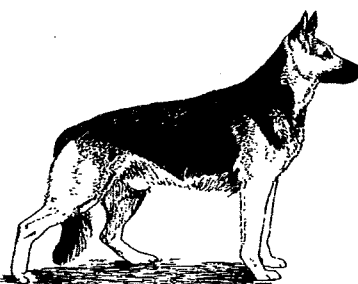
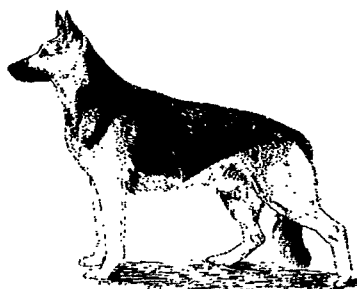
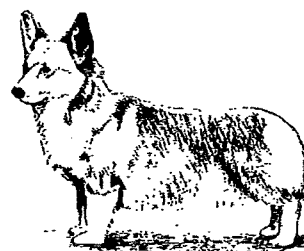
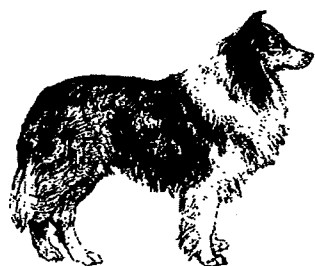
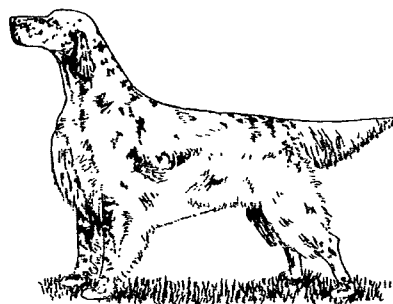
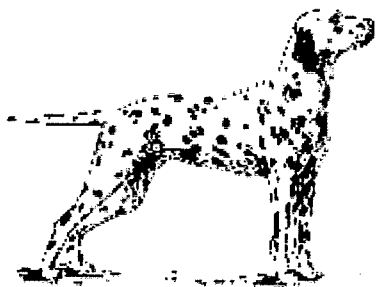


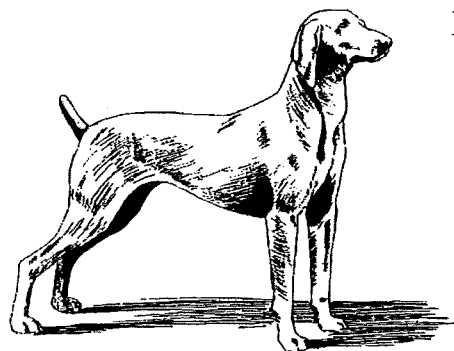
# FAITHFULLY YOURS



**ESTABLISHED 1954**

**Incorporation No A5419H**

**ABN 79 874 613 605**



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

**April 2008**  
**Issue No**  
**188**

# GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann  
Office Bearers for 2007/2008

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Jim Ball	5248 4154	Public Officer
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT (1)</b>	Colin Humphreys	5282 2683	Training
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT (2)</b>	Leonie Kelleher	5243 1277	Administration
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Pam Convery	5241 4786	
<b>TREASURER</b>	Stephen Eldridge	5261 2820	Property Officer
<b>TRIAL SECRETARY</b>	Janelle Convery	5241 4786	
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEE</b>	Jim Broadbent	5275 4458	Canteen Manager
	Peter Baker	5221 1524	Equipment Manager
	Victor Douglas	5241 5401	Grounds Manager
	Kathy Stones	5243 1819	Hall Manager
	Wendy Ganly	5278 1800	Publicity Officer
	Karen Millard	5267 2618	Social Secretary
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	Jenni Keeping	0413 011 822	Membership Officer
	Elaine Longshaw	5255 4603	Minutes Officer
	Alex Shackleton		Shop Manager
	Barbara Thorogood	5244 1819	Training Manager
	Vacant		Bar Manager
	Robyn Youl	5367 6415	Librarian
	Vacant		Assistant Librarian
	Pam Convery	5241 4786	Newsletter Editor
	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, 2.00pm to 6.30pm

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

**THE SECRETARY**  
**PO BOX 186**  
**GEELONG 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](mailto:jcgret@ozemail.com.au)

Closing date for all Newsletter items is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

**Club website – [www.godc.org.au](http://www.godc.org.au)**



## 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.

**16/4/2008**

Mazengarb Jill	Border Collie - Connor	Whippet - Rafer
Gibson Rae/Alan	Jack Russell - Sam	
Laird Jenny	Fox Terrier X - Bob	
Taylor Elly	Great Dane - Charlie	
Menner Alison/Bruozis Ray	Golden Retriever - Amber	
Grinter Emma	Border Collie - Coby	
Braxton Peter/Nicole	Boxer - Spencer	
Curtis Dianne	Bull Mastiff - Nero	
Brand Lindy	Labrador - Bomba	
Thind Narinder	Silkie X Pom - Dr Hannibal Lector	
Leyden Danny/Joanne	Dobermann - Jet	
Porter Roxanne	Maltese - Emily	
Gold Alison	Boston Terrier - Buz	
Bruns Lauren/Wynhoven Carol	Great DaneX Mastiff - Lexi	
Aldridge Carmel	Boxer - Juey (Hoodini)	
Barrow Stephanie/Pitts Greg	Pomeranian X - Toga	
Kennedy Marian	Cavoodle - Rajah	
Windmeyer Kathryn	Beagle X - Archie	
Archibald Peter/Ellen	Golden Retriever - Archie	Labrador - Roxy
Bowe Wendy	Poodle X Schnauzer - Barney	
Paul Jackie/Mather John	Border Collie - Rocky	Border Collie -
Coco		

# BUCKLEY'S NIGHT OUT

**Come and join us for a night out at  
Buckley's**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - 7.30pm**

**Please add your name to the list on  
the clipboard on the veranda if you  
are available**



## CLUB CALENDAR

### May

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4 May</b>	<b>PROMOTION DAY.</b>
Saturday	10 May	Claude Bertoni Workshop
Sunday	11 May	Normal training.
Thursday	15 May	Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Sunday	18 May	Million Paws Walk – Eastern Gardens
<b>Monday</b>	<b>19 May</b>	<b>Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm.</b>
Friday	23 May	Dinner at Buckleys
Sunday	25 May	Normal training. Newsletter available

### June

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1 June</b>	<b>Normal training. Class 1 Intake. Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months</b>
Tuesday	3 June	General Meeting – 8.00 pm unless otherwise advised
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8 June</b>	<b>QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND. NO TRAINING</b>
		<b>Karin Bridge Seminar</b>
Sunday	15 June	Normal training. Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
<b>Monday</b>	<b>16 June</b>	<b>Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm</b>
Sunday	22 June	Normal training.
Sunday	29 June	Normal training. Newsletter available
Monday	30 June	End of financial year for all departments. Stocktake required for Canteen, Bar and Shop.

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## CLUB INSTRUCTORS

<i>Vice President (Training)</i>	Colin Humphreys
<i>Training Supervisor</i>	David Gravolin
<i>Assistant Training Supervisors</i>	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
Lisa Pucci		

---

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Great minds discuss ideas,  
average minds discuss events,  
small minds discuss people



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well another month has passed us by. Sadly we had to cancel our double Agility Trial due to the poor condition of the grounds.

Our next Promotion Day is on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May. I hope we have several passes to look forward to. I hate to see disappointment on the faces of those going for the pass and their Instructors as well. But I guess if you have put in the time you will be rewarded.

Our next Competition to be held will be our back-to-back Obedience Trials. If you are available to help out, please see someone in the office. There will be a note going out in due course I would imagine. Also if you want there is a workshop seminar coming up on the Queen's Birthday weekend, if you are interested there are forms hanging up by the equipment shop. These are very informative weekends. If you want any more information on the weekend I'm sure Tina will be only too happy to talk to you.

Well that's all from me.

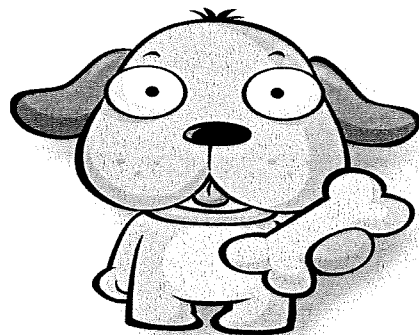
**Jim Ball -President**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to thank all the Members who recently took time out of your schedules to sit and put pen to paper and fill out the survey, we will endeavour to look into each item and see what we can achieve. Also a special thanks to Pam for all her work on the survey, I know that she has put a lot of work into it.

I have been in contact with a local vet and have booked him to come and give a talk in June on Hip dysplasia, so closer to the time and once I have had confirmation, I will place notices on the board and also they will be added onto the gossip sheet. Let us know if you have any topics that you would like to know more information on and we can always ask one of the local vets to come and give a talk to the Members.

Happy training- Leonie Kelleher



**Most dogs don't think they  
are human, they know  
they are.**

**PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT**

Hi Members, Wendy here with another fabulous outing for you, your kids and their friends, husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends or just friends and not forgetting you Furry Friend.

Pre-Warm up for the RSPCA Million Paws Walk

When – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Where – Eastern Gardens

Time – 8.30pm

Cost – \$30.00 per Team of Six – Surely the members of your class can get together and organise a Team of 6. Don't forget your Instructor too, as this will be a training day in place of the usual day at the GODC Grounds.

Walk commences at 10.am.

A list will be on the verandah for you to add your name and your team's name. Your Registration Fee will only be accepted up to 11<sup>th</sup> May. After that date you will be asked to pay \$7.00 per person and need to line up to Register on the day. Pre-registration is better than me standing in line for ages while I register the GODC members.

More information will be forthcoming.

**Wendy Ganly – Publicity Officer**

**SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT**

It's been a bit quiet on the social side, however the latest suggestions are as follows –

A night at the Trots

A Trivia night at the Clubrooms

A Saturday Bus trip to Victoria Market

If you are interested in joining in on any of these events, please add your name to the list on the veranda clipboard. If we get a good response, dates, times and details will be forwarded to you.

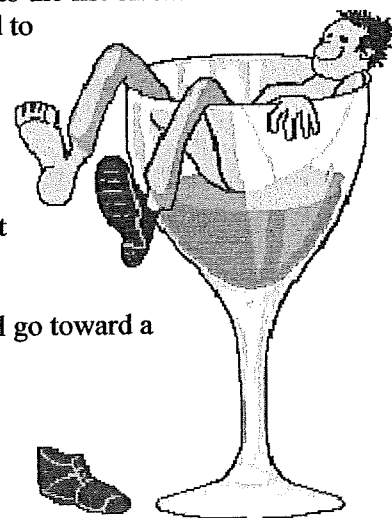
Don't forget "The Night Out – Dinner at Buckley's" – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008.

Is there any better way to meet other Members? Come along and enjoy a great meal. Bookings for table reservations are being taken now, so be quick, contact me, "Karen" or any other Committee Member.

Our up and coming fundraiser will be a Slice Drive and our funds collected will go toward a dog wading pool at the Club. Stay tuned for details.

'Til next time

Karen Millarrd – Social Secretary



# LIBRARY NEWS



New arrival

The fantastic magazine



All the way from the USA

Many thanks to our Secretary – Pam who tracked it down and our President – Jim who organised a Club Subscription to this magazine.

Front & Finish is to the Obedience fraternity as Clean Run is to Agility fans.

A high quality, informative magazine jam packed with hints and tips from a range of training techniques to help you enhance your dog's performance.

## A MUST READ

You may well be so impressed that you might like to take out your own personal subscription

Happy heeling  
Robyn



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# Training Word Search

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 Recall  
 Retrieve  
 Rewards  
 Ring  
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Seesaw  
 Signals  
 Sit  
 Speak  
 Stand  
 Steward  
 Table  
 Tail  
 Treats  
 Trial  
 Tunnel  
 Walkover



# Everyday Training to Avoid Problem Behaviors

*Without even using commands, you can mould your dog's behavior to be almost always GOOD!*  
So many people don't know what it means to reward a good behavior. They are waiting for a good behavior to occur, and they don't recognize it when it happens. Or, they just EXPECT dogs to somehow be good, and don't realize that they won't keep seeing good behaviors if those behaviors go unrewarded. Basically, any behavior that is not a BAD behavior is a rewardable good behavior.

Here is a list to help you know what to look for and what to reinforce with rewards and attention. I list the behavior and a new way of looking at that behavior as a way of eliminating or preventing a competitive behavior which is "bad":

- Sitting (the act of not jumping up)
- Quietness (the act of not barking constantly)
- Eye Contact (giving you their attention; the act of not "blowing you off")
- Going to the bathroom outside (the act of not peeing and pooping in the house)
- Walking on a loose leash (the act of not yanking your arm out of your socket)
- Coming to you for any reason (the act of not running away from you, or avoiding you)
- Lying still (the act of not racing around like a maniac, jumping, pulling on the leash, or barking)
- Bringing you anything (the act of not playing keep away). Even if it's your Rolex! Wouldn't you rather have him bring it to you than sneak out the doggie door and bury it in the back yard?
- Giving you anything (trusting you; the act of not resource guarding)
- Coming or staying near you (keeping tabs on where you are; the act of not wandering off)

If you can do this, you've just taught your dog to Come, Sit, Down-Stay, Heel, Retrieve, Not Jump and Not Bark, and you didn't even have to take an obedience class or even use training equipment. All you have to do is watch for one of these 10 behaviors to occur, and pop a treat in the dog's mouth. This is just TOO SIMPLE, and yet so many people fail to do it and end up with the "dog from hell."

How do you reward or reinforce these behaviors? You can use anything that is pleasing to the dog. Praise alone doesn't mean much to a dog unless it is followed by food. Most dogs respond well to small (very small) tidbits of soft-moist dog treats. Lots of dogs value a play session, or a chance to retrieve a toy, even more than a treat. Use what your dog likes. If you see the dog performing the rewarded behavior more regularly, that means it's working. Remember when he's engaged in one of the behaviors on the list, he is NOT committing one of the incompatible "crimes" (opposite behaviors).

Some people think that they would have to be feeding their dog all the time, to do this type of training. Well, I ask you, would you rather be punishing your dog all the time? Because if you don't reward the listed behaviors, **THEY WILL GO AWAY** and be replaced by self-reinforcing behaviors, like barking, digging, running and chasing things. A dog will only perform behaviors that are productive for him. You can't EXPECT a dog to know to be good. Telling him he is good by rewarding with a treat or an unexpected play session is a great way for him to form positive associations with those behaviors. And he will want to perform those rewarded behaviors **ALL THE TIME!**

You don't have to feed your dog for every breath he takes for his entire lifetime. Once you have formed good HABITS, they are hard to break. Just as once bad habits are formed; they are equally hard to break. So, it pays you to do it right the first time. **REWARD** those simple behaviors that you've been taking for granted! Open your eyes and open your treat bag! What you reward is what you'll get.

---

## VCA TRIAL RESULTS

### Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> Agility Dog Club of Victoria Trial

#### Novice Jumping

Debbie Hamilton T Ch Goldscout Adventuress 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Golden Retriever

3<sup>rd</sup> Pass  
TITLE



#### Masters Jumping

Peter Baker Dunnwarren Blue Curacao CD ET ADX JDM JDO GD  
Border Collie (Poppy) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Pass

Peter Baker Dunnwarren Blue Curacao CD ET ADX JDM JDO GD  
Border Collie (Poppy) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Pass

#### Novice Agility

Debbie Hamilton T Ch Goldscout Adventuress 4<sup>th</sup> place  
Golden Retriever

1<sup>st</sup> Pass

#### Novice Strategic Pairs

Debbie Hamilton T Ch Goldscout Adventuress 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Golden Retriever

1<sup>st</sup> Pass

#### Excellent Gamblers

Peter Baker Dunnwarren Blue Curacao CD ET ADX JDM JDO GD  
Border Collie (Poppy)

Pass

#### Ballarat Obedience Dog Club – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April

Tina Button Monlaird Poseidon HT 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

1<sup>st</sup> Pass

Barbara Pownall Schat Et HT 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
German Shepherd Dog

NQ



## 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!

# T Ch Goldscout Adventuress JD

23/03/08




I started my Agility career under the guidance of Trish, Glenys and Jenny. They had a tough job trying to train my mum (Deb Hamilton) to get things right. Her hands flapped around, her mouth kept saying silly things and I often ended up confused. Occasionally though she gets it right.

We got our first Jumpers pass at last years Agility Trial (mum even fell on her bum during my run – boy that was a laugh).

Our second pass was at Ballarat's Agility Trial and we couldn't crack it for a third pass in 2007.

Since then we have moved to Ballarat and still continue our training; yes Trish and Glenys they too are shaking their heads at mum. Our second trial for 2008 was over Easter and mum finally got it right again. We obtained our Jumpers Title on a course that mum said we had no hope of getting right and boy was she WRONG; I came home with a lovely 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbon and lots of praise and hugs.

Looking forward to catching up with our old mates at Geelong soon.

“Cassie”. 





## 10 TIPS FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEM BEHAVIOUR


by Suzanne Clothier. Copyright 1996 – Used with permission

At one time or another, every owner has to deal with problem behaviour. Understanding why your dog does what he does, and how to handle the situation correctly can help resolve problems quickly.

Here are some basic guidelines that apply to nearly all problem situations:

 Control the dog and you control the situation. By putting on a training collar and lead, you can control the dog. For many dogs, their training equipment means business, not playtime, and this can help in a problem situation. A dog who is on lead cannot run away or chase people or other animals, and his owner has a chance to help him understand what he should do by guiding him with the leash and collar.

 Be positive. Instead of saying "NO", try giving your dog something positive that he can do for you, such as "Sit", or "Heel". This positive approach means you can praise generously for his good actions, instead of simply yelling at him. For example, a dog that jumps up can be told to sit, and helped if necessary, then praised for sitting.

 Allow a dog to be a dog. Often, what owners consider problem behaviour is simply normal dog behaviour that they find unpleasant or annoying. For example, digging is a natural canine activity but distressing to a garden proud owner. Instead of scolding for what comes naturally, it might be kinder to set up an area in which you have buried small treats to make it more attractive than the rest of the yard, and praising your dog for digging in "his" garden. Whenever natural behaviours conflict with what you might like, be creative and see if you can find an outlet for those interests and activities that is suitable for you both.

## **10 TIPS FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEM BEHAVIOUR (continued)**

🐾 Be consistent. It is unfair to the dog to change your rules depending on what you're wearing, who's visiting or the kind of day you've had. If your dog is allowed on the furniture, he will be confused when you yell at him because Aunt Bess is visiting and she doesn't think dogs should sit in chairs! If he's allowed to jump up when you're wearing jeans and a sweatshirt, don't be surprised if he can't tell the difference between that and your best evening gown. Whatever your rules are, keep them consistent.

🐾 Have your dog earn what he wants. While everyone needs a few freebies now and then, your dog will not think you are a wonderful owner if you play with him, walk him, feed him and pet him whenever he demands it. In fact, this often creates problems since from the dog's point of view an owner who can be "trained" this well is not one who deserves much respect. Teach your dog to say "please" by sitting, lying down or following some other command before he gets what he wants.

🐾 Be clear. Owners often confuse dogs by changing the words or commands, repeating them over and over again without showing the dog what is meant, and worst of all, assuming that the dog understands. When in doubt, gently show your dog physically exactly what you mean, giving the command at the same time so that he can associate the two. Use clear, matter of fact commands when addressing your dog, and be sure that your praising tone is excited, enthusiastic and upbeat.

Remember that while we use words to communicate, dogs are masters of reading body language. If your body language tells the dog one thing, but your voice tells the dog something else, chances are he will believe your body language. This is why people who bend towards their dog and shake a finger at them while scolding "No, no, no" often receive a playful bark - their body posture is much more like a dog inviting play than a dog who is annoyed or angry.

🐾 Exercise, exercise, exercise! The most common cause of problem behaviour is boredom and a lack of sufficient exercise. While you work or go out, your dog has little or nothing to do, and his need to exercise will not go away. A familiar yard or house is boring, and few dogs' exercise on their own without interaction with their owners. Take the time to play with your dog, jog with him, walk in the woods, swim or take long brisk walks each day. A tired dog is always a well-behaved dog!

🐾 Provide mental stimulation. Dr. Roger Abrante's suggestions regarding using 1/3 of your dog's diet for treats to be earned during training, 1/3 to be given as usual in a food bowl, and 1/3 to be "hunted" (try a Buster Cube, an ingenious new training aid which the dog must persistently work with to receive a few kibble at a time. This will amuse even a border collie for hours! Buster Cubes are available from *Legacy by Mail* - [troydog@maui.net](mailto:troydog@maui.net), or from your local pet store.) This "home alone" 1/3-1/3-1/3 program helps your dog expend some energy and provides much needed stimulation

🐾 Understand your dog's genetic heritage. Whether you own a Doberman or a Beagle, a Samoyed or a Westie, it is important to understand what your dog was bred to do. Owners often forget that the behaviour that prompts a dog to run or stay close, hunt or guard, chase and kill or herd, work with people or work independently are all the result of generations of carefully selected traits. Research your breed's history, and talk to people who understand your breed's characteristics. You may find that Rover's tendencies, while annoying or amusing, are precisely what makes him what he is. You can then decide how best to work with your dog's instincts and where you need to concentrate training efforts.

🐾 Train your dog. Every dog should have basic manners, but dogs are not born knowing how to behave. Take the time to train your dog on a consistent basis using kind, positive methods. Find a class near you whose methods and philosophies you like. If faced with a behaviour problem you can't solve, ask people you trust for a recommendation of an experienced trainer and get professional help fast. The sooner you begin working on a problem the sooner you will have it solved.

# Getting to know your Instructors & Committee Members

This month

**Kath Devlin**  
**Instructor**



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

German Shepherd Dog

**How many dogs have you trained?**

4

**Do you have any other pets at home?**

Yes

**How long have you been involved with the Club?**

20 years

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

Dog getting CD Title

**Describe yourself in three words**

Fanatical Geelong supporter

**Who are your heroes?**

Volunteers

**What makes you laugh?**

People

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

Falcon Station wagon

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

South Africa

**What is your favourite food?**

Anything I don't have to cook

**What is your favourite music?**

Country and Western

**What is your favourite sport?**

Football and Cricket

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

Success

Friendship

Unity



## **PALS PROGRAM - PETS ARE LOVING SUPPORT**

"Lort Smith Animal Hospital" will be holding an Induction evening for people interested in joining the PALS (Pets are Loving Support) Program).

This will take place at

Geelong Obedience Dog Club on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> commencing at 7.30pm.

If your dog is over 12 months of age, has basic manners, and you have 1-2 hrs of spare time per month, you would be most welcome.

Helping others is a very rewarding experience and doing it with your best mate is even better.

# Getting to know your Instructors & Committee Members

This month

**Moira McNair**  
**Instructor**



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

Golden Retriever

**How many dogs have you trained?**

2

**Do you have any other pets at home?**

No

**How long have you been involved with the Club?**

21 years

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

1<sup>st</sup> Stand for Exam

**Describe yourself in three words**

Passed use-by date

**Who are your heroes?**

Weary Dunlop

**What makes you laugh?**

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

Mazda

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

Back to the UK (revisit)

**What is your favourite food?**

Chocolate

**What is your favourite music?**

Classical

**What is your favourite sport?**

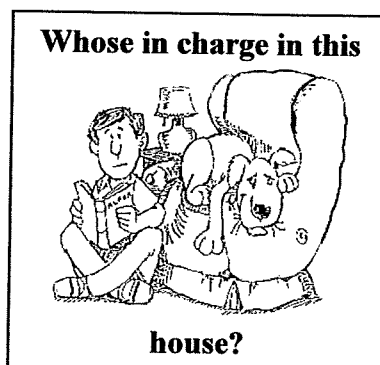
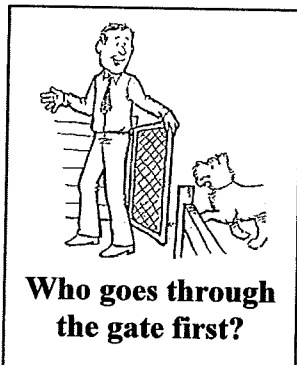
Golf

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

Become financial

Have good Membership

Continued success



**FOR SALE**  
**Nissan X-Trail 2003**  
**73,000km, one owner, Manual, C Control,**  
**A/C, Towbar, roof racks, nudge bar,**  
**Driving lights.**  
**Very economical!!!!**  
**\$21,600**  
**See Alex Shackleton in the Equipment**  
**Shop**

## **Nubs the dog finds something to bark about after rescue by Marine**

- Sent in by Elaine Longshaw

It began with a simple act of kindness to save an abused and injured dog from becoming one more victim in the war in Iraq. But what followed for Marine Maj. Brian Dennis and the mutt was a tale of friendship and loyalty that spanned miles, borders, and overcame long odds -- a tale that takes a turn Friday with the anticipated arrival here of the Marine's best friend.



"This dog who had been through a lifetime of fighting, war, abuse ... is going to live the good life," Dennis told his family in an e-mail from Iraq.

The tale of friendship unfolded in October, a few months after Dennis deployed to Iraq from San Diego to work as part of the military team building infrastructure along the Syria-Iraq border and training Iraqi forces to take over.

Dennis, 36, of St. Pete Beach, Fla., had volunteered for the assignment. It was a departure from his role as a fighter pilot. He had seen the country from the air. But on the ground, it was different.

Dennis wrote stories home about the reciprocal relationship that desert dogs, strays wandering outside border towns, had with Iraqis.

"The dogs get to eat the Iraqi scraps and have a home in the middle of the desert," he wrote in an e-mail. "The Iraqis get an incredible early warning system; these dogs hear anything approaching from miles away and go nuts and scramble to defend their territory."

While on patrol in the Anbar province, Dennis spotted what appeared to be a gray and white, male German shepherd-border collie mix. He named the dog Nubs after learning someone cut the ears off believing it would make the dog more aggressive and alert.

Within weeks, Nubs was greeting Dennis during routine patrol stops along border communities. The Marines fed him bits of their food and by November, the Marine and his unit were keeping an eye out for the dog, who routinely chased their Humvees when they departed. Life on the run, however, was taking a toll on the dog.

He had lost a tooth and been bitten in the neck. In late December, Dennis found Nubs near death in freezing temperatures. The dog had been stabbed with a screwdriver. Dennis rubbed antibiotic cream on the wound and slept with Nubs to keep him warm. "I really expected when I woke up for watch he would be dead," Dennis wrote. "Somehow he made it through the night."

Dennis thought he had seen the last of the dog days later when his squad headed back to their command post some 65 miles away. He couldn't take the dog with him and watched as it tried to follow the Humvees away from the border. Two days later, while Dennis and a comrade were working on a Humvee, he looked up and saw the dog staring at him. "Somehow that crazy damned dog tracked us," he wrote Jan. 9. But the reunion was short lived. Military policy prohibits having pets in war zones, and Dennis was given four days to get the dog

**Nubs the dog finds something to bark about after rescue by Marine (continued)**

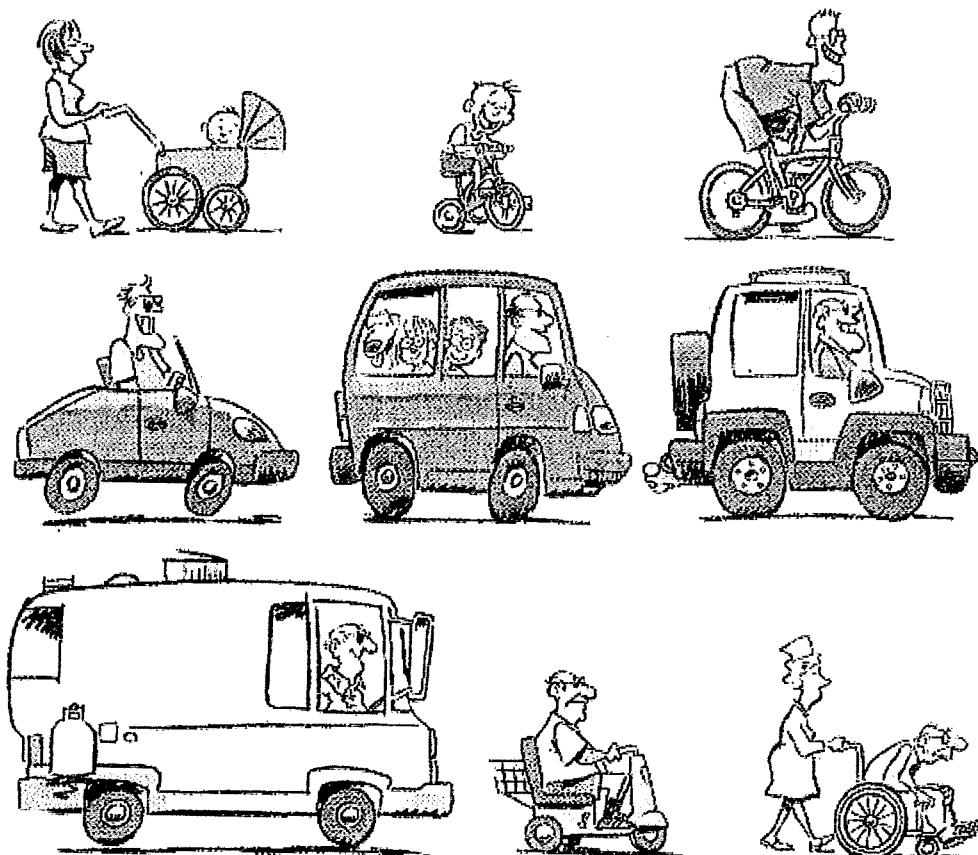
off the base or kill him. The decision was easy: Nubs was going to San Diego. The logistics, though, were anything but easy. With help from his Iraqi interpreter, Dennis managed to find a Jordanian veterinarian to get the care and paperwork needed to get it to the states. He also negotiated the red tape to get the dog across the border into Jordan.

His family and close friends helped raise the \$3,500 needed to get the dog from Amman, Jordan, to San Diego, said his mother, Marsha Cargo. "I just can't believe it. Out there in the middle of nowhere these two find each other," Cargo said. A colleague in San Diego agreed to care for the dog and have it trained until Dennis returns in March from Iraq.

"We anticipate a real steep learning curve for Nubs," said Capt. Eric Sjoberg. "We want him to learn to just be a dog." For now, though, Dennis will settle for the knowledge that Nubs is finally safe -- and waiting for his master to follow him.

By **CHELSEA J. CARTER** - Associated Press Writer - February 22, 2008  
<http://www.mydesert.com/>

## The Wheels of Life





# **FOCUS, FOOD AND FUN PHILOSOPHIES**

## **Training Tips from Patty Ruzzo**

Ever forward, SLOWLY. Reinforce means strengthen.

Behaviour that is reinforced (while it is occurring) will increase in intensity, frequency and duration. Be quick, generous, variable and unpredictable with reinforcement.

Food is a powerful reinforcer. Be generous! Pair delicious food with smiles, compliments, loving touch, applause and appreciation.

Dogs learn by association. Pair all things wonderful with Obedience!

To maximise results, use a variety of high magnitude, delicious treats, i.e. small pieces of (cooked) roast beef, pork, chicken or turkey, cubes of cheddar cheese, French toast or pizza, and/or cheese tortellini, or (homemade) liver, turkey or salmon brownies. How about bacon or tuna fish to reinforce sit and down "stays". Yummy. Yum.

Continuous use of reinforcement, lasting 10-17 seconds (while the dog is in an obedience position), really makes an impact on said dog's attitude.

Soft textured food (rather than crispy) works best. Easier to swallow and no crumbs falling to the ground.

Cookie VIEWING is not reinforcing to the dog. Give him/her the cookie!

In the sport of competition Obedience, there is a process (training) and a product (showing). Dog and handler can enjoy them both.

### **HANDLING FOR TEAMWORK**

Clear, concise, consistent handling is REINFORCING to the dog.

Body posture, facial expression, verbal tones, energy level, positive expectations and clear, recognizable signal and verbal cues ALL PLAY A PART.

Attention starts with the handler. Trainers who are totally focused on their canine partner will receive reciprocal attention from that dog.

Handler sets him/herself up first and checks own body position for straight alignment before asking perfection from the dog.

Handler's feet in line and pointed forward, shoulders over hips at all times.

On heeling, soft focus on ground 3 feet in front of handler and see dog in peripheral vision.

Walk, think, and focus on straight lines.

Give verbal and/or signal cues BEFORE moving with dog.

Shorten stride length on all turns, halts and curves of the figure 8.

Double track (not signal track) when doing left and right turns, the slow pace and both curves of the figure 8.

Be a teacher who is quick, generous, variable and unpredictable. Be FUN!



## Dunnwarren Blue Curacao "Poppy's proficient profession"

Just a little synopsis on my gorgeous Border Collie. Poppy will be seven in July.

She is an earnest dog. In this time she has won the Geelong Obedience Dog Club Agility Dog of the Year Award four years running.

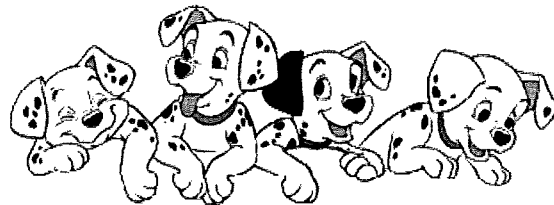
She was also on the front cover of the Border Collie Journal in 2005, has become a Flyball Master, nine Titles, a finalist in the 2006 State Agility and Jumping Trials, has 18 first placings, 23 seconds and 27 thirds, not to mention her clear runs - 41 of those - a total of 109 clear runs and there were a few not so clear. She has played a crucial part in winning with her Flyball Team.



It's no wonder I get sore knees from time to time. She has never been sick or injured, never been any trouble, great watch dog, affectionate companion and absolutely majestic carnivorous mammal. She plays an important part in my life and it is a privilege to own her. Looking forward to another seven years.

Many thanks to the Geelong Obedience Dog Club and the Agility support clan

**Peter, Poppy and Amazing Amigo**



### **SLOW DANCE**

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round?

Or listened to the rain, slapping on the ground?

Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?

Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You better slow down. Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short. The music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?  
When you ask "How are you?" Do you hear the reply?  
When the day is done, do you lie in your bed.  
With the next hundred chores, running through your head?

You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast  
Time is short. The music won't last.

Ever told your child, we'll do it tomorrow?  
And in your haste, not see his sorrow?  
Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die  
Cause you never had time, to call and say, "hi"

You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short. The music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere  
You miss half the fun of getting there.  
When you worry and hurry through your day,  
It is like an unopened gift.... thrown away.

Life is not a race. Do take it slower  
Hear the music. Before the song is over