

Pat Walsh and Venus

I first brought Venus to my home in October 2004 after I had been working for a very short time, as a volunteer, at Doggie Rescue when it was situated at Homebush.

Venus at 18 months of age was one of the "Special Needs" dogs kennelled with several others that all had various problems. Many of Venus's issues were probably caused by the length of time she had spent at Doggie Rescue (six months). I used to enjoy taking her out for a walk whenever I could and I couldn't ever see why she was kennelled in the "Special" area until I brought her home to live with my other three dogs.

When a move in premises was required there was a need for about 200 dogs to be fostered out so that concreting could be done at the new kennels at Ingleside. To assist with the fostering of so many dogs I brought Venus home with me for what I thought would be a VERY short length of time. That was the beginning of World War 3 in my household and I learnt a lot in a VERY short time, in order to keep all of us surviving. I could not let Venus go back to the "Kennel" environment after we had started to make progress with behavioural issues and in January of 2005 on my birthday – as a "Special" present to myself – I bought and officially adopted her.

Nine years later Venus is still here and what a wonderful nine years they have been. I have seen this delightful, little dog grow from a frightened, anxious, little terrorist who exhibited dog aggression, food aggression, resource guarding, fear of people and a general fear of worldly things into a little dog who enjoys life to the fullest but we cannot shake the Separation Anxiety. Personally, I believe that Agility is responsible for her growth in confidence and in her ability to handle "worldly" things in her new life.

I threw everything at Venus very quickly. She started Obedience and Agility training, learnt to swim and learnt to socialise with a multitude of other dogs at Doggy activities. She flourished as she had so many things to occupy her ever active mind there was no time for dreaming up naughty things to do. She has excelled in all that I have asked her to do. She is an avid swimmer and will try just about anything I ask her to do.

Her Obedience, Rally and Agility pursuits have been nothing less than phenomenal considering her traumatic start to life. Some of Venus's major achievements are listed below:-

- 24.09.2005 First Novice Jumping pass and 1st Place.
- 02.09.2006 Novice Jumping Title gained on three 1st Places.
- 09.09.2006 First Novice Agility pass (4th Place).
- 15.10.2006 Agility Dog Title gained on two 1st Places and one 4th Place.
- 04.11.2006 Novice Strategic Pairs Title.
- 03.03.2007 Novice Gamblers Title including a 1st Place.
- 29.04.2007 First Excellent Jumping pass and 2nd Place.
- 05.05.2007 Excellent Jumping Title gained including two 1st Places and one 2nd place.
- 23.06.2007 Excellent Agility Title including two 1st Places and two 2nd places (two qualifications achieved at the South Australian Agility Nationals in 2007).
- 02.09.2007 Jumping Dog Master Title (Venus has now achieved this title more than seventeen times including twenty 1st Places, twenty-two 2nd Places and fifteen 3rd Places).
- 01.12.2007 Excellent Strategic Pairs Title including three 1st Places and one 2nd place.
- 01.12. 2007 Novice Snooker Title including two 1st Places.
(Papillon cross)