FAITHFULLY YOURS



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

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GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann Office Bearers for 2008/2009

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Weekday Office Hours:- Thursdays, 2.00pm to 6.30pm

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If you would like to contribute articles etc. for publication in "Faithfully Yours", please forward them to The Editor, c/- the above address, hand in at the Office or email to monlaird_kennels@hotmail.com

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

Club website - www.godc.org.au



CLUB CALENDAR

<u>April</u>

Sunday	5 April	PROMOTION DAY
Tuesday	7 April	General Meeting – 8.00 pm unless otherwise advised.
		Agility Trial entries close
Sunday	12 April	EASTER WEEKEND. NO TRAINING
Friday	17 April	Trial working bee. To be advised
Saturday	18 April	BACK-TO-BACK AGILITY TRIALS
Sunday	19 April	BACK-TO-BACK AGILITY TRIALS. NO TRAINING
Monday	20 April	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm
Sunday	26 April	Normal Training

CLUB INSTRUCTORS

Vice President (Training) Training Supervisor Assistant Training Supervisors	Sandy Malady David Gravolin Sandy Malady Kim Ciezarek
	Obedience

Joan Brophy Colin Humphreys John Shields Wendy Ganly <u>Obedience</u> Leonie Kelleher Victor Douglas Helen Read Desma Dickeson

Trish Gavaghan Simmon Hellebrand Peter Baker <u>Agility</u> Glenys Murray Lyn wills Tina Button Val Moeller Kath Devlin Andrew Wallace

Alex Shackleton Anne Macrae

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Fail to prepare, prepare to fail"





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Everyone,

Promotion Day is not too far away, Good luck to everyone who is going for their class certificates. April only has one training day on the 26th. It is not a long weekend so training will be as normal. I hope you all have a good break over Easter and do be careful if you're going away, make sure your pets are well taken care of.

The Agility trials will be held the weekend after Easter, if you have put your name down as a helper, make sure you know when you are required. Good Luck to the Members competing. Anyone is welcome to be a spectator, just be aware that you cannot bring your dog unless you are competing.

Until next time Love your dogs

Tina Button – President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi Everyone,

Thank you to everyone who will be making themselves available for the Agility Trials. It is a big weekend and all help is appreciated. Good luck to all Members competing, let's hope we have a few titles. Also Good luck to Members going for their class certificates. We still have a number of Raffle tickets available for the Cesar Millan Seminar. Tickets available from the office.

Karen Millard - Secretary

ADVERTISING RATES FOR "FAITHFULLY YOURS"

All advertisements are restricted to half an A4 page with a limit of 12 advertisements per issue

<u>RATES</u>

12 months	6 issues (bi-monthly - odd months)	\$50.00
1 edition		\$10.00

Half page "Vale notices" and "Title notices" are free to members with owner providing information. Puppy litters will not be advertised.

CANINE ETIQUETTE

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

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



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



we forget that our four-legged friend has his or her own social activity going on at the same time at the end of the lead.

A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK

Our Club was saddened to hear of the passing of its most valuable Member "SOMEONE ELSE"

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with our Club since its beginning and did far more than a normal person's share. Whenever there was a job to do, rallies to arrange or just washing up the dishes after the Meeting, one name was on everyone's lips, "SOMEONE ELSE".

It's common knowledge that "SOMEONE ELSE" was the largest contributor of their time to our Club. Whenever there was a need for a volunteer, everyone just assumed that "SOMEONE ELSE" would of course, volunteer.

"SOMEONE ELSE" was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing to be superhuman. But a person can only do so much, were the truth be told everyone expected too much of "SOMEONE ELSE".

Now "SOMEONE ELSE" is gone, who is going to do the things that we all expected of "SOMEONE ELSE".

Now when we are asked to help, remember that we cannot depend on poor old "SOMEONE ELSE" any longer. Isn't it about time that we really stopped volunteering "SOMEONE ELSE" to do the job



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TRAINING

Being punctual

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

When and When not

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

Smoking, perfume and deodorants

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

No "Sunnies" either

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

Feeding

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

Plan to succeed not to fail

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



Be consistent

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

How long?

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

End on a high

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

Focus and attention

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



Australian Kelpie



The Australian Kelpie is Australia's most popular working dog and is used primarily to control sheep. Like the Australian Cattle Dog, the Kelpie was originally bred to work under the hot dry conditions of the Australian Outback. A well-trained and fit Australian Kelpie can do the work of several people and run 40 miles (60 km) per day. As they are excellent sheep dogs, Australian Kelpies are not only used extensively throughout Australia, but also in New Zealand where the climate and terrain are very different. Australian Kelpies can make excellent companion animals and this is now the task for most of them.

The standard northern breeds of sheep dogs were found wanting by the

pioneering Australian shepherds. The imported sheep dogs had difficulty coping with the hot dry conditions and the vast distances that had to be covered. It is believed that during the 1880s Smooth Coated Collies (a Scottish breed) were crossed with Dingoes to produce the basic Australian Kelpie. Then it is likely further crossbreeding took place with other Collies to yield the modern dog.

The Australian Kelpie is a symmetrical medium-sized dog with an athletic appearance. Height: 17 - 20 in (43 - 51 cm). Weight: 28 - 33 lb (13 - 15 kg). The dark almond-shaped eyes show the intelligence of this dog and the straight upright ears complete the impression of being constantly alert. The long narrow head is supported by an elegant, slightly arched neck over a deep-chested body.

The straight muscular legs are complemented by arched toes with hard pads. The coat colour varies between black, black and tan, red, red and tan, light or dark brown, and blue.

Some people say that the Australian Kelpie is a difficult dog to control. Certainly the Australian Kelpie is a very confident dog with a strong tendency towards independence. However, just like a high performance motor car, if these characteristics are properly harnessed the Australian Kelpie performs amazingly well. Assertive people find the Australian Kelpie straightforward to train. As it was originally bred from Collie stock, the Australian Kelpie has a very strong chase reflex and a powerful herding instinct. Although it will sometimes defer to larger dogs, if they are slow to move, the Australian Kelpie delights in herding them as it does the sheep.

The Australian Kelpie has a strong sense of territory. This means that these dogs provide an excellent watchdog service both in the city as well as the country.

Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)



The most common of the Welsh Corgi breeds, the Pembroke is a devoted and intelligent companion. The most famous Pembroke owner is Queen Elizabeth II of England.

Like their cousins, the Pembroke Welsh Corgis are an ancient breed. The earliest known written evidence of the breed's existence is from 1107 AD. The origins of the Pembroke are by no means clearcut. It is most likely that the breed we know today developed in two stages. The first stage was during the ninth or tenth century, when it is thought that Scandinavian raiders brought their dogs with them to the British Isles, and that these were crossed with

local dogs. The evidence for this lies in the striking similarities between the Swedish Valhund and the Pembroke. The finishing touches, as well as the name, are thought to have come from the dogs of Flemish weavers in the twelfth century, who settled in Pembrokeshire, South Wales. These dogs are thought to have contained the original Spitz characteristics that the breed carries today.

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi was first recognized by the English Dog Authorities in 1925, but wasn't shown together with the Cardigan until 1934. The Pembroke was three years behind the Cardigan in arriving in America; the first recorded arrivals were in 1934, and

they were first shown in 1936.

Overall, the Pembroke is a lighter-built dog than the Cardigan, and is not as long. Height: 10 - 12 in (25 - 31 cm). Weight: 25 - 30 lb (10 - 13.5 kg). A guide to length is that the dog should be 40% longer than it is high at the shoulders.

The Pembroke is a bright and happy little dog, rather foxy in appearance. The two features that distinguish it the most from the Cardigan are the smaller, pointier ears and the lack of a tail. The tail can be naturally short, but if not, it is docked. The coat is medium-length and is quite thick. It comes in a lesser range of colours than the Cardigan: merle is not



acceptable. However, they can be red, sable, fawn or black and tan, with or without white markings.

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi, although small in stature, exhibits the behaviour of a much larger dog. It is very confident for its size and will bravely herd cattle by nipping at their heels. It is not advisable to use this dog with sheep unless you are a very experienced handler. This dog has a strong tendency to bite when herding. This nipping behaviour usually means the Pembroke Welsh Corgi is not suitable for families with young children. When purchasing this dog as a puppy, avoid those, which are shy or timid. This dog makes a devoted companion to assertive owners.