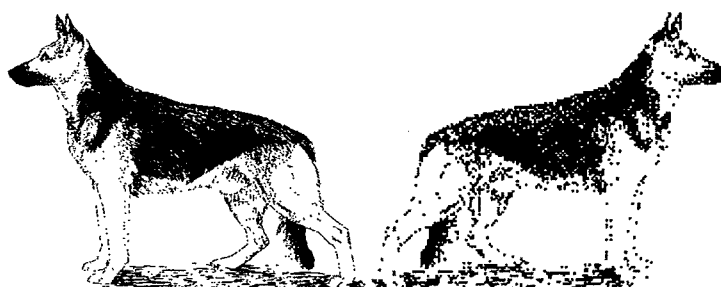
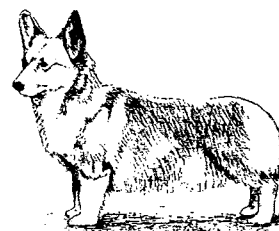
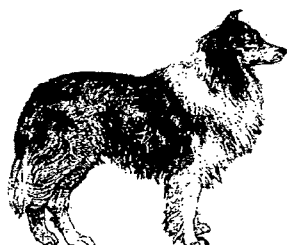
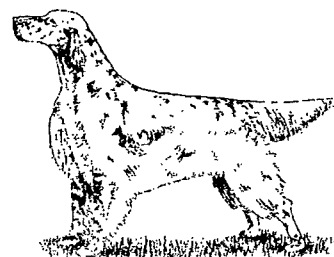
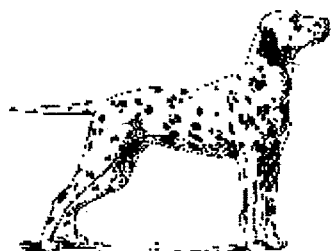


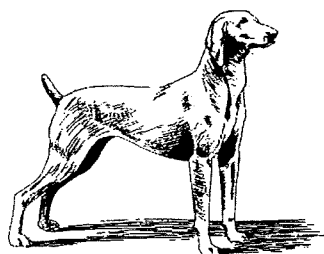
FAITHFULLY YOURS



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Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc

PO Box 186

GEELONG 3220

Phone: 52 434 555

June 2001

Issue No

112

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Committee for 2000/2001

PRESIDENT	Leonie Kelleher	52 431 277	Public Officer
VICE-PRESIDENT (1)	Arthur Thorogood	52 441 819	Training
VICE-PRESIDENT (2)	Barbara Mackey	52 414 243	Administration
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	Fred Lehrmann	52 215 318	Grounds Manager/ Equipment Manager
	Barbara Thorogood	52 441 819	Hall Manager
	Brian Voysey	52 216 332	Publicity Officer
	Fiona Mackey	52 661 486	Social Secretary
	VACANT		Assistant Social Secretary/Raffle Steward
NON-COMMITTEE	Desma Dickeson	52 789 585	Training Supervisor/ Display Team Leader
	Karen Hinkley		Shop Manager
	Sylvia Noblett	52 817 442	Librarian
	Gordon McCraw	52 487 865	Bar Manager
	Pam Convery	52 290 145	Newsletter Editor
	Helen Green		Webmaster

The opinions in the 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

PO BOX 186

GEELONG 3213

NOTE: New Club's website http://members.tripod.com/geelong_odc

Newsletter closing date for all items – 15th of each month

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REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Thank you to all the member's who attended the last General Meeting; it was a pleasure not to have to listen for another car hoping to make a quorum. Which brings me to next month's Newsletter, which will include the Annual General Meeting Notice and Nomination Forms for both Committee and Non-Committee positions at the Club. All positions become vacant at the AGM so if you feel you have something to contribute please read the position guidelines or speak to the member currently holding the position, I'm sure you will be welcomed with open arms.

The following quote from the VCA's Guide to Club Management bears considering, "it is important for intending Committee Members to understand the hierarchy of the Club because some people volunteer to become President, Secretary etc in the belief that the position is one of power, prestige or personal advantage. If that is what motivates a person then all that they will achieve is to generate disruption and disharmony within the Club. Nominees for Committee and elected Committee members (including Non-Committee positions) should never forget that they are servants of the Club and are answerable at all times to the members".

Best wishes

Pam Convery - Secretary

CANTEEN MANAGER'S REPORT

Firstly, I'd like to thank all my helpers at the Spirit of the West. It's thanks to these people that make my job a lot easier. I hope everyone enjoyed the day.

Which brings to mind July's Obedience Trial. Please, if you have a spare hour, put your name down to come and help out. It's a good chance to see what Trialling is all about, as well as making some new friends.

Don't forget our sausage sizzles. It's a good chance to support your Club and sausages are only a gold coin donation.

Wendy McCraw - Canteen Manager

TRAINING SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

A fairly short report – we are midway between Promotion Days, so I hope everyone is working hard towards their personal goals and also enjoying their dogs as they train.

I feel I should repeat what I wrote in an earlier report – there are Beginners, Merit and Basic Test Guideline Sheets that are available for a minimal amount (from the Equipment Shop) and I feel all of you would benefit from buying the appropriate test sheets to give some extra knowledge into what is required and thus learn and train accordingly, so the chances of failure are minimised and the chances of success are maximised!!!!

Perhaps everyone should also be aware that every test carries a 50% pass rate on each exercise in the test.

REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS

As the Instructors only have you in Class for an hour each week to help you with your training, everyone needs to spend time each day practising with their canine companion.

To the Instructors who support me and also give their time and effort every week – thank you.

‘Til next time – love your dogs

Desma Dickeson – Training Supervisor

POST CARD FROM OUR GROUND’S MANAGER (Germany)

Hi there

The “Bremen City Musicians” are an old fable and a symbol of this town. Time is flying past us very fast. The weather has been so-so so far, but we are having fun. Tomorrow we are off on the next stage near the Czech border. I believe that the weather is kind to you for training and I hope that the ground stays dry for the Trial. I have visited a local Dog Club and took photos of their Clubhouse. The grounds are not as good as ours.

Cheerio and greetings to everybody

Fred Lehrmann – Grounds Manager



FASCINATION OF THE TRIAL RING

Gary Somerville – National Dog February 1992

The sight of a dog under perfect control and showing willingness in the Trial ring never fails to fascinate. In our modern urban society, most dogs are unable to perform the duties for which they were originally bred. Obedience Trials are one answer to life for Ol' Brown eyes as we near the 21st century.

It could be argued that Trials are an extension of man's first meeting with the canine – from the outskirts of his camp the wild dog moved in close to the fire of his future pack leader

From their humble beginnings about 1960, Obedience Trials and similar events have provided dog owners with a magnificent sport. Many dogs worldwide learn their trade and how to be a better companion in the trial-and-error school of Trialling. It is an International sport where men, women and teenagers compete in friendly competition on equal terms. The rules are designed as a test of the wonderful things a handler and dog can accomplish in a relationship formed by training. And women especially excel.

All agree the exercises show how you have successfully shaped your dog's behaviour and control towards you. In short, Trials have resulted in a huge improvement in the general standard of dog work. One of the sport's purposes is to display and publicise the work dogs do under control of commands and signals. It's called working as a team. Part of the fascination lies in the dog's unpredictability and the uncertainty of the result.



The friendly and honest congratulations from fellow handlers when a dog performs well make all the hard work justified. Equally, competitors are always on hand with sincere sympathy when Fido does it wrong. Every owner of a well-trained dog fancies his own particular breed. At Obedience Trials, owners have a practical opportunity to put their dog and training to the test under an experienced, competent and unbiased Judge. Trials are not meant to be an exhibition or spectator sport. They are primarily for improving the ability of the breed. No longer do just a sprinkling of breeds compete – all do! If a

particular breed performs well, there is a constant demand for the progeny to be readily available to triallers.

Obedience Trials have many pluses. They were introduced to promote the breeding and training of better dogs. Officials arrange for conditions, work and exercises to be useful also for the family dog. All owners agree that a dog trained to instantly obey commands is able to share more of life than one that is just a pet. In short, Trials are rewarding for the dog owner as well as Fido. They also provide an opportunity for novice owners to meet experience dog handlers.

Learners should not be reticent in seeking advice from knowledgeable Triallers. There is an old saying, "Fools learn only by their own experience; wise men learn by the experience of others". There is a common bond among Triallers – a spirit of comradeship seldom seen in other walks of life. Each person, be they wealthy or poor, is only as good as their dog. This is the password of Obedience Trials.

Trials are eagerly awaited and the friendly atmosphere at these competitions does much to foster goodwill and friendship. Training methods are discussed honestly. No one has secrets or an axe to grind. I recall Dulcie Goldstein turning up at a Trial with an injury and unable to Judge so we invited her to sit with our group. She commented later, "I've had a great day. I never realised what a great time Triallers have".



Dogs continually improve as they and their handlers adapt to more modern methods of training. To win a major Trial or Winners of Winners is the ultimate ambition. Triallers believe that whether your dog wins a prize or not, the honour of competing is an achievement in itself. Trials show handlers how humans think their way through life. More importantly, they reveal how a dog smells his way, hears its way and finds its way by touch and taste. I envy young people – they have a great future in a sport that will significantly improve over the years.

Special Effort Raffle

Romantic Weekend for two
at

"Cora-Lynn" - Lorne

4½ star luxury apartments



To be drawn Sunday 8th July 2001

2 nights for two people

(conditions apply - no extensions, no children, must be used by the end of August)

Tickets 3 for \$1.00

See John our Raffle Steward at Sunday training
for your tickets



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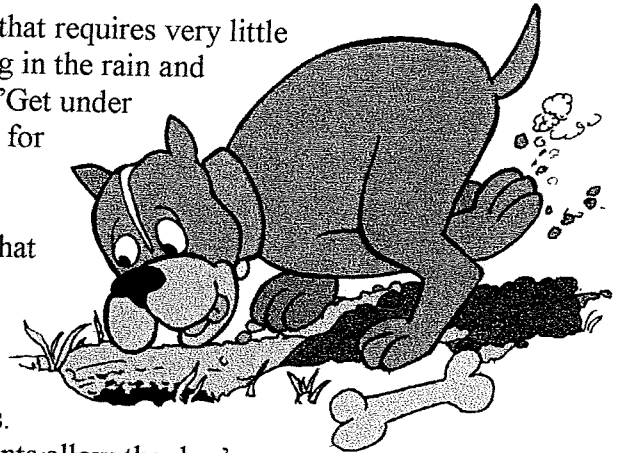
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Some "No Brainer" Dog Info

By Gary Wilkes

Loosely defined, a "no-brainer" is a simple solution that requires very little conscious thought. For instance, if you are standing in the rain and don't want to get wet, the "no-brainer" solution is "Get under a covered area". While all "no-brainers" avoid the need for cognitive effort, not all of them are painfully obvious. Some "no-brainers" remain hidden until someone else points them out. To see what I mean, consider the dog that barks and fusses when guests come to the door.



Many dog owners enjoy having a dog that growls and barks at the front door. One attractive aspect of dogs is their ability to intimidate strangers and potential burglars.

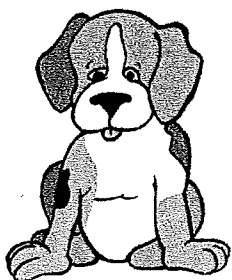
The problem arises when the owner's subtle reinforcements allow the dog's natural tendencies to take charge. The result is a dog that is highly excited when anyone comes to the door – even invited guests. The dog will then jump all over the visitor. If you are the guest, this problem can be very annoying. To discover the guest's "no-brainer" solution, let's take a closer look at the normal sequence of door greeting.

Usually, the visitor rings the bell and the dog flies forward in anticipation, barking, growling and lunging at the door. The dog's owner opens the door and Fido starts dancing on his hind legs to get a better look at the "intruder". The guest, not wanting to seem impolite, says something like, "that's certainly a friendly dog you have there," and then pets and discretely tries to fend off the dog. Get ready – here's the no-brainer. When the dog dances around trying to get your attention, don't pet the dog!!!! Dogs like to do things that earn attention. If you pet the dog as he is jumping, you are reinforcing that behaviour. If you plan to visit the house again, use another "no-brainer" next time. Bring a pocket full of food treats. This time, when Fido jumps all over you, say "Sit" and touch a treat to his nose for a second. Pull the treat back to your chest and say "Sit" in a normal tone of voice. Let the dog jump around a bit, but only give a treat if the dog obeys your request. The odds are very strong that the dog will indeed sit.

Another problem that has a "no-brainer" solution revolves around dogs that tug unmercifully while on leash. Despite the fact that tugging is almost universally common to dogs, most dog owners dislike this manner of walking and would change it, if they knew how. The most common solution to this problem is to try to use a choke chain to convince the dog not to pull. A choke chain often leads to the dog pulling so hard that he actually chokes himself. (Duh!!!). To eliminate the choking, many owners switch from a choke chain to a harness, which distributes the weight on the dog's shoulders rather than the neck. While this often eases the strain on the dog, it often increases the discomfort of the owner.

Here's the "no-brainer" for owners of tugging dogs – if you have a dog who pulls on the leash, don't use a harness, **USE A HEAD HALTER!** Any old mule-skinner can tell you that a harness allows an animal to pull at its maximum capacity. Just look at a horse pulling a plough – what is it wearing? A harness! When the farmer wants to take his 2,000-pound Belgian draft horse back to the barn, what does he use? A halter! Using a halter controls the dog's body by securing his chin. Not only does this reduce simple pulling; it also dramatically reduces the most common forms of public aggression.

Some "No-Brainer" Dog Info by Gary Wilkes (continued)



Our next "no-brainer" is more disturbing than humorous. If you have children, don't get a dog for protection. As crazy as it sounds, many parents select a dog based on its ability to protect the household as well as its ability to play well with the family's children. The part of this equation that is universally ignored is that most children have friends. When little Johnny's friend Billy comes to play what assurance is there that Fido will like Billy? If the two children have a scuffle and Billy plants a right hook on Johnny's eye, there is a really good chance that Fido is going to send Billy to the hospital. The bottom line is that the dogs that are "good with kids" are those who have no protective tendencies at all – not even the tendency to protect themselves.

Perhaps the most obvious of all no-brainers relates to house training. Unfortunately, the primary housetraining tool of most pet owners is "punishment for accidents." Invariably, this method creates an animal that becomes focused on avoiding the owner's wrath rather than proper elimination. The dog becomes sneaky and avoids the punishment by avoiding the owner at potty time. Most owners consider this type of dog "spiteful" and difficult to train.

Here's the no-brainer solution for the stubborn, spiteful and untrainable pooch. Take the dog outside after a long night's sleep. Make sure you have a pocket full of tasty treats. If you have a fenced yard, you can sit in one spot and just wait. If you don't have a yard, put the dog on leash and walk around slowly. Now, here's the hard part – don't actually do anything. Eventually the dog is going to start sniffing the grass and become generally "nosy." Be prepared to wait an hour or more for something to happen. Eventually, the dog is going to eliminate. (A long history of punishment for "accidents" may cause a dog to be afraid to eliminate in the presence of the owner. You may have to hide in order to convince the dog that he is alone.) While the dog is eliminating, do not interrupt! Don't say anything or make any move toward the dog until he has completely finished his business. Then, say "good boy" in an animated voice, proceed toward the dog and deliver the palatable food treat. If you do this consistently and avoid any scolding, harsh words or punishment, you will have a housetrained dog in a very short time.

Living with a dog can often be a chain of mindless, knee-jerk reactions. We often treat an animal the way our parents did, or the way our friends suggest, without really thinking about what we are doing. Unfortunately, within the human-animal bond, the thinking side of the partnership is exclusively ours. Many solutions to common dog/owner problems are so obvious that we should be able to see them without thinking – yet we usually don't. Ironically, the term "no-brainer" doesn't really describe not using your brain. A real "no-brainer" is a solution so obvious, you will overlook it unless you stop and think for a moment.

ENDURANCE TEST RESULTS

Susie & John Baird



Rakaaz Nara Flynn (A)



Altona Civic Obedience Dog Club
Endurance Test Pass



David & Lisa Blackwell



Ch Ormslee Jakaza Hadedo (A)

Altona Civic Obedience Dog Club
Endurance Test Pass

Spirit of the West Results

27 May 2001

Congratulations to the following members who were successful at the Spirit of the West Challenge. Thank you to all members who competed on the day. The Shield is now back in the Clubhouse where it belongs

Puppy Class

Judge: Chris Shields

- 1st Chris Schilling & "Molly"
- 2nd Bree Schammer & "Bailey"
- 3rd Sally Roche & "Indy"

Class 5

Judge: Arthur Thorogood

- 2nd Susan Young & "Jack"
- 3rd Carole Birrell & "Sophie"

Class 1

Judge: John Shields

- 1st Diane Miller & "Phanney"
- 3rd Kim Ciezarek & "Yogi"

Class 5

Judge: Desma Dickeson

- 2nd Beryl Jackson & "Kelly"
- 3rd Trish Gavaghan & "Meg"

Class 1

Judge: Peter Miller

- 1st Jeanne Harrison & "Daisy"
- 2nd Jill Mazengarb & "Zane"
- 3rd Chris Jubb & "Kaiser"

Class 6

Judge: Bruce Cairns

- 2nd Val Moeller & "Caden"
- 3rd Fiona Mackey & "Thomas"

Class 2

Judge: Kim Ciezarek

- 1st Simon Bird & "Maddie"
- 3rd Kelly Langdon & "Meeka"

Class 2

Judge: Moira McNair

- 1st Emma Leahy & "Jessie"
- 2nd Kath Devlin & "Ellie"

Class 3

Judge: Betty Lawrence

- 1st Beryl Jackson & "Tess"

Class 4

Judge: Leonie Kelleher

- 2nd Malcolm Waldron & "Chelsea"
- 3rd John Fletcher & "Polly"

Class 7

Judge: Arthur Thorogood

- 1st Tina Button & "Pirate"

Class 8

Judge: Michael Cowman

- 1st Janelle Convery & "Brodie"
- 2nd Craig Walter & "Riana"

Class 11

Judge: Cheryl Young

- 3rd Fiona Mackey & "Thomas"

Class 12

Judge: Desma Dickeson

- 2nd Jessica Godycki
- 3rd Andrew Serle
- Laura Brow

Doggy Dictionary

Reprinted from "Guns n Sashes" May 2001

BATH - This is a process by which the humans drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

BICYCLES - Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush, dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards. The person swerves and falls into the bushes, then you prance away.



BUMP - The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee

DEAFNESS - This is a malady, which affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include starring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction.

DOG BED - Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guestroom or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL - Is what you do when your persons have food and you don't. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can, look sad and let the drool fall to the floor. Or better yet, on their laps.

GARBAGE CANS - A container, which your neighbours put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and mouldy crusts of bread.

GOOSE BUMPS - A manoeuvre to use as a last resort when the regular bump doesn't get the attention you require especially effective when combined with The Sniff (see below).

LEASH - A strap, which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your owner where you want to go.

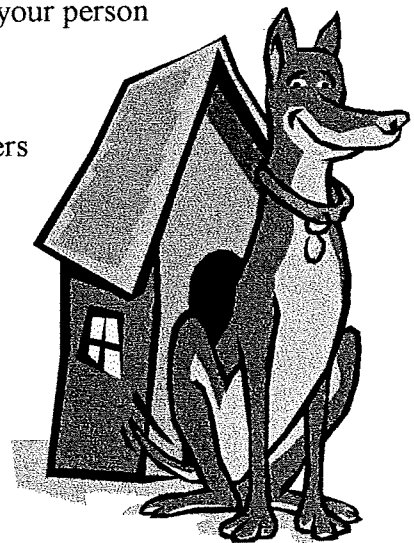
LOVE - Is a feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail! If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.

SMIFF - A social custom to use when you greet other dogs. Place your nose as close as you can to the other dog's rear end and inhale deeply, repeat several times or until your person makes you stop. This can also be done to human crotches.

SOFAS - Are to dogs what napkins are to people. After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

THUNDER - This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly and following at their heels.

WASTEBASKET - This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes and old candy wrappers. When you are bored, turn over the basket and strew the papers all over the house until your person comes home.



DOG BREEDS FROM A TO Z

Cocker Spaniel (American)

The Cocker Spaniel is an intelligent dog with a happy and friendly nature. It is a keen hunter and always eager to please.

Exported from Britain to America in 1882, American breeders produced a smaller dog with longer legs, while retaining the finely chiseled facial features. It was adapted from the original Spanish Cocker Spaniel, but had become so different from the English Cocker Spaniel that by the 1930s the breed was recognized under its own right. By the 1940s the breed was the most popular dog in North America. The breed was introduced to Europe in the mid-1900s and by 1970 was a registered breed, distinct from the English Cocker Spaniel.



A medium-sized dog with a long coat and an appealing, friendly face. Height: 14.5 - 15.5 in (36.8 - 39.4 cm) for the dog and 13.5 - 15 in (34.3 - 38 cm) for the bitch. Weight: not specified, but usually around 28 lb (12.5 kg). The head is small, but well-developed and rounded. Eyebrows and stop are well-defined, and the forehead is smooth. The muzzle is broad with a square jaw. The nose is either black or brown, depending on the coat color (black dogs have black noses). The eyes are slightly almond-shaped, with a dark brown iris. The ears are long and silky, and the correct length should reach the tip of the nose when the ears are pulled forward.

The body is compact and robust with strongly boned, well-muscled legs. The tail is docked by three-fifths and set high. The coat is silky and can be flat or slightly wavy. The coat color can be solid jet black and may include tan or white markings, or may be roan or other solid colors.

This charming dog has a wonderful character and has been a source of delight to millions of people. The American Cocker Spaniel is a spirited dog that takes on tasks with enthusiasm. Its quick response to unusual sounds makes it an excellent watch-dog. This dog is very sociable with other dogs and is a delight to watch as it playfully chases around the park.

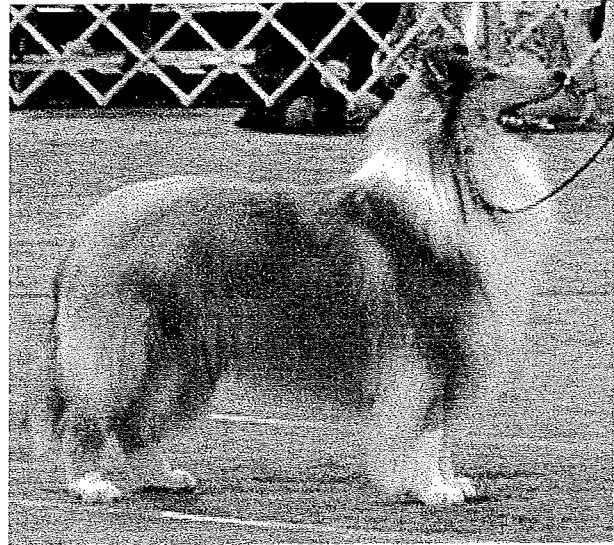
Perhaps the American Cocker Spaniel's greatest attribute is its ability to mix so well with people. It makes an excellent family dog. It barks at intruders, plays with the children, and delights adults with its quick ability to learn.

The American Cocker Spaniel may be kept both indoors and outdoors, depending on the climate and owner preference. A simple kennel will suffice for most conditions. This dog is energetic and will thrive if given regular exercise. It is wise to be assertive with this dog, particularly in its early years. This early training will prevent the dog from becoming too bossy as it matures.

The luxuriant coat will benefit from regular brushing. If the dog is allowed to swim, or after bathing, its coat should be given adequate time to air-dry before brushing. The ears should be checked regularly during warmer weather. This is a wonderful companion dog.

Collie (Rough)

A lovely, active, and agile, long-coated sheepdog made famous by the movie star, Lassie. The lean, blunted, wedge-shaped head gives an impression of lightness. The top of the head is flat. The face is chiseled. The long, smooth, well-rounded, blunt muzzle tapers to a black nose. The ears are 3/4 erect with the tips folding forward. The eyes are almond-shaped and dark except in the case of blue merles that may have blue or merle eyes. The trim, but muscular, body is slightly longer than it is tall. The chest is strong and fairly wide. The tailbone hangs down to the dog's hocks. In the Rough variety, an abundant double coat forms a mane around the neck and chest. The coat needs regular weekly grooming to look its best. The Smooth variety has a one-inch coat that needs very little grooming. With both varieties the hair on the head and legs is short and smooth. They both come in sable and white, tri-color (black, white & tan), blue merle or predominantly white with sable, tri-color or blue merle markings.



A noble, highly intelligent dog. Sensitive, sweet, kind, easy to train and loyal. Usually good with other pets and friendly with other dogs. Very devoted to and protective of his loved ones. Can be willful and must be trained gently or he will refuse to cooperate. Some exhibit herding behavior as puppies, nipping at people's heels. Adult dogs generally outgrow this behavior. They are good-natured, friendly, dogs. They are energetic outdoors. They can be wary of strangers, stubborn and indolent. It has a fairly good sense of protectiveness for its master, especially for children. They are not aggressive, but they do tend to be suspicious of people they do not like.

Height: Dogs 61-66cm Bitches 56-61cm Weight: Dogs 27-34kg Bitches 23-29kg

Generally healthy dogs. Some lines are prone to PRA, eye defects and hip problems leading to acute lameness and arthritis. Seeing your veterinarian is advisable for a clearance certificate before purchasing a puppy. The tip of a Collies nose can be sensitive to the sun. Buy only from a reputable breeder. The Collie is a very popular breed resulting in the sale of many inferior animals with poor health and/or temperaments.

The Collie needs plenty of exercise, preferably some of it off the leash. The spectacular stiff coat sheds dirt readily and a thorough weekly brushing will keep it in good condition. Take extra care when the soft dense undercoat is being shed. The Smooth variety has a one-inch coat that needs very little grooming. Clip out any mats and bathe or use shampoo as necessary. This breed is an average shedder.

For centuries the Rough Coated Collie was hardly known outside Scotland, but it is now one of the world's most popular breeds. Descended from generations of hard- working herding dogs, it is a conscientious creature of immense intelligence. They are used as water rescue dogs and have served man as sheepdogs for centuries, guarding and herding flocks. The breed's name probably comes from its charge; the Scottish black-faced sheep called the Colley. Early Rough Collies were smaller, with broader heads and shorter muzzles. The Collie is so intelligent that he has been trained for many purposes, as a rescue dog, guide for the blind, movie star, and as a guard dog. Queen Victoria kept Collies at Balmoral Castle in Scotland and her interest launched the breed's subsequent popularity. J.P. Morgan and other members of the upper class have owned Collies. The Collies great beauty has made them a favorite show dog and family companion.

Working Bees

The Club needs one hour of your time

Saturday 7th July

Commencing 9.00am until mid afternoon

THANK YOU



All fence lines need dead branches cleared, rubbish removed and tyres returned to Motor Cross. The Club has a limited supply of equipment so please bring along whipper snippers, pruning saws, chain saws, small motor mowers if you can.

Saturday 14th July

Commencing 9.00am until mid afternoon

Hall cleaning, equipment cleaning, rings to be set up for the Obedience Trial



WHY SOME PEOPLE ARE BETTER TRAINERS THAN OTHERS:

(something to keep in mind for the next Promotion Day)

Behold, there came through the gates of the city a dog trainer from far off and it came to pass as the days went by, he trained his dog plenty.

.... And in that city were laggards and complainers, they spent their days in adding to their alibi sheets. Mightily they were astonished at the performance of the stranger's dog. They said to one another, "What the hell, how doth he do it? He must have an easy dog to train".

.... And it came to pass that many were gathered and a soothsayer came among them. And he was one wise guy. And they questioned him thusly, "How is it that this stranger has such a well trained dog?" Whereupon the soothsayer made answer, "he of whom you speak is one hustler. He arises very early and goeth forth full of pep to train his dog. He complaineth not. Neither doth he despair. While you lie in bed and say verily this is a terrible day to train a dog, he is already abroad. And when the eleventh hour cometh, he needeth no alibis".

.... "He taketh with him two angels, persistence and perspiration and worketh like hell. Verily, I say unto you, go and do likewise".

WHEN TO SAY “NO!” – LITERALLY

By Gary Wilkes

If I had a broom, and the nasty habit of sneaking up behind you and whacking you, would you want me to say “Duck”

1. Before I hit you
2. As I hit you
3. After I hit you

If you are like most people, you will intuitively get this right. Unless I say “duck”, BEFORE I hit you, you cannot use the information to change your behaviour, ie get the heck out of the way of the broom. Since all creatures in the natural world must obey this rule, we shall call this the “natural” solution to the problem.

The unfortunate aspect of this tidbit of behavioural knowledge is that almost no one actually does this in real life. Dog book, after dog book, after dog book, gives this information incorrectly. Since a choke chain is the primary tool of traditional training, you will often find the phrase “jerk the chain and say NO!” Since this is the most common use of this information, we shall call this the “common sense” approach to giving a correction.

About one hundred years ago, the Russian physiologist Pavlov studied how animals learn about the environment. He suggested that if a dog had to wait for the claws of a bear to sink into his flesh before running from danger, he could never survive. The fact is clear – the signal must come before the correction. Since this answer seems absurdly obvious, you might wonder why all those experts haven’t figured it out yet. The answer is that “common sense” most often “ain’t natural”.

For a natural look at this oddity, consider the “nature” of human beings. Language and speech are learned behaviours. Until we are about a year old, we do not use language. We instinctively grab and push things long before we learn to ask for them. When confronted with new situations, we fall back on our instinctive reactions – we jerk the chain first, and then warn the dog. This is identical to the old saying about closing the barn door after the horses are gone.

All this natural stuff is well and good, you might say, but what does it mean in the real world? Is common sense really valid? How can timing of my warning change the effect of the broom whack?

To answer these questions, let’s look at a really common dog problem – rushing to the door when a guest arrives. We need three things to get started with our little experiment – a “whacker” (a soft throw pillow), a dog who rushes at the door and a warning signal (NO!). We will use the pillow as a gentle “punishment” for wacky behaviour – judge the size and force of the pillow to match the size of the dog – the idea is to create the same level of safety that you would expect in a human pillow fight. The idea is to startle the dog without causing injury.

For a test of the process, we have an assistant ring the bell. The dog flings itself toward the door, barking and fussing. By the time we can get to the door the dog has been displaying the behaviour for about 10 seconds. End of repetition number one. Now we know what the dog is likely to do in this situation.

On the next repetition, we try the “common sense” way, by offering the “whack” before the “NO!” This time, Fido rushes the door. It takes you 10 seconds to get there and throw the pillow at the dog. (Why do you think they call them “throw” pillows?) Then we say “NO!” The result. You might as well skip the word, no; it hasn’t given you any advantage over just throwing the pillow.

When to say "NO!"Literally by Gary Wilkes (continued)

Now we try the theoretically correct, natural approach to the problem. This time, as the doorbell rings, Fido again starts to rush the door. At the first instant of rushing toward the door, we say the word "NO" to identify WHICH behaviour causes the pillow to fly. We then throw the pillow at the dog. You will see the advantage of this method on the next repetition.

Now, something unusual happens. When the bell sounds, and you say "No", the dog checks for a second. Instead of worrying about the door, he is suddenly concerned about that blasted pillow. The use of a warning signal BEFORE the actual correction has disrupted the behaviour, effectively. Over two or three additional trials, the behaviour of rushing the door will disappear. This is the time to start doling out treats and affection for the new, passive behaviour.

Learning some of the simple rules of behaviour can help you develop long lasting and effective ways to control your pet's behaviour. Relying on advice merely because "everyone" suggests it, may be a mistake. It will not benefit you to use "common sense" to solve a problem, if it "ain't natural".



VALE

Anefald Moon Danca
"Kai"

Sire: Jayshell Designer Genes 'A'
Dame: Austrianoak Candy Dancer 'A''Z'

16/12/98 – 31/05/01



My dearest and darling Kai, when we mated your mum Danca to Callum all I wanted was a longcoat male and my prayers were answered I got you. You fulfilled a dream far greater than you will ever know my little man. Fate had other ideas to our dreams, goals and aspirations but you were always the brave one!

Kai my darling, like the sun that sets and the moon that rises everyday, I will remember and treasure you forever, for you were my soulmate. I will love you forever. You are so sadly missed by your family, Grandma Lil, Bill, Bonney, David, Moira, your dad Callum, Katie, Matilda, Laura, your brother Remis (Anefald Cloud Danca) and all your kennel mates at home, Danca, Georgie, Zara and Shinobi, but most of all me Kai Kai, your forever loving mum, Louise

PS: Run to Rainbow Bridge, play to your hearts content now totally free of pain. Keep Zoe company for me, my sweet darling little man. I hope you get as many magnum ice creams as you want there. We will meet again there when it's my time to join you again forever.

Louise Robinson

AROUND THE TRIALS

Queen's Birthday Weekend Triple Trial - Gippsland Gordon McCraw

While Sunday was wet at Bairnsdale, Iseabal still managed to receive her first pass in Novice. On Sunday at Sale, the weather was cold, but the rain managed to stay away. Iseabal managed to do just enough to get her second pass, (much to my relief).

By Monday I couldn't help but think only one more pass and we'll have our Title. The weather again was cool and light rain, but Iseabal must have had enough and decided she wasn't going to do anything. No Title this time, but maybe next time. Fingers crossed.

Skye made a special friend called "Ollie". He was about twice her height and gentle as a lamb. At first Ollie wasn't sure what to make of Skye until she started feeding him. When Skye first saw Ollie, she was a bit confused. She thought she could have a pony ride, but we soon explained that Ollie wasn't a pony, he was a Great Dane. Skye also was a bit confused when she thought she saw a lady walking a wombat. That wombat was a fat Corgi.

Overall the weekend was a great success. We made many new friends, human and dogs alike, of all shapes and sizes. It was also good to see many old familiar faces. We all had great fun, in the rain and all.

Trial Results

Saturday 9 June

G & W McCraw Silvanwood Star Force Bairnsdale & District D O C 1st Pass Novice

Sunday 10 June

G & W McCraw Silvanwood Star Force East Gippsland D O C 2nd Pass Novice

NEW MEMBERS

The Committee, Instructors and members would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Club recently.

03/06/2001

Forster Greg/Chamberlain Catherine

Foster Diana

Haywood Danielle

O'Sullivan Family

Jennings Alison/Marchant Damien

Hodgkison Gloria

Naylor Family

Tucker Megan/Lydom Michael

Pierri John

Stewart Megan/Keay Darren

Marshall David

Van Drunick Jisell Donna

Robertson Helen

Van Cleef Family

Kanigowski Geoff/Bodsworth

Simpson Family

Tomkins Elwyn

Lea Fiona

McDowell Family

Eagles Reg

Abikhair Pamela

Davis Family

Walters Family

Cullen Annette

Watts Leanne

07/06/2001

Elliott Jason/Verheyen Marah

Stewart Ben

Hoskin Family

Hicks Family

Mulholland Family

Sleep Justine

CLUB CALENDAR

July

Monday	2 July	Trial entries close
Thursday	5 July	Puppy Kinder for puppies 8 – 16 weeks
Saturday	7 July	Working Bee – Grounds – commencing 9.00 am
Saturday	14 July	Working Bee – Hall & Equipment commencing 9.00 am
Sunday	15 July	Open Obedience Trial. NO TRAINING. Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Monday	16 July	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm
Sunday	22 July	Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Sunday	29 July	PROMOTION DAY. Newsletter available

August

Thursday	2 August	Puppy Kinder for puppies 8 – 16 weeks
Sunday	5 August	Class 1 Intake. Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Tuesday	7 August	General Meeting – 8.00 pm unless otherwise advised
Wednesday	15 August	Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Sunday	19 August	Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Monday	20 August	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm
Sunday	26 August	Newsletter available



TRIAL DATES

AUGUST

Saturday	4	Victorian Canine Association	Agility
		Victorian Canine Association	Obedience
Sunday	5	Murray Valley O D C	Tracking
Saturday	11	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club	Restricted Obedience
		Red Cliffs District Kennel Club	Obedience
		Dalmatian Club of Vic	Restricted Agility
Sunday	12	Red Cliffs Ladies K & O Club	Obedience
		GSD Club of Vic	Tracking
Monday	13	GSD Club of Vic	Tracking
Saturday	18	Australian Shepherd Dog Club	Endurance Test
Sunday	19	Bendigo O D C	Obedience
		Western Port O D C	Tracking
Monday	20	Western Port O D C	Tracking
Saturday	25	Tracking Club of Vic	Tracking
Sunday	26	Tracking Club of Vic	Tracking
		Wangaratta K & O Club	Obedience
		Wangaratta K & O Club	Agility
Monday	27	Tracking Club of Vic	Tracking

"How to spoil your dog without even trying"

(A Reward-based training Seminar)

Conducted by Helen Read
at
Geelong Obedience Dog Club

Saturday 28th July 2001

10.00am to 4.00pm

\$30.00 includes notes and a light lunch

Limit of 30 handlers and their dogs. Bookings, with fees taken at the Office. Closing date Sunday 22nd July.



CANS ONLY COLLECTION

Thank you for your support of our
can and bottle collection

As the Club is now being charged to take away
glass we will no longer be collecting bottles, but
your cans will still be gratefully received



Cans can be left at the
Compound on the
south west corner of the grounds

