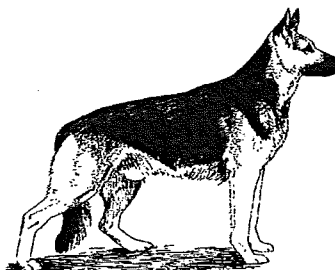
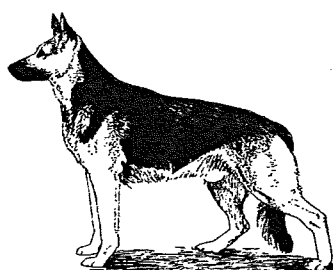
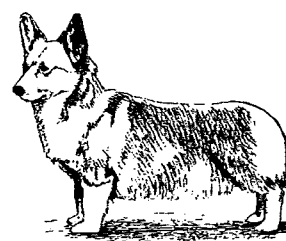
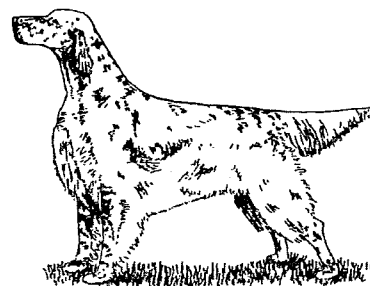
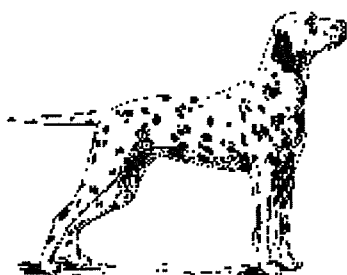


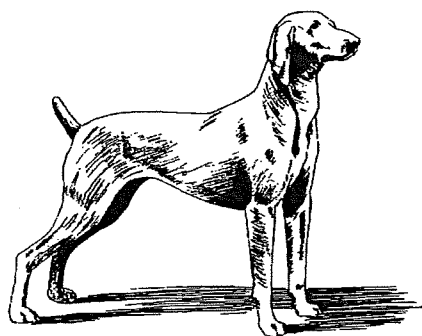
FAITHFULLY YOURS



ESTABLISHED 1954

Incorporation No A5419H

ABN 79 874 613 605



Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc
Breakwater Road, Belmont Common
GEELONG VIC 3220
Phone: 5243 4555

February 2008
Issue No
186

GEEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann

Office Bearers for 2007/2008

PRESIDENT	Jim Ball	5248 4154	Public Officer
VICE-PRESIDENT (1)	Colin Humphreys	5282 2683	Training
VICE-PRESIDENT (2)	Leonie Kelleher	5243 1277	Administration
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TREASURER	Stephen Eldridge	5261 2820	Property Officer
TRIAL SECRETARY	Janelle Convery	5241 4786	
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	Peter Baker	5221 1524	Equipment Manager
	Victor Douglas	5241 5401	Grounds Manager
	Kathy Stones	5243 1819	Hall Manager
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	Karen Millard	5267 2618	Social Secretary
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	Elaine Longshaw	5255 4603	Minutes Officer
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	Vacant		Bar Manager
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	Vacant		Assistant Librarian
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	Alan Pescott	5263 3290	Webmaster
	Bernie Thomas	0438 068 202	Raffle Steward

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Editor or the Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc. All Committee and Sub-Committee reports bear the name of the respective Club Officers. The Editor and/or Committee reserves the right to correct, alter, re-arrange or refuse, without prejudice, any copy submitted for publication.

Weekday Office Hours:- Thursdays, 4.00pm to 6.30pm

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

THE SECRETARY

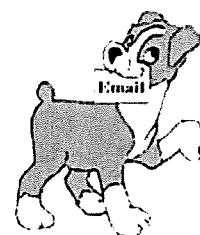
PO BOX 186

GEEELONG VIC 3220

If you would like to contribute articles etc. for publication in "Faithfully Yours", please forward them to The Editor, c/- the above address, hand in at the Office or email to jcgret@ozemail.com.au

Please remember the closing date for all Newsletter items is the 15th of each month

Club website – www.godc.org.au



CLUB CALENDAR

March

Sunday	2 March	Normal training. Class 1 Intake. Puppy Intake for Fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Sunday	9 March	LABOUR DAY WEEKEND. NO TRAINING
Saturday	15 March	Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Sunday	16 March	Normal training.
Monday	17 March	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm.
Sunday	23 March	EASTER WEEKEND. NO TRAINING
Sunday	30 March	Normal training. Newsletter available

April

Tuesday	1 April	General Meeting – 8.00 pm unless otherwise advised. Agility Trial entries close
Saturday	5 April	Trial working bee. To be advised

CLUB INSTRUCTORS

Vice President (Training)

Colin Humphreys

Training Supervisor

David Gravalin

Assistant Training Supervisors

Sandy Malady

John Shields

Obedience

Joan Brophy

Leonie Kelleher

Moira McNair

Fred Lehrmann

Victor Douglas

Val Moeller

Sandy Malady

Kim Ciezarek

John Shields

Kath Devlin

Ray Millard

Desma Dickeson

Andrew Wallace

Tina Button

Agility

Trish Gavaghan

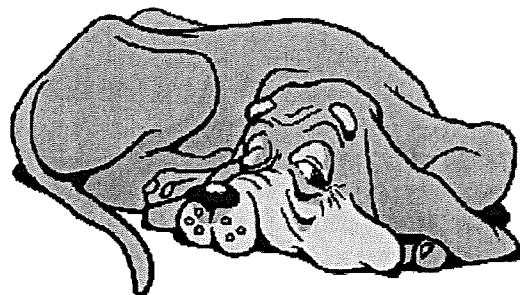
Peter Baker

Glenys Murray

Jenny Chase

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

On a dog sled team, if you're not
the lead dog, your view never
changes

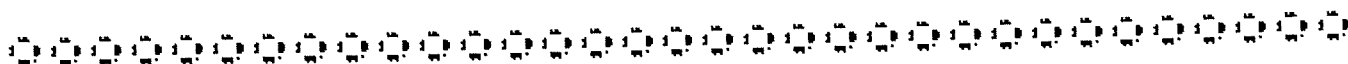


NEW MEMBERS

The Committee, Instructors and Members would like to welcome the following new Members who have joined the Club recently. We hope you enjoy your training.

10/02/2008

Orabnivk Jan	Maltese/Shitzu	Charlie		
Whitehand Leigh/Venn Tammy	Boxer	Mack		
Di Rocco Ornella/Domenic	Jack Russell	Stella		
Fiorillo Vince/Kristie	Rottweiler	Austin	Rottweiler	Tori
Billing Eric	Golden Retriever X	Samnys		
Taft Helga/Bill	Border Collie	Jess	Beagle	Sally
Abbot Katharine/Scott	Dobermann	Jet		
Attwood Sharon	CKCS	Tess		
Pamvouxoglou Susanne	Dachshund	Darcy	Dachshund	Louis
Howe John	Rottweiler	Stig		
Petrass Bev	Schnoodle	Forby		
Ryan Tim/Mary	American Staffy	Ace		
Smith Elizabeth	English Spring Span	Tilly		
Eddy Cherie	Staffy/Greyhound	Jinji		
Robinson Phillip/Robinson Karyn	Kelpie	Jess		
Woodward Anne	Labrador Retriever	Coco		
Mitchell Meg	Scotch Collie	Cassie		
Cruickshank Carene/Niblett Damien	Boxer	Buster		
Axe Susan	Golden Retriever	Hector		
Sleeman Clare	Labrador	Lucy	Labrador	Cruiser
Inturrisi Daniel/Gellion Stephanie	Labrador	Axel	Labrador	Harley
Patterson Nicole	Border Collie X	Asha		
Erler Kerri/Erler Melanie	Staffy	Ruby		
Ford Ronald/Jennifer Anne	Shepherd X	Romeo		
Puce Andrew/Beverley	CKCS	Rubin-James	Bernese M D	Winston
Myers Debby	Kelpie	Honey		
Ferguson Catherine	Pointer X	Ted		
Baylee Lorelle	Kelpie X	Hamish Mac		
Nicholls Rod/Mustey Sara	Border Collie	Woopy		
Wilson Dianne	Mini Fox Terrier X	Maddison	Maltese/Shitzu	Poppy



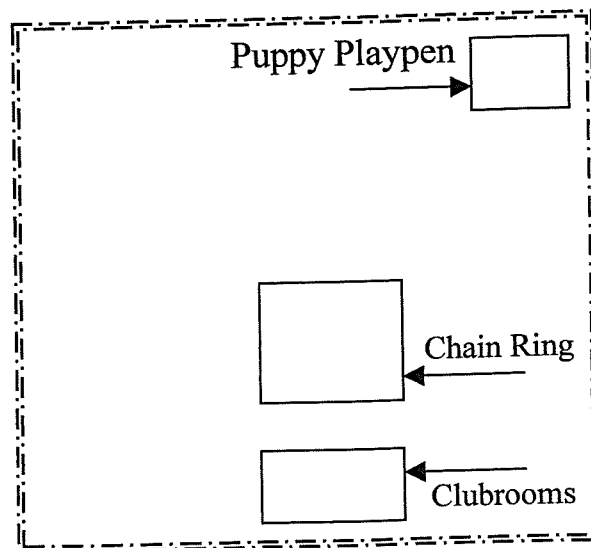
To all Puppy Class members

PUPPY PLAYPEN

A puppy playpen is available at the end of the car park nearest the football ovals for any of our Puppy Class members who wish to let their puppies play off lead.

Free play in a safe area is great for developing social skills.

The area is large enough for 4 or 5 puppies at a time, but for puppy's safety, please remove correction chains and do not leave puppies unattended. They are your responsibility.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well another month has passed us by.

Please remember that you need to be here for training on time. It is amazing to see the number of people who seem to continually turn up late for their Class. Have a little consideration for the Instructors, who give up their time to assist you, and to your fellow Classmates.

March is here and what a short training month it will be. With Labour Day weekend and Easter coming into the equation as well. Also on the 15th March the Geelong Animal Welfare is holding a day for Micro chipping here, so if you can help out with this it would be appreciated.

We still want some helpers in the Canteen if you are available please see Jim Broadbent and I'm sure he will be glad to have you assist him.

By the time this comes out the Red Cross Collection Day at Waurin Ponds Shopping Centre will be over. I hope we have a successful day there. Also, we have a training seminar coming up. Please keep an eye open for this, as they are good even if you just want some information as a pet owner or are looking at the competition side of Obedience and Agility.

Good luck for the rest of the year and please remember," IF IT IS HOT, DON'T LEAVE YOUR DOG IN THE CAR".

Jim Ball -President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Firstly, welcome to all the new Members who have joined the Club recently. It has been very busy with lots of phone enquiries. Sadly, due to the lack of Instructors we have to limit our numbers and we are unable to accommodate everyone. I believe there is an Instructor's Course starting in the near future and perhaps if you have considered Instructing it may be an opportunity to speak to Colin Humphreys or David Gravalin about this rewarding position. It is a voluntary position, but is rewarding in itself when you see Members enjoying their dogs and knowing that you have helped them achieve their goal of having a well socialized, well behaved addition to their family.

Don't forget we are looking for some help with the Animal Welfare "Dogs Day Out". This is a great opportunity to advertise our Club and also to support a very hard working group of people. Even if you can only spare an hour your help would be appreciated. We are looking for Members to help cook at the BBQ (all proceeds go to Animal Welfare), help with the Novelty Events and we need some Members just to help supervise the use of the Agility equipment. You don't need to have Agility experience, it is just to make sure people use the equipment safely. All equipment will be at minimum height. Also, I'm sure Jim Broadbent would appreciate some help in the Canteen with serving tea, coffee and cold drinks.

Our Agility Trial weekend in April is also underway with the advertisement appearing in February's Dog Victoria. Again we will be looking for help so watch for further information later.

Best wishes

Pam Convery – Secretary

LIBRARY NEWS

DESIGNER DOGS

These are the ones you hear a lot about. These are the ones whose enthusiastic supporters claim that their hybrid vigour ensures a wonderful temperament and freedom from the Genetic ailments suffered by purebred, officially registered breeds.



Margaret H. Bonham has written a book about designer dogs. I do not pay attention to anyone who writes a book or creates a website on a particular topic, unless they are qualified to do so.

Bonham is a three-time Maxwell Award Winning author [awarded by the Dog Writers Association of America for writing excellence.]

Her writing credits include 15 books, she has appeared in various pet publications and she has been a columnist and contributing editor for DOG 2 KENNEL AND PETVIEW MAGAZINE.

She trains various breeds for agility, sled dog racing, obedience and conformation.

The Book: **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Designer Dogs.**

QUOTE:

Mixed breed proponents have often claimed that mutts and crossbreeds are naturally healthier, citing "hybrid vigour" ...

However, in many breeds the potential for the same genetic disease still exists. Although mixed breeds are less apt to have certain genetic diseases prevalent only in certain breeds, some diseases appear in dogs of every breed(or mix of breeds) because they are diseases of the species, canis lupus familiaris, or the dog.

But are designer dogs healthier? It really depends. Remember that beneath it all, dogs are still dogs, and they might or might not inherit bad genes from their parents. If two of the same bad recessive genes crop up, you may have a sick dog.

Next Month we will hear about the incredible assortment of Designer Breeds.

Happy Heeling

Robyn

SPECIALTY SASHES FOR 2008

If any Members would like to contribute Specialty Sashes to either our April Agility Trial or July Obedience Trial please see Janelle Convery (Trial Secretary) by Sunday 2nd March



AGILITY CLASSES

The Club offers Agility Classes each Sunday morning for dogs that have gained their Merit Certificate.

There is a series of four Classes through which you and your dog proceed, beginning with the Foundation Class and moving through Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced. Should you be interested in Trialing after this, there are two sessions offered on Monday evenings with more of a self-help and peer support format

If you and your dog would like to join in, make sure you get a form from the Office or the Agility Instructors, ask your Instructor to sign it for you so we know your dog is under control off lead, and hand it back to the Office or one of the Agility Instructors.



Agility is a lot of fun – just ask anyone who is already hooked!



ADVERTISING RATES FOR "FAITHFULLY YOURS"

Advertisements are restricted to a maximum of 12 half pages per issue.

RATES

Up to 1/8 page Line Advertisement	1 Edition	\$ 2.00
Half page Advertisement	1 Edition	\$10.00
Half page Advertisement	12 Months 6 issues (bi-monthly)	\$50.00

Half page "Title" and "Vale" notices are provided free to all Members. Copy must be submitted by the 15th of the month. If you would like photos etc returned, please provide a suitably sized SSAE.

Please note that we do not advertise puppy litters.

Leave The Wildflowers Alone

By Charlotte Schwartz "Off-Lead" February 1979

I found them the day before along the roadside. So young, delicate, and lovely. A whisper of butterfly blue amid the browns and greens. I wanted them to be mine, so I brought them home. The next morning they were dead.

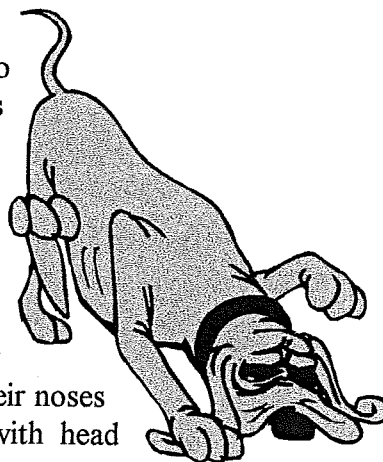
Now, months later, as the elements of winter forced me indoors for most of the day, I remembered them - wild asters. I saw a picture of them in my wildflower book and it made me sad to think I had killed them when all I wanted to do was enjoy them longer.

Later that same day, in an Open class, I saw several handlers trying to kill the wildflowers in their dogs. I stopped the class and told them the story of my wild asters. I cautioned, "Train your dogs to each dog's fullest potential, but leave the wildflowers alone". Let me explain.

Each breed was originally bred for a specific purpose ... some to work, some to hunt, some to retrieve, some to burrow. When we forget the original intent for our dog's very existence and attempt to train out those behaviours, which are unique to that particular breed, we frustrate the animal. Frustrate the dog enough and he begins to substitute other behaviours, usually undesirable, in their place. This in turn upsets the handler and he becomes angry. The problem grows.

Take one frustrated dog and one frustrated handler and we destroy the proper atmosphere for learning. All we do is condition the dog to act in an uncooperative manner and the handler to be hostile towards the dog. The next step follows very naturally. The dog hates the learning process *and* the person responsible for creating the hostile atmosphere. The handler hates teaching and the student he started out loving in the first place.

Let's look at some specific wildflowers in the dogs we see in obedience classes in the United States. Take scent hounds, for example, Beagles, Bassets, Dachshunds. They've been bred to use their noses to hunt; it seems perfectly natural to them. I suspect, to walk with head lowered, taking in the smells of those who have passed ahead of them.



Yet how many times do we hear scent hound handlers reprimand, "No sniffing " and give a quick jerk on the collar. Wouldn't it be better to work the dogs in short, lively sessions with a favourite toy or treat held in the left hand? The dogs would have something interesting to watch as they heeled along and quite soon they'd be conditioned to picking up their heads when they hear the command "Heel".

Two of my students, Roxanne and Linda, have proven this theory beautifully. Roxanne has handled a loveable Basset named Cleo to a High in Trial. Linda has trained two Beagles, Lucy and June, to work with head held high, eyes on her and tails wagging. The wildflowers are still there in each dog, and both girls did it with positive reinforcement.

A Komondor named Daphne has learned from her handler, Debbie, to be gentle and polite in class and when out in public. Yet Daphne assumes a very protective nature when at home. Carol, Dorothy and Nancy all handle large, serious working dogs. A Dobermann Pinscher, a Rottweiler and a German Shepherd Dog. Yet each handler has taught her dog, through positive methods, that obedience class and trials are places where dogs must accept attention from other people without exhibiting aggressive behaviour.

Leave the Wildflowers alone (cont)

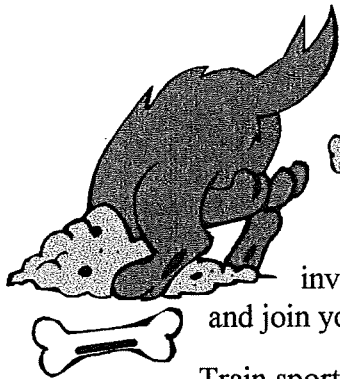
Training a dog to pay attention to his handler, execute certain obedience exercises and, generally, assume his share of the responsibility for the team's performance is a very achievable goal. But to realize that goal and leave the dog's basic breed instinct intact takes a little bit of thoughtful planning.

Instead of correcting him for behaviours, which are hereditary to him, substitute. That's the key word. As I mentioned earlier, give a scent hound something to look at. Don't correct or sniffing praise for paying attention.

Take the serious breeds and create happy atmospheres for them in which to learn. Dogs are, in many ways, like children. When they feel a friendly, cheerful air exists in the class and at trials, most love to join the celebration. Yet, when they're home or feel their owners safety is jeopardised, they quickly sense the impending peril and act protectively.

Let a sight hound be just that. He can learn to heel and sit and come on command. But allow him time to run in an open area several times a week. Encourage him to race and chase and be proud that he is what he is. And praise heartily for positive responses to obedience commands.

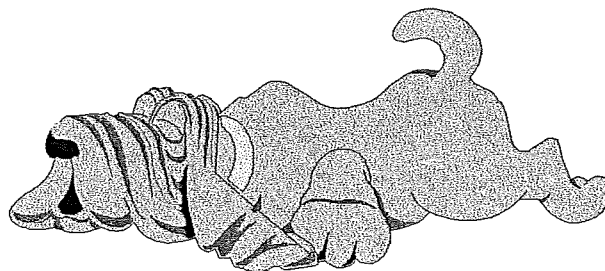
When a terrier digs a hole or challenges another dog, don't think he's trying to destroy your yard or kill the other dog. He's just being a terrier. Go out and admire his hole and tell him how beautiful it is. Then give him a digging area in the yard and teach him to use it. He can learn to do his digging in one place if taught with a positive approach. As for the fighting, distract him. Correcting him with a sharp snap on the lead simply serves to psyche him up even more. Instead, call him to you in an excited tone of voice and get his mind on a favourite toy or game. Be so inviting with your enthusiasm for the game, he'll forget his canine challenge and join you. Then praise.



Train sporting dogs, Setters, Spaniel and Retrievers, to be good, obedient companions, both in and out of the ring. But never let them lose the love of life and will to run which has been their birthright since their breeds began. Take them for long walks. Let them swim and retrieve just for fun. They, too, need to keep their wildflowers alive.

When you think about it, owners usually buy dogs of specific breeds because they found something they liked within that breed that was a unique, breed characteristic. Somehow, when they get into obedience training they lose sight of that quality and try to train it out of them thus destroying the thing that turned them on to the breed in the first place. (Very possibly, that's where a lot of the bad publicity about obedience training originates. We've all heard breed fanciers say obedience destroys the dog's spirit!)

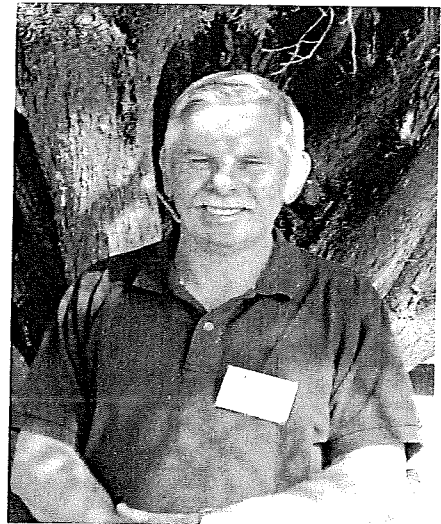
In short - Don't pick the wildflowers. Look to your heart's content, but leave them along the side of the road to bloom another day. That way, you'll always have them to enjoy.



Getting to know your Instructors & Committee Members

This month

Colin Humphreys
1st Vice President



What type of dog/dog's do you own?

A 10 year old Weimaraner puppy

How many dogs have you trained?

Seven

Do you have any other pets at home?

A year old delinquent cat plus canaries

How long have you been involved with the Club?

30 years

What is the most memorable time you have had with your dog?

First litter of puppies

Describe yourself in three words

Running to time

Who are your heroes?

What makes you laugh?

British Comedys

If you had unlimited money, what car would you drive?

Toyota Hilux 4x4 for work. Porsche Spyder for weekends

Again, unlimited money, where would you go on holiday?

North America, Canada, Scotland

What is your favourite food?

Roast Lamb/Beef with cegetables

Honey on hot toast

What is your favourite music?

Very diverse

Classic Rock n Roll, Glassical and Country

What is your favourite sport?

Cricket, Football and Bush walking

What are three wishes you have for Geelong Obedience Dog Club?

Committee and Instructors to work together in harmony

All Instructors to teach within the guidelines

All Promotion Days to be successful with many passes

Getting to know your Instructors & Committee Members

This month

Peter Baker
Foundation Agility and Agility
Instructor



What type of dog/dog's do you own?

Border Collie (Poppy)
Aust. Shepherd (Amigo)

How many dogs have you trained?

Three

Do you have any other pets at home?

No. Wish I had four more dogs

How long have you been involved with the Club?

6 years

What is the most memorable time you have had with your dog?

Doing tricks in front of kids
Being a Finalist in the State Agility Trials

Describe yourself in three words

Proficient, aware, open

Who are your heroes?

Superman, Volunteers

What makes you laugh?

People

If you had unlimited money, what car would you drive?

Any Japanese car

Again, unlimited money, where would you go on holiday?

Buy a bus and travel Australia with my dogs

What is your favourite food?

Stir fry

What is your favourite music?

Blues and Love songs

What is your favourite sport?

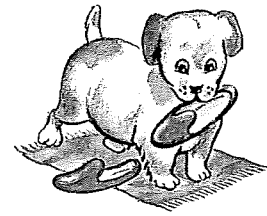
Agility Trials

What are three wishes you have for Geelong Obedience Dog Club?

The Club stays a Club for the public
Everybody brings in new ideas
Instructors stay in vogue

YOU AND DOG COMPETITIONS

By
Peter Kennon – Bushman Kennels



When you acquire your first dog, your goals are usually fairly simple. Hopefully, you can learn to manage and train your new mate so it becomes a respected companion and integral family member.

As you master these basics, your ambitions become much grander. You also realise that they hold competitions for dogs. Trophies and ribbons can be won! A whole new world unfolds.

Competition is a test of your technical skills and self-control. Whilst there are many 'experts' keen to provide advice on your skills, only rarely, does anyone bother to explain the less obvious, but really important things you need to know and learn.



Every time you compete, you must consider three main things –

Your dog, other people and yourself

Your Dog You must always place your dog's safety and comfort first and the blue ribbons last. Never allow competition to damage your friendship. It's amazing how often a much loved canine friend suddenly becomes a "stupid mongrel", just because it fails to perform in competition. If things go wrong, don't punish your dog for mistakes that were probably your fault anyway. Can you imagine how a dog must feel when it is given an unnecessarily hard time, for reasons it cannot understand, by a person it thought it could trust?

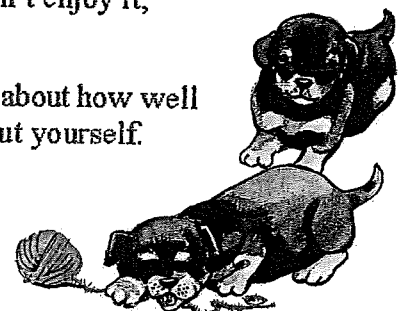
Other people You will meet all types of people in competition. Most are pleasant and helpful, some you don't want to know and a few will be quite special. Be courteous to all, nasty to none and choose your close friends carefully. Avoid the whingers and troublemakers. Your responsibility to Officials and other competitors is to learn and observe the rules, be consistently punctual and accept decisions with good grace.

Yourself Make competition a personal experience. Concentrate on achieving your own personal best performance and you will have much to be proud of, regardless of the result. Be patient with yourself. Competition teaches you many lessons about life in general, but you cannot learn it all in five minutes. Try never to lose your temper. Anger directed at your dog or the people around you, is inexcusable.

When you win, treasure your moment of glory, but remain humble. When you fail, be positive. You have, if nothing else, identified which aspects of your performance require more practice.

Ensure that competition is above all else – good fun. If it's not, find something else to do. Not everyone can be a great competitor so if you don't enjoy it, why bother?

Remember that true success has little to do with trophies and ribbons. It is all about how well you protect your dog, how others regard you as a person and how you feel about yourself.



Why Can't a Dog Be More Like a Dog?

Ian Dunbar Ph.D., BVetMed, MRCVS

The wicked witch of Wycombe paused to howl at the full moon before ripping another mouthful of flesh from the freshly killed rabbit. Lycanthropy: The temporary transformation of witch into wolf?

Or perhaps, a form of madness, wherein the patient imagines himself as a wolf and develops a growly voice and a depraved appetite for raw red meat. Unbelievable? A person becoming canine?

Not necessarily. Many dog owners do the opposite and habitually imagine domestic dogs to be people, whereas many trainers imagine domestic dogs to be wolves. In fact, some trainers go the whole lycanthropic hog and imagine themselves as wolves inflicting wolfy-punishments to convince their doggy charges tow the line.

Anthropomorphic Owners

Consider Moose The Magnificent (name changed to protect the innocent): The Mastiff puppy dog was just soooooo cute and cocked his head just like he was listening to every word that was said to him. The kids talked to him endlessly and told him numerous little stories about Mowgli in the jungle and green Italian ersatz turtles which thrived on pizza. Jane discussed more practical issues, such as household manners. She told Moose where she wanted him to eliminate, where she didn't want him to eliminate, what she wanted him to chew and what she didn't want him to chew. Even John would sit down and have lengthy discussions with Moose about soccer, tying flies, engine capacity, the finer aspects of aeronautical navigation and other male-bonding topics. John also informed Moose, he required absolute obedience at all times; he wanted Moose to always come when called, to sit instantaneously (with panache) and to remain obediently in down stays for the duration. Certainly, Moose listened to everything his owners said. Unfortunately, he barely understood a single word. Moose's owners were being anthropomorphic - attributing human characteristics to the dog. Family Moose viewed their pup as a person in a furry suit.

Now, before I am accused of being a killjoy, I hasten to add, not all anthropomorphism is bad. In fact, it is often fun to chat to a dog, asking it questions, sharing secrets, telling it about your day. I mean who else is going to listen to what you have to say? When ever I return from a trip, I always have quite lengthy conversations with my malamute Phoenix about the decline of the human condition and airline meals, about crushed baggage and imploding petrol tanks on Alamo rentals. It's good to vent a few grievances and get things off your chest, but we also discuss other topics such as, the pros and cons of the pillory and pilliwinks for decimating delinquency in Medieval Europe and of course her favorite, should she get one welcome home cookie, or two? Well, no one else greets me at the front door in the early hours of the morning. But then I digress.

But... she does seem to hang on every single word and I feel certain, dogs also benefit greatly from the closeness and attention of human conversation and that they no doubt glean a lot of what is going on from context, body language and the tone of our voices. However, the dog will only precisely understand the meaning of words it has been taught, or learned by itself - words like 'walkies', 'dinner' and 'on the couch' and all the rest will be naught but Larsonian "Blah blah blah".

On occasions though, anthropomorphism backfires, causing both owner and dog to suffer unnecessarily. Even though people normally attribute good human qualities to their dogs, especially the powers of human understanding and reasoning, problems tend to occur when people assume dogs understand more than they do. Often, we expect more from dogs than they are able to give. We expect dogs to read our minds and understand household rules and regulations without us necessarily explaining them all that well. And we become annoyed when the poor dog breaks rules it did not even know existed. It is vital to explain rules in a manner the dog can understand. This means we must teach the dog the meaning of each word we use; we must teach it our language. This process is called training.

Why Can't a Dog Be More Like a Dog? (continued)

Unfortunately, human nature being what it is, when the dog-owner relationship starts to go awry, the owner's anthropomorphism tends to assume a nasty negative hue and now bad human characteristics are attributed to dogs, in fact particularly pernicious human characteristics. Dogs are frequently accused of being spiteful, vindictive and vicious. Rather than even considering our 'poor learner' might actually have a poor trainer who never effectively taught the dog what was expected, most owners insist the dog misbehaved on purpose. In fact, Jane thought Moose urinated in the house because he was jealous of her time spent with another dog, so Moose was confined to the kitchen, whereupon he exacted his revenge and chewed the kitchen chair legs. So Moose was isolated to the great outdoors, where he vindictively dug up her flowers and barked out of spite.

Assuming dogs have an human appetite for spite and revenge is a convenient excuse for the dog's obvious lack of elementary education. A flagrant advertisement that the owner neglected to teach the dog where to eliminate, what to chew, where to dig, when and for how long to bark, and when and upon whom to jump-up. It is conveniently simpler to blame the dog than train it. Personally I would never insult a dog by even suggesting it has fallen foul of these especially execrable and exclusively human foibles - spite, revenge and viciousness. Whoa! So, a lot of you disagree. But of course we disagree - this is a moot point: None of us will ever know for certain what a dog is thinking, what are its motives, or why it does what it does. What we do know however, is what the dog did. And if for example the dog soiled the house, let's just housetrain the dog and then the owner will no longer be annoyed, the dog will no longer be punished but instead, it can be happily reintegrated into household living and therefore, will no longer be chewing, digging and barking whilst in solitary confinement in the garden. (Or, if you prefer your interpretation, the dog will no longer have any reason to exact revenge.) And once owner and newly-housetrained dog are living in harmony, then, and only then, would it be profitable to engage in moot debate of the differential etiology of housesoiling. Even so, it is still unlikely we'll reach agreement. Luckily though, this is not important because few owners are interested in the etiology of problems which no longer exist.

Lukomorphic Trainers

Moose was becoming a bit of a pain following his headlong collision with adolescence. He would no longer willingly go outside for hours of solitary confinement. John thought Moose was being stubborn and so off they went to training classes. Jane was happy to go along as well because she thought some manners would help control Moose and stop him from rambunctiously jumping-up and mouthing her whenever she would visit him in the yard. The trainer said Moose was a dominant aggressive dog, as evidenced by his urine marking in the house, his refusal to obey commands and his dominant paws-on posturing and mouthing. John and Jane were instructed how to reassume leadership via dominance-downs, stare-downs, scruff shakes, alpha-rollovers and hold-downs. Moose got fed up with the constant manhandling and physical abuse and eventually, both his tolerance and jaws snapped. And we can all write the rest of the story.

How on earth did this folly happen? Presumably, the lukomorphic reasoning assumes:

- Dogs are descended from wolves and should therefore be treated like wolves.
- Wolves are pack animals which have a linear dominance hierarchy with a pack leader (or alpha male) which calls all the shots, maintaining control via physical dominance - Ha! I'd like to see you explain that one to my butch malamute bitch.
- To learn its place, our best friend the domestic dog should similarly be physically dominated in a wolf-like manner, presumably because the 'naturalness' of wolfy-punishments makes it easier for the dog to comprehend.

Why Can't a Dog Be More Like a Dog? (continued)

When carried to this extreme, lukomorphic tendencies have bizarrely erupted into full-blown Lycanthropy - whereby trainers assume ersatz wolfiness to punish puppy dogs in wolf-like fashion by stares, scruff-shakes and alpha-rollovers - transformation of trainer into wolf. Or perhaps, a form of madness? Do these people eat raw rabbit? Before long trainers will be growling, jaw-wrestling, scruff-biting and urine-marking trees in a quest for the natural reprimand.

Oh No! No! Nonononononono NO! NO!! NOOO!!! This is the Disney version. It is so simplistic it makes my twelve-year-old rescue dog laugh. Heavens! It makes chew toys chuckle. Now certainly... dogs are descended from wolves, but their behavior has numerous differences, especially in terms of interaction with people. Consequently, to extrapolate from a ludicrously simplified version of wolf-wolf interaction to dog-dog interaction is quite unfounded, but to further extrapolate from wolf-wolf interaction to dog-human interaction is just plain silliness.

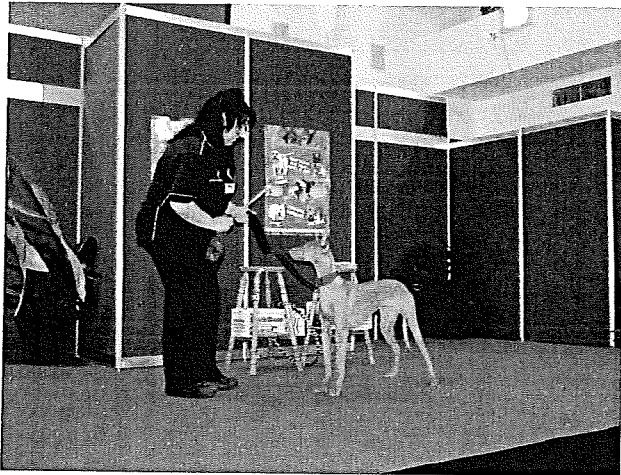
Like wolves, domestic dogs are social animals (and hence should not be socially isolated) and they have an hierarchical social system. However, the hierarchy is neither created by, nor necessarily maintained by physical domination, nor is it strictly linear. If anything, the hierarchy is created and enforced by psychological control, and the peace of the pack is maintained by active appeasement rituals of lower ranking individuals. In fact, the famous Cambridge and Berkeley zoologist, Dr. Thelma Rowell has suggested that the status quo of social groups is better termed a subordination hierarchy - a much more precise and descriptive term.

Yes, most groups of male dogs generally have a surprisingly stable linear hierarchy, but females tend to show significant day-to-day variation and male-female interactions can be extremely unpredictable, with rank-reversals being the norm rather than the exception. Indeed, bitches have virtually rewritten canine hierarchical law with the First Bitch Amendment which states, I have it and you don't. Moreover, individual members of a domestic dog pack have special friendships, alliances and bodyguards. And truly confident top dogs are more than willing to share and even allow underdogs and buddies prime access to bones and favored sleeping places. To say one alpha male rules the roost is an oversimplification to the point of ridicule. In fact, in most domestic canine social groups it is not a single male, but rather a group of females which decide what's what.

Like wolves, dogs do need a leader - but not a dictator who physical dominates, frightens and hurts. And certainly not a human fool who tries to imitate wolves. To allow myself a soup can of anthropomorphic license, most dogs are probably howling with laughter at the pathetic wolf-impersonations by their owners. (Perhaps that's why dogs howl?) It would indeed be laughable, if the consequences were not so sad and serious. Yes, dogs must be taught to show compliance to all family members, but to suggest novice owners physically manhandle and frighten their dogs is both inane and inhumane. And how exactly are children meant to gain respect from the dog? By physically pushing and pulling it around? The very thought is as potentially dangerous as it is stupid. For goodness sake, let's wake up and smell the coffee! Or, wake up and smell the urine, if you're still bordering on virtual Lycanthropy

Cynomorphic Commonsense

Dogs need a leader who will first teach and then, enforce the domestic rules. Perhaps 'educator' is a better term. Dogs are dogs; they are neither human nor lupine, so why don't we just treat them like dogs - to try to understand and respect their doggy ways at the same time as teaching them to understand and respect ours. Furthermore, we are human; we are neither lupine or canine, so why don't we act like the intelligent folk we are meant to be and teach dogs what is expected? If we want dogs to like people, let's socialize them. If we want dogs to have soft mouths, let's teach bite inhibition. If we don't want dogs to mouth or jump up, let's teach "Off" and "Sit". And if we want dogs to adhere to house rules, let's teach them.



2008 Pet & Animal Expo Caulfield Racecourse

This year I was fortunate to be invited by Steve Austin to perform on stage with two of my dogs. There were 3 other trainers also invited, to do two shows per day.

Friday and half of Saturday I had Nahla on Stage doing retrieves, waving, speaking and playing dead. Then she decided it was time to be in season. The boys thought it was great. So a swap to Anubi (Pharaoh Hound) was done on Saturday afternoon. Her tasks were to perform targeting exercises and a recall from a drop.

Steve explained to the crowd the difficulty in training a Pharaoh Hound, (ever since she was a pup he thought that I was taking on a difficult challenge.)

We performed well for two shows, then on the final show, the stage had face painted children all around it, 2 dogs & 1 cat, thought it was better to exit stage left than hang around little lions and tigers... Oh Well... they do say "Never work with animals and children"!!!

I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and thank Steve for the opportunity. We will be back next year...

Tina Button , Anubi & Nahla

Can your dog do something special?

ARE YOU proud of what YOUR DOG CAN DO?

If so, why not become part of the GODC Display Team

During the year the Club gets call from a number of different places asking if some of the Members and their dogs could visit a Nursing Home, School, Group Meetings etc.

Days and times will vary depending on when a request for dogs and handlers are asked to visit.

Sometimes the dogs are required to visit the elderly, show children how to meet and greet a dog, what to do if a dog rushes up to them or to show people what a dog can be taught to do.

A set routine will be available so that anyone wishing to be part of the Display Team can practice it at home making it easier for new members to become part of the team.

If you think this is something you would like to do, then contact

Wendy Ganly - Publicity Officer
52781800 or 0400682927

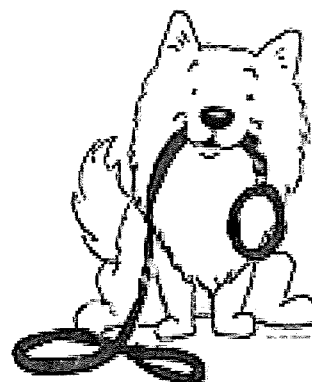
TIPS FOR OUR TRIALING MEMBERS

Ensure that your entry is received by the closing date. All Trial Secretaries would appreciate EARLY receipt of entries.

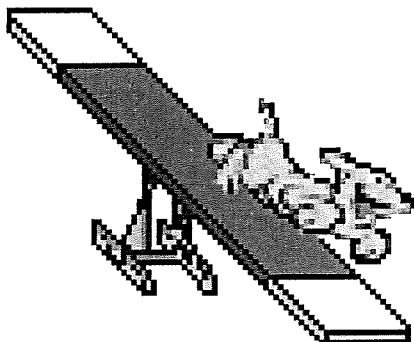
Take the time to fill in all the details on the Entry Form clearly. If a photocopied Entry Form is used, please trim it to size. If you received 300 entries and they all needed cutting it adds a lot of work for the Trial Secretary.

Supply a stamped, self-addressed envelope. This way your receipt of entry will be returned and you will be sure your entry has been received.

Your catalogue number should be worn on the left chest or left arm with only one number visible if you have multiple entries.



LET'S GO!



It is your responsibility to be ready to enter the ring when your number is called. Please don't have the Stewards chasing after you. Remember the 3 call rule can and is often applied and you may be scratched from the ring. If you are entered in more than one ring it is again your responsibility to let the Stewards know.

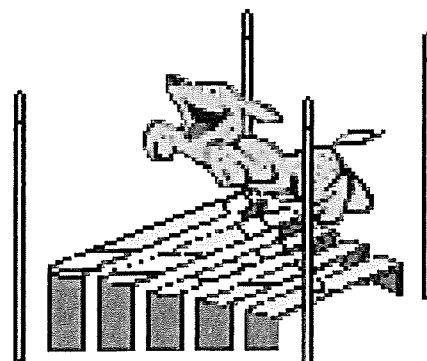
If you "jackpot reward" outside the ring make sure it is far enough away not to interfere with the next competitor about to enter the ring.

Tents, canopies etc are not permitted within 3 metres of the ring, assembly area or in aisles. Always keep assembly areas clear unless you are next in the ring.

Remember that withdrawal at any stage is with the permission of the Judge. You may ask the Steward to ask the Judge then you must wait for the Judge's answer. Simply telling the Steward is not enough. Worst of all are those handlers who just don't bother to turn up for group exercises (Obedience), causing unnecessary delays. Please take the time to attend your ring and withdraw and do the right thing

by everyone.
Noeline McIlroy
"Notes from
OTEC"

Take the time to thank the Judge and the Steward/Stewards, without them we wouldn't have a sport to enjoy and our moments of glory!



FOR SALE

COMPASS 4 TENT
240 x 210 x 150
Weight 4.1 Kg

**Been used twice, ideal for an
overnight stay.**

Contact; Wendy Ganly
0352781800

wendyscanga@yahoo.com.au

HAPPY TRIALING

Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc

Presents

Karin Bridge

Delta Accredited Trainer
Partner in Get S.M.A.R.T dogs NSW
Article contributor Dogs Life Magazine

Specialising in Pet dog training
and behaviour modification.

Sat 7th - Sun 8th June
9am - 4pm

\$60/day or \$100/ weekend

(No Dogs)

NB: GODC Members will be providing dogs

Lunch, morning & afternoon tea inclusive of price.

Spit roast dinner Sat night. \$15pp

Sat

Pet dog behaviour modification

- Loose lead walking
- Recall
- Aggression / timidity
- Leadership

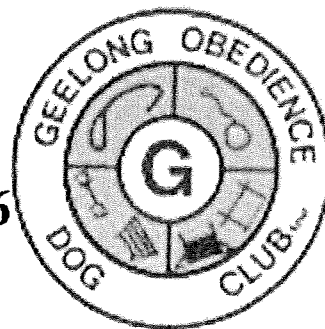
Sun

AM - Obed. Trialing Problem Solving

PM - Agility Trialing Problem Solving

Club Contact - Tina 0414 363 556

(Please Call for Pre booking and availability)



Bookings close Friday 30th May 2008

See attached booking form for details.

Karin Bridge workshop Booking form

Club Contact - **Tina- 0414 363 556**

Please call for availability and pre booking.
Booking Fees must be received within 1 week of Pre book.

Name: _____

Contact No: _____

Cheque/ Money order made Payable to: Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc

SAT	SUN	FULL WEEKEND	DINNER
\$60	\$60	\$100	\$15

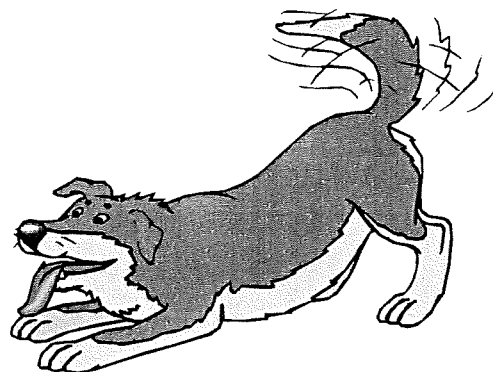
Please Tick correct booking and forward with remittance & SSAE to: Geelong Obedience Dog Club
PO Box 186
Geelong 3220

Total amt enclosed: _____

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