

Newsletter



NO 44

JANUARY 1992

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.
Committee for 1991/92

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<u>VICE PRESIDENT (1)</u>	Mr Colin Humphreys	50 2104	Training Supervisor
<u>VICE PRESIDENT (2)</u>	Mr Anton Pape	55 1618	Canteen Manager
<u>SECRETARY</u>	Mrs Lisa Blackwell	48 6208	
<u>TREASURER</u>	Mrs Margaret Burgess	61 3812	Property Officer
<u>ASS. SECRETARY/ TRIAL SECRETARY</u>	Mr David Blackwell	48 6208	Bar Manager/Club Nominee
<u>GENERAL COMMITTEE</u>	Mr Robert Beckingham		Assistant Publicity Officer/Assistant Social Co-Ordinator
	Mr Meinhard Brieberg	78 2296	Assistant Ground Manager
	Mr Bronco Ivec	55 2225	Ground Manager
	Mr Wayne Feldman	53 1030	Hall Manager
	Miss Leonie Kelleher	43 1277	Social Co-Ordinator
	Mrs Carleen McClure	75 1149	Publicity Officer

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

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.

NEWSLETTER NO. 44

This Newsletter is produced bi-monthly and distributed on the LAST training session of that particular month, so remember that and there will be no need to ever miss out on receiving your copy. If you are unable to attend on that date please see the Secretary and she will retain a copy for you to collect.

Once again we extend a warm welcome to all new members and may your time spent with us be fulfilling in not only what you achieve together with your dog, but in the new friendships forged through a common interest.

Once again during the break that most of you have had from the Club, there are those amongst us who have spent some considerable time at the grounds ensuring they are maintained in the high standard our Club is renowned for. Considerable work has gone in to installing sprinkler systems to enable more even distribution of water and to ensure we are not overly inconvenienced with the new Water Board rules of 'user pays'. To the members who helped in this project thank you!

The Christmas Dinner/Dance was a resounding success and although the numbers were down, the roll-up of old faces was good to see. The evening's catering was ably done by two of our members, Robert and Tammy Beckingham.

Our final night for 1991 saw our annual awards being presented to handlers and their respective dogs for titles obtained throughout the year (these are mentioned elsewhere in detail). For the only NON dog and handler award, we congratulate CHARLIE BARTOLO on being the Instructor/Committee Person of the year. Well done, your energetic approach to life is an inspiration for us all Charlie!

As this is my eighth year behind the typewriter I can afford to re-iterate some of the things I've said in previous issues as they are still just as relevant whether there are 80 of us training out on the grounds or whether there are 250.

Did we achieve what we wanted/or expected in training? If we didn't was it because we expected to do better but we really hadn't polished our acts; or was it because we didn't put the time into the task to achieve a satisfactory result. Remember, to achieve success you have to put in the time with your dogs, show them that you care consistently and in so doing they will return that care to you. You don't have to over train your dogs to get respect, you have to learn how to understand them, and the more time you can spend with them the closer the bond of understanding and companionship becomes; and through that, the basis of teamwork is laid.

Remember if you have problems in coping with training your dog in any way, have a chat with your Instructor or see the Training Supervisor, Colin Humphreys. None of the Instructors have perfect dogs and the mould for the perfect puppy has not yet been made. So just as you think there is no end to the mischief your dog has become involved in, SOMEONE else in the Club has been through the same situation at some time. There is light at the end of the tunnel, if you would but look in the right direction!

EL

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As this is the first Newsletter for the year I would like to extend to all members and their families all the best for 1992.

I would like to welcome all the new members of the Club and I hope that through the training that you receive from our Instructors it will enable you to have better control of your dog and make you a more responsible pet owner in our community.

During November one of the Committee's objectives for the year was to alter the store room. This was done by shifting and installing the roller door and grate which was on the north side of the store to the east side of the store. Also installing a mezzanine floor for storage has meant more room, and access to equipment is much easier. Thanks to all members and committee who helped in this project.

In December we had our Christmas function and from the feedback all who attended had a good night. Thanks to those members who decorated the hall, prepared the food, helped on the night with the raffle and those who helped clean up afterwards.

At our last training night it was pleasing to see one of our Instructors was awarded the trophy for the Best Committee/Instructor person of the Year. Congratulations to Charlie Bartolo, a recognition well deserved.

During the Christmas break another of the Committee's objectives was to install a sprinkler system in the grounds. This has now been completed and we hope we will never see those large cracks on our grounds again. Thanks again to those hard workers who helped in costing, purchasing and installing 1200 metres of piping and sprinklers to run the system.

Another objective of the Club was to update the Security System at our Club. This also has now been completed.

Please remember as members this is your Club and if at anytime you can assist if only for an hour it will be greatly appreciated.

At the end of January our Editor is going into hospital for an operation. To you Elaine from all of us at the Club we wish you all the best and hope that when you come back to the Club you will be jumping for joy.

Thanks again to all the Instructors and Committee for your support in running the Club. Without Instructors and Committee working together we would not have a Club.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO OBTAINED TITLE MEDALS ON THE LAST NIGHT OF TRAINING

- "EBONY BOY" PRINCE, a labrador cross, obtained Graduate Dog, owned by PETER BARNES.
- "RAFLES" RAFLES, a German Shepherd Dog Cross, obtained Graduate Dog, owned by MERLE SINCLAIR.
- "CHARNSAHAR NULLABOR" CASSY, a German Shepherd Dog, obtained Companion Dog, owned by ALEC BURGESS.
- "CH. ELSHADDAI JOSHUA" SAADI, a Dobermann, obtained Companion Dog, owned by ELAINE LONGSHAW.
- "PITOULISH LADY BELLA" BELLA, a Cocker Spaniel, obtained Companion Dog, owned by JO-ANNE HAMILTON.
- "ORMSLEE SWARTZ QUINTA" HANNAH, a Rottweiler, obtained Companion Dog, owned by PAUL METCALFE.
- "LUBRABEND WINTERS' EVE" EMMA, a Shetland Sheepdog, obtained Companion Dog, owned by MARGARET GETSOM.
- "ORMSLEE PRESIDENTS' LADY C.D." MARTA, a Rottweiler, obtained Companion Dog Excellent, owned by JENNY BRADBURY.
- "JENTAM SHOP N CHAT C.D." TAMMY, a Shetland Sheepdog, obtained Companion Dog Excellent, owned by LESLEY GAYLARD.
- "SHEPHOLME STORM SONG C.D.X." KELLIE, a German Shepherd Dog, obtained Tracking Dog Excellent, owned by Maria Elliott.

HIGHEST SCORING ASSOCIATE DOG OF THE YEAR:

"EBONY BOY G.D."

HIGHEST SCORING REGISTERED DOG OF THE YEAR:

"LUBRABEND WINTERS' EVE C.D."

CONGRATULATIONS TO PETER AND MARGARET FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT.

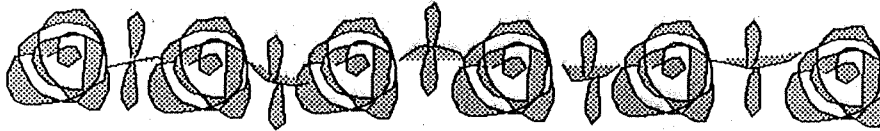


K9 PORTRAITS

Have your favourite and faithful friend captured artistically for you to keep and enjoy for ever.

Pictures are drawn in pastels and look very authentic with the subject's individual personality coming through. Each one is different in its own way.

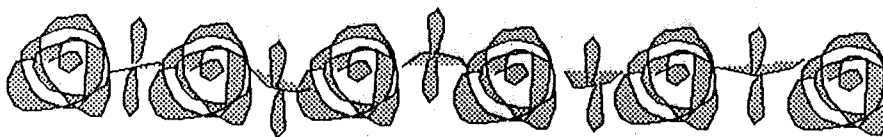
All you need to supply is a good photo which has captured the right light mood and personality.



PRICE FOR A FINISHED, MOUNTED PORTRAIT IS JUST:

**\$45.00 size : approx: 30cm x 50cm
(unframed)**

**\$75.00
(framed)**



Artist : Mary Feldman (Member of the GODC)

**Please phone me on 531030
or see Wayne Feldman (Instructor) during
training hours.**

BREED REVIEW

THE BULL TERRIER

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Strongly built, muscular, well balanced and active with a keen, determined and intelligent expression.

CHARACTERISTICS: The Bull Terrier is the gladiator of the canine race, full of fire and courageous. A unique feature is a downfaced, eggshaped head. Irrespective of size, dogs should look masculine and bitches feminine.

TEMPERAMENT: Of even temperament and amenable to discipline. Although obstinate, is particularly good with people.

COLOUR: For White, pure white coat. Skin pigmentation and markings on head not penalised. For Coloured, colour predominates; all other things being equal, brindle preferred. Black, brindle, red, fawn and tri-colour acceptable. Tick markings in white coat undesirable. Blue and liver highly undesirable.

SIZE: There are neither weight nor height limits, but there should be the impression of maximum substances for size dog consistent with quality and sex.

(THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE THE ONLY BREED WHERE WEIGHT AND HEIGHT ARE NOT SPECIFIED.)

Will Bull Terriers mix with my children?

A simple question, but no so simple to answer. If you already own a Bull Terrier and you have an addition to the family you may reasonably expect that Bull Terrier to love the new arrival and if necessary protect it with it's life. Variation from this attitude would normally only be caused by mishandling of the situation. Despite how well your Bull Terrier fits into the household and how humanised it may be, it's behaviour is governed by an inbuilt instinct, that of the pack, in short the pecking order. There is a complete structure of command in the animal's mind, from 'top dog' down, in order, to the 'bottom dog'. As long as the animal understands it's own position, there should be no trouble, if it does not, you may expect problems. The 'jealousy' sometimes encountered when a family has a new arrival, is a result of confusion in the animal's mind of the order. The fact that baby is receiving preferential treatment is sometimes hard to understand. THERE IS NO DOUBT, NO MATTER HOW WELL BEHAVED THE DOG IS WITH THE BABY, THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE LEFT TOGETHER ALONE AND UNATTENDED AT ANY TIME. If you already have children of an age that can cope with the physical bumps that a rapidly growing puppy can impart, they should mix successfully. However, it is better if potential owners with babies or toddlers wait for a few years. The puppy should not be expected to attack a child with malicious intent, but puppies do have sharp teeth, and in play they bite and hurt. However, the larger child is able to reprimand and to cope with the growing puppy, which should become more stable with maturity.

Can I Leave My young Child Alone with My Bull Terrier?

As with any breed of dog, a certain amount of common sense should be used. Generally speaking, NO. If the child is old enough to confidently walk the Bull Terrier on a lead there should be no trouble. With a group of children at play great care must be taken, as the screams and squeals will invite the Bull Terrier to join in, the more screams, the more excited the dog will become and a potential disaster is at hand, so beware.

Cont...



THE BULL TERRIER Cont...

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BREED

The Modern Day Bull Terrier descended from the primitive Bulldogs which were widely used in crude and brutal sports, such as bull baiting and staged fighting of dog against dog. In 1835 bull baiting was abolished by law in Britain and owners of Bulldogs and the crosses associated with them had to find other ways to promote and keep alive their cherished breeds.

During the latter years of the bull baiting era it had been found that the most effective type of dog for this "sport" was a cross between the heavy, rather slow, Bulldog and some kind of Terrier. At the time of the ending of bull baiting, Terriers were not divided into the many breeds as we know today but comprised any small active, but strongly built types that displayed keenness, courage and endurance. It was these, when crossed with the Bulldog that the bull baiters had found the most effective for their purposes: the results were variously known as Bulldog Terriers, Bull and Terriers, and sometimes as Bull Terriers.

It was this name that was chosen by one James Hinks, a dog breeder and dealer who lived in Birmingham, when he set out to fashion a new breed on more shapely and classical lines but retaining the fire and courage of its ancestors in the days of bull baiting, and which would appeal to the young bloods of the day.

At the time, the rough and ready Bull and Terrier crosses came in many colours, red, fawn, brindle, black, black and tan, white, occasionally blue and liver, and of course all these colours with white; all colours found in the Bulldogs and Terriers of the day.

James Hinks was something of a visionary; his vision was of a white dog built on clean and classical lines. Hinks also bred White English Terriers, a breed now extinct but similar in all but colour to the Manchester Terrier, as the breed was then known; and he decided to fashion a new breed with the strength and power of the Bull Terrier and the clean lines of the White English Terrier.

In order to improve the conformation of his new breed, Hinks at a later date, introduced the Dalmatian, and it is thought, other breeds before he began to achieve something approaching his ideal. Many of Hink's early products showed too many of the Bulldog characteristics for his taste, coarseness in head, wide fronts, crooked legs and irregular markings and it was not until about 1850 that he began to get somewhere near what he envisaged.

All this took place before the first dog show was staged in 1856 and long before the Kennel Club was founded in 1873. In 1862 James Hinks showed a white bitch called Puss, like many other bitches of her time, at a show in Holborn in London and was immediately challenged that his pretty little model was just that, and would have no fighting spirit. That evening Hinks' Puss was matched against one of the old time Bull and Terriers, the wager being five Pounds and a case of champagne, quite a substantial stake for those days. The contestants were matched weight for weight and Puss killed her adversary and emerged unmarked to win her class the next day. Bull Terriers were on their way!

The breed progressed strongly and consistently, attracting adherents from many walks of life until around the turn of the century at the instigation of the Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII, cropping of dogs' ears was abolished. This dealt a body blow to the Bull Terrier along with other cropped breeds; many people gave up the breed; they could not "take" large soft ears. But a hardcore of fanciers, including the Hinks Brothers, persevered and within twenty years, erect became the normal ear carriage of the Bull Terrier.

(This article was gleaned from a 16 page Breed Information Handbook compiled for the Bull Terrier Club by Dean Westbury.)

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BEHAVIOUR TIPS BEHAVIOUR TIPS BEHAVIOUR TIPS BEHAVIOUR TIPS

by Dr. Robert Holmes, 03 December 1991 as distributed to Veterinary Clinics as handouts for owners.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN WITH DOGS

Many couples have a dog before their first child and want to know what to do about the risk to their baby. It comes down to risk management and whether or not they are prepared to take any risk at all. If they are not prepared to take any risk whatsoever, then the dog clearly has to go. If they are prepared to take some risk then there are ways of reducing the chances of attack.

. Assessment

The possibility of an attack cannot be predicted with certainty because so many factors are involved. The only guarantee that can be given is that dead dogs don't bite.

A dog that has a track record of aggression to people and children, in particular, is clearly a danger. Euthanasia should be seriously considered. That is a hard decision to make but, in my experience, owners usually look back on it as a wise decision in the long-term.

. Supervision

I believe children of five years and under should be constantly supervised in the company of any dog. This is not easy as constant vigilance is hard work.

. Introduction

It can be made a privilege for the dog to be in the baby's company by only having the dog near the parent when the baby is around. This requires continuous and direct supervision of baby and dog when they are together.

By positive reinforcement for relaxed behaviour, and reprimand and sin-binning (a "time out" punishment described in October 1990 newsletter) for the slightest signs of aggression, avoidance or over-exuberance the dog can be shown how to behave in the baby's presence. The parent's behaviour appears to confer on the baby dominance over the dog. It seems that the dog regards the baby as an extension of the parent.

. Training the Toddler

It is just as important to train children how to behave towards dogs as it is to train dogs to be sociable to children. Children should be taught to:

- . avoid dogs that have food
- . avoid dogs that growl, snap or look scared
- . be quiet and gentle with dogs
- . only stroke a dog under the chin, neck and tummy
- . keep their faces away from the heads of dogs
- . not play tug-of-war or other aggressive or exciting games with dogs
- . not tease any dog
- . not poke, pull or squeeze any part of the dog
- . not look a dog in the eyes
- . avoid strange dogs if possible
- . stand still, turn sideways and let a strange dog sniff them if one comes up
- . never get a dog cornered

OBEDIENCE CALENDAR

	<u>CLOSING</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB		
R.O.T.	9. 2.92	23. 2.92
VICTORIAN GUNDOG CLUB INC. R.O.T.	16. 2.92	1. 3.92
EASTERN SUBURBS O.D.C.	16. 2.92	1. 3.92
WARRNAMBOOL & DISTRICT KENNEL & O.D.C.	23. 2.92	8. 3.92
VICTORIAN O.D.C. INC.	1. 3.92	15. 3.92
SOUTHERN O.D. TRAINING CLUB	7. 3.92	21. 3.92
KNOX O.D.C.	8. 3.92	22. 3.92
MURRAY VALLEY O.D.C.	15. 3.92	29. 3.92

CLUB CALENDAR

COMMITTEE MEETING	4. 2.92
INSTRUCTORS MEETING	24. 2.92
COMMITTEE MEETING	3. 3.92
WORKING BEE	29. 3.92
WORKING BEE	4. 4.92
<u>G.O.D.C. INC. AGILITY TRIAL</u>	5. 4.92
GENERAL MEETING	7. 4.92
COMMITTEE MEETING	5. 5.92
GENERAL MEETING	9. 6.92
COMMITTEE MEETING	7. 7.92
WORKING BEE	11. 7.92
WORKING BEE	18. 7.92
<u>G.O.D.C. INC. OBEDIENCE TRIAL</u>	19. 7.92
GENERAL MEETING	4. 8.92
COMMITTEE MEETING	1. 9.92
<u>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</u>	6.10.92
WORKING BEE	31.10.92
WORKING BEE	7.11.92
<u>G.O.D.C. INC. OBEDIENCE TRIAL</u>	8.11.92
COMMITTEE MEETING	3.11.92
GENERAL MEETING	1.12.92

COPY FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER WILL
CLOSE ON 12/3/92

*WORKING BEES ARE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION AS AND WHEN THE NEED ARISES.
GENERAL MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 8 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED, AND ALL MEMBERS
ARE REQUESTED TO BRING A PLATE.

TITBIT CORNER

ON LEAD/OFF LEAD that's what our ultimate training is about. Seems though there are amongst those that chew INTO LEADS. A puppy called KAARNI nearly became an item on SIZZLER's menu when she bared the wire on the television lead that was still plugged in and switched ON. Tsk! Tsk!

Talking about ON LEAD/OFF LEAD - seems there's some swelled heads in the DEANE household with Stan and Cindy featuring in the December edition. Even Cindy was swollen with pride and later brought eight more little Australian Cattle dogs into the warmth of our golden summer.

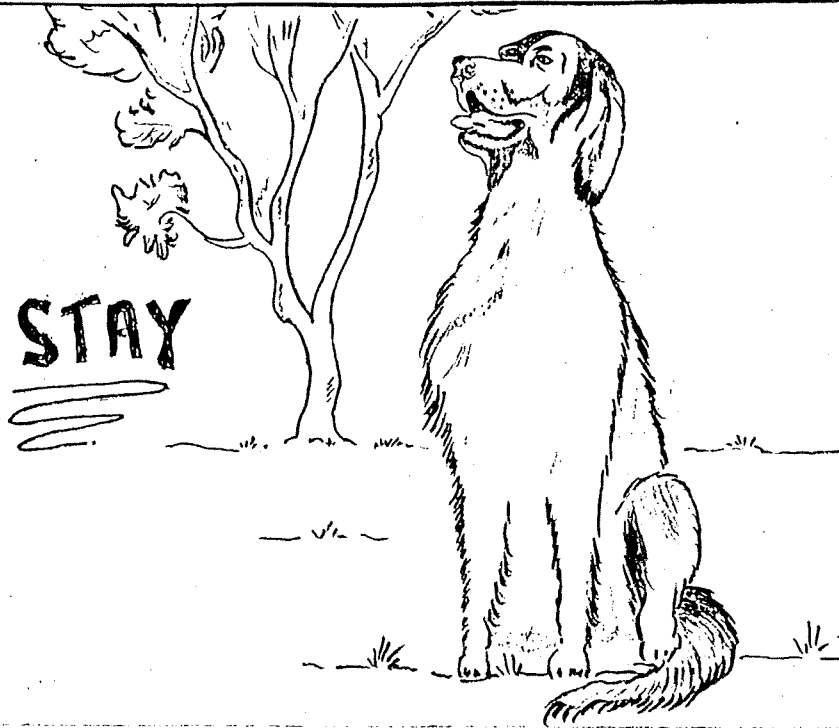
The state of the economy is really being felt hard by some committee members. One was seen recently to be rummaging through a garbage bag looking for cigarette packets! This is your life DAVID!

Some of you may have seen the film or read the book "FIRESTARTER". Seems the star needs to give ALEC BURGESS some tips as it apparently takes a week's supply of newspapers to be on hand for him to get the BBQ fired up!

PRIVATE OBEDIENCE TRAINING

ANY AGE -
ANY BREED

STAY



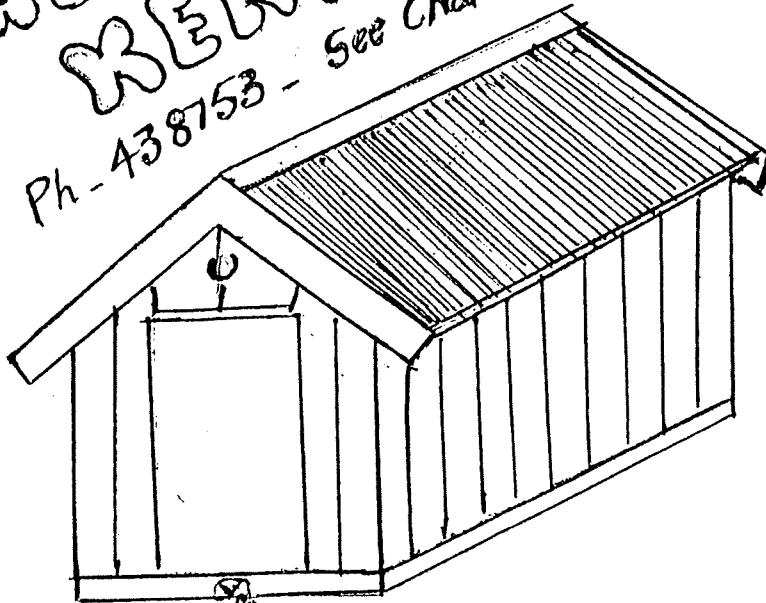
BASIC OBEDIENCE
& PROBLEM DOGS

20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE

CHARLIE BARTOLO ring 438753

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



ENQUIRES Ph 438753

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BREED REVIEW

THE HUNGARIAN VIZSLA

A medium sized dog of distinguished appearance, muscular and lithe, the Vizsla is affectionate and lively. One of the distinctive characteristics is the russet gold colour with brown eyes, nose and nails. They were bred as a multi-purpose gundog to hunt, point and retrieve fur or feather from land or water.

HISTORY

The Hungarian Vizsla is the national dog of Hungary. Its early origins are very hard to trace but its history probably began in the ninth century when the warring Magyar tribes migrated from the Steppes of Asia and eventually settled in the Carpathian basin, known today as Hungary. It is believed that, through the centuries, the Vizsla we know today was fashioned from the hunting/herding dogs which the Magyar brought with them.

For centuries the Vizsla was owned by the sporting nobility of Hungary and before firearms were introduced in the 1700's, was used to scent and search for birds which were then either caught by falcons or netted. Subsequently a gundog, with all-round ability, who could work on fur or feather, was required by the nobility of the day to work the plains of Hungary with their varying vegetation of thick crop cover, tall grasslands and cornfields. The dog needed to be fast and in possession of a good nose which would enable him to work the giant hare and to point the various gamebirds and wildfowl. The Vizsla was also used to hunt deer, wild boar and wolf, all of which he was expected to hold at bay. This was usually done using several dogs working together. In short, a dog of above average ability was necessary and, in the Vizsla, the Hungarians had such a dog.

In the 20th Century, two world wars and the Russian invasion of Hungary almost spelled disaster for the Vizsla. After the first world war, there were only about a dozen dogs which became the basis of all registered Vizslas in Hungary. During the Russian occupation many nationals fled taking their dogs with them and thus the breed became established in Europe and the West. The first Vizsla was imported into the U.S.A. in the 1930's and into the U.K. in the 1950's. The first Vizsla came to Australia from the U.K. in 1973, Victoria saw its first Vizsla, bred from the first two imports, in 1975.

Today the breed is growing in strength with an affiliated club which holds field trials, shows and members outings.

CHARACTERISTICS

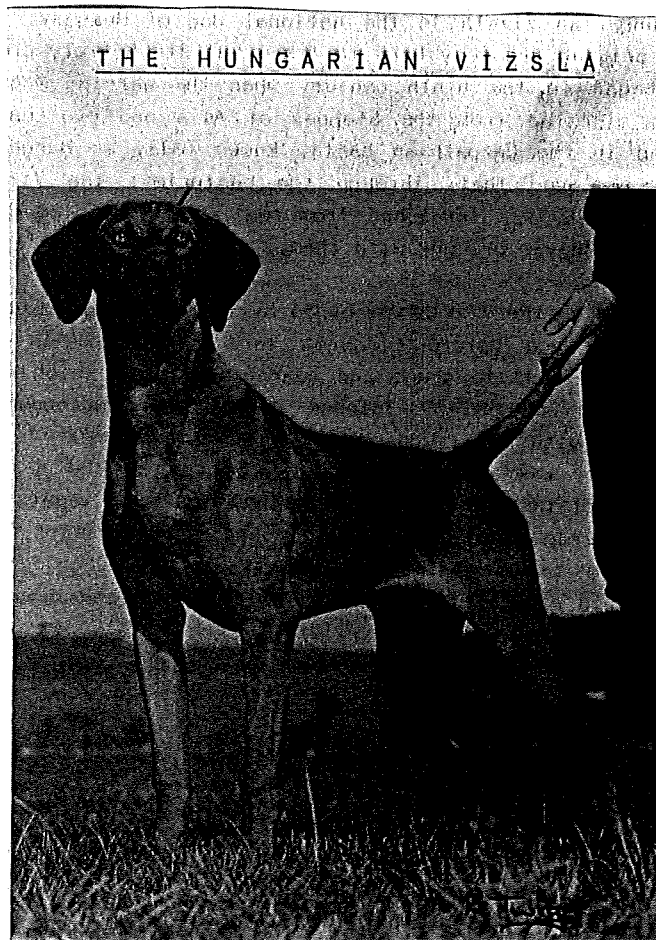
The Hungarian Vizsla is a distinguished looking dog of aristocratic appearance with a powerful build and graceful movement. The short, smooth coat requires little care and comes in varying shades of russet gold. The Vizsla does require exercise as he is an active dog but, above all, he needs human companionship. He is not a dog to be 'left' in the backyard as he can become destructive if bored. He is happiest when fully involved in family activities.

A splendid companion and alert watchdog, the Hungarian Vizsla responds well to obedience training because of his great desire to please. He learns very quickly. Being a bird dog, he loves retrieving and will, of his own accord carry objects around in his mouth. The Vizsla is also a natural swimmer and takes to water easily. Once confident in the water he will even dive to retrieve objects. An easy going, demonstratively affectionate dog, he manages well with children and is a practical size for most homes.

THE HUNGARIAN VIZSLA Cont...

The Vizsla is an extremely adaptable dog and overseas has been used as a guard dog, guide dog and even as a movie star. Here in Australia we have one very talented Vizsla who has had roles on "A Country Practice" and "E Street" as well as numerous commercials.

(Information supplied by Hungarian Vizsla Club of Victoria.)



BOOK REVIEW

BEYOND BASIC DOG TRAINING - by Diane L. Bauman

The author believes it is time to go beyond TRAINING dogs and start TEACHING them how to please us. Assuming that dogs are capable of reasoning and simple problem solving, the author feels that dogs need not be trained as if they were merely stimulus-response mice.

One of the reasons that this book is so special is that the author is not content with her dogs winning obedience trials. Instead she strives for perfect scores. She has achieved this feat many times and has one of her dogs in the Obedience Hall of Fame in America.

This is not just another teach your dog to sit and heel book either. The author wants her dog to think, not just be robots. One of the first lessons is getting the dog to pay complete attention to the handler and think about what he is doing. This of course means less lead correction.

In the early part of her book she looks at how guide dogs for the blind are trained... A GUIDE DOG IS FOREVER BEING FACED WITH NEW SITUATIONS - HE MUST BE ABLE TO REASON AND TO SOLVE SIMPLE PROBLEMS. TRAINERS WHO TEACH DOGS TO THINK BELIEVE THAT DOGS LEARN BY TRIAL AND ERROR AND THAT WHEN A DOG IS WRONG, THAT IS WONDERFUL BECAUSE WHEN HE EXHAUSTS ALL THE WRONG POSSIBILITIES HE WILL THEN BE RIGHT. WRONG IS NEVER BAD IT IS JUST WRONG. FUTURE GUIDE DOGS ARE REPEATEDLY ALLOWED TO MAKE THEIR OWN MISTAKES...

This author understands canine behaviour and how to communicate with her dogs. She has written this book so everyone can own the best dog possible. As it is presented in easy to understand steps, there is no reason why others can't train their dogs to this high standard. Unlike many other obedience books, there is no padding in this book. Every sentence has been written for a reason, to help make you, the reader, a good dog handler.

The first section of the book deals with the dog and you getting the right communication going so that the lessons can be understood. The second part of the book is mainly lessons to achieve some goal. The book is full of good photos and clever ideas to get the very best from your dog.

Chapters include:

- Training the thinking dog
- Wrong is wonderful
- Where to go to train
- Why not "NO".
- Understanding Corrections vs. Help.
- Praise
- Training Equipment
- Anticipation
- Special small dog and big dog techniques
- The ON and OFF switch of dogs attention
- Teaching the dog to heel
- Stay problems
- Teaching the retrieve
- Ready to start jumping?
- What may have caused this problem?
- and much more.

Whether you have a dog for work, pet or show this book will be a valuable asset to you.

Hardcover. 256 pages. \$36.95.

(At this stage this book is not in our Club Library, but may reach the shelves at a later date. However, enquire at your local library and they may well think it worthwhile in stocking this book.)

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DOG'S RUG

DOG'S KENNEL

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PETER HAINES 22 1586.



THE ANIMAL-AGGRESSIVE DOG by Roy Hunter

A dog which attacks, without reason, other dogs, humans and to a lesser degree other animals, can be called 'Animal Aggressive'. In the case of 'other animals', it may merely be the Hunting, Pursuit or Prey instinct coming into play, when the cat, sheep, etc., runs. This is not unnatural, but of course is undesirable, other than when we want to use these instincts for a distinct training purpose. If the dog is trained to be under control, then this instinct can be curbed without our permission.

What I want to discuss here is what we come into contact with most often in dog training classes, and that is the dog that is aggressive to its own species. Firstly, we must try to isolate the cause. Is it nervous, is it over-sexed, is it over protective? When we understand the reason, then we can be prepared for when the aggression is about to manifest itself.

No matter what the cause, we must let the dog clearly understand that certain types of behaviour are NOT SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE. If it bites through fear (and here I'm talking about the dog that flies at another dog or a person without warning, not the dog that cowers away and bites out of self defence when it cannot get away, in which case it should not have been put in that position). If it bites through fear, then we must make it more afraid of the consequences if it GOES TO BITE, than the fear originating the attack. By this I am not encouraging cruelty (which in any case is relative with each dog), with some dogs just the knowledge that they are displeasing you is enough. But with some dogs we have got to be very hard, and some people will not accept this. I say to you - CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE. Out of protection for other dogs or humans, the alternative is to have the dog put down or, as the Great Charlie would say "Give it a home on a farm - under six feet of earth". The dog that bites through dominance must be dominated, the dog that bites through over protective instincts must be taught that although you want your dog to be protective, you are the one who dictates when.

The tools we have to teach the dog are the same ones we use for Obedience training - your voice, your lead and the check chain. Our timing is critical in these situations. If we correct when the dog has bitten, we are too late. If we correct when the dog lunges, we are too late. When it growls, too late. The time to correct your dog is WHEN IT IS THINKING ABOUT ATTACKING. It will show this by a barely discernible change in its attitude; a stiffening of the body; a focusing of the eyes. This is when you must give a harsh jerk, and a harsh command simultaneously. The words don't matter, it can be "Leave", "No", or Konrad Most's favourite "Bah". It must be harsh and the jerk on the chain must really mean something (compatible with the dog's temperament and physique - note the word 'temperament' comes first!) It is no good being half hearted, you will only convince your dog that not much harm will come to him even though you do disapprove. Again I say, if you think you are unable to hurt your dog, consider the alternative. Would you need a Court Order to put your dog down if it mauled a small child?

Up to yet I don't think I have said any more than most people have already been taught, now we will go one stage further. Following the general pattern of training, most handlers after admonishing their dog for intended aggression, will then praise and comfort their dog. THIS IS WRONG! And this is the reason for this article!

Contrary to the usual procedure where, after we have corrected our dog, and he has adopted the correct position, or done what we wanted to him, we must immediately praise him. In this instance WE MUST NOT. If we praise the dog at this time, to release him from his dejection, we might be praising him just as he is thinking "Well, I've been stopped this time, but I'll get you in a minute". We are now encouraging an attack.

Cont.....2

THE ANIMAL-AGGRESSIVE DOG Cont...

This is so important, I'll put it a different way. We must never even reassure our dog after we have admonished it for showing aggression, even if the aggression was by just a look, or a flick of the ear. Praise follows correction when a dog does something we want him to do. Praise does not follow correction when the dog REFRAINS from doing something we don't want him to do. The correction is far more effective and meaningful when it comes from the handler. If the handler is physically unable, or mentally unwilling, to apply the correction, then the instructor should undertake the job (is the instructor insured?). This is not so effective, as it may cause the dog to believe it only has to behave in the presence of the instructor. However, it is better than nothing. If the handler/owner is unwilling to let even the instructor correct his dog, then he should be asked to leave the Club. There is no excuse for everyone else's dog in a club to be put in jeopardy.

In some cases the owner should be advised to attend private lessons, so that the whole class is not upset. A small minority of dogs, if it is left too late, will never be cured. These dogs will put other dogs, and people in danger every time they are in the vicinity of each other. There is only one alternative for these dogs, and it does not hurt, or worry the dog in the slightest. It is no good offering these dogs to the Police, RAAF, etc., as these organisations require reliable, sound dogs. Breeders who continue to breed with dogs of unsound temperament especially the nervously aggressive ones, are being criminally irresponsible. Judges who put up such dogs are aiding and abetting them.

Now, having emphasised the need for NOT reassuring your dog after a correction for THINKING about attacking, let me add a rider. If after two or three corrections when another dog is brought near to it, a previously aggressive dog ACTIVELY shows his disinclination to challenge, i.e. by deliberately looking away, then we can praise it. It is now DOING something (looking away), not REFRAINING from doing something (i.e. attacking).

Before starting on this program (a funny word for perhaps a ten minute exercise) we must first ensure that the leash and chain are adequate for the size of the dog and that the clip is correctly fastened. If not, the result can be embarrassing!

I first learned this principle of not praising after correction in these circumstances from Jack Volhard in the U.S.A. Since applying these methods with 'problem' dogs, I have had nearly 100% results. In every case the handler, before being told not to by me was fondling and praising his dog following the correction. In some cases the correction they gave was over harsh for the particular dog, but it had not cured the dog, because being praised afterwards, the dog was unsure of what was required of it.

Acknowledgements to Dog Training Weekly, Vol 21 No 8, 25 February 1983, for permission to reproduce this article in The Rottweiler Club's Newsletter No. 93, Spring 1983. Our thanks for being permitted to reprint this same article.

The great pleasure of a dog is that you make a fool of yourself with him, and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too.

Samuel Butler

Newfoundland dogs are good to save children from drowning, but you must have a pond of water handy and a child, or else there will be no profit in boarding a Newfoundland.

Josh Billings

BASIC OBEDIENCE CERTIFICATE PASSES

CONGRATULATIONS TO -

John Hallsworth and Sam

Thomas Harvey and Sally

Sally Smelter and Pepper

Julie Berryman and Mac

Well done to these people and Good Luck in Class Three....

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TRIALERS PLEASE NOTE:

Keep a record of your trial scores for the Highest Scoring Trial Dog of the Year. They don't have to be brilliant scores but your average is calculated and then five points for each trial is added to your average score. It could be you taking off this award this year!

Remember, it is your responsibility to keep score records and hand them into the Secretary or Trial Secretary.

Title forms and score record sheets are available from the Secretary's office.

DID YOU KNOW?

To be eligible to compete at Obedience Trials in Open, Utility and Agility classes, competitors must have their dogs measured for a Height at Shoulder Card (H.A.S. Green Card). The dog must be measured by two full panel judges at least two weeks prior to the trial date. They cannot be measured on the day. Your H.A.S. Card must be carried by you to all trials and be presented to the Judge or Steward before entering the ring.

Good luck with trialling in 1992.

DAVID BLACKWELL
TRIAL SECRETARY

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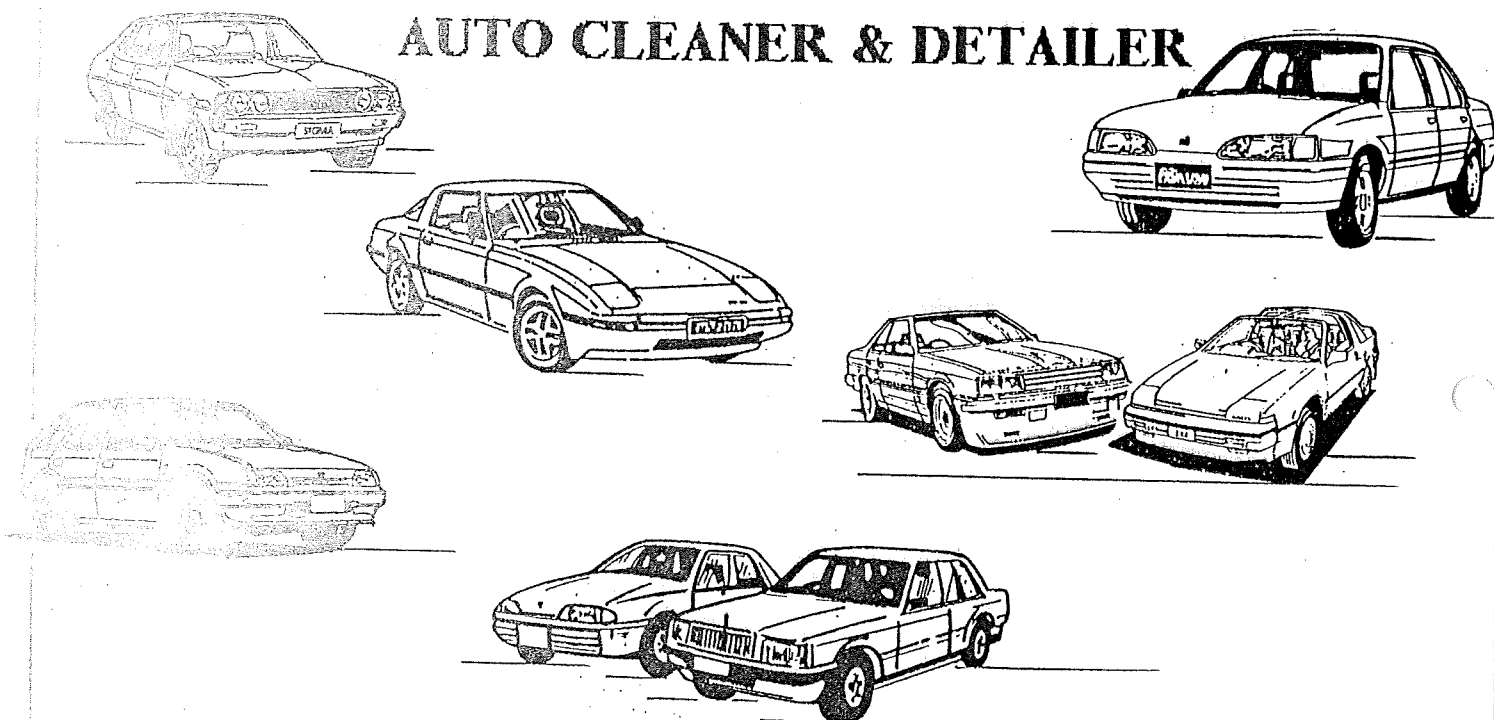
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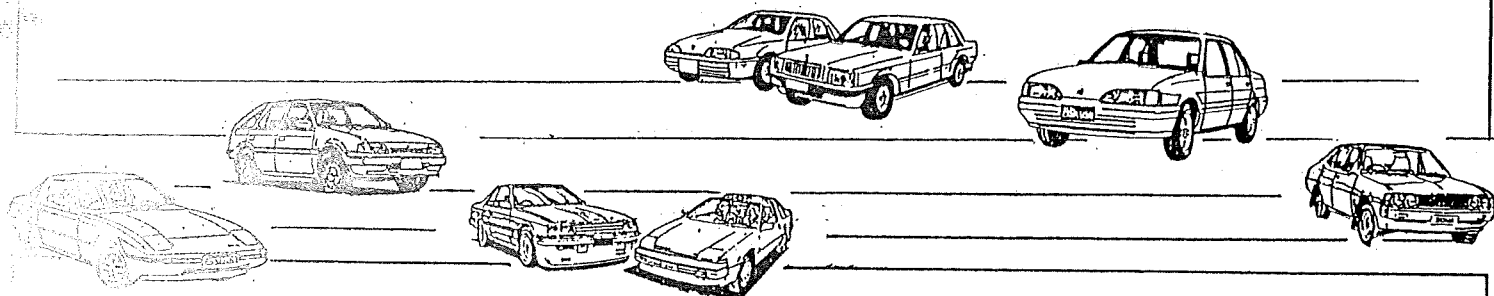
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Bumpa

DAY FOR DOGS

SUNDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY, 1992

at 10.00 am

KCC PARK, CRANBOURNE

*The VCA invites you to join in
the **BIGGEST Dog Match of the year***

(Judges appointed on the day – Class entry fee only)

**Meet "Bumpa"
Victoria's No. 1 Responsible Dog**

"SURVIVAL DAY" at The Park. We must promote
RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP to our State
Politicians and Local Councillors on our grounds.

With our hobby under threat, this is the day to stand
up and be counted. The new VCA Management
Committee will launch their campaign to promote
RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP.

Invite your friends and neighbours to a
FUN Day at The Park.

"Bumpa" – who is the VCA Mascot will be there
looking for other RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS.

**You asked for ACTION
... well here it is
OK, now it's your turn!!!**

- ★ Dog Match
- ★ Breed Information
- ★ Obedience Demos
- ★ Agility Teams
- ★ Entertainment
- ★ Veterinary Advice
- ★ Catering On-site

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bring the kids**

**LOTS TO SEE and
LOTS TO LEARN**

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ADMISSION**

★ ★ ★

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