of stimulating things to do online if you search.

For dogs with true CCDs and not just age related changes, the scope for teaching is much less. They will benefit from simple brain tasks and will be aided with a multi-edged approach to try to give the brain the most support.

Now, more than ever, it is important that owners understand that their canine friend is struggling with things that they once did with ease. The dog is not being stubborn, spiteful or lazy and shouldn't be viewed with contempt. No-one likes to stare the end of a life in the face and being reminded of the aging process with an elderly dog can cause many owners a great deal of stress and strong emotions. It is also a good time to talk to owners about an end of life plan.

For a complete and very informative article on this topic by Dr Gary Landsberg, a Canadian Vet Behavioural Specialist, please see this link [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Gary\\_Landsberg/publication/51155372\\_Clinical\\_Signs\\_and\\_Management\\_of\\_Anxiety\\_Sleeplessness\\_and\\_Cognitive\\_Dysfunction\\_in\\_the\\_Senior\\_Pet/links/548f33790cf2d1800d86233c/Clinical-Signs-and-Management-of-Anxiety-Sleeplessness-and-Cognitive-Dysfunction-in-the-Senior-Pet.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Gary_Landsberg/publication/51155372_Clinical_Signs_and_Management_of_Anxiety_Sleeplessness_and_Cognitive_Dysfunction_in_the_Senior_Pet/links/548f33790cf2d1800d86233c/Clinical-Signs-and-Management-of-Anxiety-Sleeplessness-and-Cognitive-Dysfunction-in-the-Senior-Pet.pdf)



Photo credit: Courtesy of Shelly Turner. Fellow trainer, Cathi Napp's 16 year old CCD dog Sirius doing nosework at this local club, Central Allbreeds Dog Training School, as part of his mental stimulation and enrichment programme.



## APDTNZ Advertising Policy

- The APDTNZ will not advertise training services or courses.
- All material in the newsletter must be in line with the APDTNZ Vision and Mission Statements and the Code of Ethics
- Placement of material in the newsletter is at the discretion of the Editor and the Committee
- No paid advertising is accepted
- Members may place merchandise ads free of charge in the newsletter, but must include a discount for members
- Events may be advertised in a maximum of 5 lines
- Positioning of ads is at the discretion of the Editor and Committee
- The publication of any advertising material does not constitute the endorsement of the APDTNZ for the event or merchandise.

## LIBRARY BORROWING RULES

- Only Financial Members of APDTNZ may borrow from the APDTNZ library.
- There is no borrowing fee but to cover postage and packaging within New Zealand there is a charge of \$8.00 or \$13.00, depending on size, this includes the cost for returning the books. The Librarian will advise you which charge applies to your choice of books. This charge is payable with your request. Should any item be damaged or lost, the member will be required to pay replacement costs.
- Only 2 books or a total of 4 disks may be borrowed at a time with a maximum
- borrowing time of **one month**.
- There is a late fee of \$5 per week per item for overdue items. Please include the fee when you return overdue items.
- Please ensure that items are returned in the courier bag provided and covered with bubble wrap. Do not use sticky tape on the bubble wrap so it can easily be re-used.
- To borrow items please contact the librarian with your request at [librarian@apdt.org.nz](mailto:librarian@apdt.org.nz)
- When you receive confirmation that your choice of books is available, you can either:
  - ~ send a cheque, **made out to APDTNZ** to the APDTNZ Treasurer, 78 Pukeko Lane, RD1, Kerikeri 0245, or
  - ~ direct deposit to 03-1503-0398799-00 account name: APDTNZ Inc, please provide your name and the word "library" as a reference.
- Only when payment is received will the books be sent out.
- When ordering please identify all items by author and title, and provide the librarian with your name and full address including postcode.
- Please do not ask the librarian to make a selection for you.
- The list of items available to be borrowed is on the APDTNZ website [www.apdt.org.nz](http://www.apdt.org.nz) or can be posted if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope to the librarian. Or it can be emailed to you. Contact [librarian@apdt.org.nz](mailto:librarian@apdt.org.nz)
- Where appropriate, due to either the inability to replace, or the cost of replacing goods, (such as some books & videos) APDTNZ will use Express Post to post such items out to members. Loans from the library of such items will need to be returned by Express Post, as determined & advised by the Librarian.
- ***The APDTNZ does not necessarily agree with nor condone the information contained in library items that have been supplied on loan to members.***



### ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

#### Membership Due Dates

*During this year's payment of membership subscription renewals and conference registrations problems occurred through non-payments and lapsed memberships. There were a number of members who failed to renew their 2017-18 membership and in some cases memberships had lapsed from the previous year. Conference registrations were held up due to these lapsed memberships.*

*Please ensure your membership is renewed on time each year to ensure continued membership and conference registrations are accepted at membership rates. The committee will not be so accommodating in future.*



# CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

## - Karen Pryor Academy -

The Dog Trainer Professional course is coming to New Zealand

Karen Pryor Academy for Animal Training & Behavior is thrilled to announce that its world-renowned Dog Trainer Professional program will be offered for the first time in New Zealand!

The KPA DTP offers an in-depth distance learning curriculum that explores the theoretical and practical aspects of animal training, teaching, and business set-up, along with a five-day practical workshop.

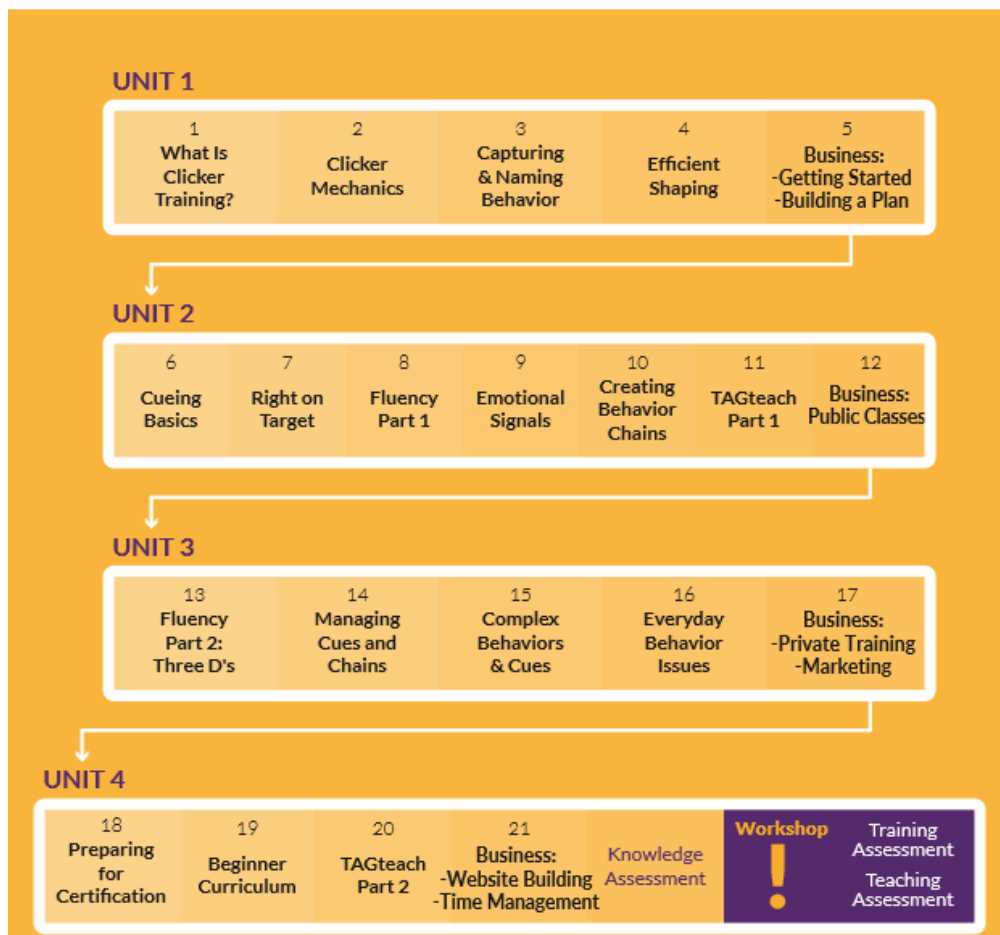
Students are required to complete both practical and written assignments and assessments, and attend the workshop. They have the full support of experienced and skilled KPA-accredited faculty mentor, Alexis Davison.

This comprehensive six-month program will give all you the knowledge and skills you need to attain to the highest standards of positive reinforcement training, effectively teach these skills to others, and run a successful dog training business.

The DTP is based on the most up-to-date behaviour science, taking you through all levels, from foundation knowledge to advanced concepts in animal training, and also covers behaviour management solutions.

Check out the course guide and apply today!

# dogtrainer PROFESSIONAL Course Guide







# dog\*tec

We've been helping R+ trainers  
build their dream careers since 2003

Is it your time to:

- \* Leave your "real" job behind?
- \* Transition from hobby business to full-time trainer?
- \* Grow your existing business?
- \* Enjoy support while you pursue your passion?
- \* Help more dogs?

We're R+ trainers dedicated to the success of  
R+ trainers and we'd love to help you build a career  
doing what you love.

\*

Learn more at [www.dogtec.org](http://www.dogtec.org).

Prefer to chat? Email [info@dogtec.org](mailto:info@dogtec.org) or call 510.525.2547.

Our goal is to take the discomfort and mystery out of the business side of things so you can focus on training dogs. Take advantage of our friendly, down-to-earth business consulting or jump start your goals with our ready-made business forms, marketing projects, homework handouts, class curriculums, and more.

\*