



## Underdog Training & Behaviour Consulting

### Canberra 2010

Despite some freezing evenings Canberra turned on some beautiful weather to welcome us in June! The weekend started at Domestic Animal Services/ Canberra pound where we went through a number of exercises attendees could use to assist dogs in pound and shelter environments. We had a terrific turn out with around 30 people braving the cold morning. Many had traveled great distances to attend, including participants from Queensland and New South Wales. There was a terrific mix of dog trainers, groomers, veterinary nurses, foster carers and shelter staff and everyone was able to participate- working first with our own dogs and then with some of the lovely dogs being held in the pound.

Saturday afternoon's temperament testing workshop was held at a private Queanbeyan property, generously provided by a member of ACT rescue and foster. The workshop covered temperament testing procedures as well as covering a number of great questions from attendees who had come to such workshops before and wanted to improve their assessment skills. We assessed a number of different dogs and it was great to see the individual quirks of each dog and identify the areas to focus on for their future training.

After an ice cold evening, the sun came out on Sunday and we were able to run our extremely busy workshops all day. We saw over 30 different dogs and everyone had the opportunity to handle their own dogs as well as dogs in foster care and our own dogs for various exercises. For the first time, we ran a tricks and shaping workshop and everyone had the opportunity to teach something a little more than just obedience exercises. The dogs in the workshop did a great job, including 12 year old Cleo who proved you certainly can teach an old dog new tricks!!

Our dog to dog interactions workshop brought with it some new skills and techniques that are simple for everyone to use and implement- combining classical conditioning, new training equipment and handling skills resulted in many of the dogs rapidly improving and becoming much more polite with the other dogs around them. We're looking forward to seeing how the dogs have gone with these exercises next time we visit the ACT!

We would like to thank Domestic Animal Services, ACT Rescue ad Foster, Raelene and Malcolm Stewart and everyone who participated in the workshops and helped to make them such a great success! We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

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