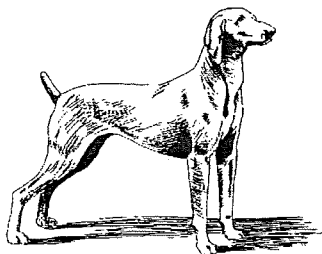
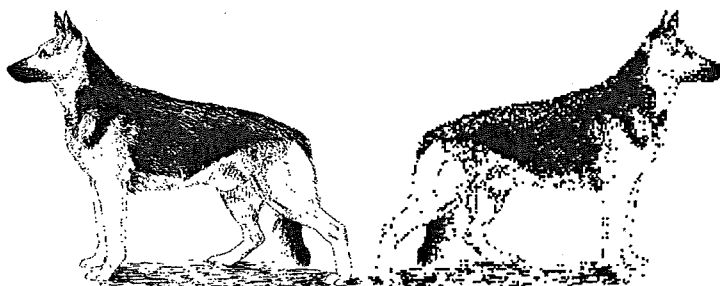
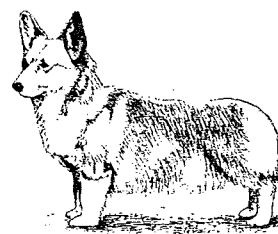
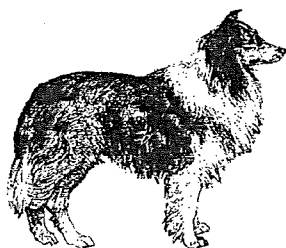
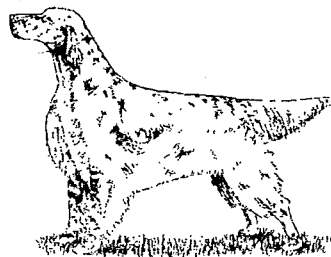
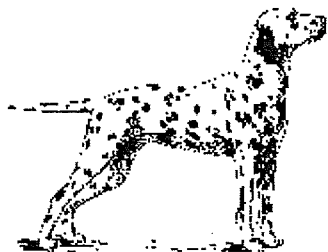


FAITHFULLY YOURS



ESTABLISHED 1954

Incorporation No A5419H

ABN 79 874 613 605

Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc
PO Box 186
GEELONG 3220
Phone: 52 434 555

February 2001
Issue No
108

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GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Committee for 2000/2001

PRESIDENT	Leonie Kelleher	52 431 277	Public Officer
VICE-PRESIDENT (1)	Arthur Thorogood	52 441 819	Training
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		Email: jcgret@ozemail.com.au	
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Wendy McCraw	52 487 865	Canteen Manager
	Fred Lehrmann	52 215 318	Grounds Manager/ Equipment Manager
	Barbara Thorogood	52 441 819	Hall Manager
	Brian Voysey	52 216 332	Publicity Officer
	Fiona Mackey	52 661 486	Social Secretary
	VACANT		Assistant Social Secretary/Raffle Steward
NON-COMMITTEE	Desma Dickeson	52 789 585	Training Supervisor/ Display Team Leader
	Karen Hinkley	52 772 994	Shop Manager
	Sylvia Noblett	52 817 442	Librarian
	Gordon McCraw	52 487 865	Bar Manager
	Pam Nuessler	52 784 942	Newsletter Editor
	VACANT		Webmaster

The opinions in the 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: -

THE SECRETARY

PO BOX 186

GEELONG 3213

Visit the Club's website at www.ozemail.com.au/~jcgret

Newsletter closing date for all items – 15th of each month

REPORTS

REPORTS

REPORTS

DISPLAY TEAM REPORT

Practice started on the 11th February and as only half the team attended we got off to a very slow start! Could all members of said team please remember that one of the criteria for being in the squad is to attend training regularly.

The next day for that is 25th Feb at 8.30am so please make the effort so that we can vary the routines occasionally.

Crewmembers are required for the Display Team – dogs are worked on lead most of the time. They must be under control and sociable while out in public – the same of course applies to their owners.

Members of the team are expected to attend regular practice – usually every 2 weeks for a short time prior to the start of classes on Sunday morning.

We are a fun-loving group (as are our dogs). Do please give serious thought to joining us to promote both our club and responsible dog ownership.

If anyone is interested and needs further information do come to talk to me.

Desma Dickeson. TEAM LEADER.

.....

GROUND MANAGERS REPORT

We got through summer quite well. There is a green tinge on the grass and only small cracks. The grounds are watered every second day for 4 hours. It kept me busy during the holidays as some sprinklers broke down and had to be replaced. They are now 10 years old and therefore we have purchased replacements that we will have to change over before next summer. This will be done in a series of working bees. More to that at a later stage when “*your*” club will be calling on “*you*” to put in a few hours.

We still have a problem with “doggie doo’s”! Buckets are supplied at all times and you are expected to clean up after your dog. If you see someone not noticing his or her dog “doing it” give them a wake up call because it may be you that steps into it later on.

Parking is another area we should improve. Recently our membership has grown and we therefore have to park nice and neatly (and not 3 m apart) in order to get every one into the parking areas. Please do your best.

Being of German background I have copped some “Reminders” of that over the years, some in jest, some in anger or just some being smart. Those people loose my respect and when it comes from Club Members it is very disappointing. Let’s hope that there is no more of that!

Fred Lehrmann. GROUNDS MANAGER/EQUIPEMENT MANAGER.

REPORTS

REPORTS

REPORTS

CANTEEN REPORT

I hope everyone had a safe and happy Xmas and New Year. It's that time of year again when we need to try and get a roster going for volunteers to help me run the canteen. I only require your help between the two training sessions, which is 10.15am – 11.45am. If you are able to help, please see me in the canteen, or fill in a form that has been handed out in your class. Please remember the canteen is there for you, and without your help I may need to shorten the hours and or/limit what's available.

For those who are not sure when the canteen is open, I will have the canteen open from 8.45am and will close at 12.15 pm. With the New Year beginning I have made a few changes to what's available in the canteen. If you have any suggestions please feel free to let me know, and I'll see what I can do. For the new members the canteen offers coffee, tea, milo, cold drinks, hot food, and snacks. Please feel free to come in and have a look at what we have to offer.

Wendy McCraw CANTEEN MANAGER

.....

FOR SALE

DOG COATS ~ ASSORTED SIZES

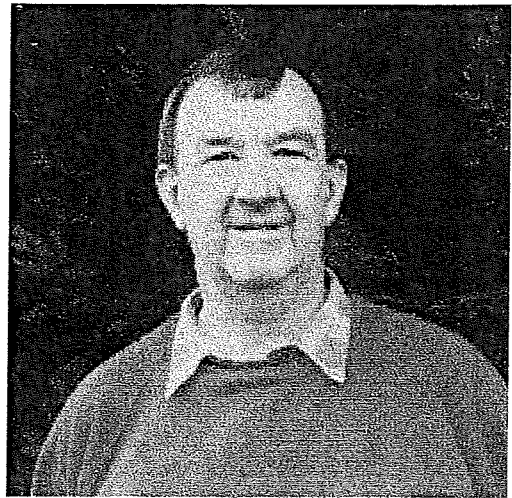
LARGE DOG BED COVERS

**IF INTERESTED~CONTACT LEONIE
HERE ON SUNDAYS or PH: 52431277**

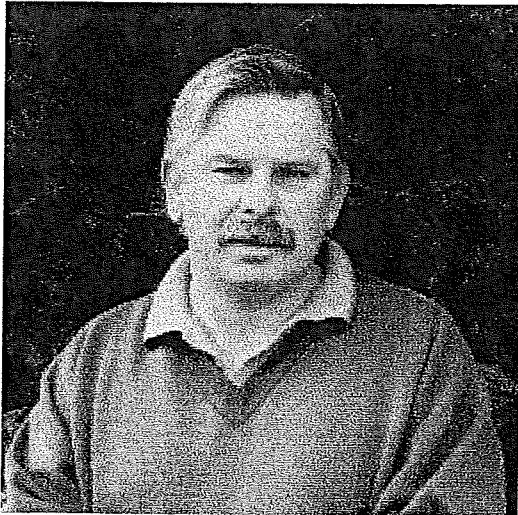
INTRODUCING SOME OF OUR INSTRUCTORS



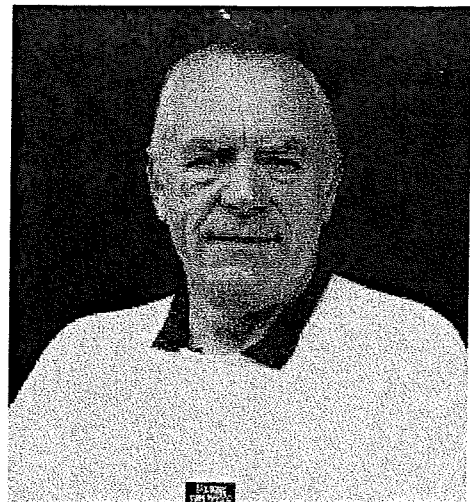
Desma Dickeson
Training Supervisor



Bruce Cairns



Colin Humphreys



Arthur Thorogood
Vice President in Charge of Training

TRIAL DATES

April

Sunday 1	Warringal Obedience Dog Club	Obedience
Saturday	Bendigo Obedience Dog club	Preliminary Tracking Test
	Border Collie club of Vic	Open Agility Trial (2)
Sunday 8	Moorabbin & District Obedience Dog Club	Obedience
Saturday 14	Agility Dog Club of Vic	Agility Trial (2)
Sunday 15	Agility Dog Club of Vic	Agility Trial (2)
	Gippsland Obedience Dog Club	Preliminary Tracking Test
Sunday 22	Peninsula Obedience Dog Club	Obedience
Saturday 28	Red Cliffs District Kennel Club	Obedience
	Altona Civic Obedience Dog Club	Endurance Test
Sunday 29	German Shepherd Dog Club of Vic	Preliminary Tracking Trial
	Red Cliffs Ladies K & O Club	Obedience
	Croydon & District Obedience Dog Club	Obedience



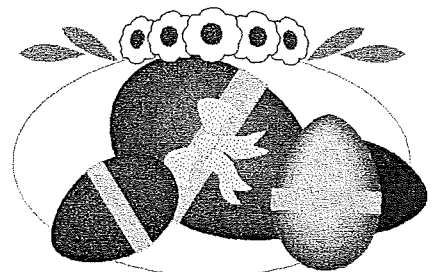
CLUB CALENDAR

March

Thursday	1 March	Puppy Kinder for puppies 8 – 16 weeks
Friday	2 March	Red Cross collection day
Saturday	3 March	First Aid Seminar for Dogs and Cats – 2.00pm to 8.00pm
Sunday	4 March	Class 1 Intake. Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Sunday	11 March	Labour Day weekend. NO TRAINING
Thursday	15 March	Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Sunday	18 March	Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Monday	19 March	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm
Sunday	25 March	Newsletter available

April

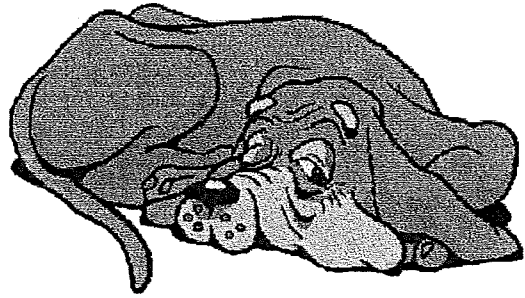
Sunday	1 April	Class 1 Intake. Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Tuesday	3 April	General Meeting – 8.00 pm unless otherwise advised
Thursday	5 April	Puppy Kinder for puppies 8 – 16 weeks
Friday	13 April	Good Friday BBQ – to be advised
Sunday	15 April	Easter weekend. NO TRAINING.
		Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Sunday	22 April	Walk for Animal Welfare – Queen's Park
Monday	23 April	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm. Trial entries close
Wednesday	25 April	Anzac Day
Saturday	28 April	Trial Working Bee – to be advised
Sunday	29 April	PROMOTION DAY. Newsletter available



Happy Easter

NEW MEMBERS

The Committee, Instructors and Members would like to welcome the following new Members who have joined the Club in the first intakes of 2001. We hope you achieve your goals with your canine companions



1 February 2001

French Clare
Waugh Kate/Sanderson Jason
Hovey Sue
Munday Brian

Bischof Carolyn

Peters Tammy/Kerr Matthew
Jarrry Darren

Baran Rebecca

4 February 2001

Christou Family
Wait Michelle
Pinch Laure
Martinez Geoff/Fogarty Susan
Marfatia Family
Breasley Family
Rice Cameron
Williams Angela

Kitchen Tracey
O'Brien Shelley
Mathews Ron
Blackford Family
Hindson Jessica
Coughlan Louise
Yarker Michael
Egan Therese

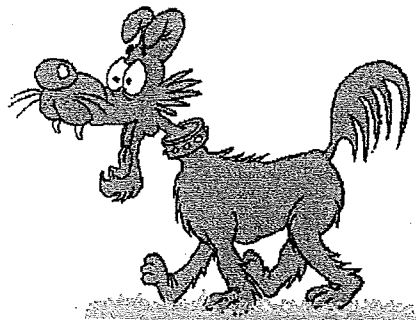
McCormack Daria
Mazengarb Jill
Warren Nathan/Mol Christine
Irvin Family
Brown Laura
Hauenstein Family
Fielding Michelle/Bourke Anthony

11 February, 2001

van Veldhoven Jamie
Mondin Dawn
Perkins Brian
Synot Amanda/Dennison David
Jordan Philippa
Hall Nathania/Bubb Tim
Stewart Cathy
Reidy Brenda
Arnott Wayne/Jarmyn Gale
Martinez Geoff/Fogarty Susan
Hall Family
Cameron Charles

Barton Naomi
Hyland Steven/Pohlman Georgia
Hicks Simon
Graham Liza
Bishop-North Julie-Anne
Mahoney Family
Wood Hilary
Rodda Family
Bell Janine
Appleton Iris
Pidd Rhiannon/Murray Jenny

Parratt Noel
Weston Family
Bolton Family
Robinson Diane
Miller Family
Parrott Dale
Layton Ruth
Jones Kerrie
Gannon Maree/Sheedy Tyson
Harrison Family
Langdon Kelly



CLASS _____

CLASS _____

CLASS _____

CLASS _____

CLASS _____

CLASS _____

CLASS _____

CLASS _____

ENTRY
EXIT

CAR PARKING

NO
PARKING

CAR PARKING

CLASS _____

CLASS _____

CLASS _____

CLASS _____

CLASS _____

MEMBERS CAR PARKING
FOR YOUR SAFETY
AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS
PLEASE OBSERVE ALL SIGNS AND
SPEED RESTRICTIONS ON THE GROUNDS

PUPPY CLASS

Activity

VERANDAH
SHOP
OFFICE
CLUBHOUSE

STORE
ROOM
TOILETS

COMMITTEE
PARKING

DO NOT PARK BEYOND TREE LINE

INSTRUCTORS AND
COMMITTEE PARKING ONLY

PREFAKUNIA ROAD

ENTRY

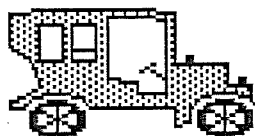
EXIT

HEAT AND YOUR DOG

*Reprinted from the Hoppers Crossing Vet Clinic Gazette
Spring/Summer Issue*



Many pets die each year because they are left inside a car on hot days. The temperature inside a car on a hot sunny day can exceed 60 degrees Celsius. In about 10 minutes this temperature will cause heat stroke, brain swelling and heart and lung failure in your pet.



On really hot days a partly open window is still not enough to keep your pet from suffering heat stroke.

Please do not be ignorant of the dangers. Never leave your pet inside a car on a hot or even just a warm day, as you will risk severe stress and even death.



GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Back-to-back Agility Trials

Saturday 5 May 2001



On Saturday 5 May, our Club will be holding back-to-back Agility Trials (morning and afternoon) and as usual we will be relying on Club members to help make this day a success. You can offer your help for the day or just one hour, whatever you have available and jobs include - working bees prior to the day, stewarding, setting up equipment, canteen help and cakes for the cake stall just to name a few.

Please keep this date in mind, further information will be available closer to the date.



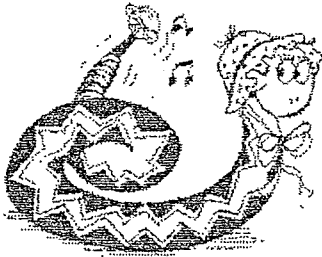
NO TRAINING

LABOUR DAY WEEKEND
11 March 2001

EASTER WEEKEND
15 April 2001

Next
PROMOTION DAY
29 April 2001

SNAKE BITES



If a snake bites your dog the treatment you give on the way to the vet could make the difference between life and death.

Signs to look for trembling, sweating, enlarged pupils, drooling saliva, vomiting, excitability, collapsing a few minutes after being bitten. Death may occur from a paralysis of breathing. Urine may turn red in later stages.

Venomous snakes usually leave two puncture marks at the sight; non-venomous snakes usually leave a row of small teeth marks.

What to do

Identify the snake if at all possible, if you can't, assume it is poisonous

Restrict movement as much as possible – carry the dog – don't walk it (difficult if you have a wriggler or a St Bernard!)

Wash wound with cold water to remove any surface venom

If the limb is bitten, apply a bandage from top to bottom, not just the wound site. Make sure it is firm, not too tight

Seek veterinary treatment immediately, it is best to ring ahead if possible, to ensure that the correct antivenene is available

Most snakes are more active at dawn and dusk – when there is more food available ie mice, frogs, etc

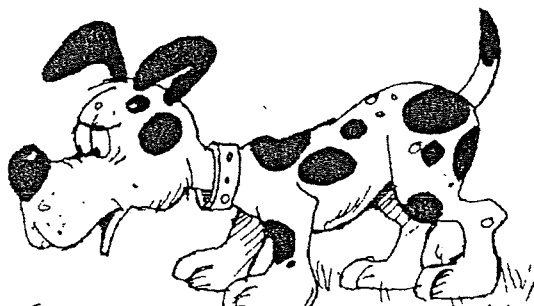
As a rule, most snakes are not aggressive and will not go out of their way to bit, unless they are protecting a nest. They would prefer to retreat and be left alone

Take caution when walking your dog or walking yourself by waterways and in long grass – best to avoid these areas during high snake season – usually late October through to Winter, when they hibernate. Also, don't forget that snakes can swim and snakes, such as the Red bellied Black snake, are fond of well-watered areas and can stay submerged for lengthy periods.

"Every Dog – E Allan and R Bloggs"

EDITOR'S NOTE

With the weather warming up, please be aware when you are out walking. The area surrounding the Club is a haven for snakes, especially the brown snake, which is the most common snake to bite dogs.



WHY DO WE VACCINATE OUR DOGS?

Dangerous infectious diseases that could affect your dog

Responsible pet care requires puppies to be taken to the vet for their initial course of vaccinations, but these cannot protect them for the rest of their lives. The immunity weakens over time and your pet can again become susceptible to disease. Should your pet become infected, treatment can require frequent visits to your vet and possible hospitalisation. Not all diseases can be cured and disability or death often results. "The only practical means of protection is vaccination".

CANINE DISTEMPER

Distemper is a highly contagious viral disease that can affect dogs of any age with young puppies being of highest risk. Symptoms vary but can include fever, coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, vomiting, diarrhoea, and loss of appetite and depression. Muscle tremors, fits and paralysis usually occur later in the disease. Treatment is usually ineffective and the recovery rate is very low. Dogs that do recover may have permanent brain damage. Vaccination recommended.

CANINE HEPATITIS

A viral disease which, like distemper is extremely contagious and often fatal. Dogs of any age can become infected, however severe cases are rare in dogs over 2 years of age. Symptoms include high fever, depression, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea and acute abdominal pain. In severe cases death can occur within 24 to 36 hours. Dogs that recover may develop long term liver and kidney problems and can act as carriers spreading the disease to other dogs for many months. Vaccination recommended.

CANINE PARVOVIRUS

Canine Parvovirus is a disease that affects dogs of all ages but is more serious in young pups and older dogs. Death can occur within 24 hours. In young pups, death may occur without any warning with the virus attacking the heart. In older pups and dogs the virus attacks the intestines causing blood stained diarrhoea, uncontrollable vomiting and severe abdominal pain. The virus is so persistent that the dog's environment needs to be thoroughly cleaned with a potent disinfectant to prevent spread to other dogs.

Outbreaks occur regularly throughout Australia, especially in summer. Vaccination recommended.

CANINE COUGH (TRACHEOBRONCHITIS), (KENNEL COUGH)

Canine Cough is a condition produced by several highly infectious diseases, which can be easily spread wherever dogs congregate, such as shows, obedience schools and boarding kennels. Among the infectious agents associated with Canine Cough are the bacteria known as Bordetella bronchiseptica and the canine viruses Parainfluenza, Infectious Laryngotracheitis and Distemper. Affected dogs have a hacking cough known to persist for several weeks. It is distressing for pet dogs and their owners and can disturb neighbours. It is a major problem for working and sporting dogs. Vaccination recommended.

THE TWO MOST COMMON VACCINES ARE LISTED BELOW

Websters

Protech Vaccines

6 – 8 weeks Protech CST

12 weeks Protech C4

then yearly CST

T = Trachgard vaccine – an intranasal spray for the bacterial strain of Canine Cough

The C4 part of the vaccine contains the viral protection of Canine Cough

CSL

6 – 8 weeks DHPKC

12 weeks DHPKC

16 weeks P booster

then yearly C5B

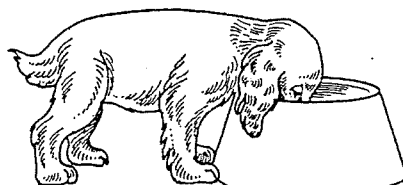
The CSL vaccine requires a course of 3 injections one-month apart. The first two vaccinations protect against, Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Canine Cough (Kennel Cough) both viral and bacterial.

A parvo booster is required at 16 weeks



Reprinted courtesy of Top Dog Journal – January 1999

- DDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDD



TOP TRAINERS USE DOG PSYCHOLOGY

by

Gary Somerville – National Dog – December 1991

Psychology is the foundation of dog training.

The owner who does not understand the mind of his animal misses out on the best part of having a dog. Dog psychology is a hifalutin term for something which owners have been cultivating for over 12,000 years.

When you try and explain it to dog obedience classes, people are not interested - they turn off. But the few that do show interest are the future top trainers. And, despite opinions to the contrary, a good instructor should persevere in explaining it to classes. That's one of the main reasons why there are only a few "motivated" dogs in Australia. Not many work eagerly with a willing smile. The way that we are taught to train Fido dampens motivation.

A good trainer that knows how a dog behaves will spot an error immediately and correct it in a friendly, positive way. He knows how his dogs mind functions and how it receives ideas. If you understand the nature of your dog and how you co-operate together it follows you know how to correct a fault in a friendly, confident manner.

This joint effort comes from "reading" Fido correctly and knowing the reason behind everything he does. You must know his personality intimately and be able to get into his furry body to "feel" about the things he does. You must learn to put yourself in his world by understanding his natural culture. You don't set out to change it. You set out to improve what is already there. This often means changing your methods.

Pups receive their basic training from Mum and the littermates. They all gave him plenty of discipline. Then he's free and looking for another authoritative figure to take over. Try to think like your dog. When he comes to you as a pup he is an animal with the primitive brain of a wild pack member looking for another pack leader. If you are patient you will find dogs teach you more than you ever teach them.

Dogs look at life in two ways - restriction and freedom. This is why dogs respond better to training after being confined. All dogs need a holiday from train, train, train. Continuous training sours an eager pooch and reading his body language alerts you to this. All the time you are with your four-footed friend you are quietly but firmly encouraging and discouraging his individual actions to suit what he must do in obedience trials.

This power to control is based on mutual respect. You use what is inside the dog, the real dog, by training his mind, not his body. It is not wise to pressure Fido into doing an exercise over and over again because his first attempt failed. You are just flogging a dispirited dog and making him associate the exercise with dislike. The "I'll keep at it till he does it right" attitude is a sure sign of lack of dog sense.

Psychology to me means a multitude of exciting things about dogs.

I always watch my fellows very carefully to discover if they are in the mood and concentrating. I never like to train a dog unless he's showing plenty of eagerness and if I haven't got his complete attention I look for an answer.

TOP TRAINERS USE DOG PSYCHOLOGY

by

Gary Somerville – National Dog – December 1991

One thing is certain; you must ignite your dog's attention to train it correctly. You have at most about ten minutes - any more will turn him sour towards training. You must concentrate on one another because the moment your concentration wanes your dog will fail in his task.

You "turn a dog on" by your attitude, chemistry and dog sense - by having 'canine fingers'. Experience is characteristic of a good trainer. A person with canine sense is always on good terms with his dogs. He knows an important link is familiarising the animal with his scent. In return, his dogs give him fierce motivation and look on him as their pack leader.

You must always be able to read the behaviour pattern of your dog. Learn how your dog communicates and you can use his positive response in training him. You may notice something deep in his eyes, tail or ear movement. It all adds up and you must identify each and every sign correctly to be successful. You use psychology by "feeling his thoughts" via the check chain and the lead. This is the mark of a good trainer.

The only correction most dogs need is sent down the lead by rattling the links - not by compulsive jerking.

When it comes to dog psychology, young people are most at fault as it is too deep a subject for them to comprehend. Parents must explain its function and why it is important. Children don't understand that dogs are complex creatures that don't learn like a human being.

It has been said that training is nothing more than developing a language between you both for better understanding. That's true. The person with heaps of dog knowledge always gets a positive response. Dog psychology is not just studying your dog's behaviour and brain function. It's how you combine it with training and the relationship you have with Fido. It's a personal feeling you have towards one another. It also means studying his instincts, impulses, senses, learning behaviour and loves and hates.

The living truth about your dog doesn't always divide into neat compartments - it is a continuing voyage of discovery.

SPACE FOR RENT

FOR SALE ADVERTISEMENTS

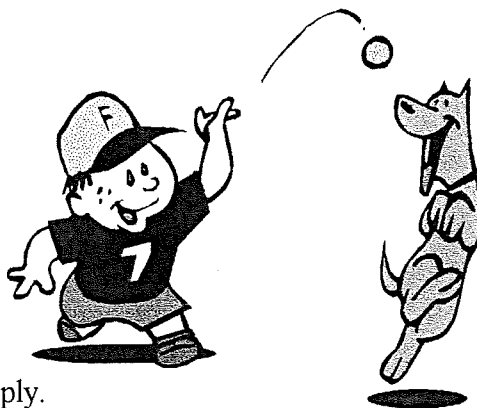
\$2.00 PER AD. (No litter advertisements thank you).

Please see Pam Convrey (Secretary).

how to deal with PUPPY PLAY BITING

Joan Bell - author of "*The Puppy Training Program*"

One of the most frequently asked questions from puppy owners is 'How do I stop the puppy from biting my hands and the children's ankles, etc?' A simple question, but in need of a detailed explanation rather than a quick one line reply.



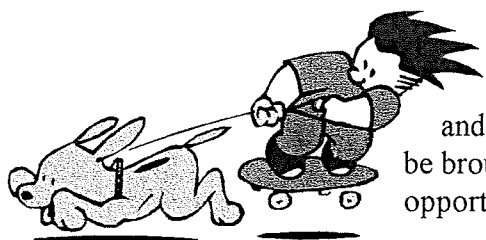
First of all, one must understand why puppies so relentlessly behave like this. During the time a puppy spends with its littermates and dam, the puppy has the opportunity to put into practice a number of instinctive behaviours, one of which is 'play'. Play takes on a number of postures and actions that seem to be linked with a number of recognisable canine behaviours such as stalking, chasing, prey killing, sex play (many an unsuspecting owner has been very embarrassed by the puppy that wraps his legs around a visitor's ankle and begins thrusting to and fro!). Play is absolutely essential for the normal development of any puppy, or child for that matter. Imagine if children were deprived of the opportunity of interacting with other children, nor given access to stimulating and thought provoking toys and games.

A litter of puppies, when playing together, test their strength against one another by shouldering in, jumping on top of, pushing and, most of all, using teeth in a way that doesn't cause retaliation from their opponent. During these play periods, a puppy learns to inhibit the bite so as not to injure his littermate or bring on a full fledged attack should he bite too hard.

So now the time has come and each puppy goes to his new home. What the puppy has learned goes with him. His canine pack has been substituted with a human 'pack'. Owners should realise that play biting is perfectly normal puppy behaviour; however now puppy must be taught what are appropriate chewing objects, and what are totally 'out of bounds' to his mouth. Hence the need for a variety of chew toys.

Physical punishment is not necessary and can even exacerbate the problem, particularly if the puppy has an inherent high level of aggression or, in the case of a very sensitive puppy, he may lose all trust in people.

- **Rule No 1:** Children and puppies MUST be supervised by a responsible adult and not be left alone together; children should be taught to respect the puppy and, in turn, the puppy's interaction with children should always be positive. A puppy's learned experiences will have an enormous impact on how that puppy reacts to children as an adult dog.



- **Rule No 2:** It should be explained to the children that running and squealing excite and entice the puppy to grab and bite; they should play quietly with the puppy. If this cannot be brought about, the puppy should be removed and allowed the opportunity to quieten down.

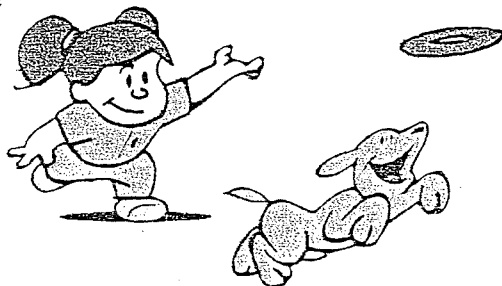
Methods of Correction:

This should be carried out by an adult. At the point when the pup's mouth is in contact with the owner's hand, for instance, that person should freeze, stare directly at the puppy, and give a low

How to deal with Puppy Play Biting - Joan Bell (cont)

'throaty' rumble (imitating a growl). The puppy should, if the rumble was at all dog-like, release his grip. At that precise point, the owner should verbally praise the puppy, and offer one of the puppy's favourite toys to chew. In other words, change the puppy's thought pattern by distraction. Repeat as often as necessary.

1. If the puppy is biting the hand or ankle of a child or the leg of a table or the like, the owner should either place a cupped hand over the puppy's head and eye area or take the puppy by the scruff of the neck (do not lift) and, *depending on his age and sensitivity*, give a little shake, 'growl' and vocalise with "uhh bad dog!"



Important... Owners can learn to imitate dog behaviour, particularly that pertaining to discipline. These examples attempt to imitate how a dam would discipline her pups if they were to bite her too hard. Puppies need clear guidelines.



KIDDIES CORNER

THIS IS A NEW SECTION WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN TO WRITE SHORT ARTICLES ABOUT THEIR FURRY CANINE FRIENDS TO INCLUDE IN EACH MONTHS NEWSLETTER. Please hand articles to Pam Convrey by the 15th of each month.

Newsletter Editor - Pam Nuessler.



e.g.
DEAR EDITOR,
MY PUPPIES name
IS 'WOOF' and he
IS so cute.
Love Sally

CRITICAL PERIODS IN YOUR PUPPY'S LIFE

*"What the puppy learns now will shape him into
the kind of dog he will be forever"*

Acquiring a puppy at the right age and providing it with the proper atmosphere during the critical periods of its life (when its character and personality are being formed) is the only absolute way that the man-dog relationship, character traits, and trainability can be predetermined and preordained!

Many people who acquire dogs at the age of six months, eight months, a year or even two years, are perplexed to find that their dogs just can't seem to demonstrate much of an emotional bond to their owner. Sometimes, they are shy - which usually results in a characteristic known as fear biting - or perhaps the reverse is true; over aggressiveness and bullyish tendencies.

Scientific studies have shown that there are **five critical periods** in a puppy's life. That is, five phases of mental development during which adverse conditions could cripple a dog emotionally for life. Conversely, positive conditions during these five phases will produce dogs of the highest calibre - mentally and socially. So important were these scientific findings that the Guide Dog Foundation instituted these "positive conditions" for puppies being raised to become guide dogs for the blind. These dogs received the most rigorous and exacting training of any dogs and therefore must be perfectly adjusted.

Dr J Paul Scott, Director of Animal Behaviour Laboratory at Roscoe B Jackson Memorial Laboratory at Bar Harbor, Maine, directed a project to determine just when these critical periods take place in a puppy.

An example of a person's failure to acknowledge and respond to these critical periods is shown in one particular test - extreme though it may have been. A puppy twenty-one days old, was removed from the litter and completely isolated. Although he was carefully fed and watered, his caretaker was careful not to play with him or even speak to him. The only toys the experimental puppy had were his water bucket and food dish. By sixteen weeks of age, he had had no contact with other dogs (except during the first twenty-one days of his life) and no human contact except for being fed and watered by a caretaker who barely acknowledged the pup's existence.

At four months of age, the experimental puppy was once again placed with his littermates. He didn't recognize them, either as littermates OR AS DOGS. His isolation during the critical periods of his life - his complete removal from the companionship of other dogs and humans - had developed his character to such an extent that he never would adjust to society of either. He had passed his period of being capable of adjusting socially.

As a result of many years of scientific research, it has been determined that **the first critical period** covers the entire first three weeks of the puppy's life zero to twenty-one days. During this period, the puppy's mental capacity is nearly zero, and the puppy reacts only to its needs of warmth, food, sleep and its mother.

Tests were conducted to determine whether a puppy was capable of learning anything at all during the first critical period, and it was determined that it was not. It WAS determined, however, that something nearly miraculous occurs on the twenty-first day and that it occurs in ALL dogs, regardless of breed. On the twenty-first day, ALL of the puppy's senses begin to function. The senses were present in the puppy during the first critical period, but were DORMANT. The twenty-first day of the puppy's life is like an automatic switch that "turns on" the puppy: it also turns on the second and possibly the most important critical period in the pup's life.

During the twenty-first to twenty-eighth day, the new puppy needs its mother more than any other time. The brain and nervous system begin to develop. Awareness begins to take place, and in this mental state a new puppy finds the world that surrounds him rather frightening. Things that happen can become frightening experiences.

A puppy removed from its mother during this **second critical period** will NEVER attain the mental and emotional growth that he COULD and WOULD have had if left alone! The social stress of being alive - and the awareness of it - has its greatest impact during this second critical period in the new puppy's life; that is, between the third and fourth weeks.

It may seem peculiar to some that no other times in a dog's life presents the same proneness to such emotional upset, and that such upsets could have such a traumatic and permanent effect on his social attitudes. It is during this second critical period that the characteristic of nervousness can generate shyness and other negative qualities in a puppy. Once adverse and negative conditions have been allowed to develop - during this second critical period - no amount of re-conditioning or training later in life will alter or significantly modify the resultant negative characteristics.

The **fifth to seventh week** must be considered as the **third critical period** in the puppy's life. The puppies will venture away from home -not very far - and do a little exploring. At the beginning of the sixth week, the awareness of society will dawn. That is, the society of man and the society of dog. The puppy's nervous system - AND TRAINABILITY - are developing and by the end of this critical period, will have developed to capacity.

During this third critical period, your puppy will learn to respond to voices, and will begin to recognize people. It is during this third critical period that a social "pecking order" will be established among the puppies in the litter. Some of the puppies will learn to fight for food - they'll learn to be bullies. The littermates that are cowed by the aggressive tendencies of the others will become shy.

The scientific tests at Hamilton station have shown that it is advantageous for a puppy to remain with the litter long enough to acquire a little competitive spirit, but that TOO MUCH IS DETRIMENTAL to the puppies emotional growth. Puppies that remain with litter mates after the seventh week will develop bullyish or cowed tendencies which will remain with them into adulthood.

The third critical period ends during the seventh week, and the puppy is now considered emotionally developed and ready to learn. The "trainability system" within the dog is ripe and is operating to capacity. What he learns during the **fourth critical period** will be retained and become a part of the personality and characteristic of the overall dog. If the puppy is left with the mother, its emotional development will be crippled. It will remain dependent upon her, but in her will find very little security, since she will begin to totally ignore the puppy. If the puppy remains with the litter beyond this point, and without adequate human contact, its social adjustments to human society will be crippled, and what it learns will be learned from its littermates. The optimum time for taking the puppy into a new household is at the end of the seventh week and the beginning of the puppy's fourth critical period. **The fourth critical period extends into the twelfth week** of the puppy's life. Since the puppy's trainability - or learning facilities - are operating at full capacity now, it's better that he do his learning from his new owner. And learn he will! The fourth critical period marks a period of time when the puppy will learn at a fast and furious pace. It's much better that the things the puppy learns at this point - and this important period of his life - be CONSTRUCTIVE. WHAT THE PUPPY LEARNS NOW WILL SHAPE HIM INTO THE KIND OF DOG HE WILL BE FOR EVERMORE!

The puppy's character traits and personality will develop so rapidly during this fourth critical period, that what he learns will become PERMANENTLY FIXED, and will influence his attitude toward people and other animals for the duration of his life.

Through the first three critical periods, no significant brainwaves from a puppy can be recorded on electro-encephalographs, but the fourth critical period is different. The first actual, and highly significant, brainwaves can be recorded. It is during this fourth period that a bond will be established between dog and man that will have a lasting effect upon the puppy. DURING NO OTHER PHASE IN HIS LIFE WILL HE HAVE THE ABILITY TO ACHIEVE A STRONGER BOND THAN DURING HIS FOURTH CRITICAL PERIOD. His contact with people during this phase is the whole key to his emotional and social success with the human society.

In the tests at Bar Harbor, puppies were isolated at various intervals during the five critical periods and it was determined that isolation from human society had its greatest effect on the puppies during this fourth critical period. The results were puppies which became incapable of being trained, and incapable of being companions to men.

It is during this fourth critical period that the puppy should be socialized with the human element. Not just with the new owner, but other humans as well. The puppy should be taken for walks out in public. He should meet people, be allowed to play with children and other animals (under controlled supervision).

It is during this critical period that simple commands should be taught. There should be gentle discipline. Forceful corrections during this period could adversely tip the scales on which the puppy's emotional development now rests. He's learning to live in human's world. He's learning to trust in, and have confidence in human beings. A puppy this age does not DELIBERATELY get into mischief! He doesn't know he's doing anything wrong. A physical and forceful correction could result in complete and utter confusion within the mind of the puppy. Faith and trust in his new human friends could be quickly shattered. Discipline should be confined to verbal scolding, whenever it's necessary. Verbal scolding does not include shouting.

Commands such as "sit", "stay", "come" should be taught in a "game-like" atmosphere. Housebreaking should be instituted in a gentle manner, ensuring that PRAISE is used as a reward - the primary training tool - rather than forceful correction. During this fourth critical period, the ABSENCE of praise serves as a meaningful correction. It is during this period that puppies can develop what we generally refer to as "hand-shyness". The puppy at this age is learning about human beings and what he learns about them should always be constructive. Children should not be allowed to scare the puppy, or handle him without being closely supervised. The puppy's environment should be such that he develops a sense of security. The mild restrictions we impose upon him, ie not allowing him to chew furniture, shoes, etc., will have the additional value of helping the puppy develop proper tolerance levels. Tolerance levels are so important that the US Army institutes carefully controlled tests on puppies for the purpose of raising these tolerance levels.

In our human society, we have what is known as kindergarten in our public schools. The purpose of kindergarten is to PREPARE the child emotionally for the learning that will take place later. Kindergarten and pre-school classes are, in effect, a training ground to teach children HOW TO LEARN. Likewise, is the fourth critical period in the puppy's life, the eight to the twelfth week.

If he is taught how to learn during the fourth period, his actual formal schooling (which should take place during the fifth and final critical period) will be so successful that he will learn much more easily and readily. He will also be able to learn more than a puppy that does not have pre-school experience.

Although the "come", "sit", "stay" and "no" commands are invaluable if taught during the fourth period, perhaps the most important single response during this period is learning to fetch. At first glance, this may sound unnecessary and unimportant. It should be pointed out however, that puppies who cannot learn to fetch are dropped from the Guide Dog Program. Moreover, adult dogs being trained as Marijuana Detector Dogs, and Bomb Detector Dogs, must learn to fetch. A dog that cannot learn to fetch or refuses to learn, will not become a detector dog, or guide dog. The significance of fetching cannot be over emphasized. How

Critical Periods in your Puppy's Life

such "game" expands the puppy's mind, and what such willingness to fetch reveals about the puppy, would require an article in itself. Learning to fetch in the fourth critical period can spell success or failure in your dog's desire and ability to work for you.

The **fifth critical period is from the thirteenth to sixteenth week** of the puppy's life. A highly significant thing will happen during this critical period, and the owner should be prepared for it and ready to handle it smoothly and with confidence. The puppy will make his first attempt to establish himself as the "dominant being" in the "pack" (family). It is here - in this fifth critical period - that the puppy will learn whether he can physically turn on his owner and GET AWAY WITH IT! It would be well to point out here that if he is allowed to get away with it, he will lose the confidence and the RESPECT for his owner that developed during the fourth critical period. The tolerance level toward his owner will be narrowed. He'll learn that by rebelling, he'll get things his way. It is during this fifth critical period that absolute authority will be challenged. It is here that the challenge must be met, head-on, by the dog's owner. Instructing people as to the best method of dealing with the problem is difficult, because no two dogs are exactly alike. Disciplinary measures for one dog are not necessarily suitable for another.

In dog training schools, the question is often asked: "what shall I do if my dog bites me?" My answer usually goes something like "what would you do if your CHILD hit you?" Suffice to say that the new puppy will CHALLENGE YOUR AUTHORITY during the fifth critical period and try to establish himself as the dominant being. He should be shown swiftly and firmly that though you love him implicitly by all that's holy, YOU are the dominant being, and there's only room at the top for ONE.

Formal obedience training should begin during this fifth critical period if the full potential of the puppy's intelligence and companion-ability is to be realised. It should be pointed out that trainers should be selected with GREAT CARE.

Being aware of the five critical periods, and providing the correct environment during these periods - as well as instituting proper learning techniques - will allow a puppy to develop emotionally and socially to full potential. Each time you marvel at a guide dog, leading it's blind owner through busy traffic, you can be assured that the five critical periods in that dog's life were handled with great care. The proper emotional and environmental factors during the critical periods were the criteria for the successful performance of the dog.

When you bring your puppy home, the critical periods which will follow will be critical periods in your life as well. The way you handle those critical periods will determine what kind of dog you will have in years to come. It may, however, determine what kind of dog SOMEONE ELSE will have. If the puppy you acquired doesn't grow up to what you wanted him to be - if he has strange quirks in his behaviour which embarrass or distress you - he may end up being passed around from home to home. Chances are, no-one else will be satisfied with those quirks either. Who can enjoy the dog who rolls over on his back and wets at the approach of a stranger? Who can be satisfied with the dog who wants to bite anything that moves? And perhaps, most important of all, who can be satisfied with the dog that refused to give of HIMSELF, his devotion, his loyalty, and his love?

The puppy you acquire can grow up to be all the rings you want and desire him to be - if - you acknowledge and adhere to the critical periods of his life. These are the periods which shape and mould his character and personality. He is in your hands. What he is to become, he will become during those critical periods.

♦♦♦♦

By Mr Bruce Sessions for "Dog Fancy"
May - June 1972

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Submitted by: Jenny Ralph

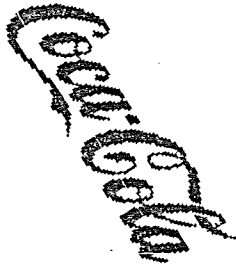


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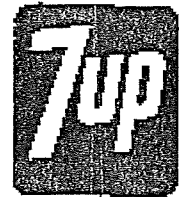


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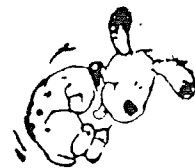
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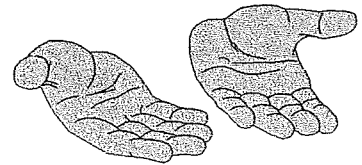
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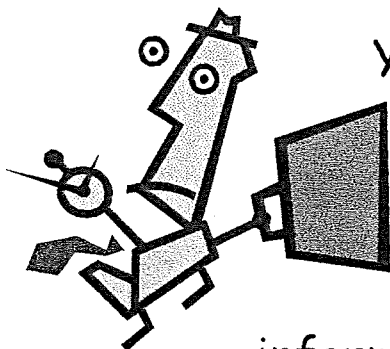
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