

Nose to the Ground

TrackWest Newsletter – February 2015

Committee 2015

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
President	Sue Fletcher	President@trackwestwa.com	08 9306 4772
Vice President	Valeta Pethrick	VicePresident@trackwestwa.com	08 9405 1984
Treasurer	Neil Fletcher	Treasurer@trackwestwa.com	08 9306 4772
Secretary	Carol Freele	Secretary@trackwestwa.com	08 9402 1807
Training Co-Ordinator	Sue Fletcher	Training@trackwestwa.com	08 9306 4772
Trial Secretary: Tracking	Judy Tsakalos	TrialSec@trackwestwa.com	08 9405 2790
Trial Secretary: Track & Search	Valeta Pethrick	TrialTSD@trackwestwa.com	08 9405 1984
Committee (Equipment)	Annette Thompson	Equipment@trackwestwa.com	
Committee (Functions)	Jan Welyky		
Committee (Functions)	Peggy Waller		
Committee (First Aid)	Ian Heard		
<u>Other Positions</u>			
Editor Newsletter	Lynne Jooste	jooste@iinet.net.au	
First Aid Officer/s	Ian Heard Vicky Morris Barbara Eatwell Fay Gretton		



President's Report



Welcome everyone to the first newsletter of 2015. I am looking forward to my first year as president and working with the new committee who I am sure will have lots of new ideas to make this season one of the best. I promise that I will do my best for TrackWest and progress it successfully into the future. Even though I have been involved with tracking a long time I am keen to hear new ideas.

We are not having an Open Day this year, we have advertised the start of the season in the Canine News and we will as always welcome new members, tracking is becoming so popular that in past years we have had rather too many new members at the beginning of the season for the instructors to handle. By keeping our advertising low key we hope we will have new members numbers at a more workable level.

This year we are to continue doing the talks at morning tea, we did not get a very good turnout for these last year so I hope you will all make an effort this year, even if you pick up one tip per session it will be worthwhile. Topics will include "How to enter a trial" "How to lay a GOOD track" "Problems with starts and corners" "First aid for dogs" Any other subjects that members request.

I wish to thank everyone who helped make the end of year Presentation Dinner such a success, we had some fantastic prizes donated to put in the hampers and for the raffle, and many people worked behind the scenes to make sure it ran smoothly. A special thank you to Annette for organising the Croatian Club, Keith for being our MC and to Valeta for obtaining sponsorship from Better Pets and Gardens Gngara and Coles Wanneroo.

We would also like to thank our patron, Wanneroo Mayor, Tracey Roberts and Canine Governing Council Member Joanne Sewell for presenting the sashes.

As many of you know there have been road works along Gngara Road during the summer months, at the moment we cannot access the forest through Pessoa Road so please keep checking the website for details of the new entrance.

There is a list of committee members in this newsletter, myself and all of the committee are very approachable, please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any problems or if you wish to discuss anything.

Wishing everyone a happy and successful 2015

Sue Fletcher

Secretary's Report



The tracking season will soon be here: a new year, a new committee and a new culture towards tracking. We cannot stress enough that tracking is a team sport. The best way to learn about tracking and more about your dog is to steward at trials. No experience necessary. When you follow-up you can see various techniques of handling and signals from dogs.

Volunteering to lay a track at a trial will give you experience to lay tracks in training. You might manage to get two tracks in at the lower level but when you reach track 4 you won't have the time therefore a good training track is essential for you and the person you are laying a track for.

As a member of TrackWest it is reasonable to expect that you will attend morning tea. This is a good time to air any problems you are encountering with tracking or otherwise, discuss your training experience and help others. Those doing aged tracks can resume their training after morning tea.

It is imperative that you frequently check the TrackWest website (trackwestwa.com) and our Facebook page. Updates on road construction and safety measures will be posted.

Good luck for a successful 2015 tracking year.
Carol Freele

From the Editor's desk



Welcome back and I hope you enjoy this first edition of the season.

There is plenty to take in. If you have any interesting that you may like to share please just send it to me.

So may you and your Best Friend achieve a wonderful bond this season while tracking.

Lynne Jooste
jooste@iinet.net.au

DISCLAIMER

The information in this publication is of a general nature. The articles contained herein are not intended to provide a complete discussion on each subject and or issues canvassed. TrackWest Magazine does not accept any liability for any statements or any opinion.

You are cordially invited to
TrackWest Committee Meetings

We welcome members input and anyone who wishes to attend a Committee Meeting are very welcome.

Please contact Carol dax@westnet.com.au with 7 days notice.

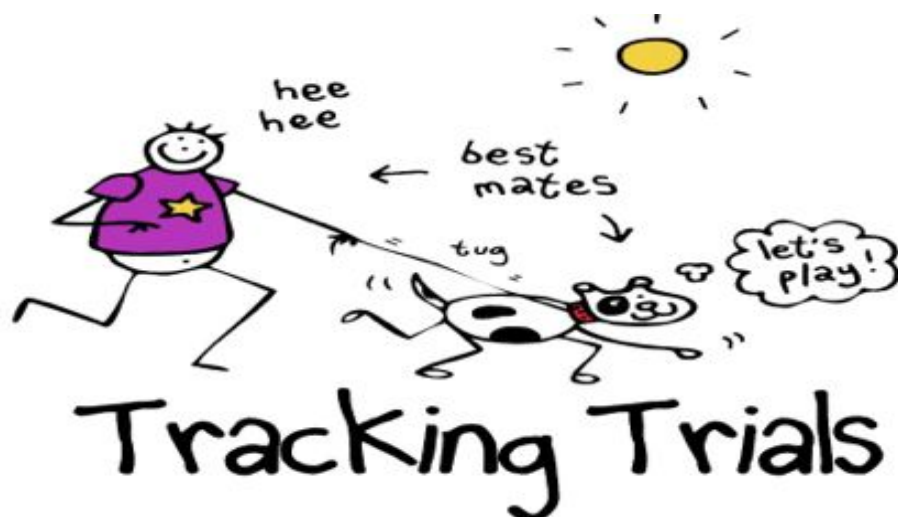


**CHECK THE WEBSITE
REGULARLY FOR
CURRENT INFORMATION**

trackwestwa.com

If you have first-aid experience, are a vet nurse, doctor or veterinarian please let us know.

Contact Sue or Carol



IMPORTANT NOTICES

For everyone who is trialing or intends to trial!

- (1) For each title (including Champion and Track & Search titles) **YOU MUST HAVE PASSES UNDER AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT JUDGES.**
 This means that for a TD title your qualifying cards for Tracks 1, 2 and 3 must be from at least two different judges. For TDX, your qualifying cards for Tracks 4, 5 and 6 must be from at least two different judges. For Tracking Champion, your qualifying cards for Tracks 7 and 8 must be from two different judges.
 If you already have two cards from the same judge (for example, you are entering for Track 3 and you already have Tracks 1 & 2 from the same judge) **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU WRITE THIS ON YOUR ENTRY FORM – fill in the section at the foot of the entry form or write “ not Already have two passes”**
- (2) If you gain a title, **YOU CANNOT ENTER FOR THE NEXT TITLE UNTIL YOU HAVE LODGED THE PAPERWORK FOR YOUR TITLE WITH DOGSWEST. THIS MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE CLOSE OF ENTRIES.**
 For example, if you pass Track 3, you have gained a TD title. Before you can enter for Track 4, you must lodge your application for the TD title with Dogs West. This means that the paperwork must be given in. If the entries close on the Monday following the Trial, you will need to make a trip to Dogs West to either drop all the paperwork (and fee) in the letterbox (weekend) or hand it in at the office (Monday). “Application for a Title” forms can be downloaded from the Dogs West website. The same applies if you pass Track 6 and want to enter for Track 7.
 This rule can create a problem if you gained your final pass for a title on **WEDNESDAY**. **If your pass is gained after entries close (Monday) you will not be eligible to enter the next trial.** On the bright side – there is quite a jump in difficulty from TD3 to TD4 and from TDX6 to Track 7 so missing a trial and getting some extra practice at the higher level can mean the difference between Pass and Fail at that higher level. Otherwise, **request to be judged on Saturday**.
- (3) Before you can enter a Tracking Trial **or handle a dog in a Tracking Trial** you must be a member of Dogs West and your dog must be registered with Dogs West. All the information and forms for joining Dogs West are on the Dogs West website. Allow at least a month before you plan to enter for the paperwork to go through – **you must quote your Membership number and your dog’s CAWA registration number** on your entry form and Dogs West are notoriously slow.
- (4) When you arrive at a Trial, **please go straight to Base Camp before you let your dog out of the car. Ask the Chief Steward or the Trial Secretary where you can exercise your dog so that you don’t interfere with tracks.**

TRACKWEST TRACKING TRIAL

Saturday May 16th and Wednesday May 20th 2015

Venue: Gnangara Pine Plantation, Gnangara Road, Lexia.

Closing Date for Entries: Monday May 4th 2015. No late entries.

Judges: *Saturday:* Mrs Lynne Jooste, Ms Christine Weetman, Mrs Paula Wilkins *Reserves:* Ms Geraldine Jenkins, Ms Kerrie Pearce

Wednesday: Mr Neil Fletcher, Mrs Corinne O'Hehir *Reserves:* Ms Geraldine Jenkins, Mr Ian Heard

Entry fees:
Tracks 1, 2 and 3 : Members \$20 Non-members \$30
Tracks 4, 5, 6 & 7 : Members \$25 Non-members \$35
Seniors Card holders will receive a discount of \$5 per entry.

Information: Please contact Judy Tsakalos Ph: 9405 2790 Mob: 0428 925 093 Email: tsakalos@iinet.net.au
The complete schedule is available on the TrackWest website www.trackwest.com.au

Conditions: Bitches in season may not compete and may not remain in the vicinity of the trial.
Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.

EACH COMPETITOR IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A TRACKLAYER WHO IS NOT A COMPETITOR (nominated on entry form)

PLEASE INDICATE ON YOUR ENTRY IF YOU WOULD PREFER OR ARE AVAILABLE TO BE JUDGED ON WEDNESDAY. Competitors who are to be judged on Wednesday will be notified by the SATURDAY preceding the trial.

TRACKWEST TRACKING TRIAL

Saturday June 6th and Wednesday June 10th 2015

Venue: Gnangara Pine Plantation, Gnangara Rd, Lexia

Closing Date for Entries: Monday May 25th 2015. No late entries.

Judges: *Saturday:* Mr Neil Fletcher , Ms Christine Weetman *Reserves:* Ms Geraldine Jenkins, Mrs Paula Wilkins

Wednesday: Mrs Sue Fletcher, Mr Ian Heard, *Reserves:* Mr Neil Fletcher , Mrs Corinne O'Hehir

Entry fees:
Tracks 1, 2 and 3 : Members \$20 Non-members \$30
Tracks 4, 5, 6 & 7 : Members \$25 Non-members \$35
Seniors Card holders will receive a discount of \$5 per entry.

Information: Please contact Judy Tsakalos Ph: 9405 2790 Mob: 0428 925 093 Email: tsakalos@iinet.net.au
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Evacuation Procedure

In the event of a *Fire Emergency* please take the following steps

Trainers

Round up your group. If laying or working tracks they must stop immediately and follow you to our entry gate (where we meet in the mornings) and please sign out (or remove your 'entry' flag) before you leave so you can be accounted for.

On trial days the same applies only judges will be in charge of their individual groups of people and once everyone is together to proceed to morning tea area and then move to our entry gate and to be checked out before you leave.

Please always let Chief Steward know if you are training on trial days and where you will be.

Someone will drive around tooting their car horn. This is your signal to immediately stop what ever you are doing and follow the above steps.

In the event of a *Medical Emergency*

On training days.

Saturday

Contact Sue or Carol (please put these mobile phone numbers in your phone)

Sue: 0403 022 852 — Carol: 0478603991 *(or designated person on the day)*

One of our First Aid officers will be on duty and will phone an ambulance if required.

Someone will be sent down to our entry point to meet the ambulance. This person will have the location of the medical emergency to guide the ambulance.

Wednesday

Contact Valeta or Judy (please put these mobile phone numbers in your phone)

Valeta: 0438 925 562 — Judy: 0428 925 093 *(or designated person on the day)*

Same procedures will occur as for Saturday.

On trial days (Saturday, Sunday or Wednesday).

All judges and stewards to make sure they have Chief Steward's number in their phone.

Sue Fletcher
President

FOLLOWING GHOSTS – THE ART OF TRACKING

Tracking is probably the most fascinating aspect of dog work because it is the only one in which we do not – cannot – tell the dog what to do. They have to tell us! To quote the preamble to the Tracking Rules, “The idea of Tracking (Trials) is to encourage dogs to make use of their strongest faculty by emulating as closely as possible the seeking and finding of a missing person” That faculty is, of course, their ability to detect minute amounts of scent. The description of tracking as “following ghosts” comes from Suzanne Clothier’s book of that name and describes it very well.

Our dogs live in a world of ghosts that we cannot see. When we train a tracking dog we do three things

1. Teach our dog to follow the scent that we indicate – a particular human scent as opposed to kangaroo, rabbit, fox or even another human
2. Teach ourselves to “read” our dog so that we can know when our dog is on the scent, when he is unsure and when he is just going in that direction because he thinks we want him to.
3. Strengthen our relationship with our tracking dog because we, as handlers, must learn to rely on and trust our dog. This is usually the hardest part of tracking.

All dogs can track – not all dogs want to and this often reflects the relationship you have with your dog. If you can answer, *Yes, most of the time* to the two questions:

Can you work your dog off lead for a short time?

Does your dog come when called?

Your dog will track for you. If you can’t, then it is your relationship with your dog that you need to work on first. Some breeds do find nose work less natural – sighthounds (Salukis, Afghans, Whippets, and Greyhounds) and some of the toy breeds can track but require a lot more patience than Working or Gundog breeds. That said, there are brilliant trackers and “slow learners” in all breeds.

Tracking training is about “enjoying the journey”. Who else works with your best friend in a beautiful pine forest with the scent of the pines, the songs of birds and the bright faces of wildflowers all around you. Or walks through the same forest, laying a track for someone else. Or sits down with a congenial group of people having a well-earned morning tea. Or the benefits from increased fitness (some of us have been known to walk more than 10 km in a training session).

Who else knows the fantastic feeling of achievement when your dog finds the tracklayer at the end of a 1 km track and the Judge says “Congratulations, you passed “. Your dog knows they’ve done something pretty special, too! There are no first places in Tracking, no trophies, just the graduated series of tests that have to be passed to earn Tracking Dog (TD), Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) and Tracking Champion (T Ch) titles.

An excellent small book on tracking is “Following Ghosts” by John Rice and Suzanne Clothier. It is the best introduction. It is available direct from Flying Dog Press <http://www.flyingdogpress.com> or your Library might get it in for you.

To improve your dog’s scent work, whether it is Tracking or Obedience or just having fun, Scent Games are great. A really good resource is “Scent Games - Educating Your Dog’s Nose” by Suzanne Clothier and John Rice www.suzanneclothier.com/scent-games-educating-your-dogs-nose

The link also gives access to a number of other excellent articles on aspects of dog training, obedience and agility.

Above all, enjoy the journey – the good, the fantastic and the not so good. You have great company along the way – both canine and human!

(We have several copies of the book Following Ghosts available for loan - contact Sue)



PRESENTATION DINNER - AWARDS

As with every Presentation Evening, a number of Awards were handed out. The Awards fall into two categories: individual special awards and awards for gaining titles through the year.
Special Awards first.

Patrons' Trophy- Champion of Grand Champions (donated by Tracey Roberts, Mayor of Wanneroo) for the Top Track & Search Dog: Awarded to: **Valeta Pethrick and Caddie**. Caddie received grades of Excellent for both of her Tracking Grand Champion tracks.

Tutu Trophy for a Club Member who has contributed "beyond the call of duty" to the functioning and fellowship of TrackWest. Awarded to: **Sue Taylor**
Sue looked after the Judges' morning tea boxes, was Chief Steward at a number of trials as well as laying tracks for Track & Search and has generally been someone who, if asked "Can you do ... " would answer Yes with a smile.

Leone Holdsworth Memorial Trophy for Trainer of the Year: Awarded to **Carol Freele**
Carol gave freely and ungrudgingly of her time and expertise to help her group of trainees.

Top Tracking Dog: **Magic**, owned by **Sue Taylor** and handled by **Corinne O'Hehir**

Best First Year Dog: **Anya**, owned and handled by **Kerrie Pearce**.

Anya achieved grades of Very Good, Very Good and Excellent for her first three tracks.

Tracklayer of the Year: **Yvonne Fimmell**

Yvonne not only laid tracks for Tracking Trials but also was a willing and very successful tracklayer for all the Track & Search Trials. Dogs love to find her!

Congratulations to Valeta, Sue, Corinne, Kerrie and Yvonne.

Awards for Titles:

TrackWest awards those dogs and handlers who achieve a Tracking or Track & Search Title during the year a sash in TrackWest colours of forest green and black. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into obtaining a title; this is TrackWest's way of acknowledging the efforts its members have put into tracking.

This year our members achieved 13 TD (Tracking Dog) titles, 15 TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent) titles and 8 T CH (Tracking Champion) titles.

Track & Search is open to dogs with a T Ch. Title. A dog who gains a T&S Grand Champion title has passed 18 tracking tests of increasing difficulty ranging from 400 meters length with 20 minutes delay to 1200 meters on suburban streets with a 3 to 4 hour delay in which the track layer travels in a car for part of the track. The T&S Grand Champion title is an achievement to be proud of. This year TrackWest members gained 6 TSD titles, 2 TSDX titles, 7 TS Ch. titles and 5 TS Grand Champion titles.

Congratulations to

TD Winners:

Amanda Bray and Nikita,
Nanette Broz and Dougal
Patrick Crichton and Abbie
Michael Field with Rex and Roxy
Neil Gobby and Belle
Roger Jenkins with Dexter and Rusty

Kerrie Pearce with Anya
Valeta Pethrick with Kia
Sue Taylor with Bea
Annette Thompson with Toby
Jan Welyky with Ice

TDX Winners:

Ellen Cartwright and JT (handler Jodie Auld)
Barbara Eatwell and Emily
Yvonne Fimmell & Rookie (handler: Vicky Morris)
Keith Gilbert and Ebony
Gerry Jenkins and Ginny
Sue Taylor & Magic (handler: Corinne O'Hehir),
Peggy Waller and Issie
Jan Welyky and Ice

Patrick Crichton and Lester
Lauren Ferguson and Sophie
Carol Freele and Dax
Ian Heard and Yana
Nolene Wake and Myla
Peter Ward and Zeba
Paula Wilkins and Bobbie

T CH Winners:

Barbara Eatwell and Emily
Carol Freele and Dax
Sue Taylor and Magic (handler Corinne O'Hehir)
Peggy Waller and Issie

Lauren Ferguson and Sophie
Gerry Jenkins and Ginny
Irene Levitzke and Ziva
Peter Ward and Zeba

TRACK & SEARCH TITLES:

TSD Winners:

Cecelia Berriman and Tara
Vicky Morris and Tottie
Corinne O'Hehir with Spike and Darcy

Charmaine Gill and Bandit
Peggy Waller and Gina

TSDX Winners:

Louise Crawford and Basil

Sue Fletcher and Denzil

TS CH Winners:

Bev Auld and Drift (handler Jodie Auld)
Valeta Pethrick and Caddie
Ian Heard and Heidi
Judy Tsakalos and Luka (handler Valeta Pethrick)

Louise Crawford and Basil
Fay Gretton and Si
Carol Freele and Inde

TS Grand Champion winners:

Fay Gretton and Si
Bev Auld and Drift (handler Jodie Auld)
Valeta Pethrick and Caddie.

Carol Freele and Inde
Ian Heard and Heidi

Congratulations to everyone who gained a Title!!!



The Club Rules supplementary rules

1. Dog Control

- Dogs to be on lead at all times.
- No members' dog or dogs shall be off-lead during official training sessions unless being trained and supervised by an instructor.
- Permission may be given by an instructor/official to run your dog off lead, in a specific area.
- No dogs off lead within 50m of base camp.
- Put your dog back on lead 50m prior to returning to your vehicles.
- Dogs must not be left "tethered" to the "outside" of vehicles at any time.
- Vehicles left with the backs open (eg hatchbacks) dogs must be secured.
- Any member not complying with a Request to place their dog back on lead, by a Committee member or instructor, shall be disciplined at the Committee's discretion.
- Members' dogs are not permitted to chase or harass livestock or wildlife.

2. Training

- The person authorized by the Committee may order the removal from the training session of any dog or handler whose conduct is objectionable.
- The Committee shall be empowered to discipline any handler who willfully interferes with another member's training, or another member's dog, or whose behaviour is objectionable.
- Any instances related to the above should be reported to the Committee in writing, within 7 days of the incident.
- Keep to allocated areas —
For safety reasons the Training Co-ordinator needs to know where you are.
- Access to Gnaragara: Check the website and Facebook for regular up-dates.

3. All members are expected to volunteer assistance in line with the Club's statement of purposes and to participate as much as possible in Club activities (i.e. Morning Tea).

4. Members should ensure that they remove all rubbish and keep tracking areas clean.

5. Members shall take all reasonable steps to maintain cordial relationships with other legitimate users of tracking areas.

6. Vehicle Safety

- Please slow to 20km/hr when passing people, dogs or parked vehicles.
- Keep to the left and slow down when approaching the crest of a hill.

7. Spectators

Spectators must get the permission of the competitor and the Judge prior to following up a track.

8. Trialing

Treats for your dog at the end of track are to be in a sealed container within a sealed bag with your name and dog's name written clearly. Treat to be given to the Judge or their steward and not to be carried on the track.

9. Any member who misappropriates, damages or causes loss or breakage of the Club's property shall forthwith make good any loss or breakages the Committee may direct.

10. Club joining fees and membership fees are non-refundable.



APRIL	
Saturday 11 April	Training commences
MAY	
Saturday, May 16 and Wednesday May 20	Tracking Trial
Saturday, May 23, Sunday May 24 and Wednesday May 27	Track & Search Trial
JUNE	
Saturday, June 6 and Wednesday June 10	Tracking Trial
Saturday, June 20, Sunday June 21 and Wednesday June 24	Track & Search Trial
Saturday, June 27 and Wednesday July 1	Tracking Trial
JULY	
Saturday, July 11 and Wednesday July 15	Tracking Trial
Saturday, July 18	Christmas in July
Saturday, July 25, Sunday July 26 and Wednesday July 29	Track & Search Trial
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER	
Saturday, August 8 and Wednesday August 12	Tracking Trial
Saturday, August 15, Sunday August 16 and Wednesday August 19	Track & Search Trial
Saturday, August 29, Sunday September 2	Tracking Trial
Saturday, September 12 and Wednesday September 16	Tracking Trial (last one)
Saturday, September 19	End of year Breakfast
OCTOBER	
Saturday 24th October	Track & Search: Urban only
Wednesday 28th October	Annual General Meeting
NOVEMBER	
DECEMBER	
Saturday 5th December	Presentation Dinner

TRACKWEST DOG CLUB (INC)

NEW MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL FORM - 2015

Please send to:
The Secretary
Carol Freelle
27 Aerolite Way
Beldonia WA 9927



DATE OF JOINING: _____
(AS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY OR TREASURER)

Memberships for 1st September 2014 - 31st August 2015		Tick
SINGLE (NEW) Including Nomination Fee \$10 <i>Payable by new members on joining, or for members rejoining after a lapse in membership.</i>	\$45	
FAMILY (NEW) Including Nomination Fee \$10 <i>Payable by new members on joining, or for members rejoining after a lapse in membership.</i>	\$60	
RENEWAL SINGLE	\$35	
RENEWAL FAMILY	\$50	

Membership No: _____

Paid by: ☐ Cheque/Cash Received by: _____
TrackWest Representative

(please print neatly)

NAME: _____

Phone (Home): _____

Mobile: _____

Member's CAVA No: (if applicable) _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ P/C _____

E-mail: _____
Address: _____

I/We hereby apply for membership and agree to be bound by TrackWest Dog Club (Inc) Rules and Regulations.

_____ initial

PTO for adding your Dog/s information and signature.

1.
DOG'S PEDIGREE NAME _____
PET NAME _____
DOG'S REG No _____ BREED _____
DATE OF BIRTH ____ / ____ / ____ SEX _____
Dog's CAWA NUMBER _____ Sterilized? YES NO (circle)

2.
DOG'S PEDIGREE NAME _____
PET NAME _____
DOG'S REG No _____ BREED _____
DATE OF BIRTH ____ / ____ / ____ SEX _____
Dog's CAWA NUMBER _____ Sterilized? YES NO (circle)

DO YOU HOLD A CURRENT FIRST AID CERTIFICATE? YES NO

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS:

Name:

Relationship:

Phone: Mobile:

In case of Emergency do you have any relevant medical issues/allergies?
(optional)

I/We hereby apply for membership and agree to be bound by TrackWest Dog Club (Inc) Rules and Regulations.

Applicant's Signature(s). Date

IMPORTANT

**YOU AND YOUR DOG MUST BE A FINANCIAL MEMBER OF CAWA,
BEFORE YOU ARE PERMITTED, TO ENTER A TRIAL.**