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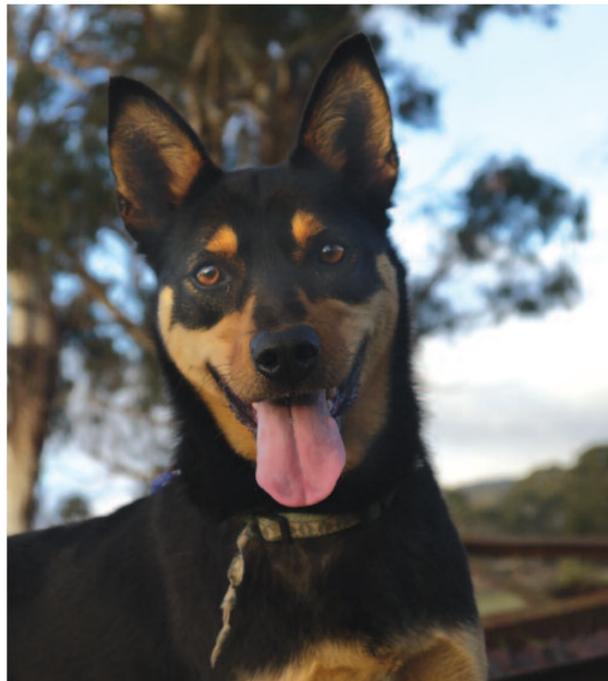


**Dr Greg Gilbert & Associates**

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### WHEN FIDO GOES TROPPO



## Barking dogs

Katie Lyons, Veterinary Nurse

Something that we are sure everyone has experienced at one stage or another is the frustrations of the annoying dog from next door that just won't stop barking.

Barking is a form of communication used by dogs when they are excited, frightened, meeting other dogs, feeling threatened or just wanting attention.

Inappropriate barking is a very complex problem, and is not easily fixed by training aids. Some owners trial citronella collars, although a much more effective method is to consider the cause of the barking, and reduce or remove the cause.

Developing appropriate barking should start from day one as a puppy. Puppies do not grow out of barking, so it is important to intervene as soon as barking becomes problematic. This may be through providing distractions, such as chew toys, or food to keep them occupied and distracted such as pigs ears, or regular play time with a neighbouring dog.

One of the biggest mistakes made by owners is to yell "stop" or "no" when a dog barks. This reaction actually provides the dog with attention which may reward its barking. Instead we should focus on providing rewards and praise for being quiet, and try to identify the cause of the barking. This involves considering everything that happens around the dog, including things that they hear but do not see. It is also a good idea to consider if lots of dogs are barking, or just one or two, or if the barking occurs at all day, or only at particular times.

The cause can then be identified, such as the arrival of the postman, a neighbour yelling at them to stop, a possum or bird in the tree, or a neighbour playing music a few houses down.

Once you have identified the cause of barking you can then work on eliminating it or putting distractions in place. ■

### SAY I DO



## Romantic Country Weddings

Spring 2019 issue is out now

Lyn Cram knows a bit about weddings

This year's magazine covered a much larger area than before, so as well as promoting Braidwood, we were able to include stunning wedding venues from Hall (near ACT) Gundaroo, Goulburn, Yass, Gunning and out to Binda (via Crookwell).

We have included great ideas from many brides and grooms in our 'Real Wedding Stories', a gorgeous selection of bridal gowns, as well as celebrants, places to stay, cakes, flowers, jewellery and beauty advice.

*Romantic Country Weddings 2019* also features a large selection of stunning photos from Mel Hill Photography.

Look out for the magazine in cafes, tourist spots and hairdressing salons down the South Coast, Kangaroo Valley, Exeter, Sutton Forest, Goulburn, Gunning, Yass, Gundaroo, and throughout the ACT. There are even some out at Crookwell, Boorowa, Cowra and Orange.

This year we featured a competition where you can have the chance to win an overnight stay for two at The Nest BnB or a voucher to spend at Sandalwood Homewares here in Braidwood. So, if you want to 'Embrace the country for your 'Dream Wedding'', look out for the magazine. ■



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