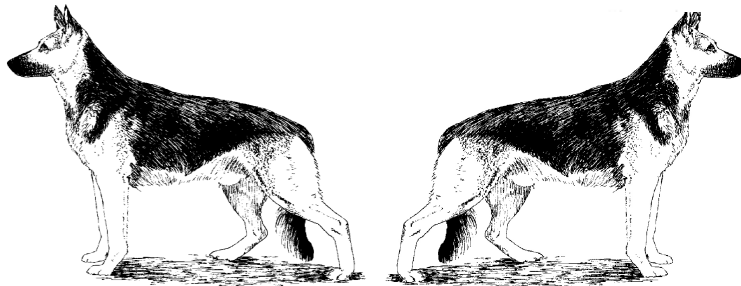
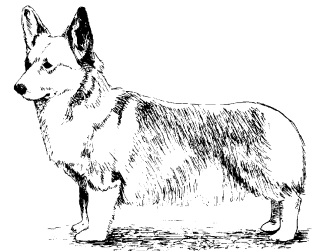
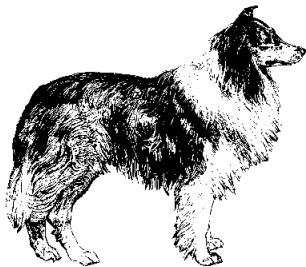
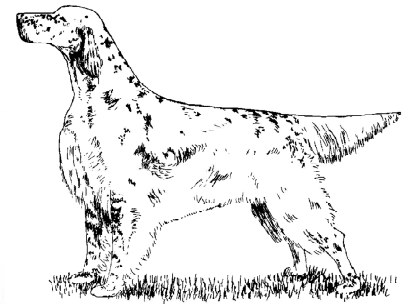
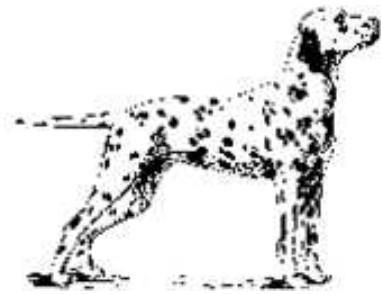


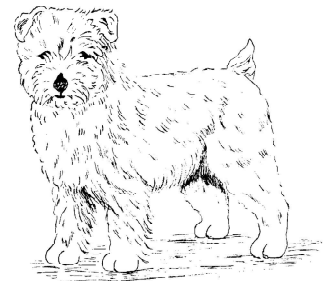
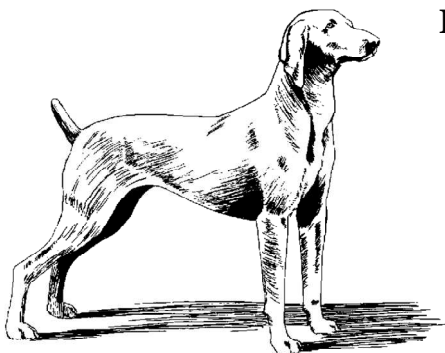
FAITHFULLY YOURS



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

December 2012
Issue No
238

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann

Office Bearers for 2012/2013

PRESIDENT	Colin Humphreys	52 822 683	Public Officer
VICE-PRESIDENT (1)	Stephen Eldridge	0407512979	Training
VICE-PRESIDENT (2)	Vacant		Administration
SECRETARY	Christine Jagtenberg	0438 414 917	
TREASURER	Kathy Taylor	52 411 886	Property Officer
TRIAL SECRETARY	Pam Convery	52 414 786	
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Vacant		Canteen Manager
	Roland Linford		Equipment Manager
	Victor Douglas	0448415401	Grounds Manager
	John Taylor	52 411 886	Hall Manager
	Vacant		Social
			Secretary/Publicity Officer
	Alex Shackleton		Shop Manager
NON-COMMITTEE	Desma Dickeson		Training Supervisor
	Christine Jagtenberg	0438 414 917	Membership Officer
	Alex Shackleton		Minutes Officer
	Robyn Youl		Librarian
	Stephen Eldridge		Assistant Librarian
	Pam Convery		Newsletter Editor
	Brendan Jagtenberg	0410 261 393	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:- Monday, 3.00pm to 7.00pm

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 janelle.convery@bigpond.com](mailto:janelle.convery@bigpond.com)

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

Club website – www.godc.org.au



CLUB CALENDAR

December

Sunday	2 December	Normal training
Tuesday	4 December	General Meeting – 8.00 pm unless otherwise advised
Sunday	9 December	Normal training
Sunday	16 December	Last day of training for 2012. Fun Day including presentations.
Monday	17 December	Office closes

CLUB INSTRUCTORS

<i>Vice President (Training)</i>	Stephen Eldridge
<i>Training Supervisor</i>	Desma Dickeson
<i>Assistant Training Supervisors</i>	Kim Ciezarek
	David Gravolin

Obedience

Colin Humphreys	Val Moeller	Wendy Ganly
John Shields	Kim Ciezarek	Kath Devlin
Desma Dickeson	David Gravolin	Christine Jagtenberg
Victor Douglas	Tony Stewart	Heather Miller

Agility

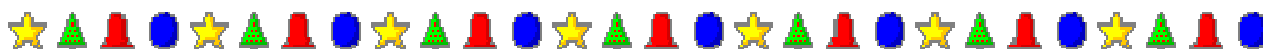
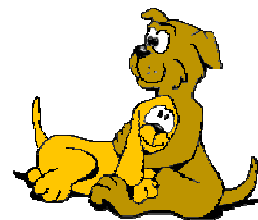
Trish Gavaghan	Glenys Murray	Alex Shackleton
Bev Petrass	Vanessa Bridges	
Susan Axe	Carole Sparks	

Rally O

Wendy Ganly

Flyball

Sally Hunt



Merry Christmas to all
our Members

Return to training 2013
3rd February



REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS

President's Report

Welcome to all new Members of the Club and I hope through the training you receive from our Instructors this will enable you to control your dog and make you a more responsible pet owner in our community.

We had a break-in, the Canteen window cover was damaged to gain entry. Very little was taken and no damage done inside the Club house thankfully. I would like to thank Victor Douglas for his efforts in repairing and restoring the shutter so quickly.

To the Committee, which has only been in office since October, thank you all for your support and efforts in running the Club. Thank you to the Instructors for the time in training and guidance you are giving our Members. Without Instructors and Committee working together we would not have a Club.

Finally, on behalf of Committee and Instructors I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Colin Humphreys - President

Trial Secretary

Well another year is coming to a close. We are in the process at the moment of preparing all the End of Year awards and setting up the Trials for 2013. The number of Title Medallions for this year is incredible and congratulations must go to Janelle, as the previous Trial Secretary, for arranging such great Trials and to all the Members who put in so much work to achieve such amazing results. Trialling is very satisfying and a great social event as well and our four legged friends continue to produce fantastic results.

For those Members who visit inside the Clubrooms the walls are well covered in photos of dogs who have achieved Titles and you need to remember that they all started off in a Beginners Class like many of you. There are various disciplines out there for your fun such as Agility, Obedience, Rally O, Dancing with Dogs, Tracking, Herding and Flyball, so give it some thought, maybe this is something you can strive for in the new year.

Have a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2013

Pam Convery - Trial Secretary

Library Update:

The Canine Face of China.

China has a reputation for cruelty towards dogs. They are slaughtered for fur and meat under appalling conditions. A report in Good Weekend. The Age, Saturday

REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS

November 10, 2012 gives mainland dogs hope for a brighter future. The article, *Animal Kingdom*, by Erin O'Dwyer is available from the library. [Background to the Article:](#) Conditions for dogs in Hong Kong are so different. Many live in luxury apartments and are exercised several times daily by Amahs. [live in domestic servants] They are always immaculately presented and many wear designer dog clothing as a fashion statement rather than protection from the elements. Pet shops sport a vast range of canine accessories. Dogs for sale are displayed individually in spotlessly clean quarters - the 'groomed' breeds never appear in the 'rough'. Registered Australian breeders export pedigreed puppies to Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Kennel Club functions along similar lines to our own A.N.K.C. Dogs also live in shops with their Chinese owners and are cherished, well behaved pets.

Hong Kong was a British Territory from 1842 until 1997 when the People's Republic of China [Mainland China] assumed control. 1949 marked the beginning of the Mao era of the Republic and ownership of dogs was banned. In Hong Kong the attitude to dogs is more westernised. Mainland China differs because of its history and the concept of the dog being a bourgeois luxury.

Dogs have been part of Chinese culture since earliest times.

The zodiacal way of calculating years based on the Chinese Calendar decides that once in every 12 years people will meet their birth sign. The animal year when a person is born is called his/her Benmiang Nian - Year of Birth.

Legend has it that the gods ordered animals be designated as signs of each year and the twelve that arrived first were selected. The dog was the 11th in the race, narrowly defeating the pig who was last. One born in The Year of the Dog is faithful, courteous, smart and warm-hearted. Dog people make good leaders but can be very stubborn. Women born under this sign tend to be sharp tongued.

In Ancient China dogs were divided into three categories:

Tien quan - watch dog

Fei quan - barking dog

Shi-quan - edible dog.

It was believed that solar eclipses were caused by the dogs in heaven trying to eat the sun. Ancient Chinese would explode cracker and beat gongs to frighten the dogs away.

Chinese Breeds of Dogs.

After 1949 dogs were eradicated on the mainland. They have only just started making a comeback in the last 20 years.

* The Chinese Crested: The origin and history of the breed is uncertain. Legend is that they sailed with Chinese mariners as ratters.

* The Chow Chow: It has the mane of a lion, the black tongue of a bear and the fur coat of a dowager. Initially bred for its flesh and fur.

* Pekinese: The Lion Dog - because of its thick ruff. The Sun Dog - because of its

REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS

golden colour. The Sleeve Dog - was carried in the sleeve of a mandarin style gown. Sacred in Imperial times. Only members of the Royal Family were permitted to own one. The penalty for theft was death.

* Shar Pei: The name is Cantonese for the sandy texture of its skin. Originally bred for herding, hunting and protection. Flesh was eaten and skin used for clothing. Used as a fighting dog only in recent times - 1800's. A sport driven by the Chinese love of gambling. He was no match for imported Western pit breeds.

These breeds did not appear outside China until the 1800's when they were displayed at London Zoo as the Wild Dogs of China.

Review: Animal Kingdom by Erin O'Dwyer

Qiao Wei is a political activist dedicated to a better deal for dogs. There are 200 dogs at Qiming Animal Protection Centre that Qiao manages, with the financial assistance of his wealthy family, concerned private citizens and non-government organisations. He has helped stop three truckloads of dogs from reaching the dog-meat markets in north-eastern China and rescued about 600 that were purchased as pets and then abandoned. He has been bitten on several occasions - but believes 'Dogs bite out of self-protection.' He is undeterred by the dog traders who have bashed him and threatened to kill him. 'With many of our campaigns, my face will be on T.V., so every dog trader knows me.' Despite immense personal risk Qiao continues to campaign 'We can see the hope, so we want to do the job.'

He is not alone. Last year, the location of a truckload of dogs en route to a slaughterhouse via an expressway near Beijing was posted online by an animal lover. 100 young people responded. They stopped the truck in the middle of the road and saved 500 sick, dying dehydrated dogs from being slaughtered. Twenty years ago there were three animal welfare groups in China - now there are more than a hundred. The new activists are computer savvy. Qiao is well educated and was a former computer sales manager. 'We use the internet to spread the news of the rescue and whether we need money,' he explains. 'We also post photos of the dogs to find their original owners.'

Jill Robinson, a British animal rights activist who founded Animals Asia Foundation 1998 is delighted with the surge in support amongst mainland China's young animal activists. 'We would never have seen anything like this five years ago. You simply weren't allowed to demonstrate in the streets but, for some reason, the authorities are tolerating demonstrations related to animal welfare. It's very, very empowering.' These young people use a technique known as 'flash crowding' or 'flash mobbing' made possible by hi-tech, hi-speed communications. They dress in dog costumes, wear animal face masks or furry ears, congregate, beam happily at the cameras, then disperse. The emphasis is on a high degree of self discipline and impeccable behaviour.

Robyn Youl - Librarian





John's Social Class

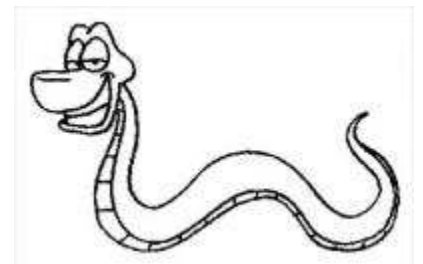


SNAKE WATCH

Whenever you are out walking please be aware that it is Snake season and what you do when you see a snake is also important

Firstly stop

Secondly point at the snake and call “snake” so that anyone else around you will be made aware



Thirdly make sure your dog is safe if you have it with you

And lastly move away slowly

TRIAL RESULTS

Tracking Club of Victoria – Inverleigh – 18th August 2012-11-19

R Kearney Reuben Track 2 Grading Good

Ballarat Obedience Dog Club – Haddon- 9th September 2012

R Kearney Reuben Track 3 Pass

Ballarat Obedience Dog Club Obedience Trial – 16th September 2012

M Brown Tootsie Brown CCD RN 2nd 183

NADAC Nationals

S Will-Cooke Roo 1st Q

S Axe Hector Elite Tunnellers 4th Q

Open Weavers 1st Q

Open Touch n Go 2nd Q

Elite Jumpers 3rd

Elite Regular 1 1st

R Kearney Reuben Open Tunnellers 4th Q

Touch n Go 6th Q

Open Tunnellers 3rd Q

Novice Regular 3rd

J Convery Mason Elite Jumpers 5th Q

Open Hoopers 6th Q

Elite Regular 2nd Q

Open Weavers 3rd Q

Mason was also awarded “Highest Scoring Regular Agility Dog – 2012” at the end of year presentations.

ADVC Altona – 11th November 2012

R Kearney Reuben Nov Vet Regular 1 2nd Q

J Convery Mason Elite Regular 4th Q

Elite Regular 5th Q

PTC Geelong – 3rd November 2012

R Kearney Reuben Open Jumpers 1st

Novice Touch n Go 3rd Q

Novice Regular 1 3rd

Novice Regular 2 4th

J Convery Mason Elite Jumpers 3rd Q

Elite Regular 1st Q

Elite Regular 1st Q

Open Touch n Go 2nd Q

Rally Obedience:

Geelong Obedience Dog Club – 1st September 2012

R Kearney Reuben Advanced A Pass 13th Place

Trial training is such hard work



Remember

I'm not just for Christmas, I'm for life



Share this important message with the world and stop thousands of dogs, just like me, being used as a toy.

www.Daveswordsofwisdom.com

GAWS Christmas collection

Each year the Club asks Members to take part in an Animal Welfare Christmas Collection



©funmunch.com

Next time you are out shopping add an extra tin of dog or cat food or packet of dry food to your shopping trolley to help feed the four-legged friends who aren't as lucky as ours.

There will be boxes set up in the Clubrooms for your contribution

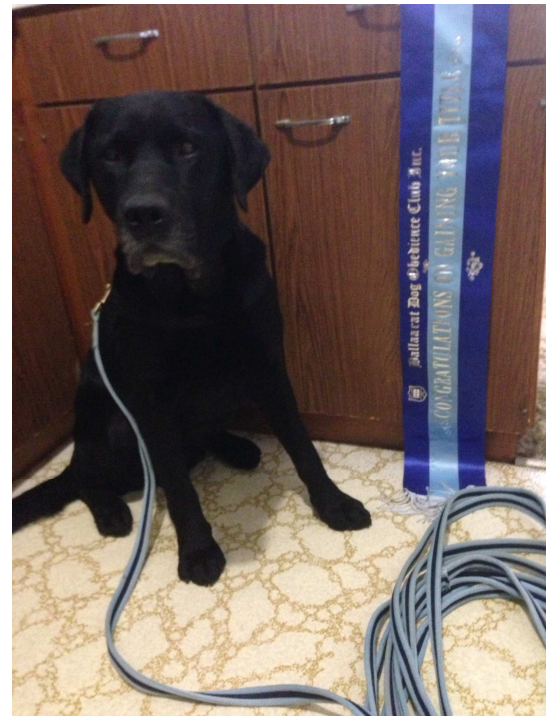


"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog.
You are his life, his love, his leader.
He will be yours, faithful and true,
to the last beat of his heart.
You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."

Reuben has his Tracking Dog Title!

This year has been a buzz with Reuben gaining two titles- Rally Novice and Tracking Dog! We started to learn a bit about tracking a couple of years ago and after attending the Tracking Club's annual workshop last April didn't feel quite confident enough to enter a trial until August 2011.

I was so nervous I couldn't eat before! No trouble for the Labrador thou! This trial was held around Inverleigh and we passed our Track 1 on a bush track, including jumping over a fallen log and zooming along! I was lucky to still be holding his lead- you don't pass if you're not holding it! We didn't do any more trials until this year's tracking season where we attempted our Track 2 twice at different trials in Haddon but fluffed them both. The first in appalling wet conditions. Apparently you don't pass if you got at right angles to the track and try to get through a fence- I think Reuben was trying to get out of the rain! And the second time Reuben thought those kangaroos were a little more interesting!



Anyway, the Tracking Club of Victoria's trial at Inverleigh was much more successful and we gained a pass on our Track 2, again on a bush track. So then onto more difficult stuff! Track 1 & 2 have a person who the dog knows as a tracklayer and are 400 & 800 metres respectively where Track 3 is also 800m the tracklayer is an unknown person. So back up to the unlucky Haddon and allocated to another paddock track so wasn't feeling very confident! Hilarious start to the track- had to lift him over the gate to get into the paddock as someone forgot the key! Anyway, up the hill, round the corner, a sock here and there and viola Reuben found the random lady waiting for us! He made it had work but we passed and thus gained his Tracking Dog title. Tracking is a fantastically fun dog sport! While most tracking is done in the cool months for snake safety, the fun come from allowing your teammate to do what comes naturally, having a great walk in the bush or paddocks, letting them pull on their leads and harness,

find a friend and get a treat at the end. Sincere thanks to our training pals and particularly Leonie as our very patient, wet and supportive tracklayer!



ELMARO CELTIC CROSS C.C.D. R.N. (Kuyan)

After having had seven leg/hip operations over the years and having obtained his CCD I thought that was as much as Kuyan and I could do together. However, being a very confident dog he did agility and loved it. We had one go at a NADAC trial but Kuyan found that as it was a timed event, his owner could not keep up, and it was not a workable option for us. He did it in class for fun still until I developed a permanent hip infection and was forced to use crutches for many months, and had to relinquish our spot to allow someone with normal legs the opportunity of progressing in this field. We were out of action from September 2011 to mid April 2012 so it was a long time between drinks as they say!

Kuyan managed to return to Pet Therapy which he has been doing for seven years and does regularly on a weekly basis. So we thought he was retired from the Club and along came Rally O which someone suggested we have a try at. He was glad to be back at the Club and enjoyed this new venture in which he could get encouraged and praised as he did something with me which was quite different from his previous experience with obedience.

We then entered two of the four open trials that Geelong put on and were delighted that we actually obtained passes in both. Geelong put on another Rally O trial shortly after and this time we entered the three on offer with fingers and anything else that was mobile enough to be crossed working overtime.

To our relief and surprise we obtained the third pass in our first trial of the day – yippee, title! We later competed in the remaining two trials and gained a further two passes. One happy dog and owner. Thanks to the instructors for sharing the sport of Rally O with us and to the trial secretary and her band of helpers for running the respective trials.

COPPERTOP PERFECT PITCHA C.C.D. R.N. (Piper)

After gaining her CCD Piper was retired because of my legs, as unlike Kuyan, her confidence levels were not high and she saw no value in going through or over any agility equipment for pure fun. So being able to bring her back out to have a try at this Rally O was great. She wanted to be doing something with me and because she got encouraged along the way that was even better still!

At times she would try and read the signs ahead of me and do something that was not listed, but on the whole she enjoyed herself. She competed in two of the trials that Geelong ran at its first Rally O offering and to her credit, she obtained passes in both for the day. We then entered the next three that Geelong ran shortly after hoping against hope that we could get that other pass in at least one. To her credit she obtained her third pass in the first trial of the day and title! Fabulous. Must admit her handler could not even walk her back to the car for over ten minutes after leaving the ring and doubted that I would have enough strength to take Kuyan in same ring later. We eventually coped.

Later Piper competed in the other two trials she was entered in originally and obtained a further two passes also so we were really over the moon. Happy dog and handler. Thanks to Wendy and her helpers yet again and to the trial secretary and organizers for being given the opportunity of competing.

Elaine Longshaw



YOU AND YOUR PET AT CHRISTMAS

A PET FOR CHRISTMAS

As we busily hurry around in the pre-Christmas chaos, it's easy to think of a pet as a novel and cute gift for a friend or family member. Think carefully about this choice of gift. Only give a pet to someone who you know wants a pet and is committed to caring for it throughout its life – not just for a few weeks.

We're all familiar with the sad story a few months after Christmas of puppies and kittens being dumped. Many of them were gifts where the novelty wore off.

CHRISTMAS HINTS FOR PETS

Beware of Christmas decorations being chewed or swallowed by enthusiastic pets! They can cause tummy upsets and at worst, a blocked bowel.

Don't overfeed your pet on Christmas treats. Remember that any sudden changes in a pet's diet can cause gastric upsets. Too much rich food could ruin your pet's Christmas. A small treat of a piece of turkey breast is always greatly appreciated though!



Don't feed cooked turkey and chicken bones: they can bring disaster. Only ever feed raw bones to your pet.

If the weather is warm, don't forget plenty of fresh water for your pet and heed all the warnings about cars and your family pet when the weather is hot. The temperature inside a car rises very dramatically even on a mild sunny day.

PETS ON HOLIDAYS

Heading off on holidays? Have you thought about what you'll do with your pet? It's important to include your pets in your holiday plans?

1. TAKING YOUR PET WITH YOU

If you're visiting friends or family you may be able to take your pet with you. Your pet will enjoy the holiday too.

There are a number of holiday homes, caravan parks and camping grounds where pets are allowed. There is a directory available with these places listed, copies available from many of the Vets, RACV and a copy is available to borrow from the Club Library.

If travelling by car ensure you have regular breaks for your pet to have a drink and go to the toilet. If your pet suffers from travel sickness, consult your vet about travel sickness medication. If your pet is travelling by plane or train, see your Vet about sedation, if required.

You and Your Pet at Christmas (continued)

2. BOARDING YOUR PET

There are a number of excellent boarding kennels for dogs and cats around Geelong. Book well in advance, as they get very busy during the holiday season. It's also a good idea to arrange to have a look at the kennel before you leave your pet there

It is usually possible to arrange for special requirements such as diet preferences and medications and all reputable boarding kennels will require a current vaccination certificate for your pet.

3. LEAVING YOUR PET AT HOME

Sometimes the easiest thing is to leave your pet at home, especially in the case of caged birds, fish, guinea pigs and rabbits. There are a number of options for ensuring your pet has adequate care while you're away: -

1. Ask a friend or neighbour to check and feed your pets once or preferably twice a day.
2. Arrange for a friend or family member to house sit for you. This has the added advantage of better security while you're away as well as having someone to empty the letterbox and water the lawn.
3. There are a number of professional house and pet minding services operating in the Geelong area. These people will either visit your house daily or occupy the house, while taking care of your pet and garden.



HOLIDAY HINTS FOR PETS

If taking your dog on outings in the car be sure to provide plenty of drink breaks, heat stress can occur easily in the warmer months. Carry a bottle of water for the dog in case you can't find a tap.

If walking your dog along the river or beach, be on the look out for dead fish, if your dog eats one he could end up with a very sore tummy.

Also be on the lookout for discarded bait attached to hooks. Dogs will grab the bait and end up with the hook embedded in the mouth.

Check local Council regulations regarding dogs on beaches and be aware of your dog if free running. Most dogs will interact happily when they meet outside their territory, but you don't want to spend your holiday at the Vet's as a result of a dogfight.

Remember to carry a plastic bag or similar to clean up after your dog, regardless of where you are. Regulations are making it more and more difficult for us to have free space with our pets and one of the main complaints is always the droppings left behind, so be a responsible dog owner!

UV radiation affects the skin of animals just as it affects humans; it causes sunburn, dermatitis and eventually skin cancer. Use zinc cream or one of the special preparations on the market for unpigmented skin, such as ears, nose and belly.

Check on the location of the local Vet when visiting an unfamiliar area, in case of emergency.

Summers' Troubles

Every year, many dogs succumb to issues due to the heat. Sick, As a Dog strives to help your pooch from becoming the next victim of any related issues.

Every year, many dogs are rushed into veterinary clinics suffering from heat stress, the result of which can be devastating. As always, prevention of this nasty condition is better than a cure.

Who is at risk?

If the temperate is very hot, any dog can be effected by heat stress. Some dogs may suffer from pre-existing ailments that will increase their risk, meaning they are more to suffer signs of heat exhaustion at lower temperatures or after shorter peiords of exposure. Obese dogs are more likely to get stressed in hot weather.

Panting is usually an effective way for a dog to cool down in summer. Obese dogs have a lot more fat, therefore a higher body weight, meaning they need to pant harder to cool down. Additionally, fat will accumulate in the back of the throat and around the neck and in the chest, reducing the dog's ability to pant. A vicious cycle begins; the dog has to use excessive energy to pant, resulting in overheating.

Elderly or very young dogs may not be able to compensate as well in hot weather. A number of medical conditions, such as heart disease, respiratory disease, diabetics and even pregnancy will reduce a dog's ability to cope with hot weather. If a dog runs out of water it may quickly become dehydrated.

Signs of heat stroke

It may be difficult to pinpoint the exact moment the problem begins. A dog may be having its usual play session in the park and seem more distressed afterwards. It may be restless, moving from place to place in order to cool down. In really severe cases, the dog may become weak or collapse. As the core body temperature increases, proteins can denature, or unravel, leading to destruction of cells. Muscle and blood cells are more likely to be damaged, releasing their pigments into the bloods stream. These changed are exacerbated by dehydration. This may lead to kidney and gut damage and, if the changes are severe enough, death.

Treatment

Urgent veterinary attention is always required if you suspect your dog has, or is developing, heat stroke. The key to treatment is quickly cool the body and drop the core body temperature before too much damage is done. Veterinary hospitals in hot climates have airconditioned wards. The dog may be placed in a water bath or sat in front of a fan. More serious causes may require an intravenous drip, which the bloodstream quickly as well as rehydrating the dog. This may halt the progression of cell damage and also help to protect the kidneys. Severely affected dogs may require several days in hospital to recover.

Prevention

Make sure your dog always has access to lots of drinking water, especially in hot weather, and plenty of shade. On really hot days, tick or compromised animals are better left inside in cool places, like the tiled bathroom or air-conditioned lounge. Most cases of heat stroke I have seen have been in young dogs that play like crazy in the park in really hot weather. If you own the kind of dog that would run till it dropped, avoid exercising in very hot weather. Alternatively, try leash walking in the hotter months, or exercise in the early or late parts of the day. It is mostly common sense. And finally, NEVER leave a dog in a car unattended in hot weather.

Summers' Troubles

Ticks

The Australian Eastern Seaboard is plagued by the paralysis tick, *Ixodes holocyclus*. This nasty little critter lives naturally on possums and Australian wildlife, where it does not really cause too much of a problem. However, our suburban dogs and cats have not evolved to cope with the tick and they suffer from its toxins.

The tick attaches and sucks blood, like any tick. However, it also injects a neurotoxin in its saliva. Ticks are usually attached for a couple of days to inject enough toxin into a dog for clinical signs to develop. Dogs become slightly weak in their hind legs and may look a bit wobbly. A dog that usually jumps up onto the couch with ease may struggle. A subtle change can be detected in the bark, which becomes hoarser and flatter. The dog may start to regurgitate, which is differentiated from vomiting by the lack of abdominal contractions (they tend to just open their mouths and spit out the food, without the drooling or forceful expulsion that is associated with vomiting). All these signs indicated that the different muscles in the body are being affected.

As the signs progress, the dog becomes progressively weaker and cannot stand or walk. Their breathing will become laboured and they may grunt. If left untreated, the toxin will lead to paralysis of the breathing muscles, slowing of the heart and increased blood pressure, and death.

Treatment

Treatment should be started early, as dogs often get worse before they get better, if left too late, affected dogs will die from respiratory failure. Antitoxin can be given intravenously to mop up any toxin that is still floating around in the system. Otherwise, treatment is based on supporting the dog and waiting for the effects of the toxin to wear off. Affected dogs need to be kept very quiet and still and may need sedation. Some may need antibiotics to treat a pneumonia, which can develop as a complication. Severe cases will need to be ventilated (placed on a breathing machine) as the muscles which control breathing are paralyzed. All will need excellent intensive nursing care.

Occasionally, dogs have an allergic reaction to the anti-toxin which, in itself, can also be very dangerous. Fortunately, this tends to be a rare side effect, so mostly the benefits of giving the antiserum outweighs the risks of not treating the disease.

Prevention

Naturally, prevention is better in the case of tick paralysis, it will take a couple of days before symptoms begin to show, so searching for ticks every day and removing them may reduce the risk of being poisoned. This may seem like a big job in a large or hairy dog! If you are on the East Coast or in a bushy area, consider shaving your dog's coat in summer; not only will tick searching be easier, but your dog will be cooler, too.

Early detection of signs is also important, if you suspect your dog may be affected, get to a vet straight away. It is much better that it be a false alarm than your dog actually suffering from your potentially life-threatening condition.

Anti-tick washes and spot-ons are also available from your vet and while these provide good protection, they tend not to be failsafe. Make the "tick check" a nightly occurrence and a bit of a treat for your dog (which will think they are getting a good massage). And don't forget to look in those darker places, like ears, around the muzzle under facial hair and under the arms.

OFF LEAD AREA

Members, please be aware of the rules to the Off Lead Area they are printed on the gates. This area is there for the benefit of all Members and in particular there is a time limit when other Members are waiting in line.

