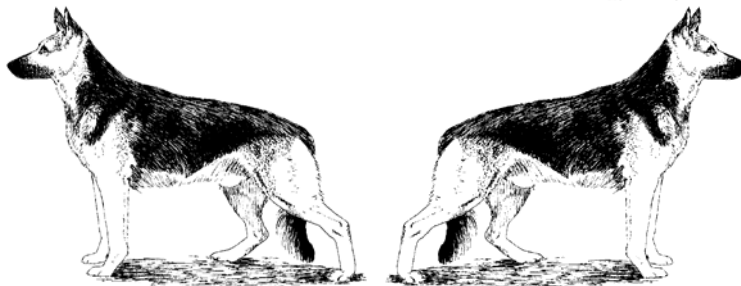
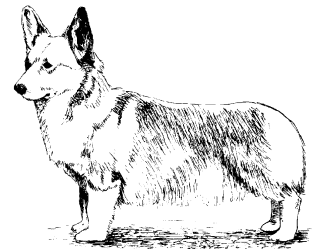
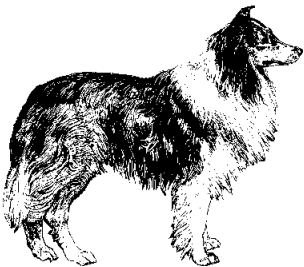
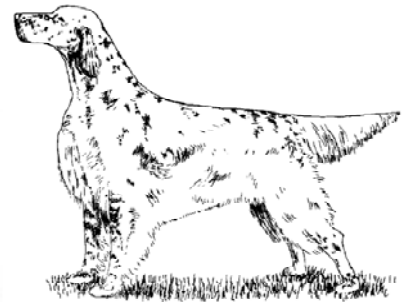


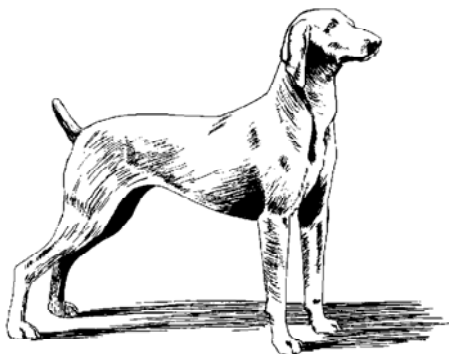
# FAITHFULLY YOURS



**ESTABLISHED 1954**

**Incorporation No A5419H**

**ABN 79 874 613 605**



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

**August 2009**  
**Issue No**  
**203**

# GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann  
Office Bearers for 2008/2009

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Tina Button	0414363556	Public Officer
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT (1)</b>	Sandy Malady		Training
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT (2)</b>	Vacant		Administration
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Karen Millard	52672618	
<b>TREASURER</b>	Heather Cook	52296867	Property Officer
<b>TRIAL SECRETARY</b>	Vacant		
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEE</b>	Kathy Stones	52428442	Canteen Manager
	Theo Rain		Equipment Manager
	Victor Douglas	5241 5401	Grounds Manager
	Barb Pownall	0418993203	General Committee 1
	Jim Ball	52484154	General Committee 2
	Alex Shackleton		Shop Manager
<b>NON-COMMITTEE</b>	David Gravalin	5248 5480	Training Supervisor
	Christine Jagtenberg		Membership Officer
	Elaine Longshaw	5255 4603	Minutes Officer
	Robyn Youl		Librarian
	Stephen Eldridge		Assistant Librarian
	Pam Convery	52 414 786	Newsletter Editor
	Brendan Jagtenberg		Webmaster

*The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Editor or the Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc. All Committee and Sub-Committee reports bear the name of the respective Club Officers. The Editor and/or Committee reserves the right to correct, alter, re-arrange or refuse, without prejudice, any copy submitted for publication.*

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

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

**THE SECRETARY**  
**PO BOX 186**  
**GEELONG VIC 3220**

If you would like to contribute articles etc. for publication in “Faithfully Yours”, please forward them to The Editor, c/- the above address, hand in at the Office or email to [Pam Convery at jcgret@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jcgret@ozemail.com.au)

Please remember the closing date for all Newsletter items is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

Club website – [www.godc.org.au](http://www.godc.org.au)



## CLUB CALENDAR

### September

Sunday	6 September	Normal training. Class 1 Intake. Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Tuesday	8 September	<b>Committee and Non-Committee nominations close</b>
Sunday	13 September	Normal training.
Monday	14 September	<b>Instructor,s Meeting – 7.30 pm.</b> Newsletter closes
Sunday	20 September	Normal training
Tuesday	22 September	<b>Life Membership nominations close</b>
Sunday	27 September	<b>PROMOTION DAY.</b> Newsletter available

### October

Sunday	4 October	Normal training. Class 1 Intake. Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Tuesday	6 October	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 8.00 pm</b>

---

## CLUB INSTRUCTORS

*Vice President (Training)*  
*Training Supervisor*  
*Assistant Training Supervisors*

Sandy Malady  
David Gravalin  
Sandy Malady  
Kim Ciezarek

### Obedience

Joan Brophy  
Victor Douglas  
Helen Read

Leonie Kelleher  
Val Moeller  
Kath Devlin

Colin Humphreys  
John Shields  
Desma Dickeson

### Agility

Trish Gavaghan  
Simmon Hellebrand

Glenys Murray  
Lyn Wills

Alex Shackleton  
Anne Macrae

---

### Editor's note

**My apology to the Mackey family for an error in July's Newsletter. Shakira, the family's German Shepherd Dog lives with ducks, not "sucks" as printed in her Title brag.**



---

---

**TRAINING SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Hi,

Spring is in the air and as the days are getting longer it is a great time to get out with your dog(s). Perhaps you could teach them something new or go somewhere new.

You may know by now that food rewards are allowed in the Beginners Test and only the Beginners Test. The food must be used as a reward and not a lure.

As usual Stays were a problem on Promotion Day. Go back to basics and keep times and distances short with few distractions, praise/reward any staying. Then slowly build up one of the factors at a time.

Are you interested in helping other Members and their dogs?

If so think about becoming an Instructor! (see me or Sandy for more info)

Last but certainly not least, Thanks to all our Instructors for the time and effort they put into the Club

**David Gravolin – Training Supervisor**

**AGILITY NEWS**

It is with great sadness that we offer our sympathies to Simmon over the recent death of Reba, her young Border Collie. Simmon is one of our Agility Instructors and Reba was a popular member of the Advanced Agility Class. She had achieved quite a few highlights in her successful but short trialing career. We are thinking of you, Simmon, and hope you are back with us soon.

Some of you may remember Andrea and her Border Collies, Bronte and Angus. They were Members of the Agility Classes until this year when Andrea moved to Canberra for work. Andrea joined a Dog Club up there and has continued her Agility training at her new Club. She was very excited about the success that both dogs have had in recent Trials. Well done to all three of you.

Well done also to Annie and Misty and Lee-Ann and Gemma on their latest Titles achieved at Bacchus Marsh and Altona. Still difficult setting out in the dark on these cold wintry mornings but gaining a Title certainly helps.

There is a very interesting article in the June edition of "Clean Run" on Foundation training, written by Jenny Damm. Jenny is a Swedish national champion and agility trainer and has experienced the highest successes many times. She writes about successful teamwork and how to begin this training away from equipment in order to build the dog's knowledge, confidence and responsiveness in a playful way. Working "on the flat" also gives the handler a chance to work on her body language without worrying about equipment.

Also in June's "Clean Run" are suggestions on how to train at home in a small space with very limited equipment. I think this would apply to most of us so have a look at Judy Keller's suggestions on page 72. Sometimes I get asked my opinion on whether it is better to leave a dog in a sit, stand or drop at the start line. Obviously it depends on the dog but you can find out what the experts think on page 7 in the regular column, "Everything you always wanted to know about Agility".

Welcome to the new people and dogs who have joined the agility classes since the last Promotion Day. We hope you and your dogs have lots of fun with us. Good luck to those trialling at Hastings, Bacchus Marsh, Keilor, Southern, Croydon and Glen Cromie in the coming month.

**Trish Gavaghan**

# **LIBRARY BOOK AND DVD REVIEW**

## **All items available at Geelong Obedience Dog Club Library**

### **Canine Dog Behaviour - Insights and Answers**

**Bonnie V Beaver**  
**DVM, MS, DIPL AVCB**

Scientific Studies of dog behaviour in an easy to understand complete, step-by-step guide to raising a well adjusted dog.

All methods of training are covered and the use of tools to do so. No one method applies. Find the ones that suit your dog

**Kim Ciezarek**

### **Dog Training for Dummies**

Not just for dummies! In fact it is a worthwhile read for anybody interested in dogs.

Dog Training for Dummies gives a good intro across a wide range of dog aspects relevant to dog training and is well organised with topics such as puppy basics, Trial training, dog behaviour and diet.

Although the book is organised so that you can easily jump to the chapters you are interested in, I suggest you take the time to read (or at least browse) from cover to cover.

**David Gravalin**

### **Dog Whisperer** **with Cesar Millan - Episodes 1-8**

The eight episodes are easy to watch and each one contains Cesar Millan working with two dogs and their respective families. Each case is different, he works with a variety of breeds throughout the DVD, from shelter re homed dogs to ones that families have bought from breeders.

Throughout the DVD, he collects as much back ground information from the people first before he meets the dog, and like all training it is usually the handlers that are doing something wrong with the training they have done. There are some great ideas that can be put into practice if you are experiencing a problem, he covers things from a Great Dane not wanting to walk on lino flooring to a Vizsla not wanting to go in the family pool to a dog that would go anything that came past him particularly skate boards or children on bikes.

Cesar doesn't tend to use a lot of long terminology so it is easy to follow and understand what he is saying, I found it easy to watch and at times with a tear in my eye (but that was probably more me having a bad day). I would recommend borrowing it but remember when in doubt about any of your training to seek assistance from one of the Instructors within the Club.

Foot note: shame he didn't do a section on dogs jumping up on kitchen benches!!!

**Leonie Kelleher**

# AGILITY DOG TRAINING

Mary Ann Nestor

Agility Dog Training was written by an International Dog Agility competitor and trainer, to answer those questions that someone new to Agility may have.

Mary Ann Nestor begins by explaining what Agility actually is and then presents a glossary of Agility terms which helps unravel the meanings of such puzzling vocabulary as “blind cross”, “back chaining” and “threadles”.

The format of the rest of the book is that of a question and answer style, where she answers the questions which might be posed by someone contemplating taking up the sport, or by someone who has joined an Agility Class, but is a little confused by the wealth of information being received. Mary Ann Nestor answers concisely and with a sense of humour so you won't have to wade through great blocks of text as you try to find the answers you seek. There are also coloured photographs and/or cartoon illustrations on every page to help clarify even further the information she gives.

As well as dealing with questions related to getting started in the sport, she also gives a lot of advice on how to handle problems such as dogs barking, nipping, pulling on the lead and general lack of control. Those of us already playing Agility with our dogs are probably aware of how much our behaviour in the ring affects our dog's action so Mary Ann's section on “Better Handling” is also very relevant.

Throughout the entire book Mary Ann Nestor writes in a very down to earth style and uses a lot of humour to keep the reader interested. Most of her information is applicable to the Australian Agility scene but now and again you will come across terms that really only apply to the U.K. where she lives, competes and instructs.

## Trial Results Trial Results Trial Results Trial Results

Tracking Club of Victoria Tracking Trial, Inverleigh 15/8/2009

Peter Roupas

Ch.Strathraer Blue Diamond CD TD  
Golden Retriever (Elke)

Test 3  
Very Good

TD title



**Congratulations Meinhard, Colin and Jim**





## CONGRATULATIONS

### Geelong Obedience Dog Club Perpetual Trophies Obedience Trials – Saturday and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2009

#### C & A Bartolo Trophy - CCD

Christina Mackey	Willmaurs Junction Jenny	“Shakira”	German Shepherd Dog
------------------	--------------------------	-----------	---------------------

#### R Nation Trophy - Novice (CD)

Wendy Ganly	Poruse Diamond Dealer CCD TD	“Gambit”	Australian Shepherd
-------------	------------------------------	----------	---------------------

#### D & L Blackwell Trophy – Utility (UD)

Tony Stewart	Folecia Makena CDX	“Belle”	Golden Retriever
--------------	--------------------	---------	------------------

#### Peg Pope and Whiskey Trophy – Highest Qualifying Geelong Member

Wendy Ganly	Poruse Diamond Dealer CCD TD	“Gambit”	Australian Shepherd
-------------	------------------------------	----------	---------------------

#### Promotion Day Certificates (Obedience)

##### **Graduate Certificate – Tester Weng Lim (Aspiring Judge)**

1 <sup>st</sup> place	Christina Mackey	Shakira	German Shepherd Dog	Qualifying
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Felicity Hughes	Belle	Border Collie	NQ
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Andrew Carmichael	Bronte	Golden Retriever	NQ
Novice Trial Pass for Graduate Certificate				
	Janelle Convery	Rookie	Golden Retriever	Qualifying

##### **Merit Certificate – Tester Kim Ciezarek**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Felicity Hughes	Lachlan	Border Collie	Qualifying
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	John Shields	Bridget	Collie (rough)	Qualifying
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Jessica Ledger	Sage	Golden Retriever	Qualifying
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Darren Fort	Zac	German Shepherd Dog	Qualifying

##### **Merit Certificate – Tester David Gravolin**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Jo Hamilton	Ashton	Golden Retriever	Qualifying
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	David Noonan	Tulla	Kelpie	NQ
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Kristy Fletcher	Koda	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	NQ

##### **Beginners Certificate – Tester Sandy Malady**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Kate Peeters	Frankie	Boxer	Qualifying
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Gwen Bailey	Simba	Collie (rough)	Qualifying
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Kylie Deppler	Bella		Qualifying

##### **Beginners Certificate – Tester John Shields**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Leigh Helmers	Leah	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	Qualifying
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Ainsley Tucker	Cashew	Beagle	NQ
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Donna Robertson	Roxi	Fox Terrier	NQ

##### **Beginners Certificate – Tester Desma Dickeson**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Maria Prestas	Taki	Great Dane	Qualifying
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Carole Birrell	Chelsea	Border Collie	Qualifying
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Susan Mackintosh	Devil		Qualifying

### **Beginners Certificate – Tester Kim Ciezarek**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Stephanie Maronis	Leyla	Chinese Crested	Qualifying
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Lit Belcher	Sidney	Kelpie/Labrador Ret X	Qualifying
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	John Wootten	Amber	Rhodesian Ridgeback	Qualifying

### **Agility Promotions**

<b>Level 1</b>	Sarah Wills-Cooke	Roo	Staffordshire Bull Terrier
	Jayne Evans	Nyah	Rhodesian Ridgeback
	Raelene Hartney	Millie	Cocker Spaniel
<b>Level 2</b>	Colin Brice	Reg	Minature Poodle
	Paul Gearon	Ledger	Vizsla
	Heather Cain	Ned	Border Collie
<b>Level 3</b>	Pauline Greaves	Tully	Golden Retriever
	Glenys” Murray	Remy	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
<b>Level 4</b>	Jo-Anne Hamilton	Bracken	Golden Retriever
	Susan Axe	Hector	Golden Retriever
	Lee-Ann O’Brien	Gemma	Koolie X

**Please collect your Certificates and/or ribbons from the Office if you haven't got them already**

---

## **Delkit Zambizi “A” “B” ET “Tego”**



Delkit Zambizi “A” “B”, also known as Tego, is my 4<sup>th</sup> GSD and one of the joys of my life. He is 5 years old, fairly well-behaved but because I train other dogs his training is often interrupted and he can be a bit of a delinquent, however I love him dearly.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> June this year at Cherry Lake Reserve, Altona he gained his Endurance Test Title along with 16 other dogs after participating in a 20km run.

Tego and his running mate, Roy Lawrence are both very fit and enjoyed the training and hard work that went into achieving a pass – many kilometres run over varying surfaces are required to reach the fitness level to compete. Both dog and handler love to run and enjoyed the work-out.

Tego was 1 of the 2 dogs and their handlers to do the course with the handler running with the dog – all other dogs ran beside bike riders – 3 dogs failed the test and the other runners finished the test on the bike, so I am enormously proud of both Tego and Roy, who

were the only team to complete the 20kms run on foot.

Well done boys – it was a fantastic effort. Tego obtained a lovely sash, a certificate and a large bag of Royal Canin – needless to say the dog thought the last mentioned was the best prize!

**Desma Dickeson**



# Membership information from the 2010 Membership

## Where the Members live

3216	69	3221	7	3102	1
3219	35	3212	6	3206	1
3228	21	3240	6	3225	1
3218	15	3241	5	3231	1
3214	13	3223	4	3250	1
3226	13	3227	4	3332	1
3215	11	3331	4	3340	1
3220	11	3328	3	3350	1
3222	10	3321	2		
3224	10	3018	1		

## Types of Membership

Dual	26	Life Member	22	Pensioner Single	27
Family	69	Pensioner Dual	4	Single	96
Junior	1	Pensioner Family	13		

## Most popular Dogs names

### Girls

Bella	6	Jazz	3	Poppy	3
Gypsy	4	Jessie	3	Ruby	3
Holly	3	Millie	3	Amber	2
		Penny	3		

### Boys

Max	4	Jack	3	Luke	2
Gus	3	Cooper	2	Mac	2
Harley	3	Dexter	2	Murphy	2
		Jet	2		

## Breeds

X Breeds	78	Brittany	3	Collie (Smooth)	1
Border Collie	31	Fox Terrier ( Smooth)	3	Dachschund	1
Labrador Retriever	21	Hungarian Vizsla	3	Dalmatian	1
Golden Retriever	20	Irish Setter	3	Dogue De Bordeaux	1
German Shepherd Dog	18	Pointer (English)	3	English Springer Spaniel	1
Cocker Spaniel	13	Australian Cattle Dog	2	Flat Coated Retriever	1
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	11	Border Terrier	2	Fox Terrier (Wire)	1
Cav King Charles Spaniel	10	English Setter	2	German Collie	1
Rottweiler	10	Maltese	2	German Spitz	1
Australian Kelpie	6	Poodle (Standard)	2	Great Dane	1
Collie (Rough)	6	Puli	2	Irish Water Spaniel	1
Whippet	6	Rhodesian Ridgeback	2	Kerry Blue Terrier	1
German Shorthaired Pointer	5	Schnauzer	2	Pharaoh Hound	1
Jack Russell Terrier	5	St Bernard	2	Pomeranian	1
Airedale Terrier	4	Weimaraner	2	Samoyed	1
Dobermann	4	American Staffordshire Terrier	1	Sharpei	1
Poodle (Mini)	4	Australian Shepherd	1	Siberian Husky	1
Beagle	3	Bichon Frise	1	Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)	1
Boxer	3	Chinese Crested	1		

# Check this chart to see if your dog needs to lose weight



## Very Thin

- Ribs, and vertebrae easily visible;
- No layer of fat;
- Very obvious waist and abdominal tuck.



## Thin

- Ribs easily felt;
- Minimal fat layer;
- Waist and abdominal tuck easily visible.



## Ideal weight

- Ribs can be felt but are not visible;
- Waist can be seen from above;
- Abdominal tuck can be seen from the side.



## Overweight

- Ribs can be felt but under a excess of fat;
- Waist discernable but not obvious;
- Reduced abdominal tuck.



## Obese

- Ribs hard to feel under fat;
- Waist barely visible or absent;
- No abdominal tuck;
- Fat deposits over lumbar and tail base.

© 2000 Randy Glasbergen. [www.glasbergen.com](http://www.glasbergen.com)



**“The handle on your recliner does not qualify as an exercise machine.”**

Copyright 2002 by Randy Glasbergen. [www.glasbergen.com](http://www.glasbergen.com)



**“The healthiest part of a donut is the hole. Unfortunately, you have to eat through the rest of the donut to get there!”**

# The damage a dog can do!!!



The photos below clearly illustrate some of the damage a dog can do to household items by chewing them and whilst at times it might be amusing, an important consideration should be given to the safety and well being of the dog. Just like with children, keep all chemicals, cleaning household products and garden pesticides in a safe, lockable cupboard or at a height the dog cannot jump to. If you know your dog is a chewer, don't take chances with electrical appliances' cables, extension leads, etc... As a short term solution, a smear of Tabasco sauce or a spray of hot chillies might deter him from approach them second time. For peace of mind, long term, the installation of an electrical safety switch on the house would be most beneficial for everyone, including not only your dog but all other members of your family.

Chewing in dogs starts at puppy stage and most dogs do grow out of it sooner or later however, for those few that never do, changing that behaviour can be very challenging and frustrating. Usually chewing, as well as

digging, is the result of boredom and lack of exercising in dogs. They need to constantly be stimulated both, mentally and physically. A reasonable good size yard to play in and lots of toys it's a good start if your dog is left home alone for a while. For those that are left home for long hours, consider a dog day care or have a friend or a neighbour check and stay with the dog for a while. But at the end of the day nothing beats a long walk, a play in the park, or a swim at the beach. And for mental stimulation do integrate bits of obedience and agility in that play. That way, when you two get home, the first thing your four legged friend would want is not a shoe or an electrical cord to chew on, but his soft bed to curl up in.



For more detailed information on the subject do talk to your trainer. Also, the Club Library has an extensive collection of books and DVDs on various canine breeds, their behaviour, training techniques, etc...and best of all, it's only \$2 for Members to join.

The Newsletter is always looking for new articles and photos on anything of interest relating to dogs, be it educational or personal experiences, safety or dog biscuits recipes, funny photos or dog cartoons...

**Theo Rains**





**Geelong Obedience Dog Club**



# TRIVIA NIGHT

**Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009**

\$10 per person

Maximum of 8 people per table

7.00 pm

*All money raised will go towards the Free Run area.*

*Come and have a fun night out with family, friends and fellow Members*

**BYO Nibbles. Drinks available for purchase  
Coffee & Tea provided**

**!!!Prize for the winning table and spot prizes throughout the night!!!**



Booking essential - 52 434 555 - Sundays (9am -12pm), Thursdays (2pm - 6pm)  
or at the Club office at the above times.

Bookings Close Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009



# Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc

Presents

## CRAIG MURRAY

### 2 day Seminar

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> - Sun 11<sup>th</sup> October 2009



Craig was educated in the USA in the fields of Professional Dog Training, Police and Narcotic Dog training, Man Trailing Bloodhounds, Search and Rescue and Cadaver Recovery dogs, Assistance and Therapy Dogs and training. Due to his commitment and professionalism, he has been utilised as a permanent part time lecturer at the Queensland University Veterinary Science School for 13 years.

This seminar is designed for Trainers, Instructors and performance dog owners.

#### Day 1: Theory

Finding the Key to unlock your dog:-  
Shaping behaviour

Motivators - what to use and how to use them

Drives - understanding drives and how they impact on your training progress

Gaining and maintaining a good relationship with your dog

Question & Answer session

#### Day 2: Practical

Dogs are welcome on this day.

There will be a limit to the number of dogs so if you have a dog with a behavioural issue that you would like to bring along, please book early.

## \$200

## 9am - 4pm both days

Lunch, morning & afternoon tea plus a Saturday evening BBQ are included.  
Soft drinks will be available for purchase

For more info and bookings please call Tina on 0414 363 556

Limited places, Bookings close 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009

**The following article is a description of Dogs Victoria, the Club's State governing body, and some of the disciplines you and your dog can take part in as Members. Included this month are Agility, Endurance, Obedience, Herding, Retrieving and Tracking and next month's Newsletter will include Lure Coursing, Earthdogging and several other disciplines.**

## **About Dogs Victoria**



DOGS Victoria invites you to become a member of DOGS Victoria and to enjoy the many benefits we offer our Members.

DOGS Victoria has 10,000 members, 300 affiliated Canine Clubs and oversees nearly 700 canine events each year.

When you join DOGS Victoria you can participate in one or more of the disciplines offered by the DOGS Victoria such as conformation shows, obedience trials, agility trials, herding trials, lure racing, earthdog trials, retrieving and field trials and tracking.

If you are interested in the breeding of dogs we can put you in contact with your Breed Club so you can further your knowledge by meeting people with similar interests.

Members of DOGS Victoria enjoy the following benefits:

- Discounted council registration of your dog
- Subscription to DOGS Victoria Magazine that keeps you informed about canine issues in Victoria
- Breeder Education (Prefix Accreditation Program - Open Book Exam)
- Access to the Laurie Luxmoore library where you can find out all you want on dogs from DOGS Victoria's extensive collection of books and videos
- Research facilities (providing information on pedigrees, etc.)
- DOGS Victoria website - a comprehensive website to answer most of your canine queries, including a Members only area
- Obedience training (essential for a well behaved pet)
- Participation in DOGS Victoria events (show, trial, breed)
- Canine Health Research and Registration
- Discounted microchipping available to DOGS Victoria Members
- Facilities (not just for official events, KCC Park also provides an area for responsible off leash exercise for your canine companion)
- DOGS Victoria is YOUR government lobbyist (defending and fighting for the rights of dog owners)

# This is Agility

Agility is a fast, exciting, fun activity for you and your dog. Agility involves competitors directing their dogs around obstacle courses in an attempt to both negotiate the obstacles correctly and 'beat the clock'. The obstacles comprise various types of jumps, ramps, elevated walks, poles that the dogs weave through, different types of tunnels and a see-saw.



Participation in Agility training or trialling is great fun. It enables you to provide a release for the energy of your pet and yourself in a way that can be much more interesting and exciting than simply taking your dog for a walk. It helps your family pet to become more responsive to you and also helps you to gain more control and have a more obedient dog. Agility is an exciting way to enhance your leisure time with your dog. In many suburbs of Melbourne and country towns and cities throughout the State there are clubs which, for a modest fee, provide training in Agility during the weekends, weekday evenings or both.



Competitions are held at State and National levels and are structured in a similar manner to equestrian events. The Judge designs and sets up the 'obstacle course', measures its length and after considering the degree of difficulty calculates a standard time in which the course should be completed by the dog. Each competing dog has to run the course within the set time, negotiate all the obstacles in the correct order and correct manner in order to avoid receiving course or time penalties.

Agility, and its companion activities, Jumping and Games, are structured for dog owners with all levels

of skill and physical ability and provide the opportunity to attain more enjoyment from dog ownership. During actual Agility and Jumping trials there are several levels of competition ranging from Novice level to suit dogs new to the sport to Master level for more experienced dogs. There are also Jumping competitions at the basic level that include only jumps and tunnels which gives the opportunity for dog owners to join in the fun of trials soon after they begin teaching their dog the sport. Progress from level to level is based on obtaining a number of passes in each level, with dogs competing against others of the same height.



Agility is perhaps the fastest growing dog sport in the world which can be enjoyed by any family owning a dog. Training in Agility is available at many dog clubs throughout Melbourne and country Victoria. To find out where your nearest dog club is that offers Agility, please visit the [DOGS Victoria Agility Website](#).

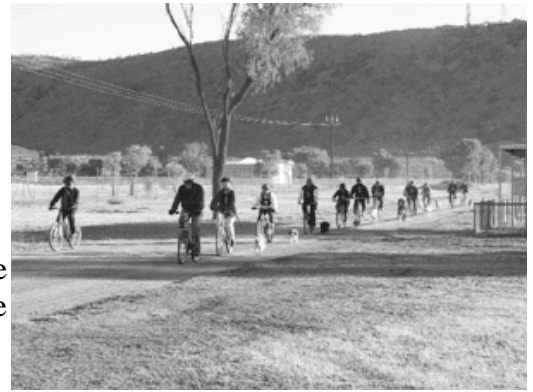
To view the new ANKC Agility Rules and ANKC Agility Games please visit the [DOGS Victoria Agility Website](#). Watch October's Newsletter for information on NADAC Agility.



## This Is Endurance - ET

If you want to have fun with your dog, training it for something different and at the same time proving it has stamina and willingness to work with you, this could be the test for you.

Can you ride a bike at the same time as controlling your dog on the end of a loose two metre lead, or are you a runner who will be quite happy to run 20 kilometres with your dog? If so, then read on.



This particular test is where all the various dog activities covered by DOGS Victoria can come together. This is your opportunity to meet people from disciplines other than the one you are already involved in.

You have to be able to train your dog to run along side you whilst you either ride your bike or run with him/her. Experience has shown that you do not need to cover long distances during training, frequent runs over shorter distances, gradually building the dog's fitness is the way to go.

The endurance test is over a distance of 20 kilometres and is split into three sections, the first being eight kms. The second and third are six kms. There is a break of 15 minutes between the first and second sections and 20 minutes between the second and third sections.

All this is carefully watched over by a judge. The dog's fitness and condition is monitored by a team of vets who examine each dog during the breaks.

Any person entering an ET must supply a certificate from their vet confirming the dog's fitness to take part. You do not have to worry about your dog's ability to continue during the test, as it is being constantly checked.

At the beginning, and before any running takes place, the team of vets will check each dog and compare the data on the certificate supplied on entry with its current condition. If all is OK the judge will give the handler and dog a very simple obedience test to check its willingness to obey.

The running or cycling part of the ET is carried out at a speed of 10 kilometres per hour or one km every six minutes. This is really a very gentle jog for cyclist or runner and most dogs enjoy gaiting at this speed. The whole test takes two hours and 35 minutes including the intervening breaks.

During this time you get to chat with other competitors as you travel the course, it really is an enjoyable experience.

During the breaks and again 15 minutes after the end of the 20 kms the vets will check your dog's condition. After the final vet check, there will be a repeat of the simple obedience test to prove your dog is just as willing to obey as he was before the ET began.

When you have successfully finished the test, you will be presented with a qualifying certificate signed by the judge.



On application to DOGS Victoria your dog will be awarded the endurance title and the letters ET will be added after his/her registered name.

# This is Obedience

At Geelong Obedience Dog Club we use obedience training as the basis for our total program. There is a great opportunity to extend your dog's obedience training beyond the scope of our Beginners, Merit and Graduate Classes into competitive and it's a great means of developing your teamwork with your dog.



## Why Obedience?

Dogs have many career opportunities open to them such as:

- showing, hunting, searching, rescuing, detecting, protecting, earthdogging, pulling, guiding, assisting, tracking, herding, plus many other activities for which they were developed
- they can be seen trialling in obedience, agility, endurance and many other activities and competitions
- above all, most dogs are loving and loved companions
- many are multiskilled and can be seen doing one or several of the above in their busy lives
- but the most important thing to remember is that any of these activities demands an obedient dog *because a dog which pleases itself and not its person is not much use at all.*

## What do we do about it?

All of the above activities need a dog which has basic obedience to a certain extent and a set of commands which go with the actions, commands which it understands and which it will need to carry out its work.

It is well-known today that the sooner baby puppies get out and meet the world, the better they will be as adult dogs, getting on well with people and other dogs. This often starts with attending a puppy pre-school for puppies 8 – 12 weeks old, often run but a local veterinary clinic or the local obedience club.



Once the puppy has had its first permanent vaccination at around twelve weeks, it can join a puppy class, which many of our affiliated Obedience Clubs run. These classes teach good manners and the basic obedience every dog needs to fit in with the world. They are the first step towards more formal classes which some owners wish to go on with and maybe eventually end up entering their dog in obedience trials.

A friendly warning should be issued here: Many unsuspecting owners have joined up with puppy in tow, only to find out obedience is fun, trialling is a great team sport, and many lovely friendships will be made along the way. Trialling may just possibly become an addiction involving whole families who then go on to explore other avenues with their dogs, like showing, tracking, earthdog, etc. Maybe puppies should come with a warning label!

Training dogs has changed a lot in recent years, with a huge emphasis on positive methods through which the dog learns by being placed in a situation where it will succeed and receives a reward of some sort – play, toys, food, pats - for its efforts. More traditional methods of training by unpleasant correction have been replaced because we have realised that the end product of positive teaching is a much happier, more willing dog who keeps asking for more, more, more.

## Obedience Trialling

Trials are held all over Victoria during most of the year. To compete you need a trained dog that is registered with a controlling body – in Victoria it is DOGS Victoria - and you must be a Member too. Any dog can trial regardless of its parents, purebred or not. Dogs without registration papers trial as Associates and everyone competes together.

## **Obedience Trialling continued**

All the exercises are based on useful things dogs can do for us and which make for a better companion.

There are five levels of obedience in Australia, they become progressively more challenging, the dog has to attain one title at a time working up a ladder. A title is completed when the dog has three passes at that level. Most levels require a pass of 175 points or more out of 200, and the dog must pass every exercise within the test. The exception is the entry class of Community Companion Dog which requires 75 points out of 100 on offer.

### **Community Companion Dog – CCD**

In this class:

- a) the dog and handler work together as a team to perform a heel on lead exercise, including sits, stands and downs as the judge calls them
- b) next is stand for examination where the dog stands quietly on lead whilst the judge comes up and strokes the back and head
- c) finally the dog is left sitting whilst the handler walks away 10 metres then turns and recalls the dog, which should come straight in and sit in front, the handler returns around it and releases, usually with much praise for a job well done
- d) when all dogs in the class have had their turn, they all come together to do a one minute sit stay and a two minute down stay, all off lead in a row with the handlers standing six metres away.



### **Companion Dog – CD**

Things get a little harder here:

- a) the heeling exercise is off lead so it requires a lot more input and concentration from the dog to stay next to the handler
- b) the stand for examination is also off lead with the handler standing two metres away
- c) the recall is a bit longer at twelve metres and after the dog comes in and sits, it must go around the handler and sit at heel on the left side.
- d) the last exercise has a handler's choice between retrieving a dumbbell over four metres or the dog doing a change of position where it is left in a stand and, with the handler three metres in front, goes into the down on command and stays there whilst the handler returns around it.
- e) the stay exercises are harder too, the sit for a minute and the down for three minutes and the handlers are all 12 metres away.

### **Companion Dog Excellent - CDX**

Most dogs love this, because it is fun, but the standard of the work is expected to be higher

- a) the heeling is off lead and more demanding.
- b) the stand for examination has the handler five metres away and the judge touches all of the dog, except its mouth and tail.
- c) the recall has a drop somewhere in the middle of it, when the judge says, and must stay there until called in.
- d) the dog retrieves a dumbbell thrown at least 6 metres, sits in front, lets the handler take it, and returns to the handlers left side again.
- e) the other retrieve is over a solid jump set at the height of the dog measured at the shoulders.
- f) next comes a handler's choice between jumping over a broad jump and returning to the handler or a change of position where the dog is left in a stand and does a down and sit on the spot then recalls to the handler.
- g) the stays have the handlers all leaving the ring and hiding nearby whilst the dogs do a three minute sit and a five minute down.



## **Obedience Trialling continued**

### **Utility Dog - UD**

This gets really hard because the dog has to go away from the handler and do things which are really quite complicated, although it looks easy watching an experienced dog doing it.

- a) first is the seek back, where the dog and handler heel around the ring to make a track and somewhere along the track an article of the handler's is placed, then the dog has to go and find this and bring it back and present it to the handler.
- b) most dogs love directed jumping where they run out twenty five metres and sit in a square frame, then return to the handler over a Bar Jump or a Solid Jump on either side of the ring, whichever the handler points to.
- c) the dog performs scent discrimination, either on a canvas mat or on the grass, there are twelve metal, wood and leather articles put out by the judge or steward, and the dog is sent to the articles to retrieve a similar article which the handler has touched, this is done three times, once for each sort of article.
- d) the heeling is harder because the handler is not allowed to speak, it is all done by signals, and at the end the dog is left in the stand, the handler signals it to down, sit, recall and finish.
- e) a choice of three things, the dog can speak on command where it barks in the sit, stand and drop, *or* it can do food refusal where it refuses offered food in the sit, stand and drop *or* it may do directed retrieve where it retrieves the correct glove out of three placed six metres apart.
- f) the stand for examination is done as a group exercise.
- g) the only stay exercise is a seven minute down with the handlers hiding somewhere.

### **Utility Dog Excellent - UDX**

This is a rather new title in Australia, it is very difficult but many handlers and dogs are enjoying the challenge of something new. There is no jumping, so it suits our older dogs.

- a) the seek back is as in utility but there is a decoy article scented by someone else which the dog must not retrieve
- b) a heeling pattern, positions in motion, in which signals *or* voice may be used, and three times the dog is left in a sit, a stand or a drop whilst the handlers walks forward five metres, returns three metres past the dog and returns, collecting the dog on the way.
- c) the scent discrimination is finding a cloth article scented by the judge from amongst unscented ones.
- d) a two part exercise, directed sendaway and recall in which the dog goes out twenty five metres and sits in a square marked by four cones, the handler walks towards the dog and, when instructed, turns and calls the dog to heel, does a right or left turn then a halt, with the dog at heel by this time.
- e). the dog is left in a stand and changes position six times as the judge instructs, including sits, stands and downs, all on the spot, this is called distance control.
- f) the dog retrieves three articles which it cannot see, following the handler's direction signal.
- g) the last exercise is a temperament test which is a group stand for examination.

All these obedience titles are shown after the dog's name and in fact becomes part of the registered name. There is one exception – obedience champion - which title is shown before the name as OC or O Ch, depending when the title was achieved. An obedience champion has gained his/her UD title, after which it has achieved a further five passes of 185/200 points or more in the utility class.

If you want to know more about the serious side of obedience trialling, you should purchase a copy of the obedience rule book, available from DOGS Victoria or most obedience clubs.

# This is Herding.

## Where it started

Herding started with the very first settlers arrival in Australia. The need to drive or herd livestock on farms and to market etc meant that farmers needed dogs which could herd.

These were generally breeds that were brought with them from their own countries. Which were bred for this purpose. The Australian farmers and drovers did however develop their own breeds which they felt were better suited to our climatic conditions. With farming came agricultural and livestock shows and competitions following traditions of England and Europe fairs.



These competitions introduced in the 1800's in Australia encompassed the sheep dog trials where a dog with its handler's instruction would put three sheep through a course of obstacles in a certain amount of time. The dog and handler who did this the quickest and most direct would be the winner. Following this came the introduction of Cattle Dog Trials, Yard Dog Trials, and Farm Dog Trials. Meanwhile in England, Europe and the United State of America these types of events were being formally recognised by their canine governing bodies.



Up until only recently the only Australian canine body to hold this type of event was New South Wales Canine Council with sheep dog trials at their spring carnivals.

## The rules

A copy of the rules may be obtained from the canine council in each state. These rules and regulations also have the layout plans

of each type of event.

## Types of events

Instinct Tests – These are where everyone starts to test their dog for the natural instinct to herd. There is no requirement for the handler of the dog to know anything about herding but it is a general requirement that you can stop your dog on command and recall the dog as these are necessary for safety of all. Everyone should bear in mind that a dog that is introduced to livestock for the first time may forget or ignore these commands once let loose on stock, but may react to the second or third call. The judge will normally be inside the ring with the handler to help give direction and control if necessary. It is the dog being tested on instinct, nothing else.

## Retrials

These have been designed as a training tool for all, the dog, the handler and the judges. It is a test but the scores don't have to be announced or recorded by anyone. The handler may walk the course with the dog and be on hand to give directions to the novice dog. A handler whose dog performs the trial without the handler moving except to the gate and pen would score better than a team of handler and dog that moves the course together.



## **This is Herding (continued)**

### **Getting started**

As with all dog training, there are many methods of teaching herding, a skilled trainer uses several, depending on the individual dog. For beginners, if you wish to have professional help teaching your dog individually or in a group, then contact the DOGS Victoria Herding Committee or the Victorian Herding Association for details of people in your area.

There is also a lot of teaching you can do with your dog without stock in preparation for the real thing. How you work your dog is a matter of personal choice some use voice, others use hands or crook movements or whistles. Even the commands you use are your choice.

Dogs are permitted to wear muzzles but these should be tried at home first. The most important thing is that handler and dog enjoy herding. In some dogs, herding instinct is dormant due to lack of early exposure. To awaken this instinct is very stratifying to all concerned and a real challenge to the herding dog owner.

### **Who can participate in herding?**

In Victoria anyone that is a member of DOGS Victoria or other state member bodies (child handlers should check with their canine council) who has a registered dog be it Full, Limited or Associate registered and the dog is six months of age or older can participate in herding. The member does not need to have any experience at herding as stated previously.

The breeds that we have seen herding include the usual like Border Collie, Australian Kelpie, Australian Cattle Dog, Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog, Australian Shepherd then the not so usual German Shepherd Dog, Belgian Shepherd in all varieties, Bearded Collie, Collie, Puli, Corgi, Shetland Sheepdog, Old English Sheepdog and very unusual Schnauzer (standard) and Samoyed. Please check the Dogs Victoria website for a complete list of eligible breeds.

### **Types of livestock that can be used**

The types of livestock that can be used for these events are ducks, geese, sheep, goats, and cattle. The important aspect is that these stocks have been worked by dogs before and are used to dogs herding ability. Wise stock that have never seen dogs before will not be manageable for the novice dog or handler. If the dog gains qualifying scores of a herding title on one type of stock then that title is stock specific for example Herding Dog Started on sheep title – HDT1 (Sheep)

### **The future**

The Working Dog Club of Victoria instigated herding events but others have come on board including Central Highlands Kennel Club, Lancefield Kennel Club, the Australian Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria and the Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria. We hope that others will now follow so this activity will be available to all in Victoria. For more information, please contact a club directly. Other states are following our lead with enquiries about holding events in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.



Finally to all, we say happy herding and look forward to seeing you at the next event.

## This is Retrieving - Gundog Trials

The ability and intelligence of well-bred and well-trained Gundogs is remarkable. DOGS Victoria and various affiliated clubs conduct competitive trials in the field for registered Gundogs. Please check the Dogs Victoria Website for a complete list of eligible breeds.

These events are designed to test the various breeds in the type of work for which they were developed over hundreds of and even thousands of years. They provide breeders with the opportunity to test the natural working instincts of their dogs and therefore the chance to select breeding stock on the basis of appropriate temperament and for preservation of their invaluable working instincts.



These trials provide the opportunity for owners to experience the pleasure of working closely with their dogs in a fascinating range of competitive field sports.

Championship titles and minor titles are available based on performance. Gundog trials are run under ANKC rules. The types of trials are classified as follows:

### **Gundog Working Tests**

These events are rather basic tests of obedience and retrieving. They are conducted in the field with

dummies of simulated game. They are open to registered dogs of all Gundog breeds.

### **Retrieving Trials**

Retrieving Trials are competitions using registered pure bred Gundogs (eg Labradors, Golden Retrievers, German Shorthaired Pointers etc) where dogs and handlers are tested for obedience, and natural retrieving and hunting abilities. The trials are held on properties throughout Victoria and are set in areas that can as close as possible imitate natural hunting situations.

The purpose of a Retrieving trial is to test and determine the dogs natural hunting ability in the field, under natural conditions. Items to be retrieved are cast from a mechanical thrower and dogs must be able to determine the depth of the fall of the 'game' and then be able to hunt out the game retrieve it and gently deliver it to the handler. All retrieving trials are held under the rules and regulations of the ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council), and are held in all states around Australia.

All dogs entered must be over 6 months of age and trials are conducted by various Gundog Clubs during the year. Clubs publish schedules of events and include information regarding dates of the trial and closing of entries, judges and level of stakes to be included on the day.

Retrieving Trials are conducted at five different levels, Beginners, Novice, Restricted, All Age and Championship.



Beginners is the entrance level for new trialers. A beginners test is a test for dogs that have not previously won a beginners test or been placed in any other retrieving trial stake. A beginners test consists of two runs (retrieves), one on land and one in or through water which is of sufficient depth for the dog to swim. Beginners handlers are generally given instruction on the procedure for the conduct of the test and shown the mechanics of the run over which

## **This is Retrieving - Gundog Trials**

the dog is required to compete. It is a great way to be introduced to the sport of retrieving trials.

On the opposite end of the scale are the Championship Stakes. One Championship Stake is conducted in each state in Australia each year. The one exception is the year the National Retrieving Trial Championship is conducted in the State, which is held in addition to the State Championship. A National Championship has to consist of at least (7) seven retrieves with at least 15 items of game (2) of which have to be blind finds where the dog has to be tested for steadiness from behind a hide.

Championships are a great spectacle of working gundogs and generally attract many competitors from other states.

Retrieving Trials are a great way to see our Gundogs exhibiting their natural ability in the field. All types of gundogs compete and at any trial you can see breeds such as the Labrador Retriever, Golden Retriever, German Shorthaired Pointer, Large Munsterlander, Brittany, Flatcoated Retriever, Weimaraner and various other breeds of gundogs.

If you have a registered Gundog, enquire about participation through your breed club or DOGS Victoria

## **This is Tracking**

### **Introduction to Tracking**

Overview - Trust Your Dog

The purpose of tracking is for the dog to follow a human scent trail and find the "missing person" at the end.

Tracking is an activity that cannot be taught to a dog by a human. All dogs that have the ability to smell can track; some are better at it than others but if push came to shove and they were left in the wild they would all be able to use their sense of smell to locate food.

People have a limited understanding of how scent works, whereas dogs (with their much more sensitive scenting apparatus) understand and work it brilliantly. It is important that it is understood that the best a handler can

hope for, is to hone the dog's natural scenting ability in the desired direction. The dog must use its initiative to achieve in tracking and the handler must remember in tracking the dog is never wrong; it might just need to recheck the direction of the trail until it is sure. The tracking handler's motto is Trust your dog. If there is any doubt you MUST believe that the dog is doing the right thing: - don't forget that you can't track, you don't understand the circumstances the dog is working under.



### **Trials**

Tracking trials are held from approx May through until September each year in Victoria, due to the heat and snake bite danger in summer. The first test is called Test I, then you move on to Test 2 (once Test 2 is passed your dog will gain its first tracking title, which is known as a Tracking Dog Title and your dog will have the letters TD after its name. Then you and your dog move onto Test 3, Test 4 and Test 5 once these have been completed successfully your dog will have gained its Tracking Dog Excellent Title (TDX). Test 6 is the next and last test that you and your dog will undertake in tracking and once this level has been passed, your dog will have attained the ultimate in tracking, it will be a Tracking Champion.

The first test, is 300 metres in length and will contain one ninety degree turn. The time delay between when the test is laid by the tracklayer and the dog commencing to track is between 10 and 30



## **This is Tracking continued**

minutes. An article (usually a sock) with the tracklayer's scent on it is left at the start flag so the dog knows which scent it is to follow.

Test 5 is laid over a distance of 1200 metres, or 1.2kilometres, it has a least 5 angle turns one of which will be acute. The time delay on this test is between 60 and 180 minutes prior to the dog & handler working the track. It has an article at the start flag and 3 more over the course of the track. Two articles must be indicated by the dog and the tracklayer found for the dog to obtain a pass.

Test 6 is also laid over a distance of 1200 metres but instead of the article being left at the start flag it is handed to the handler in a sealed bag in the vicinity of the where the judge gave their instructions to the tracklayer. This is what is called a 'blind start'. There is no flag stating where the tracklayer commenced laying the track, the dog must use its scenting ability to find the track left when the tracklayer left the area.



Trials generally cost between \$20 and \$35 dollars to enter and, because of the amount of land required are generally held outside the Melbourne metropolitan area. Gippsland, Ballarat, Inverleigh, Broadford and the Mornington Peninsula are regularly used areas. Check-in times are usually around 6.30 a.m. and trials are often held over two or three days to ensure as many entrants as possible actually get a track.

You may request a particular day, but note that the trial secretary is not obliged to juggle the entries and it is almost impossible to accommodate all such requests. Be prepared to accept any of the days and you'll be a popular competitor! Note that there are often more entrants than tracks available in which case a ballot is held prior to the trial. When attending a tracking trial, it is considered poor form to not be prepared to lay tracks for other people. Always take at least 6 articles and put them on when you leave home on the morning of the tracking trial and keep them on your person during the day. The rule book state they must be on your person for a minimum of 30 minutes prior laying a test, by having them on you all day you will never be caught out not being available when a tracklayer is required. Remembering that you will require unknown people to lay your tracks as time goes on, be prepared to help others as required.

Entry forms for tracking trials are available for purchase from the VCA Office but you can also use the standard obedience entry form. The test number you are entering should be stated, and your known tracklayer should be nominated. Also include a copy of your most recent pass, which verifies that you are eligible for a particular test. Include a stamped self-address envelope to ensure that the trial secretary sends you a receipt and/ or map of the venue.

## **Training Method**

Keep in mind there are several methods for teaching dogs anything and below is one suggestion for Tracking. The basic idea when beginning to track with a dog is to get the dog interested enough in someone to want to follow, and try to encourage the dog to use its nose instead of eye/ears to find the person. The same process can be used to find an object rather than a person, but it's generally easier to get the dog focussed on finding a person than an object. You should always commence tracking training by laying the track with the wind behind you. If you lay the track into the wind it will encourage your dog to wind scent rather than scenting the ground where the tracklayer has walked.

## **This is Tracking continued**

Have the handler put the dog in harness and attach a training lead approximately 5 metres in length. Give a favourite toy or favourite treat (reward) to someone the dog knows well. Stand near an obstacle that the dogs can't see around or through (like a car or brick wall). Have the track layer make a big fuss of both dog and toy/reward and walk off towards an obstacle they can hide behind (a tree or shed) about 30 metres distant.

Let the dog see the person leave and the general direction they are going in, then move it behind the car. Make a big fuss, "Where is he? Who's got your toy? Where's he gone?" etc to get the dog's interest level up.

Leave about a 2-minute gap after the tracklayer has left before moving the dog out to find him. Be



consistent with the use of a word for the tracking act i.e. find or seek. Remember the word should not sound harsh in anyway. Use this word now and encourage the dog to find the tracklayer. i.e. "Find. Where is he?" or "Seek him then". The dog should move in roughly the right direction having seen the tracklayer leave.

Allow the dog to travel a short distance in the right direction on no more than 3 metres of lead.

Don't allow it to run, steady tension on the lead is the best. If the dog's nose goes down towards ground level, praise and repeat the word in an enthusiastic but non-distracting tone "Find/Seek, good boy". While the dog's nose is down, or is clearly sniffing/scenting allow forward movement, if the dog is just wandering at random, or trying to run in the direction he saw the person leave, gently restrain him and allow no forward movement.

**DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES CORRECT THE DOG.** Simply encourage the dog to come back onto the track and only then once the dog has indicated the track and you have praised it will you move forward with the dog.

Slowly progress towards the tracklayer's hiding place and regardless of the dog's performance to get there, PRAISE madly. The tracklayer should make a big fuss of the dog and play with the toy with the dog. The tracklayer and toy are the dog's reward and should be used profusely to encourage the dog to remain enthusiastic next time.

Do only one or two tracks per training session. Don't be surprised if your dog seems to have little idea of what is required for the first few sessions. Like many activities it can take time for the dog to get the idea, repetition is the key.

As the dog improves, increase the distance, don't allow the dog to see the tracklayer leave, and start to use articles on the ground. The articles can be used to help keep the dog's nose down. Outside of your tracking training, get the dog enthusiastic about picking up socks. Make a game out of it. Then use socks on the track and praise when they are found. Don't fall into the trap of placing them so closely that the dog can see each one and just runs to them. Place them at least 10 metres apart and let the dog scent to them.

### **Further Information**

Further information on Tracking can be obtained by reading the ANKC Tracking rule book which is available from the Victorian Canine Association Inc. The Tracking Club of Victoria also conducts beginners training days for members and an annual workshop weekend which is open to members and non-members. For more information go to [www.trackingclubvic.org.au](http://www.trackingclubvic.org.au).

## **This is Tracking continued**

### **Tracking - All Dogs Can Do This**

The dog's ability to track is well known. Man has utilized this ability for centuries. Dogs have helped the hunter to find game and food. In France, dogs hunt for exotica like truffles. Dogs have been used by police to hunt criminals and by search and rescue workers to find lost people.

The usefulness of the Swiss Mountain rescue dogs and avalanche dogs is legendary. There are international teams of dogs trained to find victims of earthquakes and other natural disasters. There have been hundreds of dogs of various breeds working at the World Trade Centre, in unimaginable conditions. The wreckage includes glass and sharp objects, rats are a problem, but still the dogs work. German Shepherd Dogs and Gundogs have always been in the forefront as a tracking and search and rescue (SAR) dog, not because they have the best sense of smell, but because of their willingness to work. This working ability is a key factor in why these breeds are used all over the world for services and SAR work.



For the ordinary citizen, tracking dogs can be a competition sport where dogs compete for ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council) titles. Tracking is something that all dogs can do. It is a natural instinct for a dog to use this sense. From birth a puppy makes its way to its mother's nipple, for a drink. How? The puppy is born blind. It uses its sense of smell.

The dog's tracking ability is extremely acute, we still don't fully understand the dog's capabilities in this area.. The dog's olfactory sense is much, much more greatly developed than humans. Dogs naturally track for food, we could call this their hunting instinct. We don't have to teach a dog to track, we use their natural instinct to teach them that we want them to follow a certain track. In Australia, apart from Police dogs and the armed services, groups of search and rescue volunteers train dogs to find people. From a recreational angle, others train dogs to compete in ANKC tracking trials. All types of dogs of varying breeds complete in these trials from toy breeds such as Cavalier King Charles Spaniels to larger gundogs and working breeds like German Shepherds and Rottweilers.





**Fun pictures for you to  
enjoy**

**If you have a cute  
picture of your dog to  
include in the Newsletter,  
please forward it to the  
Newsletter Editor at  
[jcgret@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jcgret@ozemail.com.au)**



# Nomination Form

---

---

## Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc Nomination Form

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

VCA Membership No  
(where applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc Nomination Form

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

VCA Membership No  
(where applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc Nomination Form

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

VCA Membership No  
(where applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc Nomination Form

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

VCA Membership No  
(where applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded \_\_\_\_\_

---

Members can complete one or all of the above nomination forms, but remember if they are not filled in completely they will be invalid. Please use a separate nomination for each position. Nomination forms are to be placed in the Ballot box no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> September.