

THE GEELONG GERMAN SHEPHERD & OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB
NEWSLETTER NO.3

Well APRIL 28 is our first Open & Associate trial for this year and in order to make it a success we need your help. It is good Clubpersonship to help your Club on these special days of which there are three held each year.

It doesn't matter if you are a new member or an old member; a competing member or a social member; there are numerous ways in which you can help.

There will be working bees prior to the trial both for work on the grounds and in the Club rooms. Details of these will be announced after training on Sunday mornings.

On the day Stewards are always needed and if you are not competing and can help in this way, please see the Trial Secretary NOW and he will gladly add your name to his list.

There is always help needed in the Kitchen area, both in preparation of food and in the supply of food.

Geelong has always been known for its cake stall and this is the only area we make any profit from on Trial days. ALL members could make this a bumper day if everyone (male and female) brought a plate with cakes, biscuits, slices, sweets etc. along. If you cannot or don't cook, you can purchase some goodies from your local bread or pastry shops and donate these.

Remember a successful trial depends on each and every member helping on this day.

You may only be able to spare an hour of your time, but lots of helpers make for shorter working hours.

For details of how to complete ENTRY forms for this, and other trials you may wish to enter, please check this month's K.C.C. Gazette. Also familiarize yourself with the rules relating to placings etc. on trial days as set out in that same issue (on the opposite page).

This Newsletter is available for all FINANCIAL members and will be distributed on the days as set out further on in this issue. The only stipulation made is that members must collect the Newsletter as there will be NO mailing list.

The chocolate drive was a very successful project and raised \$382.00. Well done organizers and buyers alike.

IT IS AN ACT OF COURTESY IF MEMBERS ADVISE THEIR RESPECTIVE TRAINERS WHEN THEY ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WEEKLY CLASSES FOR ANY REASON, BE IT OTHER COMMITMENTS OR DUE TO ILL HEALTH ON THE HANDLERS OR DOGS PART. TO ASSIST MEMBERS TO DO THIS THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF TRAINERS AND THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

CHARLIE BARTOLO	75 1958
JAN BOEYEN	78 2148
PHYLLIS BERGIN	48 4746
CATHIE DOWNES	75 2858
GLENDA HILLA	43 4528
COLIN HUMPHREYS	50 2104
STUART INNIS	75 5272
ELAINE LONGHSAW	55 4603
BRIAN MOORE	-
MARJ. WRIGHT	43 5791

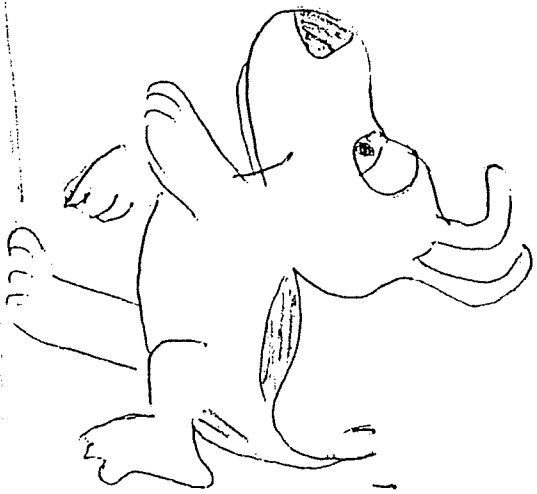
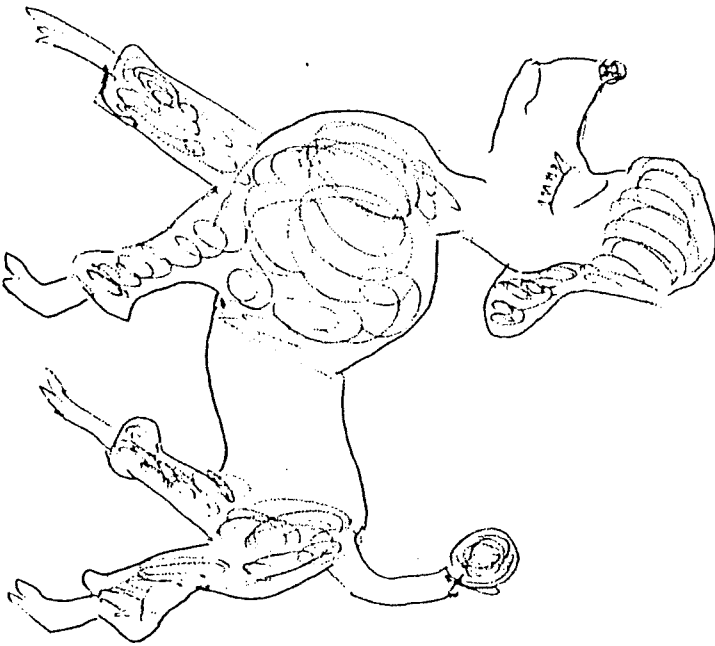
TRAINING SUPERVISOR - BRUCE CAIRNS - 43 4707

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT CLASSES COMMENCE AT 7.00P.M. DURING DAYLIGHT SAVING ON A WEDNESDAY EVENING, AND FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, 9.30A.M. ON SUNDAY. ARRIVAL AT CLASSES ON TIME IS A COURTESY THAT SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO ALL TRAINERS, AND/OR ASSISTANTS.

USE OF THE ADJACENT LAND FOR EXERCISING DOGS PRIOR TO AND AFTER TRAINING

The Club does not own this land but the Shire Permit our useage of same. However, it only takes one loose dog to start a fight that could develop into an all in brawl with the numbers of dogs that are let run free there. The other problem with dogs running loose is that they may easily knock a child, or adult over. So please members, unless you have got a dog that is up to full Novice standard and is under control whilst off lead, LEAVE YOUR LEADS ON. Remember even the trial dogs are not always friendly to other dogs, and it only takes the right set of events for them to want to join in a melee too. So be kind to your dogs and to other people, keep them under control whilst in the paddock in order that we can all continue to use this facility. If you want to let your dog run free before training, do it on the way somewhere, I DO!

ALL members are required to wear their current membership cards on them whilst in the rings, and failure to do this means a trip to the Secretary's table to get 'spotted' for the day.



IT CAN BE REALLY GREAT.
HERE AT TRAINING NIGHTS /

Bar's at night

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DOGS 'GAME' OF DEATH

(This is an extract from the 'Advertiser')

NEW YORK. When the police department's bomb sniffing dogs get called into action, one of the key items their handlers carry is a bag of dog biscuits. The canine crew learns its trade through "Pavlov's theory of the food reward system", according to Detective Victor Solis, who trains the dogs at the department's bomb disposal range at Rodman's Neck on City Island in New York's Bronx borough.

"The dogs learn to sniff out about 10 kinds of explosives, including TNT, dynamite, smokeless powder, black powder, fireworks powder and nitrates," Solis said.

He introduces the various explosives one by one, first placing the sample material in plain sight, then hiding it. "Each time the dogs locate the explosive, they get a biscuit," Solis said.

The reward system turns bomb detection into "a game" for the six labrador retrievers and one German Shepherd, according to Lieutenant William McCarthy, commanding officer of the bomb squad.

The dogs cue to play was the command "search it". They immediately put their nose to the ground, and if they found an explosive, whether in training or on the job, they immediately sat, looked at the trainer or bomb technician and reaped their biscuit reward, McCarthy said.

Training takes an average of eight to 12 weeks, including first a course in obedience. All dogs get obedience training.

The bomb squad does not rely solely on the dogs to detect explosives. The dogs back up bomb technicians who conduct physical searches of an area, but often a dog's nose can pinpoint an explosive odor much faster than a person can lay hands on the material.

X-rays, another means of detection, show only batteries, metal pieces and other bomb parts.

"The explosive material can actually go undetected," McCarthy explained. "That's where the dogs come in."

Oblivious to danger, the dogs play their game whenever the bomb squad investigates a suspicious package and whenever a dignitary is in town.

When a VIP arrives, the bomb squad conducts a preliminary search of all areas to be visited by the visitor, including the airport, travel route, hotel and speech locations.

Two dogs are on duty at a time and their feedings times are staggered so there is always one hungry dog that will work for a biscuit.

They work for one week, then spend two weeks back in training to keep in good physical shape.

There is no mandatory retirement age for the dogs, but when their performance starts to falter, they are retired. Some stay on at the training range, while others go to live with trainers who have become especially attached to the canines.

There is no minimum age to become a bomb dog, either. The youngest on the squad now is 18 month old 'Nat', a golden Labrador.

The veteran canine, 10 years old, is a black Labrador named 'Charlie'.

UNINTENTIONAL TRAINING

My philosophy in obedience training is that, for the most part, the dog does only what the trainer teaches him to do. The trainer, not the dog, is responsible for the dog's good or bad behaviour. This is the first thing I tell my new students at each beginning class. The owner, I explain, cannot stop the dog from learning, and it is up to that person whether the dog learns that he may behave as an obnoxious fool or as an obedient companion. I tell my students to keep this fact in mind should a problem arise in the future. Hopefully, if the student does encounter subsequent problem behaviour he will then be able to solve his own problem by first asking himself the question "How did I TEACH my dog to do this?"

As I watch handlers work their dogs in practice, or as I sit at ringside and listen to the moans of exhibitors, I hear the same complaints over and over again, "Why does he always do that?" or "How could he do that to me?". The question they should really be asking themselves instead is "How did I teach my dog to do that?". The problem usually boils down to a simple case of UNINTENTIONAL TRAINING.

Unintentional training can take many forms. Most commonly it occurs because the trainer repeats one routine so often that the dog does it without waiting for the command. This teaches ANTICIPATION. A less obvious form of this undesirable training takes place when the trainer allows the dog to perform unwanted behaviour repeatedly without correction. The trainer may, in fact, be encouraging this behaviour without even realising it. This teaches INCONSISTENCY. Another form of accidental training comes from the trainer not making the exercise completely clear to the dog, or testing the dog before he is fully trained as to what is required of him. This teaches CONFUSION. But the most detrimental form of unintentional training comes in the form of punishing the dog for making a mistake in trying to do something he has not yet been taught. This teaches FEAR. In whatever form, unintentional training is something trainers should become aware of and try to eliminate totally from their training programs.

ANTICIPATION.....I'm sure at one time or another every trainer has taught his dog to anticipate a command. The dog will learn to anticipate anything if done over and over enough times. After all that is the way dogs learn! Teaching anticipation is one of the most common training errors and it is usually easy to identify. Once the trainer perceives what is happening, he can reverse the trend to compensate for over-drilling on that particular routine.

One remedy is to first eliminate the anticipated portion of the exercise or command. Then the trainer can work back up to incorporating that portion of the exercise or command gradually, performing that part only occasionally. For instance, if the dog is anticipating the drop in the "drop on recall" exercise, the trainer should begin doing only straight recalls until the dog no longer shows signs of anticipating the drop. Then he should gradually begin dropping the dog occasionally. A good rule of thumb is to do one "with" for every ten "without". At no time should the trainer ask the dog to do more than one drop for every three straight recalls. The ratio will depend on the individual dog - for some, one in five might still be too frequent.

Another way to avoid 'teaching' anticipation is by varying the exercise. Varying the training can mean adding just about anything to the exercise to keep the dog guessing. For example, a trainer whose dog anticipates the drop

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UNINTENTIONAL TRAINING(Cont...d)

CONFUSION

Many trainers tend to over-estimate their dog's understanding of a given exercise and they confuse their dogs by expecting more than the dog is capable of giving. It is the tendency of the egotistical human to 'test' the dog on an exercise before he is fully 'trained' on that exercise. The trainer may feel that the dog is ready because the dog has done it correctly twice in succession. Or, the trainer may NOT necessarily feel that the dog is ready, but he tests him anyway just to see what the dog can do. This is a bad practice to get into. Obviously the dog CANNOT do something he has not learned. Therefore, when the dog does it wrong, the trainer has several choices he can make. First, he can correct the dog, which will further confuse him. Or, he can fail to correct the dog, which done repeatedly will reinforce the mistake. Or, he can choose to help the dog, which the dog will soon come to expect on a regular basis. Since none of these choices will aid the dog in mastering the exercise, the trainer should resist the impulse to prematurely test the dog he is training.

One way to avoid confusion in training is to define the exercise from the dog's point of view. For instance, the dog may understand the 'retrieve over the high jump' exercise to mean that he must go and get the dumbbell by using the shortest distance between the two points 'even if' the jump is in the way. The trainer may not have made it clear to the dog that the version of this exercise required for competition is to jump the high jump first, no matter where the dumbbell lands, get the dumbbell and carry it back over the jump to the trainer. The way the dog sees what is expected of him may be totally different from the way the trainer sees it.

Another way for the trainer to keep from confusing his dog is to avoid starting with the completed exercise. The trainer should treat each part of the exercise as though it were an exercise in itself - because it is exactly that, for the dog. The trainer should not expect the dog to do the 'directed jumping' for instance, if he is not yet doing the go-out properly.

The trainer should not get the mistaken impression that because his dog does it right once or twice, that he necessarily fully comprehends the lesson. The dog will not perform incorrectly on purpose to spite or embarrass his handler. The dog performs incorrectly for one reason only - he is confused about the exercise. He may be confused because he doesn't understand or because he has become fatigued or inattentive but, nonetheless, he is confused. When the trainer sees that his dog is confused, the best thing for him to do is interrupt the exercise. The trainer should stop testing the dog and return to the business of training as soon as he notices that the dog is 'winging it'.

If the trainer begins 'helping' the dog by giving extra commands or by using the word 'no' in training practice the dog will be even more confused when the trainer asks him to do this exercise later on in the real trial without help. The person who has managed to train his dog to a high degree of confusion such as this is usually confused enough himself not to realise that the problem is self induced - one of intentional training. This same trainer will fume with contempt in a trial when his little pooch cautiously pauses over each scent article, looking up as if to say "Am I getting warm yet, pal? What do you say there, buddy? Will you give me a clue?"

FEAR

The most deplorable instance of unintentional training is that of the trainer punishing his dog for something that he should only be correcting him for. We all know who this trainer is - his dogs are clearly recognisable because, whether or not he teaches them anything else, the one thing he has taught his dogs is FEAR.

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ATTENTION

We all know the good work that the GEELONG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY does and how it has helped a lot of people and animals in the past; well now they require help themselves and maybe you might be of assistance.

The Society runs an after hours injured animal pick up service for the Geelong area and are in need of someone who can handle animals e.g. dogs, cats, etc., to be on call mainly on Saturday afternoons in case there is need to pick one of these unfortunate animals up and take them to the Vet. for treatment. If you think you can help please contact me for more information.

STUART INNES
Publicity Officer
Tele: 75 5272

LIBRARY NEWS

New members may not realize that our obedience club boasts a library collection of approximately 200 titles, covering a very wide range of interests relative to the canine species. The collection includes popular breed manuals, training methods in obedience, tracking, herding, hunting etc., dog psychology, health care, art, handicrafts, cartoons, stories and even picture books for children.

Joining fee is \$1.00 per year, and books may be borrowed after each training period. They may be kept for two weeks.

Unfortunately at present books are in storage until our storm damaged clubhouse is repaired. Our librarian, Phyl Bergin will then review, for your consideration, books of special interest, and lists of new purchases.

Meanwhile, for those who are interested in purchasing a keenly priced, practical and comprehensive book on the selection and care of dogs (and cats) for Australian conditions, I suggest -

THE AUSTRALIAN WOMENS' WEEKLY PET CARE BOOK, written by Dr. Peter Roach, V.V.C., M.R.C.V.S. M.A.C.V.Sc.

It is written in simple language and well illustrated, with a large section on veterinary care. A special feature in the dog section is an analysis of over 50 popular breeds regarding their suitability in the Australian environment. Also interesting is a double page illustration of the author's concept of an ideal dog for Australian conditions - dare I say it, - a CROSSBREED.

This very useful book for caring owners of any breed is available from most newsagents at the modest sum of \$4.95.

GOOD NEWS

Roma Roscoe has now been rehinged with stainless steel supports and is on the slow descent from crutches to walking stick.

For those members who don't know, Roma decided all her kitchen needed rearranging in one foul swoop, and had an altercation with the existing placements, and broke her hip.

Let's hope that Roma will be out jogging again by the time the next Newsletter is printed.

DISPLAY TEAM

Well On March 3, 1985 we had the first display team event for the year held at Morongo Girls School fete.

The crowd was certainly one of the best we've seen for some time and completely surrounded a very small ring on such a suprisingly warm day.

The team put on a creditable display despite having a last minute new team leader who misdirected them on several occasions and even managed to drop sunglassess off the nose onto one of the dogs being examined. To the dogs credit he stood there and just looked quizzically as if saying "gee, you muffed it again didn't you?"

To those who gave their best despite me, thanks for your time and efforts.

Elaine L.

Newer members I'm sure will say "What is the Display Team?"

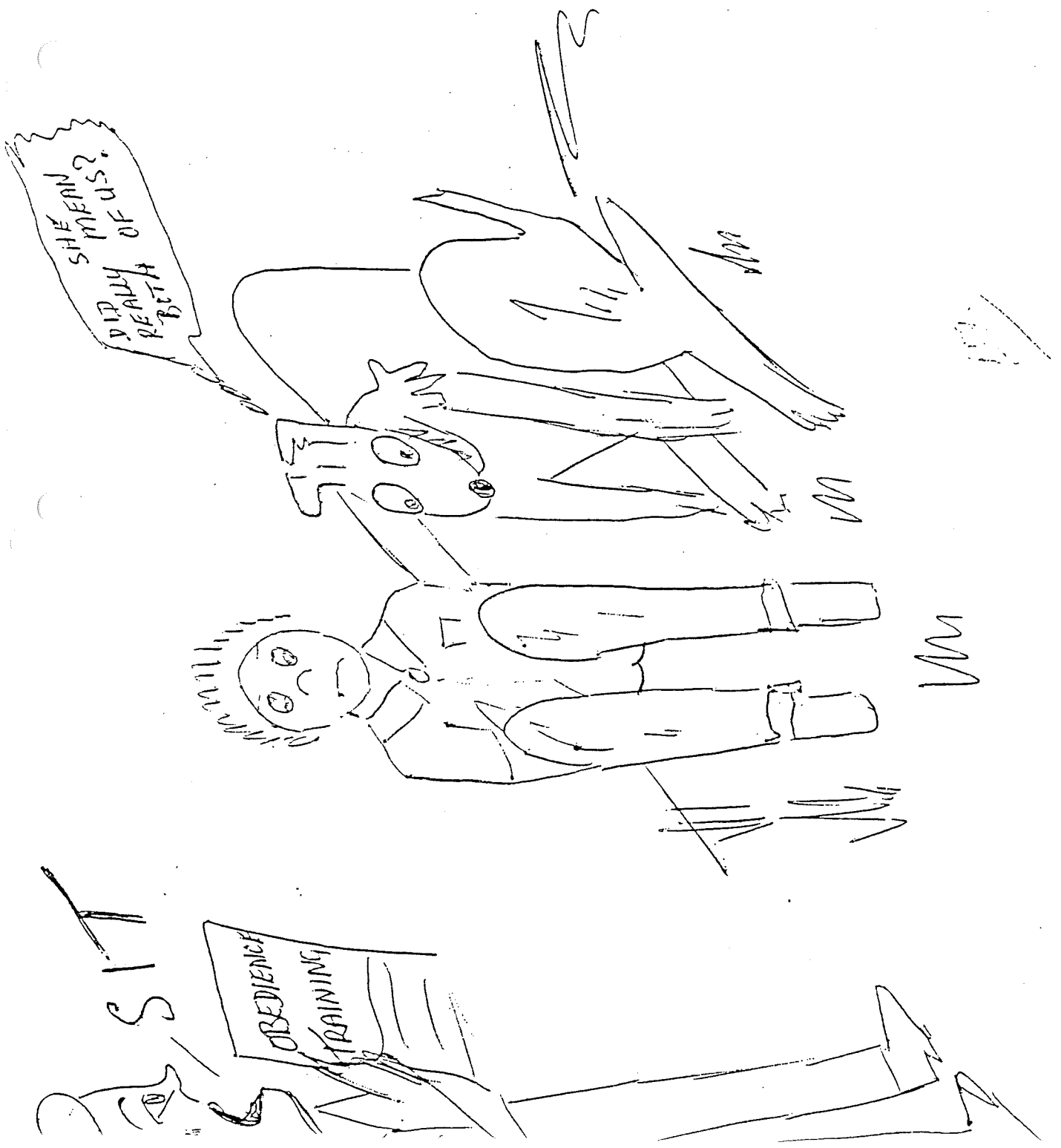
The "display team" put on displays/demonstrations at various school and charity fetes throughout the year to which they have been specifically asked. It is both pure entertainment for some members of the public and to others a way of seeing the different stages of training performed at the Club and the degree of expertise that can be obtained by anyone willing to put time and patience into training a dog. It is free advertising for the Club and a way in which responsible dog ownership can be shown to the general public.

What we need from you the members is your participation. Anyone who has got their basic certificate can become a member of the team. Any breed of dog is eligible; be they registered or associate dogs ("registered" means you have a pedigreed dog registerered with the K.C.C., and "associate" means you either have a non registered pure breed or you have a dog of mixed breeding); the more breeds we have the more representative of the general community.

All that is required is a little bit of your time. Time to practice together at mutually acceptable times, for say, ½ hour per fortnight or month as the seasons dictate. Not many displays are held during Winter, if any at all.

Uniform is simple, neat casual dress, which is CLUB Windcheater and clean slacks or jeans.

The team is led by Graham Douglas, ably assisted by Jan Boeyen and all interested members can see them after normal Sunday training or ring them on their numbers listed elsewhere in the Newsletter.



LIBRARIAN'S CHOICE (Cont..d)

In their book "How to Care for the Older Dog", the authors, Bill Landesman and Kathleen Berman, have sensitively researched the ageing process in dogs, advising the reader what to expect and how to cope with the various changes. Their advice will make the experience easier and possibly rewarding.

WHAT KIND OF A BONE ARE YOU?

It has been said that in any organisation the membership is made up from four types of bones:

First are the WISHBONES,
who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work.

Then on to the JAWBONES,
These are the ones who do all the talking, and very little of anything else.

Thirdly, we have the KNUCKLEBONES.
Now these are not the ones who knuckle down and do some work, but the ones who knock everything that everyone else tries to do.

Last on the list are the BACKBONES.
These are the ones who keep any organisation running smoothly, as they are the ones who get under the load and do all the work.

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

IF YOU FEEL THERE IS SOMETHING MISSING FROM THE 'NEWSLETTER', DON'T GRUMBLE. WRITE IT!

When you are run down, don't forget to

take the vehicle number.

Some people eat gravy with a knife because the fork leaks.

The male Malamute I'm training in utility right now is a joy. He loves obedience, scores well, and works at top speed. However, Butch (officially, CH.Vykon's Bad Bad Leroy Brown, CDX,TT) does have his silly moments. If I'm calm, he's great; if I'm nervous, he loves to tease me. His second "X" leg was earned on a day I'll never forget - or should I say, my students will never let me forget! Fortunately the judge that day was Lena Danner, well known for her marvellous personality and sense of humour. Obedience was conducted upstairs right next to the ring where Working Group was being conducted, so the entire room was filled to the brim with spectators. Butch had completed the high jump and, so far, passed every exercise. I was so anxious and nervous that my heart was pounding and I thought seriously about fainting. I commanded "Butch, over" and he sailed over the broad jump with ease. He came around in front of me, looked up into my chalkwhite face, and let out a famous Malamute W0000 that literally rocked the building! Group judging came to a halt and everyone in the entire room burst into laughter-judges, stewards, spectators, exhibitors. My face went white to candy-apple red. Butch jumped straight up, kissed me on the cheek, then sat down quietly. I'll never forget Lena Danner leaning up against the bleachers with tears streaming down her face. We didn't get our highest score that day, but Butch made a lot of new friends and admirers.

On Butch's 34rd CDX leg, he again gave me a WOO (a little quieter this time) but worked beautifully and was awarded a 195 and second place. Lt.Col.Paul Coombs still talks about the "big Mal. that talked to him".

The following poem was apparently first published in South Australia in 1902 and one that caught the heart of one of our members, and I'm sure it will catch at the heart of many others, especially those who have lived closely with a dog for years.

A POEM FOR DOG LOVERS

Outside the pearly gates they wait, above the stars,
Watching with eager wistful eyes behind the golden bars,
Hoping the man they loved on earth, or the little boy
who died,
May wander to the gates and pat the little heads outside,
I do not think that I could rest behind the gates of gold,
Knowing those faithful living hearts were waiting in the
cold,
And so, when comes the call for me to cross the Great Divide,
I hope the Lord will let me have a little place outside.

WHO CAN FILL IN THE MISSING LINKS?

On two occasions, once heading into Geelong and once heading out of Geelong, I have sat waiting for the traffic lights to change and been amazed to see a small three legged apricot Poodle cross with the lights at a jog trot. He/she was quite unattended on both occasions.

The dog is obviously roadwise as this is a busy intersection; and what intrigues me is whether he/she lost that missing limb in a road accident or in some other way, and why is he/she always unattended and permitted to go on these jaunts through the neighbourhood.

If you live or work in this area at all and know more about this little pedestrian please enlighten us!

Those long legged birds did it again; on a fly past they left Gayle and Henry Barton a daughter.

TRIAL NEWS

At the recent Warrnambool Trial which had 42 entries for the day, we were represented by Brian Gardiner and STRYDER (Ormsloe Proud Chieftan); who creditably together took off first place in the Encouragement ring.

Congratulations are extended to them both for good teamwork.

Because the G.G.S. & O.D.C. has been functioning efficiently for 30 years, from time to time we are asked to help other clubs establish themselves.

Currently Bacchus Marsh has a shortage of advanced Instructors and both Stuart Innis and Colin Humphreys have made themselves available on every 4th Tuesday evening of each month to assist in this way.

Unfortunately Stuart met with the disapproval of a Samoyed whilst last there and was bitten, on the hand through gloves! So a trip to the local hospital (to check out the nurses) was hastily arranged for Stuart. Fortunately Stuart is back on the assist team and doing a great job.

What should be remembered by all if you find yourself in a position where you are bitten accidentally or intentionally, DO NOT MOVE OR PULL AWAY as this will only lead to further injuries being incurred. AND of course it is in everyone's interest to have Tetanus injections and to maintain the subsequent follow up vaccinations.

Husbands are like the fire on the hearth -
Likely to go out if unattended.
