

Newsletter



GEEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.

Committee for 1987/88

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VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Graham Douglas	50 2483 Club Nominee
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	Mr. Dick Wiltink	75 2595 Ass. Training Supervisor
	Mr. Len Richards	48 3050 Ground Manager
	Mr. Stuart Innes	75 7778 Promotion & Publicity Officer
	Ms. Chris Linguey	75 7592 Canteen Manager
	Mr. Robert Beckingham	48 5472 Social Co-Ordinator
	Mr. David Blackwell	- - - Hall Manager

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

All correspondence should be addressed to: P.O.Box 186, Geelong, V.3220

NEWSLETTER NO.24

Welcome to all our new readers, which of course represents all our new members and their respective families. Our Newsletter is produced bi-monthly and distributed on the last training day of that month, the only exception being this issue which is delayed to incorporate the "3-Way Fun Day" results.

The weather was certainly on our side; we had the home ground advantage and the highest number of entries, but still we only made it into second place behind Altona with Werribee retaining the wooden spoon. The final scores were 35, 29 and 26 respectively, so it was a tightly contested event and we will obviously have to "pull our fingers out" next year if we want to get up there in the winners circle.

In March 1987 (Newsletter No.16) I wrote about the problem of heartworm which was originally just a disease common to the continent's hot zones, but now with access much easier between the States heartworm has become something that could affect all dog owners.

A recent article in a daily newspaper bears testimony to the spread of this problem and reads as follows -

"DOG KILLER ON RISE

Dog owners were warned yesterday that the incidence of the deadly heartworm disease was growing in Victoria.

In a statement yesterday, the society said about 15 percent of dogs picked up this year, up to the ages of three and four, were found to be carriers.

Five years ago, only about 5 percent of these dogs were infected. The disease affects internal organs.

The society said owners who were not using preventative treatment should have their dog's blood tested and when cleared, preventative treatment should begin immediately and the dog checked regularly by a vet."

So please give the matter serious thought as we have a high mosquito population in the coastal areas and our Club grounds are situated on flood plains which in itself is an attraction for mosquitoes.

The essential point is that you must have a blood test performed BEFORE you can put your dogs on preventative treatment which must then continue throughout the dog's life. Remember, prevention is better than cure!

Members are reminded that TUESDAY next is our Annual General Meeting and this is a meeting of importance for everyone as it is Election night. Please endeavour to come along, vote if necessary, and then to meet your new committee and participate in the decision making of the Club. Newer members are reminded to bring a plate for a combined supper after the formalities have been completed.

(FUN DAY RESULTS APPEAR FURTHER ON IN THIS NEWSLETTER)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To all our new members who have joined since the last newsletter - welcome to our Club and good luck with your training.

I am pleased to report that we have been very successful in our recent fund raising activities. The pic drive held during August gave us a profit of \$828 which was a magnificent effort. Thank you to all our members who got behind the drive and obtained orders and thank you heaps to the six people who helped pack them. This was a huge task. I am happy to advise that we have now put in our order for a new ride-on mower, something we have been wanting for some time. The money from the pic drive has enabled us to get this sooner than expected.

I am also delighted to report that we won the Community Club Award for the week ended 12th September which wins us \$80.00. Again thank you to those who have brought along their empty milk cartons, Geelong Advertiser mast-heads, SSW dockets and all the other collectable items. Your support has been tremendous. However, keep them coming as the competition runs till the end of November.

By the time this Newsletter has gone to print two very important functions will be over, and they are the 3-way Fun day on Sunday 25th September and the "Responsible Dog Ownership" programme on Wednesday, 28th September. We have 122 entries from Geelong for the fun day which is really tremendous, and it's great to see so many of you having a go. I'm sure you will all have an enjoyable day and I hope that I'll be able to report that we won the perpetual trophy on the day. We are also hoping that the public meeting on "Responsible Dog Ownership" will be as successful as last year, when over 200 people attended.

The past few weeks have been very busy for the Club and the next few promise to be just as active. We like to think that we are a progressive Club and have shown that we are in many areas, such as being the first club in Victoria to establish itself in Agility training and the first to run an Agility Trial, also the only Obedience Club to run a course on Responsible dog ownership.

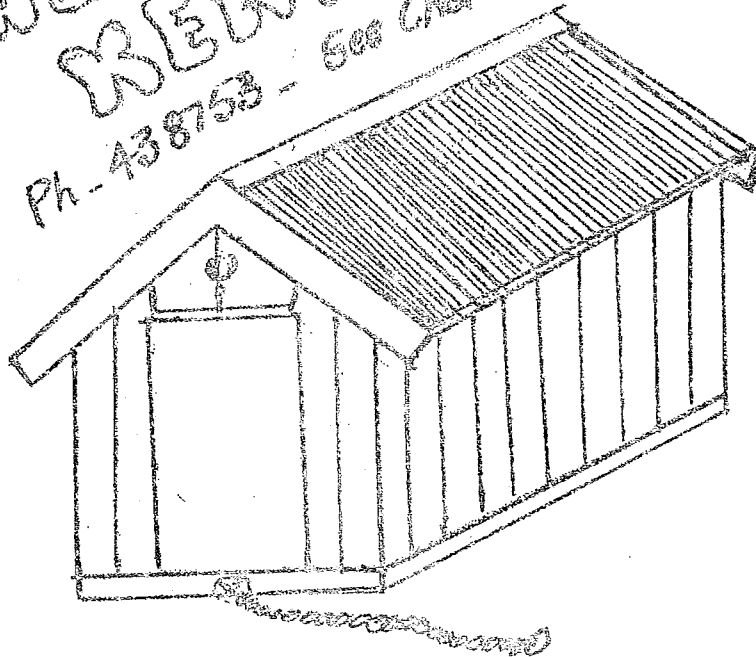
Coming up will be our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 4th October at 8 p.m. in the Clubrooms. This is a very important meeting and I would love to see the Clubrooms full. Even if you have not attended other general meetings during the year the A.G.M. is one that shouldn't be missed. This also gives you, the members, the opportunity to have a say in who will run the Club for the next 12 months. The A.G.M. is fairly short and followed by a general meeting - also a short one. So please come along to this very important meeting and support your Club.

Our next Open Obedience Trial will be held on Sunday, 30th October, so keep this date in mind and we also will be holding our own Club Fun Day on a date to be advised - around the changeover date for daylight saving. There will be more about these events as the dates draw nearer.

Till next time, good luck with your training, and to all our Trialling members good luck also, we have had quite a successful year to date, but would like to see a few more titles before the end of the year.

LESLEY GAYLARD
PRESIDENT

**MALT-CHIA
KENNELS**
Ph-438753 - See Charlie !!



Enquires Ph 438753

Your best friend could live in one of our kennels.
Fabricated from solid timber, raised floor, with rubber matting
for easy cleaning. Corrugated roof ie (Gal or Colour Bond)
All edges flashed, security chain fixed for your friends protection.
Inspect our range, we cater for all, big or small.

ADVERTISING

Any member desirous of advertising anything in the Newsletter can do so by contacting the President or Secretary.

The following rates are applicable:

Full Page Advertisement:	12 months	\$25.00
Full Page Advertisement:	1 month	\$10.00
Half Page Advertisement:	12 months	\$13.00
Half Page Advertisement:	1 month	\$ 5.00

If Print supplied: Full Page: 12 months \$15.00
MUST BE A4 SIZE Full Page: 1 month \$ 5.00

AGILITY

GUIDELINES:

1. Dogs eligible to participate in Agility training (at present) are - dogs 12 months of age or over, at the discretion of the Instructor.
2. Every care will be taken to ensure the safety of dogs however, Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc. and Instructors, accept no responsibility if any injury is sustained.
3. The handler is entitled to refrain from participating in any exercise because of disability, or for any other reason.
4. Because of limitations of time and equipment and popular response to the program, it is at present necessary to limit the number of participants in any one session to 12. Unfortunately participation one week, will automatically eliminate a dog the following week, unless there are vacancies, when Agility training commences each day. Also the equipment will not be set up unless there are more than four names on the list.
5. Check the Agility section of the noticeboard before Obedience classes commence, and if you are eligible for the day's program, write your name and dog's size (large or small) on the list near the Suggestion Box.
6. Starting time will be 11 a.m. or as near as possible, depending on prevailing circumstances. Unless you are otherwise advised. Please assemble on the veranda before 11.00a.m.
7. Performance will be assessed regularly, and a list of those achieving the required standard will be displayed.
8. Equipment may be used only under supervision of one of the Agility Instructors or with special permission of an Instructor for a specific purpose.
9. All able-bodied users of equipment are requested to assist in setting up, dismantling and storage.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

General

1. To expose dogs and handlers to new experiences, thereby increasing their ability, confidence and adaptability.
2. To counter the tendency to boredom, often the result of repetitive obedience training.

Cont...d

AGILITY (Cont..d)
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Specific

1. To train dogs to negotiate a series of obstacles, whilst under the control of a handler.
2. To test that ability, and later conduct competitions, team relays etc.
 - A. Without emphasis on speed;
 - B. With points allotted for speed of operation.
3. To prepare dogs and handlers for participation in official Agility Trials.
4. To incorporate some of the exercises into the program of the Club Display Team

INSTRUCTORS:

Before being considered as an Agility Instructor, prospective Instructors must have been an Obedience Instructor (not an assistant) for not less than 12 months.

Then -

Be an assistant Agility Instructor for six training sessions.

Then -

At the end of the six training sessions the Assistant Instructor will be tested and judged by a panel of three Agility Instructors. Judging shall include a full round of agility equipment with one large dog and one small dog and both to be untrained dogs.

THE AGILITY TRAINING SHEET:

The Agility training sheet has been divided into two sections.

1. For those handlers who have achieved one clear round in sixty seconds or under. A list of those handlers will be displayed. Tests will be given regularly and those passing will have their names added to the list.
2. (a) Those who for some reason have not yet qualified for Class 1.
 (b) Beginners: please write "beginner" after your name if this is your first time or if you need help.

COLIN HUMPHREYS

AGILITY INSTRUCTOR & CO-ORDINATOR

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR DOG?

Every time we come to the ground to train our dogs we are met by several different breeds of dogs. There are small dogs and big ones and whoppers! Each breed is different in shape, size and personality. Even dogs of the same breed are different in shape, size and personality. And the last one, the most important one, Personality is the one what counts. Some people call it Character, but whatever you call it, that is the one to look for in a dog. Personality starts to come out in a pup when he reaches its 5th-6th week of age. It is then that the pup starts to get alert and starts to respond to voices. In a previous article I have explained the critical periods in a pups life. I also wrote then that what a puppy learns at 12 weeks of age, will stay with him for the rest of his life. And that is the time when a lot of people start to spoil their pup and crumble up that Personality. At 12 weeks of age every pup irregardless of breed is at its most playfull time in its life. Depending on what the owner expects from the pup in later life, he should be very careful how to handle this situation. I know, its fun to run around the garden with a playfull puppy, or to tease it with an old slipper to get the puppy to bite at it, but think of what I said before.

"Whatever the puppy learns during this period, will stay with him for the rest of its life."

So, if you have run around the garden with your puppy, or threw a ball for him to chase, you taught your puppy games. And from then on as far as the pup is concerned everything is a game. Prove it?? Okay, then let us picture ourselves with the puppy at about 12 weeks of age running around the garden. You run away and have the pup at your heels, then reverse this by turning around clapping your hands pretending to catch the pup, and the puppy running away from you, right? You probably do this a few times per day, especially on the weekends, because this is fun let's face it, and the puppy is having a ball.

So now let us skip a few weeks in the puppy's life.

By now the puppy has grown bigger and stronger. It still jumps up at you and still goes for your hands, the same as when it was 12 weeks old. The only difference is that now the puppy is bigger and stronger and you are getting sick of having your hands bitten at (playfully) and being jumped at especially on wet days. Or you come home and find your best slippers or shoes torn up.

So how do we stop all of this? Obedience!!

There you are, you have gone through the formalities to join up and you are now in a class listening to the Instructor.

For your dog this is a whole new world, for him this is playtime. All these others to play and wrestle with. The only thing restricting him to wrestle the dog next to him is the lead. His master is not going to let him go willingly, so the best thing to do is to bite through the lead. You get the picture?

On the Instructor's command you step forward and commence to walk. Your dog thinks, this is a bit of alright because now he can try to catch the dog in front of him, so he races forward, but there is only so much lead. Being pulled back all the time is no fun, so what about the dog behind him or on the left hand side or on the right hand side?

I'll bet all this sounds familiar to a lot of people.

Another example is the Sit exercise where you are taught to pull the lead vertically up with your right hand and with a flat left hand on the dogs hind quarters push the dog to the Sit position. But as soon as that left hand touches the dog he jumps forward. Or in the Down exercise where you use your hand signal, your dog will follow your hand and drop in front of your feet. let us take it a step further to the recall exercise. Your dog comes running to you after you called him and to get him to come in straight, you guide him with your hands.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR DOG(Cont..d)

But about one to two metres away from your dog suddenly turns to the left or right and he is off, leaving you standing there calling his name until you are blue in the face.

The best part of all of this is that the dog gets the blame for all of these "faults", like not sitting or dropping crooked and running off in the recall. But do not forget who taught him all of this, think back to when the dog was a 12 week old puppy and you chased it around the garden trying to catch him. That was fun wasn't it?

So now whatever you do with your hands, your dog will associate this with the time when it was 'playtime'. One can even see this in the STAY exercises, as soon as the handler turns their back to the dog and walks away the dog will get up and follows.

Again, depending on what you want from your dog, playing with a Ball at puppy stage is no good either. It makes the pup too playful. This you'll find when you come to that part in your training where you get to use the dumbbell. Dogs who are used to playing with a ball will not easily take to the dumbbell.

So it is best from early age to throw a rolled up piece of cloth or later on a stick for the puppy to play with.

Other faults like the ones described above can also be overcome, but they take a lot of time and above all patience.

So far I have written about the playful dog, let us now have a look at another type of dog. The dog that does not or will not obey its handler at all. This we usually find in the smaller breed of dogs. These dogs are easily spoilt because of their size. When they come home as a puppy and are thus no more than a handful, they will as soon as they are house trained (sometimes before) become bedmates. They get to sleep on the bed with the owners.

We all know that no matter what the breed, every dog looks for, or tries to be a Pack leader. Therefore, it is best that every dog has its own place, either in the house or in a kennel. But certainly not in the bed, or even in the bedroom. Pack leadership starts in the whelping box, already there we can see which puppy is the first one to suckle and takes up all the room. That is part of pack leadership and to show his brothers and sisters who is the boss.

And this will carry on when the pup goes to a home. Even the puppy who has nothing to say in the whelping box will try his luck in the new home sooner or later. This can be seen in the puppy who sleeps on your bed, little things like sleeping on your pillow and getting annoyed when you try to move it, etc. To this pup you have become another brother or sister and he does not associate you to the human race. These dogs will "take over" as soon as they enter the house. Commands mean nothing to them, but this too can be overcome with a lot of time and again, above all PATIENCE.

So there you are. The moral of this chapter is DON'T always blame your dog when things go wrong, think back because somewhere along the line YOU may have taught your dog these things.

To get the most out of your dog, YOU must establish your self as the PACK LEADER from day ONE.

Cont...

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR DOG(Cont..d)

Training should be done in a stern way, but praise should not be forgotten.

In this chapter I may have left some questions unanswered, so I hope to get some letters on that.

Until next time,

DICK WILTINK
ASS.TRAINING SUPERVISOR

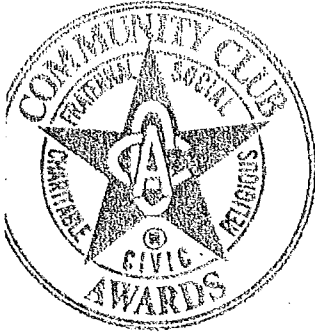
COMMUNITY CLUB AWARDS

As you may have seen in the C.C.A. newsletter of 13th September we have earned a first prize of \$80.00 with our first turn-in of "Golden Garbage". Thanks to the members who brought the goods to the Clubrooms. Please keep it coming. A reminder that only Sunicrust Superloaf, Raisin bread, Kelly's Country loaf and bread rolls wrappers are acceptable. Skinny milk and Rev cartons are also not to be included. While on the milk cartons, please rinse them out as we have had a few smelly ones.

Also don't forget to sign the store register at shop's participating in the C.C.A. Please refer to your Community Club Awards Buyers Guide for information. Anyone who has not got a C.C.A. Buyers Guide please call at the Secretary's office for one.

ANTON PAPE and INGRID SOETERBOCK
C.C.A. CHAIRPERSONS

REMEMBER YOUR EMPTY BOTTLES AND CANS ARE OF BENEFIT TO THE CLUB. PLEASE DELIVER THESE TO THE HOLDING PEN SITUATED IN THE CORNER OF THE GROUNDS.



10/



DO YOU JUST BELONG ?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the crowd?
Or do you just stay at home,
And complain both long and loud?

Do you take an active part
To help the Club along?
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind to "just belong"?

Do you ever go to visit
A member who is sick?
Or leave the work for just a few
And talk about the clique?

There is quite a programme scheduled
That means success, if done,
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.

So attend the meetings regularly,
And help with hand and heart,
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part.

Think this over, Member,
Are we right or are we wrong?
Are you an Active Member?
Or Do You Just Belong?

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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.

Bernie Barret	75 3688
Robert Beckingham	48 5472
Tammy Beckingham	48 5472
Phyl Bergin	48 4746
John Boeyen	78 2148
Jan Boeyen	78 2148
Charlie Bartolo	43 8753
Meinhard Brieberg	78 2296
Bruce Cairns	43 4707
Cath Davies	21 6819
Desma Dickenson	78 9585
Carol Gillham	9 4119
Nevi Gorup	82 3012
Colin Humphreys	50 2104
Stuart Innes	75 7778
Brian Kern	77 0135
Brian Moore	-
Roma Roscoe	43 7464
Dick Wiltink	75 2595
Eleonore Wiltink	75 2595
Marj Wright	43 5791

HAPPINESS IS AN OBEDIENCE TRAINED DOG
PART 3

This is the third part in a series of articles concerning a Novice Trial. For those members who missed the first two articles, I have so far re-lived and "blundered" through the HEEL ON LEAD and the STAND FOR EXAMINATION exercises. All the faults made and explained in these exercises I have taken from real life happenings. By observing and talking to participants and Judges over many trials, I have compiled these reports in the hope that I somehow help you in training your pet, whether you are trialing or just training your pet to an obedience level to suit you.

So next up is the HEEL OFF LEAD exercise.

Here we follow the same pattern as Heel on lead exercises only this time we can not use the lead. I will, therefore, go straight into the common faults which are all TOO often made.

About this exercise it has been said "This will separate the men from the boys" and in many cases this is very true.

You should remember that all of this happens whilst you are in a trial so at this point you should be standing at the starting post and have just completed the Heel on Lead and the Stand for Examination exercises.

The Judge has marked the points for your last exercise on his score sheet and now he will come to you and ask you to remove your lead for the next exercise, Heel Off Lead.

This sounds simple, doesn't it. But you'd be surprised at the actions some competitors go through to remove that lead. I am sure that these people don't want the dog to know that its lead is going to be removed. Some kneel down next to the dog and while they praise it they secretly unclip the snap fastener. Then they fumble the lead in to one hand and slowly stand up. And now comes the best part, somehow they now have to hand this lead to the steward. This is done by slowly bringing the hand with the lead behind their back or like the man I saw who pretended to scratch his head with that hand and winked to the steward to take his lead.

All this time the dog just sits there wondering why all the fuss. Believe me most dogs know very well what is going on.

So there you are; the lead is removed and you are waiting for instructions from the Judge. The Judge moves back and while he does that he will ask you "Are you ready" and you answer "Yes" and down come the points. By being nervous a lot of people forget to look at their dog first and it can happen that the dog has moved from his position. A lot of dogs will anticipate the order "Forward" and will stand up as soon as the Judge moves away from the handler. Next on the order "Forward" you should always call your dog's name to draw his attention to you because something else may have drawn his attention at the time and he may hesitate to come when you order him to heel.

Cont...

HAPPINESS IS AN OBEDIENCE TRAINED DOG CONT..D

Most Judges have competitors do only a few steps before he gives the order "Halt" and if you stop and your dog is not there with you, you have lost more points again. Just think about it, you have done but only a few steps and already lost a lot of points you could have avoided easily. Seem far fetched, I have seen it happen that the dog is standing at the starting post while the handler is some 6 - 7 metres further up thinking the dog is at the "Heel" position.

So be very careful when you start off and remember two important points -
 (1) Never be too hasty in answering "Yes" when the Judge asks "Are you ready." Always look at your dog first and make sure it is in the correct position.
 (2) Always call your dog's name when you are about to leave the starting post and follow this up with the command (invitingly) "Heel". This is the only time that you can call the dog's name.

Next you are ordered to do some turns. Left turn, right turn and they are not so easy either. Of course everyone knows that the dog always heels on the left side of the handler but on the command "Left turn" I'd like ten cents for every competitor who turns RIGHT! Why do they do that? Mostly because of nerves or they are too busy concentrating on their dog.

That brings me to another problem a lot of handlers have. And that is walking in a straight line. They are concentrating so much on the dog that they walk diagonal to the left across the ring. Some Judges will deduct points for doing that. Besides that every Judge has his own "Heeling pattern" and every turn and halt is calculated carefully in that pattern. If a handler walks diagonal to the left it means that the Judge has to make adjustments in order to get that handler back where he should be according to the pattern. So be careful, when you step off, take a point which is in a straight line ahead of you and walk towards that. Now back to the turns.

The Right turn is pretty easy providing your dog was thoroughly with you "On lead" to do this exercise. If not, your dog will lag back while you turn and you will lose points.

The Left turn can be rather hard or easy depending on where your dog is at the time that you turn left. If the dog is a bit ahead of you then you have two options, one is to walk into your dog and the other is for you to speed up and walk in a turning fashion around him and so to steer him to the left.

Both ways are costing you points.

Your dog whilst heeling MUST at all times be level with you, that means the dog's shoulder must be level with your left leg.

Next there are the Left and Right ABOUT turns.

In the right about turn you must make a sharp "U" turn (non stop) and continue walking over the same path back. If your dog is lagging there is a good chance that after you made your right about turn you will meet your dog on the way back.

In the Left about turn you have two choices.

HAPPINESS IS AN OBEDIENCE TRAINED DOG CONT.,D

You may do a left about turn by turning left around your dog so that both of you make a Left about turn or you may make a pivot turn whereby you do a sharp Left "U" turn while your dog does a Right about turn around you. It doesn't matter which one you do here if your dog is not in the right position at the right time you have a problem.

To train your dog to work off the lead is a very carefully programmed procedure. In fact over the period that you train the dog to work off the lead he should be 80% ON the lead and 20% OFF lead. First of all you must be entirely satisfied that the dog is near perfect ON lead. Only then you can start OFF lead training.

For a start heel your dog on the lead for a few turns etc., then make him sit or stand and unclip the snap fastener at the correction chain. Leave the snap fastener hanging in such a fashion that it still touches the dog's neck while you continue to heel your dog. After a few turns etc., stop, put the dog back on lead and praise him. Next you undo the lead again and this time take the lead away from the dog while you are heeling him. Any time the dog lags or walks in front of you stop and attach the lead again, and so on. This exercise may have to be repeated many times but this way you can be sure that your dog will learn to heel off lead in a proper manner.

A very hard exercise in any heeling pattern is the FIGURE OF EIGHT exercise. Maybe not so much on the handler but for the dog it is very hard, as dogs can easily lose their sense of direction in this exercise because of the sharp left and right about turns they have to make. Even ON lead one can see some dogs cut in front of the steward during this exercise and of course one can see this more in the OFF lead. This is not always the dog's fault. In a lot of cases the handler just doesn't give the dog enough room to go around the steward so the dog cuts in front of him instead. But who gets the blame?

In training whether it be ON lead or OFF lead, the Figure of Eight exercise should always be the last exercise practised because of the reasons I described above. And when this exercise is being practised it should never be overdone, twice or three times around two stewards is plenty and one should then go at some exercises. If the first time was not successful try again at a later time, never keep on repeating this exercise for any length of time. Dog's do get fed up very easily and instead of gaining on the exercise you stand to lose.

Back to our Heel Off Lead exercise and let's see how we go in the Downs and Stands. There are many ways in which you can lose points in these exercises.

You may TELL your dog to drop or stand when it is required to do so in any trial and you may also use a hand signal for the same exercises. However, these two, the voice command and the hand signal MUST be given simultaneously otherwise you lose points. If they are not done both at the same time then they become separate commands and for that you lose points.

At trials a lot of competitors get points deducted not just for their hand signals but for the way they execute this exercise.

So let's see what the Rule Book says about hand signals: "A signal should be a single gesture, but arms or hands must be promptly returned to their normal position. Signals should be audible and must not touch the dog". Well that's quite a mouthful, so let us have a closer look at all this.

HAPPINESS IS AN OBEDIENCE TRAINED DOG CONT...D.

A signal should be a "Single" gesture according to the Rules but at the trials as well as on our grounds we can see handlers swing their arms like an elephant swings its trunk.

To give your dog the signal to drop you should bend forward from the hips slightly and with a FLAT open hand swing your forearm from the elbow in a downwards movement PAST the dog's nose to the ground WITHOUT touching the dog or the ground. After that your hand should go just as fast back to its normal position, which is at your side. I have said it before that dogs are inquisitive creatures and they do tend to follow your hand. So if you give the signal as described above your dog will nearly always drop straight, but if you swing your arm like an elephant trunk your dog may drop, but nine out of ten times it will drop on an angle because it follows your hand.

The correct signal to stand your dog is a bit easier.

You should again bend your body forward and then with a FLAT hand swing your forearm from your elbow in a horizontal way in front of the dog's nose. Hold it there just long enough for the dog to realise that if he takes another step he will walk into your hand. This should take no more than a few seconds after which your hand again should promptly return to its normal position. The best way to practice your hand signals is without your dog so you can concentrate entirely on your hand, when you are satisfied with your gesture try the same with the dog on the heel.

Another common fault in heel work is the way the handler comes to a halt from a normal pace. Far too often we can see the dog sit in front of the handler when they come to a halt, and of course we also notice that the poor dog again gets the blame for not heeling properly. In reality it is mostly the handler who is at fault. Coming to a halt from a normal pace one should after the Judge gives the order to halt, take at least two more steps. One for you and one for the dog, but they should be smaller than the normal steps. So when the order is given take another step smaller than the normal one and then another one which should be a bit smaller again. By doing it like this you more or less warn your dog that you are going to stop walking and this is perfectly legal. The benefit of this little exercise is that your dog will always sit next to you at the time that you come to a full stop. This fault is also common in the fast pace. One can see handlers coming to a halt out of the fast pace as though they hit a brick wall and the poor dog in that case can be seen sitting metres further up. And of course it gets the blame again.

Take the extra few steps and give the dog a go and by doing that you hang on to your points.

The last exercise I like to talk about in the heeling pattern is the SLOW pace.

In this exercise one can see a lot of dogs getting completely bewildered. They just don't know if they should sit or walk on. Why is that? Because the handler pulls up too fast to go too slow. Puzzled? Then let me explain. Nowhere in the Rules is stated how slow the slow pace should be. Instead it says that there should be a clear distinction between the normal and the slow pace. A lot of handlers will when they are ordered Slow pace, slam on the brakes, and what will the dog do at that precise moment? You guessed it, it will sit because it thinks that it's master just came to a halt. Next, some handlers will move much too slow for their dogs, in fact when one takes careful notice one can see the

HAPPINESS IS AN OBEDIENCE TRAINED DOG CONT...D

dogs actions clearly. He knows that whenever the left leg of his master moves forward he is to follow it, but in the slow pace when his master moves too slow that left leg is at a standstill much longer than normal and of course the dog will commence to sit again. To do a slow pace one should lead into it by gradually slowing down and find a pace to suit your dog. It is, therefore, best to train on this exercise without the dog especially the part where one slows down from normal pace to slow pace.

So that was the Heel off Lead exercise. I picked the most common faults handlers make and hope I have been of help to you by my explanations to rectify these problems.

Your next exercise is the STAND STAY which is also an off lead exercise. The most common fault in this exercise is Anticipation on the part of the dog.

A Judge will usually let you do only three or four steps before he gives the order Stand Your Dog. A lot of dogs get to know this and some of them will stand without command, that is anticipation and can cost you a lot of points. To avoid this you should alter the distance from the starting post to the actual stand every time you practice this exercise, from say, one step to ten or fifteen metres and anything in between.

The same goes for the length of time you make your dog stand and the distance you walk away from the dog.

If you follow these points then the phrase "Happiness is an obedience trained dog" can be just that!

Until next time.

DICK WILTINK
ASS. TRAINING SUPERVISOR

TRIAL RESULTS

BALLARAT

Len Richards

Kelly
(German Shepherd)

OPEN ASSOCIATE
3RD PASS G.D.X.

Highest Scoring Associate

Steve Pallett

..... Gemma
(German Shepherd)

ENCOURAGEMENT
1ST Place

Congratulations to those two members! If there were any more successes that I have missed out on please let me know and I will include them in our next issue.

FUN DAY

<u>Class 1</u>	G. Rock	Ben	3rd
<u>Class 1A</u>	J. King	Finn	1st
	J. Whitehouse	Johnathan	2nd
	A. Burrows	Bodie	3rd
<u>Class 2A</u>	A. Brearley	Ninja	2nd
<u>Class 3</u>	H. Chesterman	Pepi	1st
	F. Murphy	Ernie	2nd
<u>Class 4</u>	D. Hume	Floyd	2nd
<u>Class 5</u>	C. Campbell	Puppy	2nd
<u>Class 6</u>	C. Linguey	Sonny	2nd
	E. Slattery	Arie	3rd
<u>Class 6A</u>	T. Arnott	Danny	2nd
<u>Class 8</u>	D. Hume	Teddy	3rd
<u>Class 9</u>	L. Richards	Kelly	1st
<u>Class 10</u>	J. Boeyen	Qaid	2nd

TOTAL ENTRIES = WERRIBEE 45
ALTONA 92
GEELONG 123

ERRATA

My apologies to Marie Elliott for misspelling her TRACKING DOG's name in the last issue! Should read "Kellie" not "Kelly".

CLUB CALENDAR

4.10.88	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15/16.10.88	WORKING BEES
T.B.A.	CLUB FUN DAY
29.10.88	WORKING BEE
30.10.88	OPEN TRIAL
6.12.88	GENERAL MEETING

(WORKING BEE TIMES WILL BE ADVISED BY THE GROUND MANAGER THE WEEK PRECEDING THE REQUIREMENT.)

OBEDIENCE TRIALS & CLOSING DATES

	<u>CLOSING</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
WERRIBEE OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	1.10.88	15.10.88
ALTONA CIVIC OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	2.10.88	16.10.88
WARRINGAL OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	9.10.88	23.10.88
G E E L O N G	16.10.88	30.10.88
PENINSULA OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	23.10.88	5.11.88
EASTERN SUBURBS OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	30.10.88	13.11.88
SHERBROOK OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	6.11.88	20.11.88
SOUTHERN OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	12.11.88	26.11.88
GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF VICTORIA	13.11.88	27.11.88

ELAINE LONGSHAW
55 4603 A.H.