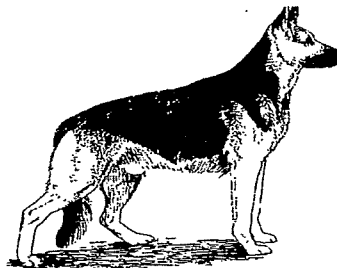
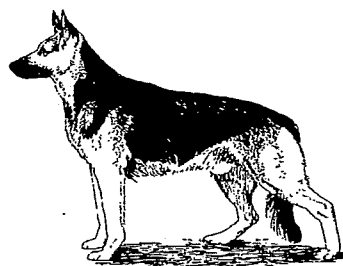
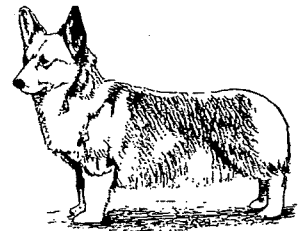
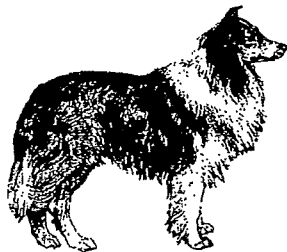
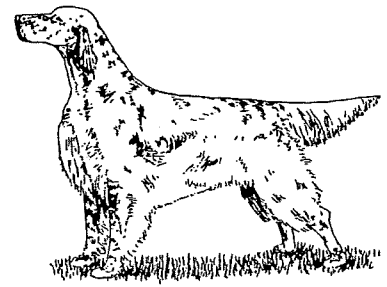
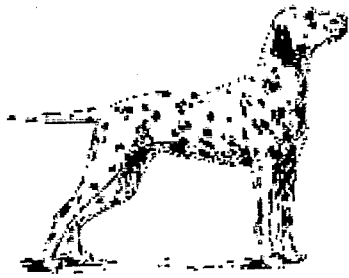


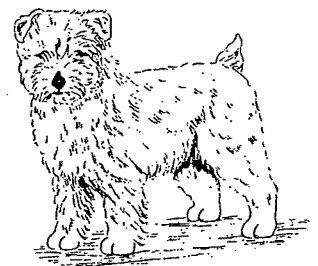
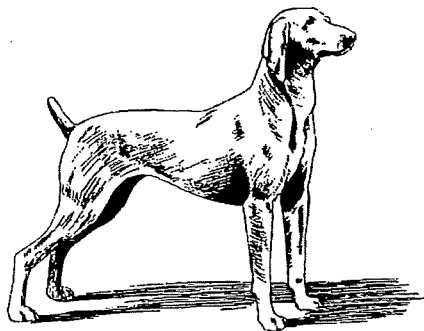
FAITHFULLY YOURS



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

July 2012

Issue No

233

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann

Office Bearers for 2011/2012

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VICE-PRESIDENT (1)	Colin Humphreys	52 822 683	Training
VICE-PRESIDENT (2)	Stephen Eldridge		Administration
SECRETARY	Pam Convery	52 414 786	
TREASURER	Kathy Taylor	52 411 886	Property Officer
TRIAL SECRETARY	Janelle Convery	52 414 786	
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Vacant		Canteen Manager
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	Victor Douglas	0448415401	Grounds Manager
	John Taylor	52 411 886	Hall Manager
	Rebecca Kearney		Social Secretary/Publicity Officer
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	Christine Jagtenberg	0438 414 917	Membership Officer
	Vacant		Minutes Officer
	Robyn Youl		Librarian
	Stephen Eldridge		Assistant Librarian
	Pam Convery	52 414 786	Newsletter Editor
	Brendan Jagtenberg	0410 261 393	Webmaster

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:- Monday, 3.00pm to 7.00pm

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

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

Club website – www.godc.org.au



CLUB CALENDAR

July

Sunday 1 July
 Saturday 7 July
 Sunday 8 July

Friday 13 July
 Saturday 14 July
 Sunday 15 July
 Sunday 15 July
 Monday 16 July
 Sunday 22 July
 Sunday 29 July

Normal training. Newsletter available.
 Working Bee for Open Obedience Trials
 Fun Day including presentations. Also Induction for New Members for
 Beginners Class and Fully Vaccinated Puppies Under 6 months
 Working Bee for Open Obedience Trials
OPEN OBEDIENCE TRIALS
OPEN OBEDIENCE TRIALS. NO TRAINING
 Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Instructor's Meeting - 7.30 pm
 Normal Training for current Members. New Members Commence Training
 Normal Training

CLUB INSTRUCTORS

Vice President (Training)
Training Supervisor
Assistant Training Supervisors

Colin Humphreys
 John Shields
 Kim Ciezarek
 Desma Dickeson

Obedience

Lyn Wills
 Megan Young
 Kath Devlin
 Christine Jagtenberg
 Wendy Ganly

Colin Humphreys
 John Shields
 Desma Dickeson
 Victor Douglas

Val Moeller
 Kim Ciezarek
 David Gravolin
 Tony Stewart

Agility

Trish Gavaghan
 Bev Petrass
 Susan Axe

Glenys Murray
 Lyn Wills
 Carole Sparks

Alex Shackleton
 Vanessa Bridges

Rally O

Wendy Ganly

Flyball

Sally Hunt

Nicole Timms



Position Vacant

Kathy Taylor has resigned as Canteen Manager and is taking on the position of Treasurer, so we are now looking for a Canteen Manager. Kathy is prepared to help with the shopping. If you would like further details please speak to Kathy

REPORTS

REPORTS

REPORTS

REPORTS

Presidents Report

Hi and welcome to the latest edition of Faithfully Yours. A warm welcome to all our new Members, I hope you are all achieving your goals with your dog/s. Remember to do your bit of home work at home throughout the week!

It's been a very busy time of late with Trials, floods and now renewals. Our Trial Secretary Janelle has as always done a superb job at organizing and running successful NADAC Trials and is busily preparing for the upcoming Obedience and Rally Obedience Trials in July. Please put your hand up and help the Club out and volunteer some time over these days, it is a great way to learn and to see what you could achieve with your four legged friend.

Thanks to the Club Members who recently helped putting the Club back together after the recent flood, thankfully the water didn't make it inside which was a huge relief. For the newer Members there is a sticker on a window above the main door to the Club rooms, this is the highest the water has ever been inside the Club house.

In closing thanks to the fellow Committee Members for all you do for the Club and to the Instructors, thanks for your time and commitment in taking Classes of a Sunday.

Happy training to you all
Leonie

Trial Secretary's Report

Over the Queens Birthday weekend the Club ran a NADAC Trial of Extreme Games, this Trial was held at Eastern Gardens due to the flooding that occurred to the Clubgrounds. These weather was not very kind and we had constant drizzle over the course of the two days. The Trials were a great success and many club member gained a lot of places and prizes. Thanks must go to the members who made themselves available to bring extra equipment, chairs and tables to Eastern Gardens. Attached to my report is a costing statement for this Trial.

The next trial that will be held will be a Back to Back Obedience Trial on Saturday 14 July and Sunday 15 July 2012. OTEC has approved the Club to run the new Rally-O classes at this trial. There will be Obedience classes in the AM and back-to-back Rally-O trials in the PM on both the Saturday and the Sunday. The entries for these Trials have already begun to come in with the Rally Trials been a very popular choice.

Geelong has also just had a new Trial approved which will be a Rally only Trial on Saturday 1 September. Judges for this Trial have been contracted and advertising has begun.

The above mentioned trial dates have been arranged for the benefit of members of the Club and I would hope that members would support their Club on the above Trial dates.

Janelle Convery
Trial Secretary



TRIAL RESULTS

Golden Retriever Club of Vic – Saturday 19th May

Tracking			Test 4	Pass
L Kelleher	Brynfield Branko TD			

Ballarat – Saturday 19th May

NADAC Agility

S Axe	Hector	Elite Tunnelers	Q	2 nd Place
		Open Regular	Q	2 nd Place
		Open Weavers	Q	
		Open Chances	Q	
		Elite Jumpers		1 st Place
		Open Regular 2		2 nd Place
J Convery	Mason	Elite Chances	Q	2 nd Place
		Elite Jumpers	Q	2 nd Place
		Elite Regular 1	Q	2 nd Place
		Elite Regular 2	Q	3 rd Place
		Open Tunnelers	Q	4 th Place
		Open Weavers		

Ballarat – Sunday 20th May

S Axe	Hector	Open Touch n Go	Q	2 nd Place
		Open Regular 1		1 st Place
		Open Regular 2		1 st Place
		Elite Jumpers		2 nd Place

Geelong – Saturday 9th June

J Convery	Mason	Extreme Hoopers 2	5 th Place
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Geelong – Sunday 10th June

J Convery	Mason	Extreme Barrelers 1	5 th Place
		Extreme Barrelers 2	5 th Place
		Extreme Chances 1	3 rd Place
		Extreme Chances 2	3 rd Place
		Extreme Hoopers 2	3 rd Place



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TRAINING

Being punctual

Try to arrive at the Club 15 minutes before your Class begins, this gives your dog time read the “doggy newspaper” (sniff the trees) and settle down ready for Class. Handlers, their dogs and Instructors should be in their Class area 5 minutes before the Class time.

When and When not

The time for effective training is when you have ample time and aren't distracted by other concerns, not when you are tired or not feeling well. Often we can transfer negative feelings down the lead to our dog, which leads to confusion for our canine friend and frustration for you when the session is less than successful.

Smoking, perfume and deodorants

Strong perfume, deodorants and smoking can overpower a canine's acute sense of smell. Obviously, teaching your dog to avoid you or feel discomfort, doesn't lead to successful training



No “Sunnies” either

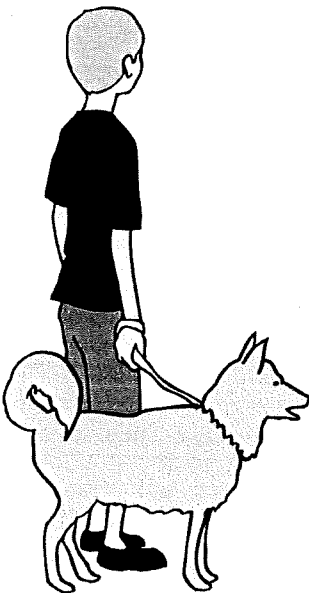
Leave your sunglasses at home. Contact is a vital training tool and eye contact tops the list. A dog that can't see your eyes will eventually stop trying.

Feeding

Don't exercise or work your dog sooner than an hour after feeding. Doing so can cause cramps and lessen performance. A hungry dog works better.

Plan to succeed not to fail

Remember the six P's. **P**rior **P**lanning **P**revents **P**itifully **P**oor **P**erformance. Effective training results from planning your training, not just approaching it in a haphazard fashion.



Be consistent

Be consistent with your training schedule. Plan to train at least 4 or 5 days a week, not just Sunday mornings. You may need a day off, but your canine companion doesn't. Properly planned training will have your dog looking forward to training sessions.

How long?

Short sessions with play in between will keep your pet interested. Utilise your daily walks to practice a sit, drop and stand.

End on a high

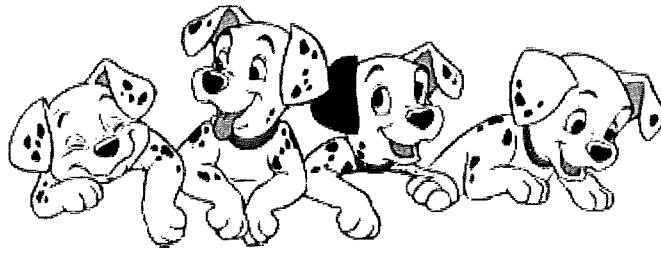
End each training session on a positive note with your dog performing an exercise successfully; pick an easy exercise that you know he does well. Never end on a failure, this can create a negative approach to training.

Focus and attention

When you are training, focus your full attention on your dog and the exercise. How can you expect your dogs full attention if your attention is elsewhere?

Obedience training is teamwork – you and your dog working together.

HYGIENE



Who is responsible for cleaning up after your DOG?



COUNCIL



DOG



DOG OWNER

Can a Dog Owner be Fined?



NO



YES

How much? \$

HEAPS

DON'T PUT YOUR FOOT IN IT!!! – PICK IT UP NOW

The droppings you leave may find there way to children's fingers, eyes and mouth exposing them to diseases

HOW TO JUDGE YOUR DOGS WEIGHT



Very Thin

- Ribs, and vertebrae easily visible;
- No layer of fat;
- Very obvious waist and abdominal tuck.



Thin

- Ribs easily felt;
- Minimal fat layer;
- Waist and abdominal tuck easily visible.



Ideal weight

- Ribs can be felt but are not visible;
- Waist can be seen from above;
- Abdominal tuck can be seen from the side.



Overweight

- Ribs can be felt but under a excess of fat;
- Waist discernable but not obvious;
- Reduced abdominal tuck.



Obese

- Ribs hard to feel under fat;
- Waist barely visible or absent;
- No abdominal tuck;
- Fat deposits over lumbar and tail base.


Lead & Feed
pet services

dog exercise pet minding pet taxi

m: 0417313970

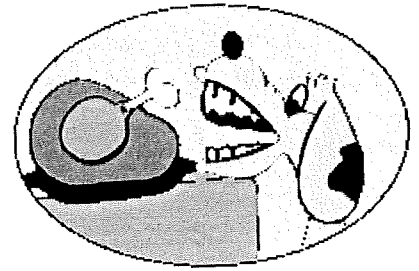
e: tania@leadandfeed.com.au

www.leadandfeed.com.au

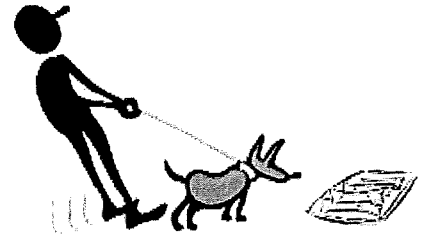
Leave It!

LEAVE IT TRAINING

Having a dog that will respond to a "Leave It" cue can save the dog's life! The Dog Scout certification requires that you be able to show that your dog understands and responds to a "Leave It" cue. It also requires that it be demonstrated with both food and another animal. This is because there are many dangerous situations your dog might face. Being able to call the dog away from these situations can help you avoid embarrassment, having people see your dog as rude or needing a trip to the vet. Some of the situations your dog could get into in which you could use "leave it" include:



- Trying to steal a child's snack
- Raiding the garbage cans as you walk down the street or visit a friend's house
- Finding a baited hook on a beach or shoreline
- Going for dropped medication (yours or that of a nursing home patient you might be visiting with your therapy dog)
- Trying to visit someone that is afraid of dogs • Finding a dead animal carcass or other things dog's like to roll in
- Seeing an animal run across your path in front of you (cats, squirrels, chipmunks, etc.)
- Coming across a skunk or porcupine (they usually don't run, because they don't have to!)
- Approaching a less than friendly dog • Any time the dog's eyes lock onto something they can't have for more than 3 seconds
- This list could go on and on!



THE SET UP

If your dog doesn't know a "Leave it" command, it is fairly simple to teach it. Start with some so-so treats (kibble or something the dog will eat, but isn't crazy for, or a toy your dog likes but that isn't his favourite) these will be the "bait." Set the "Bait" on the floor on a paper plate or something to make it more obvious to the dog. You also need some of the dog's favourite treats or his favourite toy (can be hidden in a pouch or pocket). This will be the dog's reward when he does what you want.

BE A POST

You are simply going to stand like a post, holding the leash still (no jerking) so that the dog can't reach the bait. The dog will do any pulling or loosening of the leash, not you. You can even use a waist leash for this to insure that you don't pull on the leash. Don't let the dog take the bait

Be sure you are far enough from the bait that the dog can't lunge and reach it, or use his paw to drag it closer. If he does get the bait, be sure you at least make an attempt to get it out of his mouth (even if you know there is nothing there to get). This will help clarify to the dog that he made the "wrong choice." You will now need to be VERY careful that the dog is NOT able to steal another piece of bait. If he continues to self-reward the stealing behaviour, it is that behaviour that will continue.

Leave It (continued)

SHH, DON'T SAY A WORD

Don't say anything during this exercise. It is up to the dog to figure out what wins him the prize (favorite treats from you). What you are looking for is the moment that the dog backs off a little from his attempts to get the bait. As soon as you see this, click and back up a few steps (to focus the dog's attention on you) then praise and give the dog one of the really good treats that you have near or on you, but out of the dog's reach. Repeat this exercise until the dog looks like he understands that he has to "back off" in order to get the good treat. How fast the dog reaches that understanding depends on the dog. If the dog is too focused on the bait, move away from it a bit and try again. You may even need to be so far away that the dog can barely see the bait (especially when the "bait" is another animal—but that comes later)

NEXT STEP

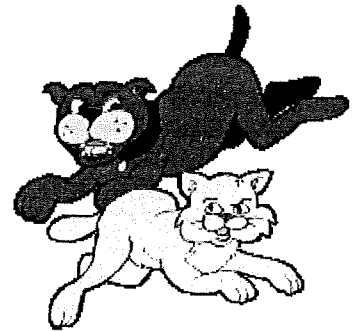
Now you will be raising the criteria a bit. Instead of simply requiring the dog to "back off" a few steps, the dog needs to look at you. Withhold the click until the dog does a quick glance in your direction. When he does, you are still going to back up a few steps to deliver the reward. When the dog figures out that it is looking at you that gets him the click/reward, and then you can drop the "backing up to reward."

ADD MORE TIME

When the dog is looking at you quickly, instead of trying to stare the bait into his mouth, you will gradually add the requirement of a longer and longer "look at you" before you click and reward.

OK, YOU CAN ADD A CUE NOW

Once he is reliably backing off and/or looking at you to get the good treats, start saying, "Leave it" just before the dog turns to look at you. The "Leave it" command should be said quietly, about the same as you would say "Hello" to a stranger. It should not have an implied "or else" tone because it won't need to. You may need to move the bait to a slightly different location to get the dog interested in it again.



Moving it just a few feet makes it "new" again. Notice that we didn't add the cue right away. This is because dogs don't know English. If you add the cue before the dog understands the behavior, then "Leave it" is just babble you keep saying when there is good stuff present. If you add the verbal command too soon, he may even learn that "Leave it" means "there's good stuff here, try to get it!" Let him learn the action expected before you give it a name. That way he is clear that "leave it," means just that... ignore it, and good things will come his way!

MAKING IT HARDER

Once he is responding to the "Leave it" under the above circumstances, now you can change things a bit. Put the really good stuff as bait. Pretend that you are starting all over again. Your dog will go through the steps MUCH faster this time. Now try it in a different location. Again, start from the beginning. Again, your dog will progress through the steps quickly. Now try to walk by the food (like for the Dog Scout certification). Keep in mind that each time you add a variable (different bait, different day, new location, distractions, etc) it is now a new concept for the dog (because dogs don't generalize well).

REALLY LEARNING THE BEHAVIOR

If you use a positive training method and let the dog know that it is OK for him to try to figure things out on his own (to truly learn), then he will first try what he already knows. This is why he will progress through the steps faster each time. He will soon figure out that it doesn't matter where he is, or what the bait is, or who's walking by...when mom or dad says "leave it" it means something specific. If you progress through the steps as outlined, your dog will know the cue means to leave alone whatever it is that has caught his or her attention. It is also likely that the dog

Leave It (continued)

will look at you when you give the cue. That's an added benefit and another opportunity to reward eye contact.

VARIABLE SCHEDULE OF REINFORCEMENT

Once your dog has a solid understanding of the "Leave it" in a given situation, start giving a treat for only 3 out of 4 correct responses. Since you have a choice of which ones get a treat, why not pick the faster responses? You can then progress to only giving a treat for 2 out of 4. Just remember to keep it on a random schedule. Always let the dog know that he has done what you want, by using a verbal marker or the clicker, but vary his reward. Sometimes he gets a food treat, sometimes he gets his favourite toy, sometimes he gets verbal praise only, other times he gets something else he likes, sometimes he just gets to move on to the next cue.

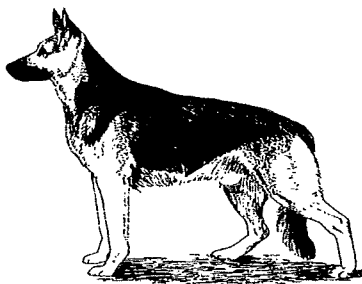
MAKE THE BEHAVIOR STRONGER

It is proven that this "Variable Schedule of Reinforcement" will cause the greatest amount of drive and speed in the dog's responses. You will also not need to always have food in order for your dog to respond to you. If you have enough other things that your dog really likes, you won't need to have food at all (once the dog learns the behavior).

Good luck! Remember to keep it positive! Let the dog's actions decide when you need to progress -- don't push it!

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Contact Barb on 0418 993 203
52 751 148

Runaway dog!

When Fido wins the race to the doorknob

Q: *Every time someone opens the front door at our house, our dog bolts through the doorway and runs wild through the neighbourhood. It's irritating the neighbours and scaring us to death - she's been hit by a car once already, fortunately she wasn't badly hurt. But I'm afraid she won't be so lucky next time. We've taken her to obedience class but it hasn't helped. Is there anything we do?*

A: You're right to be so worried. Dogs that bolt are often rewarded with unnaturally short life spans. I've found this problem to be fairly easy to solve and I think you will, too, as long as you understand that the keys to the solution are to be persistent and consistent.

Obedience class is meant to give you the tools you'll need to get your dog under control and make life with her more pleasant. Remember the simple command "Stay"? It has dozens of uses in your daily living with your dog and keeping her from bolting is one of them.

Dogs that bolt out the front door usually try to outmanoeuvre their families at other doors as well. For safety's sake, start your training with an interior doorway where her life won't be in danger if she manages to slip past you.

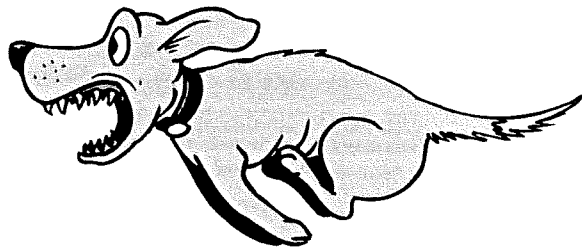
Go to the door but before you open it, (your dog will probably be right there with you, crowding you away from the doorknob) take her by the collar, move her back a step from the doorway, look her in the eye and tell her to "STAY!" in a deep, commanding, no-nonsense voice. With your hand at your side, palm facing the dog, spread your fingers wide and sweep your hand toward her face, stopping just a fraction of an inch from her nose as you say, "STAY!" You're not trying to hit or threaten the dog - you're creating an imaginary barrier for her, a virtual stop sign. Your hand should not come down at her from above, but directly at her face front on.

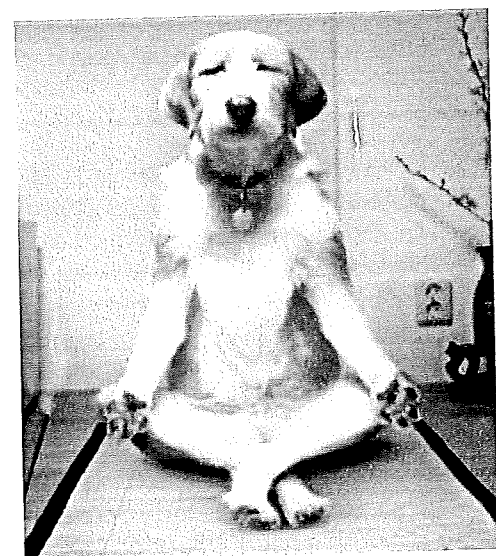
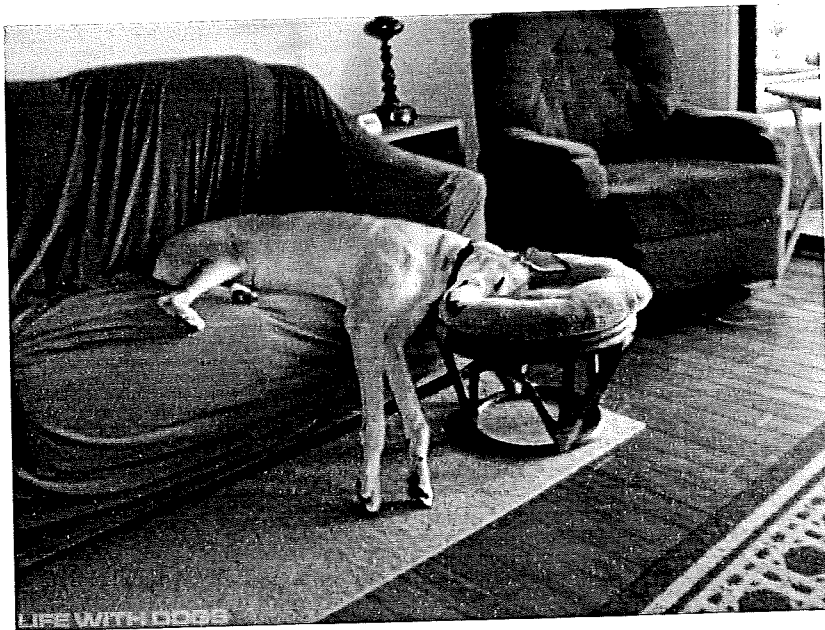
Now, open the door just a bit, but not wide enough for her to slip through. If she so much as tries to move toward it, quickly shut the door, grab her collar, push her back and correct her with a firm "NO!" Give her the "STAY!" command and the hand motion once again. Use your leg to block her back from the doorway if necessary. Repeat this exercise several times until she at least stops to think for a moment before charging toward daylight. Make sure to praise her when she actually does stay!

Practice several times a day using all the doors in your house. Make her stay and wait at each one. Until she's better trained, for now only open the door just wide enough for you to get through the doorway — if you open it too far, temptation will get the better of her and she won't be able to resist making a go for it. As she improves at obeying your command, you'll be able to open the door farther until eventually, she will calmly wait to be invited even when the door is standing wide open.

You'll need to train your family, too. If one person lets her bolt, all your hard work will be undone. This may require better supervision of your children, as they can be especially bad about leaving doors open. It's important that you all pay attention any time you're opening a door to make sure the dog is given a command and made to obey it. (Remember — persistent and consistent!) She needs to see that when you say STAY, it means she's not going to be allowed to go through that door, period. Once she thoroughly understands that, she'll stop trying so hard to win the race to the doorknob.

Vicki DeGruy





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

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 sooooo 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 of 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.

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,

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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.

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

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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! Nononononono 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

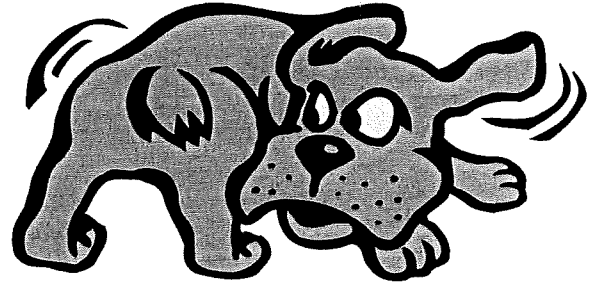
Dogs need a leader who will first teach and then, enforce the domestic rules. Perhaps 'educator' is a better term. Dogs are dogs; they are neither human nor lupine, so why don't we just treat them like dogs - to try to understand and respect their doggy ways at the same time as teaching them to understand 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.

Ian Dunbar Ph.D., BVetMed, MRCVS
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CANINE ETIQUETTE

All members should be aware of the need for canine social skills before, during and after Class. Your dogs are your responsibility and canine etiquette and lifestyle skills are just another part of the learning process.

Don't make the mistake of assuming that because in your eyes, your canine companion is the most sociable creature going, that all dogs are the same. Or, that your sweet social companion is really the angel you imagine. By observing the social skills below your four-legged friend will become the welcome visitor, instead of the one you wish to avoid.



- Not all dogs like the “in your face” attitude of other dogs. Having another dog bound at them face on and putting paws on the back are considered very bad manners in dog terms and usually result in an angry response, particularly from a more mature dog. Sadly, it is often the mature dog that is labelled an angry dog and one to be avoided, when all he/she is really saying is - “where are your manners?”
- Not all dogs like their space invaded and some don't like the space of their handler invaded either, as they often feel the need to be protective, again resulting in an angry response.
- “Eye-balling” (the fixed stare) is also unacceptable behaviour, as this is seen as a challenge in dog terms and particularly if one or both dogs tense their body, raise up on their toes and generally make themselves look more threatening. Unless you are constantly aware of your dog's behaviour these early signals can go unnoticed, resulting in two dogs lunging at each other. By being vigilant you can avoid these situations by turning your dog away, breaking the eye contact and giving him/her something to do like a sit, drop or stand and then rewarding for the attention he/she has paid to you.
- If you would like your dog to meet another dog, sit your dog beside you and ask the handler if it is okay, **before** releasing your dog to play. If the answer is “No” please respect the owner's decision as there is probably a very good reason, which may not be obvious.
- Do not allow your dog to approach a dog that is tied up and unattended.
- If you are talking, always be aware of what your dog is doing at the end of the lead. Often we become so involved in our own social activity that we forget that our four-legged friend has his or her own social activity going on at the same time at the end of the lead.





Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc

A Day Full of Rally Trials

Saturday 1 September 2012

Belmont Common, Breakwater Road, Breakwater

Entries to: Janelle Convery, 8 Byambee Court, Grovedale Vic 3216

Cheques payable to Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc

Enquiries : Janelle Convery 03 52 414 786 or via email: Janelle.convery@bigpond.com

Entries Close: Thursday 16 August 2012. Late Entries will be returned.

	Trial A	Trial B	Trial C
Novice	Mr M Tyler	Mr M Klecka	Mr R Carlson
Novice	Mr M Klecka	Mr G Eades	Ms Y Ross
Advanced A	Ms Y Ross	Mr R Carlson	Mr G Eades
Advanced A & B	Mr G Eades	Mr M Tyler	Mr M Klecka
Excellent A & B	Mr R Carlson	Ms Y Ross	Mr M Tyler

Please note: If entry is excessive additional Judges will be added closer to the closing date of the Trials.

Conditions of Entry: Separate entry forms are to be used for each trial stating day. Titles to be noted and jump heights clearly marked. Entry must show Ring entered - A to C and class entered

Entry Fee: \$10 per dog per class **Catalogue:** \$2 or on GODC website

Check in: Trial A: 7.45 – 8.15 Trial B: 10.45 – 11.15 Trial C: 1.45 – 2.15

Judging Commences: Trial A: 8.30
Trial B: 11.30 or 30mins after finish of Trials A presentations
Trial C: 2.30 or 30mins after finish of Trials B presentations

Catering : Available

Highest Score in Trial, 1st - 3rd each ring, Best Geelong Member, Specialty sashes.