FAITHFULLY YOURS



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

October 2009 Issue No 205

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann Office Bearers for 2009/2010

PRESIDENT VICE-PRESIDENT (1) VICE-PRESIDENT (2) SECRETARY TREASURER TRIAL SECRETARY	Jim Ball Sandy Malady Lyn Wills Karen Millard Heather Cook Tina Button	52484154 52672618 52296867 0414363556	Public Officer Training Administration Property Officer
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Vacant Theo Rain Victor Douglas Lisa Blackwell Lisa Blackwell Vacant Alex Shackleton	0425172964 5241 5401	Canteen Manager Equipment Manager Grounds Manager Social Secretary Hall Manager Publicity Officer Shop Manager
NON-COMMITTEE	Tina Button Christine Jagtenberg Vacant Robyn Youl Stephen Eldridge Vacant Pam Convery Brendan Jagtenberg	0414363556 0438414917 52 414 786 0410261393	Training Supervisor Membership Officer Minutes Officer Librarian Assistant Librarian Raffle Steward Newsletter Editor 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 <u>Pam Convery at jcgret@ozemail.com.au</u>

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



Club website - www.godc.org.au

CLUB CALENDAR

<u>November</u>		
Sunday	1 November	Normal training. Class 1 Intake. Puppy Intake for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Sunday	8 November	Normal training
Sunday	15 November	Normal Training. Newsletter closes for articles, report, etc
		End of Year Awards closing date
Monday	16 November	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm
Sunday	22 November	Normal training.
Sunday	29 November	Normal training Newsletter available
December		
Tuesday	1 December	General Meeting – 8.00 pm unless otherwise advised
Sunday	6 December	PROMOTION DAY
Sunday	13 December	Last day of training for 2009
Thursday	17 December	Office closes

CLUB INSTRUCTORS

Vice President (Training)	Sa
Training Supervisor	Ti
Assistant Training Supervisors	K

Sandy Malady Tina Button Kim Ciezarek Vacant

Joan Brophy Victor Douglas Helen Read

• •

.

Obedience

Leonie Kelleher Val Moeller Kath Devlin Colin Humphreys John Shields Desma Dickeson

Trish Gavaghan Simmon Hellebrand <u>Agility</u> Glenys Murray

Lyn Wills

Alex Shackleton Anne Macrae

Thoughts for the day

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them.

Phil Pastoret

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to thank the Committee for being a great team to work with. They have been a great support team. It has been a bumpy ride and at times many of us considered leaving our keys behind and walking away. We had great support from the Members and they kept us going. Thank you to the Members who believed in us.

To the persons who tried to make life difficult for us, no matter what you threw at us we weathered the storm, I hope you realise that you are only a small group and we were not going to tolerate your behaviour. I am disappointed that 4 - 5 people feel that it was their duty to constantly humiliate, demean and make life difficult here, we are volunteers for the Community and this Club, don't expect the red carpet to be rolled out for you because you have been here for some time. I am disgusted in your behaviour, that is very much reminiscent of school yard bullying and harassment. Enough said.

On a positive note - the building of the free run area has been amazing and a wonderful edition to the grounds. Thank you to Michael for a fantastic effort to have it built in a week. All our Seminars and workshops ran at a profit this year, giving us a head start in planning for next year.

Congratulations to all the Members who achieved their goals with their dogs this year, and I hope you have continued success next year. If you are struggling with your training don't forget we are here to help you, not every dog trains at the same pace.

I wish the next President all the best and I look forward in working with the new Committee.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to Karen Millard, Kathy Stones, Jim Ball, Heather Cook, Alex Shackleton, Victor Douglas, Theo Rain, Barb Pownall and Sandy Malady for their support, team work and great attitudes as a Committee.

Take care, **Tina Button – Out going President 2009**

1st VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to congratulate the out-going Committee for their excellent work and achievement over the last 12 months. There has been a lot of time and commitment and many long hours for this success to be achieved that seems to go unnoticed. It was very much a team effort and I enjoyed working with you and I am sure this will remain the same with the incoming committee.

Before I go on lets re-cap these achievements of the past Committee. 2 very successful Trials were held with excellent feedback from competitors. A number of Seminars were held at the Club to enhance our training skills, which were made available to our Instructors. A Dog walk and donations for the animals affected by the bushfires. An Off lead area structure was finally built which was a project that had been with a previous Committee.

And finally, a Trivia Nite held recently which was a big success raising a sustainable amount of money. I was amazed to see our club room filled to the brim with happy people. Although all the Committee had participated there is one person who spent many hours on ensuring this nite was the success it was and that is your past President Tina Button. Fund raisers and social events such as these require a lot of planning and time and we should always remember this. So congratulations on this huge success.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS

I am also hoping that the Club will take a stance on those who continue to criticise those who dedicate their time on Committee. These people either present or past Committee take on these positions to ensure the Club continues to function. If you don't have a Committee your Club is not permitted to operate. Sometimes these positions are taken on because no one else is willing to put in the extra time that it takes to make a successful Committee. And many of those on Committee are also your Instructors. So please keep in mind that at times things may get forgotten with our busy lives but it is not intentional. And a gentle reminder by Members and Instructors is all that is needed and it will be rectified.

Our Club has been around for many years and I believe our history is something we should respect and remember. But it should never prevent this Club from moving forward to ensure there is a continued history for the future. So keep in mind that sometimes there is a need for change and although some may not agree on these changes, these decisions are made with much consideration and discussion. And with members being the first people we consider ALWAYS.

I am looking forward to the year ahead working with the Committee and Instructors. And to the Members you will see me out and about either taking a Class or ready for a chat on the veranda. So please feel free to approach me or any other Committee Member.

Happy Training Sandy Malady - 1st Vice President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Well welcome to October. Only 3 months of the year left, where has it gone, it goes so quickly. I have been in the role of Secretary now for the past 12 months and it has really given me a better insight into the running of the Club. It has provided some challenges for Committee to overcome and also some very rewarding feedback. I would like to thank the current Committee for their wonderful support and congratulate them on a very good year.

I would also like to thank all those Members, Committee and Instructors who helped out with the successful running of our Agility and Obedience Trials, which were a huge success with some wonderful comments about how well it was fun, well done all!

I would like to mention now about our big beautiful off lead area. It's great to see a proper secure safe area for our dogs to have a play and run. Don't forget, Christmas isn't far away so don't forget your canine and drop into the Equipment Shop to give your pal a treat. **Karen Millard - Secretary**

TRAINING SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Thanks to all our Instructors for their time and effort week in week out. David Gravolin – Training Supervisor

GROUNDS MANAGER'S/EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

The off-lead area is now completed and so far the use has been very good. This off-lead area is not the same as the plan we obtained from Berwick Dog Club. Theirs was all steel form with chain mesh fencing. Built for about \$7,000, they had quotes up to \$17,000. Their work was done by their Grounds Manager, a retired Plummer. Michael Hart came up with a wood wire fence, with boards around the bottom. The aviary gate was an addition which added a little to the cost.

Theo Rain removed all the brick from the BBQ and the five BBQ benches have been relocated as you can see. The Council kindly donated some left over wire from the Bike Club, this was used to replace the old wire around some of the outside fence. Two corner posts still have to be replaced.

The two front entry posts with gates on them are to be replaced with the Council's help in doing this. The posts will be taken from the old Bike Club.. They will remove the old posts with a front/end loader, dig holes and insert new ones (this has still to be organised). The grass has been cut recently by James Mowing

The septic tank has been emptied out in time for next weekend due to it over flowing last Saturday's NADAC Trial. The contractor only charged \$200. Bartlets wanted \$900.

Victor Douglas – Grounds Manager. Theo Rain – Equipment Manager

SHOP MANAGER'S REPORT

The last 12 months have seen small but steady growth in the GODC Shop. A change in the clothing range has resulted in positive growth, whilst dog train aids have remained steady.

Ongoing problems have been experienced with wholesalers being unable to fill back orders of popular training aids including Sporn products. A clearance sale was held mid-year to clear most of the old clothing range. These items were sold at cost price to simply cover costs and clear some space. It should be noted that the Shop stocktake coincided with the arrival and invoicing of pre-ordered clothing, which has subsequently been sold.

We introduced an Instructor Equipment Sheet this year to assist in reducing the confusion for Members when sent to the Shop by their Instructor. The system seems to be working well. An updated Shop-based training gear list is being prepared currently and will be put to the Instructors group shortly for input. Again it is hoped that a linked approach will assist Members in selecting appropriate training aids, as well as improve shop sales.

My ongoing thanks are extended to the group of helpers who assist at peak hour and on the odd occasions I'm absent on a Sunday.

Alex Shackleton – Equipment Shop Manager

CANTEEN REPORT

Trade is picking up as the weather is improving. Dog training treats are a popular seller as well. NADAC held a Trial on our grounds on Saturday, I opened the Canteen and we did a roaring trade. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and assistance over the past year.

Special thanks to Raelene Hartney, who is always there to help me out when needed. Also, to my 2 daughters, who have worked harder for the Club than they do at home. I'd just like to wish the incoming Committee well and look forward to being a Member of a forward thinking Club. **Kathy Stones**

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S REPORT - OCTOBER 09

Well another AGM has passed us by and a few new faces on the Committee. As we look ahead to the next year i would like to point out that the Club relies on the hard work of our Instructors, Committee and to the Members who fill these positions every year.

I would hope that we can get some new Instructors going as you can see the people we have are not getting any younger, and they will soon want to do other things in their life. So I would encourage you all to think about becoming an Instructor or even think about becoming involved in the Committee later on. Well enough from me so enjoy your time here and give a thought to taking on one of the roles in the future. **Jim Ball =President**

NEW CLASS TIMES FROM 2010



<u>1^{s⊤} Session 9am – 9.45am</u>

Puppies Older Pups Beginners Revision

<u>2nd Session 10.15am - 11.00am</u>

New Beginners New Merit Merit Revision

3rd Session 11.30am to 12.15pm

Graduate

Graduate Revision

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

The Club needs to expand our Instructor base to lessen the work load on our current Instructors. If you have considered becoming an Instructor and would like to know more, there will be an Information morning on Sunday 1st November 11.15 am







You and your dog are welcome to walk with the Club in the parade

The Theme for this event is Christmas. So why not dress up you and your dog

If you would like to join the Club in walking in the parade, please put your name on the list under the verandah at the Clubhouse



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Meeting opened: 8.00pm.

Apologies : H. Read, C. Sparks, L. O'Brien.

Acc: K. Stones	Seconded: W. Ganly	Carried.		
Minutes from the previous Annual General Meeti Acc: L. Kelleher	ng as distributed in the Newsletter in 2008 Seconded - S. Hellebrand	3, taken as read. Carried.		
T. Button moved 'that F Valastro be accepted as Returning Officer'. Seconded - J. Ball Carried.				
Auditors Report				
 H. Cook read Auditor's Report and report on the Financial Statements. Several members queried that report regarding shop stock; and what defined 'low cost assets'. H. Cook will clarify this matter and report back.to the Members. B. Elliott moved 'that the Auditor's Report and Financial Statements be accepted'. Seconded - K. Stones Carried. 				
<u>Reports</u> Presidents report K. Stone moved 'that the Presidents report' be acc Seconded - S. Malady Secretary's report	Written report. cepted' Written report.	Carried.		
Other Reports Canteen Manager Grounds Manager Trial Secretary Training Supervisor Equipment Shop Manager	Written report. Written report. Not currently filled. Written report. Written report.			
Raffle report	President reported that approximately \$400. 00 had been raised. \$300.00 of which was allocated to the purchase of new books and DVD'S for our library. Last one has just arrived from America.			
L. Wills moved 'that the Reports as presented be Seconded: S. Hellebrand.	accepted'	Carried.		

Life Membership

This year there were five nominations and after voting we wish to award K. Ciezarek with a Life Membership.

J. Ball declared all positions vacant and F. Valastro, the Returning Officer, took the chair. F. Valastro said that although the Notice of Motion as posted on the noticeboard was within the 21 day time period, the wording was incorrect. There is a 'Committee of Management' that runs the club. Therefore, he could not accept the motion on that basis.

As the two scrutineers previously approached did not show up, B. Elliott and D. Dickeson took on the roles.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Tuesday, October 6, 2009

 Nominations for President Nominations for Vice Presidents 	J. Ball	Duly elected		
^{1st} Vice President	S. Malady	Duly elected.		
2 nd Vice President	L. Blackwell. L. Wills was nomina	ted by S. Hellebrand.		
`	Seconded: S. Malady. Voting follow	ved and L. Wills.		
	Duly elected.			
3. Nominations for Secretary	K. Millard was nominated by K. Stones. Seconded - S.			
	Malady .P. Convery was nominated	•		
	Seconded: J. Brophy. Voting follow	wed and K. Millard		
	was duly elected.			
4. Nominations for Treasurer	H. Cook	Duly elected.		
5. Nominations for Trial Secretary/Ass. Secretary		Duly elected.		
6. General Committee – six required – three nomin	nations received:			
V. Douglas, A. Shackleton, T. Rain Duly elected.				
A late nomination for General Committee was rece	eived from M. Elliott who nominated	L. Blackwell.		
Seconded: C. Humphreys		Duly elected.		
Non-Committee nominations				
Librarian	R. Youll	Duly elected		
Assistant Librarian	S. Eldridge	Duly elected		
Newsletter Editor	P. Convery	Duly elected		
Training Supervisor	T. Button	Duly elected		
Ass. Training Supervisor – 2 required: V. Douglas nominated by K. Ciezarek. Seconded: S. Malady.				
	1 pc	osition vacant.		
Web Master	B Jagtenberg.	Duly elected		
Membership Officer	C.Jagtenberg	Duly elected		
	B Jagtenberg.	Duly elected		

Membership Officer Minutes Officer

F. Valastro thanked the Members for their attendance and said the Club was on shaky ground and personal animosities should be set aside and everyone pull together.

Vacant.

J. Ball thanked the Returning Officer and the two scrutineers for their contribution.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.57pm.







TJUKURPA KOOL BRYCE J.D. G.D.

Bryce earned his first VCA Agility pass at the National Agility trial held by DOGS Victoria Inc on 29th June 2008. Below is a summary of his results in VCA agility so far:

	June 2008	Nationals	Novice Gamblers	9 th place 1 st
Photo courtesy of Wendy Mitchell	pass			
	April 2009 pass	Moorabbin	Novice Gamblers	5^{th} place 2^{nd}
	April 2009 1 st pass	ADCV	Novice Jumpin	g 5 th place
	April 2009 2 nd pass	Geelong	Novice Jumping	g 1 st place
	April 2009 3 nd pass (J.D. Title)	Geelong	Novice Jumping	g 1 st place
	April 2009 4 nd pass	Geelong	Novice Jumping	g 1 st place
	▲	Highest in tri	ial' award in the fou	rth trial held at
	September 2009 pass (G.D. Title)	StateTrial	Novice Gamblers	10 th place 3 rd
	September 2009	Croydon	Excellent Gamblers	2 nd place NQ
	October 2009 pass	Knox	Excellent Jumping	1 st place 1 st

I am really proud of our achievements so far. Our main goals for 2010 is to get more reliable contact performances and more consistent weaves so we can start entering Novice Agility. Bryce is a pleasure to train and compete with due to his eagerness and natural ability to do agility. It will be interesting to see how far we can go in 2010!!! I have been training dogs in Agility over the last ten years and Bryce is my fourth agility dog. He is the only dog I have owned who has earned a pass at the Excellent level in VCA Agility. Maybe he will also be the first dog I have owned that will get a Masters pass????? I'll have to wait and see.....

Vanessa Bridges and Bryc



Trivia Night

It is with great pleasure that I inform the Members of GODC that \$1500 was raised at the Trivia Night on the 3rd October. Thank you to all who donated prizes, and to Members and their families who attended.

Tina Button





Ray's Outdoors are offering Club discount to all Club Members

Just produce your Membership Badge when making a purchase



Thank you to Ray's Outdoors for their Club



EVOLUTION OF THE DOG

Fourteen thousand years ago, a group of Palaeolithic hunters huddle together by a fire, listening to sounds of a forest that doesn't forgive mistakes or hand out sustenance willingly. Leaves and brush rustle; then a four-legged animal cautiously treads toward the fire, attracted by this unusual source of warmth. The animal, a wolf, has his head bowed and tail down, and then lays





some distance away from the group

but close enough to feel the fire. Members of the group had grabbed their crude spears, but the animal made no threatening moves. Gradually, the animal moves closer to the group and follows them as they depart for the hunt. The animal helps flush out game for the hunters, who reward their new partner with pieces from the kill. There are no records of how early canines befriended humanity, but there is little doubt that the relationship

was originally forged through mutual necessity

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.

Plan to succeed not to fail

Remember the six P's. **Prior Planning Prevents Pitifully Poor Performance**. 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.





THIS IS NADAC AGILITY

The North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC) was formed in USA in 1993 and was established in Australia in 2001 when its founder, Sharon Nelson, brought it to Victoria.

Although still a relatively small organization, NADAC Australian Division has much to offer its members. Like its parent body it was formed to provide dogs and their owners with a fast, safe and enjoyable form of the sport of dog agility.

With separate class divisions for Veterans (dogs and handlers) and Junior Handlers, and a variety of games, NADAC offers something for everyone. As well as the traditional classes such as Regular Agility and Jumpers, NADAC also offers the following range of specialized skill classes:

- Tunnelers The whole course is made up of tunnels
- Weavers The course is made up of weave poles and tunnels
- Touch 'n Go The course is made up of contact equipment and tunnels
- Hoopers The whole course is made up of hoops
- Chances The course involves directional and obstacle discrimination challenges carried out from a distance. Difficult, but what a buzz when you are successful!



Dogs are grouped according to their jump height and these heights range from 4" - 20", with handlers having the option of dropping a height lower if they choose.

NADAC agility trials are held in a number of places accessible to Geelong handlers so there are lots of opportunities to compete and build up your dogs' titles, or just to compete for the sheer joy of running around a course in partnership with your dog.

There are over seventy titles and awards to be gained as you work your way through Novice, Open and Elite levels, so plenty of incentive to keep striving to improve your skills and your teamwork with your dog.

In November each year NADAC Australia holds its Championships over three days and members have the chance to compete against their peers for the prized rosettes and, more often than not, to be judged by a NADAC judge from USA or Canada.

For more information on NADAC Australia, its calendar of trial schedules and how you can join, you can visit the website at www.nadacaustralia.com.

Agility is great fun for you and your dog and we are fortunate in Victoria to be able to choose either or both agility organisations in which to compete.





FOR SALE

TRAVEL CRATE Good condition, used twice. Suite Labrador/Retriever size dog, h,75cm x w, 60cm x d.100cm \$200.00 ono Ph Janet 0447533223





Thank you to the following businesses and Members who donated prizes to the Trivia night, which helped make the night such a success.

PETSTOCK Geelong Football Club Bellarine Vet Clinic Highton Vet Clinic Elcho Park Pet hotel Corner works Hairdressing Beaurapaires Fish day fish shop Donnybrook Pizza Bunnings - Waurn Ponds Geelong Obedience Dog Club Members

The Anatomy of a Dog Attack Ryan O'Meara – Sent in by Lisa Blackwell

"Out of the blue, it attacked for no reason"

When a dog attack is reported we will often hear the same old phrases bandied about.

"It came out of the blue" "It was totally unprovoked" "We didn't see it coming" "It was totally out of character"

Ring any bells? Well let's try and understand how and why a dog might attack someone.

Dogs rarely, if ever, attack for no reason. Us humans often misinterpret a dog attacking "out of the blue" and "without warning" because we simply missed the signs. Let's be clear about one thing. A dog who is prepared to bite someone has his reasons. Can we, as humans, justify those reasons using the social values of people? Probably not. But of course, dogs do not live their lives according to human social values.

Here is the story of John, Henry and Max.

John has no wife or children. For the last five years he's lived with his best friend in the world a playful Labrador called Max. John is excited today. Henry, an old friend from school who he hasn't seen for many years is visiting. John decides today would be a good day to get his garden tidied, make a good impression on his old school chum. As John gets busy in amongst the weeds in the front garden, he spies his old mate making his way up the street.

Henry's been looking forward to catching up with John for weeks and, as he's never been to his home before, finds himself feeling somewhat jubilant to realise he's managed to find the street on which John lives without too much trouble and can now relish the prospect of seeing his friend again as well as finally getting to meet the only true love of John's life, the much talked about Max.

It's a hot and sunny day and Henry is wearing his sunglasses. Further up the street he spots John working in his front garden. John's already noticed Henry making his way towards him and yells out, "Hi Henry. Fancy a beer?" Henry shouts back, "Sounds just the job. Can you believe this heat?"

As per usual, Max has been 'helping' John with his gardening exploits by digging holes of his own all over the lawn. John doesn't mind. He only wanted the garden so he could have somewhere safe to play fetch with Max on sunny days like today. He's never been one for trying to keep it immaculate when Max's favourite hobby is trying to tunnel his way to China. Max has stopped his gardening though. He's become preoccupied by the exchange between John and Henry and he's taken a trip the front gate to see what's going on.

"I wonder who this bloke is?" ponders Max. "Why would he and John be shouting at other?" he thinks to himself. "I'd better be on full alert." he concludes. "John's just shouted at this chap so he obviously wants me to keep an eye out." Max fixes himself in position at the front gate and hoists his tail high into the air, he's keen to let the oncoming stranger know he's about. John doesn't notice.

Henry's still coming. So Max decides he needs to be more clear. He starts to emit a deep, low growl in Henry's direction just to make certain the stranger who's purposely striding towards him, his owner and HIS garden is left in no uncertain terms that he's not moving. Henry's still coming. And now he's close enough for Max to notice his sunglasses. "This is getting more serious by the second", thinks Max. "He's not only not listening to me, he's staring right at me. I know, I'll stare right back at him. See if he's as brave then."

The Anatomy of a Dog Attack (continued)

Problems. Henry is still as brave. To Max, Henry's sunglasses look like wide, staring eyes, boring straight ahead and as he marches staunchly toward the increasingly anxious Labrador, Max wonders what his next move might be. As body language goes, Henry is showing all the signs of refusing to listen to Max's advice. Now tense and feeling genuinely threatened, Max is offered an escape. John jogs inside to fetch a couple of bottles of beer and Max is only too pleased to hurriedly follow his master. Max is somewhat relieved to suspect that John, his idol, is just as scared as he is about the relentless stranger pursuing them both from outside the garden gate.

"Shut the door John, shut the door", Max worries. "He's still coming and you haven't closed the door". Too late. Max's heart leaps as he hears the gate swing open. Too late. His worst fears are confirmed. The unrelenting Henry is now purposefully making his way up the garden path and toward the house where Max and John are isolated, cornered and in Max's case, petrified.

Gathering up every ounce of his canine courage and without a second's thought for his own safety Max charges out of the house, tail hoisted aloft and barking his war cry as loud as his voice will muster. He heads straight for Henry wondering why this stalking maniac refused to listen to all of his earlier warnings.

"You might kill me but you'll never take John", Max decides.

Henry, his face very quickly drained of all it's colour, is shocked and taken aback to be confronted by a clearly furious Max, the dog he'd heard so many nice stories about from doting John. This isn't at all the dog he thought he'd be meeting. Henry, alarmed and frightened makes his way toward Max, attempting to offer a hand of reassurance and friendship. Max is having none of it.

"John warned you. Then I warned you. Why wouldn't you just listen?", reasoned Max.

Undeterred by Henry's advance and determined not to let his owner come to any harm, Max lunges in Henry's direction. The realisation that Max is a long way past the stage of being able to be pacified dawns on Henry fast and he hastily tries to beat a retreat back out of the gate from which he entered. John, hearing the commotion and now panic stricken by Max's attack bellows, "No! Max, no." Acutely tuned to his owner's emotions and sensing the fear and alarm in John's voice, Max forges ahead and launches into a full scale attack on Henry. And then, as quick as it began, it was over.

An ambulance arrives to take Henry away and, hearing the commotion, John's neighbours have summoned the Police. John can be heard explaining, "He's never done anything like this before", the attack came "totally out of the blue", Max was always "such a trustworthy dog", he's "never shown any signs of aggression in his life", the attack was "totally unprovoked".

But we know differently don't we?

Let's look again at how Max saw things unfold:

- 1. Max spots a man walking toward his and his owner's garden 'his territory'
- 2. Not unduly worried, Max paid little attention to the stranger until John shouted in Henry's direction. To Max, this was a clear signal to 'watch for danger'
- 3. Obediently, Max sat at the front gate and watched for that danger.
- 4. He attempted to signal to Henry by putting his tail in the air and growling, that he was prepared to defend his owner and territory.
- 5. As Henry gets closer, Max again postures but now spots Henry's aggressive body language, his wide eyes refusing to overt their gaze a clear signal of intent. Henry's point blank refusal to alter his path, a sure fire gesture of defiance.

The Anatomy of a Dog Attack (continued)

- 6. As John runs inside, Max's thoughts turn to escape. He now believes John is as scared as he is and they should both seek shelter from the safety of the house.
- 7. Too late. As Henry enters the garden (Max and John's territory) Max does what he thinks his owner needs him to do. He defends against the threat.
- 8. As Henry runs away and John panics, Max takes this as a sign that he should increase his attack, his canine instincts now in complete overdrive.
- 9. So let us again question whether John was correct when he explained to Police that Max's attack was unprovoked.

Was it unprovoked? Not at all.

Was it unjustified in human, social terms? Absolutely. Was it avoidable? Totally.

The Aftermath

Henry, his pain eased only slightly by drugs lies motionless in a hospital bed and starts to face the reality that a visit to see a dear, old friend has left him disfigured for the rest of his life. He ponders how best to explain to his young children that he's still their Dad even though he knows his mutilated features will upset them deeply. He wonders how life will be from now on, how people will react to him.

Max, confused and still frightened by the terrifying ordeal earlier in the day is now wondering why he's found himself confined to a small, secure cage at the vet surgery. He stares through the bars and looks longingly towards the door, hoping against hope that he will soon be reunited with his trusted friend and master, John. Unbeknown to Max, he'll never see John again.

As the door swings open, Max's tail momentarily begins to wag but he's deflated. It's not John. It's a Vet Nurse. He's still pleased to see her. He's lonely and upset and he just wants to go home and be with his friend. He's too pre-occupied to wonder why the Vet Nurse seems so wary of him. Wanting to put her at ease, he submissively offers up his paw. As the vet nurse holds it, she carefully shaves a small patch of fur away from his leg.

Max didn't even notice the injection.

On this day it wasn't only Max's body that was destroyed as John's memories of a kind, gentle, fun loving dog died too. He asks himself once more, "Why did my dog attack someone for no reason?" John may never know it, but Max had his reasons.

Dogs do not bite people without reason. They do not attack out of the blue. They do not launch into savage, frenzied assaults without provocation despite what you will undoubtedly read in news reports when the next dog attack hits the press. There are NO devil dogs. There are NO unprovoked dog attacks. There IS a huge gap in understanding amongst some dog owners about why dogs attack and until we can bridge that gap in education people will continue to be attacked and more and more dogs will join Max, their memories destroyed along with their bodies.

Killing individual dog breeds is not the solution to a problem which runs through an entire species. Oh, and if you were left in any doubt, that species isn't canine.

Originally published on Stop Dog Attacks | Copyright © Ryan O'Meara | Distributed Under Creative Commons Licence (Feel free to re-publish, anywhere, simply place a link back to this page. Thank you.)

NEW MEMBERS

The Members, Committee and Instructors of Geelong Obedience Dog Club would like to welcome the following new Members who have joined the Club recently. We wish you every success with your training.

<u>4/10/2009</u>

McCarthy Claire/Lorton Mark Rizvi Patricia Higgins Jessica Ryan Leigh/Wan Ingan Carly McCarthy Claire/Lorton Mark McIntosh Family Taylor Lee

<u>6/09/2009</u>

Widdowson Kaye Diamond Brett Fruin Family Walton Jai/Cail Bree Smith Heather/Murphy Joshua Mcdonald Cassandra Mackey Family Rogers Shelley Simpson Damian Goodnight Hazel

Hawkridge Derek

Nelson Melanie

Trim Kirsty

Moores Kent Kerr Calista Watson Family Oakley Shelley White Family Matek Kym/Hughes Ross Smith Monica

Osborn Megan Slade Betty



PROMOTION DAY RESULTS

Congratulations to the following Members who achieved success at the last Promotion Day. If you have not collected your Certificate/Ribbon, please call into the Office.

AGILITY

Ann Milligan & Nell

AGILITI				
ADVANCED CERT (LEVEL 4))			
Lee-Ann O'Brien & Gemma Sally Hunt & Ruby				
INTERMEDIATE CERT (LEV	(EL 3)			
Pauline Greaves & Tully	Gleny's Murray & Remy			
BEGINNERS CERT (LEVEL 2				
Heather Cain & Ned	Dean Wilson & Punter	Sarah Wills-Cooke & Tigger		
Paul Gearon & Ledger	Colin & Liesje Brice & Reg			
FOUNDATION CERT (LEVEI	L 1)			
Raylene Hartley & Millie	Janelle Convery & Rookie	Tori Stones & Jenna.		
Jane Evans & Nyah	Sarah Wills-Cooke & Roo.			
OBEDIENCE				
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE				
Andrew Carmicheal & Bronte	Pauline Hicks & Ginny	Felicity Hughes & Lachlan		
Amanda Boeyen & Shanti				
MERIT CERTIFICATE				
Simmon Hellebrand & Ivy	Robert Eagles & Kelps	William Turner & Toby		
Dean Crawford & Henry	Leigh Helmers & Leah	Kylie Deppeler & Bella		
Carole Birrell & Chelsea	Gwen Bailey & Simba	Maria Prestas & Taki		
BEGINNERS				
Sandra French & Jessie	Peter Roupas & Holly	Lauren McKee & Pongo		
Christina Mackey & Bonnie	Lori Hutton & Caddie	Derek Hawkridge & Gemma		
Toby Jeavons & Bindi	Vicki Gage & Chief	Chelsea Virt & Cara		
Dean Wilson & Keely	Di Diamond & Oscar	Dorothy O'Donnell & Mady		

TO ALL MEMBERS ATTENDING TRIALS

The following is the criteria for the selection of "Obedience Dog of the Year" and "Agility/Jumping Dog of the Year" Awards. Please read carefully.

"OBEDIENCE DOG OF THE YEAR" AWARDS

'that any previous Motions are rescinded and the following procedure adopted for the selection of Obedience Dog of the Year awards.

- 1. That three (3) scores only be submitted, two (2) of which are required to be passes (copies of Pass Card to be supplied), and the third highest score to be verified by the Judge on the day at the Trial.
- 2. The highest total of all three (3) scores will be the winner'.

"AGILITY/JUMPING DOG OF THE YEAR" AWARD

'that any previous Motions are rescinded and the following point's table be used for the selection of Agility Dog of the Year award.

	AD/JD Level	ADX/JDX Lev	ADM/JDM Level
Pass	4 points	5 points	6 points
First Place	3 points	4 points	5 points
Second Place	2 points	3 points	4 points
Third Place	1 points	2 points	3 points

Dogs do not have to get a pass to obtain placing points, but a pass must be obtained in the award year to win the award'.

AWARDS AND TROPHY RECIPIENTS

'that all recipients of Club Trialling and Agility Awards/Trophies have to be active Club members and their dog shall have been trained for a minimum of 16 weeks on our grounds under supervision of authorised Club Instructors'. (16 week minimum effective from 2003)

VCA PAPERWORK

If you gain a Title, the Secretary or Trial Secretary can give you the appropriate paper work to fill in for the VCA and you need to submit your details to the Office for your medallion at the end of the year.

CLUBROOM PHOTOS

All dogs that achieve a Title are entitled to have an 8" x 10" vertical photo on the Clubhouse wall. The Club supplies frames, but there is a \$3.00 charge so your photo can be added to the Photo CD for storage.

NEWSLETTER RESULTS

For Trial Results to appear in the Newsletter, it is up to YOU to notify the Newsletter Editor or the Office in writing or by phone.

Provision has been made for all Members and their dogs that gain Titles, to place a HALF PAGE summary of their efforts in the Newsletter. Once again, it is up to the Member to notify the Newsletter Editor or the Office in writing, including a copy of your "Ad".









Thanks Kathy Stones and Arden Boeyen

