# The Poop SCOOP



Free Newsletter No. 10, May 2018



# THE SCOOP

Muzzled 24/7, even when inside our homes. Seriously? What the hell were they thinking? Even those of us without a law degree could advise them that it's not legal, or humane. We fought this loud and you guys were all heard. I can now let my dog, who has never set a foot wrong or shown any form of aggression, play ball in my yard without fear of a fine or further repercussions. Doesn't that sound ridiculous?

It was a win for the dogs and for common sense. Now our sights are set higher up: we will be pushing to having any form of BSL removed from the Animal Control act to make sure that no dog can be classified as menacing just for how they look. We hope that you will continue to support our fight to be the voice for these dogs.

Abbey van der Plas

# Hello Dog owner

This letter is a friendly reminder to you as the owner of a dog classified as menacing. This letter reminds you of your legal obligations (which were provided to you at the time of classification), however, if you are unsure of what these obligations are, please feel free to visit the Councils website for more information.

The Council records show that you are currently meeting all the legal requirements of sections 33E (1) (a), (b), (c) and (5) of the Dog Control Act 1996, however, I remind you of the following extract from the Dog Control Act 1996:

Section 33E (1) the owner of the do

(a) must not allow the dog to be at large or in a public place or in any private way, except when confined completely within a vehicle or cage, without being muzzled in such a mann as to prevent the dog from biting but to allow it to breathe and drink without obstruction.

Due to recent serious dog attacks within the city, the Councils requires that all dogs classified as menacing must be muzzled at all times which includes on your own property and includes inside the dwelling house, except when they are securely contained within a cage or motor vehicle,

### Hello dog owner

We would like to apologise for sending you a letter earlier this month with inaccurate information about when you need to muzzle your dog.

We now have a new legal opinion that says you do not need to muzzle your dog classified as menacing when it is inside your own house or securely within your property.

This is different from the information we sent you earlier – please ignora that letter. We are sorry any confusion and upset we have caused.

We are all passionate animal lovers and our aim is to prevent other animals and people from any harm. We were acting on a legal interpretation of what it means for a dog to be 'at large'. After all the feedback we received, and the welfare and practical issues raised, we asked for an urgent legal

You are still responsible for making sure your dog classified as menacing is muzzled when it is outside your property, unless it is securely within a vehicle or cage. Your dog should be muzzled in was that chose it from hims his lates it herathe and dark freely.

Slightly crumpled version of council letters



### **DOG OF THE MONTH**

### HEMI

I am a 1 year old APBT X. I love to go for walks and am told I am really good at it. I also like to run. When people come to visit I am always super excited to meet them, because I LOOOOVE people. Even the little ones.

But sometimes I am still a bit too bouncy and need to learn some play level boundaries with other dogs and people. Until I do, I need to be an only dog, in fact an only pet. I can live with children, but they should be a bit older and dog savvy so I don't accidentally run them

Due to my breed I need to be adopted by someone who is a homeowner.

All our dogs are destined to be family dogs that sleep indoors with the rest of the family.

Hemi is desexed, vaccinated, chipped & registered.

## **ALL THE WAYS TO REACH US**

1 Barton Street, Woolston, Christchurch Email: admin@chchbullbreedrescue.org.nz www.chchbullbreedrescue.org.nz Social media: www.facebook.com/ChristchurchBullBreedRescue; www.instagram.com/chchbullbreedrescuenz

# WELCOME

2018 has been crazy busy so far. We have already rehomed 21 dogs this year, and it's only early May.

Abbey spent a considerable amount of time talking with everyone who pointed a camera or microphone her way to fight the Christchurch City Council's crazy and unexpected new interpretation of muzzling rules. And we won! No dog has to be muzzled in their own home.

We had our second annual Poker Run and another epic Quiz Night, we have done sausage sizzles and other fundraisers to help with the bills and upgrade the runs in time for winter.

And you might have noticed, out newsletter got an update. We hope you enjoy the new layout. You will still find your favourite articles and pictures of some of our dogs, as well as some new features. Let us know what you think.



Poker Run 2018. You can find more pictures on facebook

### **SPECIALS**

All Kids T-shirst and Sweatshirts \$5 off



Get your beanie before winter hits. \$15. One size fits all









# THE SCIENCE CORNER

### **IS THAT DOG A PIT BULL?**

Identifying breeds in mixed-breed dogs is difficult, but the answer can literally be life and death if a dog is identified as belonging to a restricted breed. In NZ, these are the Japanese Tosa, the Brazilian Fila, the Dogo Argentino, and pitbull type dogs. Dogs that are identified as being predominantly one of these breeds are often deemed unsuitable for rehoming and euthanised when they end up in a pound or shelter. A study by Kimberly Olson Damon and colleagues in the USA asked staff from various shelters to identify dog breeds from photos. Note that these are trained people asked for their professional opinion. The researchers also did DNA analysis of the dogs to identify the breeds genetically present in the dogs. The results were worse than expected. Here is their summary in their own words:

Even when observing the same dogs at the same time, shelter staff had only moderate agreement with breed designations.

One in five dogs genetically identified with pit bull heritage breeds were missed by all shelter staff.

One in three dogs lacking DNA for pit bull heritage breeds were labeled pit bull-type dogs by at least one staff member.

The authors concluded that "[I]ack of consistency among shelter staff indicates that visual identification of pit bull-type dogs is unreliable."

If trained professionals get it that wrong, what chance do the rest of us have to correctly identify a breed? And what are the consequences?

If you want to read the whole study, it can be found here: www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S109002331500310X#!

# **DOGGIE TAILS**

### **MANNERS FOR DOG OWNERS**

We often talk about teaching our dog, but never touch on dog owner etiquette! Dog owners have a responsibility to manage their dogs behaviour and follow certain rules of etiquette. These are some guidelines to help ensure that you and your dog are being courteous community members. Some of us must live with the limitations of the dogs we own. We can't take them to off-leash areas, we can't allow strangers to pet them and we can't allow them to meet other dogs on the street. We go to great lengths to create a balance between keeping everyone safe and providing enrichment for our dogs. What we cannot control are other people and their dogs. A little understanding and respect go a long way!



Scoop your poop: Bring several bags on your walks to be sure you have enough. If you run out, either come back and clean it up later, or ask another walker if they have a bag to spare.

Training your Dog: Teach basic manners to your dog sit, stay, heel, down, bed & quiet. This will make it a pleasure to be with and easier to practice good dog etiquette. Remember, don't shout at or hit your dog. Ever. Shouting and hitting only intimidates your dog and shows up your own shortcomings - that you do not have patience and are using the wrong method to train your dog.

Prevent barking: Practice getting your dogs attention to easily redirect it if they bark at people or other dogs. If you know your dog acts this way, only allow the dog outside in the yard when it is supervised.

Only let your dog greet a stranger if they ask: The same rule applies if you see another dog and owner approaching. Ask first and respect the others response.

Always leash your dog on walks: Unless it is a specific off leash area for



dogs, keep your dog on a leash. Not everyone is comfortable around dogs, both people and other dogs. Keep your dog close to you and stay alert to others. Your leash should be short enough to prevent your dog from contacting or jumping on a passerby.

Don't play while on leash: If you meet another dog on a walk (and it is ok with their owner) let the dogs sniff each other for five seconds and move on. Letting your dog play with another dog while on leash can result in injury and teach your dog that all dogs enjoy this kind of interaction, although many don't.

Dog etiquette also extends to how you treat your dog when exercising it! Seriously consider your dog's ability to walk or run. Always observe how your dog is coping with the walk or run. Use common sense. Is it struggling to keep up? Is it limping? Is it too hot to be out walking or running? Is the road or footpath too hot or rough for its paws? Watch out for broken glass, sharp stones or objects that may injure its paws, and skirt around them. Always take a bottle of water and collapsible container for the dog to drink from. If you intend to jog, rollerblade or cycle with your dog, do not force the pace. Do not exceed the dog's capacity to keep up. Stop for it to rest and have a drink, frequently, if necessary.

Mealtimes (yours): Dogs begging at the dinner table is bad dog etiquette. It reflects badly on the owner and can be an



embarrassment or an annoyance to your guests. We love our dogs and sometimes find their pleading expression sooooo cute or irresistible, but this view is not necessarily shared by your visitors even if they smile indulgently. Do not be fooled. If you have created a food beggar, your

dog will consistently be a beggar. It will not suddenly improve its manners because guests are present. It will require patience and persistence on your part to turn this habit around but when you do, your pet will be happier for it and less stressed at your mealtimes. Teach it to stay on its own mat in sight of, but away from your dining table so that it is not underfoot. Your guests will be impressed, but, do not let them undo your good dog etiquette training by offering tit-bits to your dog from their plates or elsewhere.

Dogs Need (Crave) Company: Dogs are pack animals and crave company. It's in their instinct. It is cruel to keep a dog in isolation. It causes all sorts of anti-social problems from anxiety to aggressiveness. This makes dog etiquette difficult to achieve. A dog is not an object to be acquired and discarded on a whim, it is a valuable loving member of your family to be cared for its entire life through sickness and in health. If you are unwilling or unable to commit your time, affection and money to them (yes, they can be costly), then a dog is not for you. Buy yourself an ornament instead!

# HAVE YOU CONSIDERED FOSTERING?

As a rescue, we get daily calls and emails from people wanting to rehome their dogs for one reason or another, and we have a waiting list of dogs that need to come into our care but can't until space is freed up.

We never have enough room on site to offer help to everyone who needs it. Many dogs coming into our care are not good with other animals or small children, or have behavioural issues that need someone with experience to help the dog work through.

If you ever thought about fostering - now is the time. We need your help! We provide everything, food, vet costs, toys, training if needed etc, you just need to provide a loving home.

Take that first step now and complete our fostering application form (www. chchbullbreedrescue.org.nz/Fostering). You could save a life and bring extra joy to your heart and home.

# **WE FOUND OUR FOREVER HOMES**





### **WEIRD DOG FACT**

The largest single US DEA drug-bust in history was made thanks to the efforts of a dog named Popsicle; he located over 3,000 pounds of cocaine in a Texas drug raid. Popsicle was found during a previous drug raid in an old empty freezer and then was trained to fight against those whe abandoned him.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

You can find us at the **Christchurch Fitness Expo 2018.** October 6th, 10am-5 pm, Horncastle Arena

We often run sausage sizzles on short notice. Follow us on Facebook to see where we'll be next.
www.facebook.com/
ChristchurchBullBreedRescue

# IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION, THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO DO SO:

Directly into our Trust account - Christchurch Bull Breed Rescue Trust 38-9016-0659994-00

Directly into our vet account - Avonside Wainoni Vet Clinic - Ref - 11751 - 06 0829 0207978 00

Give A Little - https://givealittle.co.nz/org/bullbreedrescue

Fill in the form below & send in a payment to us at 1 Barton Street, Woolston, Christchurch

As we are a registered charity, we are able to offer receipts for tax purposes, so please let us know if you require a receipt for payments made in any of the above ways

Name:	Address:	Email:
Payment made into an account:		

Payment attached: Y/ N Receipt Required Y/N Receipt: Emailed / Posted