

# Newsletter



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GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.

Committee for 1987/88

PRESIDENT	Miss Lesley Gayland	21 1038
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Graham Douglas	50 2483 Club Nominee
SECRETARY	Mr. Anton Pape	55 1618
ASS. & TRIAL SECRETARY	Miss Lisa McPhee	78 3036
TREASURER	Ms. Ingrid Socterbock	9 4195
COMMITTEE:	Mr. Brian Moore	- - - Training Supervisor
	Mr. Dick Wiltink	75 2595 Ass. Training Supervisor
	Mr. Len Richards	48 3050 Ground Manager
	Mr. Stuart Innes	75 7778 Promotion & Publicity Officer
	Mrs. Chris Linguey	75 7592 Canteen Manager
	Mr. Robert Beckingham	48 5472 Social Co-Ordinator
	David Blackwell	- - - Hall Manager

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The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc. All committee reports bear the name of that officer.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

P.O. Box 186, Geelong, V. 3220

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Welcome to all our new members and may all your future training aspirations be realized, whether you just want adog that is socially accepted or whether you wish to go into the trial ring.

This Newsletter is produced bi-monthly and distributed on the last training day of that month. We try and advise you of what has happened within the Club and provide you with information about coming events. There are of course events that occur from week to week which aren't able to be included in the Newsletter because they have been planned and scheduled in between printing times. To ensure you know about these it is advisable to LISTEN to the weekly announcements after training finishes each week.

Due to work committments I have not been able to sit in on these and despite requests to several people to keep me informed, there is one area that has sadly been left to SOMEBODY else!! In earlier Newsletters I printed several articles that specifically related to SOMEBODY else and Club membership generally. As a reminder I've reprinted one of these below.

#### 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?

The section missing is the TRIAL results. Herewith is the one and only result I've received for the year and even that is incomplete.

WARRNAMBOOL- Sue Hume .....(Teddy)Pomeranian 1ST in ENCOURAGEMENT.

To ensure continuity of these results it would be in EACH trialer's interest to write out the necessary information regarding their respective entries and give this information to the Committee member who READS the weekly announcements. What is needed is YOUR NAME; YOUR DOG'S REGISTERED NAME(if a pure breed)& YOUR DOG'S COMMON NAME; THE TYPE OF DOG (breed or mix); WHETHER YOU COMPETED IN ENCOURAGEMENT, NOVICE, OPEN OR U.D. REGISTERED OR ASSOCIATE; AND WHETHER YOU RECEIVED A PASS OR WERE PLACED. Obviously at the same time you could give the Secretary similar details for inclusion in the yearly tallies.

Cont..

The Trial results missing at the time of printing were from - EASTERN SUBURBS, GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB, WARRINGAL, SOUTHERN AND VICTORIAN OBEDIENCE CLUB.

I will gladly print a double issue of results if they are forthcoming. Please help me to help you in letting more folk know the success stories.

Our President has written a much more positive report on the next page for you outlining the PLUS's the Club has obtained. Please help her and me by giving us more INPUT, and that way the Club can function as a whole not just in fragmented sections. The prime objective is to serve you, but you too must learn similar skills to make it a two way street and not just a dead end.

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WOULD ALL MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER PLEASE ADVISE THE TREASURER IN ORDER TO KEEP THE CLUB RECORDS UP TO DATE

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#### IMPORTANT

To all new members (and as a reminder to the oldies), all notices relating to the Club are inserted in the PUBLIC NOTICES column of "The Geelong Advertiser". Such notices inform members when there is to be a change of venue for the training sessions, i.e. in times of flooding, and also foretell of Special General Meetings or Annual General Meetings. So it pays to look through this column on Saturday mornings.

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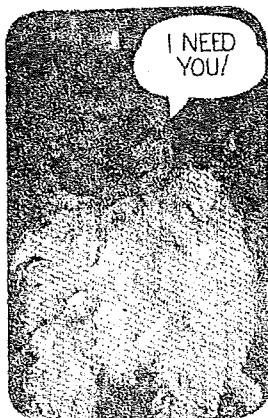
#### DON'T FORGET

Your leftovers can turn into Club gain.

ALL members can help to raisemoney by bringing ANY type of used bottles and ALL your aluminium cans to our bottle holding pen situated on the grounds.

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Special thanks to  
Chris Young who  
helped me with some  
of the typing this  
time.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Almost three months of the 1988 year have already passed and we are back into the full swing of things, with training now being back to Sunday mornings - goodbye to those sleep-ins for several months.

This also means that the Obedience Trials will start again in earnest. I wish all those people entering Trials every success for the year. Let's hope that we see many more of our Club members obtain titles this year. Our Club will be holding it's second Agility Trial on April 24. For those who don't know, we were the first Victorian Club to hold an Agility Trial - this being in September last year. I wish all our members entering this trial every success - there is a fair chance that one of our members may be the first Victorian to obtain an Agility Title.

Our display Team has been very busy in the past weeks, and have several bookings in weeks to come. This team is a tremendous advertisement for our Club. Thanks to all team members for making themselves available for the demonstrations and also for training. Congratulations Jan on doing such a good job with the team. Anyone interested in joining the Display team please see Jan Boeyen - you must have your basic obedience certificate to be eligible.

A Tupperware Party was held on Tuesday, March 15 for the ladies and I'm pleased to report that 21 ladies attended. Even more pleasing was the fact that enough sales were made to enable the Club to win a food Processor which will be a great asset to our Canteen when we are catering for our Trials, socials, etc. Thanks to all who attended - your support is very much appreciated.

Unfortunately our Treasurer, Elaine Jones, has had to resign due to the load of other commitments. This is a very time consuming position to hold on the Committee, however we have been fortunate to find a willing member to take over the role. The Committee have appointed Ingrid Soeterback to the position, and we welcome her to the Committee. Thanks Ingrid, and best wishes from us all. Thanks also to Elaine Jones for the tremendous job done in your time as Treasurer.

Once again, thank you to Elaine Longshaw for putting this Newsletter together, and for the many hours spent in doing so. If anyone has an article, or item of interest they feel may be worthy of a spot in the Newsletter please see Elaine. Thanks also to all the contributors and to Anton and Dick for the time spent in doing the printing.

Best wishes to you all for a very happy Easter. Be careful on the roads over the holiday period as we want to see you all back safely with us, after the holidays.

LESLEY GAYLARD  
PRESIDENT

INSTRUCTORS

It is requested that members receiving instruction learn the names of their respective Instructors and that you extend them the courtesy of notifying them if you are unable to attend for any reason. If your dog is ill you can still come along and listen to and watch what is happening in your class.

Thelma Barwick	50 3013
Charlie Bartolo	43 8753
Robert Beckingham	48 5472
Tammy Beckingham	48 5472
✓ Phyl Bergin	48 4746
✓ Jan Bocyn	78 2148
✓ Bruce Cairns	43 4707
Desma Dickeson	78 9585
Carol Gillham	9 4119
Maurcen Friars	75 2993
✓ Colin Humphreys	50 2104
Stuart Innes	75 7778
Brian Kerr	77 0135
Lisa McPhee	78 3036
✓ Brian Moore	-
✓ Dick Wiltink	75 2595
✓ Marj. Wright	43 5791

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GENERAL MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER

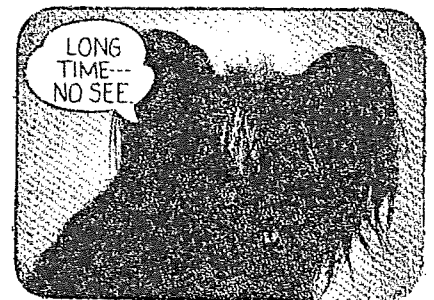
DR. DAVID HOPKINS

GENERAL CARE & DIET

TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH

COMMENCING TIME: 8.00 P.M.

MEMBERS PLEASE BRING A PLATE





## GEELONG OBEEDIENCE DOG CLUB

### A Success Story:

Back in 1954 a group of Geelong dog lovers started obedience training in front of the Geelong International Harvester factory on an open paddock. In April 1955 they became an affiliate of the Kennel Control Council under the name of "Geelong German Shepherd and Obedience Dog Club". Over the following years they were forced to move from ground to ground, but in 1970 they moved to a ground they could finally call their own. Situated on the Belmont Common in Breakwater Road, Geelong, this was an ideal spot for dog activities. That same year the Club proudly held an Obedience Trial on the home ground. The next goal was to have their own Club house, a very costly project. To help cover the costs, bottle drives were held, thousands of bottles were collected and sold by members. Through this and the generosity of the City of South Barwon Shire, building could commence. On the 18th Of Nov. 1973 the new Club rooms were ceremoniously opened by Mr. Hayden Birrell M.L.A. A very proud day indeed because this marked the fact that even though this Club was now the second Club in Victoria to own a Club house they were the first to actually build it with help of their members. Popularity grew and an Obedience Demonstration Team was formed. Invitations for demonstrations started coming in and even organisers from the Geelong Gala and the Melbourne Show sent invitations and why not, because with White pants, White shirts, Blue ties and Navy blue blazers, this was by far the best dressed team. The team is still very popular and an important part of the Club although their uniform has changed somewhat. The Club rooms have so far been extended twice to accommodate members and equipment. The Club now known as "Geelong Obedience Dog Club" does not only conduct obedience classes but for some time now have also been heavily involved into Community Welfare programmes.

In 1987 a sub committee started work on a Public Awareness programme on Responsible Dog Ownership. Months of preparations went into this, a date had to be set, guest speakers to be organised and pamphlets to be printed and distributed. On the set date accommodation for 80 people was catered for but that night they did not expect anyone to turn up. It was very cold and the fog was so thick that driving a car was near impossible. To the amazement of everyone concerned more than 200 people attended, some came from Melbourne and as far as the Western District. Needles to say this night was a huge success, so much so that some Shires around Geelong have already made plans to have the Club demonstrate and debate Responsible Dog Ownership at local schools. To further expand on club activities the Club has now also an Agility programme for its members. Agility is an "Obstacle" course for dogs over 18 months old and is conducted under strict supervision. On the 13th of September 1987 the Club held the first Agility trial in Victoria under the guide lines of the Kennel Control Council. Their next Agility trial is being held at Breakwater Road (Belmont Common) in Geelong on the 24th of April 1988 and a good attendance is expected. Training sessions are still on Wednesday evenings from 7 till 8 pm but with the finish of daylight saving, training will commence on Sundays from 9.30 till 10.30 in the mornings. Present membership is in excess of 400 members including Instructors, aspiring Instructors and certified Instructors. There is also a very active Social Committee who organise fun days especially for the children and dance nights for the adult members. Anyone wishing to join the Club and would like to know more about their dogs can contact the Secretary Mr. A. Papa P.O. Box 186 Geelong or ring the Club rooms (052) 454555.

## MAN CAN BE DOGS WORST ENEMY

An absolute fact!

Let us start from puppyhood. Some people, whether they are breeders or not, think it is a very big deal to get a litter of pups from their chosen pets. Well, let me tell you, it is a very big deal because like in humans a miracle has taken place. But, unlike in human births where a baby can be picked up at random to show it to visitors, with a puppy that is TABOO.

As most of us know, the difference between humans and dogs in the life span is at a ratio of 7 to 1 in favour of the human society. Therefore, a puppy from the time it is born has a very hectic time ahead of it just growing up. It is for that reason that puppies should not be interfered with from the time of birth until they are at least 5 - 6 weeks old. An experienced breeder will tell you however, that for the mothers sake the puppies nails should be clipped every two weeks or so, and that is fair enough, but for the rest of the time the mother should be able to look after the puppies in peace. PEACE is the key word in rearing pups.

There are people even today who have their choice pet in a basket or carton box to prepare for motherhood. Hardly any room for the mother to turn around, let alone with a litter of pups. Then after the birth, they will pick the puppies up, away from the mother to show them to visitors. In some cases, children are free to play with the pups. Can you imagine what could do to the pups?

Let me tell you about some of the critical periods in a pups life. From birth until the 21st day, puppies should be left in peace because they are busy preparing their inner development. Then on the 21st day the puppy switches on and all of its senses begin to function. During the 21st and the 28th day it needs its mother more than any other time, because then, the brain and the nervous system begin to function. Awareness begins to take place and in this mental state the puppy finds the world that surrounds him rather frightening. It would therefore be very irresponsible to take the pup away from its mother, even for a little while. This could result in the pup becoming underdeveloped, suffering from social stress, shyness etc. For all these reasons, and more, it is therefore advisable that the mother should look after her puppies without any interference.

When the pup reaches 5 weeks of age, it will start social awareness in the society of man and dog. The pup will learn to respond to voices and will begin to recognise people. Also in this time puppies will start to fight for food and learn to be bullies. But just as important during this time, its trainability will develop. Therefore pups from 6 weeks on should be ready to be sold. Leave then with the litter any longer and they will develop either a dominant nature or they may become shy.

Now, you may say that selling a pup is no big deal, but put yourself in the puppies place. First of all, you get an injection and in some cases they also feed you a tablet for possible worms. Then nearly every day you have to meet different people who will pick you up and look you over. Then comes the day that you appeal to your new owner and you are going to be sold and taken away from your mum and brothers and sisters.

Taking a 6 - 7 week old pup home is a very big undertaking for the pup and the new owner. Nine out of ten times the pup is put in this stuffy and often cigarette smoke filled contraption (the car) which makes a strange noise and moves as well. Others will come and collect the pup with a car load of children. In these cases it is hardly suprising that the pup will be sick in the car.

Then there is the homecoming. Some people will put the pup straight away in a home made kennel which stands well away from the house (just in case the pup is noisy at night), because after all it is a dog and a dog belongs in a kennel. Other more concerned people, will introduce their garden first and then the home to the pup. How to introduce your garden and your home to the pup I will explain in a later edition.



One very important item one must never forget. When you come home with your new puppy ALWAYS carry the pup from the car then put it down and let it follow you. Never carry a puppy from A to B, remember, it has four legs.

When the pup finally enters your home, give it peace, it will be worn out from the car ride and the exploits in the garden. But too often children will come home from school and instead of a puppy they see another plaything and pick it up for cuddles etc. Oh yes, a puppy should be a playmate for the kids, but there is a way to accomplish that. Never let the kids pick up the pup, they should be introduced to the pup, instead of introducing the pup to the children. Puppies are inquisitive and sooner or later the pup will go to the children, from there on playing becomes natural.

To talk to a pup one should go down to the pup's level, the same as a parent talks to a small child.

Sooner or later the inevitable will happen, the pup will foul your good carpet and by doing that it will also test your sense of humour. Remember this however, no matter how bad you feel about this, you must NEVER raise your voice or rub his nose in it. You would never do that to a baby either. A pup is used to fouling his whelp box and he knows that his mother was always there to clean it up, and that his mother would clean it up was for him a sign that it was okay for him to do it again and again. Puppies do not know the difference between a blanket or hessian bag in the whelping box or your good carpet. Some people will even go so far as to hit the pup with a rolled up newspaper when accidents happen. Let me warn you that dogs do not forget that easily, so think of what could happen when the pup is grown up and your children come home from school with papers in their hands, or think of the good old postie. So instead, sensible house training should commence and there are several ways to attack this.

When a pup has an accident on your carpet and you actually see him do it, the best thing for you to do is let him finish. After that, coax him outside, never pick him up, and when he follows you outside praise him. You must praise him if you like it or not, because you praise him for following you to the garden. Only when the pup is in the garden and thus well out of sight should you clean up his mess and not before. Remember when he fouled his whelping box and he saw his mother clean up, it was for him a sign that he could do it again and again. If you haven't actually seen him foul your carpet, but found out afterwards, you had better go through the same procedure as explained above, because should you then tell your pup off he has not got any idea why you are mad at him. As far as that is concerned, dogs have short memories. This goes for digging holes and pulling the washing off the line also. If you can't catch him in the act, it is far too late for you to get mad at him, and the only thing you can do is to make sure that the washing is hanging high enough in future that the pup can't reach it. Digging holes is often a sign of boredom, so make sure that the pup has got some toys to play with. But like with children, make sure that he can't eat, choke or otherwise hurt himself on his toys. But back to house training.

If your pup sleeps in the laundry, then on the first night cover the floor with a few layers of newspaper. The next morning when the pup is in the garden, clean up all the papers, but the one he did his business on you must not entirely dispose of. From that part you must keep the bottom one for the scent and should be used again the next night. This time you put that one a bit closer to the door which leads to the garden and so on. Within a week the pup should be aware of the fact that he has to do his business outside. During the daytime after every meal, sleep or play, the pup should be coaxed outside to do his business, praised when he is finished and then be let inside again.

When the pup is 12 weeks old he should go for his booster injection. During this critical period in his life his trainability or learning faculties are operating at full capacity.

What he learns now will shape him into the dog he will be for evermore. This is also a critical time for the owner because if the pup gets taught the wrong way, then that too will stay with him.

The most important part of training during this time is socialising. Introduce other dogs - cats and especially strange people to the pup, including children of course. During no other phase in his life will he have the ability to achieve a stronger bond than during this critical period.

At 16 weeks of age a pup should have had his final injection and will be ready to commence formal obedience training.

Then, it is sad but true, that in some dogs the "Faults" start to come to the surface. Some do not like the other pups in the puppy class because they have not been socialise and show either aggression or shyness. In other classes one can find dogs who do not like being touched, or in the re-call they cower towards their handlers. Even in the heel on lead exercise, one can see dogs lagging behind or heeling wide and away from the handlers with their tails hanging between their legs. Most of these "Faults" can be traced back to the critical periods in the pups life, but there are ways to correct them, and they are LOVE and above all PATIENCE. So before you go mad at your dog for not doing an exercise, THINK!

Dick Wiltink  
Assistant Training Supervisor

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#### THE COMPLETE BOOK OF AUSTRALIAN DOGS - By Angela Sanderson

Australian dogs have never been more popular overseas than they are today, particularly in North America, Scandinavia and Britain. The evolution of our dog breeds is relatively recent, when compared with other countries, but they make a unique contribution to the canine world with their courage, intelligence, loyalty and tough working ability. They can be gentle with children, but furious with intruders.

Because they were mostly bred for these qualities, rather than for the showing, much of the crossbreeding facts have not been recorded, but the author's research has produced many interesting facts, and some theories of the evolution of the breeds as we now know them - Australian Terriers, Cattle Dogs, Kelpies, German Collies, Dingoes and Kangaroo Dogs. The latter was of particular interest to me, having owned a Kangaroo Dog in my youth, and finding little information about them in other books.

Although there are many illustrations of the dogs as we know them today, pictures of the various breeds, which were used in the crossbreeding, would have greatly added interest.

(This book is now available for loan.)

Phyl. Bergin  
Librarian

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## A DOG'S EYE VIEW ON OBEDIENCE TRAINING

If your owner doesn't already take you to training, get your "dog appeal" working, or one of those things which makes your owner think you might be better if you were more obedient. If you haven't been to an Obedience Class you haven't lived!! You meet girls ..., or if you are one, you are met by boys!

Your owner comes to learn to be a "handler" (i.e. the stooge that you have on the lead or just standing around with you). The first thing your handler learns is that if you run away, it doesn't matter what you do as long as you come back eventually and sit down by him. You mustn't be punished, because if you are punished you won't come back to your handler when you are ready, sit by his side, look up innocently ... and just watch his blood pressure rise.

The tests, as the handlers think they should be done, will bore you to death, but with your own variations, you can play forever and score your own way.

### EXERCISE 2 - HEEL FREE

A bit of a grind ... hang your head and walk as slowly as you can; then without warning spring forward with all your weight! If your handler falls flat on his face, you score 25 points.

### EXERCISE 2 - HEEL FREE

Anything goes, and so go you. Usually, at least one other dog will run with you; you will be able to run faster so you will never be caught, but you can catch, if you please. If you are out of doors, break off and attend to the wants of nature. This gives you an unbreakable alibi, and shows up your handler as a cad who forgot to look after you before the training started. In your own good time return to your handler, sit at his side with maddening precision and smile at him. You score 5 points for each minute of freedom.

### EXERCISE 3 - RECALL

Handler walks off. Let him go .. but when he turns and shouts at you assume rock deafness, or show him how perfectly you can "stay". Look anywhere you like, but not at him! Later, if you see anything worth investigating go and investigate. In your own time, go to handler, preferably cringing, with your ears laid back. This will convince the other handlers that yours is a secret dog beater and he will lose face. On no account sit in front of your handler as he will only make you move around him. Assume the "heel" position straight away with indifference. If handler loses voice, you score 25 points.

### EXERCISE 4 - RETRIEVE THE DUMBBELL

Watch handler throw away a wooden dumbbell with respectful interest. On no account fetch it back; he'll only throw it away again. If the silly so-and-so wants his bit of wood, let him fetch it back .. you will be helping to train him not to throw things away that he really wants! Variation: run out to the dumbbell with enthusiasm, sniff it, smile at handler, and return promptly to base WITHOUT IT ... he can't hit you (see notes above). Repeat as often as handler wishes; you score 5 points every time handler retrieves dumbbell.

## A DOG'S EYE VIEW ON OBEDIENCE TRAINING/2

### EXERCISE 5 - SIT

On no account, really sit! They always try to train you on wet, cold grounds. The "stubby tail squat" is quite good enough .. you stay one inch from the ground at the back end! From this position, you can spring away into your fastest speed with no hesitation (see hints on "Heel Free"). I suggest five points for each successful squat.

### EXERCISE 6 - DOWN

Here you have to lie down; with practice you can travel yards on your stomach to reach other competitors! If they move, pretend you think the exercise is over and leave too (see hints on "Heel Free"). If you can remain out of handler's sight for five minutes, you score 30 points!

### CONCLUSION

Without warning do any exercise you choose, perfectly! This will leave your handler thinking that earlier mistakes were his fault, and the sucker will take you to training week after week! Happy scoring!!

Reprinted from: The Victorian Gundog Club Inc. Newsletter with acknowledgement to: The American "Dog World".

(Being in a gundog magazine the "stubby tail squat" not only refers to those within that category, but includes of course, Weimaraners, Vizlas, Dobermanns and Rottweilers.)

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### GUIDE DOGS ASSOCIATION

Members, who in 1987 brought in special coupons from Kleenex Tissue packs, will be pleased to know that the overall result of the promotion was a donation of \$50,000 to the Royal Guide Dogs Association.

Phyl. Bergin

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### DID YOU KNOW?

That the Royal Guide Dogs Association in an experiment to improve such qualities as longevity, leanness and other traits has been crossing Labradors with Golden Retrievers, Samoyed and even Greyhounds, the latter to produce a leaner Guide Dog.

Phyl. Bergin

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## GET TO KNOW AN INSTRUCTOR

As a small boy in Holland DICK WILTINK grew up with working German Shepherds as his grandfather was a Police Dog Trainer. Being around dogs is a way of life now for Dick and it is obvious that this life time knowledge stands him in good stead to instruct.

Dick first joined our Club in 1966 and went on to get a C.D. title with his dog "Cinders". He went on from there to instructing and in 1972 became a K.C.C. Certified Instructor after passing the necessary theoretical and practical examination. Dick has also given Obedience lectures to other clubs within the canine fraternity.

Dick later took time out to further his professional qualifications and then at the start of 1986 he was invited to instruct and lecture in Obedience training at the newly formed branch of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria located in Geelong. During that time he went to Melbourne to attend many lectures and studies and was awarded with an Obedience Instructor's certificate from that controlling body.

Dick rejoined our Club just on a year ago and as well as instructing he is our Assistant Training Supervisor.

Currently he is studying for a Judging Licence which he hopes to complete in July; so all you triallers make sure you read his articles on this subject commencing in this issue of our Newsletter.

I am sure all Club members wish you every success with that project Dick and we hope that in future you will judge many of our Club competitors who will do themselves and our Club proud in the ring.

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## LIBRARY

Have you joined the Club Library? Membership is \$1.00 per year, payable to the Secretary, who will stamp "LIBRARY MEMBER" on your membership card. There are no extra charges. Books may be borrowed after training each week. Date of return is stamped in the back of the book. Please return books ON TIME as other members may be needing them.

Phyl. Bergin  
Librarian

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"HAPPINESS IS AN OBEDIENCE TRAINED DOG"

Part 1

What does it mean, "Happiness is an obedience trained dog"? Is it a statement or a message, or just a saying? Whatever it means it has got a rather nice tone to it don't you think?

Happiness is an obedience trained dog, let's have a closer look at this. Take the word "Happiness" for instance. Anyone who goes to trials or even in class tests will agree that there are very few "Happy" faces around the grounds and that "Frustration" wins hands down. In these cases we can then also forget about the obedience trained dog, and yet these very people drive cars covered in stick-ons saying "Happiness is an obedience trained dog". One would tend to think that something does not add up here, but let me hasten to add that a lot of people who come away from trials or class tests with sour faces do have wonderful dogs, and I do believe that they have put some effort into training their dog before the trial or class test. So what is the answer? Simple. There are but three ways for anyone to become "Happy" and have an "Obedience Trained" dog, three ways only:

1. Turn up for training every opportunity.
2. Listen to your Instructor and ask questions.
3. Do your home work.

There is no other way of putting this in order of preference because one is just as important as the other. It is like a triangle, miss out on one line and the triangle is incomplete. I have attended and participated in lots of trials and nosy as I am, I usually walk up to the people who failed and ask them what went wrong. There are of course many excuses, but the best one, or rather the worst one is; "My dog just would not work". Apart from many other excuses, that to me, is the worst excuse anyone can come up with. If a dog does not work in a trial ring whilst being judged, a judge may according to the Rules, send that dog and its handler out of the ring. So if they did do ALL the exercises and failed, then they must come up with a far better excuse. All of this comes back to the 1-2-3 factor, miss out on one and the triangle is not complete. But let me try to analyse some of the exercises one can expect in a trial or test.

We will begin with "Heel on lead". Do I hear the word "easy", then read on.

On entering the ring the handler must have the dog on a lead and proceed to the starting post. Nothing to it, hey. The Judge (hereafter called judge be it for trial or test) will approach you for some small talk, after which he will ask you "are you ready" and you answer "yes". So far so good? No, no, no, wrong. There is a lot more to it than just that. You should always, before you answer yes, look first where your dog is. That sounds stupid doesn't it, because we all know that the dog is on the end of your leash. So, where the hell could he go. Seriously, your dog could at that very minute be sitting behind you or even standing, or at the least, be sat on an angle next to you.

So here we are still at the starting post and that darn judge has already deducted some very valuable points. And you know what, he has all the right to do it too, because the Rules clearly state, 'All judging shall commence after the judge asks "are you ready" and you answer "yes"'. So how many points did we lose for this error? A minor will be deducted and the judge may take 3 points from you. This whole exercise is worth 30 points, so now you are left with 27 points and as yet you haven't left the starting post.

On the order from the judge "forward" you may draw the dogs attention to you by calling its name, then give the command "heel" and start walking. So now you're off and moving, that's good, but oh yeah, look at the face of that judge. What happened? You did everything so well, you did get your dogs attention; you stepped off with the left foot precisely at the same time that you commanded your dog to heel - and then you tugged on the lead. There goes another 2 points, because by calling out "heel" and then tugging on the lead, you gave the dog two commands.

over/...

We now have 25 points left and we are walking. "Right turn". Here we go, make a nice sharp 90° turn, got to keep an eye on the dog, loose lead, dog is heeling nicely, and off we walk to the right. Dog is still heeling nicely, you know because you are keeping an eye on him. What was that the judge said? "Left turn". That's easy, here we go another nice 90° turn to the left and keep on walking. Things are starting to look better now, got rid of the butterflies. "Halt". So you stop and your dog without any command sits smartly next to you. Just look at that dog sit there nice and straight and next to your left leg. 'Love that dog, proud of it, I knew it could do it'. "Forward". Step off with your left leg, command the dog to heel, loose lead and off you go. Things are getting better. "Down your dog". That is the one where you can command the dog and use a hand signal as well. So, you pull up and give your command and hand signal for the dog to go down. 'Darn dog, it didn't have to follow my hand all the way, look at it laying there, nearly 45° in front of my feet'.

Here comes another deduction, another minor for a crooked drop, 3 points. That brings us back to 22 points.

But what is that? When you commenced your left turn you were at the edge of the ring, nearly at the rope, and now you are at least 10 feet away from it at the left. Another minor deduction for not walking in a straight line. Your own fault, because instead of looking ahead you kept on watching your dog and so veered to the left. Here go another 2 points and now you have 20 left.

"Forward". To do this you have to step over your dog with your left foot, because he dropped 45° in front on you. Here we go "heel", step over the dog and walk on, this time in a straight line. You pin point a spot in a straight line ahead of you and walk towards it, but also glance at the dog now and then. 'Where is that dog' darn, he is at least one pace behind you because he got nervous when you stepped over him and smart dog that he is, he is keeping away from you now. By now you are probably starting to get nervous too, because even though you are alone with your dog in the ring, there are many people watching you from outside the ring.

"Stand your dog". Good, this will give the dog a chance to catch up with you. You stop, give the proper command and hand signal for the dog to stand, and yes, here he is standing next to you. But you lost another two points because your dog was lagging. Down to 18 points.

"Forward". This time when you start walking, you give the dog a sterner command to heel so he will obey you and heel next to you. "Halt". You stop and your dog sits smartly next to you, good. "Forward". You start walking and command your dog to heel in the same tone as before, and it works. "Left turn - right turn". No problems. "Slow pace". You slow down, but what is that, your dog just sat down because you slowed down too fast and your dog thought you were going to stop. Here go another 2 points and you have 16 points left and only half way through your heeling pattern.

"Normal pace forward - stand your dog - right about turn - left about turn - halt - forward". Faultless, and you are back to that old 'team work' again. "Fast pace". That is a hard one, you hope your dog does not bolt or jump around, but most of all you hope your dog will sit smartly when the 'halt' order is given. You look for the judge, he is some metres away, so here is a chance to assist your dog. "Halt". You whisper through your teeth 'seeet', and your dog sits. But, you forgot one thing, besides you, your dog and the judge, there is also a steward in the ring, and what you don't know is that most judges will tell the steward to look and listen for the use of more than one command. The steward nearly always stands very close to the spot where you come to a halt from fast pace because from there you usually go into the figure of eight. 2 points less makes 14.

"Normal pace forward, into the figure of eight, thank you". First time around goes alright, but the Rules state that you must go twice. So, you keep going round again. "Halt". You stop and your dog should sit smartly, but instead stands there sniffing the steward. After what the judge deems sufficient time, he orders you to sit your dog. And for that second command and failing to sit in the first place another 3 points are lost.

You have now only 11 points left. 'What a bummer, hate that darn dog'. "Forward", and after you have rounded the steward, "Lead straight out thank you, right about turn - left about turn - halt".

You are now back at the starting post so "Exercise finished". Now the steward hands the judge the score sheet and he marks you "N.Q." Not Qualifying, because you finished up with less than half of the 30 points allocated for this exercise. Then while the judge comes over to talk to you, the steward writes your N.Q. on a separate score sheet which hangs near the entrance of the ring for everyone to see. When you come out of the ring later on people will undoubtedly come up to you and ask "what went wrong"? and here comes that famous answer - "My dog just would not work". Think about that, who made the mistakes, you or your dog?

The above example of an On Lead heeling pattern is based on fact and the "mistakes" in it are only too common. Needless to say that the 1-2-3 factor was not adhered to.

To start with, many people will automatically say "yes" when the judge asks "Are you ready", without even thinking of looking at the dog first. You should always look at your dog first and if you are not happy with the way it sits, then tell the judge "No, I am not ready". Then proceed to sit your dog properly and only when you are entirely satisfied you say "Yes, I am ready". This will save you valuable points. As for the tug on the lead, that is just a bad habit and should be rectified immediately. To do this tuck the end of the lead in your pocket or under your belt and then command your dog to heel.

Hand signals - they should be practised without the dog first, because every time YOU do these wrong, while you have got your dog with you, the dog will drop or stand crooked and of course the DOG will get the blame for it all. This will result in a very confused dog. As for the 45° angle while you walk your dog, one should practise on the footpath.

In the fast pace, please adjust your speed to the size of the your dog, don't just take off and go. I have seen people in the ring just about drag their small dogs in this exercise. On the other hand, one should also be careful with larger dogs. If you "take off" your dog may think, 'hooray, this is it, finished, we are going home', and starts bolting and jumping.

To enter the slow pace, which is usually done from a normal pace, be very careful how you adjust to that. Pull up too fast and your dog will sit. A slow pace is not a crawl, but a distinct difference from a normal pace.

By adhering to the 1-2-3 factor, you are sure to be on the right track, but remember, training and trialing should be fun for both you and your dog. If you can achieve that, then that brings a whole new meaning to the words; "Happiness is an Obedience Trained Dog".

Until next time,

Dick Wiltink  
Assistant Training Supervisor.

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CLUB CALENDAR

5.4.88	GENERAL MEETING GUEST SPEAKER
10/11.4.88	WORKING BEE
23.4.88	WORKING BEE
24.4.88	AGILITY TRIAL
7.6.88	GENERAL MEETING
18/6.88	WORKING BEE
25/26.6.88	WORKING BEE
9.7.88	WORKING BEE
10.7.88	OPEN TRIAL
2.8.88	GENERAL MEETING
4.10.88	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15/16.10.88	WORKING BEE
29.10.88	WORKING BEE
30.10.88	OPEN TRIAL
6.12.88	GENERAL MEETING

(Forthcoming Display and Social Dates were not provided at the time of compilation.)

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OBEDIENCE TRIALS AND CLOSING DATES

	<u>CLOSING</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
NORTHERN OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	26.3.88	9.4.88
MOORABBIN & DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	27.3.88	10.4.88
PENINSULA OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	3.4.88	16.4.88
RED CLIFFS & DISTRICT KENNEL CLUB	10.4.88	23.4.88
RED CLIFFS LADIES KENNEL OBED. CLUB	10.4.88	24.4.88
BALLARAT & DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	22.4.88	1.5.88
OVENS VALLEY CANINE CLUB	28.4.88	14.5.88

These closing dates were taken from the March K.C.C. Gazette.)

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