

[MISS PETIQUETTE]

PETIQUETTE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Dear Ms Petiquette,
A dog park friend was recently recommended a local dog trainer to do some one-on-one training. I have seen this dog trainer in action and don't agree with his methods. I've also seen one of his dogs in the local park who is reactive (putting it mildly) and uncontrollable unless on lead. It's a nasty piece of work that snarls, snaps and lunges at other dogs.

I can't understand why anyone would recommend a dog trainer that has an unmanageable and untrained dog.

Should I say anything?

Gail P.
Glen Waverley

Dear Gail,

I can understand your concern, however it's really not your concern—unless you know that a dog under his instruction has been injured or inappropriately handled. There are 'dog trainers' popping up everywhere, and some have little more credentials than a membership number and a receipt for fees paid. It's over to your dog park friend to research trainers and find one that's appropriate for them.

With the 'unmanageable dog', perhaps this trainer is doing the best he can in a bad situation. There are some dogs out there that are just 'bad eggs'. They've either become that way through a bad start in life or have got the short end of the tail in the gene pool. It's all about

management and making sure no one, including the dog, is in harms way. The alternative is a trip to the vet for the Green Dream.

In a perfect world, we would have perfect dog trainers with perfect dogs. But I would say that you have better odds at winning on the pokies.

Regards,
Miss P.

Miss Petiquette (not her real name) lives in a cramped urban cottage with her dog and two cockatiels. Her partially blind bunny has since crossed over the rainbow bridge. One pet down, Miss Petiquette has even more time on her hands to answer your questions regarding manners in the modern age for pet lovers. Miss Petiquette is on hand to deal with your perplexing petiquette and personal problems. Email her at behaviour@urbananimal.net



[FURRY FESTIVITIES]

BRISBANE

Sunday, 26 June

K-9 CAPER EVENTS

These regular events run about three hours and are designed for all levels of fitness for both dogs and their humans. The emphasis is on having fun while you try obstacle races, fastest ball chasing, talent contests and puppy recall training.

Trainers are on hand to dispense advice on general obedience and behavioural issues, all while having fun. Encouragement certificates are awarded for handling skills. Dogs do not have to be obedience or agility-trained to participate.

Small and large dogs are catered for during events with equipment changes.

Paten Park, Paten Road, The Gap
1:30pm until 4:30pm

SYDNEY

Sunday, 21 August

WILLOUGHBY FAUNA FAIR

The fair is a fun and engaging day out for the whole family and includes a great range of games and activities for kids, information stalls about living with wildlife, free dog training, information on pet welfare and reducing our impact on wildlife, as well as exciting hands-on shows for fair goers to get up close and personal with Australian native animals.

For information ph: (02) 9777 1000.

Willoughby Park, Cnr of McClelland Street and Fourth Avenue, Willoughby
10am to 3pm, Sunday 21 August

Sunday, 28 August

DALMATIAN FUN DAY

Every dog has its day and here's one for the spotties and their friends. All breeds are welcome to join in the fun for this fundraiser that focuses on re-homing and rehabilitating surrendered Dalmatians. It's a day full of competitions and great prizes. A sausage sizzle will keep the humans happy (just watch out for sneaky spotties), and kids will enjoy all the fun activities. Who will take out the contest for Waggiest Tail? Don't worry if it rains, the spots won't run because this is an inside/outside venue.

For more information contact Marilyn Miller (02) 9634 6458 or 0425 285 205

Castle Hill Showground Dog Rings, Castle Hill
10am onwards

