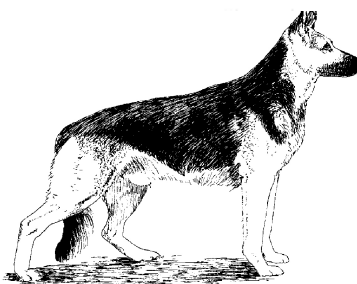
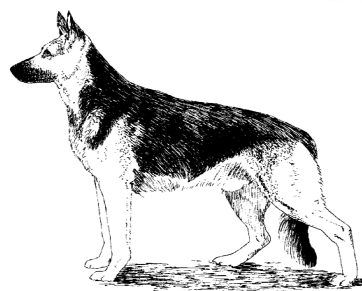
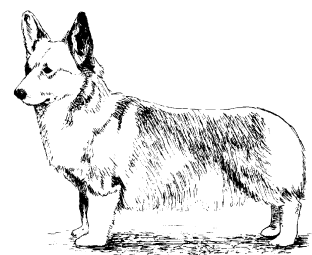
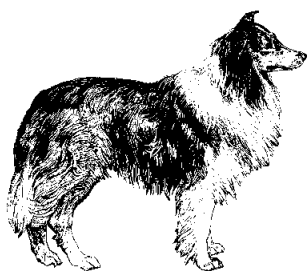
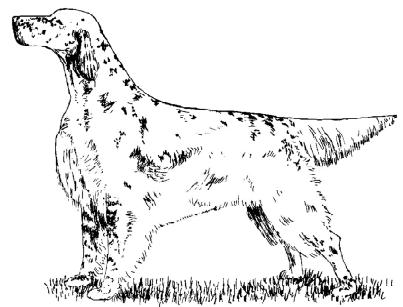


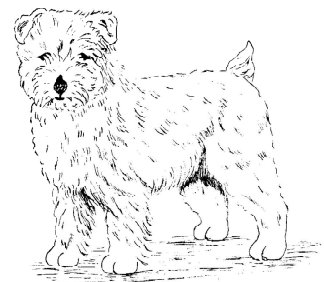
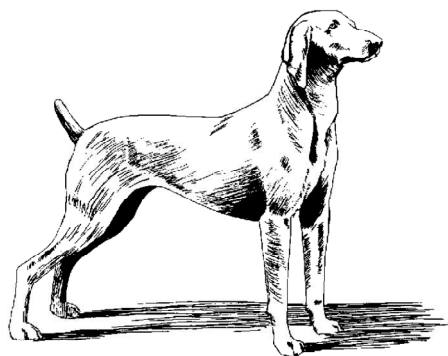
FAITHFULLY YOURS



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Incorporation No A5419H

ABN 79 874 613 605



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

October 2012
Issue No
236

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann

Office Bearers for 2012/2013

PRESIDENT	Colin Humphreys	52 822 683	Public Officer
VICE-PRESIDENT (1)	Stephen Eldridge		Training
VICE-PRESIDENT (2)	Vacant		Administration
SECRETARY	Christine Jagtenberg	0438 414 917	
TREASURER	Kathy Taylor	52 411 886	Property Officer
TRIAL SECRETARY	Vacant		
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Vacant		Canteen Manager
	Vacant		Equipment Manager
	Victor Douglas	0448415401	Grounds Manager
	Vacant		Hall Manager
	Vacant		Social Secretary/Publicity Officer
	Alex Shackleton		Shop Manager
NON-COMMITTEE	Vacant		Training Supervisor
	Christine Jagtenberg	0438 414 917	Membership Officer
	Alex Shackleton		Minutes Officer
	Robyn Youl		Librarian
	Stephen Eldridge		Assistant Librarian
	Vacant		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

October

Sunday	14 October	Normal Training.
Monday	15 October	Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Monday	15 October	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm.
Sunday	21 October	Normal training.
Sunday	28 October	Normal training.

November

Sunday	4 November	Normal training. Newsletter available
Sunday	11 November	Normal Training. End of Year Awards closing date
Thursday	15 November	Newsletter closes for articles, report, etc
Sunday	18 November	Normal training.
Monday	19 November	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm
Sunday	25 November	Normal training.

December

Sunday	2 December	Normal training
Tuesday	4 December	General Meeting – 8.00 pm unless otherwise advised
Sunday	9 December	Normal training
Sunday	16 December	Last day of training for 2012. Fun Day including presentations.
Monday	17 December	Office closes

CLUB INSTRUCTORS

Vice President (Training)
Training Supervisor
Assistant Training Supervisors

Stephen Eldridge
 Vacant
 Kim Ciezarek
 Desma Dickeson

Obedience

Colin Humphreys
 John Shields
 Desma Dickeson
 Victor Douglas

Val Moeller
 Kim Ciezarek
 David Gravalin
 Tony Stewart

Wendy Ganly
 Kath Devlin
 Christine Jagtenberg

Agility

Trish Gavaghan
 Bev Petrass
 Susan Axe

Glenys Murray
 Vanessa Bridges
 Carole Sparks

Alex Shackleton

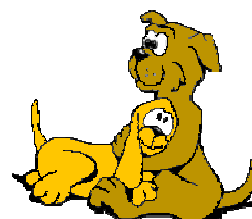
Rally O

Wendy Ganly

Flyball

Sally Hunt

Nicole Timms



Quiz for you, answer is further on in the Newsletter

What nine letter word in the English language is still a word when eight Letters
are removed one by one?

Library Update:

Why Volunteer?

Most interest clubs are manned by volunteers. The high interest spectator clubs such as League Football have two strands - the professionals where the elite A.F.L. players and officials are paid and the small country league clubs that run on unpaid human power. Dog Training and its outcomes Obedience, Rally O, Agility, R.A.F.T. and Tracking Trials, Dances with Dogs, Herding and Fly Ball have varying levels of interest as spectator sports but have never generated enough to have a professional strand. The only dog sport that officials get paid to control and run is, of course Greyhound Racing. That is because it attracts legal betting and in doing so generates capital to pay employees to maintain it. There is plenty of potential for betting in Agility, for example, but the Government does not see fit to legalise it.

Dog sports, activities and breeding do have paid employees at both state and national levels to administer members and their canine activities - the Victorian Canine Association and the federal controlling body the Australian National Kennel Council concern Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc.

G.O.D.C. Inc. is staffed by volunteers. The membership dues you pay each year is budgeted to cover affiliation with the V.C.A., insurance, electricity, water, gas, maintenance of the hall, the photocopier and equipment - a never ending story. Raffles, the canteen and hopefully profits from trials contribute to training equipment, material for the library. Nobody who works for the Club benefits materially in any way from their efforts. The Club does not just train dogs - after you have paid your membership your classes are staffed by volunteers. The Club actually acts as a controlling body to ensure that each Instructor is qualified to teach. Aspiring Instructors must serve as student teachers and work with qualified members to ensure they have a competent grasp of the method and content of lessons before being examined by a panel that makes the final decision. So the Club also trains teachers and ensures they are qualified.

While members are out on the grounds training their dogs others are working to maintain the paperwork members generate, balance finances, answer queries, staff the Office, Canteen, Library, sell raffle tickets, organise trials, photocopy information for members, Doggy Gossip, Faithfully Yours etc. and safety check all equipment used by members and their dogs. The club offers you the wonderful concept of a trained companion who will share your life for, perhaps 14 years or more. If you are interested you can advance beyond the basics and acquire the skills to enjoy a range of canine sports. No matter how far you go with training - the basic skills to enable the two of you to work as a team are the product of hundreds of hours freely donated to keep G.O.D.C. Inc functioning as a valuable asset to the dog owning community of Geelong and its environs.

It's a team effort - and without the team we all stay grounded and nothing happens. *Read this poem and think about your time for your club!*

*A flock of geese flying in a formation V
Much research reveals what you do not
see*

*Each bird in front by flapping its wing
Creates uplift for the goose following*

*Flying in 'V' formation they change
By 71%plus of their flying range*

*When tired the lead goose rotates to
the rear
Another taking its place in the air*

*It pays, while doing hard jobs to take
turns
Thus no-one is overburdened or get
burns*

*Common direction and a sense of
community
Our efforts become quick and easy*

*What a difference we'll see
When we work to the V
VIVA VOLUNTEERS!*

[ADAPTED FROM THE POEM DO WE HAVE AS MUCH SENSE AS A GOOSE BY
AKBAR KHAN]

You have a range of volunteer options to choose from. Volunteering is not just all give - it also personally empowers you as part of a group dedicated to very worthwhile social goals that go beyond the dog on the end of the lead. Research clearly demonstrates the vital social role dogs play - those who own them are personally and psychologically enriched by their company. Feeling a tad overweight? Avoid the couch potato syndrome - exercise with your well trained dog and show off at the same time. Become part of a group that contributes to the psychological well-being of the community through activities with trained dogs. Meeting and greeting with the wider community while exercising your dog may well be a highlight in the life of another human being. The ongoing commitment of one of the positions declared vacant in Doggy Gossip gives you that chance. Those currently in office work to the maxim: 'Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape!'

Think about payback for the time invested in your training - Obedience, Rally O, Agility Trials. Other people's lives entwined with yours each training Sunday to enrich your life with your dog. Have a hand in helping - sharing is the art of living.

Robyn Youl - Librarian



T Ch Brynfield Branko RN

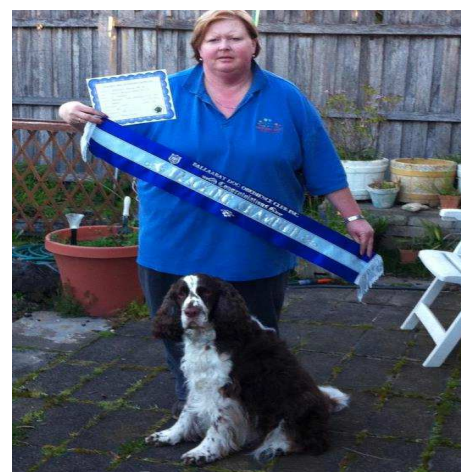
After gaining our TD title last year, I set myself a goal with our tracking for this year and that was to gain our TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent) title.

We went to our first tracking trial back in May and got our test 4, then due to other commitments we had a break till August and drove to Haddon for our test 5, but unfortunately Branko over shot a turn by 200 meters so no pass that day, but back to it in a couple of week, and he successfully gained his test 5, our next trial. Our next trial was out at Inverleigh and Branko discovered that sheep were much more fun to track and look at then do what he was meant to do!! It certainly was a challenge working in a paddock with the sheep still in it! Our 2nd attempt at our TDX was again at Inverleigh at the State Titles, this time we got to track in the bush, he tracked like a dream, nose down all the way, he over shot the last article as he was too eager to get to where the track layer was lying and waiting. Branko also was fortunate to get the judges award this day, so I was very proud of my boy.

There was one more tracking trial for the year, for us to attempt our test 7 and gain our Tracking Champion title. So off we headed to Ballarat early on a September morning (4.30am). I was rather nervous and got told to breathe by my Judge, Branko and I took off to the blind start and voom we were on our way, the 1200 meters seemed to take for ever, but he worked hard and put himself back on track a few times to find the track layer at the end.

Now a break till 2013 when we start our track and search! Thanks to the Judges, track layers, my tracking buddy Rebecca, and for everyone's support along the way

Leonie



Answer to the Quiz

Startling
Starting
Staring
String
Sting
Sing
Sin
In
I

Intelligence Test

(A fun test for you to try at home)

The number of points scored for each task is in brackets

TEST 1: Problem solving. Place treat under soup can. If dog gets treat in: less than 5 seconds (5), 5-15 seconds (4), 16-30 seconds (3), 31-60 seconds (2), tries but fails to get treat (1), shows no interest (0).

TEST 2: Problem solving. Quickly throw a large towel over the dog's head and shoulders. If dog gets free in: less than 15 seconds (5), 16-30 seconds (4), 31-60 seconds (3), 1-2 minutes (2), doesn't get free within 2 minutes (1).

TEST 3: Problem solving. Place a treat under a small towel. If dog gets treat in: less than 15 seconds (5), 16-30 seconds (4), 31-60 seconds (3), 1-2 minutes (2), tries but fails to get treat (1), shows no interest (0).

TEST 4: Short-term memory. Let the dog see you put a biscuit on the floor then turn him loose. If dog: goes straight to the treat (5), searches systematically and finds treat (4), searches randomly but finds treat in under 45 seconds (3), searches but fails to find treat (2), shows no interest (1).

TEST 5: Long-term memory. Let the dog see you put a biscuit on the floor (a different place to previous test). Remove him for 5 minutes, play with him, return and let him loose. If dog: goes straight to treat (5), goes to the spot from Test 4, then the correct spot (4), searches systematically and finds treat (3), searches randomly but finds treat in under 45 seconds (2), searches but fails to find treat (1), shows no interest (0).

TEST 6: Problem solving and Manipulation: Place treat under a low platform (too low and far enough back to reach with mouth). If dog: gets treat in under 1 minute (5), gets treat in 1-3 minutes (4), uses paws and muzzle but fails to get treat (3), uses muzzle only a few times and gives up (2), doesn't try (1).

TEST 7: Language comprehension. Leave dog as if for a recall. If dog comes when you call: "refrigerator" (3), "movies" (2), "(dog's name) come" (5), "(dog's name) come twice" (4), dog fails to come (1).

TEST 8: Problem solving. Show the dog treat through slit in a large cardboard barricade. Dog should not be able to get treat through slit. Encourage dog to get treat. If dog goes around barrier in: less than 15 seconds (5), 16-30 seconds (4), 31-60 seconds (3). Handler stops encouraging dog after 1 minute. If dog: goes around barrier in 1-2 minutes (2), tries to reach through slit and gives up (1), shows no interest (0).

SCORING

36-40 Genius
32-35 Highly intelligent
28-31 High average
20-27 Average
16-19 Low average
12-15 Borderline
0-11 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



TRIAL RESULTS

Geelong Obedience Dog Club

Rally Trials results - Saturday 1 September 2012

Trial A					
Lisa McNamara	Roxy McNamara	Associate	95	5 th	Novice
Mrs D M Brooks	Yangvews Blue Sorceress	Border Collie	94	8 th	Novice
'Highest Scoring Border Collie'					
Vivienne Benham	Barkley	Associate	93	9 th	Novice
Margaret Brown	Tootsie Brown CCD	Associate	87	13 th	Novice
Vivienne Benham	Tallacassie	Associate	87	14 th	Novice
Christine Jagtenberg	Sasha	Associate	86	15 th	Novice
Elaine Longshaw	Elmaro Celtic Cross CCD	Dobermann	81	19 th	Novice
Elaine Longshaw	Coppertop Perfect Pitcha CCD	Dobermann	79	20 th	Novice
Miss P Gavaghan	Monlaid Star Of Avalon CCD RN AD JDX SPD	Border Collie	90	4 th	Advanced A
P & J Convery	Ch Goorambat The Manor CDX RA NRA AD JD SD GD SPD	Golden Retriever	98	2 nd	Advanced B
'Highest Scoring Geelong Member' 'Highest Scoring Golden Retriever'					
P & J Convery	Ch Goorambat The Manor CDX RA NRA AD JD SD GD SPD	Golden Retriever	95	1 st	Excellent A
P & J Convery	Goorambat Excalibur CD RA	Golden Retriever	90	3 rd	Excellent A
Ms G R H Murray	Knight Crusader	Associate	95	2 nd	Novice
Trial B					
Vivienne Benham	Barkley	Associate	95	4th	Novice
Elaine Longshaw	Coppertop Perfect Pitcha CCD	Dobermann	95	6th	Novice
Vivienne Benham	Tallacassie	Associate	94	10th	Novice
Lisa McNamara	Roxy McNamara	Associate	93	11th	Novice
Margaret Brown	Tootsie Brown CCD	Associate	92	13th	Novice
Elaine Longshaw	Elmaro Celtic Cross CCD	Dobermann	92	14th	Novice
Christine Jagtenberg	Sasha	Associate	89	15th	Novice
Ms S MacKintosh & Mr David Noonan	Kusco Daredevil	Australian Kelpie	88	16th	Novice
Mrs D M Brooks	Yangvews Blue Sorceress	Border Collie	82	21st	Novice
Lindenbrae Kennels	Lindenbrae Tarfin Donna CDX RN	Border Collie	99	1st	Advanced A
'Highest Score in Trial' 'Highest Scoring Geelong Member' 'Highest Scoring Border Collie'					
Lindenbrae Kennels	Ch Lindenbrae Tarfin Cazaly CDX RN ADX JDM JDO GD SD (AI)	Border Collie	97	2nd	Advanced A
Miss P Gavaghan	Monlaid Star Of Avalon CCD RN AD JDX SPD	Border Collie	81	7th	Advanced A
Ms G R H Murray	Lizziwell Regal Princess RN AD JD	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	73	11th	Advanced A
P & J Convery	Ch Goorambat The Manor	Golden Retriever	98	2 nd	Advanced B

	CDX RA NRA AD JD SD GD SPD				
'Highest Scoring Golden Retriever'					
P & J Convery	Ch Goorambat The Manor CDX RA NRA AD JD SD GD SPD	Golden Retriever	97	1 st	Excellent A
P & J Convery	Goorambat Excalibur CD RA	Golden Retriever	94	3 rd	Excellent A
Trial C					
Vivienne Benham	Tallacassie	Associate	95	4th	Novice
Vivienne Benham	Barkley	Associate	94	5th	Novice
Ms S MacKintosh & Mr David Noonan	Kusco Daredevil	Australian Kelpie	93	8th	Novice
Mrs D M Brooks	Yangviews Blue Sorceress	Border Collie	89	12th	Novice
Elaine Longshaw	Coppertop Perfect Pitcha CCD	Dobermann	88	13th	Novice
Elaine Longshaw	Elmaro Celtic Cross CCD	Dobermann	85	16th	Novice
Miss P Gavaghan	Monlaird Star Of Avalon CCD RN AD JDX SPD	Border Collie	98	1st	Advanced A
'Highest Score in Trial' 'Highest Scoring Geelong Member' 'Highest Scoring Border Collie'					
Lindenbrae Kennels	Lindenbrae Tarfin Donna CDX RN	Border Collie	97	2nd	Advanced A
Lindenbrae Kennels	Ch Lindenbrae Tarfin Cazaly CDX RN ADX JDM JDO GD SD (AI)	Border Collie	97	3rd	Advanced A
Ms G R H Murray	Lizziwell Regal Princess RN AD JD	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	77	11th	Advanced A
Miss Rebecca Kearney	Lucyollie Reubinallblack RN	Labrador Retriever	70	13th	Advanced A
P & J Convery	Ch Goorambat The Manor CDX RA NRA AD JD SD GD SPD	Golden Retriever	96	1 st	Excellent A
'Highest Scoring Golden Retriever'					
P & J Convery	Goorambat Excalibur CD RA	Golden Retriever	96	2 nd	Excellent A

Dogs Victoria State Tracking Trial

L Kelleher Brynfield Branko RN TDX

Title (TDX)

Test 6 good grading

Ballarat Obedience Dog Club Tracking Trial 9th September

L Kelleher T Ch Brynfield Branko RN

Track 7

Pass

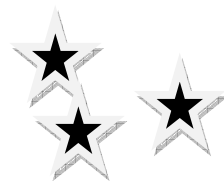
NADAC Trial 8th September

S Axe Hector Open Touch n Go
Open Chances
Open Regular 1
Open Regular 2
Elite Jumpers
Open Weavers

Q
Q

2nd

1st
1st
1st
4th



VCA State Trial

V Bridges

Peyto

Novice Gamblers

Title

Novice Agility



K9 friends gain titles on same day Rueben TD and Branko TCh.



Tootsie Brown C.C.D.

On 1st September, Tootsie and I gained our Novice Rally O title at GODC Rally trial, YeeHa!!! It was an added extra to gain this title on our home turf(well, almost home).

Thanks so much to Wendy for all her efforts to get Rally going and her endless patience with us all. Also, many thanks to Janelle, Leonie, Chris and all the other Rally crew for their help and encouragement. We all enjoy this new game of Rally O and I would encourage any other members who might be interested or just curious to come and join us Sunday mornings; plenty of laughs and lovely dogs that continue to do as we ask even if the handlers don't always know what they are doing!

Margaret(Spud) Brown and Tootsie.



Killara Toltar "Harley"

After what seems like many tries the handler got her act together (with help) and Harley has obtained his Tracking Dog Title on the 10th September at Ballarat.

GEELONG MEMBERS SUPPORT EACH OTHER AT TRIALS



Dog's Rules For Christmas

1. Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual and they will appreciate long comforting dog cuddles.
2. They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.
3. Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
4. They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know: Don't pee on the tree... Don't drink water in the container that holds the tree... Mind your tail when you are near the tree... If there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, don't rip them open... And Don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree.
5. Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part: Not all strangers appreciate kisses and cleans. Don't eat off the buffet table. Beg for goodies subtly. Be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your spot on the sofa -- they don't know any better. Don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach unless you can get away with it...
6. Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be important: Observe all the rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses. (4a is particularly important) Respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house. Be nice to the kiddies. Turn on your charm big time.
7. A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night. DO NOT BITE HIM!!!

TWENTY POINTERS FOR SUMMER CARE

Reprinted courtesy of Top Dog Journal

1. The dog run should be shaded with shade cloth and/or fast growing vines, for example, pumpkins or choko

2. Sand, earth and grass runs should be kept constantly damp to prevent them becoming dustbowls. The dampness will help to keep the dogs cool and discourage fleas.

3. A tough shrub in the dog run under which the dog can lie; this may be in a tub or in the ground.

4. Check the kennel temperature at all times for signs of intense heat. If it is hot give it more shade and some roof insulation.

5. Exercise the dog/s after dark and in the early morning.

6. Use sunscreen with insect repellent on the dog's ears and nose.

7. White dogs and dogs with light coloured skin should be kept out of the summer sun.

8. A shallow toddler's wading pool is often much appreciated.

9. Water supply should be fresh and cool at all times. It should be constant. Elaborate methods of fixing the water dish/bucket may need to be implemented.

10. Brush and comb daily to keep the skin clean, cool and aerated.

11. Ensure the dog has access to a snug, dry, draught free bed in case of sudden weather changes.

12. Check dog/s for overheating. This is expressed by excessive panting, prior to cessation of panting when heat stroke (sunstroke) sets in.

13. Concrete and other impervious runs should be wet down regularly to moisturise the atmosphere and to cool the surface.

14. Do not take the dog/s out in the car unnecessarily.

15. Never, never leave dogs in parked cars even for short periods.

16. All food should be moist and in a heat wave, easily digestible.

17. Neither food nor drink should be iced. It should be cool but not iced.

18. There should be darkened areas for the dog to lie in away from flies.

19. The dog area should be well ventilated and it should catch any cool breeze. It should be protected from the hot northerlies.

20. Pig waterers (such as Lixit) do not provide adequate water for dogs. Dogs need to be able to put their mouths and often their whole muzzles into their water supply

YOU AND YOUR PET AT CHRISTMAS

A PET FOR CHRISTMAS

As we busily hurry around in the pre-Christmas chaos, it's easy to think of a pet as a novel and cute gift for a friend or family member. Think carefully about this choice of gift. Only give a pet to someone who you know wants a pet and is committed to caring for it throughout its life – not just for a few weeks.

We're all familiar with the sad story a few months after Christmas of puppies and kittens being dumped. Many of them were gifts where the novelty wore off.

CHRISTMAS HINTS FOR PETS

Beware of Christmas decorations being chewed or swallowed by enthusiastic pets! They can cause tummy upsets and at worst, a blocked bowel.

Don't overfeed your pet on Christmas treats. Remember that any sudden changes in a pet's diet can cause gastric upsets. Too much rich food could ruin your pet's Christmas. A small treat of a piece of turkey breast is always greatly appreciated though!

Don't feed cooked turkey and chicken bones: they can bring disaster. Only ever feed raw bones to your pet.



If the weather is warm, don't forget plenty of fresh water for your pet and heed all the warnings about cars and your family pet when the weather is hot. The temperature inside a car rises very dramatically even on a mild sunny day.

PETS ON HOLIDAYS

Heading off on holidays? Have you thought about what you'll do with your pet? It's important to include your pets in your holiday plans?

1. TAKING YOUR PET WITH YOU

If you're visiting friends or family you may be able to take your pet with you. Your pet will enjoy the holiday too.

There are a number of holiday homes, caravan parks and camping grounds where pets are allowed. There is a directory available with these places listed, copies available from many of the Vets, RACV and a copy is available to borrow from the Club Library.

If travelling by car ensure you have regular breaks for your pet to have a drink and go to the toilet. If your pet suffers from travel sickness, consult your vet about travel sickness medication. If your pet is travelling by plane or train, see your Vet about sedation, if required.

You and Your Pet at Christmas (continued)

2. BOARDING YOUR PET

There are a number of excellent boarding kennels for dogs and cats around Geelong. Book well in advance, as they get very busy during the holiday season. It's also a good idea to arrange to have a look at the kennel before you leave your pet there

It is usually possible to arrange for special requirements such as diet preferences and medications and all reputable boarding kennels will require a current vaccination certificate for your pet.

3. LEAVING YOUR PET AT HOME

Sometimes the easiest thing is to leave your pet at home, especially in the case of caged birds, fish, guinea pigs and rabbits. There are a number of options for ensuring your pet has adequate care while you're away: -

1. Ask a friend or neighbour to check and feed your pets once or preferably twice a day.
2. Arrange for a friend or family member to house sit for you. This has the added advantage of better security while you're away as well as having someone to empty the letterbox and water the lawn.
3. There are a number of professional house and pet minding services operating in the Geelong area. These people will either visit your house daily or occupy the house, while taking care of your pet and garden.



HOLIDAY HINTS FOR PETS

If taking your dog on outings in the car be sure to provide plenty of drink breaks, heat stress can occur easily in the warmer months. Carry a bottle of water for the dog in case you can't find a tap.

If walking your dog along the river or beach, be on the look out for dead fish, if your dog eats one he could end up with a very sore tummy.

Also be on the lookout for discarded bait attached to hooks. Dogs will grab the bait and end up with the hook embedded in the mouth.

Check local Council regulations regarding dogs on beaches and be aware of your dog if free running. Most dogs will interact happily when they meet outside their territory, but you don't want to spend your holiday at the Vet's as a result of a dogfight.

Remember to carry a plastic bag or similar to clean up after your dog, regardless of where you are. Regulations are making it more and more difficult for us to have free space with our pets and one of the main complaints is always the droppings left behind, so be a responsible dog owner!

UV radiation affects the skin of animals just as it affects humans; it causes sunburn, dermatitis and eventually skin cancer. Use zinc cream or one of the special preparations on the market for unpigmented skin, such as ears, nose and belly.

Check on the location of the local Vet when visiting an unfamiliar area, in case of emergency.

TEN COMMON SENSE RULES FOR DOG TRAINING

by Kaylan Read

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1. Make sure you have a happy attentive dog. Use the stimuli necessary to get the best attitude from your dog on that day.
2. Make a promise to yourself – and your dog – that you will not loose YOUR attitude. Take the extreme emotion out of training. Try to make it matter-of-fact and fair. Work on controlling any negative body language or harshness in your voice.
3. Prevention is always better than correction. This is especially true in the teaching phase. When the dog makes a mistake, put the dog back on leash, and help the dog be successful for several training sessions. If the dog was on leash, try again, this time get help in correcting your timing, not the dog.
4. Make sure your dog understands when he is working and when he is free. If you are unavoidably distracted during training make sure there is a clear release for the dog. Most dogs work best when given active, free time between the teaching of different exercises. Start with a fun, easy task after the break.
5. Punishment and fear are not teaching tools. Don't undo all the good creative training you've put in with one training session on a bad day. Don't get caught up in trying to permanently "fix" a problem in one day. Every performance is not a reflection of you as a trainer, or your dog's ability. Find one thing during an "off" session that you can reinforce positively or reward and quit.
6. If one training method is not working, do something different! It is unbelievable how people become pattern trained. We will sometimes stick with something for months without seeing any improvement. To hope that drilling and repetition will eventually get results is not realistic.
7. Introduce tough or new exercises early in the training session. Having a dog attempt a new or difficult task when he has given his best attention and energy earlier, means that your training session may end with a poor performance. Don't let confusion, negative reinforcement, or absence of reward be the last thing the dog remembers.
8. Always break an exercise down into separate tasks, then put it together, like a puzzle, when all the pieces are as good as they can be. Sometimes trainers add formal turns in heeling before attention and heel position are correct. Another example would be adding distance to the retrieve before a quick grabbing pick-up and a fast spin return are perfected up close. Don't expect a straight sit at the end of a recall until the recall is fast and consistent and the front is perfected up close and separately. Always perfect and proof drops before adding gradual distance or incorporating it in the recall.
9. When you think your dog is ready to show, try a test of three fun matches at different locations. If the dog's performance at each match met your expectations, you're probably ready. But you might be more pleased and the dog would suffer less stress, if you took more time to shape a higher level of performance in very unique and unusual situations. By then, the mostly consistent and structural environment of the ring is a piece of cake!
10. HAVE FUN! Don't always take yourself or the dog too seriously. Consistent correct practice combined with a spirit of fun and play will produce an outstanding performance. The frustration of poor performance can damage the bond between you and your dog. This bond is necessary to make the training and showing experience fun for the dog and rewarding for you.

DOG TRAINING METHODS - STATION TRAINING

Terry Ryan

The concept of rewarding a dog for going to and staying in a certain defined area is called station training. It's one of the most useful tools in behaviour modification and can be adapted to fit your particular need.

Maggie's family has decided they need a bit more control around the house and will use station training to attain that goal. Here are the steps they took to attain this goal.

✚ They will use the word CARPET as the signal, but could just as easily use another novel word like PLACE, RUG or SPOT.

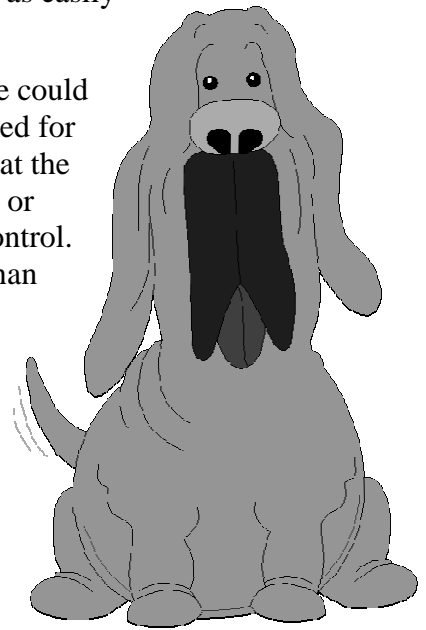
✚ They've selected a small carpet square as her station. Maggie could be trained to sit or lie down on the station or she could be rewarded for any position of her choice – sit, down or stand – as long as she's at the station. Maggie's family will teach her to sit. They felt standing or allowing her to choose a position would not give them enough control. She's an energetic dog so down might be more difficult for her than sit.

✚ Several times a day someone will take her to the rug, sit her, tell her CARPET and give her a reward.

✚ The next step is to reward a sit-stay on the carpet while the owners walk away from her.

✚ Next put her on a stay a few feet away from the rug, go over and make a bit of a show of dropping one of her favourite toys or food treats on the rug. Return to her and as you help her rush over and assume the sitting position, tell her CARPET. When she's there, reward again.

✚ Practice sending her from different directions and distances and start to randomise the treats. As she becomes reliable, pick the very best performances for the reinforcement. Don't reward slow go outs or a sit on the edge of the rug!



Practical application for Station training

Sit for a knock on the door

Maggie is particularly excited when visitors arrive. Put the rug within sight of the door, but not close enough that it's unsafe or too exciting for Maggie. When she is able to run out ahead and sit for a treat, start rewarding her for staying until released.

It's time for YOU to knock on the door and pretend a visitor is there. In training any new behaviour, remember the 3 D's – Duration, Distance, Diversity. If you're going for the diversity of adding a knock on the door, reduce the duration (amount of time) and distance (amount of space between you and Maggie). If you raise one criterion, reduce others. Before long, she will be able to control herself when a real guest arrives. Seat your guest and when things calm down, release Maggie to greet your friend.