



WALKABOUT

May 2020, Issue Number 133

President's Notes – April 2020



It is truly amazing how much the world has changed since the last newsletter. Our social interactions over coffee, a meal, through visits or meetings, or simply in chance encounters in the street have all been substantially minimized for a very good reason. The coronavirus thrives on physical interactions as much as we do. However, we can continue to interact socially through phone calls, email and video hookups. I encourage everyone to explore the technology. There are so many ways to have a video call with a friend, or many friends simultaneously (e.g. Facetime, Skype, Hangouts, Facebook, Messenger, Zoom etc). Georgia and I have continued playing our favourite board games with friends using the digital versions through online game-playing apps (or through Steam on a PC), and simultaneously chatting and laughing using a video call. I also encourage the younger digital natives amongst us to

help their significant elders connect as much as possible.

Has your dog noticed the change? Many will be thinking, “woof, it’s a really long weekend, mum and dad are home much more, yay!”. And many dogs seem to be getting walked more often than usual, judging by the number of dog walkers out and about on sunny days. Walking your dog is a fantastic way to overcome cabin fever and get some fresh air and exercise. You may even bump into a friend and exchange a few words at an appropriate distance. It is surprising how comforting this can be and shows how important social interaction is to us. Your dog might also notice if you are feeling sad and cuddle up a bit closer on the couch. In these difficult times, being a dog owner has some very real advantages.

The KDWA committee recently met informally via video to check out the technology, and it worked very well. It was great to catch up with how everyone was coping with the new normal and to exchange tips on surviving comfortably. Walking our dogs is definitely an important part of this.

If you travel (not very far) to Dru Point dog park, you will notice a separate fenced puppy area has been created on the northern corner. This was installed by the Kingborough Council as part of our joint project, funded mainly by the Tasmanian Community Fund, to renovate the dog park. The new dog play equipment has also arrived and is awaiting installation.

Stay safe.

Cheers, Peter.



Charlotte Peterswald
Property Management

KDWA CALENDAR

Restrictions in place to deal with the Covid-19 Pandemic have affected our normal activities:

- All events have been cancelled at this stage. We'll be in contact when it becomes possible to re-organise them.
- The normal Committee meetings have also been suspended. The Committee will continue to work on your behalf and all business will be conducted electronically.

Your 2019-2020 KDWA Committee

<p>President: Peter McIntosh Email: kdwa.tas@gmail.com</p>	<p>Vice President: Venie Phillips Email: venie.phillips@gmail.com</p>
<p>Treasurer: Simon Barnsley Email: simonbarnsley01@gmail.com</p>	<p>Secretary: Jan New Clarke Email: sujan.newclark@gmail.com</p>
<p>Committee Members: Georgia Clark, Carl Mann, Sam Scarlett, Tony Walch</p>	<p>Public Officer: Ailsa Richard Newsletter Editor: Venie Phillips Email: venie.phillips@gmail.com</p>

Items Available for Ordering Online:

'Dog home alone' key ring (www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kdwa-keyring)

This keyring will give you peace of mind and may even save your dog's life, if you live alone.

Attach the keyring to your set of keys and, on the back, write the name and phone number of someone who is willing and able to look after your dog in an emergency.

Cost: \$6 for one or \$10 for two *plus* \$5 postage, or phone 0419306021 to collect from a committee member.



PLEASE CALL

NAME:

PH:

KDWA Clothing (www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kdwa-clothing)

T-shirts, windcheaters and hoodies for men and women, available in all sizes and a range of colours.

Instructions for ordering are on the webpage. Delivery takes about two weeks; pay on delivery.



Dru Point Update

As you may be aware, KDWA applied for and received a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund to upgrade the facilities in the dog park at Dru Point. We have progressed with work behind the scenes to the stage that all the equipment needed is sitting in the Council depot ready to be installed when the Coronavirus issue is resolved. We will have two new watering systems installed (one to replace the tap and hose by the main gate and the other to be on the fence line of the new puppy area). The present agility equipment will be taken down as having reached its “use by” date.



It lasted nearly 20 years which is a great credit to those who built it (particularly Carl Mann). It will be replaced with similar material to that used at the John Turnbull Park in Lenah Valley which should look really nice. Two bench seats will also be installed.

The puppy area is now useable and proving popular although there is still some work to be done clearing up inside the area. New signs will also eventually appear. All this would not have been possible without the grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund and help from Kingborough Council.

Dogs Home Fund-raising

On Friday 13 March, KDWA members manned a stand in our usual spot outside Coles in Kingston Plaza for 11 hours and raised \$598.50 for the Dogs Home. What a fabulous effort! People were generous with many contributing in notes not coins!

Carol Baines very ably organised the event: setting up the volunteer roster, organising the materials needed and taking responsibility for the money. Thank you, Carol, and thanks also to the volunteers who manned the stand.

A nice bonus was that we sold 10 dog-home-alone key tags and gained three new KDWA members: three friends of Carol’s who worked on the day.

A worthwhile day for all concerned.

Having fun with your dogs in the Corona-virus age

There has been a vast amount of content on line showing how much value dogs contribute to our lives during the lockdown. People have used their skills to turn the ordinary into the hugely entertaining - this Twitter clip has been viewed 18.6 million times so far.

twitter.com/mrandrewcotter/status/1248313303270596610?s=11

Information for animal owners about Covid-19

Please ensure that any information you find on social media is from an official, reliable source as there are many inaccurate and misleading posts circulating.

The information below is from the Tasmanian Government Corona Virus website.

www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/keeping-yourself-safe/animals

Behaviour around your pets

Shampoo, soaps and detergents effectively applied, destroy the coronavirus. Any human shampoo or soap is fine for use on animals.

A hot detergent wash is recommended for cleaning pet bedding and other associated items.

Animal-human face contact should be minimised and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and hygiene procedures used, according to the coronavirus risk context.

Hand hygiene is essential before and after handling your pets or their food and water bowls.

If contact with a human COVID case has occurred, it is recommended that people with adequate PPE transport the animal to the arranged destination for further treatment and care, ensuring appropriate hygiene procedures are also met.

Visits to veterinary clinics, animal shelters and boarding kennels

Just like many other businesses, in the current climate veterinary clinics, animal shelters and boarding kennels require an appointment before any visit and prefer payment by credit card. Social distancing rules apply. In the current situation, some veterinary services may not be available.

It is very important that the coronavirus risk status of the household is clearly communicated before visiting so they can take appropriate measures.

There is a potential coronavirus risk with ferrets and extra caution should be taken with this species if they have been exposed to an infected owner.

Are animal shelters able to stay open?

Yes, animal shelters provide an important animal welfare function. Shelter operations must abide by social distancing principles and shelters must have good hygiene practices.

Visiting shelters (by non-workers/volunteers) needs to be carefully considered and only essential travel undertaken in consultation with the business.

What do I do if my animal is unwell?

Taking an animal in an emergency situation to the vet is essential travel. If your pet is sick or injured, call a vet. If an animal is unwell you can travel to the vet but you must call them first and abide by social distancing rules.

What do I do with my animal if I am sick and need to go to hospital?

If you are sick and need to go to hospital, and the only option you have is to board your animal, then that is defined as essential travel. Make arrangements for your pet to travel and make an appointment with your kennel. Abide by social distancing rules.

Can I put my pet into board so I can do day or overnight trips?

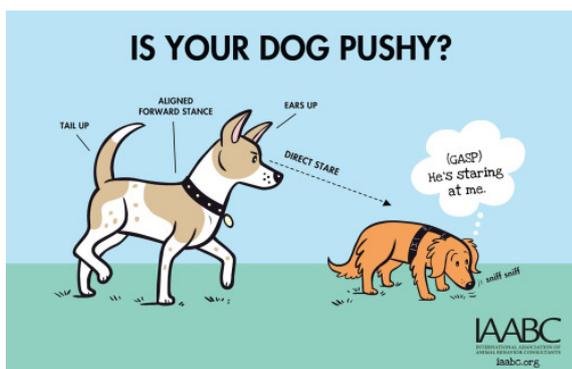
Only when you have to travel to perform an essential service.

Where can I find more information?

- [Veterinary Board of Tasmania](#)
- [Australian Veterinary Association](#)
- [RSPCA](#)

Your off-lead area responsibilities

Off-lead dog parks and beaches are great for most dogs – but not for all dogs and not always. We need to be aware of how our dogs interact with other dogs and be responsible for both their well-being and their behavior.



Images produced by the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants <https://m.iaabc.org>

We welcome new members

The more members we have, the more effective our organisation will be; please encourage other dog owners to join us.

A copy of our *Membership Form* is available from www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kdwa-contact-membership.

NB Your own 2020-2021 membership fees are NOT DUE till July 1, 2020