FAITHFULLY YOURS



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March 2014 Issue No 251

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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 <u>Pam Convery at janelle.convery@bigpond.com</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>March</u> Sunday Sunday Saturday Sunday	2 March 9 March 15 March 16 March	Normal Training– Newsletter available LABOUR DAY WEEKEND. NO TRAINING NADAC Trial Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc Normal training.
Monday	17 March	Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm.
Sunday	23 March	Normal training.
Sunday	30 March	Normal training
<u>April</u> Sunday Sunday Tuesday Sunday Monday Tuesday Sunday	6 April 13 April 15 April 20 April 21 April 22 April 27 April	Normal training Newsletter available. Fun Day including presentations. Newsletter closes for articles, reports etc Easter Sunday. No training. Office Closed. Induction night for new members Term 2. Training commences for all Members.

CLUB INSTRUCTORS

Vice President (Training) Training Supervisor Assistant Training Supervisors

Jim Ball Wendy Ganly Helen Read Tina Button

Val Moeller

Kath Devlin

Tony Stewart



Obedience

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Trish Gavaghan **Bev Petrass** Susan Axe **Doreen Brooks**

Agility **Glenys** Murray Vanessa Bridges Carole Sparks

Sandra O'Hara

Rally O

Wendy Ganly

Flyball

Wendy Ganly Christine Jagtenberg Heather Miller

Alex Shackleton Julie Cooke Karalyn Bell

Sally Hunt

5 minutes with Jim Ball

Family.

I am the middle child of three.

Q. Who am i?

A. Started out on a farm in South Australia, did some time in the Army, and went overseas for 12 months. Had a job in a print shop working in the store before working in the carpet and furniture industry. I am a 67 year old retired Quality & Training Supervisor. I worked for a subsidiary of Goodyear Australia for just over 30 years. I mainly did the QA within the plant and did other things such as claims and product liability. I had to train the associates in their respective jobs within the plant.

Q. Married.

A. Yes married to Nancye for 44 years. Have one daughter, Kathy, who lives in Port Fairy. She works in the Fish & Chip shop there. Some of you have met her while camping there.

Q. Plans for 2014.

A.I will be working with the other Committee Members to make this a successful year, as it is our 60th year. Personally for this year I have booked for holidays, for my wife and I, in March to go to Tasmania for a week and on return go to Echuca. In September, I have booked 2 weeks in Hawaii, for myself and my wife.

Jim Ball – 1st Vice President

CAR BOOT SALE:

NEW Date for the CAR BOOT SALE is SAT 22/03/2014.



Sites available \$10.00 per site.

Enquiries to Dot Linford on 52531835 or see any Committee Member. No matter how you play with your dog, you might have the type of dog who tends to get overly aroused when she gets excited. Just like some children, some dogs come hard-wired to spiral into a state of emotional overload in seemingly low-key situations. Other dogs, especially adolescents, haven't yet perfected their emotional thermostats, and need their owners to help them learn to keep their emotions in check. In either case, all dogs need their owners to know the signs of over arousal, and to know how and when to calm things down before they begin to spiral out of control.

Begin by carefully observing your dog during regular play. Watch the way her body moves, and the way he eyes look. Listen carefully to her barks and play growls, if she's the kind of dog who vocalizes while playing. Become familiar with her normal repertoire, because dogs tend to do the same kinds of things when they get overly aroused, just more so. In general, their movements are faster, their leaps are higher, and their barks are louder. Sometimes you'll notice that their movements look less coordinated and less precise, as though they are physically spinning out of control (which they are!). If a dog has been play-growling, listen for the growls to get lower and to sound more threatening. On the other hand, listen for barks to become more rapid and, ironically, higher-pitched.

Some dogs add actions to their regular bag of tricks when they become overly aroused. Dogs who were politely playing tug or fetch might start leaping up and nipping at your arm. Be especially careful if your dog starts leaping up at you repeatedly, perhaps pushing off you with her forepaws, punching you with her muzzle, or clacking her teeth together while her head is directed toward you. These are dogs who might be losing emotional control or are becoming over aroused, and are telling you that you're going to be the target of their pent-up, uninhibited, energy. If this happens, it's time to put your inner playground monitor on duty. We'll explain how to do that in the next section!

Other signs that a dog is overly aroused include a retraction in the corners of the mouth as though the dog is panting from extreme overheating (but it's not that hot). Another good predictor of over arousal is a dog who simply can't stop doing what she's doing—you call; ask her to sit, come, or lie down; and she continues leaping or barking in an out-of-control kind of way. Fixed and rounded eyes can also be a sign that a dog is emotionally overloaded, and are another good reason to develop a precise picture of how your dog looks when playing appropriately.

There is another important behavior to watch for that is not necessarily related to arousal, but is potentially dangerous. If your dog has a closed mouth, along with a stiff and still body, she may be sending you a warning that a bite is on the way. Dogs who are playing politely will often stop for a second or two and look at you (a kind of self-imposed doggy time-out that prevents over arousal) but their bodies stay loose and relaxed and their mouths are usually open. However, if your dog stops all play, goes stiff and silent, and her eyes become hard and round while she stares directly at you, immediately try to break the mood by saying "Want your dinner?" or "Let's go for a walk!" and walk away. Your next step is to pick up the phone and call a good trainer or behaviorist.

If you are unsure if your dog's behavior is within the bounds of normal play, don't hesitate to work with an experienced trainer or behaviorist. It's not uncommon when you are first learning to read visual signals to start worrying about postures and expressions you never noticed before. It happens in many fields—young biology students discover that the world is awash in bacteria and begin to obsess about what's on the doorknob. Medical students memorize the symptoms of obscure diseases and begin to imagine they have come down with them. So, if a little knowledge begins to feel like a dangerous thing, go out of your way to work with someone more experienced who can help you decipher your observations.

(This is an excerpt from the new book, <u>"Play Together, Stay Together: Happy and Healthy Play</u> <u>Between People and Dogs</u>" by Karen B. London, Ph.D. and Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D.)

NADAC Agility Event Calendar 2014

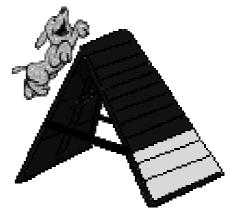
Feb. 22-23 2014	May 17 2014
Moorabbin, VIC	Geelong, VIC
Sat : Extreme Games Challenge 2 XBR, 2 XCC, 2 XGT,	2 Reg, 2 J, 2 Tn
2 XHP Sun : Extreme Games Challenge 2 XBR, 2 XCC, 2 XCC,	2 Reg, 2 J, 2 III
	Jun. 14-15 2014
2 XGT, 2 XHP	
Mar. 8 10 2014	Moorabbin, VIC
Mar. 8-10 2014	Sat: 2 CC, 2 Reg, 2 Wv
Ballarat, VIC	Sun : 2 Reg, 2 J, 2 Hp (numbered), 2 XHP
Sat: 2 CC, 2 Reg, 2 Tg Sun: 2 Reg, 2 J, 2 Wv	
Mon: Extreme Games Challenge 2XBR, 2XCC, 2XGT,	Aug 23-24 2014
2HP	Moorabbin, VIC
	Sat : 2 Reg, 2 J, 2 Tn, 2 XBR
Mar. 15 2014	Sun: 2 CC, 2 Reg, 2 Hp (numbered)
Geelong, VIC	
2 Tg, 2 Tn, 2 Wv	Sep. 13-14 2014
	Moorabbin, VIC
Mar. 22-23 2014	Sat: CC, 2 Reg, J, Tg, Wv
Moorabbin, VIC	Sun: CC, 2 Reg, J, Tg, Hp (numbered)
Sat: 2 Reg, 2 J, 2 Hp (numbered) Sun: 2 CC, 2 Reg, 2	
Тg	Oct. 4 2014
	Geelong, VIC
April. 5 2014	Sat: 2 CC, 2 Reg, 2 Tn, 2 XGT
Geelong, VIC	
Sat : 2 Hp (numbered), 2 Tn, 2 Wv, 2 XBR	Oct. 16-19 2014
	Werribee, VIC
April 19-20 2014	Classes: TBA
Ballarat, VIC	
Sat : 2 CC, 2 Reg, 2 Tg Sun : 2 Reg, 2 J, 2 Tn	Nov. 29 - Nov 30 2014
, , , , , ,	Moorabbin, VIC
May 11. 2014	Sat : 2 Tg, 2 Tn, 2 Wv
Keilor, VIC	Sun: Extreme Games Challenge 2 XBR, 2 XCC, 2 XGT,
2 Reg, 2 J, 2 Tn	2XHP
- 0, ,	

All event listings can be found on: <u>http://www.nadacaustralia.com/Calendar.html</u>

To register your dog to compete: <u>http://www.nadacaustralia.com/Dogs.html</u>

To keep up-to-date with NADAC information, you will need to register: http://www.nadacaustralia.com/Forum/index.php

<u>Facebook sites:</u> - NADAC in Australia



Traditional Agility

[Reg] Regular Agility Class The Regular Agility class is a numbered course that may consist of all obstacles allowed on the NADAC equipment list. Judges may choose to use some or all of the acceptable obstacles on a course.

[J] Jumpers Class The Jumpers class is a numbered course that consists of jumps and 1-2 tunnels.

[Tn] Tunnelers Class The Tunnelers class is a numbered course comprised of only tunnels.

[Wv] Weavers Class The Weavers class is a numbered course comprised of tunnels, hoops, and weave poles.

[Tg] Touch N Go Class The Touch N Go class is a numbered course comprised of contact obstacles, tunnels and hoops.

[Hp] Hoopers Class (numbered) The Hoopers class is a numbered course that consists of Hoops.

[CC] Chances Class The Chances class is a numbered course that could have any of the acceptable obstacles listed in the NADAC equipment list. The goal of the Chances class is to test the distance, directional and discrimination (DD&D) skills of the dog and handler team. The Chances course shall consist of a numbered sequence of 10-15 obstacles. In addition, the course shall include distance tests, discrimination tests, and directional tests. At each level the tests will include more difficult sequences as the dogs progress though the Novice, Open and Elite levels. On each course, the dog and handler team shall have 40 seconds to complete the course. All obstacles on the entire course must be performed cleanly (no faults) for a qualifying score.

Extreme Games Challenge

The Extreme Games Challenge (EGC) is comprised of four classes: Extreme Barrel Racing, Extreme Chances, Extreme Gaters, and Extreme Hoopers. All four classes are ground speed classes which test the handlers ability to give directional commands to the dog, while the dog is running at full speed, and the dog's ability to respond to those commands. The dogs run at speed and the handler must time their commands so the dogs can stay on course. The Extreme Games are Extreme FUN for those who wish to rise to this challenge of teamwork and communication.

The smoother and faster the teams can complete the course, the more points they can earn during the run.

The classes are scored on a time plus faults basis.

[XBR] Extreme Barrel Racing tests the dog and handler on a course that is comprised of barrels only.

[XCC] Extreme Chances tests the dog and handler on a course that has distance tests comprised of tunnels, hoops, barrels and gates.

[XGT] Extreme Gaters tests the dog at high speeds while performing a course comprised of tunnels, gates, barrels and hoops. The dog must circle the gates or barrels as directed by the course numbers between the tunnel performances.

[XHP] Extreme Hoopers is a numbered course comprised of hoops and a 'gate circle'. Part of the course is a large circle of gates and hoops in which the dog must race into and out of the circle as directed by the course design. The handler is restricted from running around the circle by restrictive 'wings', so the team is also being tested on distance skills.



The Therapy Dog and Writing Poetry in Nursing Homes.

As a Secondary Teacher/Librarian I found dogs effective in Drama classes and the Library to lower anxiety levels and aggression in students. I used an Australian Silky Terrier [Che], Schnauzers, Greyhounds, Labradors and various crossbreeds as a teacher before the concept of Pets as Therapy dogs was widely known. Students in English classes with literacy problems are more relaxed when reading aloud to a dog in a quiet corner of a busy classroom. One can oversee tactfully by watching the student's lip movements and body language.

Dogs are also effective as partners in student drama and as prompts for writing. In a Library, a dog is a quiet refuge for a lonely Year 7 student from a tiny One Teacher Primary School or an Integration student in need of time out. Every one is a winner when a highly energetic student returns, exhausted, to class after running around the campus perimeter with the dog on the lead. When I started teaching Attention Deficit Disorder didn't exist because it wasn't defined.

Temperament is a critical factor. A quiet steady attitude with a high tolerance to noise, sudden movement and being handled – sometimes inappropriately is needed. The dog must instantly obey hand signals and voice commands. It must never accept food from clients. Tricks are fun and light relief. Laughter is as essential to learning as it is to life.

The skills a dog needs for a nursing home or a classroom are not the same as those required for an Obedience Class. Some dogs do not transfer the skills they exhibit for indoor work in the absence of other canines across to an outdoor obedience class.

My dogs now facilitate poetry writing in two Nursing Homes in Bacchus Marsh. The role of the dogs has

The Therapy Dog and Writing Poetry in Nursing Homes.

changed, they move amongst bedridden patients, slow moving residents with mobility aids, those in wheelchairs. Labradors Strumpet and Scallop have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Buddy the ChiX has worked with me for 5 years. Rusty the Papillon started training on site in March 2013 as a 12-week-old pup. Grant Lodge is a High Level residential care facility in Bacchus Marsh. It is a member of *Dementia Care Australia. Spark of Life.* The Life Style Co-coordinators, Robin and Erin have compiled a Life Story Book for each resident. Each resident has their own specially bound and laminated autobiography which includes photos. Relatives are encouraged to email, create blogs and contribute photos to their special person's Life Story Book. Now residents are adding their own anthology of poetry, which the Lifestyle Coordinators illustrate. Sylvia was incapacitated by a stroke and can barely speak. She was a Primary School teacher. I said words – she tapped me to select the appropriate ones. It was all about Rusty whom she adored. Her Life Story Book was largely comprised of 'photos and poems about Rusty. Sadly Sylvia had another stroke. To the end of her life Rusty would always elicit a smile. This Haiku describes Rusty at five months tugging at his lead and growling while tethered to her wheelchair.

Rusty - Haiku Petite Papillon Papillon pulling his lead Wicked Papillon Sylvia L

Robyn H. has M.S. She has lost the use of her limbs. She can no longer move her head. In her 50's, a woman of incredible courage and delightful company, she dictates her poems. Grant Lodge is home.

Rusty the Papillon. *Rusty Means Good Luck. This puppy Ears always pricked Straight up. Big Ears Hear everything happening In my Home. Rusty Brings Good Luck To my Home Robyn H.*

All patients involved in the writing process are "poets". Being defined as a "poet" leads to a higher level of involvement and increased self esteem. Rusty and Buddy present residents with a mini circus on Tuesday. As Rusty is a puppy, his learning process entrances those cognizant enough to grasp what is happening. For others the dog acts encourage them to focus and when prompted, describe what they see. Some desist from obsessive behaviour such as clapping while the dogs are working. Small poems can be recorded from residents using the dogs while they work as prompts. They are elicited through a question, answer, record approach. Being able to nurse, touch, stroke and feel a licking tongue are welcome, memory evoking, tactile experiences for some. Others may not respond positively to a dog at all – but that in itself is positive – it is a response. Respect it and move on. Robyn Youl - Librarian





ALWAYS KNOW WHEN IT'S DINNERTIME

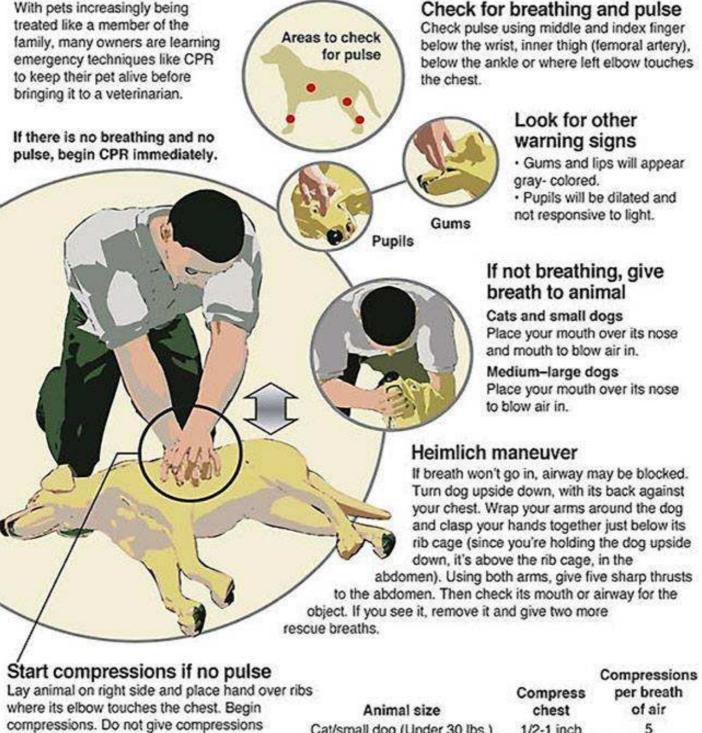






FACEBOOK.COM/OFF THE LEASH DAILY DOG CARTOONS

Saving your pet with CPR



if dog has pulse.

Repeat	Check pulse after 1 minute		
procedure	and then every few minutes.		

over ribs		Compress	per breath
1	Animal size	chest	of air
	Cat/small dog (Under 30 lbs.)		5
	Medium-large dog (30-90 lbs.)	1-3 inches	5
	Giant dog (over 90 lbs.)	1-3 inches	10
 Continue giving CPR until the animal has a pulse and is breathing. 		Stop CPR after 20 minutes.	

What is a seizure or epilepsy?

Seizures are one of the most frequently reported neurological conditions in dogs. The scientific term for seizure is "ictus". A seizure may also be called a convulsion or fit and is a temporary involuntary disturbance of normal brain function that is usually accompanied by uncontrollable muscle activity.

"Epilepsy is used to describe repeated episodes of seizures."

Epilepsy is used to describe repeated episodes of seizures. With epilepsy, the seizures can be single or may occur in clusters, and they can be infrequent and unpredictable or may occur at regular intervals.

What causes seizures?

"Idiopathic epilepsy, the most common cause of seizures in the dog."

There are many causes of seizures. *Idiopathic epilepsy*, the most common cause of seizures in the dog, is an inherited disorder, but its exact cause is unknown. Other causes include liver disease, kidney failure, brain tumors, brain trauma, or toxins.

Seizures often occur at times of changing brain activity, such as during excitement or feeding, or as the dog is falling asleep or waking up. Affected dogs can appear completely normal between seizures.

What happens during a typical seizure?

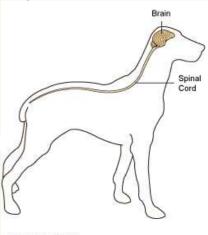
Seizures consist of three components:

1) The *pre-ictal phase*, or *aura*, is a period of altered behavior in which the dog may hide, appear nervous, or seek out the owner. It may be restless, nervous, whining, shaking, or salivating. This may last a few seconds to a few hours. This period precedes the seizure activity, as if the dog senses that something is about to occur.

2) The *ictal phase* is the seizure itself and lasts from a few seconds to up to five minutes. During a seizure, the dog may lose consciousness or may just have a change in mental awareness ("absence" seizures or hallucinations such as snapping at invisible objects). If the dog experiences a *grand mal*, or full-blown seizure with loss of consciousness, all of the muscles of the body contract spastically and erratically. The dog usually falls over on its side and paddles its legs while seeming to be otherwise paralyzed. The head will often be drawn backward. Urination, defecation, and salivation may occur. If the seizure has not stopped within five minutes, the dog is said to be in *status epilepticus* or prolonged seizure. Status epilepticus is considered an immediate emergency and medical help

3) During the *post-ictal phase* or the period immediately after the end of the seizure, there is confusion, disorientation, salivation, pacing, restlessness, or even temporary blindness. There is no direct correlation between the severity of the seizure and the duration of the post-ictal phase.

If your dog is showing any of symptoms do not wait as this could be potentially life threatening. It's better to **contact your local VCA Veterinarian**. We offer a **free first exam*** for new clients.



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Is a seizure painful or dangerous to the dog?

"Dog may feel confusion and perhaps panic."

Despite the dramatic and violent appearance of a seizure, seizures are not painful, although the dog may feel confusion and perhaps panic. Contrary to popular belief, dogs do not swallow their tongues during a seizure. If you put your fingers or an object into its mouth, you will not help your pet and you run a high risk of being bitten very badly or of injuring your dog. The important thing is to keep the dog from falling or

hurting itself by knocking objects onto itself. As long as it is on the floor or ground, there is little chance of harm occurring.

A single seizure is rarely dangerous to the dog. However, if the dog has multiple seizures within a short period of time (cluster seizures), or if a seizure continues for longer than a few minutes, the body temperature begins to rise. If *hyperthermia* or an elevated body temperature develops secondary to a seizure, another set of problems may have to be addressed.

What is status epilepticus?

Status epilepticus is a serious and life threatening situation. It is characterized by a seizure that lasts more than five minutes. Unless intravenous anticonvulsants are given immediately to stop the seizure activity, the dog may die or suffer irreversible brain damage. If status epilepticus occurs, you must seek treatment by a veterinarian immediately.

Now that the seizure is over, can we find out why it happened?

After a dog has a seizure episode, your veterinarian will begin by taking a thorough history, concentrating on possible exposure to poisonous or hallucinogenic substances or any history of head trauma. The veterinarian will also perform a physical examination, blood and urine tests and sometimes an electrocardiogram (ECG). These tests rule out disorders of the liver, kidneys, heart, electrolytes, and blood sugar levels. A heartworm test is performed if your dog is not taking heartworm preventative monthly.



If these tests are normal and there is no exposure to poison or recent trauma, further diagnostics may be recommended, depending on the severity and frequency of the seizures. Occasional seizures (less frequently than once a month) are of less concern, unless they become more frequent or more severe. In this instance, a spinal fluid analysis may be performed. Depending on availability at a referral center or teaching hospital, specialized techniques such as a CT scan or MRI may also be performed to look directly at the structure of the brain.

How are seizures treated or prevented?

Treatment is usually begun only after a pet has:

- 1) more than one seizure a month,
- 2) clusters of seizures where one seizure is immediately followed by another or
- 3) grand mal seizures that are severe or prolonged in duration.

The two most commonly used medications to treat seizures in dogs are phenobarbital and potassium bromide. Research into the use of other anticonvulsants is ongoing, and combination therapy is often used for dogs that are poorly responsive to standard treatments.

"Once anticonvulsant medication is started, it must be given for life."

Once anticonvulsant medication is started, it must be given for life. There is evidence that, if anticonvulsant medication is started and then discontinued, the dog may have a greater risk of developing more severe seizures in the future. Even *normal* dogs without a history of seizures or epilepsy may be induced to seizure if placed on anticonvulsant medication and then abruptly withdrawn from it. If anticonvulsant medication must be discontinued or changed for some reason, your veterinarian will give you specific instructions for doing this.

This client information sheet is based on material written by: Ernest Ward, DVM

Intelligence Test (A fun test for you to try at home)

The number of points scored for each task is in brackets

TEST 1: Problem solving. Place treat under soup can. If dog gets treat in: less than 5 seconds (5), 5-15 seconds (4), 16-30 seconds (3), 31-60 seconds (2), tries but fails to get treat (1), shows no interest (0).

TEST 2: Problem solving. Quickly throw a large towel over the dog's head and shoulders. If dog gets free in: less than 15 seconds (5), 16-30 seconds (4), 31-60 seconds (3), 1-2 minutes (2), doesn't get free within 2 minutes (1).

TEST 3: Problem solving. Place a treat under a small towel. If dog gets treat in: less than 15 seconds (5), 16-30 seconds (4), 31-60 seconds (3), 1-2 minutes (2), tries but fails to get treat (1), shows no interest (0).

TEST 4: Short-term memory. Let the dog see you put a biscuit on the floor then turn him loose. If dog: goes straight to the treat (5), searches systematically and finds treat (4), searches randomly but finds treat in under 45 seconds (3), searches but fails to find treat (2), shows no interest (1).

TEST 5: Long-term memory. Let the dog see you put a biscuit on the floor (a different place to previous test). Remove him for 5 minutes, play with him, return and let him loose. If dog: goes straight to treat (5), goes to the spot from Test 4, then the correct spot (4), searches systematically and finds treat (3), searches randomly but finds treat in under 45 seconds (2), searches but fails to find treat (1), shows no interest (0).

TEST 6: Problem solving and Manipulation: Place treat under a low platform (too low and far enough back to reach with mouth). If dog: gets treat in under 1 minute (5), gets treat in 1-3 minutes (4), uses paws and muzzle but fails to get treat (3), uses muzzle only a few times and gives up (2), doesn't try (1). **TEST 7: Language comprehension.** Leave dog as if for a recall. If dog comes when you call: "refrigerator" (3), "movies" (2), "(dog's name) come" (5), "(dog's name) come twice (4), dog fails to come (1).

TEST 8: Problem solving. Show the dog treat through slit in a large cardboard barricade. Dog should not be able to get treat through slit. Encourage dog to get treat. If dog goes around barrier in: less than 15 seconds (5), 16-30 seconds (4), 31-60 seconds (3). Handler stops encouraging dog after 1 minute. If dog: goes around barrier in 1-2 minutes (2), tries to reach through slit and gives up (1), shows no interest (0).

SCORING

