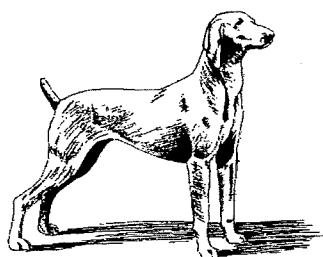
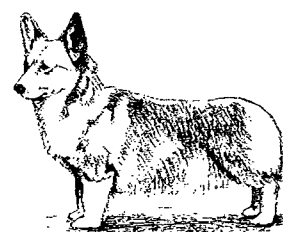
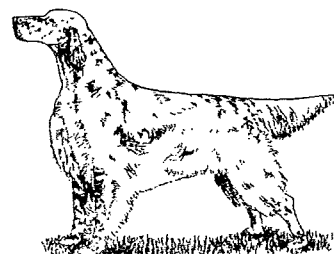
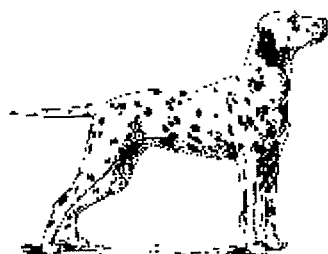


FAITHFULLY YOURS



ESTABLISHED 1954
Incorporation No A5419H
ABN 79 874 613 605



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

April 2005
Issue No
154

CLUB CALENDAR

APRIL

Monday 18 April
Saturday 23 April
Sunday 24 April
Friday 29 April
Saturday 30 April

Trial entries close
 Trial working bee –commencing 9.00 am
Anzac Day weekend. NO TRAINING
 Trial Working Bee – commencing 6.00 pm
BACK-TO-BACK AGILITY/JUMPING TRIALS

MAY

Sunday 1 May

Thursday 5 May
Sunday 8 May
Sunday 15 May
Monday 16 May
Sunday 22 May
Saturday 28 May

Sunday 29 May

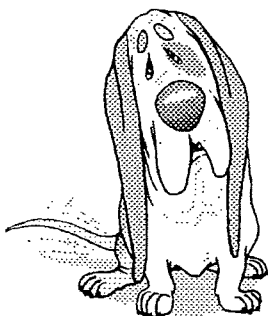
Normal training. Class 1 Intake. Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
 Puppy Kinder for puppies 8 – 16 weeks
 Normal training. Mother's Day.
 Normal training. Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm
 Normal training
 Spirit of the West Challenge – further details this Newsletter and the notice board
 Normal training. Newsletter available

INSTRUCTORS

Colin Humphreys - Vice President (training)
 Desma Dickeson - Training Supervisor
 Andrew Wallace - Assistant Training Supervisor
 David Gravolin - Assistant Training Supervisor

Joan Brophy	Bruce Cairns	Betty Lawrence
Leonie Kelleher	Moirra McNair	Fred Lehrmann
Victor Douglas	Val Moeller	Sandy Malady
David Gravolin	Kim Ciezarek	John Shields
Kath Devlin	Shirley Fletcher	Pam Convery
Tina Button	Trish Gavaghan (Agility)	Sandra McCarthy (Flyball)

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY



"A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down."

-Robert Benchley

"Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of current events. The ground is a giant dog newspaper, containing all kinds of late-breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent, are often continued in the next yard."

-Dave Barry

Try to not let your mind wander - it's too small and fragile to be out by itself!

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann

Committee for 2004/2005

PRESIDENT	Jim Ball	52 484 154	Public Officer
VICE-PRESIDENT (1)	Colin Humphreys	52 822 683	Training
VICE-PRESIDENT (2)	Paul Gallagher	52 749 161	Administration
SECRETARY	Tina Button	0414363556	
TREASURER	Ellen Gallagher	52 749 161	Property Officer
TRIAL SEC/ASS SEC	Pam Convery	52 290 145	
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Jim Broadbent		Canteen Manager
	Peter Baker	52 211 524	Equipment Manager
	Victor Douglas	52 415 401	Grounds Manager
	Lesley Bruton	52 211 459	Hall Manager
	Sandy Malady	52 215 784	Publicity Officer
	Vacant		Social Secretary
NON-COMMITTEE	Desma Dickeson	52 789 585	Training Supervisor
	Vacant		Training Manager
	Chris Jubb	52 414 072	Shop Manager
	Robyn Youl	53 676 415	Librarian
	Peg Pope	52 296 511	Assistant Librarian
	Vacant		Bar Manager
	Pam Convery	52 290 145	Newsletter Editor
	jcgret@ozemail.com.au		
	David Gravalin	52 485 480	Webmaster
	Bernadine Thomas	0439393218	Raffle Steward
	Wendy McCraw	52 487 865	Display Team Leader

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

Club's website address – http://members.tripod.com/geelong_ode

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

INDEX

Reports	2
Trial Results	4
The Playful Retrieve	6
Library News	8

Canine Playtime	9
Dog Breeds from A to Z	12
Quotes for Dog Lovers	13
Spirit of the West Challenge	14

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi everyone

Training is back in full swing after the March holidays. I hope you and your dogs enjoyed the break.

By the time you read this, another Promotion Day will be over – with many passes!!!!

Our Agility/Jumping Trial is drawing closer and once again we are in need of volunteers. If you can spare a couple of hours on the day or at the working bees, your help would be greatly appreciated. Members are welcome to come and watch the competition and cheer for the Geelong Members who are competing, it's a great day out to see what can be achieved with your dog, but please leave your canine companion at home as only those dogs that are competing should be on the grounds.

Lastly, don't forget to enter the Spirit of the West Challenge (to be held at Werribee). A fun relaxing day to be had by all

Bye for now

Tina Button - Secretary

TRAINING SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

This will be a brief report as the Newsletter has to go out early and the Editor will get upset with me if I am late with my report!

Hopefully those who are preparing for their test are working hard and also doing their homework. Thank you in advance to Judges, Stewards and helpers who work so hard on the day – it makes Promotion Day easier to cope with.

Sadly our pleas for new Instructors and helpers have resulted in just 1 person who has offered to help – thank you Stacey.

It is extremely disappointing that in a Club this size the majority of Members cannot find the time to give anything back to the Club in return for the help and support that they have received to achieve their goals. This is a really negative attitude – just as well Committee and Instructors don't share that thinking or there would be no Club.

Due to a chronic shortage of Instructors a new guideline will see the introduction of testing Instructors and their dogs a week prior to Promotion Day, this will allow Instructors to be available to help out with testing.

Good luck everyone and remember to love your dogs.

Thoughts to ponder

There's something comforting about being in a house where dog's hair litters the sofa and bedspreads.

Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace.

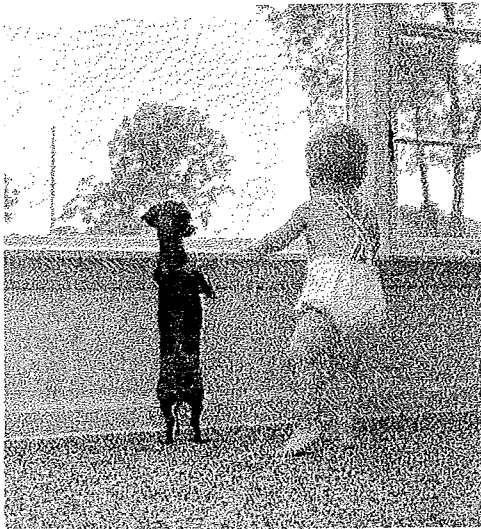
Desma Dickeson - Training Supervisor

OH BUT....

I would have trained my dog today
Oh but,
The in-laws rang, they're on their way
The weather looks bad, it could rain
My legs are sore, I'm in such pain
The drive from work made me want to swear
Haven't done the ironing, got nothing to wear
My house is a mess, I just have to clean
Haven't given blood, I feel so mean
Too tired to get out the jumps and the mat
Oh my God, haven't feed our little cat
My son has his homework, I just have to read
I have to cook dinner and think what I need
Have a new computer game, I just got to play
The weather, the work. What more can I say

I would have trained my dog today
Oh but,
I just can't seem to find a way
Got to go to the gym and try and get fit.
I just need some time to relax and sit.
I've been so busy, I feel so flat
Only time for the dog is a tiny pat
I'll give it a miss, just for today.
It's now March, I'll train in May

By Debbie Hart



Tracking Judge Limerick

On a weekend you might have gone sailing
Finds devotion to tracking prevailing
You plan and you plot
With the hope that you're not
Subjected to weeping and wailing...

But when you follow a handler and dog
Watch that beautiful dance through the fog
When they reach that last glove
Indescribable love
Makes it worth every minute and slog!

A man went to visit his 90 year old grandfather in a very secluded, rural area of the state. After spending the night, his grandfather prepared breakfast for him consisting of eggs and bacon. He noticed a film-like substance on his plate and he questioned his grandfather. "Are these plates clean?"

His grandfather replied...."those plates are as clean as cold water can get them so go on and finish your meal."

That afternoon, while eating the hamburgers his grandfather made for lunch, he noticed tiny specks around the edge of his plate, and a substance that looked like dried egg yokes. So he asked again, "Are you sure these plates are clean?" Without looking up from his hamburger, the grandfather says, "I told you before, those dishes are as clean as cold water can get them, now don't ask me about it anymore!"

Later that afternoon, as he was on his way out to get the paper, the dog started to growl and would not let him pass. "Grandfather, your dog won't let me out," he complained. Without diverting his attention from the football game, his Grandfather shouted, "Coldwater, MOVE !"

TRIAL RESULTS

Tracking Qualifying Test – KCC Park – 19th March

Peter Baker	Dunnwarren Blue Curacao ADX JDX CD ET (Poppy) Border Collie	Pass
Peter Baker	Tillsun Master Key CDX AD JD (Amigo) Aust Shepherd	Pass

Agility Dog Club of Victoria – 26th & 27th March – Agility/Jumping

Libby Hotchin	Ch Lindenbrae Tarfin Cazaly (AI) CD (Cady) Border Collie	Novice Jumping	★ Pass	★ AM & PM
Libby Hotchin	Ch Lindenbrae Tarfin Cazaly (AI) CD (Cady) Border Collie	JUMPING DOG TITLE Novice Agility	2 nd Pass	★
Trish Gavaghan	Lindenbrae Wildrose Tyra ADX JDX (Meg) Border Collie	Masters Jumping	Pass	
Jenny Chase	Tylker Ganesh CD ET (Cooper) Boxer	Novice Agility	2 nd Pass	4 th Place
Helen Green	Ch Wameika Dentelle (Bella) Brittany	Novice Agility	2 nd Pass	1 st Place
Helen Green	Ch Wameika Dentelle (Bella) Brittany	Novice Jumping	1 st Pass	2 nd Place
Peter Baker	Tillsun Master Key CDX AD JD (Amigo) Aust Shepherd	Open Agility	Pass	2 nd Place
Peter Baker	Dunnwarren Blue Curacao ADX JDX CD ET Border Collie	Open Agility	Pass	1 st Place
		Open Agility	Pass	2 nd Place
		Open Jumping	Pass	2 nd Place
		Open Jumping	Pass	2 nd Place
		Open Jumping	Pass	3 rd Place

Gisborne Obedience Dog Club – 2nd April – Obedience

Janelle Convery	Goorambat the Manor (Mason) Golden Retriever	Encouragement	Pass	2 nd Place
-----------------	---	---------------	------	-----------------------

Ballaarat Obedience Dog Club – 9th April – Obedience

Joy Mayhew	Ormslee Kosmic Kali (Kali) Rottweiler	Encouragement	NQ	1 st Place
Jenny Chase	Tylker Ganesh CD ET (Cooper) Boxer	Open Obedience	1 st Pass	3 rd Place

Border Collie Club Agility/Jumping Trial – 9th April

Peter Baker	Dunnwarren Blue Curacao ADX JDX CD ET	Masters Agility	Pass	1 st Place
		Fastest Afternoon Dog in Trial		

SOME ADVICE FROM BILL GATES

Sent in by Jenny Chase

Love him or hate him, he sure hits the nail on the head with this! To anyone with kids of any age, here's some advice.

Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a High School about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good; politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.



WORKING BEE

SATURDAY 23rd APRIL - COMMENCING 9.00 am

The Council take care of mowing the large areas of the Club grounds, but it is our responsibility to mow and clean around trees, etc.

WORKING BEE

FRIDAY 29th APRIL - COMMENCING 6.00 pm

To set up rings, clean the Clubrooms and have everything ready for the Agility/Jumping Trial on Saturday 30th April.

THE PLAYFUL RETRIEVE

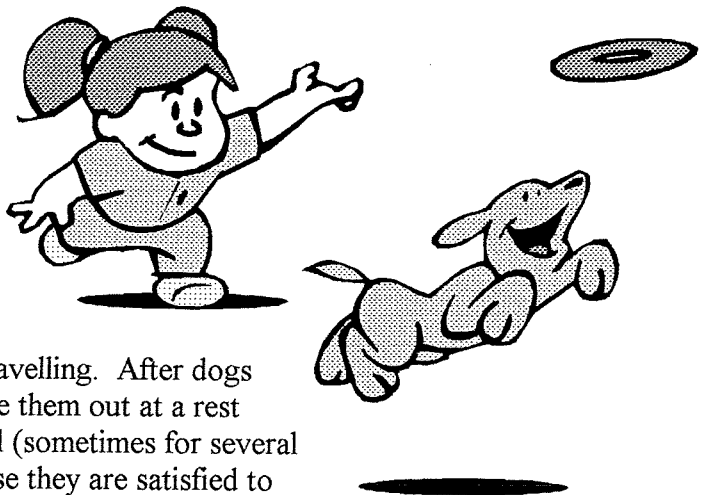
Rebecca K Whitmeyer

All obedience trial exercises, indeed all aspects of dog training, can be divided into three categories: restrictive routines, active ones, and those, which are a combination. The sit-stay, down-stay, and stand for examination are wholly restrictive, jumps and retrieves are active, while heel and recalls are a combination. One problem with the usual sequence of exercises in obedience training is that we typically start and concentrate almost exclusively on restrictive or combination routines in that most active period of a dog's life, the first year. This practice has two disadvantages; it fails to take into account the puppy's natural tendencies – to be active, to be playful, to have a very limited attention span – and, it introduces a puppy to training with exercises which he finds unpleasant, thus hindering our attempts to build a positive attitude toward work with his handler.

By contract, I feel that the most appropriate “first” in training, as well as one of the most valuable exercises throughout a dog's life, is the retrieve. Introducing a puppy to playful retrieving of a tennis ball can be done effectively as soon as he is introduced to his new home. In contrast to the restrictive routines, nearly all puppies accept retrieving readily. It plays upon puppy's natural tendencies. This play is the beginning of a strong human/canine bond, thus developing the positive attitude so desirable for future training.

Teaching retrieving first also has benefit for a beginning trainer. I have found that the typical first-time trainer is too demanding, too harsh and too formal. To many people “training” means correcting, punishing, or hollering, and they entirely neglect playing, praising, and rewarding. By beginning with a play exercise the trainer learns to be happy and encouraging to his puppy, thus developing an attitude, which is so necessary later when praise is needed.

In addition to its use as a first exercise, retrieving is invaluable throughout a dog's life. It is an excellent form of both play and exercise for the dog and can be done in a controlled or restricted area, such as a yard or park. After a formal session of heeling, etc you can end on a happy note by throwing a ball for your dog, somewhat as a reward.



I have found ball retrieving invaluable also when travelling. After dogs have been confined to a car for several hours, I take them out at a rest area, field or whatever is available, and throw a ball (sometimes for several dogs together). After this period of fun and exercise they are satisfied to return to the confines of the car for more driving.

For those who plan to do advanced obedience, this early training will be an asset in several ways. Not only has retrieving correlation with the dumbbell exercises in Open and Scent Discrimination and Directed Retrieve in Utility, but it also has a less apparent benefit in these classes. The entire Novice routine is restrictive to a greater or lesser extent. At no time is the dog called upon to leave his handler, go out and do something on his own, or even show much liveliness or activity. Then, when you begin Open, this pattern changes and many dogs (and handlers) never do adapt to the change.

On the other hand, dogs that have learned to love playing ball seem to make the transition to the more formal retrieving exercises very easily and, in addition, have acquired attitudes and habits, which can help in learning jumping and the Go Away. In general, they have a great advantage when they approach the active routines of Open and Utility.

The Playful Retrieve – Rebecca K Whitmeyer (continued)

How to begin

I like to begin with a tennis ball (if the puppy is large enough to hold one in his mouth) when the pup is first brought home at seven or eight weeks old. This can be done even earlier if this is a pup of your own breeding. Nearly all puppies will chase a moving object such as a ball. Being in the house and roll it only as far as your puppy can follow with his eyes. Resist the temptation to bounce the ball or throw it a long distance. He will probably chase it eagerly and maybe pounce on it. If not, try to interest him in it some more, and then roll it again. Remember that puppy's attention span is very short so only play a very few minutes at this time.

Once puppy has learned to enjoy this game of chasing the rolling ball, while you are sitting on the floor clap your hands and encourage puppy to bring it back. By sitting rather than standing you are at the puppy's level, in a perfect position to welcome him and fuss over him if he does return, and also you are curbing your own impulse to go toward him. If he comes back, praise him and act as if the ball he brought you is solid gold. If not, do not scold or act displeased, and don't chase him. Keep encouraging him to bring it, and, if he doesn't, nonchalantly move toward him to get it and try again.

If, after several days, the pup hasn't gotten the idea of bring the ball to you, try playing in a hallway with all doorways closed. Roll the ball down the hallway and as soon as puppy gets it, clap; you hands and encourage him to return. Here, if he runs at all, he has no choice but to come to you. Then, when he gets to you, you can hug him and fuss over him so that he gets the idea that this is what you want. Don't be in a hurry to leave the hallway, thus giving puppy a chance to go elsewhere than to you. Also, be sure to do only a few retrieves at a time. Stop while puppy is still eager rather than bore him.

The next step, after puppy is enjoying retrieving in the hallway, eagerly running after the ball and bringing it back to you waiting arms, is that of returning to a less confined room of the house. Hopefully, here puppy will go after the ball and return to you as he did in the hallway. However, he may not! If, despite your calling and clapping your hands he does not return, you have two choices:

1) you can return to the hallway for a few days and then try the room again or 2) attach a very light rope or thick string to his collar and let him drag it. Once he has the ball in his mouth, call and encourage as above but also give short GENTLE tugs on the rope to get him back. I emphasize "gentle" because if your tugs are too strong, he may drop the ball or, what is worse, lose interest altogether. Remember, that it is suppose to be fun for both of you – no corrections, no punishment, only gentle, playful encouragement for puppy to do what you want.

Stay indoors until puppy eagerly runs after the ball and returns to you with it WITHOUT the rope. Don't be in a hurry to go outdoors as that is a big transition. You want your puppy to really enjoy this gam, but also to know the rules of the game before you add further distractions.

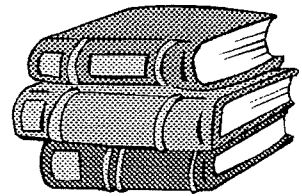
Now you are ready to move outside, but ONLY ADD THAT ONE VARIABLE. For the first day outside put the dragline back onto puppy's collar (or put one on now if you didn't before) so he will do the routine correctly the first time. Throw the ball NO FARTHER THAN YOU DID IN THE HOUSE, and assume a familiar sitting position.

From here on you can gradually proceed to longer retrieves without a dragline and to a standing position. You are now also ready to begin further obedience training but with these advantages: You have learned how to play with and praise your puppy. Your puppy has learned that doing things with you is enjoyable, he has learned to keep his attention on you, and he has learned to play your way. Yes, it is a game, but a controlled game. He now has a better readiness for formal obedience routines.

I think that you will find retrieving a most appropriate exercise to teach first, as well as a fun and useful bit of knowledge for your dog throughout his life.

Library News

Book Buster is our Library mascot. You will see him in his kennel on top of the Library shelves. He would really prefer the title Library Manager, however Peg & I are a little coy about giving him that. He has decided to open a heartache column for fellow canines.



PLEASE TELL YOUR DOGS ABOUT THIS & KEEP THOSE LETTERS COMING

Dear Book Buster,

I am a Labrador and so confused. Every time when it is raining and I leap into a puddle and sit down my humans yell at me. What am I doing wrong?

Dear Labrador,

Humans always yell - be patient. Lie down in the puddle, roll in the puddle, and saturate yourself with muddy water. Just lie there until the human is really close - leap out joyfully to greet your human. Plant muddy paws on the human's chest, swing around, wag that tail joyfully and marinate your human in mud.

If there are other humans watching - it is time to demonstrate your skills at Obedience. Sit with your chest on your human's legs - while gazing adoringly into the human's eyes; try to transfer as much mud onto your human as possible.

Cowpats evoke an even greater response by humans. If your human ever threatens or physically punishes you - at your next Obedience Class adopt the whine, cower & cringe routine.

BOOK REVIEW

THE CULTURE CLASH - JEAN DONALDSON

A really outstanding book that clearly separates and defines that dogs & humans operate on two different & sometimes conflicting strata of operation & thinking. Pp156ff is a quite fascinating discussion on POSITIVE PUNISHMENT, which is really not in line with the new philosophy of POSITIVE RE-ENFORCEMENT. Although in the same chapter, CHAPTER 5 LEMON BRAINS BUT WE STILL LOVE THEM really covers that philosophy with professionalism & sound common sense.

The book is not illustrated & that is a defect in presentation - as the reader has no visual cues to work on. The language is pretty academic - and the use of the author's jargon, although explained, sometimes gets a little hard to follow. A Dictionary of terms is not included in the Appendix. Not exactly a comforting read. BUT if you read this book - and take copious notes - you will benefit from it.

LIBRARY COOKING CLUB

This month, it is STUFFED LAMB HEARTS. Well some dogs gleefully devour them raw - others prefer them cooked & sliced.

INGREDIENTS.

1 lamb heart

1/2cup of cooked wholegrain rice

1 tablespoon of wheat germ

1 /2cup of spinach/silverbeet/bockchoy cooked

2 tablespoon cooked grated carrot.

3 cloves of garlic

METHOD.

Open the lamb heart, cut out the cavities to form a pocket mix the stuffing into a bowl and stuff the cavity. Tie the heart with string and rest it in the fridge. For the raw heart freaks - remove the string & serve whole. For canine cuisine connoisseurs you are going to have to poach your stuffed heart in broth until thoroughly cooked. Don't forget resting time in the fridge. Poach gently in chicken or lamb stock. Rest, slice thinly & serve. To garnish - both dishes - Greek yoghurt and chopped parsley. You may like to sprinkle some grated cheese as well.

Regards - Robyn & Peg.

Canine Playtime

All work and no play makes Fido a dull dog

Can dogs not know how to play?

Q: We adopted a dog from a shelter last month. She isn't very playful and she doesn't seem to know how. How can a dog not know how to play?

A: Dogs learn to play from each other. A dog that hasn't had much socialisation or attention may have to be taught how. It won't be hard to teach your dog to play if you won't mind acting a little silly!

Dogs invite each other to play using body language. They bow, wiggle and bark. Try this with your dog: get down on your hands and knees or as close to her level as you can. Bend your elbows and lower your head, then bark! She'll probably tip her head and look at you as though you're nuts. Bounce up and down on your elbows a little and bark some more. Make it a "happy" bark, not a gruff one.

After a minute or two, she might start to bark back. This is your cue to run away! Run a few steps, turn back toward your dog, get down, bark and invite her to play again. Then run a few steps more and repeat the whole process. Even the most socially deprived dog will respond eventually. She may be a little clumsy at first and unsure about what to do, but she'll catch on!

What about playing "tug of war" with my dog?

Q: I've heard that I shouldn't play tug-of-war or wrestle with my dog. Why not?

A: We used "dog language" to teach your dog how to play. Some games have a different meaning in dog language than they do in people language.

Puppies wrestle with each other as soon as they can walk. Wrestling and play fighting is fun for dogs although it can sound very fierce to us. But these games are more than just fun for the puppies; they help determine the pecking order of the litter's pack. The most dominant puppy usually comes out "pack leader."

Wrestling and tug-of-war games are fine for dogs but not always a good idea for us. We're more fragile than littermates and we can be hurt by rough play. Most importantly, we want our dogs to know that we're people, not littermates, and should be treated with respect. Playing these games can give some dogs the mistaken idea that leadership of your family's "pack" depends on who's the toughest in a fight. They can also make a possessive or aggressive dog worse. Games that encourage the dog to growl and bite are risky and may confuse him. It's hard for a dog to understand that sometimes it's okay for him to be aggressive and sometimes it's not. How is he supposed to know the difference?

What kind of games are okay?

Q: What kinds of games are good to play with my dog?

A: Almost every dog loves chase games. Instead of chasing you, have her chase a toy. Sticks, balls, stuffed toys (especially ones that squeak), old knotted socks, anything that's safe for the dog to play with. Balls should be small enough for the dog to pick up comfortably but not so small they can be easily swallowed.

Dogs love "hide and seek" too. Make it easy for her at first. Get an especially good treat and hide in another room; somewhere obvious, just behind a chair or a door. Call her in and have her "find" you. Make a happy fuss when she does and give her the treat. Hide and seek has endless variations. It can be played inside or out, and with practice, you can teach her to find almost anything.

Canine Playtime – (continued)

Training can be a game! You can help teach a dog to come when called by making it a game. Get at least one other person and a supply of treats. With your helpers standing a distance away, take turns calling your dog. She should get plenty of praise and treats from each person, the more enthusiastic, the better. This is just one way of putting some fun into your training sessions. Dogs learn tricks quickly because we make it a game. You can make your training sessions a game, too.

My dog sometimes seems to go crazy!

Q: A couple of times a week, my dog goes completely berserk! He starts tearing around in circles, doesn't matter if he's in the house or outside. He keeps running faster and faster, kind of wild looking. Is he nuts or what?

A: No, he's not nuts -- he's playing "crazy dog!" That's the name some people gave to this canine game that almost every dog creates at some time. A mischievous glint comes into their eyes and they're off -- running flat out and low to the ground, ears back, tail flying as they zoom around the area in wide circles, suddenly stopping to change direction and zoom back the way they came. For a few wild moments, they'll act as if you aren't there except maybe to ricochet off your body. No one really knows what comes over them, but it sure looks like fun!

My dog is bored!

Q: My dog is bored! At least that's what the vet told me. He's destructive and gets into mischief a lot of the time. I was told that I should find things for him to do and games to play but I can't think of any. Do you have any ideas?

A: You bet! There are lots of games you can play with your dog to stimulate his mind and help keep him occupied and out of trouble. Best of all, they're fun for you, too!

Dogs that become bored quickly are usually bright and quick learners. That's why they get bored — they get tired of doing the same old things all the time and seek out new, more interesting activities. Trouble is, what's interesting to them — chewing up your new shoes, digging up your flowerbed or barking at squirrels — is often aggravating to us!

Did you know you can teach your dog to play soccer? Start the game by gently kicking the ball along the ground toward your dog. Encourage him to get it. The ball is too big to pick up with his teeth and it will take him a few minutes to figure out that he must push it with his nose or bat it with his paws. Give him lots of praise as he begins to catch on. As he gets better at it, you can include more people in the game. For breeds too small to handle a soccer ball, soft rubber balls can be found at pet stores.

Does your dog get into mischief when you're busy doing something, like getting ready for work? Give him a problem to solve! Put a treat inside a cardboard box and let your dog work to get it out. Make it easy at first — start with a box without a lid and let the dog see you put the treat in it. Work up to more difficult ones, like freezer boxes that open from the side. Depending on your dog's skill, you may end up with pieces of box all over the floor but you'll have a very happy and busy dog throughout the process.

The "Buster Cube," a toy available in pet stores, is based on the "get the treat out of the box" principle and has been known to keep some dogs occupied for hours. A sturdy plastic cube, it's designed to be stuffed with kibble. The dog must turn it this way and that to make the kibble come out piece by piece.

"Find It!" is a game that almost every dog loves. They love using their noses, and because it requires concentration, it is a great exercise for an overactive dog. You can teach your dog to find almost anything but it's usually easiest to start with a treat, something the dog really likes. Have your dog sit and stay. If he doesn't know these commands yet (it's about time you taught him, don't

Canine Playtime (continued)

you think?), you can have someone gently hold him in position. Show him the treat, then let him watch you put it behind a door or a chair. One trainer recommends putting it under a towel laid out on the floor. Then tell him to "Find it!" When he does, give him lots of praise. And of course, he gets to eat the treat.

After a couple easy finds, make it harder for him. Put him on the sit/stay, then hide the treat in another room. Come back and tell him to "Find it!" As he gets better and better, make the game even more difficult by putting the treat in unusual places like bathroom sink. Don't worry if he takes a long time to find it — you're doing this to give the dog some work to do, let him do it! Just don't make it so hard that he becomes frustrated and gives up. If that happens, go back to the beginner's level and slowly work back up.

"Find it!" has a lot of practical uses. Once your dog can locate hidden treats successfully, you can teach him to find specific objects. Start first with his favorite toy. Using the beginner's method I just described, put him on a sit/stay and let him watch you hide it. Then tell him to "Find your toy!" and release him. Just as you did with the treats, gradually make the game harder and harder until he can find the toy when it's hidden just about anywhere. (You can play these games both in and out of doors.) Reward him with lots of praise and a brief playtime with the toy when he finds it. You can even teach your dog to pick up his toys and put them away in his toy box!

By substituting various objects for the toy and using the object's name in the command: "Find the ball!" "Find the shoe," "Find the keys!" etc., you can teach your dog to tell one object from another and find almost anything for you that he's able to carry. One owner who took her dog to work with her used this skill to great advantage. She left her office for lunch one day, locking the door behind her — but she'd left her keys on the desk! When she realized her mistake, she went outside to a slightly opened window, called to her napping dog and told him to "Find the keys!" which most he happily did.

Vicki DeGruy

How are you Spending your Dash?

In memory of Arthur Thorogood



I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to dates on her tombstone
from the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came her date of birth
and spoke the following date with tears.
But he said what mattered most of all
was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time
that she spent alive on earth....
And now only those who loved her
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own;
The cars ...the house... the cash.
What matters most is how we live
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
that can still be rearranged.

So, while your eulogy's being read,
with your life's actions to rehash
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

DOG BREEDS FROM A TO Z

Miniature Pinscher

The Miniature Pinscher looks like a smaller version of the Doberman Pinscher, but in reality there are no genetic links between the two breeds.

The Min-Pin, as this German breed is affectionately known, has been officially recognized as a breed for about 200 years. We have information about the development of this breed through reports on archeological digs. All German Pinschers, including the Min-Pin, can be traced back to a group of dogs called Torfspitzgrupe. This group is itself ancient - skeletons have been found in sites identified as Paleolithic, dating the breed back to around 3000 BC.



The Torfspitz was not limited to Germany, however, and was found throughout Europe and parts of Asia. Min-Pins were originally used to hunt rats, and it is thought that they were down-sized from the taller German Pinscher so that they were able to work in smaller spaces. They were virtually unknown outside Germany until around the early 1900s.

The Miniature Pinscher is a square, balanced breed that shows its high spirit in its unusual hackney movement (high flexion of the knee). It is a small breed, though not as delicate as it appears. Height: 10 - 12 in (25 - 30 cm). Weight: 8 - 10 lb (4 - 5 kg).

A Min-Pin has large ears that are cropped in some parts of the world. Since cropping became illegal in England, breeders there have started to breed Min-Pins with naturally erect ears. The tail is also docked short. The head is narrow, as is the muzzle, but it doesn't appear thin or weak. The dark eyes are

medium-sized and the nose matches the coat color. The coat is short and smooth, although not soft. Colors range from various shades of red to black, blue or chocolate, all with tan markings.

The Miniature Pinscher is a small-bodied dog with a huge spirit. This dog is very brave and has a powerful sense of its territory. This combination makes for an excellent watch-dog which delights in informing its owner of the presence of potential intruders. To avoid unnecessary barking, it is wise to train this dog to only respond to sounds that you consider important. To sidestep the problem of having visitors bossed around and possibly snapped at, it is good practice to let this dog greet visitors after they have been welcomed and brought into the house. Be careful when meeting larger dogs, as the Miniature Pinscher may have unrealistic ideas of which dogs it can boss around.

Neapolitan Mastiff

This massive, ponderous breed has the dubious honor of having the highest number of chins, but don't let the drooping expression fool you - the Neapolitan Mastiff is a protective and alert guard dog.

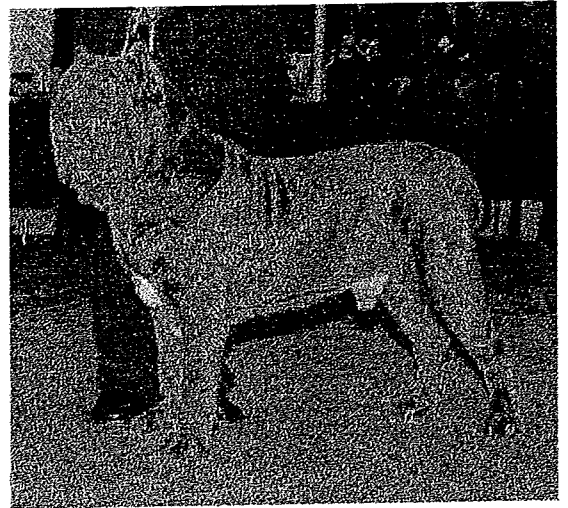
The Neapolitan Mastiff, also known as the Mastino Napoletano, is an ancient breed derived from the Molossus which has been protecting owners' property in southern Italy since 100 BC. The original Molossus dogs were brought to Rome to fight in the Colosseum, although they were never as belligerent as some other specialist fighting breeds. Neapolitans were useful as draft animals and were often pressed into service pulling carts. They were never a popular dog and by the early 1900s they had almost disappeared. In 1946, a painter called Piero Scanziani was responsible for starting a breeding kennel of Neapolitans and is credited with much of the breed's revival.

Dog Breeds from A to Z (con't)
Neapolitan Mastiff (con't)

Like most of the Mastiff breeds, the Neapolitan Mastiff is an immense dog. Its characteristic wrinkled and folded skin gives it the appearance of a small hippopotamus. The Neapolitan is slightly shorter than it is long, although it is by no means a short dog. Height: 26 - 29 in (65 - 75 cm). Weight: 110 - 150 lb (50 - 68 kg).

The head is very large, and appears even bigger with its folds of skin on the top and sides of the muzzle. The dewlap, or neck skin, is extremely loose and hangs down almost to the chest. The ears are small and when left uncropped, fall forward close to the cheeks. The eyes, that are partially obscured by loose haws (eyelids), are medium-sized and usually dark in color. The head sits on a short, thick, muscular neck which is attached to a strong stocky body. The legs are columnar and strong, and they too have some loose skin around the feet. The coat is short and dense with a fine texture. The five colors are black, blue, gray, mahogany, and brindle.

The Neapolitan Mastiff is a classic gentle giant. It is a powerful dog with an air of supreme confidence about it. Looking at this dog's eyes, you gain the impression that it has seen everything before and is happy to tolerate almost anything. Yet it would be a very foolhardy individual who would try to enter a property with a Neapolitan Mastiff on guard. It is wise to gain the psychological edge over this dog well before it reaches full size. Just the everyday managing of a dog this size can be rather tiresome if it is not trained to be obedient from the beginning. This Mastiff should be provided with enough space to be comfortable, and be given regular exercise to keep it in top form. It is helpful to allow this dog a period of training before it is taken out over longer distances.



Presidents Report

Well another month is over and April is fast coming to a close.

Good luck to those who are competing in our double Agility and Jumping Trials at the end of April.

I hope everyone sold a box of those "Frogs and Koala's". The money from the sale of those will go towards the purchase of a digital camera for the Club.

May I also congratulate Jim Broadbent for accepting the position of Canteen Manager. Now all we need is a Social Secretary and Bar Manager. If you want to have a go or find out what is involved see any of the Committee Members for information.

Because we cannot get any other insurance the Club has been forced to go with the VCA public liability insurance so if you are not a VCA Member you will be asked to pay an increased amount when you renew your membership. We are looking at another option, which we hope to have further information on in the coming weeks.

Jim Ball -President

SPIRIT OF THE WEST CHALLENGE

SATURDAY - 28TH MAY 2005

OBEDIENCE CHECK IN:- 12.15pm TO 12.45pm
JUDGING COMMENCING AT 1.00 P.M.

AGILITY CHECK IN:- 10.45am TO 11.15am
JUDGING COMMENCING AT 11.30AM.

AT
WERRIBEE OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC
PRESIDENTS PARK,
CNR. HEATHS & ROWES ROAD, WERRIBEE
(MELWAYS - MAP 205 D4)

This is the annual interclub competition between the Werribee and Geelong Clubs. The "Spirit of the West Challenge" is where you all can represent your Club. Ribbons from both Clubs will be awarded to the Placegetters. So, 1st place earns 3 points for the winners club, 2nd place - 2 points and 3rd place - 1 point. At the end of the competition these points are all counted and the winner of the shields are announced. So come along and bring the family and friends and have a great day.

Classes are available for ALL members, including Puppies. Please note Agility is starting before the Obedience classes.
There also must be three members from each Club in each class for points to be counted towards the shield.

Again there will be a separate Junior Handlers class (which is purely for fun and free entry) and does not count towards the Obedience Shield. Junior Handlers class is held after the obedience classes and is judged at Class 1 level. There will also be a Veterans Class for Dogs over 7 years of age (free entry).
There will also be a Sausage Sizzle on the day.

SPIRIT OF THE WEST CHALLENGE

Saturday 28th May 2005

WERRIBEE OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC
PRESIDENT'S PARK, WERRIBEE

Saturday afternoon – commencing approximately 1.00pm. Check in time to be advised

Classes are available for ALL members, including puppies

ENTRY FEE – AGILITY - \$2.00, OBEDIENCE - \$2.00, JUNIOR HANDLERS & VETERANS - FREE
INCLUDES A SAUSAGE SIZZLE LUNCH

Return your entries, with your entry fee, to the Office. Entries close at the end of Classes on

SUNDAY 22ND MAY 2005

Please ask your Instructor if you are in doubt as to which class to enter

<u>PUPPY CLASS</u>	EXERCISES	POINTS
Heel on lead	Includes a sit and stand. Corrections permitted	50
Right about and Right turn	Are done in heeling pattern	20
Sit Stay	Individual exercise - 10 seconds only	20
Handler Control	Voice, praise, correction & pace	10
		100
 <u>CLASS ONE (Puppies over 6 months)</u>		
Heel on lead	Includes a sit & stand. Corrections permitted	50
Right about and Right turn	Are done in heeling pattern	20
Sit Stay	Individual exercise - 10 seconds only	20
Handler Control	Voice, praise, correction & pace	10
		100
 <u>CLASS TWO</u>		
Heel on lead	Includes all turns, sit, stand, drop from sit position & slow pace	50
Stand Stay	Individual exercise - 10 seconds only	10
Sit Stay	Individual exercise - 10 seconds only	10
Recall	(on lead with automatic sit or on handler's command. Handler return to dog)	20
Handler control	Voice, praise, correction & pace	10
		100
 <u>CLASS THREE</u>		
Heel on lead	Includes all turns, sit, stand, drop while heeling, fast & slow pace	50
Stand for Examination	Light examination - head and back only	10
Recall	On lead with automatic sit. Handler return	20
Sit Stay	Group exercise - 30 seconds - lead on ground	10
Drop Stay	Group exercise - 1 minute - lead on ground	10
		100
 <u>CLASS FOUR</u>		
Heel on lead	All turns, sit, stand, drop, fast & slow pace & figure 8	40
Stand for examination	Full exercise	20
Recall	Off lead - 10 metres - handler around dog	20
Sit Stay	Group exercise - 1 min - off lead - half width of the ring	20
Drop Stay	Group exercise - 2 min - off lead - half width of the ring	20
		120

CLASS FIVE

Heel on lead	All turns, sit, stand, drop, fast & slow pace & figure 8	30
Stand for examination	Full exercise	20
Stand Stay	Full exercise - off lead	20
Recall	Full exercise plus finish	30
Sit Stay	Group exercise - 1 min - off lead - full width of the ring	30
Drop Stay	Group exercise - 3 min - off lead - full width of the ring	30
		160

CLASS SIX

Full Novice exercises for untitled dogs

CLASS SEVEN

Full Novice exercises for titled dogs who have not entered an Open Class

CLASS EIGHT

Full Open exercises for untitled dogs

CLASS NINE

Full Open exercises for titled dogs who have not entered a Utility Class

CLASS TEN

Full Utility exercises

CLASS ELEVEN – AGILITY CLASS

To be conducted basically at Novice level, with extra jumps and fault handicaps for all Titled dogs

Judging at completion of competition while scores are being tallied

CLASS TWELVE – JUNIOR HANDLERS

Two age groups – 7 to 12 years, 12 to 18 years. Juniors must handle the dog they normally handle in Class. Class One (1) level will be used to conduct the test.

CLASS THIRTEEN – VETERAN'S CLASS

For dogs 7 years or over. Exercises will be provided on the day.

"SPIRIT OF THE WEST" ENTRY FORM

HANDLER'S NAME _____

DOG'S NAME _____

CLASS ENTERED _____ **Height at shoulder (Classes 8, 9, 10, 11)** _____

INSTRUCTOR _____ **DOG'S DATE OF BIRTH (Veterans)** _____

If you are not entering, but would be willing to Steward or Judge, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please complete the form below and return it to the Office, circling whether stewarding or judging and Class preferred

NAME _____

STEWARD

JUDGE

CLASS PREFERRED _____
(If possible)