

FAITHFULLY YOURS



EST 1954



GEELONG OBEEDIENCE
DOG CLUB Inc
P. O. BOX 186 GEELONG
VIC. 3220

MARCH 94

NO. 57

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DCG CLUB INC.
Committee for 1993/94

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<u>VICE-PRESIDENT (2)</u>			
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<u>TREASURER</u>	Margaret Burgess	61 3812	Property Officer
<u>ASS. SECRETARY/ TRIAL SECRETARY</u>	David Blackwell	48 6208	Club Nominee
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	Bert Bartels	29 6546	Hall Manager/Ass Grounds Manager
	Meinhard Breiberg	78 2296	Assistant Hall & Ass. Grounds Manager
	Paul Metcalfe	75 4969	Publicity Office
	Melinda Bradford-Bell		Social Secretary
		Canteen Manager

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc. All committee and sub-committee reports bear the name of the respective officer.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY, P.O. BOX 186, GEELONG, V. 3220. CLUB HOUSE PHONE NO: 43 4555

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.
NEWSLETTER NO. 57

This Newsletter is produced Bi-Monthly and distributed on the last training day of that particular month. If you are unable to attend on that date, please see the Secretary and a copy can be reserved for you.

Welcome to all our newer members, may you find your association with our Club a rewarding one, not just for the progress you make in training your dog to become an acceptable member of your household, but in the new friendships you make with your fellow classmates and/or competitors.

Good to see another of our member/instructor(s) in a segment of "Bourke's Backyard" recently. This time the featured dog was the Japanese Spitz and they showed viewers that they are accepted in the showring, in the obedience ring and Agility rings. Well done Sue! Good to see Ian and the family received equal billing. Hopefully now people won't think you washed a Samoyed and it shrank!

BE AWARE OF DANGERS IN THE HOME

Sometimes we are not aware of some of the dangers in our own home and environs.

Recently friends of mine had a large area of external concreting done, with the end result looking like a slate floor. In the process of doing this a sealant was used and this was sprayed over the surface. The fake paving went right to the edge of a gate which had two large dogs behind it. One dog spent quite some time with his nose against the gate watching the proceedings, and within hours of the owners returning home from work he started violent vomiting spasms which did not abate nor was he able to take anything orally. When taken to the vet several hours later, through a process of elimination, they worked out the probable cause and checked the chemicals that were used in the spray, and these were found to be highly toxic. The dog was ill for a further two days and it was only due to the fact that he was **LARGE** that he survived.

Another trap at home can be treated pine timber if used in kennelling. Being a soft wood, chewers find it is an easy target, but the pine is treated with an arsenic-copper compound which makes it toxic under these conditions.

Lead based paints are also toxic to your animals, and then there are many plants that can create further hazards (some of these are listed elsewhere in the Newsletter).

So please give some thought to what you have in and around your property.

As the Easter break is upon us next week and individuals and families are preparing to head off on holidays, stop and consider just **WHERE** you can take your dog in our State. It is no good pleading innocence if your dog is fined for being in a National Park, reserve or forest, because **YOU** didn't take time to find out in advance whether this was acceptable or not. To facilitate your knowledge and understanding of the regulations pertaining to dogs in these areas, see elsewhere in the Newsletter for guidelines presented by the Department of Conservation and Environment. Despite summer seeming to have been a figment of our imagination, some beaches still have restrictions on whether dogs are permitted or not. So please check these thoroughly, as we are supposed to be **RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS!** On the theme of Responsible Dog

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EDITORIAL Cont..

owners, the stories "The Day Before Christmas" and the "The Quality of Mercy" appearing in the February VCA Gazette show both aspects of this - the RESPONSIBLE owner and the IRRESPONSIBLE owner.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 5 is our first **General Meeting** for the year. So come along and see how the decisions are reached in your Club and feel free to put forward your point of view on any aspect of your training etc.

APRIL 7 at 4.00pm is the time when ballot papers must be returned to the V.C.A. setting out your nominations to elect a Vice President and four committee persons to Management. **ALL V.C.A. MEMBERS** are eligible to vote provided they have been financial members for over three months, and it is in your own interests to study the profiles of those nominated and have your say in who you think is best suited to represent **YOU**.

May the Easter Bunny smile down upon you all.

EL



NEW MEMBERS

Judy Arvidson
Boldys Family
Malcolm & Kim Bushell
McClurg Family
Leanne Costa
Warren Family
Megan Kennewell
Melinda Barrett
Hall Family
Derek & Carolyn Wielens
Muhlebach Family
Schmidt Family
Christine & Shaun
Cumming
Payne Family
Rose Boulton
Gillian Ovens
Susan Morris
Natalie Dwyer
Anna & Michael Hynes
Carland Family
Nekrep Family
Geoff Jacobson &
Julie Lewis
Tania Curytko
Volke Family
Cronin Family
Alyson Ramaker
Cane Filipovski
Nikki & Stephen Walsh
Grant Douglas & Vicki
Dahlhaus
Matt Petrovics

Sharon & Ray Morell
Debbie Higginbotham
Suzie & Lewis Luxton
Lisa Jolly
David Bull
Pamela & Bradley Cassidy
Virtue Family
Damian & Tanya Egberts
Cherie McGinley
Sarah Leach
Paul Rockliff
Walsh Family
Jennifer Hallows
McCallum Family
Colin Shoebridge
Raylene Love
Barr Family
Darryl & Jenny Pickering
Miles Family
Marjorie & Josef Prutey
Ralph & Pam Adams
Maria Justin & Rodney Grange
Sandra & Bart Crawley
Sally Wall
Simone Windmark
Ann Deneka
Heather Bowdern
Jennine Redden
Andrew Pitkethly
Kate Bain
Lyn Hood
Christopher & Barbara Wright

Janine Osborne
Alistair & Judy Elliott
Cheryl Welsh
Paula Hayes & Family &
Garry Gilbert
Karen Hamilton
Malady Family
Craig Cogger & Wendy
Dalton
Kim Partridge
John Bligh
Scott Gration
Henry & Linda Trusiak
Colin & Susan Bates
Bozanic Family
Mick & Karyn Burge
Debbie Boyle
Elizabeth & Rex Thewlis
Tracy Krzyzak
Jackie Hutchinson
Tina Camm
Max & Joyce Wedding
Bridgette & John Lucas
Jacki & Peter Haberman
Marnie Haig-Muir
Phyllis Gough & Chris
Alexander
Sherrie Liddicoat &
Stuart Coomes
Jean Bricard
Amanda Smith
Angela & Andrew Grenfell

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Howdy folk! Two months have flown quickly since the last issue and so has Wednesday night "chaos". With between 230-270 dogs attending, it was a tremendous effort by our Training Supervisor and staff to accommodate everyone within that one hour.

Her carefully, over the Christmas break, worked out plan, was thrown into disarray when some instructors suddenly informed her that they would take a break. With only two (2) days to go, classes were rearranged, new instructors promoted and old ones contacted and asked to help and everything fell into place on our first training night this year.

The Training Supervisor's position and that of her assistants and Manager, is not easy, and very demanding. With the large influx of members the strain on their resources is great and so is the pressure on her and her team.

In order to lighten their burden I ask for **YOUR** help. You can help by being patient and understand when things seem to be a muddle; by remembering which class you last belonged to, and the instructor's name if you missed a week or two and have to be reallocated to a new class.

To work out those queries is what takes up a lot of the time on training days (nights). Time which should be utilized by the supervisor's to move around and study class build ups, and check on trainee instructors to obtain the greatest efficiency in all stages of training.

Once you have learned and progressed, through the help of the instructors who have provided their time and dedication freely, **YOU** can also help. So come forward and become a trainee instructor, and by so doing, give back some of what you have received. Instructing is an interesting part of our hobby; naturally with some drawbacks such as committment, but very rewarding. After 40 years I still get a kick out of someone's pass to a title, or a difficult handler/dog team receiving their Beginner's Certificate.

So why not see the Training Supervisor or talk to your Instructor. We need at least half a dozen now to ease the pressure on your present instructors. **"DON'T KILL THE GOOSE THAT LAID THE GOLDEN EGG."**

FRED LEHRMANN
PRESIDENT



ADVERTISING RATES AS FROM MARCH 1993:

All advertisements will be restricted to Half A4 Page size, with a limit of 12 advertisements per issue.

12 months	\$75.00
6 months	\$50.00
1 edition	\$25.00

Half page "Vale Notices" and "Title Notices" are free with the owner supplying the print.

ONE
STOP!

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SEE YOU AT TRAINING





40 th. Anniversary of the Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc.

Did you know that your club in November this year will have been in existence for 40 years and is one of the oldest Obedience clubs in Victoria.

There-for we hope to be celebrating the clubs milestone with a function or functions. A sub-committee has been formed and we would like any suggestions from the members as to what type of function you would like us to arrange.

Sub-committee members are-----

Barry Elliott Chairperson

Maria Elliott

Leslie Gaylard

Pae Hume

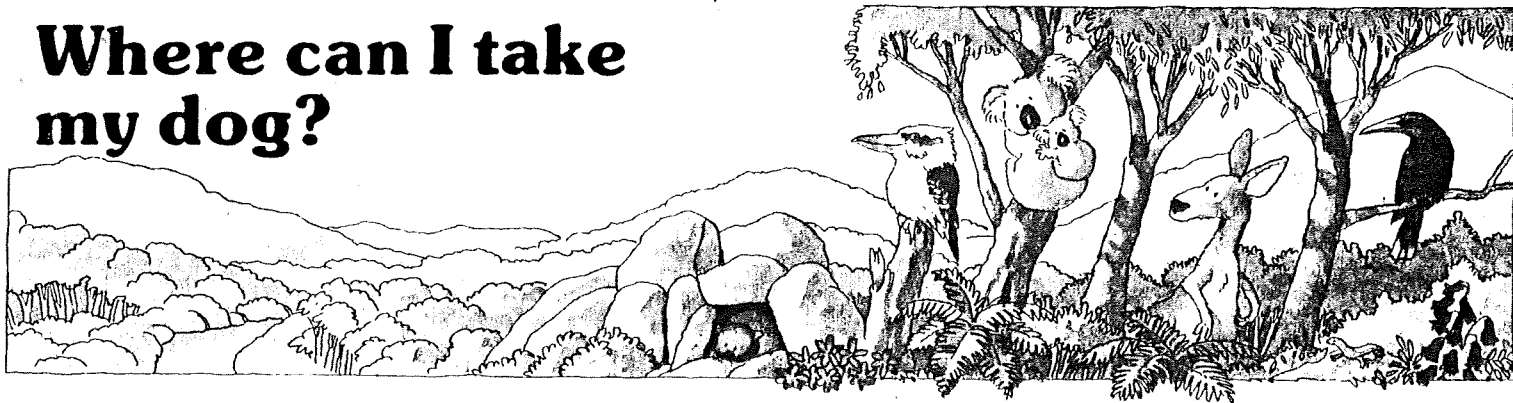
Jan Tompleton

and also Fred Lehmann being your President is automatically on all sub-committee's.

If you have any suggestions please see any of the above, or jot a few words on paper and give to the secretary of the club, so she can hand on to the sub-committee.

*Barry Elliott
Chairperson*

Where can I take my dog?



A guide to Victoria's parks, reserves and forests

This leaflet is designed to help dog owners understand the rules and regulations about dogs in the different parks and reserves in Victoria.

Where dogs can't go

National parks and similar reserves

Regularly are often asked whether dogs may be taken into national parks and other conservation reserves* managed by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

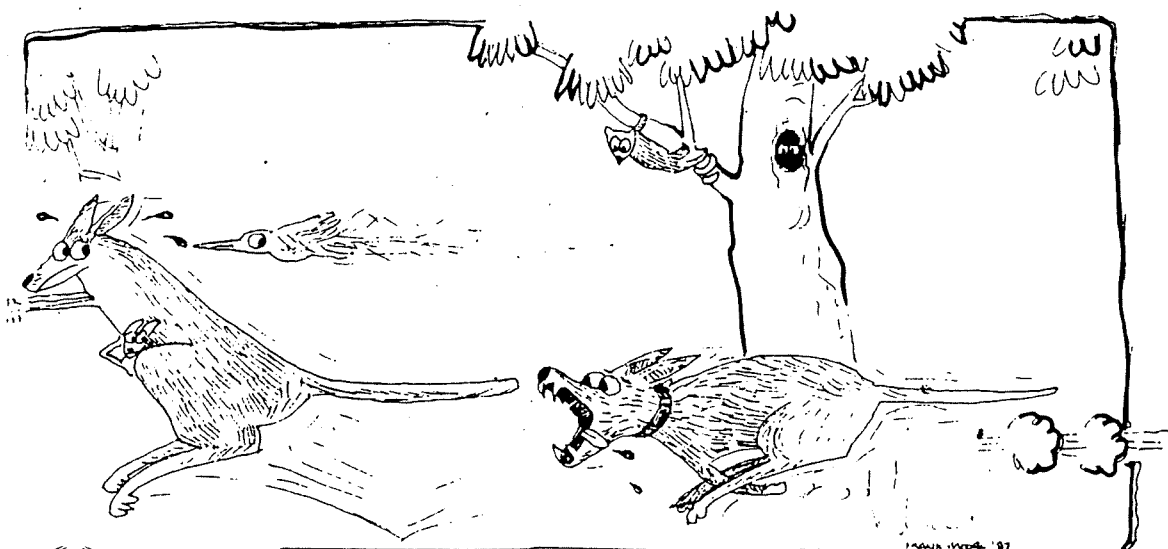
The answer is, generally, 'no' — which understandably disappoints dog owners. It's 'no' even for quiet, well-behaved dogs, and also for cats and other domestic pets. Why?

- First and foremost, national parks are there to protect Australia's native wildlife. They are vitally important for the many species whose survival is in danger. Except possibly for dingoes, dogs are not indigenous to Australia, so our wildlife is not adapted to living with them. Smaller animals can be killed, large ones disturbed and frightened away by dogs and cats.
- Even if your dog is on a lead, or is very obedient, its barking or its scent are enough to scare away native wildlife. Remember that many people go to national parks and conservation reserves to see native animals (and birds in their natural habitat).
- Feral dogs and cats — pets which have escaped into the bush — become fierce, and later generations can grow to abnormally large sizes. Dogs hunt in packs

and cause terrible damage among native birds and animals in parks.

- Dogs can be a nuisance, even a real menace, to other people (especially the very young and old) in picnic and camping areas, along walking tracks or on beaches.
- It would be impossible to have a rule which allowed some dogs (the quiet or small ones) into national parks and similar reserves but not others (the big and boisterous).
- In case you think Victoria is being tough on dog owners, remember that the same rules about dogs apply in all national parks in all States of Australia.

*Conservation reserves are generally, State and coastal parks, some forest parks, such as Sherbrooke Forest Park, flora and fauna reserves, scenic and nature reserves and some other special reserves: Mt Alexander Koala Park (inside fenced area; Bendigo Region); Olinda Golf Course, William Ricketts Sanctuary, Mt Dandenong Observatory Reserve and Phillip Island Penguin Reserve and Koala Reserves (Dandenong Region).



Department of Conservation, & Environment

Where dogs can go

State forests

Dogs are allowed in most of Victoria's State forests. At all times dogs must be under control and should not disturb wildlife or annoy other people.

Game reserves

Dogs accompanying licensed hunters for the purpose of duck hunting are permitted in game reserves **during the duck-hunting season only** provided they are under control and do not annoy other people. Dogs are not permitted in game reserves at any other time.

Also . . .

- Bona fide guide dogs accompanying blind people can be taken into all national parks and similar conservation reserves, and State forests.
- Dogs are permitted **in cars only** travelling on bitumen roads which pass through national parks.
- Dogs are also permitted at certain times in parts of the following reserves, provided they are on a leash and under control at all times (contact the appropriate regional offices for full details):

Park or reserve	Region
Apex Park	Mildura
Cape Schanck Coastal Park (not Bushrangers Bay, Fingal Beach, Pines picnic area)	Dandenong
Discovery Bay Coastal Park (Nelson Beach only)	Portland
Doongalla Reserve (part of Dandenong Ranges National Park, to be proclaimed)	Dandenong
Eildon State Park (Jerusalem Creek camping area only)	Alexandra
Gellibrand Hill Park (not fenced wildlife reserve)	Melbourne
Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park (Barrier Landing, Ocean Grange, Loch Sport causeway, and between Paradise Beach and Seaspray only). In the wild duck and stubble quail seasons, dogs may be used for flushing or retrieving in certain sections of the Park.	Central Gippsland and Bairnsdale
Green Lake Recreation Reserve	Mildura
Kinglake National Park (Frank Thompson Reserve only)	Alexandra
Creswick Koala Park	Ballarat
Lower Glenelg National Park (Princess Margaret Rose Caves only)	Portland
Lake Albacutya and Murray-Kulkyne Parks	Mildura
Mt Alexander Koala Park (outside fenced area)	Bendigo
Mt Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve	Geelong
National Rhododendron Garden	Dandenong
Otway National Park (part of Johanna Beach only)	Colac
Steiglitz Historic Park	Geelong
Warrandyte State Park (Pound Bend and Fourth Bend only)	Melbourne
You Yangs Forest Park	Geelong
• Dogs permitted only with written authority:	
Koetong Deer Project Area	North-East

Further information

For more information please contact the following regional offices of the Department:

Alexandra	(057) 72 1633
Bairnsdale	(051) 52 6211
Ballarat	(053) 37 0783
Benalla	(057) 62 2466
Bendigo	(054) 43 8911
Central Gippsland (Traralgon)	(051) 74 6166

Horsham	(053) 82 5011
Melbourne	(03) 651 3038
Mildura	(050) 23 2906
North-East (Wodonga)	(060) 24 2788
Orbost	(051) 54 1393
Portland	(055) 23 3232

There are many plants found in your garden or any home garden which could prove lethal to dogs, especially puppies - (who chew everything) - not to mention yourself and your children. Below is a list of some of those plants with the effects they have if eaten - even in minute quantities.

AZALEA: (Entire Plant) - paralysis of the muscles, inc. the heart, depression of the nervous system. Sometimes fatal.

BIRD OF PARADISE: (Seed pods) - Nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

CALLA LILLY: (Entire plant) - intense burning sensation and irritation of the mouth. Swallowing two or more seeds may cause serious illness or death.

DAFFODIL: (Bulb) - Severe vomiting and diarrhoea, trembling, convulsions and sometimes death.

DAPHNE: (Entire Plant) - burning and ulceration of stomach and intestines, bloody vomiting and diarrhoea.

ENGLISH IVY: (Leaves and berries) - general excitement, difficulty in breathing and coma.

HOLLY BERRIES: Vomiting, diarrhoea, weakness and collapse.

IRIS: (Leaves, roots and fleshy portions) - severe but temporary digestive upset.

JERUSALEM CHERRY: (Berries) - vomiting, diarrhoea and collapse.

YELLOW JASMINE: (Entire plant) - thirst, dilation of pupils, reddened skin, headache, high blood pressure and rapid pulse, convulsions, delirium and coma.

LANTANA: (Berries) - gastro-intestinal irritation, muscular weakness and circulatory difficulties. Sometimes fatal.

OLEANDER: (Entire plant) - nausea, depression, bloody diarrhoea, weakened and irregular pulse and paralysis.

POINTSETTA: (Leaves and stems) - diarrhoea, abdominal cramps and delirium. Sap can cause irritation, and if rubbed in the eyes - blindness.

POISON OAK: (Leaves) - skin irritation.

PRIVIT: (Entire plant) - bloody vomiting, diarrhoea, severe irritation of the digestive tract and general nervous system.

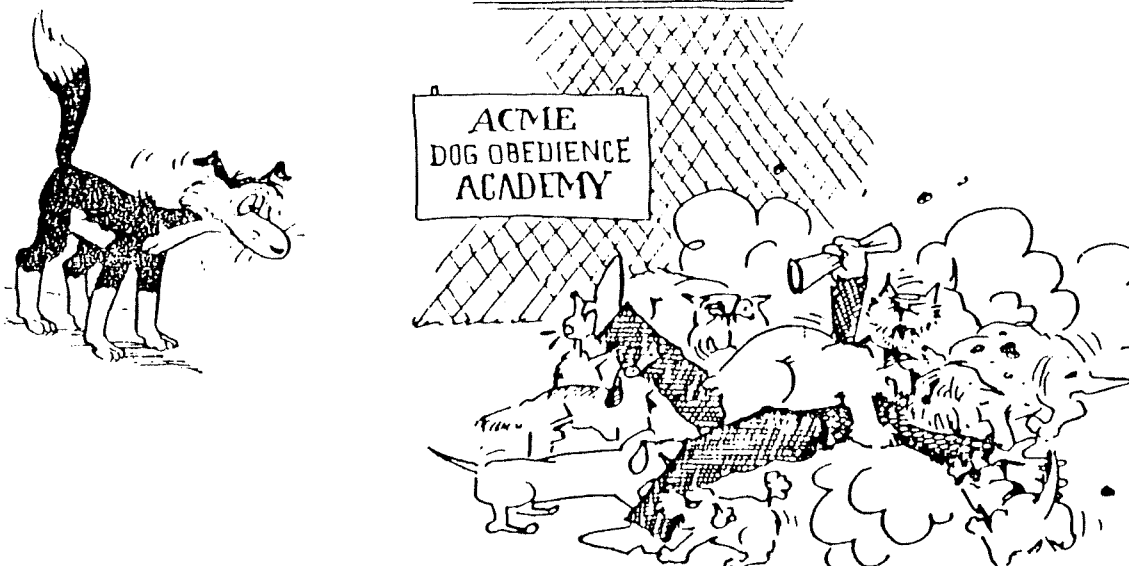
RANUNCULUS OR BUTTERCUP: (Entire Plant) stomach irritation, diarrhoea - and in large quantities - convulsions.

RHUBARB: (Leaves) - vomiting, severe abdominal pain, muscle cramps and in large quantities - convulsions, coma and death.

WISTERIA: (Entire plant) - severe vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhoea.

SEVEN YEAR BEAN: (Raw - it is a red bean) - cooked is alright, raw - highly toxic.

It is not safe to assume that just because you can eat one part of a plant, the rest is not poisonous. For instance, if we eat peaches, both the stone and the leaf contain cyanide. Apricots also contain cyanide - and children have actually died from eating too many of the kernels. Although Rhubarb stalks are good to eat, the leafy portions have been known to cause fatalities in humans.



Reprinted from
Bendigo O.D.C.
Newsletter.

THE AFGHAN HOUND - HISTORY

Some 3000 years before Christ, when the warring northern and southern kingdoms of Egypt were uniting to form the First Dynasty of Egypt, the acknowledgement of the existence of a slender hound of the Afghan-type was first recorded on papyrus and portrayed in hieroglyphics on the walls of the pyramids in Egypt's Valley of the Kings.

Archeological histories estimate that the breed has existed as long as 7000 years, with its origin seeming to centre around the Mountain of Moses on the Sinai Peninsula. There are also historical theories of simultaneous appearances of the same type of dog all over the Asian continent as well.

In Afghanistan, the country from which the dog derives its name, it is regarded, though unofficially as the "national dog" and native Afghans claim and believe this monkey-faced or baboon dog, as it was often referred to, was the chosen dog to accompany Noah on his ark in the year of the great flood. They also uphold the belief that the Afghan is the dog portrayed in the rock carvings on the cave walls in the northern province of Balkh. This is why the Afghan has also been called the Balkh Hound.

The correct interpretation of these ancient and obscure carvings, and the conjecture regarding the Afghan Hound's being the only dog mentioned in the New Testament of the Bible, will always be open to argument or personal opinion.

We do know this: the general Afghan-type dog goes back so far that historian Jackson Sanford states in a scientific paper that the Afghan Hound represents a form of animal structure found on earth over one hundred thousand years ago. Based on bone structure comparisons, the Afghan is a contemporary of the very earliest Asian dog-like animals which are believed to have inhabited even the North-American continent two million years ago.

In the earliest written records of those early dogs there is almost a constant "mixing and matching" of the Afghan Hound with the Greyhound and Saluki, with the points of variance being mainly the outward appearances of each, namely, coat and feathering. It is only when man began to analyse the work each species was expected to perform in the different countries and climates that we see the Afghan breed begin to emerge and develop as the superior hunter because of their coat, long-range eyesight and their reputed "pivotal hipjoints".

While the profusion of coat guarded it against the cold, it also shielded this fleet-footed mountain hunter from the merciless sun while it coursed the desert. With its huge, thickly-padded paws and powerful hindquarters, the Afghan Hound was also the perfect "desert dog", with equal ability to skim across the hot desert sands or to scale rocky tops in the mountainous territory. And so, the Asians and Middle Easterners came to develop and further employ this "dog of all seasons" as an important part of their livelihood and very existence on earth.

THE AFGHAN HOUND IN AFGHANISTAN

In Afghanistan, the dog excelled as a hunter. Hunting is, and always has been, the most popular pastime in Afghanistan. Wealthy Afghans, aboard their excellent horses, equipped with guns and

Cont...2

HISTORY Cont'd

hounds, hunted expressly for sport. At times they also employed falcons which rode on their gauntlets until released to swoop down and distract the prey as it was chased and surrounded by the dogs.

Afghan Hounds are sighthounds, rather than hunters by scent. Their exceptional vision has always meant that they can spot prey far off. Once sighted, they bring into play their fantastic running speed, which has been estimated to reach as much as twenty-five miles an hour at full speed. Afghans generally hunt in pairs, a male and a female, with the female usually choosing to circle the prey, bounding and barking wildly to distract it while the male awaits the opportunity to leap at the prey's throat, where he hangs on until the neck is snapped and broken. Their great speed and power enables them to hunt gazelles, snow leopards, wolves, hyenas, jack rabbits and any other animals of similar size. Their powerful, twisting jaws make a kill almost certain.

The poorer people of Afghanistan, however, hunt for the most basic reasons... for food and for skins to wear and sell. With the tribesmen, however, the Afghan Hound is taught to hunt without devouring or killing the catch, but merely to keep it at bay, allowing the master to deliver the death blow so that the game may be eaten without sacrilege. According to the Mohammedan religion, only slaughtered game may be consumed.

In Afghanistan ordinary or "mongrel" dogs are regarded as unclean and are often clubbed and stoned in the streets. The Afghan Hound however, is admired and respected by all. To the rich he is a skilled and swift hunter; to the poor he is an invaluable guard and provider of food and clothing.

A reading on the Afghan Hound, which so clearly defines their abilities as guard dogs, appeared in Hutchinson's Encyclopaedia and has been reprinted elsewhere over the years. It is an accounting by an observer named Mali who wrote about a visit he made to the North-West Frontier in India. I quote a portion of it here:

"Chaman, you must know, is one of our principle posts on the North-West Frontier. A former Commander-in-Chief decreed that a post should be established at Chaman to be fed by a light railway from Quetta. Two mud forts guard the railway station, one on each side; each fort is manned by one company of Indian infantry and one squadron of native recruits and by dogs.

"What strikes the newcomer entering either of the forts at any hour of the day is the large, extraordinary looking creatures sprawling all over the place, fast asleep. In size and shape they somewhat resembled a large Greyhound, but such slight resemblance is dispelled by the tufts with which all are adorned: some having tufted ears, others tufted feet, and others, again, possessing tufted tails.

"They are known as Baluchi Hounds, and they get their daily food ration from the commissariat babu; he is the only permanent resident of the fort. They will have no truck with any stranger, white or black.

"When 'Retreat' sounds, the pack awakes, yawns, pulls itself together, and solemnly marches out to take up positions close to the newly arrived night guard. They appear to be under no leadership, yet as the patrols are told off a couple of dogs attach themselves to each patrol, and they remain with their respective patrols till 'reveille' next morning.

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HISTORY Cont'd

next morning.

Between a deep ditch and wall of the fort is a narrow path. Throughout the night, this path is patrolled by successive couples of dogs. Immediately after one couple has completed the circuit of the walls and arrives back at the main gate, another couple starts out.

"When it is remembered that these extraordinary hounds have never had any training whatsoever, that their duties are absolutely self-imposed - for no human being has the slightest control over them - the perfection of their organisation and the smoothness with which they carry out their tasks make mere man gasp!"

THE AFGHAN HOUND IN AFRICA

As time evolved and borders expanded, it was also inevitable that the remarkable hunting dog would find its way further south of the African continent. The natives of Africa have used the Afghan Hound for hunting for almost as long as the other peoples of that area. The Africans used them primarily to hunt the East African leopards. They also hunted them in pairs, but preferred to use two males together, instead of a male and female. More strength was needed to bring down the leopards, and two males were found to have more of the necessary strength.

In Africa the dogs required little training to arouse their instincts to hunt. Since the country was so rustic, they were hunted off lead, responding to hand signals given by their masters, who followed behind them on foot. Because the African brush was so dense, the dogs did not get too far ahead, enabling the hunters to keep within sight and scent of the prey along with the dogs.

The African leopards usually took to the trees while the dogs kept them at bay. When the noise of the barking got them to a panic stage, they usually tried to jump for freedom.

The dogs eventually ran them down. Once they had chased the leopard into a clearing, the same circling of the dogs came into play, with one jumping for the neck to break it or to sever the jugular vein. Frequently both dogs grabbed for the neck in a particularly active chase.

Hunting was destined to remain the Afghan's lot in countries of its early beginnings, but once the first dogs found their way to Europe and America, the devotees of the breed had an entirely different mode of life for it.

In the past, constantly moving native tribes and traders kept the national borders irregular and indistinct. But each "country", even as it was then, found its own use and purpose for this hound in its ultimate scheme of life.

In Egypt, for instance, where only a select few animals such as the Brahman bull and the cat were revered, the Afghan-type dog won sovereignty for itself by becoming a companion to kings. Afghans also played a significant part in the national religion. Legend has it that a dog guided Isis, goddess of motherhood and fertility, when she searched for her brother and husband, Osiris, a wise king of Egypt who was brutally murdered and tossed into the Nile by his brother. The dog's role in aiding his most triumphant return and elevation to the status of a great god also immortalised the dog in the

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HISTORY Cont.d



land of the Pharoahs.

Even beyond this royal role as companion to kings, these Egyptian dogs were used as guards, walking sentry duty each night with an eye for raiding tribes creeping in from the desert to steal. Sleeping by day and walking guard in pairs at night around the oases and cities, the Afghan Hounds were also taught to steal from neighbouring encampments for the good and profit of their masters. This is a trait that has remained with the Afghan Hound through the centuries. Present day Afghan Hound owners readily admit that their dogs are expert at thievery, and that every purebred Afghan Hound still harbors a bit of larceny in its soul!


In the Middle Ages, dog teams were used to pull carts of cloth, tea, furs, incense and other commodities between Persia, India, Arabia, Russia and China. They seem to have penetrated as far north as Scandinavia and as far east as China. Woodcuts after Olaus/Manus depicting Scandinavian hunters on skis armed with crossbows in the 16th century show dogs bearing a strong resemblance to the Afghan Hound running alongside them.

Examples of Asian art bear out the appearance of this type of dog in Chinese sculpture and carved jade. The Cairo Museum is reported to have on display a piece of pottery which was unearthed from King Tutankhamen's tomb on which Afghan-like creatures are pictured in chase.

CLUB CALENDAR



28. 3.94	Instructors Meeting
3. 4.94	NO TRAINING - EASTER
5. 4.94	General Meeting
10. 4.94	New Members - Dogs 6 months and over
18. 4.94	Instructors Meeting
24. 4.94	NO TRAINING - ANZAC DAY
1. 5.94	New Members - Dogs 6 months and over
3. 5.94	Committee Meeting
4. 5.94	Newsletter closing date
29. 5.94	Promotion Day
30. 5.94	Instructors Meeting
1. 6.94	Membership Renewals may be paid
5. 6.94	New Members - Dogs 6 months and over
7. 6.94	General Meeting
12. 6.94	NO TRAINING - QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY
27. 6.94	Instructors Meeting



CANINE TRIVIA

Did you know?

A pet cemetery near Paris, "Le Cimetiere des Chiens", contains over 40,000 memorials. It is dedicated to "Barry", the heroic St. Bernard who saved the lives of forty travellers lost in the Swiss Alps during the early 1800s.

(Reprinted courtesy of PEDIGREE PAL Digest)

HIGHTON VETERINARY CLINIC



Dr. Ulrike Wurth B.V.Sc. Dip.Ac.
Dr Paul Hardy - Smith B.V.Sc Hons
VETERINARY SURGEONS

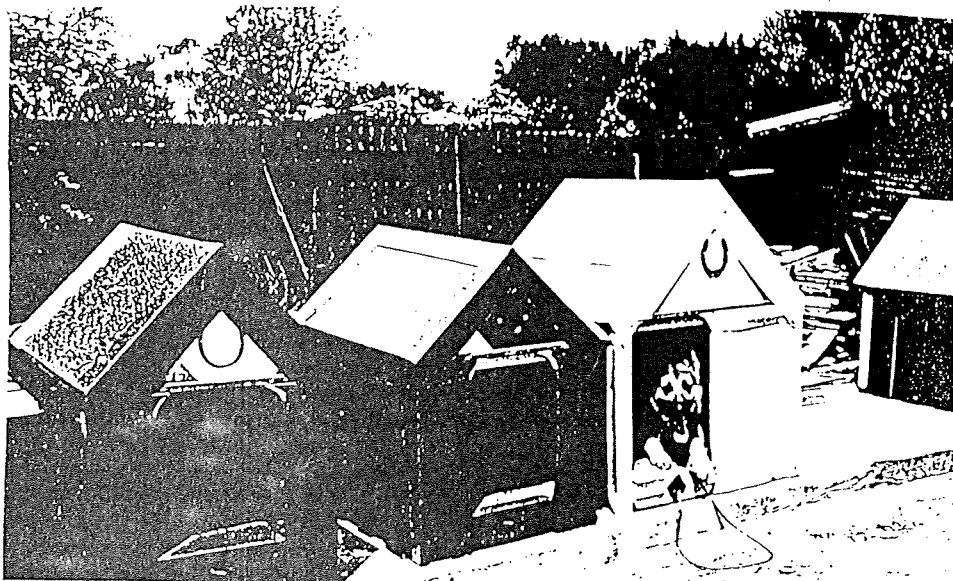
TOTAL PET CARE

ALL VETERINARY SERVICES
VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE
GROOMING AND HYDROBATH

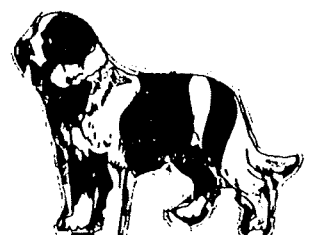
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THE OTTERHOUND

A "Bloodhound in sheep's clothing" is the way they describe me in the National Geo graphic Book of Dogs. Young children regard me as a big lovable teddy bear, but the most common impression of me is that of a very appealing shaggy dog - truth at last! In addition to my woolly looks, my distinguishing features include a well muscled sturdy body, a heavy head with long ears and deep-set eyes and a low deep voice similar to that of the Bloodhound, although of far superior quality. I have a somewhat melancholy look, but I am a happy dog with a long tail which is usually wagging. Although I am generally too curious and gregarious to be a one-man hound, I am loyal and devoted to my master. I can readily adjust to and patiently accept almost any environment. Those who own me soon learn that they have acquired an unusual hound who will attract attention and genuine interest in any company.

Although I am a large hound, I'm friendly, kind and gentle with people and most tolerant of other dogs. I am somewhat of a clown when demonstrating my feelings. When young I can be rather boisterous and disdainful of furnishings in a crowded room, but never destroy things intentionally. My clownish behaviour endears me to my owners and I frequently use this behaviour to my advantage in the cause of getting my own way.

I can turn on an appealing expression which plainly says "did I do wrong/" and this permits me to often get away with things I should not do. I will do almost anything my owner asks, but object when ordered or forced; yes, I can be stubborn.

I enjoy the company of other dogs and do not enjoy fights. Perhaps sometimes I am too tolerant of their rudeness, but if they go too far beyond the bounds of fair play boy can I stand up for myself, must be the hunting pack heritage.

The origin of the Otterhound is not clearly known. Early writers did not differentiate between the Otterhound and the Bloodhound. W. Davidson's opinion that the Otterhound came from the old Southern Hound and the Griffon of France seems to be quite logical. The earliest mention of Otterhounds in history comes from the records of King John (1199-1216 AD) and, therefore, gives an indication that Otterhounds hunting in packs was probably the oldest form of sport using scent hounds to be found in England. In those days the otter was mainly hunted to stop it depleting the fish numbers in the rivers and streams, very important as the diet of the average person contained a high percentage of fish. The Royal Pack or Otter Hunt, was one of many packs maintained by the nobility. Each pack was designated an area in which to work and was granted many privileges, such as the shutting down of mills, water wheels or other activities which might endanger or interfere with their work of trailing the otter. Because otter hunting, unlike other types of hunting, was possible in summer it became quite popular and was followed by the sporting gentry and country folk alike. The hounds were bred only enough to maintain the numbers needed for the packs which in some cases were 20-30 pairs.

Otterhounds were often drafted (transferred) from one hunt to another, but never to private owners. A fact which accounts for the rarity of the breed. Probably the best trained pack of Otterhounds assembled was that maintained by Squire James Lomax of Clayton Hall, Clitheroe, England from 1829-1871. He described otter hunting in detail in a diary he kept during those years, later published in 1910.

Cont....2

THE OTTERHOUND Cont..d

The most noted authority on the Otterhound in recent times was Captain John Bell-Irving (now sadly deceased) and his surviving family of Annan in Scotland, Masters of the Dumfries Shire Hunt. This entirely family owned pack recently celebrated its centenary and will rein in the honoured history of the breed along with the Kendal pack, the only hunts to maintain unbroken lines of pure bred Otterhounds for a hundred years.

After World War II, as time and public opinion changed, there was less support, and less money to maintain the packs, and river pollution so that the fish died off and the otters left. The Otterhound packs were gradually disbanded, the last hunts ceasing in the late 1970's. In the United Kingdom the pure bred Otterhound numbers dwindled, hanging on the verge of extinction. All the care and devotion that had been tirelessly given towards the survival of the Otterhound, in many ways the life's work of the Hunt Masters, was about to be dissipated into the mists of time.

At virtually the 11th hour the remaining much depleted number of hounds were released into private ownership. Although still numbering in the "rare breed" category, the Otterhounds of the 1990's still remain, above all, a tribute to those who unswervingly championed the breed through times of change and uncertainty.

The Otterhound today, no longer permitted to pursue the otter, has now in some ways become the "new kid on the block" whether he be a family companion or exhibited in the show ring. He is still very much a hound who has retained his pack instincts and his champion like attitude to life allows him to retain his heritage whilst enjoying domestication. He firmly remains the true "CLOWN PRINCE OF HOUNDS".

(reprinted from a V.C.A. brochure on the breed written by Mike & Linda Jennings and Renee Edwards and Kevin Watson.)



CANINE TRIVIA

DID YOU KNOW - A bitch can contribute to the reproduction of more than 265,686 young in 10 years (based on six puppies per year with half of each litter of six being bred from).

(Reprinted courtesy PEDIGREE Pal Digest)

LIBRARY NEWS

Periodicals - available for loan

NATIONAL DOG (monthly). Each issue features a special breed review. PAL PEDIGREE DIGEST (3 monthly). Health, nutrition, training, problems etc.

Recent Purchases

GOOD DOG

By Joan Bray & Lisa Black

This is a simple, clear, concise, commonsense guide for the beginner, based on the Australian authors' long experience as dog trainers.

All aspects of dog training are covered and numerous comical line sketches clearly illustrate each step along the way. Problem solving and fun games are included, and if you have a big pocket in your jacket, this would be a great little book for double checking while you are doing your home training.

AGILITY TRAINING, THE FUN SPORT FOR ALL DOGS

By Jane Simmons Moake

The more you challenge your dog, the more intelligent it will become.

Whether you are already committed to agility training, or just extending your pleasure of dog ownership, this how to do it book should be a motivating force.

The author gives details of constructing a course at home - maybe a simple course using hula hoops, witches' hats, large appliance cardboard boxes, etc. or for the enthusiast, a more sophisticated course.

Numerous illustrations and photographs re-inforce the text, and attention is given to solving problems which may occur during training.

Why not construct a course and invite friends around for an agility party?

DID YOU HEAR?

A new survey has revealed that Britons spend a year of their lives in the bath - indulging in activities ranging from self-hypnosis to sex. Popular bathtime pursuits apparently include drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes and chatting on the phone. The survey revealed that some even take their pets into the bath with them. Apart from dogs, other bath-time buddies include rabbits, terrapins and cats!



SORRY, I MISSED THE MESSAGE
by Peter Kennon

Dogs are brilliant observers! Although they cannot understand our language or apply reasoning to our actions, they can and do, by careful observation, learn the cues with which we signal our intentions.

At times, it seems as though they can read our minds. Whilst we could debate the subject of mental telepathy, in most cases the dog has simply detected an event or chain of events that allow it to predict our behaviour. The dog then modifies its own actions to take advantage of its knowledge. For example, the dog upon hearing the rattle of car keys displays a joyful response that most owners find hard to resist. Guess who gets to go on the outing!

We have at least the same capabilities, so why is it that many people forget (or don't realise) that their greatest asset in the entire process of dog training is their personal power of observation?

Dog training is all about communication and to be effective, communication must be a two-way deal. We tend to do a lot of talking but very little listening and whilst dogs don't say much (at least mine don't), we must "listen" by being observant.

If we watch our dogs they will tell us. In fact they are desperately trying to tell us things about the messages we are giving. I have this mental picture of a dog grabbing its trainer by the hand and saying "Listen mate, I haven't got the faintest idea what you are asking me to do. Tell me in some better way I can understand and I'll do it willingly."

When a trainer issues a cue or command, he or she must study the dog's response. Has the message been received? Was the command properly issued and well timed? Was the dog attentive? If the response is positive we can be reasonably certain that our communication was effective. If, however, the response is negative, what is the dog trying to tell us?

This is where our powers of observation are so critical. The dog might be indicating it got the message but is unsure how to respond or that it got the message and decided not to comply. Obviously whether we encourage, enforce or re-issue the command depends on what we observe.

The dog's messages are often quite subtle. A flick of an ear, a swish of the tail, a lick of the lips, a slight cringe, an expression of defiance or a look of total bewilderment can all tell the observant trainer something of value.

How we use this information is important to the success of training. If every incomplete response results in a correction, the dog, if it isn't confused at first, soon will be. Conversely, when we can detect even the smallest try and reward the attempt, the animal takes another step towards full understanding.

Cont...

SORRY, I MISSED THE MESSAGE Cont 2/

By being observant, one quickly learns that there is a canine equivalent to the human "pardon?" or "sorry, I missed the message". Despite the outdated advice to never repeat commands, this should tell us that there are times when ineffective commands must be re-issued.

Observation requires concentration. We all know that dog attention is vital yet we neglect human attention.

I actually believe that the reason all training sessions should be brief has little to do with the dog, it is because most handlers can't truly concentrate for more than 10 minutes.

Deliver a cue or command and the dog, if it can't respond, will communicate with us somehow. We must be prepared to listen.

(Reprinted with permission of the Author and National Dog Magazine.)



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TITBIT CORNER

Christmas Bloopers- Apologies go to David Blackwell who assures me Margaret created the "Pavlova Magic" all by herself! Then more apologies to David, I forgot to say he was limboing very well, till his hat called it quits. He earned a place on the Agility table with Bronco.

Did you hear about the pregnant waterbed? Owner left it unattended and it rose to the occasion.

Whose dogs had a bonus two course meal recently. Owner did weekly shopping at Supermarket and purchased from Bakery some small latticed apple pies. Later that evening a mini apple pie was combined with icecream and topping. First mouthful had a strange taste; second mouthful - yuck. Hastily put glasses on and went and read what was printed on packaging. Alas, twas potatoe and bacon pie; not suitable with icecream and topping!

Heard about the two lady members who have had to decline on their entry in the Sydney to Hobart race for 1995 as it takes them too long to hoist the pole even standing on tip toes.

Maybe a Guinness Book of Records item? Driver left Haddon Field & Game Reserve after evening meal and it was wet and thundery. Stopped in Sebastapol for fuel and suddenly remembered I had left a small metal water bowl on rear bumper after watering the dog mid afternoon. Resigned myself to the fact that it had obviously fallen off somewhere and been squashed by subsequent vehicular traffic, and dismissed the idea. From Sebastapol I drove to Ballan in the worst driving conditions I have ever experienced, and once in Ballan I drove to a friends' Boarding Kennel to collect dog number two, over small country roads and their own very corrugated gravel road. It wasn't until I left there to go home that my friends "reminded me" that I'd left the water dish still on the bumper (thinking I had watered dog number one when I arrived). Miracles can happen, and the distance was 90km (I use my trip meter as a fuel guage). So top that! .

At the tracking seminar held at Ballarat it was do as I say, not as I do. Attendees were requested to be ready to track at 5.30am and they and their dogs were! However judges and officials didn't turn up until after 6.30 am. Shame! Shame!

Who was the nit-wit who forget to take their own socks to wear, so had to wear two odd socks normally used for the dog to find on the track.

Who were the couple of tracking enthusiasts who took separate vehicles so that EACH of them could ZZZZZZZZZZ independently of each other only to find that three other inebriated supposed enthusiasts were pontificating to the world about the virtues of their wonderful, wonderful dogs virtually on their doorstep. Needless to say, none of the latter three were capable of handling anything the next day, including loud voices addressing them.

Elaine

OBEDIENCE, AGILITY & TRACKING CALENDAR

<u>OBEDIENCE</u>	<u>CLOSING</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Golden Retriever Club of Vic.Inc. (R.O.T.)	Closed	9. 4.94
Border Collie Club of Vic. (R.O.T.)	Closed	9. 4.94
Moorabbin & District O.D.C.	Closed	10. 4.94
Warringal O.D.C. Inc.	3. 4.94	17. 4.94
Red Cliffs District Kennel Club	9. 4.94	23. 4.94
Croydon & District O.D.C. Inc.	10. 4.94	24. 4.94
Red Cliffs Ladies Kennel & O.D.C.	10. 4.94	24. 4.94
Altona Civic O.D.C.	17. 4.94	1. 5.94
Ballarat & District O.D.C. Inc.	24. 4.94	8. 5.94
Murray Valley O.D.C.	30. 4.94	14. 5.94
Gordon Setter Club of Vic. Inc. (R.O.T.)	1. 5.94	15. 5.94
Murray Valley O.D.C.	30. 4.94	15. 5.94
Ovens Valley Canine Club	7. 5.94	21. 5.94
Labrador Retriever Club of Vic. (R.O.T.)	7. 5.94	21. 5.94
Wangaratta Kennel & O.D.C.	8. 5.94	22. 5.94
Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Vic. (R.O.T.)	T.B.A.	29. 5.94
Keilor Obedience Dog Training Centre Inc.	15. 4.94	29. 5.94

AGILITY

Border Collie Club of Victoria	Closed	9. 4.94
Moorabbin & District O.D.C.	Closed	10. 4.94
Bendigo O.D.C.	23. 4.94	7. 5.94

TRACKING

German Shepherd Dog Club of Vic. (Preliminary Only)	4. 3.94	23. 4.94
Knox O.D.C. Inc.	9. 4.94	7. 5.94
Knox O.D.C. Inc.	9. 4.94	8. 5.94
Border Collie Club of Vic.	23. 4.94	21. 5.94
Border Collie Club of Vic.	23. 4.94	22. 5.94

CANINE TRIVIA

An American sold Sultan Moulay Abd el-Aziz, who ruled Morocco from 1894 to 1908, a British Bulldog with false teeth for \$40,000.

English dog owner Thelma Palmer found her Airedale Terrier "Lucy" staggering around the house and immediately rang the emergency vet. Being unable to diagnose the problem, the vet prescribed aspirin and rest. It wasn't until later Thelma discovered that "Lucy" had consumed the entire contents of a bottle of advocaat and was in fact dog-gone drunk!

A shop near Coventry in the UK is selling the latest canine foot fashion accessory - Rebark trainers.

(Reprinted courtesy of PEDIGREE PAL Digest.)

ELAINE LONGSHAW 55 4603