

Annual newsletter - JOY Dogs 2025

What a busy year we have had – again! This was the year of the new solar system, the new puppy and the new car.

We had to deal with the loss of Yola in July – she had been a real trouper all her life and was best at the JOY Dogs work rather than the Dulux work. We miss her still.

The arrival of YoYo was most welcome and she and Jade play all the time, starting at 4am after breakfast. She integrated well into the family despite my concerns and loves the work.

The car started to give trouble so I traded it in on a Suzuki XL6, removed the rear seats and had a platform fitted and new signwriting. I am still getting used to its bigger size and complexity with advanced technology.

I managed to get to the UK and visit my brother Roy for 8 days in March and Janet and Rene did the Dulux work the weekend I was away as well as accompanying me on some of the away trips. I am so grateful to them and to Rene who also stayed to house and pet sit for me.

I turned 70 this year and invited friends round for coffee and cake for the weekend of my birthday.

Sitting in the garden



Biscuits for YoYo's arrival



Wall of fame – all my dogs



Yola and Jade continued seeing Travis, the chiropractor and are the better for it. Jade loves it.



JOY Dogs work – We didn't do many formal events with JOY Dogs this year. Often we were already booked with Dulux when enquiries came in. We did do a visit to a crèche (April) a visit to my financial broker Angela and a birthday party, as well as a Mandela Day visit to an elderly care facility – Garden Village. We also visited a few times at Edenhaven when I picked up my friend Pat. We visited Hyper Life and they all come running out to say hi to the dogs, the Pro shop at Glenvista Golf Course, Miriam at Dischem Three Rivers, Chas Everitt and Mall of the South, Heart of Cornerstone charity shop, Absolute Building Solutions.

At the crèche



Logan's 8th birthday party



Mandela Day visit – Garden Village



Edenhaven frail care



Hyper Life



Chas Everitt magician show



Heart of Cornerstone



Dischem Three Rivers with Miriam



Pro shop Glenvista with Viv



A visit to Siabut – the mating expert



Mall of the South



With Yola



photo used for business card



At the park



Training – we didn't manage to go too often because of work



YoYo was enrolled in puppy 1 at Mutt Manners puppy school in Modderfontein and did very well and graduated. I will take her back for Puppy 2 in February.



Corporate visits - At my broker and accountant



At Absolute Building Solutions who do my home maintenance



YoYo's first visit to Dulux HO



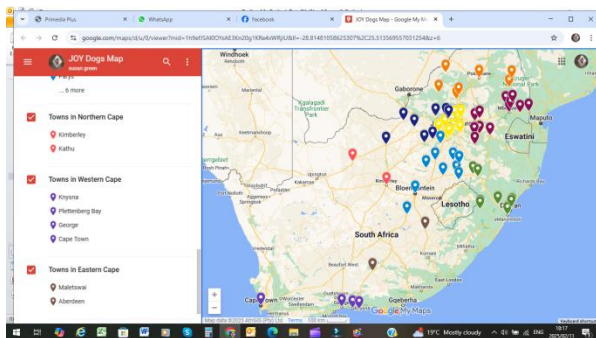
Phoebe (Jade's stepsister) came to visit and played with Jade and YoYo. Jade and Orion swam with Phoebe



Map of all the places we have been

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1h9efJSAI0OYsAE3Kn20g1KRe4xWRjiU&ll=-22.045615516667667%2C28.81897014839476&z=4>

We are still with Medipet



YoYo's arrival

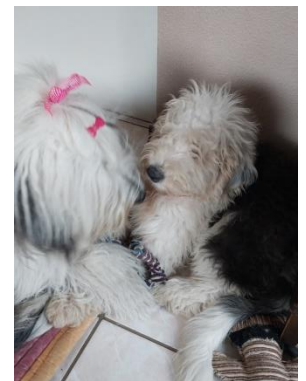
Picking up YoYo from quarantine



Orion's first look at YoYo



Jade and YoYo



YoYo and Jade at play



YoYo lying nose to nose with Orion



YoYo's first store visit



The new car – Suzuki XL6



Physio at Rehab-a-Pet – Jade and Orion still swim and do treadmill – YoYo had a taste of swimming



Jade and Orion



YoYo helping Orion



Look at YoYo's fluffy paws

We have changed to Technopet Dog Food . The dogs do well on it. And YoYo is on their puppy food

Genius Dog Park – we managed a few visits - I wish to go more often. YoYo had her first visit



Articles – we got articles in the Comaro Chronicle, Alberton Record, and Southern Courier. Not all the articles were in print and some were online. We are grateful for Desnay, our contact at Caxtons who always is there for us.

<https://www.citizen.co.za/comaro-chronicle/news-headlines/local-news/2025/09/11/new-puppy-joins-joy-dogs-family/> - YoYo's arrival

<https://www.citizen.co.za/comaro-chronicle/news-headlines/local-news/2025/04/24/dogs-bring-joy-to-children/> - Creche

<https://www.citizen.co.za/comaro-chronicle/?s=joy+dogs> – The car

<https://www.citizen.co.za/comaro-chronicle/news-headlines/local-news/2025/07/30/joy-dogs-steal-the-show-at-promotion/> - Builders Warehouse Gleneagles

<https://www.citizen.co.za/comaro-chronicle/news-headlines/local-news/2025/05/14/joy-dogs-charm-at-the-steaming-mug/> - The Steaming Mug



And online in Speckled Bean (where Jade's brother Baxter has a monthly column), and where we also have a column for the JOY Dogs now. <https://speckledbean.org/>:

Favourite pet friendly restaurants

Steaming Mug, Native Lily, Hyper Life, Mugg and Bean Mall of the South, The Landing

New business cards I'm grateful to Mari Lauf who takes my ideas and turns them into brilliant graphics – I always get a double sided card so people can see both my businesses



I did 4 **guitar gigs** – 2 for the Steaming Mug, <https://www.citizen.co.za/comaro-chronicle/news-headlines/local-news/2025/05/14/joy-dogs-charm-at-the-steaming-mug/> one for a 90th birthday and one for a corporate year end function with a Mexican theme. All the gigs went well.



And I played at my friend Claire's memorial – the last photo featuring Claire was taken at Ryans Nursery

Spinning

I made some 3 ply wool and also multi-coloured wool which was rather difficult



I continue to make small keyrings to give away

I made some more fingerpuppets



Skateboarding – we haven't found a new place for this yet – I need to teach YoYo to skateboard

Some of my favourite photos of the dogs

Orion on the couch



Jade in the garden



Yola's pic on a paint tin lid



YoYo wearing a buff



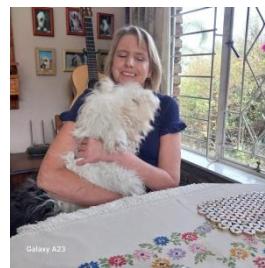
Sleeping on the bed



Running into the gate



YoYo with neighbour Deidre



Dulux promos – 61 – a decrease from last year but a lot more travelling and we went to new places. Yola did accompany us to all the promos. YoYo missed Kimberley as she had only arrived a few days earlier.

Breakdown of our Dulux promos: 61 Promos in all. Builders Warehouse (12) : Builders Express (3) : Chamberlain Hardware (6) : Makro (5) : Leroy Merlin (1) : Buco (7 stores and 4 school appearances) - Middelburg, Hoedspruit, Sabie, Hazyview, Brits, Potchefstroom : Mica – (4) Three Rivers, Vanderbijlpark, Lenasia (2) : Jacks Paint Ermelo: Build it (3) : Bloemfontein - Builders Mart Superstore : Buildmat – Welkom : Water Plesier - Broederstroom : Dulux store – Kathu : Kimberley – Vermeulens : VKB - Vrede ; Checkers Hypermarket (2) : Leroy Merlin : Peacock Paints : Al's Hardware : K Carrim : Alberton Hardware (50th birthday) : The Paint Store Klerksdorp. I also did impromptu promos by popping in at Builders Warehouse and Buco in Polokwane and Buco Phalaborwe, which made the staff happy.

Photos from promos:

K Carrim Atterbury



Builders Mart Bloemfontein



Build it Montana



Jacks Paint Ermelo



Alberton Hardware – YoYo



K Carrim Atterbury



Away trips – We found suitable accommodation with a private fenced off area so the dogs can go off lead. We stayed over in Hoedspruit – (Three Bridges), White River (2) (22 on Kiaat), Vryburg – (Poetry Guesthouse), Middelburg (Town and Country), Kimberley (Hadida Guest House)

Day trips – Vrede, Bloemfontein, Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom, Rustenburg, Welkom, Middelburg, Ermelo

The plan is to work a bit less next year and I have already organised holiday trips (with a promo or two) to see my friend Angela in Underberg, then go through to KZN and stay with Rene in January. A trip to George (after a promo in Aliwal North (a trip I did 3 years ago) to see friends in George, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay in February, and to see my brother in March.

I wish everyone a peaceful and happy festive season. We will be taking a break over Christmas but already have work booked for January and February. I will do some JOY Dogs visits so the dogs will continue to get groomed. We are looking forward to spending more time at home, playing some guitar and having a rest.

Regards

Sue

Orion is very inventive when he poops and likes to poop on a higher level. Here are some of his efforts.



Doing the deed in the pot plant



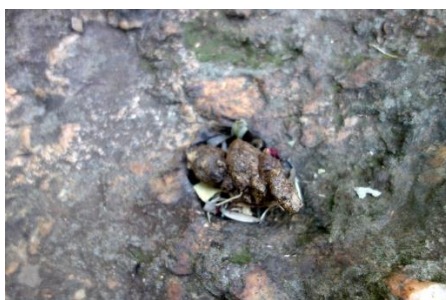
In the tyre



on top of the rock



vertical on the rock



In the small hole in the rock



on top of the water meter