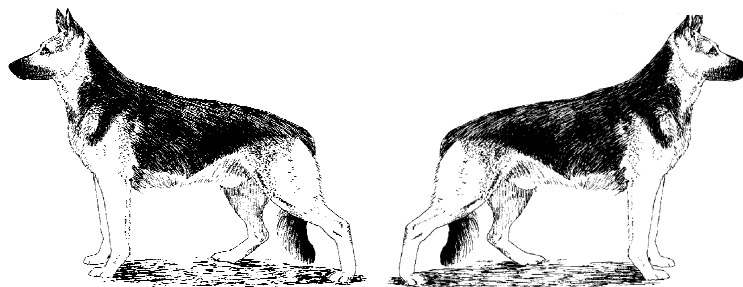
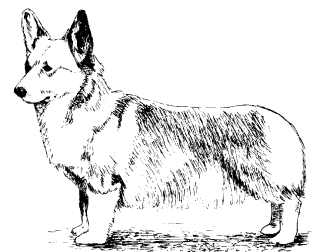
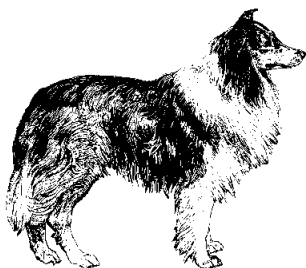
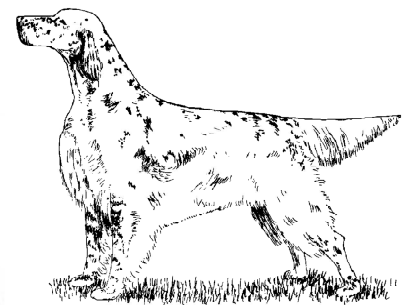


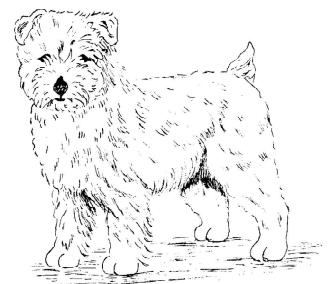
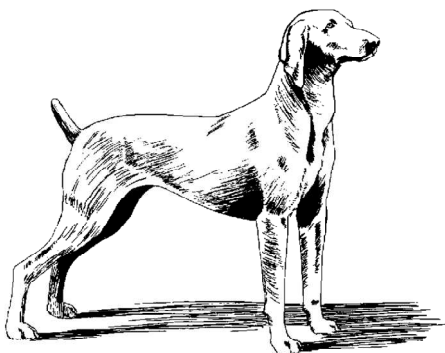
FAITHFULLY YOURS



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

October 2013
Issue No
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GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann

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VICE-PRESIDENT (2)	Brendan Jagtenberg		Administration
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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.

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If you would like to contribute articles etc. for publication in “Faithfully Yours”, please forward them to The Editor, c/- the above address, hand in at the Office or email to [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

October

Sunday	13 October	Normal Training
Tuesday	15 October	Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Sunday	20 October	Normal Training.
Monday	21 October	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm.
Sunday	27 October	Normal Training.

November

Sunday	3 November	Normal Training. Newsletter available
Sunday	10 November	Normal Training. End of Year Awards closing date
Friday	15 November	Newsletter closes for articles, report, etc
Sunday	17 November	Normal Training.
Monday	18 November	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm
Sunday	24 November	Normal Training.

December

Sunday	1 December	Normal Training
Tuesday	3 December	General Meeting – 8.00 pm unless otherwise advised
Sunday	8 December	Normal Training
Sunday	15 December	Last day of training for 2013. Fun Day including presentations.
Monday	16 December	Office closes

CLUB INSTRUCTORS

Vice President (Training)

Training Supervisor

Assistant Training Supervisors

Wendy Ganly

Helen Read

Tina Button



Obedience

Wendy Eck
John Shields
Victor Douglas

Val Moeller
Kath Devlin
Tony Stewart

Wendy Ganly
Christine Jagtenberg
Heather Miller

Agility

Trish Gavaghan
Bev Petrass
Susan Axe
Doreen Brooks

Glenys Murray
Vanessa Bridges
Carole Sparks

Alex Shackleton
Julie Cooke
Karalyn Bell

Rally O

Wendy Ganly

Flyball

Sally Hunt

DOGGY DISCIPLINES

In the following few pages are pieces from Members who, along with their four-legged friends, take part in various disciplines available to you and your dog. Besides the sense of achievement there is also the social aspect of meeting with people from other Clubs and being there to support one another. Trials are held not only here in Geelong but all over the State and you can travel as far as you please. Give it some thought and if you would like further information call into the Office.

OBEDIENCE TRIALLING

Well, Pam asked Libby and Libby asked me and I consulted with the family, and here I am, Django Mango, to tell you all about how much fun Obedience is.

I love it. Libby taught me heeling way way back when I was a puppy nuisance and it was way way fun! We'd walk and run and spin in teeny little circles and pretty soon I could heel like a big dog, sticking really close to Libby's side and looking looking looking at her. Sometimes she had treats for me and sometimes toys to throw and sometimes just games to play – so much fun.

She taught me heaps of other fun games too, like standing still as a statue while someone else patted me, and leaving me way down the paddock and calling me and I ran fast as a bullet to sit right in front of her. I never thought much of fetching, though she is very persistent and finally taught me to fetch Lavender our teddy bear and sticks that she throws away in the dam. That only took... well ... years.

Those smarty pants grrrls, Cady, Spark and Corey, really like fetching things and Libby has taught them to bring back all sorts of useless stuff – dumbbells and leather, wooden and metal articles and even boring old gardening gloves. They get SO excited about it – Libby chucks stuff away and they run out to get it and sometimes she runs away from them and they bounce on in so quick, plonk down in front of her and hold tight onto whatever they've fetched til Libby tells them to give it over.

They also get to learn jumping over stuff, big jumps and little low ones, sometimes bringing back stuff Libby threw over.

We all love learning stuff and playing our Obedience games. We've been to HEAPS of great places to learn more things, and all over the state to trial too. We meet special friends, make new friends and walk, swim and run around great places. We do lots of camping too, which we really enjoy.

Doing ace stuff with Libby is so much fun, and I know it has helped us to be such great buddies. I'm nearly 14 now and any chance I get I still love doing 'bedience.

Your friend,

Django M Hotchin (AKA Ch Lindenbrae Tarfin Aurora CD RN AD JDX)

13 years young.



DRESSAGE FOR DOGS

I never grew up with dogs – my mother was very scared of any dog she met; I was a horse-mad kid and teenager. The area of horsemanship that has always appealed to me for its precision and elegance is Dressage – it demonstrates the ultimate in teamwork and poetry in motion.

Twenty-four years ago, as the result of my husband wanting our children to grow up with a dog as he had, we took on our first dog, a Dalmatian we named ‘Max’. I set loads of rules about him being an ‘outside dog’, etc. etc, but he wheedled his way into my heart and became my first ‘fur kid’!

It became my job to take the pup to the local Obedience Club to learn some manners when he reached 5 months of age – he was a bold, happy-go-lucky dog who wanted to be friends with everyone – human and canine, but we didn’t know how to get him to do as we wanted him to as we were novice dog-owners. I started off using the method of the day, taught at the Club, which was ‘snap and release’ a check-chain to teach our boy what was required of him. Even harsher use of a check-chain was condoned for ‘bad’ behaviours. After almost 5 years of getting not-very-far with training, I decided that I would go back to basics and use positive reinforcement with him. We progressed as far as *almost* achieving a CDX Obedience Title before he died prematurely at 8 years old.

I had already got our second Dally ‘Dylan’ and now took on our third ‘Bella’. It occurred to me what was happening; I was enjoying Obedience training so much - especially with happy dogs that responded so well to food and toys in their training. The reason for my enjoyment was that it was the elegance and precision of the exercises that I loved – truly the canine equivalent of Dressage.

There are many other activities available to owners and their dogs these days, unlike two decades ago, but whereas they can offer speed, fun, excitement and the thrill of achieving Titles for the dogs, there is no greater satisfaction than competing in Obedience trialling and gaining Obedience Titles; the work and time needed for practicing all the skills pays off and that wonderful sense of achievement cannot be bettered.

Heather Miller

HERDING

If you have a working dog and would like to explore another discipline, then herding might be for you and your four legged friend. Herding is a great mental and physical exercise for working dogs and may improve all-round behaviour. In order to herd under the Australian National Kennel Club (ANKC) rules, you need a herding breed dog. Herding breeds include Australian Cattle Dogs, Australian Kelpies, Australian Shepherds, Collies (Bearded, Border, Rough and Smooth), German Shepherds, Belgian Shepherds, Rottweilers and many others. Crossbred dogs and dogs with no pedigree are also permitted. (A full list is available on the ANKC website.)

Jemma (Kelpie/Border Collie) and I have been herding since 2011. A member from GODC organised a “come and try” day for working dogs, Jemma showed some potential and we were hooked. As we live in the country on small acreage and have neighbours with sheep, I was able to expose Jemma to different sheep while learning all I could from my neighbour. We also attended a 2 day clinic in Wantirna under the guidance of Paul McPhail from Beloka Kelpie Stud and joined Geoff and Dave at Diggers Herding for training days. I have purchased 6 sheep for Jemma to practice on. The enjoyment Jemma gets from “doing what comes naturally” is a joy to watch. She loves agility and is very vocal in the ring, but on sheep “doing her thing” she is calm and quiet, focusing on the job at hand. We have passed the Instinct Test, Herding Test, Pre Trial Test, Herding Started Test and we are now working towards Intermediate which is quite challenging. It is mentally and physically tiring for the dog, but an amazing experience to watch a working dog that has never been exposed to stock to have that “instinct” kick in and start working.

The following information comes from Dogs Victoria website:

The rules and regulations for herding are located on the ANKC website www.ankc.org.au under ABOUT ANKC Ltd. Scroll down to Rules and all the information regarding herding can be found there.

Several breed clubs in Victoria offer herding events over the year or have members who can help you with advice, so that is often a starting point. You will find the breed clubs on the DOGS Victoria website. The Victorian Herding Association Inc is currently the only DOGS Victoria affiliated club dedicated to ANKC Herding in Victoria. Check out their website at www.victorianherdingassociation.com

There are places offering private herding tuition and useful internet groups which will keep you abreast of things, especially when and where the next herding event is being held, you might like to go and have a look before jumping in. Herding rules require that the dog has had some exposure to stock prior to entering, so exploring the avenues above will usually be the beginning for most dogs.

There are various levels of tests and trials, right up to herding champion. But at any level there is something special about being part of the dog-human team doing what the dog was meant to do.

Instinct test

all dogs must pass this test prior to moving on. This is performed in a small rounded area and the dog must show sustained interest in the stock whilst on a long lead, the lead may be dropped or removed at the discretion of the judge. The dog must be able to be called off the stock, come to its handler, and be able to be caught to pass. Only one pass is required to move up to the herding test.

Herding test

This is done off leash in a small area. The dog must be able to:- hold a pause or stop at the beginning, make two changes of direction around pylons which show controlled movement of the stock, stop when told, and come to the handler at the end of the test.

Two passes under two different judges are required to attain the herding tested certificate, the handler may do more tests for experience but two passes means you can move up to:

HERDING (continued)

Pre-trial

This is in a larger area with the first real experience for the dog in working the sheep through obstacles, changing direction, and putting them in a pen at the end. The handler is not allowed to touch the stock but may give the dog a lot of help and the judge will also assist with advice if needed.

Two pre-trial passes under two different judges will give the dog its pre-trial tested title

Herding Trials

Trials are conducted over three different Courses, A, B & C. Course A is a smaller area, Course B has more space and Course C is conducted over a larger area to test all the skills a dog might need to have in the daily management of stock. Some dogs or breeds are more suited to one course or another but a dog can compete in any or all.

Details of courses and what has to be achieved are in the ANKC Herding Rules as above

Each course has three levels, started, intermediate and advanced, a dog requires three passes under two different judges to attain a title at each level as it moves up the ladder to the highly respected herding champion title.

Robyn Youl, GODC Librarian has information on herding and more information can be found on the internet.

Julie Hole & Gemma



TRACKING

I began my tracking with Branko a few years ago competitively. I became interested in the sport when Branko loved to walk everywhere with his nose on the ground. Wendy Ganly first did a little training over a few weeks with a small group, it wasn't till sometime after that I thought to actually give it a go. I have now gone through all levels of Tracking and now working through Track and Search. I have posed a few questions below and answered them to give you more information about the sport I enjoy with Branko.

“What is tracking?”

Tracking is a sport to do with your dog/s, it can be done by any breed and any size of dog. It is a seasonal sport and in Victoria the tracking season is generally from April – September.

"How do I train for tracking?"

There are different methods in training your dog to track, its a natural instinct and your dog was able to do it from birth. In training we are teaching the dog to follow a designated scent. The most common way to start in tracking is to attend a seminar or course and then form into a small self-help group to do regular training. Tracking Club of Victoria hold workshops at the start of every season. Unlike obedience or conformation you cannot easily take group training, as the space necessary is quite large and the time taken for each dog is too great to make it viable to train more than a few dogs at a time. Hence most people find it more practicable either to do most of their training on their own or in small groups. Whichever way you train, you will be constantly surprised at the ability of the dog to track and to differentiate various scents.

TRACKING (continued)

"How many different tests are required?"

In order to qualify for Tracking Dog (T.D.) there are three tests. Test 1 is 400 metres with two turns. Tests 2 and 3 are both 800 metres with a minimum of two turns. There will be two articles placed on the track. The dog must find at least one article and the tracklayer to pass. For Tests 1 and 2 the handler is able to nominate the tracklayer. After Test 2, all tracklayers will be unknown to the dog. To qualify for Tracking Dog Excellent (T.D.X.) there are three tests. Tests 4 and 5 are 1000 metres with a minimum of four turns and Test 6 is 1200 metres with a minimum of five turns. The Tracking Champion (T.Ch.) test (Test 7) is 1200 metres with a minimum of six turns. The age of the tracks varies between a minimum of 20 minutes for Test 1 to a minimum of 90 minutes for Test 7.

"What do you need?"

Dogs are required to wear a suitable harness and be attached to a long lead (a minimum length of 10 meters), good supply of old socks to use as articles. I find explorer socks are good to have, and have a bag full in my tracking bag. A tarp or hoochie to hide in when you lay tracks for others. Be mindful that the cover you use shouldn't stand out so no bright color. I bought my hoochie at an army disposal shop. Some other essential items are a good pair of hiking boots, coat, gators, wet weather pants.

"Do I reward my dog?"

When first you begin training you reward the dog frequently, you can do this along your track by placing a piece of food in the article on the ground. Gradually you phase this out as you dog becomes more aware of following the scent. It is also good to reward your dog at the end of the track, I usually use a small My Dog tin as they are easy to carry and mess free. Some times people will use a container of chicken or similar. While also talking about rewards it is also etiquette to reward the track layer for laying out the track and waiting sometimes in extremely wet and cold conditions, just a little gift such as a scratchie tickets, chocolate bar, or hand warmers



Leonie

A Day at Flyball

Motivator, dog treats, harness, wading pool, water, cool coat, crate.

Chair, snacks, gazebo, drinks, raffle money, running order, membership number, coat, sun hat.

Pack car and drive to a fun filled day full of excitement.

On arrival the dogs hear the testing of the lights and know exactly what they are in for. The unique sound encourages the dogs to compete. All dogs are very excited and ready to compete. They want to race; they want to make their owner happy.



Everyone feels the same “*EXCITED*”. Will my dog do well, will my dog help the team, will we run clean, and will we get a great cross over.



The Race

We hear, “Stewards ready, Box Loaders Ready, Line them up, Start Dogs Ready”, then the lights take over, both dogs and owners are trying hard to do their very best. Start dogs are aiming for a 0.00 start and all others want a close cross but not break, this will give the best possible time and chance to win. Box loader need to remember which dog to load ball for either on right or left, little ball, normal ball or rubber ball. Ball Shaggers are ready to pick up balls after each dog returns so there are less distractions for the dogs. A race of 4 dogs can be 19 seconds up to 40 seconds; however average is around 24 seconds. This is a very fast and frenzied pace. After each race (either 3 or 5 heats to a race) has concluded we thank our opponents for a good race, then the very excited dogs head straight for the wading pool to cool down. Team members discuss the race with each other. We laugh at some of the things that happened and we discuss how we can do better next time.

During the day we see some very fast dogs, some very slow dogs, and some that just don't want to leave their owners. There are tall dogs and short dogs, some very seasoned and some competing for their very first time. Competition is a round robin in various divisions depending on seed time of your entry. Therefore all friendly dogs are welcome in this sport.

Time to put the feet up and relax with friends until next race.

There is a great feeling of accomplishment and enjoyment when our dogs do exactly as we ask them to do. Frustration when you make a mistake with your dog. We always remember when a mistake happens it is the owners fault not the dogs.

I always think about the how much my dog has learnt to enable them to compete in this unique sport. They had to learn to come, and then learn to be sent away from me and retrieve. They learned to jump hurdles in sequence, they learned not to be distracted by dogs running just 10 feet away in the other lane (no chasing allowed) they also learned not to be distracted by crowds of spectators, or balls laying or rolling around the ground the learned to give up the ball and learned only be interested in the task at hand. This is a fantastic accomplishment for any dog.



Love to see you in the GODC Flyball Class so work hard to complete your merit class then come on over to the Flyball Class.

Sally Hunt

RALLY OBEDIENCE

I personally think it's the best thing since Sliced Bread, however you will need to decide yourself after you've tried it.

How would you like to be able to talk and touch your dog while working through signs like "Sit, Stand, Down your dog and walk around your dog, get your dog to halt, take one step to the right and call your dog to you and continue heeling together." Very cool don't you think. You can even reward your dog in the Novice class.

Sound interesting, well, come along on Sunday mornings and have a look at the girls and boys doing their thing around a Rally course. You'll hear lots of laughter, some astonishing 'how to do it' remarks as well as some really funny examples of 'how to do it' like our first one which was called the 'Washing Machine.' Sadly we didn't have a camera or video to capture some of the antics.

We have a number of members who, without Rally, wouldn't be able to enjoy coming along to enjoy time spent with other members and their dogs doing a fun activity. Those in the Rally class compete often at Rally trials and have gained many titles like Rally Novice (RN), Rally Advanced (RA), Rally Excellent (RE), Rally Advanced and Excellent (RAE).

Classes are held on Sunday mornings - 10.15am till 1.00pm Sunday afternoon.

You'll need to have been a Merit class member for the full block and not necessarily gained all the three ticks.

Interested? contact me or the office for further information.

Wendy Ganly



PET THERAPY

Pet therapy dogs and their handlers make regular visits to mostly Aged Care Facilities and other residential care facilities/programs. In some areas there are a small percentage that actually go into some of the hospitals and spend time with those recovering from operations or those people/children that have life threatening illnesses. Those that attend the Aged Care facilities are meeting with the frail aged; those with illnesses making them totally dependent on wheelchair mobility; people with dementia and or Alzheimers; and those who are physically unable to care for their own personal health needs on a day to day basis. What the majority have in common is that they like/love animals with many having left a beloved pet in someone else's care in order that they could be admitted to the facility they reside in. Some have even become recluses because they have no family or close friends that they are in contact with and often do not wish to communicate with strangers. However, these same people will often reach out to touch a dog as it is non-judgmental and this same dog is often able to sense the person's pain and personal grief and be that missing friend even if only for a few minutes.

Other residents want to not only stroke the dog and interact with it, but to have a discussion with the handler on a variety of subjects, and others that one visits on a regular basis will tend to make sure they don't attend other facility activities just to make sure they do not miss the visit of their doggy mate.

PET THERAPY (continued)

There are also a few that want to look and NOT touch but want to chat with the team, and there are a few that due to physical disabilities are unable to touch. For those who can reach out and touch, it's a well known fact that petting an animal really can lower a person's blood pressure and enhance the quality of life.

A good therapy dog is patient and calm with everybody, as is its handler. The dog should be relaxed and outgoing with strangers for example, and amenable to constant petting and moving around in a distracting environment.

Some facilities set up programs where dogs visit monthly while others may wish to have weekly or fortnightly visits. The programs involve a commitment by both dog and handler on a regular basis. Dogs are tested for suitability by certified testers attached to the organizations administering these programs.

All handlers must undergo Police checks but that is something that is a necessary in all volunteer roles these days whether you want to be a firefighter, SES rescuer or work in a local Opportunity Shop; and these are renewable every three years or so.

The only down side is when you lose a resident you have visited who has become a friend or perhaps is a relative of someone you know. Even the dogs miss their special friends when they pass, especially so if that person shared the occasional biscuit with them. It is not something suitable for every dog and handler, but those who are involved, are glad that they could make someone smile just by being there with their wonderful doggy companions.

Elaine Longshaw

AGILITY

Agility is one of the activities we offer at Geelong Obedience Dog Club once dogs have completed their Merit. As well as having fun each Sunday learning how to negotiate the various obstacles on an agility course, eventually you might like to enter agility competitions and test yourself against the course and other competitors.

We are lucky to have two associations in Victoria which offer agility trials and members are able to compete in either or both.

The Victorian Canine Association has been offering agility trials since its first one held at our own club in 1985. Trials are held all over the state and offer opportunities to compete at Novice, Excellent and Masters levels in Agility and Jumping, as well as agility games such as Snooker, Gamblers and Strategic Pairs.

Each year the VCA holds a state trial where the top 10 agility dogs compete against each other for the title of Top Agility / Jumping dog.

The second agility association offering trials in Victoria is NADAC (North America Dog Agility Council). Many GODC members have joined NADAC and compete regularly at trials held locally and at other venues within Victoria. NADAC offers opportunities to compete at Novice, Open and Elite levels in Regular Agility, Jumping, Chances, Touch 'n Go, Weavers, Tunnellers and Hoopers.

Each year NADAC holds its championships which are held over three and a half days and is open to all its members.

Both associations offer titles at the various levels so there are plenty of goals for which to aim if you like to compete against others or just against the judge's course.

Whether you choose to compete or just take part in agility classes each week, you are sure to have a lot of fun with your canine partner and with other like minded people.

TITLES

TCh Zenchel Fromelles Honour RN **Tracking Champion 'Wyatt' Rally Novice**

After frequently forgetting to submit title brags for Wyatt's achievements - I find myself writing about FOUR titles he has gained since April!

Wyatt started his Tracking career at the Tracking Club of Victoria's trial in Officer on 13th April this year and made hard work of his pass under judge Gary Fainges. Here lies the problem of training with limited people as when you are being judged- there is at least 3 people following you (judge, steward and a helper). There may even be observers known as the gallery. Well Wyatt was so excited that people were coming with him on a track that he kept going back to 'check in' with the judge. Gary said we had the patience of a saint as it took a lot of effort to get Wyatt to return to work. But he did it well- finding the article, corner pegs (chewing them) and our track layer, Leonie- who was sure we were never coming!



We stayed at Officer and participated in the TCV's Workshop weekend and many things improved from there.

Our next passes to gain his Tracking Dog (TD) title were:

Knox ODC's trial at Haddon (12 May) where he passed with a 'Good' grade under Judy Pillinger
German Shepherd/ Ballarat DOC trial at Haddon (9 June) where he passed with a 'Good' grade under judge Necia Lynch

Tracking has allowed us to travel far and wide this season and an example of this is where we got our next 3 passes to gain Wyatt's Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) title. These trials were a lot of fun but also challenging. Being the middle of winter Bendigo was a little cold at 0 degree to start the mornings but Coldstream lived up to its name being freezing minus 5!! We went to Bendigo ODC's trial at Woodstock-on-Loddon (15 June) where he gained a 'Pass' grade under Rob Tester. Eastern Suburbs ODC trial at Coldstream (23 June) where he gained a 'Pass' grade under Gary Fainges. TCV's trial at Inverleigh (17 Aug) where he gained a 'Good' grade under Lynn Klecka.

Tracking Champion TCh:

The icing on the cake came on the 24th Aug 2013 when Wyatt passed his Track 7 at the State Tracking Trial at Inverleigh under judge Gary Fainges with a grade of Good. This makes him Tracking Champion Zenchel Fromelles Honour RN. It was pretty special to have the judge who awarded him his first pass be able to judge his final track and award him his Championship!

We have so many people to thank for assisting us in such an achievement in one tracking season, particularly those in the Club who got us started in tracking a few years ago - Wendy Ganly, Janelle Convery and Alex Shackleton and Wyatt's most favourite tracklayer ever, our team travelling companion and cheer squad leader: Leonie Kelleher. Thanks to all who have wished us well, supported and celebrated with us. I am a very proud Fur Mum and frequently surprised at the abilities that our dogs have which can be "unleashed"! Now onwards to Track and Search competitions next year.

Titles Brag 2 (continued)

Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX)

Reuben started this tracking season with his Tracking Dog title and our general aim was to get to Tracking Dog Excellent. It had taken us two seasons to do our first 3 tracks so I did think this was a high bench mark.

We started well with two passes in May but then had a bit of a setback with a couple of bombs. The breakthrough came up in Bendigo with a couple of very helpful observations about Reuben's body language and giving him confidence by a judge and an experienced competitor and we finally got his Tracking Dog Excellent in July. The passes were:

Knox ODC's trial in Haddon (12 May) 'Good' under Judy Pillinger

Golden Retriever Club of Victoria (25 May) 'Pass' under Helen Den Hartog

Gippsland ODC in Morwell (20 July) 'Pass' under Denise Crystal



So up to the big Track 7 now and this was achieved on the second attempt at the State Dog trial in Inverleigh under judge Gary Fainges (25 Aug) with a 'Pass' grade. He is now proud to sport his new title of Tracking Champion Lucyollie Reubinallblack RE.

So as you can see my dogs Reuben, Wyatt and I have put in a lot of hours, miles and effort in going to many, many trials! Gippsland, Bendigo, Geelong, Hastings, Cranbourne, Melbourne, Ballarat... And this doesn't count the Confirmation Dog Shows we have also been to. Whilst my garden may suffer- I wouldn't have it any other way. I truly feel blessed that we are capable to be able to spend my weekends this way with dogs, good times and great friends!!

Cheers and thanks

Rebecca, TCh Reuben RE and TCh Wyatt RN Kearney



TRAINING FOOD FOR YOUR DOG

Salmon blondie

1 cup grated tasty cheese
220gm tin of salmon
500gm of cottage cheese

Mix all together well with a bamix, to resemble a mousse consistency.
Add 1 cup of whole meal flour, mix well through wet ingredients.
Line a slice tin with paper and firmly press down mix into tin
Bake in oven for about 30 minutes @ 180 c

RALLY ADVANCED BY TWO –



Our handler has slackened off and we may have only got four passes at the last Rally Trial, but at the previous Trial at the Club we got eight passes – wow! Hard day's yakka!! Apart from that both of us obtained our Rally Advanced Titles at the Club Trials, and that was some teamwork by us all. We both like being in the rings at each Trial even if it wears out our handler regularly, and I know, we all have difficulty reading the signs at times!

If our ten legs are working next year we will be back to have another go at these trial rings.

Sincerely,

'Kuyan' alias Elmaro Celtic Cross CCD RA and 'Piper' alias Coppertop Perfect Pitcha CCD RA and our handler is Elaine L.

TCh Brynfield Branko RN TSD

I have had the pleasure this year to compete in Track and Search trials with Branko. We entered 4 trials, unfortunately he were called off our first attempt at test 2 as Branko took a wrong turn (kangaroo interest outweighed finding our track layer). Track and search trials aren't as common as the normal tracking trials so it's a matter of going where they are held. The reason they are not as common is there are a lot more helpers needed, especially as you work through the levels, every track has to have safety stewards and minglers.

I would like to say a special thank you to my support crew Rebecca Kearney, Reuben and Wyatt, they have been with me at every trial and it,s been great having a friend to cheer me on at presentations . To the Judges who have given myself so many lovely comments on how Branko works while tracking , it certainly is encouraging ☺

Test 1 TCV Haddon - good

Test 2 Warragul & District Kennel & Obedience Club
- Pass

Test 3 Gippsland Obedience Dog Club - very good

Tracking season has now finished for 2013, and now it is time to wash the harness and lead ready to work towards our next titles in 2014, the rules for Tracking and Track and Search will be changing in 2014, so it will be interesting to see what changes have been made.



**Geelong ODC – Rally Trial Results
Saturday 31 August 2013**

Trial A

Ch Lahej Kelbtal Ketch CCD	Pharoah Hound	Monlaird Kennels	73	Nov	5th
Gypsyrose	Associate	Skye McCraw	73	Nov	6th
Ch Goorambat The Manor CDX RAE NRA AD JD SD GD SPD	Golden Retriever	P & J Convery	99	Adv B	1st
"Highest Score In Trial"			"Highest Scoring Geelong Member"		
Monlaird Star Of Avalon CCD RE AD JDX SPD	Border Collie	P Gavaghan	86	Adv B	7th
Coppertop Perfect Pitcha CCD RA	Dobermann	Ms E Longshaw	72	Adv B	9th
Ch Goorambat The Manor CDX RAE NRA AD JD SD GD SPD	Golden Retriever	P & J Convery	99	Exc B	1st
Monlaird Star Of Avalon CCD RE AD JDX SPD	Border Collie	P Gavaghan	94	Exc B	3rd

Trial B

Brandymuzza	Associate	Karan & Kelly Hourticolon	96	Nov	2nd
Ch Lahej Kelbtal Ketch CCD	Pharoah Hound	Monlaird Kennels	82	Nov	12th
Tootsie Brown CCD RA	Associate	Margaret Brown	NQ	Exc A	3rd
Ch Goorambat The Manor CDX RAE NRA AD JD SD GD SPD	Golden Retriever	P & J Convery	99	Adv B	1st
Poruse Diamond Dealer CD RE TD HTM.N FDCH	Aust Shepherd	Wendy Ganly	95	Adv B	4th
Monlaird Star Of Avalon CCD RE AD JDX SPD	Border Collie	P Gavaghan	90	Adv B	8th
Coppertop Perfect Pitcha CCD RA	Dobermann	Ms E Longshaw	79	Adv B	11th
Elmaro Celtic Cross CCD RA	Dobermann	Ms E Longshaw	78	Adv B	12th
Ch Goorambat The Manor CDX RAE NRA AD JD SD GD SPD	Golden Retriever	P & J Convery	100	Exc B	1st
"Highest Score In Trial"			"Highest Scoring Geelong Member"		
Monlaird Star Of Avalon CCD RE AD JDX SPD	Border Collie	P Gavaghan	92	Exc B	7th
Poruse Diamond Dealer CD RE TD HTM.N FDCH	Aust Shepherd	Wendy Ganly	82	Exc B	10th

Trial C

Brandymuzza	Associate	Karan & Kelly Hourticolon	99	Nov	2nd
"Highest Scoring Geelong Member"					
Ch Lahej Kelbtal Ketch CCD	Pharoah Hound	Monlaird Kennels	96	Nov	5th
Gypsyrose	Associate	Skye McCraw	83	Nov	11th
Tootsie Brown CCD RA	Associate	Margaret Brown	79	Exc A	2nd
Monlaird Star Of Avalon CCD RE AD JDX SPD	Border Collie	P Gavaghan	93	Adv B	2nd
Ch Goorambat The Manor CDX RAE NRA AD JD SD GD SPD	Golden Retriever	P & J Convery	89	Adv B	4th
Poruse Diamond Dealer CD RE TD HTM.N FDCH	Aust Shepherd	Wendy Ganly	84	Adv B	5th
Elmaro Celtic Cross CCD RA	Dobermann	Ms E Longshaw	70	Adv B	7th
Ch Goorambat The Manor CDX RAE NRA AD JD SD GD SPD	Golden Retriever	P & J Convery	98	Exc B	1st
Monlaird Star Of Avalon CCD RE AD JDX SPD	Border Collie	P Gavaghan	85	Exc B	5th

Old Dogs

When your companion ages.
When the joyous romp of vibrant youth
Slows to a tedious shuffle.
When muzzle and paws are grizzled.
When laughing eyes are clouded blue.
When hearing fades and her world is silent.
Guide her along the confusing path of age.
You are the one who grieves for the future
she still lives for the present
and for you.

In Bacchus Marsh an elderly lady used to walk her two ancient dogs every day. Now she exercises only one dog each morning. Although she grieves for the dog who died she is glad he went while she was still here to comfort him. She hopes for the same for her surviving companion. Racked and hunched with arthritis she walks slowly, head bowed. One gnarled hand holds the lead – the other the stick upon which she depends for balance. These two remaining old friends have been on a long journey through life and still enjoy travelling slowly together

The old adage is that every 7 years of a dog's life equals one for a human. This is not quite the case. Different sizes of dogs have different life spans. The life span of a Papillon – a miniature spaniel is 17 years. The life expectancy of a Great Dane is under 10 years. The Pedigree pet food site in the Reference section will enable you to calculate your dog's age in human years.

As dogs age they don't just show the physical symptoms, they also suffer a decline in cognitive functioning. Yes, dogs, like people, do get Alzheimers. They may lose touch with the world and can demonstrate bizarre behaviours. The owner who has consigned the dog to the backyard and has not wasted time training or enjoying the wonderful companionship a dog can offer will probably not notice much change at all. For those of us who have opened our hearts to a dog and earned an obedient, dedicated loyal companion, the transition to owning a cognitively dysfunctional dog will be hard. Your dog's annual vaccination with its accompanying vet.check is an opportunity to ask for help and acquire a check list of physical symptoms that may require veterinary assistance. Some vets believe that after a certain age your dog does not require vaccinations – if this is the case, it is wise not to let the annual check-up lapse. Don't put any change that occurs down to 'just old age'. See your vet if your senior pet suffers:

Arthritis pain
Bad breath/bleeding gums
Dramatic change in weight or appetite
Change in urine output/thirst
Hair loss itchy skin
Sudden blindness/head tilt/staggering
Or any other condition that arouses your concern.

I have enjoyed the final days of many old dogs – like people, they have all aged 2 differently. My first dog, a Fox Terrier was a true gladiator to the end of his days. He dedicated his off lead life to exterminating rodents and poultry, pursuing cats with reckless abandon and brawling with other dogs.

Old Dogs

Born before the distemper vaccine, he was a survivor of the dreaded affliction. It left him with what was called 'The Palsy', a perpetual limb tremor. Paddy was still running beside my bike at the age of 15. I lost him to a sudden onset of pneumonia. He rode in the basket on my bike on that final journey to the vet. I was 16. Dying, he still eyeballed all creatures sharing the waiting room with him. Other dogs have suffered a decline in cognitive functioning as they aged.

This check list may be of assistance. The websites, from which the information is drawn will assist you.

Confusion: Pacing, whining. Not recognising you or others. Standing staring – will be startled when touched. Is confused about the location of doors, her bed, what to do when a car door is opened to travel.

Spatial disorientation: Walks into corners in the house. Difficulty finding doors. Gets lost in own backyard. Found Tasha [14 y.o.] with her head against the lemon tree. No longer safe off lead when walking – can take off in the wrong direction. Finally caught Strumpet [C.D.] [Age 15] after a 2k pursuit through Bacchus Marsh. She simply started running at the off-lead reserve and did not heed either calls or the dog whistle. She had NEVER done that before. Must be on lead at all times outside your home.

Social Behaviour: Formerly social with other pets – may become aggressive toward them. 'Space guarding' – bed, food bowl, space around owner. May snap at familiar people. May become intolerant of previously known small children. Unprovoked aggression, snarling, snapping. [Check this out as it may be symptomatic of pain. 'Charlie' bit his young companion – on examination diagnosed with a brain tumour.] Separation anxiety may develop – becomes 'clingy' and obviously stressed if left – in the yard, in the house, in the car. Whines or barks if left or crated.

Activity: Increased or Repetitive: Continuously asking to be let outside, then barking to be let back in. Barking for no apparent reason or cause. Whining. Pacing. Obsessive "patrolling" of the house or yard. If you feed at a certain place – visiting there expectantly, even excitedly at any time of the day in anticipation of being fed. May vocalise expectation. May become obsessively greedy. May stand, stare into space and bark obsessively.

Sleep cycles: sleeps or dozes far more frequently. May be difficult to rouse. May become active at night disrupting the sleep patterns of the rest of the household. May be more prone to dreaming – whining, twitching. May wake disorientated.

Learning & Memory: Responsiveness may decrease. Incontinence may become an issue – defecates and urinates inside without asking to be let out. Slow to respond or not responsive at all to verbal command, hand signals, clicker or whistle. This is not disobedience. Change in routine may be extremely stressful because what is familiar is no longer fully comprehended.

To calculate the age of your dog in human terms
www.pedigree.com/All-Things-Dog/Dog-Age-Calculator

Old Dogs

3

General References:

www.asPCA.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/behaviorproblems-older-dogs

<http://vetmedicine.about.com/cs/doggeneral/a/caringseniordog.htm>

www.dummies.com/how-to/content/handling-the-problems-of-old-age-in-yourdog.html

For further information: Search Terms: old dog illness diagnosis

The Final Decision.
When all the laughing and romping is done.
When the sunlight is cold grey pain.
Put aside your anguish.
Free me from the misery
that chains my spirit.
I know, even if you do not
There is a place,
beyond the sky and the stars
where a dog can run free
and bark on the wind
waiting
to be reunited.

If fortune smiles your old friend will slip from sleep to death in the security of home. The decision to put a pet down is yours and yours alone to make. If you cannot manage yourself – deputise a friend to take your dog to the vet for you. Your old dog's quality of life and your ability to sustain your dog in a happy and comfortable old age are the twin factors. Dogs have no concept of death – 'green dream' as it is called - is euphoric and your dog slips quietly and happily away leaving you behind. Your vet is your dog's partner in life and in death. Keep your clinic involved as your dog ages. Your vet may be able to prescribe medication to ease many of the symptoms of ageing. If cost is a factor, your vet is also a realist. Be open about your capacity to meet mounting vet bills. Financial stress will sour your relationship with your canine companion. Putting a dog to sleep because you cannot afford to keep it comfortably alive is a humane option.

4

Grief is part of love. It has been a long and eventful journey before parting. Do not deny yourself closure. Those who have loved and lost a dog will understand. Do not listen to those who blithely remark “Well, it was only a dog after all.” “Get another pup.”

Resolution takes time.

www.petloss.com

This site is dedicated to those who are experiencing the loss of a pet or wish to help others experiencing grief at the departure of a loved companion.

Robyn Youl
Librarian