

### What do you get when you join ?

When you take up DWD in our group we offer classes that help you and your fur-kid learn new moves, link moves together in ways that suit the music you have chosen, prepare routines for fun, or as part of a group display, or for individual competition. We also have a good social side if that interests you. We run Workshops that develop your moves and routines, stagecraft, musical selection analysis and even editing your preferred music down to a suitable time. Routines times range from just over a minute at the Starters Level, up to no more than four minutes at the Advanced Level. We will even run DWD Judges Training for those who are keen to try that side of the sport.



The ACT Companion Dog Club (CDC) has proudly introduced Dances with Dogs into the ACT and Queanbeyan area and welcomes all enquiries about this new and exciting canine sport.

### Enquiries

Please contact the CDC Office:  
Monday to Friday 10:00am - 1:00pm

**Phone** (02) 6295 7764

**Email** [dwd@actcdc.org.au](mailto:dwd@actcdc.org.au)

### Photos

Panel 1 (upper) Maree Field & Mutley

Panel 1 (lower) Gay Westmore & Gemma

Panel 2 ACT/Queanbeyan Group  
developing a routine - walking  
through without dogs

Panel 4 ACT/Queanbeyan Group practicing  
a group routine with dogs

Panel 5 Karen Moore & Zoya



### Dances with Dogs

Lead Trainer: Tony Turner

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## What's it all about ?

The primary goal of Dances with Dogs is to promote positive and enjoyable relationships between dogs and their owners through the medium of music.

### But, what is "Dances" with Dogs ?

Walking is the heart of dance, simply taking steps, one after the other, in time with the music. Patterns, simple or complex, complete the basics of dance. DWD is you and your dog stepping out together to the music you like, having fun, getting some exercise (as much as you want), making new friends and strengthening the dog-owner relationship.

### Where can you see it in action ?

Refer to the contact details on the back of this brochure and make a time to come and watch, and bring your four-legged partner. You will see us having fun, tapping our feet, learning new moves (some would call them tricks) and simply enjoying our pets.



## Some common Questions

### What do I need to try Dances with Dogs ?

All that is needed is you, your dog, an interest in having fun and a liking of music (it doesn't matter what type).

### Do I need to know how to dance ?

No! Enjoying music is essential; and the broader your taste the more pieces you can choose from. A good sense of rhythm helps, but whatever your level, it just gets better with practice. Remember, especially in the beginning, DWD is about 'walking' in time with the music. If you focus more on Heelwork to Music (HTM) than Freestyle (FS), it's all pretty much walking at all levels. Fancy stuff, if that interests you, can come later.

### Do I need to enter competitions ?

No! DWD is about having fun with your dog. You are welcome to simply join in the training and club activities and leave it at that, or you can try public demonstrations as part of a team (fetes, malls and schools etc), or enter competitions, it's entirely up to you.

### Are there different competition levels ?

Yes. There are four competitive levels - Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced. Success at a level leads to a title and promotion to the next level. There are even international competitions where interested owners submit DVDs of their routine.

### Do I need a particular type of dog ?

No! Dogs of all breeds, ages and size have been successful right up to international competitions - check out YouTube.

### Do I need to dress up ?

Only if you wish and feel it complements the routine. Dogs can only have fancy collars.



### When did Dances with Dogs start in Australia ?

DWD is the most recently approved competitive canine sport in Australia. While man's relationship with the dog can be traced back thousands of years, DWD is quite new. The first clubs and major competitions started in the mid-1990s in the UK, Canada, USA and Europe, and DWD is now recognised worldwide.

While many owners have dabbled with performing dogs and music for decades, in Australia, the modern sport began in 2009 with activities in QLD, NSW and WA, expanding to VIC, ACT, SA and TAS in 2010.

DWD in Australia has two disciplines - Heelwork to Music (HTM) and Freestyle (FS). In HTM, the dog and handler move next to each other using variations on traditional heelwork from Obedience Training - forward, sideways and backwards etc, in time with the music. In FS, as its name suggests, the handler is completely free to determine the moves - which may be close or at a distance. It is in FS that we see much greater use made of spins, weaves and jumps etc. There are no boundaries to the achievable levels of excellence in this new, exciting and fun sport.