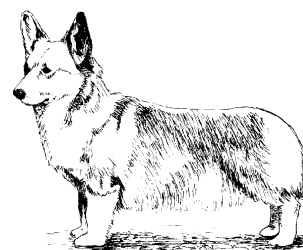
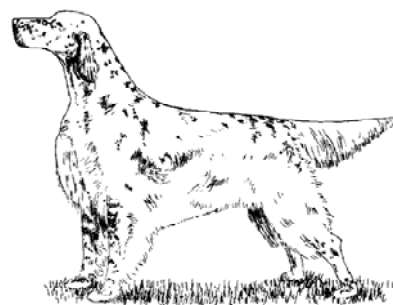


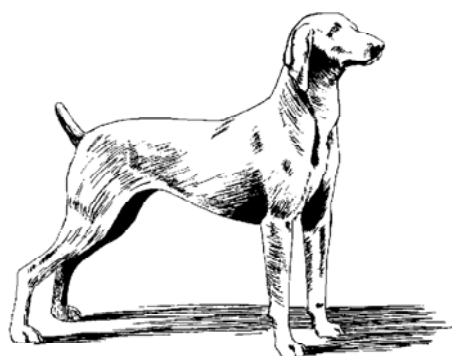
# FAITHFULLY YOURS



**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**

**October 2010**  
**Issue No**  
**215**

# GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

**Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann**

**Office Bearers for 2009/2010**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Jim Ball	52 484 154	Public Officer
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT (1)</b>	Sandy Malady		Training
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT (2)</b>	Lyn Wills	0407 846 590	Administration
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Karen Millard	52 672 618	
<b>TREASURER</b>	Heather Cook	52 296 867	Property Officer
<b>TRIAL SECRETARY</b>	Tina Button	0414 363 556	
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEE</b>	Kathy Taylor	52 411 886	Canteen Manager
	Theo Rain	0425 172 964	Equipment Manager
	Victor Douglas	52 415 401	Grounds Manager
	Pam Convery	52 414 786	Hall Manager
	Vacant		Publicity Officer
	Alex Shackleton		Shop Manager
<b>NON-COMMITTEE</b>	Tina Button	0414 363 556	Training Supervisor
	Christine Jagtenberg	0438 414 917	Membership Officer
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	Robyn Youl		Librarian
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	Vacant		Raffle Steward
	Pam Convery	52 414 786	Newsletter Editor
	Brendan Jagtenberg	0410 261 393	Webmaster

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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 **Pam Convery at [janelle.convery@bigpond.com](mailto:janelle.convery@bigpond.com)**

Please remember the 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)



## CLUB CALENDAR

### October

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3 October</b>	<b>FUN DAY – Certificate presentations .Newsletter available</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5 October</b>	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 8.00 pm</b>
Sunday	10 October	Normal Training. Class 1 Intake. Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
<b>Friday</b>	<b>15 October</b>	<b>Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc</b>
Sunday	17 October	Normal training
<b>Monday</b>	<b>18 October</b>	<b>Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm.</b>
Sunday	24 October	Normal training.
Sunday	31 October	Normal training.

## CLUB INSTRUCTORS

<i>Vice President (Training)</i>	Sandy Malady
<i>Training Supervisor</i>	Tina Button
<i>Assistant Training Supervisors</i>	Victor Douglas
	Vacant

### Obedience

Joan Brophy	Leonie Kelleher	Colin Humphreys	Val Moeller
Kim Ciezarek	Helen Read	Kath Devlin	Desma Dickeson
David Gravalin	Christine Jagtenberg		
<b><u>Trainee Instructors</u></b>			
Lisa McNamara	Lyn Wills	Simmon Hellebrand	

### Agility

Trish Gavaghan	Glenys Murray	Alex Shackleton
Simmon Hellebrand	Lyn Wills	Anne Macrae
Vanessa Bridges	Tam Dixon	



## REPORTS

## REPORTS

## REPORTS

## REPORTS

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, I guess the month has passed us by yet again. Sorry I forgot to submit a report for last month but have put one in for October.

The AGM is upon us, I hope we have some new Members standing for the positions, if not we will have to keep up with the old crew.

We still need people to help out on the Dogs Day Out. People to assist with the parking of cars and collecting donations from the public. Also need help with the running of the day, mainly in the admin part. We do have a caterer coming in and several other people to perform other jobs.

Also our new training schedule is up and running and we now don't have a testing day as such. All are assessed

**Jim Ball - President**

### HALL MANAGER'S REPORT

With the Committee year drawing to a close I would just like to thank Lyn and Theo for their help early in the year with the window and curtain cleaning and various Committee Members for their help setting up the Clubrooms for events when I wasn't available. Best wishes to the Club and the incoming Committee for the coming year.

**Pam Convery – Hall Manager**

### AGILITY NEWS

Gee, I thought it was wet and wintry last month but that was nothing to what we have experienced since then. What a wet introduction to spring!

This inclement weather has made it very difficult to conduct normal classes as we have had to consider safety aspects for you and your dogs, so thank you all for your patience and good humour throughout this trying time.

The wet conditions also affected some of the Trial venues, resulting in the cancellation of some trials and the relocation of others. One that did go ahead as scheduled, though, was the State Agility Trial and I am really pleased to be able to congratulate Vanessa Bridges and her dog, Bryce, on their wonderful success. Vanessa and Bryce gained their JDX (Jumping Dog Excellent) Title at this event and made it even more special with a 1<sup>st</sup> place.

This is Vanessa at a recent Trial at Bacchus Marsh and she can be seen walking the course as she plans how she will direct Bryce through it.

Vanessa is one of our Agility Instructors at GODC and currently works with our Level 4 groups.



**REPORTS**

**REPORTS**

**REPORTS**

**REPORTS**

### **AGILITY NEWS (continued)**

Other happy Triallers after presentations at the Bacchus Marsh Trial.

Good luck to those trialling at Moorabbin, Knox, GEELONG, Ballarat, Warrnambool and Lara during October.

**Trish Gavaghan**



#### **A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS.....Sent in my Julie Hole**

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
  2. Give me time to understand what you want of me
  3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
  4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
  5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
  6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
  7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.
  8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.
  9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
  - 10 On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.
- ~Take a moment today to thank God for your pets. Enjoy and take good care of them. Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without God's critters.
- ~Now please pass this on to other pet owners. We do not have to wait for Heaven, to be surrounded by hope, love, and joyfulness. It is here on earth and has four legs!

## Upcoming Trials-November 2010

TUES 2	OBEDIENCE TRIAL	NORTHCOTE OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB
SAT 6	OBEDIENCE & DOUBLE AGILITY TRIAL	BAIRNSDALE DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB
SUN 7	OBEDIENCE & DOUBLE AGILITY TRIAL	GIPPSLAND OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB
	RETRIEVING TRIAL	CLUB L'EPAGNEUL BRETON
SAT 13	DOUBLE AGILITY TRIAL	WARRAGUL & DISTRICT KENNEL & OBEDIENCE CLUB
SUN 14	DOUBLE AGILITY TRIAL	WARRAGUL & DISTRICT KENNEL & OBEDIENCE CLUB
SAT 20	OBEDIENCE TRIAL	SOUTHERN OBEDIENCE DOG TRAINING CLUB
SAT 27	AGILITY & OBEDIENCE TRIAL	PORTLAND DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB
SUN 28	AGILITY & OBEDIENCE TRIAL	PORTLAND DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB
TUES 30	OBEDIENCE TRIAL	OBEDIENCE, TRACKING & ENDURANCE COMMITTEE

## Trial Results

### Altona

S Axe	Hector	Jumpers Open	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Q
		Regular 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Q
		Regular 2	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Q
		Tunnelers	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Q

### Bacchus Marsh NADAC Agility Trial – 22<sup>nd</sup> August

V Bridges	Bryce	Elite Tunnelers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	7 <sup>th</sup> Pass
		Novice Weavers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	7 <sup>th</sup> Pass
S Axe	Hector	Chances		Q
		Jumpers Open	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Q
		Tunnelers	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Q
		Weavers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Q
L Helmer	Leah	Novice Tunnelers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Q
		Novice Jumpers	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	NQ
		Novice Regular 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	NQ
		Novice Regular 2	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	NQ
		Novice Weavers	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	NQ
P Gavaghan	Star	Novice Tunnelers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Q
		Novice Weavers		Q
D Brooks	Merlin	Chances Novice Vet		Q
		Regular 1 Novice Vet	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	NQ
D Brooks	Skye	Jumpers Novice Vet	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	
		Regular 2 Novice Vet	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	
		Tunnelers Novice Vet	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Q
		<b>Title</b>		
R Kearney	Reuben	Tunnelers Novice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Q
J Convery	Mason	Open Regular	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Q
		Open Regular	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Q
		Novice Weavers	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Q



# Trial Results

## Hastings VCA Agility Trial – 28<sup>th</sup> August

V Bridges	Bryce	Excellent Jumping	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	NQ
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## Keilor NADAC Agility Trial – 29<sup>th</sup> August

V Bridges	Bryce	Elite Tunnelers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	8 <sup>th</sup> Pass
		Elite Tunnelers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	9 <sup>th</sup> Pass
		Novice Weavers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	8 <sup>th</sup> Pass
P Gavaghan	Star	Open Tunnelers 1	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Q
		Open Tunnelers 2	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Q
D Brooks	Merlin	Regular1		Q
D Brooks	Skye	Jumpers		Q
R Kearney	Reuben	Novice jumpers	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Q
		Novice Tunnelers	10 <sup>th</sup> Place	Q

## State VCA Agility Trial – 4<sup>th</sup> September

V Bridges	Bryce	Excellent Jumping	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	5 <sup>th</sup> Pass
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## Sunbury Obedience Trial

F Hughes	Belle	CCD	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Pass
T Stewart	Bella	UD	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	NQ
		UD	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Pass

## Northern Obedience Trial

J Convery	Mason	Open	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	NQ
T Stewart	Bella	UD	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	NQ

Highest Scoring Geelong Member

## Dog Logic

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

Anonymous

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.

Ben Williams

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.

Andy Rooney

Dogs love their friends & bite their enemies, quite unlike people, who are incapable of pure love & always have to mix love& hate.

Anonymous

Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog.

Franklin P. Jones



## **Folecia Makena UD –Bella**

After our old dog Erin CD passed away, I decided that I wouldn't get another dog; as it was too hard to see them suffer. But the kids had other ideas and bought a dog leash, basket and bed, and then said to me to fill the basket with some furry thing. So looking in the local paper, I found a local breeder with Golden retriever

puppies. I wonder what they are like! So I went around to have a look and saw Bella with her happy smile and that was it.



So 6 months later we were down at the Club in puppy class, after about 9 year absence. Bella was quick to learn and flew through her grading's, so at 16 months old we went trialling and entered her first CD trials at Geelong. She won the trials she was entered in, and had her CD title in 3 trials. She had her CDX in 6 trials as well. So into UD training, a whole new concept with the dog working away from you, which is hard enough to do without having a sensitive dog that likes being close to everybody.

Training went like this, 1 step forward and 2 steps back, but eventually we were at a standard to go trialling.

Well after a long 18 trials we had our first pass at Sunbury in the rain. Another 7 trials to get 2<sup>nd</sup> pass at Geelong. I thought it will not be long now for the 3rd pass. But no, with some very close chances just missing

one exercise and frustration setting in, which did not help when you have a Golden retriever, it still took some 22 trials and a very wet, windy and muddy day (Bella loved it) at Sunbury to achieve her UD title. Working so close to Bella through the highs and lows and trying to understand what she thinking or worried about, you do develop a special bond that is hard to explain.

A special thanks to Val for her patience and help. Pam and Janelle for their support and tips.

**Tony Stewart. Up the "Goldies"**





## MONLAIRD STAR OF AVALON CCD JD



Who would have believed that I would ever be writing about one of my dogs gaining an obedience title? Certainly not me! And yet, it has happened. On Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, at Ballarat, Star gained her third pass and hence her CCD title. This had never been in my plans for her but you know what they say about the best laid plans of mice and men.....

About mid October last year I began bringing her with me on Sundays, leaving her in the car or dog boxes while I took my Classes and then letting her have a play with any dogs still around after the last Agility Class.

Karen Millard obviously felt sorry for Star locked away most of the morning and started taking her out for walks around the grounds. Then she began moving in and out of some Classes to give Star short bursts of actual training. Karen recognized Star's potential and started talking about Obedience Trials. I laughed but she persisted and eventually, despite my reservations, we agreed that Karen would enter and handle her at the Warrnambool Trial in March. I went along as a spectator and, although they didn't get a pass, Karen was still confident that it wouldn't be long before they did.

She was right and I am very proud of Star's CCD Title which she earned through passes at Geelong and Ballarat, and am extremely grateful to Karen for her continuing kindness to Star. Her training, handling, help and support for me were all extra bonuses that came as a result of her initial interest in Star when we just didn't know what was ahead of her.

Thank you also to our Instructors (official and unofficial) and to our fellow Triallers for their support and friendship.

**Trish Gavaghan**

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## INCIDENT BOOK CRITERIA

"If a dog rushes at or attacks another dog or person before, during or after Class, both the handler's involved need to see the Training Supervisor or one of the Assistant Training Supervisors and write a report in the Incident Book on the day that it occurs.



The report is to be dated and signed by the complainant and co-signed by the Training Supervisor, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President or Instructor involved.

If a dog repeats the offence three (3) times, at the discretion of the Training Supervisor, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and the President, the Member will be asked to either remove the dog from the grounds or for the dog to wear a muzzle whilst on the grounds".

## SOME TIPS FOR THE NOVICE TRIALER

- Download a Rule Book from the Dogs Victoria website. It is a valuable tool for the handler. Read the glossary and the exercises in your relevant class. By doing this you will learn to understand what is expected of you and what the judge will be looking for, and where he/she will be deducting the points from you.
- The minimum length of your lead must be 750mm and although there is no maximum length stated in the rule book, consider this; long leads can be awkward to use and frequently get in the way when trying to give signals and particularly when doing left about turns. Consider using a lead 800mm to 1 meter long.
- Make sure that the only exhibit number that you are displaying is the one relevant to the ring you are going in to, and if you are in another ring you must notify the ring stewards.
- Make sure you take the time to toilet your dog before entering the ring. A ten point penalty is incurred for every mishap whilst you are being judged.
- When you enter the ring you are under the control of the Judge and can incur penalties for misbehaviour such as corrections and physical placement of your dog at the start peg. Heeling your dog up to the starting post and giving it a quick flick of the correction collar to get its attention will also get the attention of the judge who will most likely hit you with a penalty for misbehaviour. Apart from the penalty incurred from the judge what does your dog learn if it walks up to the start peg and gets a correction for no reason? It won't be long before your dog resents going into the ring. A dog's experience whilst in the ring should be pleasurable if you wish to obtain optimum performance.
- You are allowed to tell your dog to '*heel*' when moving off from a stationary position but not while you are moving. Telling your dog to '*heel*' whilst you are in motion to try and stop it from lagging will incur a deduction. In fact any additional commands/gestures or noises from the handler such as slapping the side of your leg will incur a deduction.
- Do you really need to use your dog's name when calling it for the recall? Remember that if you use your dog's name prior to the command to '*come*' that there must be a distinct gap between the dog's name and the command to '*Come*'. Failing to do so will incur a deduction, and if your dog comes on its name and before you command it to come, you will receive a nice round figure for that exercise - zero
- Concentrate on where you are going. You need to walk in straight lines and execute neat 90 and 180 degree turns. Try using your peripheral vision to see where the ring ropes are. This will aid you to walk straight.
- Do not adapt your pace to suit your dog. If your dog is lagging and you slow down to compensate for it you will lose more than 50% of your marks and cannot qualify. Likewise if your dog is forging ahead and you increase your pace to keep up with it you will also suffer the same deduction. By adapting your pace to that of your dog you are teaching your dog nothing but bad habits.
- Try to relax and enjoy your experience in the ring. Remember that dogs are very perceptive and will pick up on your nerves. Judges are not 'Ogres' and would love to give everyone a pass card. However they have to be fair and treat every exhibitor equally and deduct points as necessary to ensure the fairness of judging for all competitors. Most judges will gladly give you a few tips if you ask. And finally if you have a query about your score ask the judge immediately because they will forget if you leave it until later. Good luck to you all and remember if you don't get a pass this time – there's always next time.

# 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.

# The Many Attractions of Trialling

**Active Dog – Author Gary Somerville**

Just training your dog for general Obedience is a great idea, but taking them to the next level and regularly participating in Trialling adds a new dimension to the training.

Trialling involves taking your dog around a course of obstacle and tests your dog's obedience against the accuracy with the obstacles course. The reward is a strong sense of achievement from knowing that you can successfully train your dog and improve their character. Your dog also admires you more as the pack lead.

Trialling benefits both owner and dog as it tests the working relationship and ability on a competitive basis. Dogs are creatures of habit, so teaching them to walk alongside you in varying conditions – on or off the lead and with or without distractions – is a useful skill they will have for life.



Trialling is a good way to teach you and your dog how to develop the competitive spirit and is one of the few sports where males and females compete against each other.

Training and Trialling bridges the gap between you and your dog by creating a common bond of understanding and cooperation. Because your dog tries to please you it helps to ripen their personality, devotion and ability.

Training Clubs help to spread the good word on the right training and treatment of dogs as well as some good care techniques. It's also important to mention that it is an enjoyable leisure activity for owners as well.

Another great element to Trialling is that it allows you and your dog to visit various Trials around the country and introduces you to another group of dog owners. It is also the human way in which the basic characteristics of any breed can be polished and preserved.

I personally get a glow out of my involvement

Infact, the skills learnt through Trialling are very effective when it comes to training animals for acting purposes. Several of my 'students' have successfully appeared on television because they have achieved the highest level of Obedience.

# Tips for Success

1. Don't think of behaviours as good and bad - those words carry too many moral implications that have no place in the dog's existence. Try desirable and undesirable.

2. Set your dog up for success! Manage the dog's environment so he can't make mistakes. When training, keep your criteria low enough that the dog can be successful frequently.

3. Don't be afraid to have a high rate of reinforcement. Your dog won't be spoiled - he'll be eager to work because it's fun!

4. Divide your dog's food into tiny portions and have him work for it throughout the day. Some dogs, such as herding breeds, actually prefer to work for their food.

5. Train off-leash whenever possible. Remember, the leash is a tether for safety - it's not a training tool.

6. Don't have treats in your hand or on your person when you train, if possible. It's okay to delay delivery of the treat for a few seconds while you walk to a bowl.

7. Keep treats stashed in bowls out of the dog's reach all over the house, and carry a clicker all the time. That way you can reinforce desirable behaviours anytime.

8. Change the picture a little bit every time you ask for a behaviour. Change your position. Change locations. The only thing that should be consistent is the cue.

9. Ignore undesirable behaviour as much as possible. Every time you reinforce a desired behaviour, it's like adding money to a bank account. The more money in that account, the stronger the relationship with your dog. Positive punishment - even if effective - removes money from that bank account, and it weakens the relationship.

10. If you do use a physical correction, look at the effect. Did the behaviour not only stop temporarily, but also happen less frequently? If not, it wasn't a correction - it was abuse.



**Melissa  
Alexander**

