

THE German Shepherd Dog

QUARTERLY NATIONAL REVIEW



The official magazine of the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc.

Summer 2017

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www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org

EVENT calendar

GSDCA Events

Date	Event	Location
11th - 12th February 2017	GSDCA Annual General Meeting	Melbourne
19th - 21st May 2017	45th National Show & Trial	Brisbane
29th - 30th July 2017	GSDCA National Breed Commission Meeting	Adelaide
27th - 29th April 2018	46th National Show & Trial	Adelaide

Member Club Shows

Date	Event	Location	Judge
5th February 2017	Ballarat Championship Show	Ballarat (Vic)	Greg Green (Vic)
19th February 2017	GSDCTas Championship Show	Hobart	Christine Collins (SA)
11-12th March 2017	GSDCV Championship Show	Melbourne	Heather MacDonald (UK)
15th - 16th April 2017	GSDL Easter Show and Trial	Sydney	Herr Ralf Wille (Gmy)
7th May 2017	Victorian SBE Open Classes	Melbourne	Ian Urie (Vic)
19th - 21st May 2017	National Show - Bitches	Brisbane	Joachim Stiegler (Gmy)
19th - 21st May 2017	National Show - Dogs & LSCs	Brisbane	Frank Goldlust (Gmy)

Quarterly National Review Closing dates

Close dates for content submission and advertising in future magazine editions

Edition	Closing date	Delivery to Members
Autumn 2017	5th February 2017	Early March
Winter 2017 (National)	5th June 2017	Early July



www.facebook.com/GSDCA



www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org



<http://database.gsdcouncilaustralia.org>



www.wusv.org



Aus Respekt zum Hund.
www.schaeferhunde.de

Dogs are like potato chips.
It's hard to have just one!

Front and Back Cover: *Djambo vom Fichtenschlag 'a' near normal ED Normal (Gmy) IP03 DNA proven
Sire: *Illiano vom Fichtenschlag 'a' ED (Gmy) SchH3, Dam: *Miliana von der Barenslucht 'a' ED (Gmy) SchH2

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PRESIDENT'S report



As we come to the close of another busy year, we reflect on all that we have achieved and look forward to bigger and better things for 2017.

On behalf of the Executive, I hope all members have a very merry and happy festive season and new year.

I wish you all the very best for the holiday season and trust 2017 brings all you wish for your family, friends and yourself.

As always, I am available on 0402 145 184.

Kind Regards

Vince Jantaro



EDITOR'S report

Welcome to the last edition of the Quarterly National Review for 2016. As we round out the year I hope you will find the content interesting and informative and maybe take an extra minute or two over your coffee to read it to the end 😊. Thank you to those who've contributed articles for our last 3 editions, there will be many more of interest in the future too!

Once again dog legislation is at the forefront for one of our member states. In July South Australia passed amendments to the Dog and Cat Management Act. Now, breeders and indeed all members in Victoria have been coming together following the presentation of The Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm and Pet Shops) Bill 2016, which is new legislation aimed at puppy farmers and backyard breeders, but legislation that will be all encompassing in its significant impact on all dog breeders if it passes through parliament. The ramifications for other states in the future who follow suit could be significant. As guardians of the breed we all should be vigilant regarding legislation relating to dogs, abiding by current rules (for breeding and other activities) and ensuring we are proactive if changes are proposed. All state governments will be monitoring the political landscape and as members we should be suitably informed. Make sure you visit your canine control website occasionally, and stay up to date.

This issue of the 'Review' brings to you a cross section of reports on the sieger show which I hope you enjoy reading, thanks to our intrepid reporters. It seems the show and the dogs are great, but the travel and social scene are just as impressive! One day you might consider going yourself?

In a few short weeks it will be 2017, and the National Show and Trial will loom large. Preparation for dogs will begin and our Queensland club will be full steam ahead with organisation. They say its 'beautiful one day, perfect the next' in Qld, so start counting the weeks. We wish them well. You



will find the schedule for the 45th GSDCA National GSD Show and Trial on page 26. To assist Queensland, don't leave your entries and booking till the last minute.

The GSDCA Annual General Meeting will be held on February 11th and 12th in Melbourne. Make sure you view the agenda which is available via your club, and attend your club meetings to ensure your view on any items is heard and your club can represent your views.

Finally, congratulations to our Breed Health and Welfare Chairperson, our busy vet Dr Candy Baker and her husband Brendon on the safe arrival of baby boy Judd!

So as we near the end of the year, I would like to wish everyone a restful, relaxing and enjoyable Merry Christmas, and a bright and fun filled new year. Travel safely, stay safe, and be vigilant with your dogs in the hot weather. Hopefully everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy some time off with family and friends and spend some extra time with your dogs. Make the most of every moment, as they are always too short.

Have a fabulous festive season, see you in 2017!

Enjoy your reading!

Jacinta



THREE MEN and a rabbit

..... a travelogue by Harvey Cottontail



Many of you will know me personally, or will have heard of me My name is Harvey Cottontail, and I have been around the Aussie GSD show scene for quite a while (since the 2011 Sydney National). I have also visited two New Zealand Nationals and travelled around Europe several times, in fact I am quite an International celebrity, with over 500 friends on Facebook, and I have photos in my album with most of the top German SV judges. You can see how popular I am in the photo on the left, taken in the VIP tent at Bagnolo in Piano with my buddies Paul Rattigan from UK, Gabriele Pettinaroli from Italy and Marc Renaud from France, I mean, what more can I say? They just can't get enough of me!



On the Chairlift with my best girl Haase, Alastair Henderson, Greg Bobbin, Gordon and Heather Mathers, Melanie Groth and Gabrielle Peacock, and took up residence in the charming rural village of Eulenbis which would be our base for the next few days. We attended a Breed Survey at the Rheinland-Pfalz LG, where Heinz Scheerer alone surveyed over 40 dogs and bitches in one day. We caught up with Christoff Ludwig and his lovely wife Silke, and enjoyed the hospitality of their Club. The following day we attended a Landesgruppen show at Otterbach where several of the 2016 Sieger Show judges were officiating, so some of the high profile dogs were in attendance, as well as a large contingent of Italian exhibitors getting warmed up for the big show in Nuremberg. In the following days Alastair took us to visit a training club at Bad Boll where we caught

up with our friends Simone Hack, Felix Schacke and Hans-Peter Rieker, and Felix took us to the Mercedes museum in Stuttgart, a very enjoyable and enlightening day with history about the industrial development of Germany as well as the story of the Mercedes marque and lots of classic cars on display. Over the next couple of weeks we drove to Bavaria and visited the Neuschwanstein castle and went up to the top of Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze, then returned to the Rheinland, attended another show and a working trial, and spent a few days exploring the Rhein valley from a base in Mainz. We then travelled up to Kassel and caught up with some friends we had made on our previous trip, and reunited with the Haase's crew on their way back from Berlin before we all headed off to Nuremberg for the Siegershow.

Once in Nuremberg the Aussie contingent grew in numbers, with the arrival of Vince and Fran Tantarò, Gail and Louis Donald, Robyn and Kevin Knuckey, John Oar, Gary Hickey, Dawn Howard, Michelle Mercieca, David and Lorelle Organ, Sharon Ballantyne and Sarah Gordon, Les Hersant, Andrew Jones, Maurice and Leila Jara, Brian and Lucy Lubbock, Jacquie Smith and a NZ friend Cathy McKenzie. I was indeed a very fortunate bunny to be invited to share a private box in the VIP section of the stands with a group of Aussies, right next door to that of my close friend and Vice-President of the WUSV Imran Husain.

A visit to the Sieger show is an experience all GSD followers should have at least once in their lifetime. On arrival on the Thursday there is a lot of meeting and greeting, all the equipment sales stalls are setting up and the anticipation is building. On Friday the main focus is on the Working Class males and females doing their TSB/Schutzdienst tests in the main arena, and in the outside rings judging starts with measuring of dogs, and individuals for the younger classes and LSH classes. There was also a demonstration of the new SV Character Test, which met with a lot of interest from the Australians present. On Saturday they start the running of the 12 - 18 month and 18 - 24 month classes, and in the afternoon the progeny groups start assembling for the Sires Progeny Parade, a major feature of the whole weekend. The Sieger this year (stock coat) was again last year's Sieger, Ballack von der Brucknerallee, and the Siegerin was Oililly von der Piste Trophe. The Jugend klasse hündin (Junior Bitch) winner, making history, was a lovely young bitch bred in the UK, Greenvelt Blitzen. Young handlers were prominent, with Martin Brauch (son of SV judge Richard Brauch) who handled the LSC Sieger Jackson vom Zisawinkel as well as several other dogs, and LSC Siegerin Lisa von Silvalacus was also handled by a very young but competent girl. Great to see the kids in the ring and doing so well against more experienced handlers.



Rudesheim am Rhein



Rhein valley at Koblenz

THREE MEN and a rabbit



Happy hour at the Mercure



In my VIP box

On Saturday my presence was requested at the ProPlan tent (major sponsors of the show) which is hosted by Kirsten Nagengast and her husband Rudi. Kirsten insisted that I come down and help her entertain all the international guests who congregate there for the hospitality (and the free beer). At the end of the show a hat is passed around and all who have partaken of their hospitality are asked to contribute an appropriate sum to the kitty, which will be donated to support animal welfare organisations. Sunday is the big day, where the Breeders Groups and top placegetters of the young classes are presented in the stadium, before the final run-offs of the working female and male classes and awarding of the VA classifications. After all the hype subsides then the travellers are faced with the dilemma of what to do with all the training equipment, leads, collars, jackets etc, they have bought – either pay for excess baggage on the return flight, or post it home at great expense!



Proplan tent at Nuremberg

Following the big Sieger show weekend, we continued our holiday and sightseeing, as we drove from Germany into Switzerland, and made our way to Interlaken in the middle of the Swiss Alps. Switzerland still has their own currency, Swiss Francs, so we had to change some Euros into local cash to spend there, and we needed quite a lot because Interlaken is very pricey, with a lot of International tourists passing through, and the most watch shops and chocolate shops that this rabbit has seen in his whole life. Swiss watches have an awesome reputation, but are well out of my price range, so I will have to keep looking at sundials (or check the time on my mobile phone). We had a big day planned, as Ian had been here in the 1980s and wanted to take us all up to the top of the Jungfrau mountain on a little train that actually travels in a tunnel inside the North face of the mighty Eiger, winding its way upwards with a couple of viewing windows which look back down the valley towards Grindelwald, and finally comes out at the top of the Aletsch Glacier (Europe's largest) up amongst the peaks of the Alps. Our tour guide said we had one of

the best days weather-wise, that he could remember in over 20 years of taking groups up there. The sky was clear and the views were amazing, looking out from the viewing platform and feeling on top of the world. We also checked out the ice palace, which is built in tunnels carved out of the ice under the glacier, with ice sculptures aplenty that don't melt like the ones at weddings because it is below zero in there!



At Jungfraujoch on top of the Alps

The next day we left Interlaken and drove over a pass through the Alps on a very scenic but winding road, eventually going through a long multi-lane tunnel and coming out on the other side in the north of Italy. We drove down to Lake Como and called in to have a coffee with our mate George, but alas he was not at home that day, so we continued on past Milan and stayed the night at Bologna. From Bologna the next day we headed south towards Naples, and as we drove I noticed a metamorphosis in Ian, who was changing from a German autobahn pilot into a southern Italian driver, complete with hand actions and a glazed look in his eye. He said it was necessary to survive "in the jungle" that started when we got to Naples at peak hour, with at least three lanes merging into our route from every direction - it is "dog-eat-dog" and every man for himself. If you show any sign of weakness they drive over the top of you, so you grit your teeth and take every opportunity without hesitation! We stayed the night at Naples in a nice hotel which was in a fairly seedy neighbourhood, and we were grateful for the big old iron gates on their private car parking area. The following day we visited Herculaneum, an ancient Roman town that was buried by the same eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD that buried Pompeii. The difference is that whilst Pompeii was inundated and buried by falling pumice and ash, Herculaneum was covered by a flood of hot mud that filled the city from the ground up, so that the buildings and a lot of their contents are much better preserved than those in Pompeii which were crushed under the weight of many metres of ash. You can still see mosaics and hand painted frescos nearly 2000 years later. An advantage is that Herculaneum is visited by fewer tourists than is Pompeii, so is much less crowded. However I was refused admission to the ruins, and had to suffer the indignity of being stuffed into a cubicle in the luggage rack until my companions returned. How embarrassing for a rabbit of my international standing!



Lake Como ... waiting for George

THREE MEN and a rabbit

Our party had rented a villa at Massa Lubrense in the hills behind Sorrento for a week, so we were looking forward to a relaxing time, but the traffic and roads there lent a new degree of stress to our driving experience. Firstly we drove into one of the many tunnels in that area, only to have the traffic stop dead for over an hour, barely crawling along bumper to bumper with no hope of turning back. It turned out a bus had sideswiped a car just outside the tunnel exit and was blocking the road. From there the traffic crawled all the way for the next 20km



Mosaic at Herculaneum



Chillin' at Massa Lubrense

down the hills to Sorrento. On entering the town of Sorrento the roads became narrower, with barely room to pass between the parked cars and oncoming traffic, and to make it more exciting there were hundreds of motorcycles and scooters zooming down the middle between the cars, and swerving in at the last minute when something came the other way. Because the sidewalks are narrow or non-existent you also have to negotiate pedestrians who walk onto the road blissfully ignorant of the mortal danger they are putting themselves in. Thankful to get out of the town, we drove further into the hills and met the owner of our villa, who was riding a Vespa and said "follow me" as he took off. Doing our best to



Working on the tan



Day on Capri

keep up, we followed him on an increasingly windy and decreasingly narrow road, and finally reached the street where the villa was located. The word "street" is used loosely, because it became a narrow dirt track barely wider than our car, and at one point we had a drop off on the edge of the track on one side and our mirror was almost scraping along a rock wall on the other. I don't think our host realized that our car was a little wider than his scooter! But it was worth all the stress because the villa was beautiful, set in a lovely garden with an al-fresco barbeque area and its own swimming pool. A perfect place to relax (apart from the necessary excursions back up the road to the village to buy supplies). My only complaint was that, being a rather white sort of rabbit, I had hoped to soak up a few rays and work on my suntan, but the weather there was somewhat cooler than we'd had since we arrived in Europe, and not very conducive to sunbathing by the pool. My human companions only had one brief dip over the whole week! We rounded out the week with a ferry trip over to the Isle of Capri and a day in Positano on the famed Amalfi Coast.

Our southern sojourn over, we headed north again towards where the Italian Sieger show was to be held. A few more traffic jams on the Autostrade and a stopover near Florence, and the next day we were back in Reggio Emilia, a lovely old town we first visited in 2013. We stayed at our favourite hotel Posta, which is a 600 year old building with a lot of history and fabulous décor, ornate cornices, 3 metre high framed mirrors on the walls and frescos on the high ceilings. The show was about 20km

THREE MEN and a rabbit



In LSH ring at Bagnolo (I nodded off for a moment)

away in the football stadium of a smaller town called Bagnolo in Piano. The Italian show is smaller than the German Sieger, but is more "up close and personal". You can get around the rings and see the dogs up closer, much like our Nationals in Australia. Some of our Aussie friends had gone home after Nuremberg, but there was still quite a sizeable contingent there. The format is similar to the German show, but with the inclusion of Puppy classes. A highlight for me at this show was being invited by Gabriele Pettinaroli to join him in his tent in the ring while he judged the Long Stock Coat classes. This lovely man requested each class winner to have their photo taken with him, and of course with myself alongside. Some even brought their families into the ring for a group shot with moi, the famous Harvey.

The catering tent was fantastic, with different types of home made pasta on the menu each day, washed down with a little bottle of vino or beer of course. Local hero and star of the show was the winner of the Breeders Groups, Casa Massarelli kennel, who also bred both the Sieger Groovy and the Siegerin Crystal. In Bagnolo as well as in Nuremberg, both Louis and Gail Donald were everywhere clicking away on their cameras with long lenses, in their roles as official press photographers, but we managed to get both of them into the final photo of the Aussie contingent on the podium at the end of the trophy presentations for the VA male group.



With my friend Gabriele and a pup he bred

The drive to Milan airport the next day spelled the end of our European adventure, and sadly I had to be vacuum sealed into my travelling bag again for the homeward trip. Being sucked flat and packed in the bottom of Julie's suitcase is the unfortunate lot of a world-travelling rabbit! Goodbye until next time - I'm sure I will pop up at a show near you soon, when I am released from my temporary sarcophagus.

Signing off now your mate

Harvey Cottontail



*Aussies on the podium
..... Oy, Oy, Oy!*

The education of a SV-Bundesseiegerzuchtschau Jungfrau!

I never imagined that I would get the opportunity to attend a Sieger Show in Germany. I was given my first German Shepherd Dog at the age of twelve. Isaac was both a gift from my first dog friend and obedience judge Jill Tait, and a thank you from her partners in the litter (Tasolly Kennels) for showing and obedience training their dogs. That was the start of my life long obsession with the German Shepherd Dog.

So earlier this year when Janet Haase, who I had recently met through my good friends Heather and Gordon Mathers said, "Why don't you come to Germany with us?", my education as a Sieger Show virgin was underway!

Before the big event we attended local training in Felsberg where I got to see TSB training in action, a Breed Survey and also a show in Otterbach. I hadn't realized before this that the Sieger Show is preceded by a series of shows judged by the Sieger Show judges. These regional settings were absolutely stunning. I reckon I could live there and do GSD events every week. I was pretty impressed that the dog I picked out at the show, Willy Vom Kuckucksland, went on to achieve VA7!

The Sieger Show was held in Nuremberg over the 2 - 4th September at the Grundig Athletics Stadium and surrounding area including the Zeppelin Walk. There was something very poignant about enjoying such a wonderful event in a place so steeped in history and tragedy.

I was there to see the dogs, but THE SHOPPING! Rows and rows of stalls to purchase every canine accessory imaginable. I had to purchase an "overflow" bag to bring home. My education continued with induction to the "Pro Plan tent" - bubbles and beer flow freely for the price of a donation to the local dog rescue. I met many Australians there supporting such a good cause (Alastair you are such an altruist!) Not being a beer person I took up drinking Radlers (mix of beer and lemonade) so that I could feel just that little bit more German.

Every aspect of the show from the TSB work, measuring, individuals, the breeder and progeny groups, the new character test demonstration, presentation of the top dogs in the stadium and the culmination of the awarding of the VAs was both a thrill and an opportunity to learn. Thank you to my fellow Australians who let me troop around after you, listening in and absorbing all things German Shepherd Dog. The highlight was presentation of the lovely progeny group for Vac-Vagvolgyi Jenky by his proud co-mother Melanie Groth. What a moment seeing Mel lead the group around the stadium.

I was so fortunate to spend nearly a month in Germany, with a wonderful mix of dog events, sightseeing, wine, food and the company of such wonderful fellow Australians. I am going to drag my long suffering husband along next year to Ulm - I am no longer a Sieger Show virgin and I am hooked!

PS. And a public apology to my lovely son Hamish who was completely understanding about why his mother went to the Sieger Show instead of the Rio Olympics to watch him compete - my excuse is that they were both in Athletics Stadiums!

Gabrielle Peacock



Track and Search Dog (TSD) Trials

By Dawn Howard (ANKC Tracking and Track & Search Dog judge)

The Track & Search Dog tests should be a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions. The tests should be as close as possible to a life-like situation, where a dog is used to find a missing person and therefore the test should be as realistic as possible while demonstrating the dog's willingness and enthusiasm to follow a specific scent. The tests require the dog to work on varied surfaces including gravel, sand, paved surfaces, and roads as well as bush. Tracks should be laid so as to represent the meanderings of a lost person and not always be 'straight line' tracks. Tracks should be as natural as possible, bearing in mind that lost children are drawn to playgrounds, while adults are drawn to buildings to seek help. Tracks may cross

small streams or shallow bodies of water, roads [but not include major roads] and may be laid in contaminated areas which may include houses, bridges, shelters, stairs and ramps, parking areas or similar structures. Light Vehicle & Pedestrian traffic including other dogs walking on lead should not be avoided. (Excerpt from the ANKC TSD rules)

Tracking as a very popular dog activity is well established over maybe 40 years in Australia. Clubs in most states and territories hold tracking trials at various

levels of activity. In explanation, tracking is a rural challenge with dogs working in bush or paddocks. In Australia they may meet Kangaroos, Sheep, Cattle and other animals while following the scent to find a human tracklayer.

In recent years an extension of tracking has evolved and has become very popular.

It is called Track and Search (TSD). Definitely addictive and lots of fun. It provides an opportunity for a dog to continue tracking once it has achieved the Tracking Champion title which is currently a pre requisite for TSD.

It must be advised that not all dogs that are good at tracking are good at TSD and vice versa.

Having had many tracking dogs I used to think I knew a thing or two about how dogs track. After experiencing TSD, sometimes I really wonder how the dogs do it. They are amazing.

In TSD we start at TSD Tests 1 to 4 where the dogs are working essentially in urban

parks. Dogs that do well at rural tracking usually do well at the early urban tracks. Then we get to Tests 5 to 10. That is another story.

Most TSD tests involve longer time delays than are required in Tracking trials. TSD tracks should be as true as possible to a real life situation. They should test the dog's ability to follow human scent while adapting to changing conditions. The tests require the dog to work on varied surfaces including gravel, sand, paved surfaces, and roads as well as bush. Tracks may cross shallow bodies of water and roads and may be laid in contaminated areas that may include houses, bridges, shelters, stairs and ramps, parking areas or similar structures.

In Tracking trials dogs often have distractions caused by livestock e.g. Cattle and Sheep, but the urban tracking dog usually has to contend with other dogs and cats as well as traffic and people.

Therein lies the fun.

Barking dogs behind fences at least can be trained for as a distraction. Loose dogs and even cats can be an unknown quantity. We once had a cat that pretended to snooze on his veranda. He waited for the Tracking dog to pass by then he swooped, making a fair impression of an enraged lion. He came up on the dogs from behind and hissed and fluffed himself up to twice his size. Gave everyone a fright. Safety steward shooed him off, only to have him do the same thing the next day.

The teams that go out to judge these trials have a lot of responsibility. Firstly we have a judge and steward; in addition we have a safety steward whose job is to keep the dog and handler safe. They walk along following the dog, going ahead to check traffic at crossroads, keeping an awareness of cars backing out of driveways and to warn of stray cats and dogs. They also effectively provide a very real distraction for the dog.

We also have a safety car to follow behind. Then there is the all important "Gofer". Can't do without one. The Gofer takes handlers to the start of tracks, picks up the crews to take them to the next track and is often asked to set out tracklayers if the judge is already judging. Usually there is a combination of day and night tracks within the judge's load. Judges usually set out the tracklayers for the first group of tracks, but while they are still judging those tracks other tracks may need to be laid out to be judged later in the day.

The minimum time delay is one hour for TSD Test 1, two hours for most of the remainder until we get to Test 6 when we have three hour's time delay and four hours for Tests 7 and 8.



The judge and the team have a big job co-ordinating when and where everyone should be. Judges' running sheets are a lot busier than for Tracking trials.



Starting with TSD Test 1 we have a scenario where the tracklayer ("lost person" sets off, usually in a park, accompanied by a friend. After a short time they have a disagreement and the friend turns back leaving the tracklayer to continue to lay the track.

For Test 2 we have a tracklayer setting off and 30 minutes later a friend goes off to find him, walking along the first part of the track. He gets tired of searching and returns to get help.

For Test 3 we have lots of fun. Once again the tracklayer goes off, while a minimum of three people walk around and on the starting line. They can pretend they are aeroplanes or any story the judge makes up.

TSD Test 4 is 1200 metres and is a true meander track, wandering around as a lost child or an elderly person might do.

All these early tracks have two articles placed on the track. They must be things that someone might actually lose. A hat or toy, wallet, glasses case, mobile phone, anything that the tracklayer can think of. They have to be carefully placed, as while they are sitting there waiting to be found members of the public often pick them up and carry them off. We even put tags on them saying "tracking dog article please leave". Doesn't always help. For this reason, the rules allow a dog to qualify even if it doesn't find the articles. Often dogs will sniff around where an article was placed. Dogs can't indicate an article that has been taken away. These early tracks all have a minimum of four changes of direction. Unlike Tracking, the dog is to search for the start either free or with the line clipped to the harness.

For these tracks the dog will always be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness.

While it is not essential for the dog to free quarter off line I find it is easier for them to find the start. Also, German Shepherds are fairly obedient of course. Lots of funny stories though. The first time I tried free quartering my girl took off and I found her 200 metres along the track impatiently waiting for me. She was sitting at the article though. Also for these tests the line must be a minimum of 10 metres. For the street tracks the line must be a minimum of 5 metres and a maximum of 10 metres

There is currently a review of the ANKC Tracking and Track and Search Dog rules. Submissions are being called for and depending on the State or Territory where you reside, you will be invited to come to meetings to decide on any changes to be made and to advise your delegate on how you wish them to vote. The effective date of the new rules will be 1st January 2019.

Now we get to the Street tracks

High visibility clothing must be worn by all those officiating at Tests 5 to 10.

For night tests handlers must wear a head light and dogs need to have reflective tape on the line and/or harnesses. Handlers have lots of fun dressing up their dogs. Reflective tape is available at safety shops. Lights can be bought online and at camping shops. You can pay from \$15 to \$300 for a head light.

As there are only three night tests at this stage the \$15 ones are quite adequate. I also tie single use party sticks to my harness and line. The ones you break and they light up. I also use a lighted collar for the dog.

Extra care must be taken when working in traffic. Judges can put tracks out in what appears to be a quiet street. By the time the dog is worked it can turn into a busy street for all sorts of reasons. Street parties are a worry. Dogs not only have to negotiate people, they have to ignore those yummy cooking smells as well. Sometimes people come out of houses to watch the dogs.

TSD Tests 5 and 6 are 800 metres. The later ones are all 1000 metres. They vary from no more than 5 turns to a minimum of 7 turns. Tests 7 and 8 lead to the Track and Search Dog Champion title, they are a minimum of 4 hours old and include the dog being stopped along the way for a 2 minute pause. You can't believe how long two minutes takes when you are waiting. I jokingly tell handlers that they will be downgraded if they can't tell a good joke during the pause. Once the 2 minutes is up the dog is expected to continue working, and they mostly do.

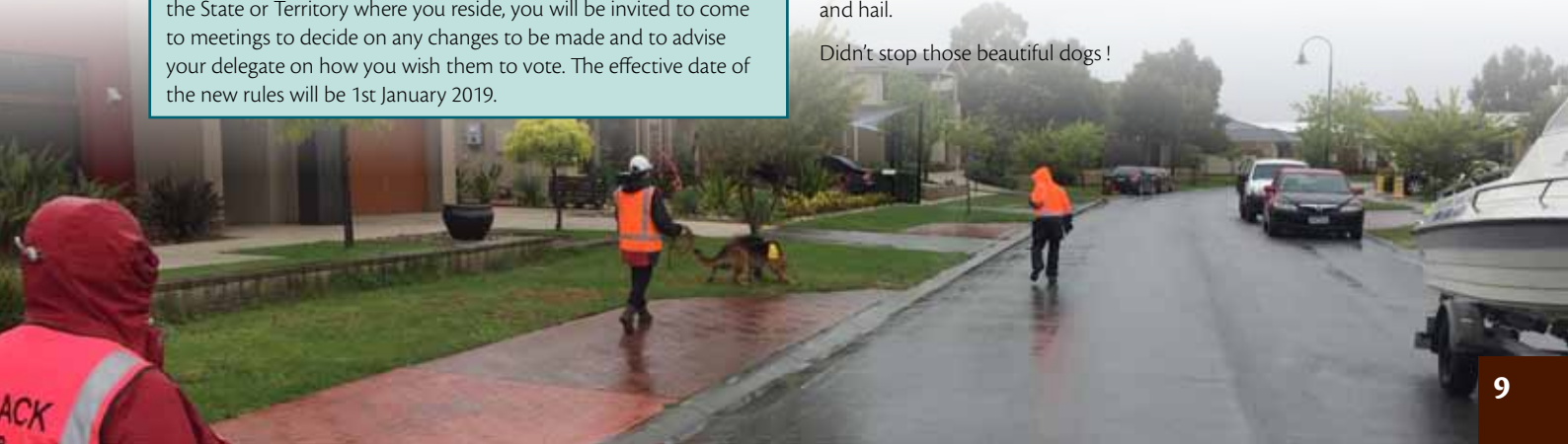
For TSD Tests 9 and 10, the ones leading to the Track and Search Grand Champion title we have the tracklayer starting out laying the track as usual. However part way along the track the tracklayer gets into a car for a distance of 200 metres while the track goes through a cross road and a turn.

One very important job is to describe the tracklayer. The judge has to describe the tracklayer to the handler. Male/female, general size colour of clothing etc. Then they can make up all sorts of stories. I had a few too many drinks last night and haven't come home, was sent to the station but didn't get on the train. Up to the judge's imagination. I have a regular steward called Ken McKay. He is very naughty. He tells awful lies about tracklayers. We keep having to apologize for him. In some of the older suburbs you have back lanes which are fun to use, and in some areas there are deep gutters which are dangerous for humans but the dogs love them.

How do the dogs do it? We have some well established information on how dogs track. How can they do it while the tracklayer is in a car? They mostly do not have any trouble. The crossroad gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to indicate the track when they have three possible ways the tracklayer could have gone.

In a recent TSD trial run by the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria the weather was really foul. High winds and, at one stage, horizontal rain and hail.

Didn't stop those beautiful dogs!



A NEGATIVE becomes a positive

On Monday 26th September I attended the Perth Royal Show with 4 German Shepherds (3 of my own and 1 of my parents) and my Blue Heeler.

We arrived at 6.30am in the morning, ready for a long and enjoyable day.

The staff working in the dog pavilion are always very helpful.

I was trying to set all the dogs up on the benches, but with 5 dogs and only myself that can be difficult.

There was a female staff member nearby and I asked her to hold 3 of the Shepherds while I set the other 2 dogs up. Unbeknown to me the lady was petrified of German Shepherds, but she held the dogs and seemed ok.

The day went on and the time came to pack up and leave.

As I was standing with all my dogs waiting for the car and trailer to arrive, this same staff member approached me. The dogs again calmly said hello to her.

She then proceeded to thank me, and tell me that my dogs are awesome, and due to their temperaments and behaviour her negative view on German Shepherds had changed completely !!

She had passed by the dogs several times that day and was impressed with their behaviour in regards to the constant attention from the public.

She told me that when I asked her that morning to hold the dogs, she felt she couldn't say no, even though she was petrified. (I must admit I didn't give her a chance to decline as I was too busy sorting out benches!).

She went on to explain that when she was a child in England she was attacked by a German Shepherd and had avoided them ever since.

But her interaction with my dogs that day had changed all that.

I walked away thinking "this made my day".

I am very proud of Hondo, Jett, Dusty, Duke and Sarita and their behaviour at the show, as this kind of setting is not a regular occurrence.

Kym Slenny

Public Relations Officer GSDA of WA

Do you have a good story or a tale to tell ? We'd love to hear about it.

Send it to us at revieweditor@gsdcouncilaustralia.org



Next Month's Photo Spread:

Puppies !

Send us your best puppy photos !

Make them (and their antics) famous!

Email us:

revieweditor@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

OBEDIENCE wrap

Success and appreciation of our dog's efforts to learn and achieve can be told in many ways. Below are two great stories from members who've started out with a goal and kept going to achieve it, and the bond with their dogs is part of the reason for their success.

John De Lucia,
Obedience Chair

The Making of a Companion Dog

I'm sitting in the back yard, my German Shepherd is sitting at my feet asleep in the sun. As I look down at him, I remember him lying in the same spot as a small puppy and I start to look back at how we have come as a pair.

I am not a competitive person in the usual way, I don't want to beat the competition, but I like to know that I put my best efforts into everything I do, and constantly try and better myself. This is the same for the work I put into training and trialing with my dogs.

Back in 1986, my 3rd German Shepherd, Navare and I started trials. After passing our prelim trial we came third, second and first in the next three. Trialing with Navare went well, I was young and in my early twenties and didn't have any doubts that this run wouldn't continue later on in life.

Moving forward a few years, I now have my 6th German Shepherd 'Tonaker Saxon' and I decide to trial again. We do a couple of CCD trials and first up we do well, scoring 96/100. Next up it's the CD trial, 'The Balmead Shield' and for the first time in ten years the GSDCSA win the title back to back and my score of 187 helped get them across the line. While I am on a winning streak, I decide to go for the CD title. Unfortunately, for the first time we taste failure.

During the trial Saxon goes wide on a right turn, that attempt failed. Onto the next trial and we are sitting on 198 points, during the recall Saxon goes straight past me, leaves the ring, takes a drink from a bucket of water and returns and sits in front of me. We have failed once again.

With help, guidance and an enormous amount of patience my instructor Ingrid Hangreefs puts us to work, and with lots of dedication and training we are ready to try again for the CD title.

We pass the next trial with a score of 184 points and Saxon works really well in the final trial with a score of 193 points. We walk away with the medal of excellence and we finally have our companion dog title.

I must pass on my praise to the instructors at the GSDCSA, they have so much knowledge and really want people to succeed. I am now an instructor myself and I love to pass on all of my past experience to other handlers and help them discover how great trialing is.

Rob MacPherson



Best Friends

Zed was 2 only days old when I first saw him, and from that day on I had big ideas of competing with this little black GSD puppy in the Obedience ring. One problem, it very quickly became evident that my future obedience star had little to no food or toy drive. As I train using motivation this was a disaster. Thanks to good friends, great advice and many hours spent encouraging Zed, we overcame these obstacles.

Some of the results Zed has achieved to date is a perfect score of 200 points in Novice, 199 points in Open, and so far 197 points in UD, and Queensland Open Dog for 2015.

I hope our story gives someone the inspiration to continue working towards their goal and to keep in mind forming a strong bond with our dogs helps to make a good dog and handler relationship an even better one, no matter what discipline you are involved with.

Debbie Hart and Zed



NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



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Winter has left us and summer now shows us what it can do with bush fires starting up all over the place, one can only hope that all of our members have contingency plans in order to be able to move the dogs out in a hurry to safety. So many of our members do live in bushland areas and should have their properties cleared to safety standards and also fire proof hoses and fittings as the normal plastic ones start to melt in the heat, one to remember! Keep an eye out for snakes as well as they are very active at the present moment

Not a lot of news this edition, all is very quiet but we did hold the Laurelle Reilly Memorial show in October over two days which was successful. The Reilly Family were invited down for lunch on the Saturday and it was nice to see Carolynn again and son Andrew, also brother James and his wife Aurora representing the family.

We are now heading into the Christmas period and our Christmas Members Competition and Trial with Bruce Knight doing the honours for us, red-eyes both ways. We have our Christmas Awards night is coming up and then Christmas and New Year, when does it stop ?.

Don't forget water and good shade for your dogs during the summer as they cannot build their own shade spots nor search for water. It is your responsibility to see they are well housed and well watered and don't forget the snakes.

See you next issue

Terry Jarvis

Publicity Officer



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Hello all from 'Beautiful one day - Perfect the next' Queensland. Not a great deal happening in front of the scenes as our busy specialist show season came to an end in September with the 2016 State Breed Exhibition and Trial. Behind the scenes however it is a totally different story! There is a team hard at work, doing their best to ensure everything will be perfect for the 45th National German Shepherd Dog Show & Trial being held at the Dogs Queensland Sports Grounds, King Avenue, Durack, Brisbane in May next year. This is a very special year for the Queensland Club as we will also be celebrating our 60th birthday. We hope you like cake!



The 45th GSD National Show and Trial schedule is printed in this issue of the Review and it will also appear in all State Kennel control journals in due course so keep a look out for it and try to get yourselves organized nice and early. The online booking service 'Show Manager' can be used not only for your entries, extra catalogue purchases and donations but also to book all social events. Entries and bookings for the social events using the booking slip can also be posted to the Show Secretary Mandy Scrivens as usual. Check out the Club website and the 45th

National GSD Show & Trial Facebook page for regular updates. We are very pleased to advise that we have secured a dry food sponsor and thank Advance for agreeing to sponsor the National next year. Donations towards the trophy table are coming in steadily and thanks must go to Robyn Knuckey for her very kind assistance in securing much needed donations towards the sashes and trophy table. We will also be running a major cash raffle and tickets will be on sale in early January so don't be surprised if a book turns up in your mail box. The GSDCQ is a small club in comparison to most of our sister clubs so every ticket sold goes towards making the 2017 National a very memorable event. Focus of course will be on the dogs but plans are underway to make the weekend a very social event. The Durack grounds provide lots of camping and campervan sites and these can also be booked via 'Show Manager'. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

We will be holding the last Breed Survey for the year on the 5th of November and our Annual General Meeting on the 5th of December. This year we are proud that there are many "Awards of Merit" to be presented as well as awards for titles in several disciplines – Obedience, Tracking, Herding and of course Conformation. We also have Awards heading to each of the Zones and we take this opportunity to send congratulations to all members and their dogs for showcasing the breed so well in the past twelve months. We will put a complete and well deserved "Brag" list in our next "News from Qld".

As always, continue to enjoy this wonderful breed of ours and remember it is what brought us all together in the first place. Our one common love – the German Shepherd Dog.



Above: Joachim Stiegler



Right: Frank Goldlust

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



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It's been a busy two months here in Victoria as we come out of our winter slumber with a host of events to run and participate in. Of course there was the Royal Melbourne Show in September, big on the all breeds calendar and great for promotion of our breed. GSD judging was a Thursday this year, meaning a smaller entry. Still, quality was on show, well done to everyone who went along.

Best of Breed LSC was CH. BRONACRE MURUMBIDGEE MURPHY owned by Tanya Schumann and BOB SC was KARDIN NAUGHTY BUT NICE, owned by Tracey Hill.

On the same weekend as many of our intrepid showies ventured to Canberra, we also held our Open Double Obedience Trial. Despite the clash with the AFL grand final, we had over 85 entries with some excellent passes for both GSDCV members and others.

We followed this in October with our Track and Search Dog trial, held in and around the urban streets of Cranbourne during the day and night. The weather wasn't great (ie galeforce winds and driving rain at times) but having been out stewarding for a dog on a track in one of the storms, I can attest to the dog not paying one ounce of attention to the weather and pushing on oblivious to all – the scent on the 4 hour old track still held, and the dog found the track layer after 1000m. Amazing.

Great performers on the day and night were Ros Mills' 2 dogs, TCh Tardel Kaddyshack CCD RE TSDX passing test 7 and TCh Barfran Galaxy Star CD RE TSDX passing test 8 of 10 tests. Well Done Ros!

While we are talking about high performers, in mid-October the Skye branch held a seminar with Boyd Hooper, a renowned trainer of military and working dogs, with some great

insights into training for performance and how that can be used to prepare competition dogs for success. Great day for those who attended. You can never stop learning. Many of our instructors, along with members took the opportunity to attend and add to their knowledge.

Our most recent structural assessment was held at our Gippsland branch, where 17 dogs were put through their paces by our surveyors. Structural Assessments are for our non breeder members at our branches, as an educational tool to give them an understanding of the breed, anatomy and history. Each participant receives a certificate detailing their dog. The day at Gippsland was a huge success, and there were some lovely dogs presented. Thanks to all who helped out.

The 95th GSDCV Champ show was held over the Melbourne Cup weekend, along with the Working Dog Club Show. A last minute change in venue saw us relocated to KCC Park, so thanks to everyone who accommodate that. Our show judges were Herr Harald Hohmann (SV) and Peter Flynn (SA). A usual, we turned on the weather – sunny and warm on Saturday, warm and very windy with rain on Sunday. True Melbourne weather. Unfortunately not everyone went home with their gazebo intact 😞 Our major stars were: Stock Coat Challenge Dog *XARO VON DER PLASSENBURG, Challenge Bitch *CHARLOTTE VON TRONJE



Long Stock Coat Challenge Dog *CH. JAYSHELL GLASGOW and Challenge Bitch *KAZKIRI XIVAS MA BELLE AMIE.



And a big cheer for our Dual Performance winner *CH. STOBAR QUENTIN CD ET owned by Stuart Macdonald.



At the Working Dog Club Champ show on Sunday, we saw the following: Stock Coat Best of Breed *XARO VON DER PLASSENBURG and RUBOB *CHARLOTTE VON TRONJE. The LSC Best of Breed was VANHARLEY PROMISCIUS GIRL AZ and the RUBOB was WILDHERTZ GAUCIS PRIDE. A huge thanks to everyone who helped out, from set up, to pack up, running the rings, catering and all else that goes with a show. Well done to the show committee and their extra special helpers 😊

Our Open Show and final breed survey for the year are also run and done. Now we turn our attention to the end of year. Our training branches have all had end of year celebrations, and have begun the wind down to Christmas. Our dogs don't stop though, training is fun, especially for puppies and most will train through the summer months, mindful of the importance of early learning and interactions.

To all our members here in Victoria and to those interstate, we hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Spoil yourselves and your dogs. Enjoy the extra time you can spend with them over the holidays, and make the most of every minute. Your dogs will return the favour ten-fold 😊

My Shepherd, My Friend, My Responsibility



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NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



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Following the massive flood that inundated the GSDCT ground and club-rooms in June of this year, I am happy to report that we are once again 'back in business', albeit with some minor alterations to our general catering aspect. A club working group has been formed with the intention of advising club members just what will be repaired and or replaced, utilising available club funds and the very generous donations provided by German Shepherd Clubs throughout Australia.

The German Shepherd Championship Show held over the weekend 17th and 18th September, officiated by judges Jenny Yuen and Alistair Henderson saw some 44 entries competing under thankfully sunny and pleasant skies.

Roxamburg kennels had a particularly good show with 'Roxamburg Hot Chilli AZ' securing first place in the Intermediate SC for bitches, and second places for 'Roxamburg Harley's Halo AI' in Minor SC Puppy Bitches and third place with 'Roxamburg Beyonce Single Lady AZ' in the SC Open Bitch class.

Likewise the duo of L. Summers and T. Massis enjoyed success with 'Elsass Effie's Legacy' and 'Elsass Twisted Willow' in the Baby Puppy Bitch class, whilst Hasse, Oar and Mathers also enjoyed similar success with 'Hasenway Maggie May' in the Puppy Bitch class.

In fact all competitors enjoyed success in one form or another and your 'dogs' are a credit to you all....well done!

On the 29th October a number of club members entered the GSDCV Championship Show and it is pleasing to report that not only did members thoroughly enjoy themselves, but the dogs did you proud. Special mentions are reserved for 'Hasenway Maggie' (Mathers/Hasse/Oar) securing fourth place in the Junior

Bitch class; 'Roxamburg Hot Chilli' (Hall) with fifth place in the Intermediate Bitch class; 'Zicke Vom Feuermelder' (Haase/Oar) with second place in the Open Bitch class; 'Jayshell Joker' (Peacock/Bick) with sixth place in the Open Bitch class; and 'Roxamburg Beyonce Lady' (Hall) with 15th place in the Open Bitch class.

On the 30th October a number of members also competed in the Working Dog Club of Victoria Show and enjoyed success. Likewise, mention is made of 'Zicke Vom Feuermelder' (Haase/Oar) with second place in the Open Bitch class; 'Roxamburg Beyonce Lady' (Hall) with 15th place in the Open Bitch class. 'Roxamburg Hot Chilli' (Hall) with fourth place in the Intermediate Bitch class; 'Hasenway Maggie' (Mathers/Hasse/Oar) securing fifth place in the Junior Bitch class; 'Hasenway Montgomery' first place in Junior Dog, Reserve Challenge Dog and Best Junior and in the Open Dog Class Haase/Mathers/Oar had success with Kyoara Fabio. Well done to you all.

With the close of yet another year dawning before us, the GSDCT looks forward to its annual Christmas function in December which is a day of fun, much frivolity and just simply being with our dogs.

As I close for this year, may I say to one and all, may you have a Very Safe and Happy Christmas and that the New Year brings you more love, companionship and enjoyment from your four legged German Shepherd friends.

Dave Griffin



GSDC of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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As our association begins its wind down towards Christmas (and most importantly a well-deserved rest for our volunteers) we are continuing to put on events for our members at a rapid rate.

Since our last report we have had some very successful events with a Members' Competition and Open show for a trainee judge - the day had a good atmosphere and the judges both enjoyed the experience.

I hear our West Coast Challenge Obedience Trial and Rally O Trail went off well with participants enjoying the event.

Recently we had the ABSOLUTE pleasure in having Harald and Nicole Hohmann here as our guests whilst Harald judged our West Coast Challenge Show, which was full of great sportsmanship and good humour. They were the perfect guests and we were thrilled to take care of them over the week they were here. It gave us a chance to experience a little bit of our state that we take for granted. Our wildlife, bush and city were big hits and they were envious of its beauty. Cuddling koalas, feeding kangaroos, seeing whales and sea lions made this a trip to remember for a lifetime. It was sad to say goodbye and send them off to Victoria and New Zealand.



Nicole Hohmann

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



Harald & Nicole with some of our Aussie wildlife

We have been holding our Quarterly General Meetings after training on Sundays and we have had a larger turnout than normal and it has been great to see many new faces who are unable to get to meetings on Monday evenings. This does give them the opportunity to voice their opinions and participate in decisions on the members' behalf.

Sunday 13th November was the "What's new in Haemangiosarcoma research" talk from Dr Claire Sharp BSc BVMS, MS, DACVECC. Many of us have suffered the heartbreak of losing our beloved dogs to this condition and I am positive Claire's talk will bring some clarity (and hope?) to all who attend. This will be the final in a very successful lecture series this year organised through the connections of our Breed Affairs Chair, Natalie Humphries and our honorary veterinarian, Dr Candy Baker.

Our final Closed Club Trial and graduation was held on November 20th and we all wish our members and their dogs the very best and we hope to raise a few dollars for one of our pet charities - the McGrath Foundation.

The following week begins the fun part of the year. A chance to let our hair down - sizzle a few snags, send the humans around the agility course and see those dogs wolf down the food to win the fastest eating contest plus many, many other ideas dreamt up by Kym Glenn and co.

Our year ends with a fantastic Children's Christmas Party with face painting, bouncy castle, animal farm etc and once the sun is set the adults can sit back and see their peers receive the prestigious annual awards from all disciplines within our association.

Night Training begins on 30th November at HQ and 1st December at Otago Park - this training runs throughout the summer with only a 2 week break over Christmas and New Year. A huge thank you to all of our trainers who put in so much effort over and above for the sake of our breed.

December 24th will see the 40th anniversary of the Alsatian Dog Act being repealed here in W.A. - another milestone - a very happy one.

To all of our members and friends in other states and overseas - on behalf of the G.S.D.A. of W.A. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and successful 2017. Drive carefully, stay safe and take care of your dogs during the silly season with dangers of unsuitable foodstuff and the summer sunshine.

Margaret Adams



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CLUB spotlight

German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria

"The German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria Inc. (GSDCV) is dedicated to the improvement, promotion and protection of the German Shepherd Dog. We aim to assist with the education of our members and the public to a better understanding of the breed, responsible breeding practices, and responsible dog ownership"

The GSDCV is the largest single breed club in Australia today, with a membership in excess of 2,400.



Our Past

The Alsatian Club of Victoria was founded in 1929, with our current Patron's father, Mr Luxton Snr as the first President. Shortly afterwards, "The Alsatian Defence League of Victoria" was established by His Honour Judge Mitchell and a number of friends, primarily to fight the import ban imposed by the federal government on German Shepherd Dogs coming into Australia. In approximately 1933/1934 the two bodies, The Alsatian Club of Victoria and The Alsatian Defence League of Victoria merged and was known as "The Alsatian Club of Victoria" up until 1937, when it formally changed its name to "The German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria". One of the most influential persons in the Victorian dog world from 1920 to his death during 1973, was his Honour Judge Mitchell, who imported the famous Claus vom Eulengarten in 1929. He was the Patron of the GSDCA from 1964 to his death in 1973. He was also President of the Victorian Canine Association Inc. (now Dogs Victoria) in the early 1930's, convincing five individual clubs, who were each acting as a kennel control in their own right, to amalgamate. He also owned a number of breeds other than German Shepherds.

The Club was also very active in the efforts to successfully lift the Federal import ban on German Shepherd Dogs. In the immediate years preceding the lifting of the ban, our club's demo team performed regularly in many locations, including the then VFL football matches at half time, to raise money to support other efforts to lift the ban. One of the main purposes of raising funds was to pay for a professional press cutting service (no email, internet or facebook back then!) to collect and forward to the club all reports of German Shepherd activity throughout Australia. At that time, there was a lot of negative publicity and any dog with a pricked ear was unfairly labelled an 'Alsatian'. The Clubs and National Council followed up all of these reports and forced many retractions of previously run stories about so called German Shepherds.

With the lifting of the ban, there were a large number of imported dogs and some bitches during the 1970's and 1980's, which resulted in large numbers of puppies being bred and sold to the public. This in turn led the GSDCV to set up training branches to cope with the increasing number of dogs. The Club has had a number of training grounds, including opposite Victoria's original Olympic swimming pool, originally located in Batman Avenue Richmond, and for a long time was located in the grounds opposite the Kooyong tennis courts in Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn. In 1977 there were three new branches, located at Eastern Suburbs, Western Suburbs and Ballarat. In 1982 the Waverley (Specialist Show Branch) branch was created, followed by Latrobe Valley (1984) Geelong & Northern (1986), Skye (1988), Gippsland 1994 (replacing the Latrobe Valley), Wangaratta (1999 being replaced by Wodonga in 2000) and Bendigo in 1996. There was also a Mornington branch for a very brief period in the late 1970's. Today there are a total of 11 training branches of the GSDCV, serving german shepherd owners in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. It was always felt that establishing a branch network was a wonderful and effective way of promoting and protecting the German Shepherd Dog in local areas. To date, this has served us and our breed well, and which we hope will continue long into the future !

How We Operate

With 11 training branches comes a heavy administration burden, but our Club structure works well to ensure all members are informed and branches are relatively consistent in their operation. Each training branch is managed by its own committee, and each of the Branch Managers sits on the GSDCV Management Committee, along with the Executive of the Club.

Branches range in size depending on their location, with country branches having 10-20 dogs per week attend and some of the larger metro branches training 70 or 80 dogs each week. Our two key club areas are training, managed by our Obedience Training Committee (OTC) and the breed and conformation showing area, managed by our Breed Affairs committee (BA). These 2 areas compliment the branch training set up for member's dogs. Branches focus on our dogs as pets and quality canine citizens, providing lifestyle and obedience training, including to competition trial level. Most training branches also run show classes, and of course we have the Specialist Show Branch dedicated to 'showing' 😊.

At the core of the branches we are so very lucky to have a large dedicated crew of nearly 100 obedience and 30 show class instructors, who turn up week in week out to help members with their dogs. They all complete our in house 2 year training course to qualify as instructors. A club the size of the GSDCV could not operate without our large contingent of volunteer committee members, instructors and other core people managing Club roles and positions. To them, we are eternally thankful for their contribution, both now and in days gone by.

Community and Promotional efforts

The GSDCV is actively involved in many community charity efforts, the main one of which is the annual Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. The GSDCV has proudly been involved with the Appeal for 33



CLUB spotlight

consecutive years, collecting money for the Kids. Overall, we have raised to date \$575,830.65 – more than half a million bucks 😊. Many members consistently help out with collecting on street corners on Good Friday. A big shout out to the drivers of this effort every year - Lyn Pickering, Bernie Lester and Dom Cafari and the Western branch, along with many other members who always chip in !



As an adjunct to the Good Friday Appeal, in recent years we've taken the opportunity to support the appeal by having our club name splashed across a Melbourne city tram in the weeks leading up to Good Friday. It's been great to see a tram with a GSD head and our club name trundle through the CBD streets to support and promote!

For the last few years we've re-joined the Moomba Parade,

held on the March long weekend in Melbourne. Moomba is a huge festival, and the parade streets are lined with ~80,000 people. Our team of dogs and handlers have been a real hit as the only animals in the parade. The exposure of our breed to the masses and the good will from the pats and seeing the dogs in such an environment is immeasurable publicity. Last year we were the 'guard of honour' for the Moomba King and Queen.



We've also been involved in a variety of other community projects, including raising money for Victorian bushfire victims, specifically for vets in affected areas to continue their work and we've assisted the State Emergency Service with equipment for their dog squad. Recently we've fundraised the 'purple poppies' for the Animals of War and a Victorian memorial being built.



Luckily, we now have quite a few members who have their dogs qualified in Pets for Therapy type roles with various organisations including Delta and Dogs Victoria. They are out and about at nursing homes, hospitals and schools promoting the value of our dogs. We know how great they are, but they bring great joy to others who benefit so much in both confidence and health wise.

For promotion purposes, we have always attended the Melbourne Pet and Animal Expo, and of course the Royal Melbourne Show with breed stands and demonstration teams. The dogs are always the stars of the show. Most of our 11 training branches also attend their local council Pet expos and/or Ag. shows each year representing the GSDCV, with breed info and dog demo's. This is great exposure to the local and general public across a broad area of Victoria. And each year we participate in the Dogs Victoria 'Big Day Out for Dogs' running tunnels for the general public.

Our club has for many years provided our breeders with free training certificates to handover when they sell their puppies. This has been very beneficial in ensuring that our breeder's puppies and new owners attend and join the GSDCV, providing them with the best possible training for

their young pup and engaging with them in all our club activities – for the rest of the pup's life. We hope that eventually those young puppies will join our prestigious '13 Club'. It's one of our favourite but very select groups. To join the 13 Club, a dog must reach the grand age of 13 years. We wish there were more of our dogs who were eligible to join ! But we honour those who do.

Club Events

With so many members the GSDCV is lucky to be able to conduct a variety of well supported events for both our own club members and the interested dog fraternity.

On the conformation side, we hold 2 major championship shows, 1 over 2 days in March and 1 in conjunction with the Working Dog Club of Vic in November. Our State Breed Exhibition is held in May, with our Open show in December to round out the year. Recently we've teamed up with several all breeds clubs to run with specialist judges so members have greater opportunities to show. Team this up with our 6 breed surveys for the year and it's a busy calendar !

The GSDCV has always had a large obedience trial fraternity and history tells us we've had some super performance dogs here in Victoria. And there is plenty of opportunity to compete. Each of our shows has an obedience trial included, as well as running an open double obedience trial in October. Rally Obedience is also now included with most trials, and we have recently begun holding an open rally trial in July, which has great support for both new and 'old' triallers 😊

For those with energy, the annual endurance trial is well supported by both those with a family pet and also show dogs in training. Always a great trial despite the winter weather. Speaking of which, the tracking fraternity amongst us are hardy souls. We run a tracking trial (bush and paddocks) in June and also a Track and Search Dog Trial (urban tracks) in October. Dogs love tracking, something a GSD is made for. Lots of our members are involved in tracking. We've also implemented a Structural Assessment for our non-breeder members at our branches, as an educational tool to give them an understanding of the breed, anatomy and history. Each participant receives a certificate detailing their dog.

We also hold Club and branch Fundays and seminars and branches often have independent and combined social functions throughout the year.

After all, dog club is not just about the dogs 😊

Promote our motto:

'My Shepherd, My Friend, My Responsibility'

Visit us anywhere, anytime

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What Is Clicker Training?

By Karen Pryor

“Clicker training” is an animal training method based on behavioural psychology that relies on marking desirable behaviour and rewarding it.

Desirable behaviour is usually marked by using a “clicker,” a mechanical device that makes a short, distinct “click” sound which tells the animal exactly when they’re doing the right thing. This clear form of communication, combined with positive reinforcement, is an effective, safe, and humane way to teach any animal any behaviour that it is physically and mentally capable of doing.



Why is clicker training effective?

When an animal intentionally performs a behaviour in order to bring about a desired consequence, as clicker trained animals do, they are learning in a way that researchers call “operant conditioning.”

Animals (and people) may also associate an action, event, place, person, or object with a consequence, whether pleasant or unpleasant. The more a certain event or environment is paired with a particular consequence, the stronger the association. This type of learning is called “classical conditioning” and represents reflexive or automatic behaviour, rather than intentional behaviour.

While clicker training initially employs classical conditioning, it quickly becomes operant conditioning as soon as the animal intentionally repeats an action in order to earn a reward. Training through operant conditioning results in purposeful behaviour, while training through classical conditioning results in habitual behaviour.

The difference between an animal that behaves with purpose, rather than by habit, is vast. Clicker trained or operantly conditioned animals try to learn new behaviours. They remember behaviours even years later because they were aware of them as they learned them, rather than acquiring them without awareness. They develop confidence because they have control over the consequences of their actions. They are enthusiastic because they expect those consequences to be pleasurable.

Why is a clicker used?

The essential difference between clicker training and other reward-based training is that the animal is told exactly which behaviour earned it a reward. This information is communicated with a distinct and unique sound, a click, which occurs at the same time as the desired behaviour. The reward follows.

Without hearing a click during an action, an animal may not connect the reward with that action. Or, the animal may associate the reward with another, unwanted action. With the click, a trainer can precisely “mark” behaviour so that the animal knows exactly what it was doing. That’s why clicker trainers call the click an “event marker.” The click also bridges or connects the behaviour and its reward, and so is also called a “bridging signal.”

Why use the click? Why not just a word?

A click is more powerful for training than a spoken word because it is not a sound heard by the animal in other circumstances. It means one thing only: a reward is coming because of what you did when you heard the click. It can be produced instantly and at the exact moment a behaviour occurs. Even a very quick and subtle behaviour, the twitch of an ear for example, can be clicked.

Unlike our voices, which can say the same word in different ways, and so express different emotions or meanings each time, the click sounds the same every time it is heard; its meaning never varies. Humans are highly verbal creatures, but our pets are not. It can be difficult for them to pick out a single word from the stream of meaningless words they hear us speak every day. The click’s meaning, however, is always clear. It is always directed at the animal, and it is always good news.

The clarity with which a click enables trainers to communicate with their animals has a profound effect on their relationships. Their level of interaction increases, and trainer and animal become more interesting and fun for each other.

How does clicker training work?

The trainer clicks at the moment the behaviour occurs: the horse raises its hoof, the trainer clicks simultaneously. The dog sits, the trainer clicks. Clicking is like taking a picture of the behaviour the trainer wishes to reinforce. After “taking the picture,” the trainer gives the animal something it likes, usually a small piece of food but sometimes play, petting, or other rewards.

Very soon (sometimes within two or three clicks), an animal will associate the sound of the click with something it likes: the reward. Since it wishes to repeat that pleasurable experience, it will repeat the action it was doing when it heard the click.

Any behaviour can be trained with any animal following these three simple steps:

1. Get the behaviour.
2. Mark the behaviour.
3. Reinforce the behaviour.



How do clicker trainers ask for behaviours?

Clicker trainers differ from traditional trainers in that they wait until the behaviour is well understood by the animal before using a command or "cue." A cue is the name of a behaviour, such as "sit," or a hand movement or other clear signal. Until the animal knows what the behaviour is, any name for it would be meaningless.

When the animal has been clicked several times for a behaviour, and then confidently repeats the behaviour, showing that it knows exactly what earns it a click and a reward, it is ready to learn the name of the behaviour. Clicker trainers call this "introducing the cue."

To teach the animal the name of the behaviour, or the cue, the trainer says or signals the cue before the animal repeats the behaviour. After several repetitions, the trainer begins to click and reward when the animal does the behaviour, but only after the cue is given. No click is given if the animal does the behaviour without being given the cue first. The animal quickly learns to listen or watch for its cue, which tells it: If you do this behaviour now, you will get a click and earn a reward.

What if the animal does not obey the cue?

Clicker trained animals want to perform behaviours for which they have been rewarded in the past. If they understand the meaning of the cue and desire the reward, they will perform the behaviour.

If they do not perform the behaviour, clicker trainers do not assume that the animal is "disobeying." Instead the trainer asks the following questions:

1. Does the animal know the meaning of the cue?
2. Does the animal know the meaning of the cue in the environment in which it was first taught, but not in the environment in which it was given?
3. Is the reward for doing the behaviour sufficiently desired by the animal?

After answering those questions, the clicker trainer revises the training process to be sure that the animal knows the meaning of the cue in all environments, regardless of distractions, and feels rewarded for the behaviour.

Why don't clicker trainers use punishments as well as rewards?

A consequence of any behaviour can be unpleasant as well as pleasant. So why shouldn't punishments follow unwanted behaviours, just as rewards follow wanted behaviours?

Research tells us that punishment may decrease the frequency of an unwanted behaviour, but usually results in producing another unwanted behaviour. The results of punishment as a training method are difficult to predict and to control.

In addition, punishment is not usually identified with an event marker. It almost always comes after the event and is rarely clearly connected with a specific behaviour. In the animal's perception, punishment is a random, meaningless event. It is, therefore, less effective than the combined use of an event marker and positive reinforcement in changing behaviour.

Clicker trainers also feel that their relationships with their animals are stronger and more rewarding when they focus on the positive rather than the negative. Like the difference between an animal behaving with intention rather than by habit, the difference in attitude and enthusiasm between an animal that works to earn rewards rather than to avoid punishment is vast.

How can clicker training be used to get rid of behaviours?

Clicker trainers allow unwanted behaviours to disappear through lack of reinforcement. If a behaviour is not rewarding to the animal, eventually it will disappear. If an unwanted behaviour persists, clicker trainers study the behaviour to understand why it is reinforcing to the animal. Sometimes the behaviour reinforces itself: a barking dog is less bored than a quiet dog. The barking is its own reward. The clicker trainer provides this dog with an alternate wanted behaviour to replace the unwanted behaviour. The bored dog may simply need more activity, or perhaps quiet resting for longer and longer periods can become a rewarded behaviour. Then the clicker trainer would teach the dog a cue for "silence."

Do clickers and treats need to be used for every behaviour, forever?

No. Once a behaviour is learned and on cue, there's usually no need to click, as the animal understands the behaviour. Clicker trainers can maintain the behaviour by replacing especially good treats with occasional and less intensive rewards including a pat or praise. Learned cues and behaviours are also maintained by real-life rewards: for example sitting quietly at the door is rewarded by opening the door so that the dog can have a walk. Clicker trainers then save clicks and treats for the next new thing they want to train.

Can clicker training be used with any animal?

Yes. First widely used by dolphin trainers who needed a way to teach behaviour without using physical force, operant conditioning (the scientific term for clicker training) can be and has been successfully employed with animals of all sizes and species, both domesticated and wild, young and old; all breeds of dogs and puppies, cats, birds, leopards, rats, rabbits, chinchillas, fish, and more.

Clicker trainers who learn the underlying principles have at their disposal a powerful set of tools that enable them to analyse behaviours, modify existing methods for individual animals, and create new methods where none previously existed. This flexibility allows the tools of clicker training to be re-invented in new forms that work in a range of situations, and for an infinite variety of animals.

Is clicker training a training method or a philosophy?

Sometimes people are surprised by the enthusiasm and dedication clicker trainers have for their method. These trainers may have first started learning to click as a way of training their dog, but soon realized that the fundamental principles of clicker training could be applied to other areas of their lives. Changing one's focus from the negative to the positive can certainly be a life-changing event.

Get Clicking!



To Crate or Not To Crate?

Crate training has so many benefits, it is definitely worth the small investment of time it takes to teach your dog to love the crate.

Crates are not cruel. Introduced correctly, a crate can become a dog's sanctuary. For a dog, it can be like having his own bedroom. When travelling with your dog or attending a show or performance event, it's especially nice to be able to bring that "bit of home" along. It offers comfort and a feeling of security for your dog. If your dog is ever injured or recovering from surgery, a crate will provide containment for rest during recuperation.

By Sarah Fulcher

A bonus, not a penalty

Many people refuse to crate or kennel-train their dogs because they feel the confinement is cruel. However, a crate or kennel can give dogs a sense of security. Crate training done properly is also a highly effective management system that can be a lifesaver for dog owners. Like any training method, crating can be abused, but using a crate for appropriate time periods is helpful with a variety of important goals, including house training, preventing destructive behaviour, and teaching a dog to settle and relax.

If a dog is taught through positive reinforcement to love the crate, the crate becomes his own private and safe place, much like a bedroom for a child. The crate or kennel is somewhere the dog can go and not be bothered; it's a perfect destination when the dog is tired or nervous. Dogs have a natural instinct to be in a den. Many dogs take to a crate very easily.

Crate training provides a number of benefits to owners. A crate that is sized properly (read more about size below) encourages a dog's instinct not to mess where he sleeps, helping to teach the dog bladder and bowel control. This tendency to view the crate as a clean place is a huge benefit house training a new rescue dog or puppy, of course!

Using a crate prevents a dog or pup from getting into trouble when you can't supervise directly. Those times might include at night, when you are at work (provided the work day is not too long and the dog gets exercise before and after), when you are busy cooking, or any other time when your attention is elsewhere than directly on your dog.

Crate training also teaches puppies and excitable dogs to expect and enjoy some down time, and conditions relaxed behaviour. Dogs and pups can be put into a crate with a yummy and safe chew or stuffed Kong to keep them secure, relaxed, and out of mischief for periods of time.

Choosing a crate: type, size, and location

There are several varieties of crates available. It can be a bit daunting to figure out the size and style to pick for your dog. The most common crate varieties are wire crates, plastic crates, and fabric crates.

Fabric crates are great for small dogs (pups) to travel in, for sporting events, or for camping. With a fabric crate, your dog must be well trained. Since fabric crates are not secure, they are not recommended for long-term confinement without supervision. The benefits of a fabric crate are that it is lightweight and that it folds flat for easy storage and travel.

Some crates double as furniture!

Probably the best bet for a pet's home crate is a plastic or wire crate. Wire crates fold flat for storage and are more economical to purchase. Plastic crates are sturdier and often feel more secure for your dog, as the walls are mostly solid. However, there are very sturdy metal crates that can be purchased, and you can always cover a wire crate with a blanket if your dog needs more privacy. For an escape artist, either a plastic crate or a rugged (not collapsible) metal crate would be best. Both plastic and metal crates can be fortified using strategically placed zip ties. If you are looking for a crate that matches your decor, fashionable dog crate furniture combos that double as end tables are available!

Selecting the right size crate can be confusing. Some people are inclined to choose a large-sized crate to give the dog lots of room. If you pick a crate that is too large, your dog may use a portion of the crate as a toilet. Pick a crate that is just large enough for your dog to stand up, turn around, and lay down comfortably, at least until the dog is house trained. Most wire crates come with a divider to block off a portion of the crate in order to make it smaller. With a plastic crate, place a box in the back half of the crate to make the space smaller. With these adjustment tricks, you do not have to buy multiple crates as your puppy grows. When your dog is toilet trained but not mature enough to be left loose in the house, feel free to go with a larger crate so the dog really has room to stretch out.

Place the crate in an area of the house where both you and the dog can access it easily. The crate should be close enough to be handy, but out of the way enough that it is not going to be tripped over constantly. I usually place a crate right beside my bed; it helps teach puppies to sleep in the crate if you are right beside them and they don't feel so alone. I place another crate in a corner of my living room.

A positive place

It works best for a dog to be introduced to a crate gradually, rather than just plopping him in for the night or long periods. When your new dog or puppy first comes home, acclimate him to the crate by tossing a treat in, leaving the door open so that the dog can enter and exit freely. When your dog is comfortable going in and out of the crate, toss a treat inside and close the door for a second or two before letting the dog out.

Place a bed or mat that your dog already likes into the crate. This will help reduce any startling noises when the dog enters the crate. The dog



will also be familiar with the bed, which could make him more willing to go into the crate. When you are not training, leave the crate open and place your dog's toy basket or favourite toys inside. Feed your dog meals in the crate, starting by leaving the door open and, as training progresses, closing it. If you give your dog any special treats, chewies, or bones, give them to him in the crate. A special bonus of having the mat in the crate is that the dog will begin to associate good things with the mat after being fed on it. Take the mat with you to the vet. Place it on the floor in the waiting room, on the scale, and in the exam room to help your dog become more comfortable and relaxed during vet visits.

Cue in and out

When the dog is going into the crate willingly, add a cue for entering the crate. Try "crate" or "bed" or "go in." Say your cue before tossing a treat inside. Soon your dog or puppy will be going into the crate on cue and eagerly.

Next, give the crate cue and wait for the puppy to go in on its own. Stop tossing the treat and wait for the puppy to enter. When the dog does go in, say "Yes!" and then feed the treat.

This training step has the added benefit of encouraging and increasing self control.

Start training a release cue at this time. The release cue tells your dog when he or she is free to leave the crate. This training step has the added benefit of encouraging and increasing self control. Your dog learns to remain calm and not rush out, even with the crate door wide open.

Cue the entrance, mark with yes, and treat. Almost immediately, say your release cue (try "ok," "free," "break," or "get out") and toss a treat on the floor outside of the crate. Keep tossing treats until the dog can leave the crate without seeing the treat; the dog exits just hearing the release cue. At that point, you can phase out the treat. Leaving the crate has become the reward.

Duration

If your dog is comfortable with the door closed for a few seconds, gradually increase the time the dog is in the crate. Remember to keep using a release cue to tell the dog that he can leave. If your dog does not have a problem remaining in the crate calmly for several minutes, start closing the door and ducking out of sight for a second before returning. Gradually build up the amount of time your dog is in the crate. If the dog starts to whine, ignore him, letting the dog out once he is calm. If you want to leave your dog in the crate for longer periods, try putting a stuffed Kong, or a safe chewie into the crate as well. A good general rule to follow is one hour in the crate for each month of age.

All through this training process it is important to be patient and not to push your dog. Ask for what your dog is comfortable with rather than forcing your dog to do what you want. Crate training is best done in baby steps. If you

can get your dog or puppy comfortable with the crate before the first night in it, your odds of getting a good sleep that night will be much higher. Once your dog is crate trained and house trained fully, you can leave the dog in a crate for several hours. The dog should have good exercise before and after, and should be left in the crate with something safe to occupy his attention. Your dog will likely spend most of the time sleeping!

Younger puppies cannot be left in a crate for as long. Physically, puppies cannot hold their bladders long enough, and it isn't fair to ask for that. A good general rule to follow is one hour in the crate for each month of age. A three-month-old puppy should be fine in the crate for three hours. Puppies should sleep in their crates at night, as this helps them learn to sleep through the night. Place the crate directly beside your bed in early first training so that your puppy will not feel lonely and frightened, and can wake you easily in the middle of the night for a bathroom break.

When a little extra is needed

While some dogs take naturally to a crate, others are not as eager. If your dog whines, cries, and puts up a fuss that keeps you awake, it's easy to give in and let him out of the crate and into your bed to sleep. Therefore, it is essential that your dog or puppy never learns that whining, crying, and barking will get open the crate and earn an invitation to your bed. Be patient and consistent with the message that calm behaviour is the key to being let out. Wait for even a few seconds of silence before opening the door.

Be strong and you will make it through the first few nights. Set up a puppy's crate with a hot water bottle and a blanket that has your scent on it. This will help the puppy feel more secure and will be reminiscent of sleeping close to his canine mom and littermates. Remember, your puppy has just been taken away from his family. Everything he knows has changed and he is likely frightened and confused.

Time-out

If crate training is done properly, your pup will be conditioned to relax and settle inside the crate.

A crate can also be used as an effective and humane punishment. As long as the crate has lots of positive value built up, you can use it as an occasional time-out zone. If crate training is done properly, your pup will be conditioned to relax and settle inside the crate. Putting an unruly pup into a crate as a time-out for a few minutes teaches him to settle, and also removes all reinforcing stimulus for his "naughty" behaviour. However, if you are resorting to putting your dog in time-out multiple times per day, you risk developing a negative association with the crate. The crate should be used in this way as a last resort, and only if redirecting to an appropriate behaviour or ignoring the undesirable behaviour does not work.

From the crate, onward

In addition to the value of a crate at home, having a crate-trained dog is wonderful when you are travelling, when your dog needs to go to the vet or groomer, or if you plan to compete in any dog sports. Trained properly with positive reinforcement and patience, the crate becomes a safe place for a dog. You will find that your dog uses the crate on his own when he is tired, and enters willingly and eagerly when asked. All it takes is an investment of time and a few treats to end up with a happy dog and a happy human!



Updates on hemangiosarcoma in dogs

Many thanks to Dr Claire Sharp BSc BVMS, MS, DACVECC for providing this article for the GSDCA.

Hemangiosarcoma is a malignant, highly metastatic type of cancer that grows from blood vessels. Hemangiosarcoma is a common type of cancer in dogs that causes high morbidity and mortality. This article outlines the existing state of play in what we know about hemangiosarcoma, as well as some new information that has come out of recent studies of the disease.

What we know about hemangiosarcoma

German shepherd dogs, as well as other large breed dogs, are commonly affected by hemangiosarcoma. Although these tumours can occur anywhere in the body, common sites include the spleen, heart (particularly the right atrium and auricle), liver, and even the skin and subcutaneous tissues.

The site of the hemangiosarcoma tumour(s) is what determines the clinical manifestation of disease in affected dogs. Since these tumours commonly bleed, often the first sign of illness is collapse due to bleeding from a mass on the spleen or right heart. Bleeding from these masses causes the affected dog to go into shock, and is a life-threatening emergency.

Bleeding from a mass on the spleen (or less commonly liver) requires emergency surgery to stop the bleeding and remove the affected mass. Many dogs also require blood transfusions given large volumes of blood loss. Unfortunately the emergency nature of this condition doesn't allow a lot of time for the owners of affected dogs to make decisions or think about the best thing for their dog. Additionally, although hemangiosarcoma is the most common cause for a dog to present with a hemoabdomen (bleeding into the abdominal cavity), up to 30% of dogs have a non-malignant cause which would carry a much better prognosis. A diagnosis cannot be confirmed until after surgery, when biopsy samples are evaluated by a pathologist.

Bleeding from a mass on the heart, causes pericardial effusion, a condition in which blood accumulates in the pericardial sac (the thin walled sac around the heart). Pericardial effusion prevents blood flow back into the heart, and also causes shock. Emergency management of pericardial effusion involves draining the fluid from around the heart with a large catheter (pericardiocentesis), but can be associated with life-threatening heart arrhythmias. Identifying a mass on the heart often requires a heart ultrasound (echocardiogram) by a radiology or cardiology specialist, and again a diagnosis cannot be confirmed until a biopsy is obtained.

Unfortunately hemangiosarcoma carries a very poor prognosis for affected dogs. Following surgical removal of a splenic hemangiosarcoma, the median survival time is only 2-3 months, but can be even shorter, especially when obvious cancerous tissue remains after surgery. Even in dogs in which all grossly visible tumour is removed, and with chemotherapy, the median survival time only improves to about 6 months. The poor survival times are because by the time we identify hemangiosarcoma it has usually already metastasised to other locations in the body, and it is usually these metastases that cause subsequent mortality.

The prognosis for right atrial hemangiosarcoma is more variable, but also short. Life span is likely improved by pericardectomy surgery (to remove the sac around the heart), and chemotherapy. A variety of chemotherapy protocols are used for hemangiosarcoma, but the single most important component of these is a drug called doxorubicin – usually given as a series of IV injections.

What's new?

Genetic origins of hemangiosarcoma in dogs

Recent studies have used modern genetic tools (such as genome wide association studies) to investigate the possibility of genetic contributions to hemangiosarcoma risk. Although there is not a single genetic mutation (or even couple of mutations) that causes hemangiosarcoma, these early studies do suggest that genetics do contribute to the development of the disease.

While a lot more research is needed in this area, it is useful food for thought particularly for breeders that seem to have this cancer in their blood lines. Ultimately we may be able to reduce the prevalence of hemangiosarcoma in affected breeds by identifying genetic contributions and subsequent selective breeding.

Coagulation and hemangiosarcoma

The coagulation system, ie. the system in the body that controls bleeding and clotting, is intricately involved in the disease process associated with hemangiosarcoma. Affected dogs are not only at risk of bleeding from their tumour(s), but are also at risk of abnormal blood clots.

Recent studies have shown that dogs that bleed from their hemangiosarcoma tumours have rapid breakdown of blood clots (hyperfibrinolysis), and that this might contribute to ongoing bleeding. In light of this, further research is ongoing to determine whether treating dogs with bleeding hemangiosarcoma masses with drugs to prevent clot breakdown (anti-fibrinolytics), may reduce blood loss and improve outcome.

The future

Although this recent research is not at the stage of changing treatment recommendations or improving prognosis for affected dogs just yet, it is hoped that through ongoing study we will find ways to improve outcome for dogs affected by hemangiosarcoma.

Goals of ongoing research include finding better diagnostic tests to identify hemangiosarcoma earlier, improved treatment modalities including chemotherapy to improve prognosis, and genetic studies in an attempt to identify at risk dogs and prevent passing genetic mutations onto the next generation.

2017 National Charity

Each year, the member club hosting the GSDCA National Show & Trial selects a charity to support.

This provides an opportunity for the German Shepherd Dog fraternity in Australia to show a collective support, to contribute to our community and to well deserving charity causes, often dear to many members hearts.

In previous years, the charities selected have been The McGrath Foundation, Beyond Blue, the E J Whitten Foundation for Prostate Cancer and St John Ambulance.

In 2017 at the 45th National GSD Show & Trial we will be supporting Cancer Council Australia as the selected charity.

The fundraising at the National show will contribute to this charity and there will be an opportunity to donate at the event. For those not attending, donations can be sent to the Qld Show Secretary, P.O Box 1443, Caboolture, Qld 4510.

GSDCA Member Clubs are encouraged to conduct fundraising prior to the National and/or make donations to the cause. These can be forwarded to the GSDCA show secretary, PO Box 1443, Caboolture Qld 4510

For more information on the charity, visit www.cancer.org.au

DONATIONS can be made through the following webpage at any time

<https://secure.cancercouncilfundraising.org.au/regisrant/FundraisingPage.aspx?registrationID=1028787&langPref=en-CA#&panel1-1>



Follow the National

Check out the National facebook page for all the updates
www.facebook.com/GSDNationalQLD2017



PHOTOGRAPHS

at the National

PHOTOGRAPHS: Exhibitors at the NATIONAL SHOW AND TRIAL PLEASE NOTE:

**Requirements for
Printing of Photographs
of Place-getters at the
National Show and
Trial**

**For Publication
purposes:**

1. All conformation exhibits placed 1st to 10th, and all Excellent graded exhibit owners will be required to supply a photo of their animal as placed at the Show.
2. All obedience entrants are to be photographed at the time of vetting. The animal shall be in a sitting position alongside of the Handler.
3. The photo must be supplied as a high quality (min 1Mb) 'jpg' file
4. Failure by the owner to supply a photograph will see no photograph of their animal included in the QNR.



What do YOU need to do ?

- There will be an Official Photographer at the National Show and Trial. Conformation placegetters will be photographed at the conclusion of each class. Obedience exhibitors will be photographed at the time of check-in and vetting.
- It is the responsibility of exhibitors to view and approve the photograph taken at the event by the Official Photographer. All conformation placegetters and every obedience competitor should ask to view the photo taken by the Official Photographer, and if desired, authorise its provision to the QNR Editor on your behalf.
- If you wish to substitute your own image of your animal for that taken by the official photographer, it **MUST** be forwarded to the Editor by 10pm on 5th June, 2017.
- The format must be jpeg and with file size of 1MB or greater.
- The email accompanying the image must state in the subject line: Catalogue number# • Class: • Animal's name# • Placing:
- Submissions must contain the animal's information described above
- Exhibitors failing to use either the photo taken by the official photographer or provide their own image by the due date, will have their animals critique published BUT WITHOUT a photo!

**The deadline for photo submissions is 11pm,
5th June 2017.**

Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding the supply of your animal's photo for the Review, please email the Editor (Jacinta) for help at revieweditor@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF QUEENSLAND INC. IS PROUD TO HOST, ON BEHALF OF THE GSDCA INC.



THE 45TH GSDCA NATIONAL GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG SHOW & TRIAL 19TH, 20TH & 21ST MAY, 2017

Dogs Qld Sports Grounds, 247 King Avenue, Durack, Queensland

ALL ENTRIES CLOSE ON FRIDAY 21st APRIL, 2017



CONFORMATION JUDGES:

All LSC Dogs & Bitches & all SC Dogs
All SC Bitches

Herr. F. Goldlust (SV) Germany

Herr. J. Stiegler (SV) Germany

OBEDIENCE JUDGES:

UDX & Utility
Open
Novice & CCD

Mr. W. Patterson QLD

Mrs. B. Murfet QLD

Mrs. C. Pethers QLD

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP:

Ms. J. Kada NSW



(NB: GSDCQ Inc. reserve the right to substitute judges, if necessary, or to alter scheduled judging times, if required, due to excessively hot weather conditions. No entry fees will be refunded).

ENTRY FEES:

CONFORMATION

(all classes) Initial entry \$46.00 subsequent \$36.00 per class
(Baby Puppy only) Initial entry \$39.00 subsequent \$29.00 per class

OBEDIENCE

(all classes) Initial entry \$39.00 subsequent \$29.00 per class

(Initial entry includes charge for catalogue and Dogs QLD Ground Levy). Please use separate entry form for each class/exhibit.

*Please include the following information on entry forms – Breed Survey status, Hip and Elbow status.

No entries accepted without fees. Please include SAE for receipt. ***ONLINE ENTRIES** for Show and Trial available at www.showmanager.com.au

BREED SURVEY: If required, to be held on Thursday 18th May, 2017 at 3.00 pm at Dogs Qld Sports Grounds, Durack (Note: BS4 Form is required for animals not resident in QLD). Enquiries Sue Bruno 0428 388482. Applications close 11th May, 2017.

JUDGING TIMES:

FRIDAY 19TH MAY:

CONFORMATION: Vest collection from 7.00am. Judging commencing at 8.00 am with Baby Puppy Dog & Bitch (LSC and SC), followed by Minor Puppy Dog & Bitch (LSC and SC) and Junior Dog & Bitch (LSC & SC). *LSC classes (dog and bitch will be judged in the Dog ring prior to corresponding SC Dog class, each day.

Junior Showmanship – classes will be judged by Ms. Jess Kada (NSW) during lunch break. Ages 7 to under 10 years of age, 10 to under 13 Years of age, 13 to under 18 Years.

SATURDAY 20th MAY:

CONFORMATION: Sire's Progeny assembly 7.15 am, judging commences at 8.00 am SHARP to be followed by Breeders Group, Puppy Dog & Bitch (LSC and SC) and Intermediate Dog & Bitch (LSC & SC). Judging in all rings to cease at 12.00 noon for the Official Opening ceremony and presentation of GSDCA awards.

SATURDAY 20th MAY:

OBEDIENCE: Vetting/check in from 7.30 am to 8.15 am. Judging commences 8.30 am. Place sashes and mementos will be presented at the conclusion of the Trial. Winner of Winners will be judged on Sunday during the lunch break (from CCD, Novice, Open, Utility & UDX class winners with qualifying scores). *All class winners must attend the trophy presentations at completion of conformation judging on Sunday 21st May. GSDCA Rules apply to all awards and gradings.

SUNDAY 21st MAY:

CONFORMATION: Commencing at 8.30am with Open Dog & Bitch (LSC) followed by Open Bitch (SC) and Open Dog (SC), followed by all Challenges. *No Inter-sex or inter-variety judging. 45th National Show & Trial trophy presentations will be held following completion of judging.

EXHIBITORS PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure you are ready when called to enter the ring. There will be no exceptions made and all exhibitors will need to enter the ring when called to either present for individual and or compete in the run-off of the class. Classes will not be held up due to exhibitors who may for whatever reason not be ready to compete when called. *Overseas handlers must be eligible to handle under the rules of the canine control in their country of residence. *Only those people with authorised passes are to enter the judging rings.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

Conformation: Stock Coat and Long Stock Coat (ANKC classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 11 dogs/1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 11a bitches). Baby Puppy - 3 months and under 6 months, Minor Puppy - 6 months and under 9 months, Puppy - 6 months and under 12 months, Junior - 9 months and under 18 months, Intermediate - 18 months and under 36 months, Open - 6 months and over. (Ages apply from the first day of the show).

SPECIAL CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

Sire's progeny parade: Entry is automatic. A minimum of five progeny aged nine months or over and entered in the Conformation Classes, both SC and LSC, will be automatically catalogued with the sire's name and exhibit number. The sire need not be present or entered in the show. *The classes are non-competitive but will receive commentary. Only sires classified under the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme are eligible.

Breeders Groups: Five animals, over 9 months of age, from at least 2 sires and 2 dams. Breeders Group should consist of only one coat type, (however Breeders may enter more than one group). Separate entry form must be received by the closing date – no entry fee. Details of animals competing must be handed to the Show Secretary before completion of judging on Friday 19th May 2017. All animals exhibited in groups MUST be entered in a show class (as per Dogs Qld rule 117c).

GSDCA Member Clubs Obedience Challenge: Teams of four exhibits, can be mixed from different classes of obedience. Names of teams, handlers and dog's names must be provided to the Trial Manager prior to the commencement of the Trial. At least three of the exhibits must qualify, exhibits entered in more than one class must nominate which class is to be scored.

SPECIAL PRIZES:

Conformation - "Walter Reimann Trophy" for Open Dog (SC) Winner, "Roy Brabham Trophy" for Open Bitch (SC) Winner, "Max Stokes Trophy" for Junior Bitch (SC) Winner, trophy and sash for all class winners and Breeders Group Winner. Sash and memento for second to tenth place. Sashes for Challenge and Reserve Challenge Winners. "Sam Bonifacio Trophy" awarded to the most successful kennel at the National, scored on results over the three days. **Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals** to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place exhibits graded Excellent in Open classes (SC and LSC)

Obedience – "Rick Richardson Trophy" for Winner of Winners. Trophy and sash for all class winners (qualifying scores only), sash & memento for second to fifth place. "David O'Rourke Trophy" and sash for Best Dual Performance exhibit in show & trial. (Rules for the Dual Performance Trophy may be viewed at the Show Secretary's Office). Gold, Silver & Bronze medals awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd in Winner of Winners.

GRADINGS:

Conformation: Gradings will be awarded at the Judge's discretion. "Promising" and "Very Promising" in Baby, Minor & Puppy Classes. "Good" and "Very Good" to animals over 12 months in Junior, Intermediate and Open Classes. *The grading of "Excellent" and National Excellent medallion will be awarded as per GSDCA rules only to exhibits 2 years of age or over, entered in the Open Classes and classified Cl.1 or Cl.11 under the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme (or other GSDCA approved scheme).

Obedience: Gradings will be awarded to those exhibits achieving the following scores in Novice, Open, Utility and UDX classes: "Good" 170-179 points, "Very Good" 180-189 points, "Excellent" 190-200 points, and in CCD class "Good" 85-89 points, "Very Good" 90-94 points and "Excellent" 95-100 points. *The National Excellent (triangular) medal will be awarded as per GSDCA rules only to exhibits in the Obedience classes scoring 190-200 points (or 95-100 in CCD).

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL PLACE-GETTERS: are required for publication in the Quarterly National Review (places 1-10 Conformation and 1-5 Obedience). An official photographer will be present at the venue and will photograph place-getters at no charge. Exhibitors may supply their own photographs to the Editor within 14 days (*Please refer to Editor's requirements for photographs, which will be printed in the catalogue).

CORPORATE TENTS: Pre-erected (**NON-RINGSIDE**) Corporate Tents can be reserved through the Show Secretary before close of entries, subject to payment of fee of \$275.00 per tent. "Limited numbers available" (*No cooking in hired tents). Hirers shall be responsible for any damage to hired tents.

Exhibitors tents/gazebos may only be erected after 2.00 pm on Thursday 18th May 2017. NO GROUND MATS TO BE LEFT OVERNIGHT INSIDE TENTS.

CATALOGUE ADVERTISING: Advertising in the catalogue is \$100.00 per page (Black & White) or \$150.00 per page (Colour). Booking and payment due 28th February 2017. Copy must be provided in PDF format no later than 1st April 2017. Bookings via the Show Secretary.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY: MEET & GREET – Starts 3.00 pm. Free sausage sizzle at grounds. *Please advise numbers attending on Show Manager or your booking slip, for catering purposes. (Bar facilities will be available)

FRIDAY: PRESIDENT'S DINNER – All Welcome. To be held at Calamvale Hotel, Cnr. Compton & Beaudesert Road, Calamvale at 7.30 pm (Deposit of \$30 per person - Order off the A la Carte menu. (smart casual attire)

SATURDAY: THREE COURSE DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT - At the grounds in the Bar area from 6.00 pm, \$30.00 per head. Live Entertainment, dancing and fun night. (Bar facilities will be available)

SUNDAY: TROPHY PRESENTATION: At completion of judging on Sunday in the Club House – no charge – (Nibbles and Bar facilities available)

45TH NATIONAL MERCHANDISE/MEMORABILIA

Only a few selected items will be available for sale at the event (orders taken on weekend for later delivery). Items pre-ordered and with payment received before 13th April 2017 will be available for collection at the National. Please refer to GSDCQ website for details – www.gsdclld.org.au

ACCOMMODATION: Refer to GSDCQ website www.gsdclld.org.au. Limited powered and non-powered camping and campervan sites are available on the grounds – Bookings can be made via www.showmanager.com.au

BOOKING SLIP 45TH GSDCA NATIONAL GSD SHOW & TRIAL

Name

Phone Email.....

Mobile No. for contact at show

CONFORMATION

Initial Entry (includes catalogue)	@ \$46	\$.....
Subsequent entries	@ \$36 per class	\$.....
Baby Puppy Entry (incl. cat.)	@ \$39	\$.....
Subsequent entries	@ \$29 per class	\$.....

OBEDIENCE

Initial Entry (incl. cat.)	@ \$39 per entry	\$.....
Subsequent entries	@ \$29 per entry	\$.....

Paper entries to: Show Secretary, P.O. Box 1443, Caboolture, Qld 4510.
Phone: 0417 388 421 or email showsecgsdcq@bigpond.com

Cheques made payable to GSDCQ Inc

CATALOGUE	@ \$12.00 each	\$.....
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SOCIAL EVENTS

Thursday Meet & Greet	(No. Attending)
(Meet & greet no charge, advise number attending)		
Friday Night President's Dinner Deposit	@ \$30 pp	\$.....
Saturday Night 3 course Dinner Party/entertainment	@ \$30 pp	\$.....

DONATIONS

Class Trophy \$150 – Sashes \$100	\$.....
Total	\$.....

Please go to the website for further details www.gsdclld.org.au

Sieger Show

Our Youth Officer Jess Lynch reports on her Sieger Show experiences, both from within the ring as a handler and from the stands. Well done on your efforts Jess !

The 2016 Sieger show was once again held in Nurnberg. I had arrived a week before the show this year and got to enjoy some sightseeing prior to the show. Thursday afternoon starts off the show, where it seemed



Korsika von Bad Boll

that a lot of exhibitors had arrived earlier to get their dogs measured at the measuring commission so they didn't have the extra stress of trying to fit it in on a very busy Friday. I have seen lots of comments around that it seems there is less and less people that are attending the show. I think a lot of people don't take into account the size of the stadium in Nurnberg, which holds up to 50,000 people, compared to some of the other venues the siegershow is held at. Once Friday comes you can't walk around without having to dodge around people.

Friday was an early start for us, getting to the stadium by 7 in the morning to start preparing for individuals. First we headed to the Junior Bitch ring for Craig and Hazel to present their girl Korsika von Bad-Boll for her individual. Unfortunately Korsi had completely dropped all her coat, however she did a great individual and you could see some of the attributes she has gotten from her mother VA Esther di Casa Nobili. Korsi is very well coloured and pigmented with a beautiful black mask, she is correctly sized and flew round the ring holding her topline nicely and with very good reach. She also has a wonderful character. While at the junior bitch ring we saw some other nice bitches, the SG 34 Ballack daughter Wespe Jabora was a very nice type of female but loose in hocks which is probably why she was not placed in the top 30 and SG 9 Quexa vom Pendler, a female who looked to be on the top limits of size with a very good presence in the ring. We then headed over to the Junior dog ring to watch Korsi's brothers Kronos and Kadett complete their individuals, then to the



Wogah vom Nurburging

Intermediate Bitch ring for the SG 14 Ober daughter Freda delle Colonne D'Ercole, SG 17 Wogan V Nurburging (photo below) and SG 23 VA Prisca daughter Genia von Bad Boll. We quickly headed over to the Intermediate dog ring before heading into the stadium and caught a couple of nice males doing their individuals.

The first was a very nice Yuri vom Osterberger-Land son who ended up SG 7, Xabo vom Osterberger-Land. Xabo is almost the clone of his father and did a superb individual, was no surprise to see him in the first 10 on Sunday. The next dog we saw was the SG10 Quoran son Rustol's Goliath, who had 3 other litter mates exhibited in the show. The final dog we saw in this ring was the eventual Sieger Kaspar von Tronje. Kaspar is a son of Arre vom Huhnegrab and like his father, a very eye catching dog.

The rest of Friday was concentrated on the working classes. First we headed into the stadium to watch some bite work in the bitches. We were most interested in watching Prisca and Rafinia von Bad Boll and quite nervously waiting for Mars del Seprio, who I was to handle on Sunday, but sadly he didn't make it through. We were lucky to catch some of the top dogs going through including VA's Willas vom Grafenbrunn and Quoran d'Ulmental. To finish off the day we watched some individuals for the working males and females. Some stand outs in the females were Gamba vom Huhnegrab, Prisca von Bad Boll, Rafinia von Bad Boll and Fanta vom Team



Conbhairean Karlos

Huhnegrab. In the males I was very pleased to see Conbhairean Karlos (photo) go around, he was one of my favourites from the year before so was great to see his development over the year.

Saturday morning the Zeppelin fields start to fill up with the young classes starting to be judged. I started in the junior bitch class with a daughter of Quoran d'Ulmental, Queen d. Drei Grazie who put in a super performance and made a few places. Not sure why she started in this group as I thought she could have been much higher. Following this we had a wander around the other rings, then for the only time over the weekend there is a little down time before the progeny groups start. No siegershow trip is complete without a trip to the food tent for a curry wurst and a quick browse around the shopping area. Then back around the back to have a close look at all the dogs assembling for the progeny groups.

I missed the first lot of groups waiting to go into the stadium, they changed the way in this year which meant it took a lot longer to move from the field to the stadium but it was nice and shaded. Hazel and I



Zeus vom Bierstadter Hof

had the pleasure to take the signs around for Zeus vom Bierstadter Hof (photo), which was a lot of fun and I have to say much harder work running around in front than with a dog. I got to see a few groups



Jess handling Queen d. Drei Grazie

between this one and the next. In the stadium we got an up close look at the Hugh Eichenplatz group, I was very surprised to see how well they did on Sunday, for me there wasn't

any top animals in this group. The next group I saw was of Willy vom Kuckucksland. It was his first group and while there was no stand out animals it was a very uniform father typical group. There were a few other groups in between and then I headed out to come in with the Quoran d'Ulmental group. I think his second group had improved from the year before, standing outside the stadium there was a number of nice females and he had 2 nice sons in top 15 in the Intermediate dog class. It's good to see him be able to present a large group without having many studs from German breeders.



Queen d. Drei Grazie

I got back into the stadium as quickly as possible to see the last 4 groups of Ulkan von Maikhaus, Cronos del Seprio, Ballack von der Bruckneralle and Groovy di Casa Massarelli. Ulkan's group was well coloured with much nicer bitches than males. I would have liked the males to be stronger but they were all from the junior class so it will be interesting to see how they develop. Next was the first group from Cronos del Seprio. The stand out female on the end of the group was Selin d'Ulmental. Sieger Ballack was the next group in which had improved on the year before. I liked the young male Queen von der Piste Trophe (photo below) and on the end of the group Wespe and the lovely Page di Casa Massarelli.

The final group to come in was the ever popular Groovy di Casa Massarelli and it didn't disappoint. A big improvement on the group from the year before, it was a large group with a good mix of males and females and of very good even quality. It was disappointing that there were no animals from the working class in his group, but hopefully we will see some of these animals return next year.

Finally it was time for the big day of the show. I started in the junior dog class handling Kronos von Bad Boll. I was very excited to be able to handle for Bad Boll, I remember when I was young looking through the Urma books and admiring the Bad Boll dogs so I was very honoured and thankful to be able to handle for them. I then headed over to the junior bitch ring to watch Craig and Hazel's girl and Kronos sister Korsika strut her stuff in the ring.



Queen von der Piste Trophe

When I arrived the Groovy daughter Lady du Val d'Anzin (photo above) was in the lead followed by the Hugh daughter Whitney, (photo below) then Korsika. Going around the ring Lady was well in control, for me the stand out in the class. I'm not sure what happened in the fast gait for this top group. Lady moved well, the 2nd female was not interested in running at all, Korsi didn't put a foot wrong so we expected her to move up a spot, but the judge decided that the 2nd female should move to



Lady du Val d'Anzin

the front and that Korsi should move to the 4th spot. There wasn't any more change in these top 4 after that with a very nice Marlo daughter Dixi vom Valtenberg.

We then went into the stadium to see the presentation of the top 30 from each class. After the junior bitches the junior dogs were next to come in. I have to say I wasn't a fan of the first few. The winner was a Hugh Eichenplatz son Pepe Bordetal followed by a Marlo son, Zar von der Freiheit Westerholt and 3rd a Gary Huhnegrab son who I think was the pick of the top 3, Cooper von der burg Aliso. The best in the class for me was the Groovy son Gus vom Shepherdland who ended up SG8. Next was the Intermediate bitches which had a very nice top group but all eyes were on the Siegerin Greenveldt Blitzen, a wonderful Willas daughter from the UK. She was the absolute star of the show, a strong substantial female, very well coloured with very harmonious movement. She was an absolute pleasure to watch. Finally the Intermediate dog class

SHOW review



Whitney von der Berghofer Heide.

came in and it was no surprise to see Kaspar von Tronje in the front, like Blitzten the absolute Sieger of the class. The Cronos son Onar Feedback was in 2nd and looked a very nice dog but it will be interesting to see what happens with this dog. The Yuri son Xabo that we liked on Friday was in 7th, I also liked the SG12 Quoran son Lucka von Buchenland.

With the youngsters done it was time for the working females to come in. No surprises in the call out with Oililly von der Piste Trophe out in front followed by Gamba vom Huhnegrab and Damina vom Fitchenschlag. There weren't many changes as the class went around, a few shuffling here and there and with the class in the final order we were left taking guesses on how many VAs there would be. In the end it was decided that there would be 12 VAs. The Siegerin being Oililly was very deserving of her position. She was in great condition, put in a good performance and had a VA daughter and high V son. VA 2 was the Omen daughter Gamba vom Huhnegrab, she was ready and raring to go early in the class and we thought might challenge Oililly for the Siegerin position in the fast gait but in the end remained in a very well deserved 2nd position. VA 3 Damina vom Fitchenschlag, sister to VA Djambo from a very good litter and pedigree this year was able to maintain her high rank with an improved performance on the last year. VA 4 was the daughter of Oililly, Tinkerbelle von der Baiertalerstasse, she impressed with her very good forward reach and was able to gain a spot. VA 5 was Zoe von der Burg Reichenstein, a female we had seen a couple of years earlier in the young classes and liked very much, her very striking colour and pigmentation means she catches your eye every time she goes round. VA6 was Idanja vom Holtkamper Hof, this female did not perform the best on the day and lost a couple of places. VA 7 was the Yankee daughter Isia du Val d'Anzin, who was SG5 2 years ago, from results of the previous shows she was a bit of a surprise in the VA group. VA 8 Prisca von Bad Boll, who was lacking coat for the show but puts everything together well each time she steps in the ring, was unlucky not to make another place in the offlead gait which was very well done. VA9 was Beauty vom Drei Birkenzwinger who like Prisca was out of coat, she has now been sold to China. VA 10 was Paris di Casa Massarelli who didn't really look like she wanted to be at the show and lost a number of places. VA 11 was the Cobra daughter Tosca d'Ulmental who did a brilliant offlead gait. The final VA was Peperoni von Arlett who was completely out of coat, unlike Tosca Peperoni decided just to have a run around the stadium in the offlead and lost some spots. The most notable of the V bitches was the Ballack daughter Page di Casa Massarelli who ended up V5. She really looks the part going round the ring, unfortunately the handler got a little too excited in the fast gait and ran past some others meaning she lost some places. I also like the Willas daughter Fanta vom Team Huhnegrab who was V13, may be a VA in the future.

Next was the Open dog class with last year's Sieger Ballack in front followed by Willas. In a little bit of a surprise Cronos del Seprio and Marlo von Baccara moved ahead of previous higher VAs Quoran, Risco, Djambo and Yuri. The class got underway and this year we didn't see as many positional changes as we have in previous years. This year's class had a high number of dogs that had done well in the previous year, which meant for me there was not a real stand out in the up and coming males. Unlike the bitches it was quite clear how many VAs would be awarded with Djambo being the 10th dog. VA1 and Sieger for the 2nd year was Ballack von der Bruckneralle who seemed a little less vibrant than his usual self at the start but hit his straps in the fast gait. VA2 Willas vom Grafenbrunn who had 2 beautiful daughters in Blitzten and Fanta shown. VA 3 was Cronos del Seprio, the V1 male from last year, who always looks the part in the ring and had a very large first progeny group. VA4 was Marlo von Baccara another first time VA who in the last 2 years has done a great job with the bitework. VA 5 Quoran d'Ulmental lost a spot on the fast gait but gained it back in the offlead. If you haven't seen Quoran and Nathalie in action on the offlead get yourself on youtube and have a look, definitely an amazing display. VA 6 Risco von Suentelstein looked a different dog from the year before, the new trainers have done a great job. VA 7 Willy vom Kuckucksland another new VA gained a place with a good gaiting performance. VA8 Gary vom Huhnegrab, a very nice dog standing but doesn't seem to enjoy moving around the ring. VA 9 was Yuri vom Osterbergerland, another male who headed to China straight after the Siegershow. VA 10 Djambo vom Fitchenschlag seemed to be not as prepared as previous years.

With the males finished it meant another Sieger show was over and it was time to relax. The next year is heading back to Ulm after being in Nurnberg the last couple of years.

I would like to say a massive thank you to Hammad Butt for allowing me to feature his wonderful photos in the magazine for you all to enjoy!!

Jess



Cronos Del Seprio

SHOW review



VA1 Ballack
von der
Bruckneralle

VA1 Oilily
von der
Piste Trophe



Damina vom Fitchenschlag



Gamba vom Huhnegrab



Djambo vom Fitchenschlag



Gary vom Huhnegrab



Ballack von der Bruckneralle



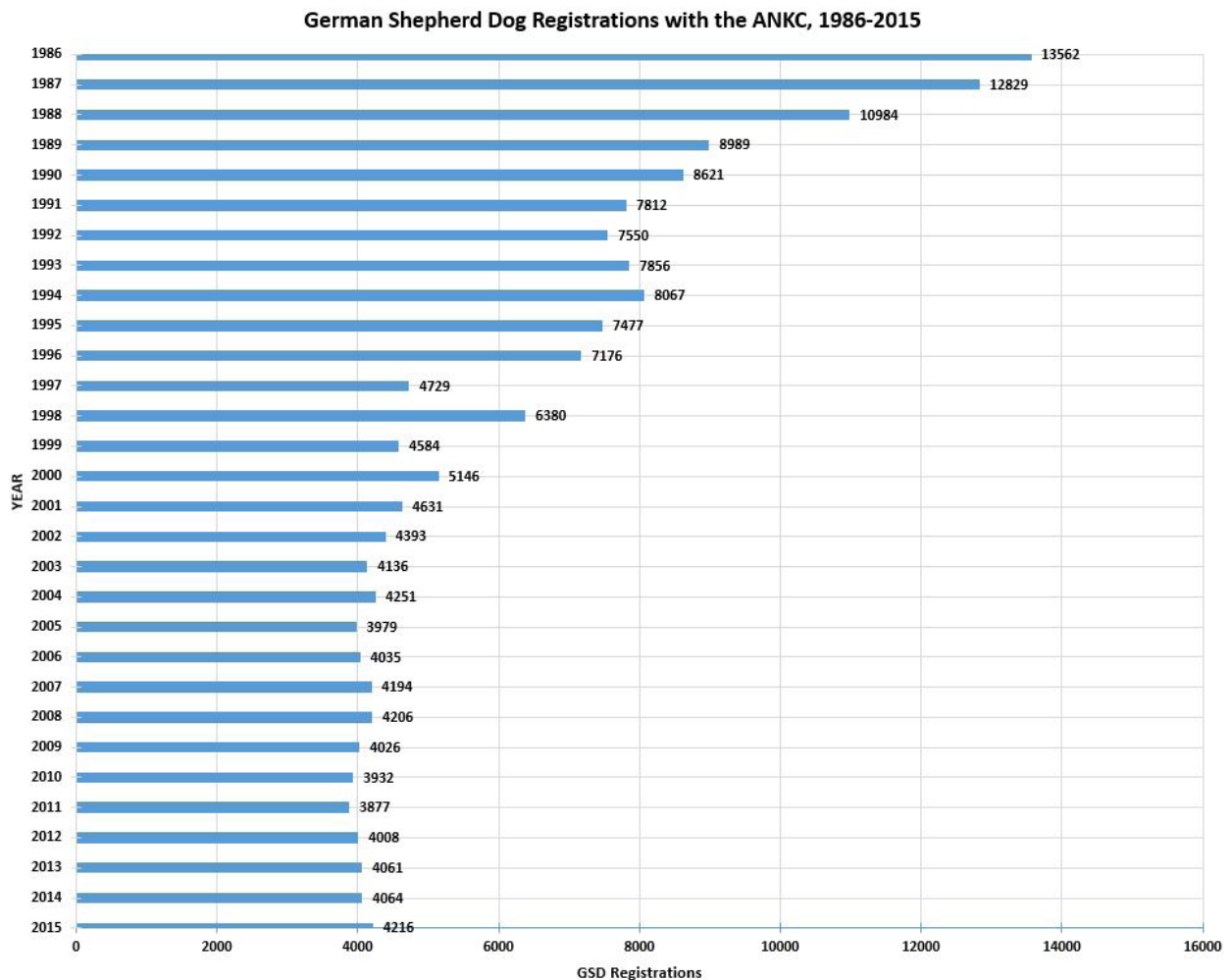
Cronos Del Seprio

SHOW review



Registration Numbers for German Shepherd Dogs in Australia, 1986 to 2015

The data below provides an interesting representation of the number of GSD puppies registered with the ANKC over the last 29 years. The data is provided by the Australian National Kennel Council, from their animal registration analysis data.



Source: <http://ankc.org.au/AboutUs/?id=1206>

Year	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	Labrador Retriever	German Shepherd	Golden Retriever	Border Collie	Most Popular breed (Registered)	GSD Ranking
1986	1913	3334	13562	2811	2221	German Shepherd	1
1988	2542	3449	10984	2590	2601	German Shepherd	1
1998	4698	6099	6380	5217	2647	German Shepherd	1
1999	3570	4822	4584	4358	2184	Labrador Retriever	2
2003	3647	5134	4136	3453	2207	Labrador Retriever	2
2004	3803	4160	4251	3077	2049	German Shepherd	1
2005	3585	4439	3979	3310	2011	Labrador Retriever	2
2008	4037	4264	4206	2714	1981	Labrador Retriever	2
2009	4498	4305	4026	2754	2216	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	3
2011	4483	4419	3877	2553	2302	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	3
2012	4639	4711	4008	2876	2547	Labrador Retriever	3
2013	4539	4881	4061	2837	2837	Labrador Retriever	3
2015	4869	5116	4216	2836	2889	Labrador Retriever	3

Using Treats in Your Dog Training

This article discusses how using food rewards can effect motivation while training your dog.

Outside of normal feeding there are two applications for using food with dogs:

1. Reward or motivator during training
2. Toys to pass time while the dog is alone

Every dog, no matter the age, the breed, the sex or size responds to two basic motivators:

1. The pursuit of pleasure and
2. The avoidance of displeasure

When food and treats are used properly, they will become a powerful tool for motivating your dog during training or occupying your dog's time when you are gone and he is alone.

Most people do not give a lot of thought to the kind of treats they use. They underestimate how important it is to vary the treats used in different applications. I must confess that I fell into that category for many, many years. I thought cutting up hot dogs was all that was needed for obedience training or teaching my dog to track.

I started taking dog training seriously - back in the dark ages of the 1960's - when people like William Koehler and Winifred Strickland were considered experts in the field. Using food to train dogs back then was almost unheard of.

The argument was "If you train with food, at some point you're going to have to stop and then what will you do?"

Well dog training is light years ahead of where it was back then and this question has been answered. Koehler and Strickland have become the model-T ford of the training industry. They got you around but it wasn't pretty.

We have since learned that when it's done properly, motivating a dog with food creates a dog that enjoys training, wants to take part in the learning process, and becomes a problem solver. Using treats in your work also improves the bond between dog and handler.

When a handler embraces the fact that he will use food in his training, he must then learn how to do this correctly. **Marker training** (or clicker training) is hands down the best way.

Marker work opened our eyes to the fact that different dog treats can produce different results in our training.

So just as importantly as learning how and when to use food in your dog training is the question of what kind of food or treats to use.

Back in the early 1980's we cut up small pieces of hot dogs and use them as treats during obedience training. There is nothing wrong with doing that today.

But in the past 25 years we have seen a huge improvement in the number and quality of dog treats that are available.

Over the last 6 or 7 years, the popularity of feeding an all-natural diet has fuelled the explosion of all-natural dog treats.

Fifteen years ago the multi-coloured supermarket dog biscuits that are still sold in pet food warehouses were pretty much the only option people had if they wanted a dry food treat. Most dogs that have been fed a raw all-natural diet will justifiably not eat them.

Different Treats for Different Jobs

The good news is today we have a number of different options of dog treats. These options are needed for a number of reasons:

1. The treats my dogs love may not be the treats your dog love.
2. All treats carry a different motivational value to your dog. It's your job to constantly think about your dog's reaction when you use a specific food treat.

Learn to read your dog's reaction to them. Some treats have so high of a value they cause a dog to stop thinking. Some dogs can't focus when they know you have a high value treat on you.



Treats with a value given to them

These high value treats cannot be used as a motivator on complex tasks that requires a dog to think a lot. New trainers would think that a difficult task would require the best treat available - not so. A difficult task requires the dog to focus on what he is doing and not focus on your food reward. Difficult tasks need a mid-level value treat.

3. Some exercises require lower value treats. Trainers need to be aware of these exercises and then be prepared to use the treat with the correct value for the work you're doing.

I will reward my dog for coming to me when on a walk. In that circumstance I don't mind if the treat is crunchy and take a couple of seconds to eat (like liver).



Liver

On the other hand during marker training I want the treats to be very easy to eat. I want them to be gone almost instantly so we can continue on with training. The softer treats like are perfect for this.



Soft Training Treats

These are only a couple of examples. As you gain experience you will find many other examples.

4. Using Food Treats in Treat Toys

There are a number of toys that can be loaded with dog treats. These Everlasting treat toys and the Buster FoodCubes are the great.

The size of the opening in a treat toy will determine what food treat you buy and what mix of types you will put in these toys. The smaller treats will dribble out and reward the dog for trying while the larger treats stay inside and peak the dog's interest.

The dogs that are real food hounds quickly learn out how to quickly unload a treat toy filled with small treats. These dogs should only have large treats in them that are difficult to get out.

The Liver squares and the like are good choices for dogs that learn to quickly empty a treat toy.

The Soft Training Treats and mini treats are smaller and excellent for dogs that don't have the super high food drive. Once the dog learns how to empty a toy you can often go to a more difficult treat.



Mini treats

Bottom line is I don't want my dog to become discouraged, I want them to be occupied. This is where paying attention to detail pays off. It is a constant balancing act to find the right mix for the right toy for your dog.

If you ever watch any of the documentaries on zoos you will see that the better zoos work hard to come up with different ways of using food to stimulate the animals minds - they hide it in logs or freeze it in big ice blocks or a million other things just to keep the animals busy.

We can do the same kinds of things with our dogs - use your imagination. If you have to leave your dog while you're at work during the day why not take these toys and fill them with the dogs daily ration of hamburger and freeze them over night. This will keep the dog busy for hours.

So learning to use the various treat toys in different applications can accomplish the same thing.

5. Some treats have a longer shelf life than others. This is important if you carry treats in your coat pockets or bait bags. Some, if let sit too long will get slimy and mouldy - but these are often the treats that the dog can quickly eat, which is important for marker training. So the application of how you carry the treats and how long you intend to have them in your pocket or a bait bag needs to be a consideration.

Snap-Open Bait Bag



6. Some treats take longer to eat than others. How long it takes a dog to eat a treat has a bearing on when and how it's used.

Always Try a New Treat Before Training With It

I always recommend letting a dog sample a treat as soon as you get a new one. Don't wait until you drive to training classes before letting the dog try a new dog treat. Check them out at home first. Just because a product is labelled a dog treat does not mean that your dog agrees with the labelling.

The first time you use a new treat dogs will play around with it before they actually eat it. It's like they need to convince themselves that it is indeed a new dog treat. Many times once the dog eats a few treats he decides their pretty darn good after all and he downs them quicker.

If you made the mistake of trying to use a new treat as a reward too soon during training you could find yourself standing around getting frustrated while you waited for the dog to eat it. This just breaks the flow of what you're doing.

Criteria in selecting a dog treat

Always look for new healthy treats to use in training. When it comes to food rewards, variety is the spice of life. Changing the food rewards keeps your dog's interest and they become motivated to get a new and different tasty treat.

My dog is not much of a chow hound

Some dogs seem to be absolutely food crazy chow hounds while others don't seem to have much of an interest in food.

As a general rule every dog can have food drive. Some just have way more than others. There are a lot of reasons why some dogs don't seem interested in food:

1. Dogs must be hungry for a food reward to mean a lot to them. So people who train with food should change their feeding schedule so they feed the dog after training and not before.
2. Start training with a high value food reward, like pieces of steak. This will often trigger the dog's interest and motivate him in training. There is nothing wrong with cutting up steak leftovers into small chunks and using them. Once the dog has learned that food rewards are a part of training you can then change to various all-natural treats that fit your training needs.
3. Some low food drive dogs are simply too fat – not an uncommon problem with dog owners who love their dogs. For overweight dogs cutting back on the daily food rations is always a good idea. Dogs should never be free fed and they should always be kept thin. By thin, there should be a definition between their rib cage and their loins. Bottom line is a thin dog is a healthier dog that lives longer.
4. Letting the dog go a day without food will increase almost every dog's food drive. As a general rule one would not want to go more than two days without feeding.

TRAINING notes

Do not get in the habit of feeding the dog right after you train, wait for 2 or 3 hours. Some lazy dogs will pick up on the fact that right after training they always get their nice big bowl of food. These dogs will not try as hard for a food reward because they know that one way or another they are going to get fed real soon.

It seems that this phenomenon goes away if there is more than an hour break between training and feeding. So randomly increasing and decreasing the feeding times works as long as it's an hour after training.

5. Dogs that are well fed may have to learn that all food comes from your hand.

I have a young male that did not have a ton of food drive so I changed his diet to all hamburger and let him go a day without food. Then for 4 or 5 days the only food he got was hamburger from my hand during marker training.

Now remember – when you fast a dog for a day and then bring out the hamburger – the meat is going to be a high value treat for the dog. So you are going to see the dog be a little more hectic than normal. That's OK. Our goal here is more to teach the dog to appreciate the value of food treats than to train a complicated task. So we only ask the dog to do very simple things that he already knows – like a hand touch or a sit or down.

During this initial work if he zoned out and did not pay attention I simply took him by the collar, without saying a word, put him in his dog crate and walked away for 3 or 4 minutes.

That experience did wonders for his food drive. After a week we went back to normal feedings – always several hours after training.

By the way, this same concept applies to a dog's toys. Teaching a dog that he only plays with toys when you give them to him and after your play you always take them away builds drive or motivation for toys, which results in toys being able to be used as motivators in training.

6. If your dog blows you off during your training another approach is to simply stop, take the dog by his collar and put him in his dog crate. Then go take a break.

Soft Training Treats vs. Meat Treats

You will probably find that cooked meat or raw meat cut into small chunks are your dog's favourite food treats. Using them in training is great, but you may also get to the point where having to cut up meat every day is more than you care to do. This is where the soft treats come in.



What we have found our dogs like it when we make a trail mix of dog treats. We will put pieces of cut up meat, pieces of cheese and several kinds of soft treats in a plastic tub in our fridge. We fill our bait bag from this tub.

When we go out we randomly select a treat from this trail mix. The variety of this random selection builds interest in our dogs because they never know what the next treat reward is going to be.

What Size of a Treat to Use

Have you ever watched a dog eat a piece of steak? Unless the piece of meat is huge they take it in their mouth and virtually swallow it.

I find myself thinking, "Hey dummy why didn't you chew that a little and make it last a little longer?"

The fact is dogs derive pleasure from the physical act of eating. Your dog would get more pleasure out of cutting the same hunk of steak into 30 pieces than if he ate the entire piece in one swallow.

The correct size of a food treat is about 1cm². We want our dog to eat a treat as quickly as possible so we can move on with training. Small treats also allow for multiple treats being given one right after the other in sustained training. This is where you will feed one treat after another to extend duration in an exercise (like the down stay).

So, even though the treats you purchase may be a good size when they come out of the bag you should break them up into smaller pieces. Perfect examples are schmacks. Some of the larger ones can be broke into about 10 smaller pieces.

As I break mine up I always wonder how many people don't do that and simply waste 90% of the value of these treats by feeding the entire piece.



About the size treats should be when used for training

Vary the amounts and placement of reward to affect drive.

Small treats allow trainers to "JACKPOT" their treats. This is where they will occasionally reward the dog with a number of treats all at one time (hence the name jack potting). This can be a real motivator to the dog who really does something good. It's on the same principle as winning a jackpot on a slot machine.

If you are familiar with marker training you know that placement of the food reward is an important part of the learning process. By this I mean if you are training the dog to a hand touch – the reward is always placed on the hand that your dog touched with his nose.

When trainers have a lower drive dog, simply making the dog move to get a reward will often increase motivation. Making it jump up a little will increase drive. So on these kinds of dogs don't just stick the food in its mouth. Make him work for it.

Varying Timing on a Reward

The timing of food rewards can affect performance. This will not apply to pet owners but rather to people who intend to compete in various dog sports.

By "timing" I don't mean the concept of how to mark or click a behaviour in marker training within 1 ½ seconds.

Rather I want to pass on an interesting concept that is seen on studies with training rats. If a rat is trained to run a maze and it is rewarded half way through the maze with a food reward and then that food reward withheld – the rat will run the last half of the maze quicker than when it normally gets the reward half way through.

Now how does this relate to your dog training? Well think about it.

An agility routine is 30 seconds long, an obedience routine is over 15 minutes long and tracking is longer still. If you compete in dog sports – can you wrap your mind around this concept and experiment with ways to improve your dog's performance. This has to come from the trainers and how they read their dog.

Use Treats to Play / Prey Drive

Prey drive is the drive to chase and tug. Trainers can use a dog's prey drive as a reward in training.

Some dogs are born with a great deal of prey drive and some dogs have very little prey drive. Some dogs can have prey drive but as soon as they think there is food around the prey drive goes away.

Putting a wad of high value food treats in a sock and teaching the dog to play tug with the food sock also goes a long way towards teaching low prey drive dogs that have food drive to play tug.

This will work for people who want to compete in agility or obedience and use a prey tug game as a reward.

You are Criteria for Using a Treat

So in the end every trainer needs to evaluate what their criteria is for training. Make a list. Then break these exercises down into training steps. Once done, give serious thought to how you can use food as a reward. Should you use a high value food reward or a medium value food reward?

You also need to know how your dog reacts to various food rewards. This can only be determined by constantly watching your dog and thinking of his response to what you're asking him to do. No one can tell you what to do with your dog – you need to figure it out yourself. Make notes and think about it right after training.

Be prepared to experiment with food treats to learn how to control Motivation. If you're a new trainer start by looking for the extremes – look for the extreme high value treats – there can be more than one. With experience you will learn to recognize subtleties of difference in how a dog reacts to mid-level treats. But again – make notes.

Happy training !

Ed Frawley

The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation

'Purple Poppies'

Throughout our nation's history in theatres of combat around the world, animals have served and protected members of Australia's Armed Forces.

The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) is a volunteer organisation that have the like-minded aim to recognise the deeds of animals during Australian military service and to educate the next generation of Australians to understand the sacrifices our four legged diggers have made.

Funds raised from donation and the sale of purple poppies are used by AWAMO to establish memorials around Australia and overseas in places like France and Gallipoli, to recognise the sacrifice animals have made in the aid or comfort of defence personnel.

We all remember the story of Simpson and his donkey and as far back as the Boer war, horses that carried our soldiers across the veldt in the Boer War. Animals continue to serve in places like Afghanistan, where explosive detection dogs and their handlers work the frontline and animals have helped soldiers cope with post-traumatic stress.

Australian Military forces enlisted the help of man's best friend during World War II when German Shepherds were given the task of watching over valuable military equipment. In Vietnam, the Australian Task Force included dogs in combat tracker teams. Their mission was to search the jungle for the enemy, and eleven four legged diggers were left behind. There are many types of working dogs across the globe – but few are more critical to human life than those that sniff out explosives today in Afghanistan. These dogs are saving the lives of Australian soldiers and civilians alike.

The "Animal" Poppy

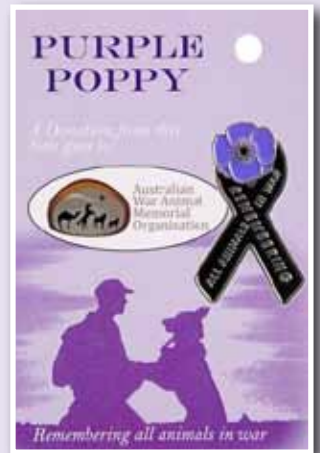
Most people are unaware that as well as the traditional red poppy worn to mark the Armistice Day of 11 November 1918, that there is also the purple poppy, remembering animals that died during conflict.

To commemorate all the animal deeds and sacrifices in war, the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) has issued a purple poppy, which can be worn alongside the traditional red one. People are encouraged to wear the purple poppy alongside the traditional red poppy as a reminder that both humans and animals have and continue to serve.

Supporting the Purple Poppy will help Australia's war animals receive the recognition they deserve "Lest we forget our four legged diggers served too".

Every Poppy supports the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation

For more information visit: www.purplepoppies.com.au/ and <http://awamo.org.au/>



THE GUN TEST

Presented by James Rodger, GSDCA Specialist Judge and Breed Surveyor

Introduction

Due to the many misconceptions and misunderstandings of a large number of German Shepherd Dog enthusiasts (both old and new), as to the actual purpose and requirements of the gun test, it was thought that a short presentation would be helpful to address this situation.

It is my view that due to the demanding requirements of a working dog, the gun test is a critical part of the evaluation of a dog's temperament and therefore a firm reaction to the gun is required, rather than the current requirement survey rule of being only "sufficiently firm".

(Note: This matter was discussed at the GSDCA National Breed Commission meeting in July 2001, where it was decided to put the above on the agenda for the forthcoming GSDCA AGM in February 2002. That AGM subsequently decided that a "firm" reaction to the gun test was required for a Class I classification, but that a "sufficiently firm" reaction was acceptable for a Class II classification.)

Whilst I do not believe that a major problem exists in this country with regard to gunshy dogs, we must never ever allow a problem to arise. Consider the following example.

During a discussion with the highly acclaimed SV judge and breeder, Eric Orschler, ("von Batu" kennels) he gave the following graphic example of why a German Shepherd Dog **must** be gunsure. For many years he had assisted the West German police in assessing young dogs and their suitability for training and work with the police force. One of the tests for the young dogs was to walk them along a busy canal, busy with water, foot and motor car traffic and see how they reacted. On one occasion, one of the young dogs reacted very badly to a nearby truck backfiring, by running around the handler and consequently the lead became entangled around the handler's legs, causing him to crash to the ground and strike his head on the concrete and tragically died!

So, a working dog must be gun sure!

Background

2.1 Current ANKC Standard Quotes:

Historical Overview

"The German Shepherd Dog, whose planned breeding commenced in the year 1899, after the founding of the GSD Verein, was bred from the central German and South German strains of the existing herding dogs of those times, with the final goal of creating a working dog, predispositioned to high working aptitude. In order to reach this goal, the Breed Standard was laid down, which related to the physical attributes, as well as those of temperament and character."

CHARACTERISTICS

Purpose and usage: Versatile utility, herding, guard and service dog.

The main characteristics of the German Shepherd Dog are: steadiness of nerves, attentiveness, loyalty, calm self-assurance, alertness and tractability, as well as courage with physical resilience and scenting ability. These characteristics are necessary for a versatile working dog.

TEMPERAMENT – The German Shepherd Dog must be of well balanced temperament, steady of nerve, self assured, totally at ease (except when provoked) and good natured, as well as attentive and easy to train. He must possess instinctive drive, resilience and self confidence in order to be suitable as a companion, watch dog, protection, service and herding dog."

It is most important not to place dogs that are shy or aggressive as these are disqualifying features; any weakness of character should be penalised.

Character can easily be assessed by walking towards the dog from the front in a somewhat slow way and observing the dog's eyes. Whilst he is in a stance, observe whether the dog is alert or deadpan or disinterested. He should be alert, calm and self-assured.

With an abundance of vitality he must be tractable enough to adapt himself to each situation and to carry out his work willingly and with enthusiasm. He must possess the courage and determination to defend himself, his master or his master's possessions should the need arise. He must be observant, obedient and a pleasant member of the household, quiet in his own environment, especially with children and other animals, and at ease with adults. Overall he should present a harmonious picture of nobility, alertness and self confidence.

Old WUSV Standard Quotes:

"GENERAL APPEARANCE – Therefore, only a specialist judge should be engaged to assess the dogs presented to him for their temperament, including gunshot indifference."

"NATURE AND CHARACTER – Stability of nerves, alertness, confidence, manageability, watchfulness, loyalty and incorruptibility, as well as courage, combative instinct and toughness, are the most outstanding characteristics of a pure-bred German Shepherd Dog."



The Biology of the Ear

Hearing is accomplished by pressures. Everyone knows what a dog's ear looks like and the hole, which it surrounds, which leads into the head. All the delicate mechanism of hearing is embedded in the heavy bone at the base of the skull. Technically the outer ear, which we see, is the auricle. In dogs with erect ears, these cone-shaped organs can be moved to better collect the sound waves and conduct them down into the cavity where these vibrate against the eardrum. This is a membrane (the tympanic) which lies across the end of the auditory opening and is very thin and delicate. It has no vibrations of its own and is able to pick up vibrations of a variety of lengths and intensities.

Behind the eardrum, there is a small cave (tympanic cavity), a tube (the Eustachian) drains it from its lowest part down to the throat of the dog and allows air to enter to ensure equal pressure on both sides of the ear drum. Within the tiny cave, there is a most ingenious arrangement of delicate bones – the mallet (malleus), the anvil (incus) and the stirrup (stapes). The mallet is attached to the ear drum while its body attached to the body of the anvil. This bone in turn attaches by its other end to the stirrup, the flattened area of which fills the end of a crooked tube called the cochlea.

While these three small bones undoubtedly make hearing **more acute**, a dog can hear fairly well without them, as was shown by a veterinary student who surgically removed them from a dog that was still able to hear after the operation.

Intense sound can destroy the end organ of hearing, the sensory part of the cochlear duct, called the Organ of Corti. Changes which are **permanent** can be produced by certain sound frequencies of considerable duration. This is nowhere nearly as severe as a loud blast, which may deafen by rupturing the ear drum and is of an entirely different nature.

In the matter of hearing, dogs and human beings live in the same world, but at times hear quite different tones. By that, I mean that the dog can hear everything we can hear but a lot more too. He can hear fainter sounds coming from a somewhat greater distance, but he really puts us to shame when it comes to hearing notes of a higher pitch – higher on the musical scale. (For example. stereo).

In the same way, dogs can hear cycles far up the scale. A man's hearing capacity begins at about twenty and stops at about 20,000 cycles per second. Dog's start at about twenty but go up to above 30,000 and some experiments claim as high as from 35,000 to 70,000. (Cats can hear up to 50,000.)

Besides the cycles, we must consider **pitch**. This is the quality of sound that depends on the **rapidity of the vibrations**. We hear at best at about 2,000 vibrations per second whereas a dog hears best at about 4,000. Dogs respond to sounds to which we are deaf, because of the higher pitch.

Current Requirements of the GSDCA Breed Survey Manual

Page 11, para 7.7 Gun Test

Only those dogs and bitches which will stand sufficiently firm and sure during the gun test can be admitted to either classification. (Refer 2002 changes page1.)

Dogs and bitches that fail the gun test shall not be admitted to either classification and shall be deemed to have failed the Breed Survey.

Page 20, para 11.4.5 Gun Test

The test shall be carried out at the conclusion of the temperament and character tests.

The handler shall walk to a designated position and stop without giving the dog a command, facing the surveyors with the dog in stance and on a loose lead. The pistol shall be held pointing downward at the side and not rear, of the surveyor. Up to seven (7) dogs at a time may be tested at once.

The pistol shall be fired by the surveyor or steward, twelve (12) paces from the dog, with a minimum of two (2) shots fired consecutively. A dog that shows a wandering movement or padding will be retested on its own by the firing of more shots.

Dogs must stand sufficiently firm and confident, showing no real concern for the shots discharged. The desired reaction is one of total lack of concern.

Gun shy dogs will be those who show obvious discomfort and fear, padding their feet or wandering to and fro and cowering and hiding behind their handler. (Refer page 7 – Scale of Reaction Chart, which is NOT part of the GSDCA Breed Survey Manual.)

15 Appendices & Forms (Page 38, para 15.2)

Definition of Gun Sure

A gun sure dog normally reacts to the gun shot by standing on one spot and either being alerted or showing lack of interest. A gun shy dog adversely reacts to the gun shot by not standing in one spot and either moves around, jumps up on the handler, walks around the handler, hyperventilates, moves close to the ground, looks fearful and anxious, sits or cringes. If the dog moves, retest. The major assessment is stability to the discharge sound.

The Assessment

A careful observation of the dog's immediate reaction to the rapid firing of two shots, will in the **vast majority** of cases, determine whether the dog's reaction is "gunshot indifference", being the desired reaction, or not.

Matters to be observed and subject to assessment by the surveyors are as follows: (Note: Remember that the dog is **standing away** from the handler on a **loose lead**.)

- Movement by the dog
 - exactly what
 - to what extent
 - toward to or away from the handler?
- Breathing rate
 - is it noticeably higher?
- Eyes
 - what do they reveal?
- Overall body language and demeanour of the dog
 - is it positive or negative?

As the surveyor is approximately twelve paces from the dogs being gun tested, he or she is in the best position to judge these matters, as opposed to someone being thirty or forty metres away.

Yes, sometimes the assessment can be a little subjective, but that is where a surveyor's experience, knowledge and powers of observation come into play.

Sometimes the reaction to the gun test is one of lack of conditioning and/or socialisation, which should not be confused with actual gun shyness. These dogs should be represented after suitable training and conditioning to the gun.

There are numerous scientific experiments, as well as practical experiences with the gun dog breeds, which support this statement.

In reality, the major problem with gun shyness is a physiological one. That is, physically the ear drum cannot take the "pitch" of the sound and causes the dog great stress and discomfort and hence the dog wants to run away. The higher the pitch, the greater the problem. By way of interest, Germany uses a 6mm gun whereas in some other countries, they use a 9mm which is not as severe.

Remember also that this dog may well have otherwise a generally sound temperament.

Or alternatively the above dog may still be of a generally nervous disposition, as evidenced by its behaviour generally, as well as to the gun.

Of course, gun shyness is **highly inheritable**. Therefore, we have to be very firm in assessing dogs on the gun test for suitability for breeding in our survey scheme.

Obviously it is very upsetting to all to see a dog obviously in distress because of the gun test. Consequently, it **must** be considered a major fault, similar to incorrect dentition, monorchidism, cryptorchidism, coat, size, etc and therefore that should be **always** kept in the breeder's mind.

Please review the attached "Scale of Reaction Chart".

Conclusion

Always remember that the purpose of the gun test for working dogs is a **"gunshot indifference"**, that is, alert but not skittish, as quoted in a Walt Disney TV Show on Guide Dogs. A nervous or aggressive reaction to the gun not only detracts, but also in many cases, **destroys** a dog's ability to concentrate and work.

Finally, I trust that this article has assisted you in giving you an understanding of the requirements of the gun test, as well as the assessment.

James Rodger

(dated 2013)

References:

ANKC – Extended GSD Standard adopted 2009 from the German Standard

Old WUSV Standard

Dog Psychology, the Basis of Dog Training – Leon F Whitney

GSDCA Breed Survey Manual

THE GUN TEST – SCALE OF REACTION

WORKING DOG REQUIREMENTS

- * Alertness
- * Calmness
- * Self assured
- * Steady nerves
- * Fearless
- * Sense of purpose

FEAR	High	Medium	Low	General Indifference	High	Medium	Low	Aggression
* Grovelling on the ground	* Moves toward & behind handler	* Wandering to and fro		* Interested to show a reaction but that is all	* Low level growling			* Barking excitedly
* If not on lead would run away	* Jumps up on handler	* Padding		* Alert but not skittish	* Low level barking			* Jumping about excitedly
* Hyperventilating	* Moves almost Continuously	* Low anxiety			* Low level movement			* Trying to get at the gun
* Visibly in great distress	* Eyes, ears & body language quite negative							
* Eyes literally rolling								
* So frightened the dog cannot move								

Note: From the writer's experience and observations since 1972 to the present day, whilst generally there is not a problem with gun shyness in Australia, those dogs that are gun shy have very largely shown varying degrees of fear, with very few aggressive dogs to the gun.



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Calming Signals - The Art of Survival

Jurid Rugaas

For species who live in packs it's important to be able to communicate with its own kind. Both in order to cooperate when they hunt, to bring up their offspring, and perhaps most importantly: to live in peace with each other. Conflicts are dangerous - they cause physical injuries and a weakened pack, which is something that no pack can afford - it will cause them to go extinct.

Dogs live in a world of sensory input: visual, olfactory, auditory perceptions. They easily perceive tiny details - a quick signal, a slight change in another's behaviour, the expression in our eyes. Pack animals are so perceptive to signals that a horse can be trained to follow the contraction in our pupils and a dog can be trained to answer your whispering voice. There's no need to shout commands, to make the tone of our voice deep and angry - what Karen Pryor refers to as swatting flies with a shovel.

The dogs have about 30 calming signals, perhaps even more. Some of these signals are used by most dogs, while other dogs have an incredibly rich 'vocabulary'. It varies from dog to dog.

THE PROBLEM

Dogs use this communication system towards us humans, simply because it's the language they know and think everyone understands.

By failing to see your dog using calming signals on you, and perhaps even punish the dog for using them, you risk causing serious harm to your dog. Some may simply give up using the calming signals, including with other dogs. Others may get so desperate and frustrated that they get aggressive, nervous or stressed out as a result. Puppies and young dogs may actually go into a state of shock.

TYPICAL EXAMPLE

Dad calls Prince, and has learned in class that he needs to sound strict and dominant so that Prince will understand who is in charge. Prince finds dad's voice to be aggressive, and being a dog he instantly gives dad a calming signal in order to make him stop being aggressive. Prince will perhaps lick his own nose, yawn, turn away - which will result in dad becoming angry for real, because dad perceives Prince as being pig-headed, stubborn and disobedient. Prince is punished for using his calming signals to calm dad. This is a typical example of something that happens on an everyday basis with many dog owners.

BASIC KNOWLEDGE

We need to learn to understand the language of dogs so that we can understand what our dogs are telling us. That is the secret of having a good life together.

HOW THE DOG IS USING THE CALMING SIGNALS

Yawning

The dog may yawn when someone bends over him, when you sound angry, when there's yelling and quarrelling in the family, when the dog is at the vet's, when someone is walking directly at the dog, when the dog is excited with happiness and anticipation - for instance by the door when you are about to go for a walk, when you ask the dog to do something he doesn't feel like doing, when your training sessions are too long and the dog gets tired, when you have said NO for doing something you disapprove of, and in many other situations.

Threatening signals (to walk straight at, reach for the dog, bending over the dog, staring into the dog's eyes, fast movements, and so on) will always cause the dog to use a calming signal. There are about 30 different calming signals, so even when many dogs will yawn, other dogs may use another calming signal.

All dogs know all the signals. When one dog yawns and turn his head to the side, the dog he is 'talking to' may lick his nose and turn his back - or do something completely different.

The signals are international and universal. All dogs all over the worlds have the same language. A dog from Japan would be understood by an elkhound who lives in an isolated valley in Norway. They will have no communication problems!

Licking

Licking is another signal that is used often. Especially by black dogs, dogs with a lot of hair around their faces, and others who's facial expressions for some reasons are more difficult to see than those of dogs with lighter colours, visible eyes and long noses. But anyone can use licking, and all dogs understand it no matter how quick it is. The quick little lick on the nose is easier to see if you watch the dog from in front. It's best seen if you can find somewhere you can sit in peace and quiet and observe. Once you have learned to see the lick, you will also be able to see it while walking the dog.

Sometimes it's nothing more than a very quick lick, the tip of the tongue is barely visible outside the mouth, and only for a short second. But other dogs see it, understand it and respond to it. Any signal is always returned with a signal.

Turning away/turning of the head

The dog can turn its head slightly to one side, turn the head completely over to the side, or turn completely around so that the back and tail is facing whoever the dog is calming. This is one of the signals you may see most of the time in dogs.

When someone is approaching your dog from in front, he will turn away in one of these ways. When you seem angry, aggressive or threatening, you will also see one of these variations of the signal. When you bend over a dog to stroke him, he will turn his head away from you. When you make your training sessions too long or too difficult, he will turn his head away from you. When the dog is taken by surprise or takes someone by surprise, he will turn away quickly. The same happens when someone is staring or acting in a threatening way.

In most cases, this signal will make the other dog calm down. It's a fantastic way in which to solve conflicts, and it's used a lot by all dogs, whether they are puppies or adults, high or low ranking, and so on. Allow your dog to use it! Dogs are experts at solving and avoiding conflicts - they know how to deal with conflicts.

Play bow

Going down with front legs in a bowing position can be an invitation to play if the dog is moving legs from side to side in a playful manner. Just as often, the dog is standing still while bowing and is using the signal to calm someone down. These signals often have double meanings and may be used in many different ways - often the invitation to play is a calming signal by itself because the dog is making a potentially dangerous situation less tense and diverts with something safe.

Recently, in a puppy class with a mix of puppies, one of them was afraid of the others in the beginning. The others left him alone and respected his fear. In the end he would dare to approach the others. When he did, he went into a play bow as soon as one of the other dogs looked at him. It was an obvious combination of slight fear of the others, as well as wanting to take part in the playing.

When two dogs approach each other too abruptly, you will often see that they go into a play bow. This is one of the signals that are easy to see, especially because they remain standing in the bow position for a few seconds so that you have plenty of time to observe it.

Sniffing the ground

Sniffing the ground is a frequently used signal. In groups of puppies you will see it a lot, and also when you and your dog are out walking and someone is coming towards you, in places where there's a lot going on, in noisy places or when seeing objects that the dog isn't sure of what is and find intimidating.

Sniffing the ground may be anything from moving the nose swiftly down toward the ground and back up again - to sticking the nose to the ground and sniff persistently for several minutes.

Is someone approaching you on the pavement? Take a look at your dog. Did he drop the nose down toward the ground, even slightly? Did he turn his side to the one approaching and sniff the side of the road?

Of course, dogs sniff a lot, also in order to 'read the paper' and enjoy themselves. Dogs are pre-programmed to use their noses and it's their favourite activity. However, sometimes it's calming - it depends on the situation. So pay attention to when and in which situations the sniffing occurs!

Walking slowly

High speed will be seen as threatening to many dogs, and they might want to go in to try and stop the one who is running. This is partly a hunting behaviour and is triggered by the sight of a running human or dog. If the one running is coming straight at the dog, it involves a threat and a defence mechanism sets in.

A dog who is insecure will move slowly. If you wish to make a dog feel safer, then you can move slower. When I see a dog react to me with a calming signal, I immediately respond by moving slower.

Is your dog coming very slowly when you call him? If so, check the tone of your voice - do you sound angry or strict? That may be enough for him to want to calm you down by walking slowly. Have you ever been angry with him when he came to you? Then this may be why he doesn't trust you. Another reason to calm you may be if the dog is always put on a leash when coming when called. Take a look at your dog the next time you call him. Does he give you any calming signals when coming? If he moves slowly, you may need to do something different in the way you act.

Freezing

"Freezing" - is what we call it when the dog is stopping while standing completely still, sitting or laying down and remains in that position. This behaviour is believed to have something to do with hunting behaviour - when the prey is running, the dog attacks. Once the prey stops, the dog will stop too. We can often see this when dogs are chasing cats. This behaviour, however, is used in several different situations. When you get angry and aggressive and appear threatening, the dog will often freeze and not move in order to make you be good again. Other times the dog may walk slowly, freeze, and then move slowly again. Many owners believe that they have very obedient dogs who are sitting, lying down or standing completely still. Perhaps they are actually using calming signals? Very often a dog will stop and remain calm when someone is approaching. If your dog wants to stop or move slowly in a situation like that, then let him. Also, should your dog be in a conflict situation with a human or dog, and is unable to escape, freezing may be one way to calm the other dog or person.

Sitting Down/lifting one paw

I have only rarely seen dogs lift their paw as a calming signal, but on a few occasions it's clearly been used to calm another dog.

To sit down, or an even stronger signal, to sit down with the back turned towards someone - for instance the owner - has a very calming effect. It's often seen when one dog wants to calm another dog who is approaching too quickly. Dogs may sit down with their backs turned against the owner when he or she sounds too strict or angry.

Walking in curve

This signal is frequently used as a calming signal, and it is the main reason why dogs may react so strongly towards meeting dogs when they are forced to walk straight at someone. Their instincts tell them that it is wrong to approach someone like that - the owner says differently. The dog gets anxious and defensive. And we get a dog who is barking and lunging at other dogs, and eventually we have an aggressive dog.

Dogs, when given a chance, will walk in curves around each other. That's what they do when they meet off leash and are free to do things their own way. Allow your dog to do the same when he's with you.

Some dogs need large curves, while others only need to walk slightly curved. Allow the dog to decide what feels right and safe for him, then, in time and if you want to, he can learn to pass other dogs closer.

Let the dog walk in a curve around a meeting dog! Don't make him walk in a heel position while you're going straight forward - give him a chance to walk in a curve past the meeting dog. If you keep the leash loose and let the dog decide, you will often see that the dog chooses to walk away instead of getting hysterical.

For the same the reason, don't walk directly toward a dog, but walk up to it in a curve. The more anxious or aggressive the dog is, the wider you make the curve.

DOG behaviour

Other calming signals

By now you have learned about some of the more common calming signals. There are around 30 of them, and many have yet to be described. I will mention a few more briefly so that you can make further observations:

- **Smiling** - either by pulling the corners of the mouth up and back, or by showing the teeth as in a grin.
- **Smacking the lips**
- **Wagging the tail** - should a dog show signs of anxiety, calming or anything that clearly has little to do with happiness, the wagging of the tail isn't an expression of happiness, but rather that the dog wants to calm you.
- **Urinating on himself** - A dog who is cowering and crawling toward his owner while wetting himself and waving his tail, is showing three clear signs of calming- and of fear. · Wanting to get up into your face and lick the corners of your mouth.
- **Making the face round and smooth with ears close to the head** in order to act like a puppy. (No one will harm a puppy, is what the dog believes)
- **Laying Down With the belly against the ground:** This has nothing to do with submission - submission is when the dog lays down with the belly up. Laying down with the belly towards the ground is a calming signal.

And there are even more calming signals that are used in combination with others. For instance, a dog may urinate at the same time as he is turning his back to something. This is a clear sign of calming by for instance an annoying adolescent dog.

Some dogs act like puppies, jumping around and act silly, throwing sticks around, etc. if they discover a fearful dog nearby. It's supposed to have, and does have, a calming effect.

Meeting situations

A meeting situation between two strange dogs will almost never show signs of strong submission or what people refer to as dominant behaviour. A meeting situation between two dogs will usually be something like this:

King and Prince sees each other at 150 metres range and are headed toward each other. They start sending each other messages the moment they see each other. Prince stops and stands still ('freezes'), and King is walking slowly while he keeps glancing at the other dog through the corner of his eye.

As King gets closer, Prince starts licking his nose intensely, and he turns his side to King and starts sniffing the ground too. Now King is so close that he needs to be even more calming, so he starts walking in a curve and away from Prince - still slowly and now he is licking his nose too. Prince sits down, and looks away by turning his head far to one side.

By now the two dogs have 'read' each other so well that they know whether they wish to go over and greet each other, or if this could get so intense that it is best to stay away from each other.

Never force dogs into meeting others

Allow the dogs to use their language in meeting situations so that they feel safe. Sometimes they will walk up to each other and get along, other times they feel that it's safer to stay at a distance - after all, they have already read each other's signals, they do so even at a several hundred metres distance - there's no need to meet face to face.

I have a name for these calming signals: 'The Language of Peace'. That's exactly what it is. It's a language which is there to make sure that dogs have a way to avoid and solve conflicts and live together in a peaceful manner. And the dogs are experts at it.

Start observing and you will see for yourself. Most likely, you will get a much better relationship with your dog and other dogs, too, once you are beginning to realise what the dog is really telling you. It's likely that you will understand things you earlier were unable to figure out. It is incredibly exciting, as well as educational.

Welcome to the world of the dog, and to knowledge of a whole new language!

Common Pet Toxins



Chocolate

Toxin: Theobromine and caffeine.

The more cocoa that is in the chocolate, the more toxic it is. Cooking chocolate is seven times more toxic than milk chocolate.

Symptoms: Seen within hours of ingestion - excitability, fast heart rate, tremoring, vomiting, diarrhoea, seizures and death.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Onion and garlic

Toxin: Disulfides.

Symptoms: Due to damage to the red blood cells - may be seen within 24 hours to several days after ingestion. Include pale gums, fast heart rate, rapid breathing, depression, weakness, red coloured urine, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention for supportive care.



Macadamia Nuts

Toxin: Unknown toxic compound.

Symptoms: Seen within 12 hours of ingestion. Include weakness, depression, vomiting, tremoring, pain, inability to stand up and pale gum colour. Symptoms will disappear within 2 days without treatment.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention for supportive care.



Grapes, Raisins, Sultanas

Toxin: Unknown toxic compound.

Symptoms: Include depression, vomiting, disinterest in food, pain, diarrhoea, increased drinking or urination. Signs are due to kidney failure.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Paracetamol

Toxin: Paracetamol - cats are more sensitive to the medication.

Symptoms: Include blue coloured gums, breathing difficulty, swelling of the face, depression, vomiting, weakness, coma and death.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Yeast Dough

Toxin: Ethanol - heat causes dough to expand in the stomach and the process produces alcohol.

Symptoms: Include abdominal pain, bloating of the abdomen, difficulty walking, depression, coma and possible death.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Chewing Gum

Toxin: Xylitol.

Symptoms: Seen within 30 minutes to 12 hours from ingestion. Include vomiting, depression, difficulty standing or walking, seizures and possible liver failure.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Lilies

Toxin: Unknown toxic compound in Lilium and Hemerocallis spp. The entire plant is toxic. Cats are exceptionally susceptible to toxicity.

Symptoms: Include vomiting (often contains pieces of lily) and signs associated with kidney failure including disinterest in food, depression, vomiting, and no urination.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Wild Mushroom

Toxin: Unknown toxic compound.

Symptoms: Include depression, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, increased tear production, poor coordination, inappropriate toileting and collapse. In severe cases toxicity can lead to liver failure, kidney failure and death.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention

Cigarettes

Toxin: Nicotine.

Symptoms: Usually within 15-45 minutes of ingestion. Include excitation, fast breathing, drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea, twitching, depression, a fast heart rate, shallow breathing and can progress to collapse, coma and death.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Aspirin

Symptoms: Seen within 4-6 hours to several days after ingestion. Include depression, vomiting with or without blood, disinterest in food, rapid breathing, weakness, seizures, coma and death. Toxicity may lead to liver and kidney failure.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Snail Pellets

Toxin: Methaldehyde, Methiocarb or iron EDTA.

Symptoms: Include depression, drooling, poor coordination, vomiting with or without blood, diarrhoea, passing black or bloody stool, rapid heart rate, rapid breathing, muscle tremors, seizures and death. Toxicity may also cause liver failure. Even products claiming to be "pet safe" can be toxic.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Rat Poison

Toxin: Various - most commonly brodifacoums, bromadiolones, diphacinones, diphenadiones, chlorphacinones, valones, pidones, warfarin and coumarin.

Symptoms: Seen 1 to 7 days after ingestion. Include lack of interest in food, coughing, depression, weakness, pale gums, black tarry stool, a bloody nose, vomiting blood, urinating blood, bleeding from the gums, breathing difficulty, lameness or excessive bleeding from wounds.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Flea Products

Toxin: Various - carbamate, organophosphate, pyrethroids, ivermectin, milbemycins.

Cats are especially sensitive to some products; dog products should never be used on a cat.

Symptoms: Include breathing difficulty, increased tear production, drooling, vomiting, tremors, seizures, weakness, poor coordination, mental alteration, breathing problems and death.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Mothballs

Toxin: Naphthalene.

Symptoms: Include vomiting, pale gums, fast heart rate, rapid breathing, depression, weakness, red coloured urine and seizures. Severe toxicity can cause liver and kidney failure.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Anti-freeze

Toxin: Ethylene glycol.

Symptoms: Seen 30 minutes to 3 days after ingestion. Include nausea, vomiting, depression, poor coordination, seizures, diarrhoea, dehydration, coma and death.

Symptoms are due to kidney failure.

Recommendation: Seek veterinary attention immediately.

*Raising a dog
is like a
rainbow...*

*...Puppies are the
joy at one end,
old dogs are
the treasure at
the other end*

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