

THE GEELONG GERMAN SHEPHERD & OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB
NEWSLETTER NO. 2

Greetings members, welcome to our year 1985 training sessions and social events. May the year bring prosperity to you all and may it prove to be a more successful year this year for the Club.

The year 1984 brought us our usual flooding episodes; two burglaries on consecutive nights and finally severe storm damage to the Clubrooms. The roof was partially destroyed, some of the walls cracked, the ceiling damaged and some of the supporting roof struts damaged. It is not certain at this date whether our insurance policy will sufficiently cover this damage and until such time as the builder has drawn up and submitted a plan to the Shire for approval how much this will cost the Club is only a guesstimate. We may need your help in raising money for the rebuilding project, so be on standby for when you are needed.

At present the club has no telephone or power connected, so use the numbers listed in this Newsletter if you wish to contact committee or trainers.

As there is no power, there will be no coffee initially so bring a thermos or a can if you prefer colder beverages. Training will still be held as normal and announcements will be made on the veranda after training.

Members will be advised where the next General Meeting is to be held and we would like to see as many people there as possible so that you can learn first hand what is happening within the hub of the club.

Apart from this natural disaster, in order to maintain the grounds, fences, trees and carry out trial ring restoration, we will need to raise additional funds and further details of these 'special efforts' will be revealed as they become available.

One way in which ALL members can help to raise money is to bring ALL your used bottles (any kind) and ALL your aluminium cans to our bottle holding pen situated on our grounds.

V A L E

It is with deep regret that Maria Brieberg passed away on 15th December, 1984 after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Maria had been in the club for over 15 years and was a life member. Her continual courage and determination both in and out of the ring is something we would all aspire to.

Maria and her Sheltie "Mindy" went on and obtained their C.D. together to beat the odds. It is to their credit that they were the highest scoring Novice Geelong competitors at our trial on 25.7.82 and their names were engraved on the Perpetual Trophy which was presented to the Club in November, 1975 by her husband, Meinhard Brieberg. Our deepest sympathy goes to Meinhard and Mindy.

IT IS AN ACT OF COURTESY IF MEMBERS ADVISE THEIR RESPECTIVE TRAINERS WHEN THEY ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WEEKLY CLASSES FOR ANY REASON, BE IT OTHER COMMITMENTS OR DUE TO ILL HEALTH ON THE HANDLERS OR DOGS PART. TO ASSIST MEMBERS TO DO THIS THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF TRAINERS AND THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

CHARLIE BARTOLO	75 1958
JAN BOEYEN	78 2148
PHYLLIS BERGIN	48 4746
CATHIE DOWNES	75 2858
GLENDA HILLA	43 4528
COLIN HUMPHREYS	50 2104
STUART INNIS	75 5272
ELAINE LONGSHAW	55 4603
BRIAN MOORE	-
ANTON PAPE	55 1618
MARJ. WRIGHT	43 5791

TRAINING SUPERVISOR - BRUCE CAIRNS - 43 4707

MEMBERS ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT CLASSES COMMENCE AT 7.00P.M. AND AGAIN IT IS A COURTESY THAT YOU ARE ON TIME. THANK YOU.

DID YOU KNOW -

Instructors, Assistant Instructors & Committee Members are all now socially acceptable after having their Tetanus injections. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO APPROACH THESE PEOPLE, AS ALL DISEASES ARE UNDER CONTROL.

USE OF THE ADJACENT LAND FOR EXERCISING DOGS PRIOR TO AND AFTER TRAINING

The Club does not own this land but the Shire permit our useage of same. However, it only takes one loose dog to start a fight that could develop into an all in brawl with the numbers of dogs that are let run free there. The other problem with dogs running loose is that they may easily knock a child, or adult over. So please members, unless you have got a dog that is up to full Novice standard and is under control whilst off lead, LEAVE YOUR LEADS ON. Remember even the trial dogs are not always friendly to other dogs, and it only takes the right set of events for them to want to join in a melee too. So be kind to your dogs and to other people, keep them under control whilst in the paddock in order that we can all continue to use this facility. If you want to let your dog run free before training, do it on the way somewhere, I DO!

Pet Care Hints for Summer Cont..d

They only add unwanted kilos and unnecessary body heat.

Cool, clean water should be available to the pet 24 hours a day.

Another thing to consider for the coming holidays is accommodation for your pet.

If you are going away and need to put your dog into a boarding kennel, this need not cost you an arm and a leg.

For the security afforded by private kenneling at the Lost Dogs' Home, the charges are only \$25 per week.

It is obvious from the steep increase in the numbers of dogs found as strays during the December/January period, that many of the alternative arrangements made by people with regard to accommodation of pets are inadequate.

Dogs left with friends can often wander, trying to find their way back home.

A well-intentioned person accidentally leaving the gate open when coming to feed the dog may have no control over the dog once it gets out into the street.

Once the dog is lost, you run the risk that before you return its eight-day holding period will have expired, and the dog is adopted out to a new home - never to be seen by you again.

For any queries regarding boarding facilities, or further information regarding the care of your dog, call the Lost Dogs' Home on 328 2471 any week day between 10.00a.m. and 5.00p.m.

REMEMBER IT WELL

(This is an extract from a daily newspaper written by people who care)

PLUS

For all the members who competed in, and for those who helped to organize the last Sunday morning training session for the year, it was a successful Club Fun Day, broken by a barbeque at lunchtime. All proceeds from that day go to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and we raised \$76.40 to help them continue to provide more dogs for both their EYES and their COMPANIONSHIP, to those less fortunate than ourselves.

HORROR STORY (Cont..d)

it the Shepherd had collapsed. I cut through one of the end rings and began to CLAW at the jagged edges to force the ring apart so it could be slipped out and FINALLY, FINALLY the chain loosened!

There were a few terror stricken moments before she began to breathe and when she did it was erratic. There was blood on both dogs' coats but we discovered it had come from my own fingers which I'd cut on the metal ring. Neither dog was seriously injured but we were all pretty shaken. I am still shaking.

In one shattering moment it became crystal clear to me what a fool - a LUCKY fool I'd been. Of course I'd heard that dogs can really CHOKE from choke chains, but I've used them for years on all my dogs without incident. Dear God! What if it had happened when I'd left the house for a few minutes or was in the shower? It only takes a few short minutes! Why do we think "It can't happen to ME"?

There will be no more choke collars from now on unless someone has a leash attached. At my house, at least. Please don't let this horror story happen to you before you wise up. You may not be as lucky as I was.

The tag on the collar warns you not to leave it on the dog while unattended. That's not good enough. My dogs WERE attended. I was watching them through a window. Thank God for that. It could happen other ways - a dog could jump up or run by a fence and snag the collar. Strangling dogs don't scream for help. I will never forget the look in my bitch's eyes before she passed out. PLEASE don't just think about it - take the choke chains off your dogs right NOW!

MEMBERS, PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CLUB, COME TO A GENERAL MEETING. THIS IS THE PLACE TO VOICE YOUR OPINIONS WHETHER THEY BE IN SUPPORT OF THE EXISTING MANAGEMENT, OR YOU CAN PICK BONES IF THAT IS YOUR SCENE.

GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AND LADIES ATTENDING ARE REQUESTED TO BRING A PLATE (PREFERABLY WITH FOOD ON IT).

WHAT DO THE GENTLEMEN BRING, YOU MAY WELL ASK - WELL THIS YEAR PERHAPS IT WOULD BE THE GENTLEMANLY THING TO MAKE THE COFFEE AND/OR WASH UP!

THE MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE CLUB ROOMS AND COMMENCE AT 8.00P.M., however, as the club rooms have been damaged the venue may be altered for the initial meetings, and members will be advised of this accordingly.

TRIAL REPORT

Well our December 1, 1984 trial was held in weather that no handler could complain of, and the grounds as always were well presented. The clubrooms looked magnificent and the array of food for sale surpassed all previous efforts.

Thanks to everyone involved who helped make this such a successful day.

Remember ALL members should give the Club their support on our trial days. If you aren't competing there is always a job for you. Help the Club and the club helps you.

The successful Geelong Dogs were:-

Encouragement Dog

Mr.J.Smith	Shepholme Sun Shooter	German Shepherd
1st Place, 128 points.		

Mr.B.Gardner	Ormsloe Proud Chieftan (Stryder)	Rottweiler
123 points.		

Mr.G.Grundill	Cattle King Foxy Lad	Australian Cattle dog
122 points.		

Encouragement Dog

Miss J.Brooks	Lantana Honeysuckle	Golden Retriever
2nd Place, 125 points.		

Mrs.C.Innis	Krystal	German Shepherd
3rd Place, 124 points.		

Mr.K.Brunger	Armando Yoga	German Shepherd
123 points.		

U.D.Bitch

Mrs.G.Barton	Bartonlodge Dutchess C.D.X.	German Shepherd
1st Place, 182 points.		

Assoc.Encouragement Dog

Mrs.C.Linguey	Kay-cee	Setter Cross
2nd Place, 122 points.		

Miss K.McNaught	Tai	Kelpie
3rd Place, 116 points.		

Assoc.Open Dog & Bitch

Mrs.T.Barwick	Tiddles G.D.	Terrier
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DINNER DANCE

The trial was followed by the 30th Anniversary Dinner Dance which also became our Christmas social function. The food stood up to all expectations; the music was great (Glenda Hilla's husband's band) and all members joined in the celebrations which culminated in the great balloon let down and shuffle. A representative from the Shire accepted our hospitality for the evening and a good time was had by all participants. It really was a memorable event to mark our 30th Anniversary celebrations. Thanks to Barry Elliott our Social Secretary and his dedicated band of helpers.

THE DOG AS TOP OF THE POPS Cont..d

Dealing with pet owners it is necessary not only to forget that ringcraft ever existed, but to rethink exactly what one is trying to do with them. The clubs that have courses also tend to lose their pet owners. "I went and there were 30 dogs on the ground and we just walked round and round and my dog wanted to play and it was hell!

I remember it well. You got to the club full of faith, dog behaving like a maniac, but you are sure they know dogs and will recognise the hangups; you have handbag and coat to cope with and a dog that doesn't behave at all. And in some clubs you will be given a quick run around, and get rid of you, as we did badly last week and need to practise scent today. In others the trainers have the basics of teaching, but have never had a dog like yours (none of us have - he is unique).

I have had three peculiar dogs in a row, which may make me more sympathetic as people are apt to say it's me. I have got my most awkward brute to competition standard; that I don't win is the fault of the rules that are crazy, not his fault or mine. My second would have been totally impossible to take around if I hadn't worked on her, as she wasn't socialised for eleven weeks from five months old owing to her poisoning episode; she now lies out in the middle of the floor in a big room full of people, quite placid and unmoved. She isn't a competition type dog and never was and never would be. I took her to keep her under control and keep me training, something few competition people seem to understand. I may go on but I never expect to even be placed with PUMA; we just enjoy being together.

My third dog I have had problems with and have just had my opinion confirmed. I have one of the most dominant pack leaders ever; she needs total control. I have to work and work and work on her and blow competing for a long time yet. I was rather depressed about it: me again? But having been on a course run by people who DO know their dogs very well, I have been reassured. I am on the right lines. I do have a major problem dog (she isn't nasty, just extremely wilful) and now I know what I am doing and how I should do it, we might make headway. She's a Boss Dog - with ALL dogs if she can.

So now when I see our pet class of problem dogs, I can sympathise. I don't care if none of them ever compete. I don't care whether they handle well or not. All I ask is that they learn dog sense, learn to see that the dogs are fit to live with, and not a constant headache and source of neighbour trouble. That when taken out they walk quietly, don't fight, don't foul the pavements, don't go into food shops. That they are fit to handle, as many aren't. My son is a vet and you should hear him on the horrible dogs he has to examine, some of them with owners who say "Oh, I train my dog: he's won so and so." No vet cares if he is a Cruft's champion if his hand is bitten and he can't operate on the next road accident. That is academic to the rest of the world. Is the dog fit to know?

Cont...d/

THE DOG AS TOP OF THE POPS Cont..d

Sit is for control. It will stop a dog running in to fight; control your dog while you window shop, wait for the traffic to pass, go slowly down steep steps with dog in one hand and handbag and shopping bag in the other. Teach him slow pace so that you can push the pram with the dog beside you. One of our puppy class has a fiance in a wheelchair; pup has to learn not to jump on him, not to rush along beside the chair; to behave at all times. That pup will never go in for competition, but by golly, it MUST be taught.

Down while you read a book; watch TV, talk to visitors, eat meals. Down in the car while driving, not rushing around like a nutcase from window to window barking. Not easy as my dogs are angels on long drives, but here, where children run up to the car and peer through the windows they get edgy and bark, and since some children make faces or weird noises at them, none of them much likes children, and I have had a problem created by others being stupid and inconsiderate. Not all are of our own making. Non-dog owners need training too!

We approached the town clerk about the dog problem and got him to agree that classes would be an excellent idea. With Council backing and the vet as our staunch ally, we hope that here at least there won't be an anti-dog council attitude. We have stressed that we want to turn out decent dogs. They appreciate our problems, and will co-operate.

There are times when I feel it is a pity there ever were competitions, as sometimes competition-minded people are oblivious of the needs of those who just keep dogs. Many pet owners do not know either the basics of responsibility or how to see that they are observed. Many need help with much more basic problems than those taught in club, they don't even know how to house-train. They don't know when or how to correct their dogs, and many pups are ruined because they were walloped for coming, the owners sure they were walloped for running away in the first place.

A good friend of mine has a dog that dirties the floor if she has visitors. She has never caught him in the act and I have a suspicion he does it because that is his time to go and when she has visitors she forgets to let him out. He 'knows' he has done wrong as when she says 'Bad Dog' he crawls under the table and is pulled out and walloped.

If I turned round to my three innocents at present each asleep in its own basket behind me and said "Baaad Dog", they'd all look guilty and Puma would hide. Janus would come and apologise and Chita would probably piddle in fright. None of them has done a thing wrong, but my voice says they have and how can they argue with me? Probably if I do it again they will all rush out of their baskets thinking I am scolding them for being there.

Illustrated like that, the puppy owners SEE what they are doing wrong and hopefully change their methods. Many owners don't realise their dogs are antisocial because they never see anyone. If they are afraid of traffic, they don't go out. If they growl when they have a bone, then they are put in a room on their own with it and never learn not to.

Cont...d/

THE DOG AS TOP OF THE POPS Cont..d

The people who understand the problems faced in training them aren't the competition people, or those who have had dogs for ever. They are the vets who struggle to examine them; the girls who have to clip or strip them; the people who kennel them when the family goes away.

My vet came into the puppy class one day and sat watching them and fussing them, and when they had all gone and we were alone, announced that in future he was going to put every dog he saw down unless it came to puppy class first, as he was exhausted! I knew what he meant. I'd tried to talk while outside waiting to see him, dogs wailed, whined, barked, growled, pulled, and owners swore, shouted, pleased, cajoled, cuddled. One afternoon it was so bad I went out and said "Shut up the lot of you." And dogs, as astounded as their owners did just that. Also there are offices there, and people working.

There are puddles under chairs, and sometimes worse. Dogs that make vets want to run. Owners who come in and babble about anything except the matter in hand and waste time that is precious; or don't listen when told what medicine to give and give it wrong.

And people make animals ill in the silliest ways. One poor beast was the victim of its owner's frugality. She turned out a cupboard and found some worm pills and rather than throw them away she gave them to the animal. It was extremely ill. The pills had been there for around 10 years, and it probably didn't need them anyway.

It's uphill all the way. Often it's a bit like bashing one's head against a wall, but unless the pet owners keep their dogs under control and unless those breeding dogs galore are also checked and stopped selling to customers who ought not to have a dog, we are in for a thin time and more regulations all the time, and losing our venues. End of Trials and clubs, and no more wins for anyone.

(This article was originally written by Joyce Stranger who has written several books about her three dogs and the problems she has experienced with them over the years.)

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CLUB LIBRARY, YOU MAY WELL FIND A COPY OF ONE OF HER BOOKS ON THE SHELVES. PLEASE SEEK THE ADVICE OF OUR FRIENDLY LIBRARIAN.

WOULD ALL MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBERS PLEASE ADVISE THE TREASURER IN ORDER THAT THE CLUB RECORDS ARE UP TO DATE.

IT IS WITH REGRET THAT WE HAVE LEARNED OF THE PASSING AWAY OF ONE OF OUR VICTORIAN OBEDIENCE JUDGES, MRS.DOREEN EMOND. MRS.EMOND UNFORTUNATELY WAS ANOTHER VICTIM OF CANCER. SHE WILL BE WELL REMEMBERED FOR HER WORK IN THE OBEDIENCE WORLD AS APART FROM JUDGING, SHE WAS A LONG TIME MEMBER OF KNOX OBEDIENCE CLUB AND THEN WENT ON TO FOUND SHERBROOKE OBEDIENCE CLUB. OUR SYMPATHY TO HER HUSBAND KEITH. *****

WHEN IS A PUPPY, IS A PUPPY, IS A PUPPY!?!

While it IS and is still growing and developing daily.

So all you folk who have just purchased a puppy or are thinking of doing so, remember a puppy IS a puppy whether it is owned by yourself, the guy across the road, a breeder or an experienced handler.

There are times when you feel like 'chucking a wobbly' or 'tearing your hair out', but puppies are all like children, they are investigative, they are mischievous and they are bored and we have to guide them and channel their activities in the right direction. We have to sort out in our own minds whether destructive tendencies are mischievous, investigations gone wrong, boredom or that of teething. Very little if indeed any, puppy behaviour is malicious.

For the families that work and for the lone individual who works, there are obviously more problems with the puppy who is left alone all day. His clock hasn't worked out your normal arrival time home yet and if he or she wakes up after a nap, then they are looking for something to do, whether we as owners would approve or not. The most important thing to remember upon arrival home is to greet the puppy affectionately and don't scold them for any obvious demolition or rearrangement of things since you last saw him, for a puppy's memory is still short and he can't associate your scolding him with what was done an hour or so ago. Quietly try and restore order to your house and garden wherever the need may be.

Puppies don't pick out things purposefully to nibble or swing on or dig in; it is always a spur of the minute decision in passing something or upon arrival at some spot.

Reprimands can only be given when he/she is actually caught in the act and in most cases a very definite NO is the key word to be used. If however, the deed is very bad in your eyes then a firm shaking too, should be more than sufficient to make your point. At times you will think you are losing the power of speech because all you seem to say is "NO".

The ideal situation is when someone can monitor the puppy's activities throughout the day like the advertisement on the television relating to children and swimming pools; but of course this is not always possible. For those of us who live alone it is even harder for we have to perform certain daily chores in a limited time.

I'm fortunate I have an adult dog who my puppy idolizes. He actually sits on him and then curls up between his legs to sleep. However, when my dog is worn out from being chased, jumped on, ambushed, bitten and having his tail half pulled off he elects to admonish the pup and then walk away; sits on him or comes in to me if I am home; it is then that puppy looks to alternative things to fill his days and nights with. When I am at home and it is quiet for longer than five minutes and only my adult dog is near me, I quietly panic and tiptoe to a window at the side of the house where I can view the backyard whilst studying each room on the way. If he is asleep somewhere a sigh of relief, if he is doing something wrong a tap on the window usually sends him charging in from outside and he seems to ask when he arrives "YOU RANG, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME."

Cont....d

MARCH TRIAL DATES

<u>3rd</u>	Eastern Suburbs OPEN	Closing Date - 24/2
<u>9th</u>	Peninsula Obedience Dog Club OPEN	Closing Date - 23/2
<u>16th</u>	Warrnambool & District Kennel & Obedience Dog Club OPEN	Closing Date - 2/3
<u>24th</u>	Victorian Obedience OPEN	Closing Date - 10/3
<u>30th</u>	Southern Obedience Dog Club OPEN & ASSOCIATE	Closing Date - 16/3
<u>31st</u>	Knox Obedience Dog Club OPEN	Closing Date - 17/3

He who has health, has hope; and he who has hope, has everything.

Only presidents, editors and people with tapeworm have the right to use the editorial 'we'.

It is through the cracks in our brains that ecstasy creeps in.

Boys will be boys, and so will a lot of middle-aged men.

I wish my deadly foes, no worse
Than want of friends, and empty purse.

The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds; and the pessimist fears this is true.

No man is rich enough to buy back his past.

We are not satisfied to be right, unless we can prove others to be quite wrong.
