

# Winter Walkies!

Welcome to the latest edition of “Tails of the Valley”, our quarterly newsletter.

Our new walks schedule is on Page 6. What a great variety of locations for early winter including forest walks, a beach and a couple of town walks, something for everyone - and their dog! Why not join us and enjoy exploring lovely places in the Huon Valley.



He's a smart fellow in his new winter coat!

In this issue we report on our garage sale and latest donation. We also explore the issue of Responsible Dog Ownership following a terrible dog attack in which a dog and its owner were injured (Page 3).

Our doggie friend in the photo reminds us that as the weather gets cooler, we may need to provide extra shelter, more blankets and clean water that is not frozen for our pets. A little more food might also be necessary as their bodies burn more energy as they try to keep warm.

Older dogs with arthritis, short haired and younger dogs and those with health issues may also need extra warmth.

If your dog spends a lot of time outdoors, appropriate shelter is essential—protection from rain, frost and wind.

# ABOUT THE HVDWA...

The Huon Valley Dog Walking Association Inc. was started in October 2011 by a group of people who perceived the need for improved facilities for dog walking in the Huon Valley. HVDWA is a member of Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs ([www.dogwalkingtas.org.au](http://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au)). Contact details are on the membership form on Page 7 or find us on facebook.

The main aims of the Association are to:

- Help establish and maintain safe dog exercise areas in our towns and monitor access for dogs at local beaches and public walking tracks.
- Have social walks on a regular basis.
- Help improve the image of dogs in general through safe practices, education and training.
- Promote responsible dog ownership.



## Garage Sale—5 April

Lots of people snapped up bargains at the HVDWA Garage Sale. A total of \$1,079.73 was raised. \$500 will be donated to Pets in the Park, a wonderful charity which provides free veterinary care to the pets of homeless people.



During the garage sale a sausage sizzle was provided by lovely volunteers from Cygnet Cares, a suicide prevention network.

We appreciated your support and company and certainly enjoyed the sausages!

## Pets in the Park

Pets in the Park is a charitable organisation dedicated to caring for the pets of people who are experiencing homelessness or at genuine risk of becoming homeless.

PITP operates a network of volunteer-run clinics in cities and towns around the country. We're proud to deliver services like health checks, vaccinations, parasite control, and wound care, all made possible through our dedicated network of veterinary professionals, donors, and supporters. Every clinic visit strengthens the bond between pets and their owners, reminding them that they are not alone.

HVDWA is delighted to support PITP with our latest donation.



# Responsible Dog Ownership

Following reports of a terrible dog attack earlier this year which resulted in injuries to both another dog and its owner, we decided to explore the various aspects of responsible dog ownership.

It's well known that dog owners and their dogs enjoy numerous physical health, mental health and social benefits by walking on a regular basis. Just 30 minutes a day is all it takes to enjoy the healthy benefits including improved cardiovascular fitness, lower blood pressure, stronger muscles and bones (built up by walking regularly) and decreased stress. Studies have shown when you stroke a friendly dog your blood pressure can be lowered and playing with a dog reduces the effect of stress-related hormones and raises the level of hormones that calm our nervous systems.

Walking your dog each day is also a great way to meet people if you've just moved to a new neighbourhood. Dogs can be a great icebreaker as everyone loves to talk about their dogs!

**Owning a dog is also a great responsibility and a considerable commitment.**

We asked our members what responsible dog ownership meant to them and here are some of their thoughtful replies:

*"Must be microchipped, registered with council, vaccinated, desexed unless going to breed and confinement of dogs to your property, socialisation and exercise."*

*"Cleaning up after my dog!"*



*"In my estimation a responsible dog owner knows the needs of their dog and ensures their dog has those needs satisfied. A big dog living in small quarters and never taken for a walk is irresponsible and is simply asking for trouble (I do know such dog owners). Then there's the thing about training; training every day, every single day. Oh, the dog doesn't have to do roly polys, but it does have to learn to stop at the kerb, stop to do what it's doing on command, not eat random things off the ground and whatever you as dog owner deem important to its safety.*

*So, what is a responsible owner? IMHO, someone for whom the safety and well-being of his/her companion has top priority."*



- 🐕 *"When seeing another dog & owner entering the enclosed dog park, call your dog(s) back so they have ease of entering. Otherwise dog group mentality can easily become aggressive"*
- 🐕 *When walking with your dog off leash, no matter how good it is with other animals and humans, put it back on leash immediately when approaching other humans. Many people are scared of dogs. Also dogs can react aggressively when one is on leash & the other is not.*
- 🐕 *The big one - if a dog has dubious recall, keep it on a lead.*
- 🐕 *Train your dog not to jump up on greetings.*
- 🐕 *Train your dog not to bark (esp yap) unnecessarily.*
- 🐕 *And nothing to do with aggression...Train your dog not to urinate where inappropriate. (Furniture; flat surfaces eg shops, signs; humans!). My dog has been guilty of that - sometimes our command not to wee is ignored!"*



*"I see part of my responsibility as a dog owner is to understand my dog's body language and know her boundaries. She has been attacked twice and has become unpredictable when meeting other dogs.*

*I now look for signs that she is feeling uncomfortable and move on as quickly as possible (the 3 second rule) to avoid a potentially damaging situation.*

*I also try to warn other owners not to let their off leash dog approach mine because of the unpredictable reaction."*

All of these comments encapsulate some of the key aspects of responsible dog ownership.

Responsibility starts when deciding that a dog could be a valuable addition to the family and undertaking some research. For example - what type of dog would best suit your particular circumstances; should you adopt or buy; puppy or older dog; can you afford the necessary food, training, worm/flea control and veterinary bills, insurance; can you keep the dog safely within your property so that they don't escape and cause a nuisance or threat to other dogs and people; can you commit to the daily exercise and stimulation that a dog needs; what breed or temperament will suit your family situation and lifestyle? Are you prepared to clean up after your dog at home and in public spaces? Are you aware of the legal aspects of owning a dog and your local Council's Dog Management Policy?

Fortunately there are many sources of information available to guide your research, a few of which are listed on the following page.

## Sources of information about responsible dog ownership:

<https://dogsaustralia.org.au/getting-a-dog>—Dogs Australia

<https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-do-i-need-to-know-before-i-get-a-new-pet/> - RSPCA

<https://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kdwa-handbook>—Kingborough Dog Walking Association

<https://www.four-paws.org.au/our-stories/publications-guides/being-a-responsible-pet-owner>

## Relevant Legislation

The Tasmanian Dog Control Act 2000 and Dog Control Regulations 2021.

Under the legislation the general managers of local councils are empowered to enforce the Act.

You can find the Huon Valley Dog Management Policy on the Huon Valley Council's website.

<https://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/council/reports-and-publications/policies-and-frameworks/#at-95601>

## What to do when a dog attack occurs

While the vast majority of dog owners do comply with their responsibilities unfortunately incidents do happen. Dog attacks can happen very quickly and can be terrifying, resulting in injuries to people and animals.

Familiarise yourself with the Huon Valley Council's Dog Management Policy and the action the Council will take when a dog attack is reported. Also check the requirements of owning a declared "dangerous dog".

## In conclusion, what is responsible dog ownership?

Dogs make great companions and love us unconditionally but it is important to remember that owning a dog is a big responsibility:

- Do your research
- Be prepared for a long term commitment
- Be prepared for training and socialisation
- Ensure your dog can be identified
- Develop a good relationship with your vet
- Be prepared for financial responsibility
- Know your legal obligations

It can be described as balancing the needs of our dogs, ourselves and others all at once!



# Winter Walks

**Don't forget to bring poo bags and water for your dog(s). And please take used poo bags with you! All walks commence at 10.30am unless specified and take around 1 hour.**

**If the weather looks inclement on walk day, please check our Facebook page or website [www.dogwalkingtas.org.au](http://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au)**

**Saturday 10 May - Peppers Road, Geeveston:** Drive to Geeveston, turn onto Arve Road and follow this road, going straight ahead without taking any turnings, until you are off the tar seal and Arve Road becomes a gravel road. Take this road for another 2kms when you will see Peppers Road on the left. Park on the side of the road and then we will go for a bush walk on a nice wide road. There may be wallabies in the bush so if your dog doesn't have a good recall it might be wise to keep it on lead, otherwise the dogs can go off lead. There will be one of our banners marking the entrance to Peppers Road.

**Wednesday 21 May – Skinners Creek Track, Huonville:** Meet on the Esplanade, opposite Huon Jet Boats, then follow the signs for the walk. There are several options for this walk, so depending on the weather on the day we can either do a long walk or a short one.

**Sunday 8 June – Verona Sands:** If coming from Huonville drive south through Cygnet (turn left at roundabout) then drive south along the Channel Highway for about 14kms (keep going past the Randalls Bay turn-off) until you come to the sign for Verona Sands. Turn right into Doyle Avenue then right again into Lovering Ave, following the signs to the toilets. Park here, then go down to the beach and let the dogs off for a lovely play and swim.

**Wednesday 25 June – Ranelagh:** Meet at the car park off Marguerite Street at the Ranelagh Recreation Area. Dogs can have a great run and play in the dog exercise area.

**Saturday 12 July – New Road, Franklin:** Drive to Franklin and turn right at the Bowmont Centre (opposite Franklin Marine) and proceed up New Road for 5 kilometres when you will see a HVDWA banner on the right. Park here, then we will walk along Forestry trails. If your dog has a good recall it can go off lead from here.

**Tuesday 29 July - Copper Alley Bay:** Drive into Cygnet and proceed through the town and the roundabout, keeping the Service Station on your left. Go past the Yacht Club and drive for about 4kms when you will come to a bridge. Once over the bridge turn left into Nichols Road and drive down to the water's edge. This is an on-lead walk which is very pretty and popular.



## Off lead and under control ?

Several of our walks are 'off-lead' but please be aware that, under the Dog Control Act, it is the owner's responsibility to keep their dog under control and in sight at all times.

We love to see our dogs running free and playing together but sometimes there maybe a distraction or situation where your dog is not responding to you as he/she normally would and needs to go back on the lead. You may need to put your dog on a lead if he or she:

- Has poor recall
- Has a habit of running off out of your sight
- Is aggressive or upsetting other dogs
- Is behaving in a way that endangers itself or others
- Any other situation where you feel that you don't have control of your dog.

In addition to putting a dog on lead for the behaviours outlined, it is an owners prerogative to have their dog on lead during any of the walks if they feel it is in the best interest of the dog.

We hope this information helps you and your dog to have a fun and relaxing walk.

# New Members Welcome

If you'd like to become a member, simply fill out this form and send it to the address below or, join us on a walk and deliver it personally!

## Membership Application/Renewal form Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (Inc)

To October 2025

Member No (if known).....

Name (s).....

Address .....

Dog(s) Name(s).....

Phone(s).....

Email (Please print).....

Amount tendered \$..... subscription for

☐ \$20.00 Single Membership OR ☐ \$25.00 Family Membership

My Dog(s) vaccination is current (Yes/No).....

*You and your dog(s) participate in Huon Valley Dog Walking Association walks and activities at your own risk. The responsibility for your safety and the safety of your dog rests with you as a responsible member of the Association.*

Signed: ..... Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Enquiries to: 14 Pages Road, Grove, Tas. 7109  
Ph: 0424 504 043 or email: huondogwalkers@gmail.com

Pay: Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (Inc.)

Cash/Cheque/ EFT BSB – 633000 Account No – 144419819

Reference is your surname: \_\_\_\_\_ or your membership number if you have one.

**Please forward this form with payment to the above address if paying by post.  
A receipt and membership card will be issued for new members.**

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