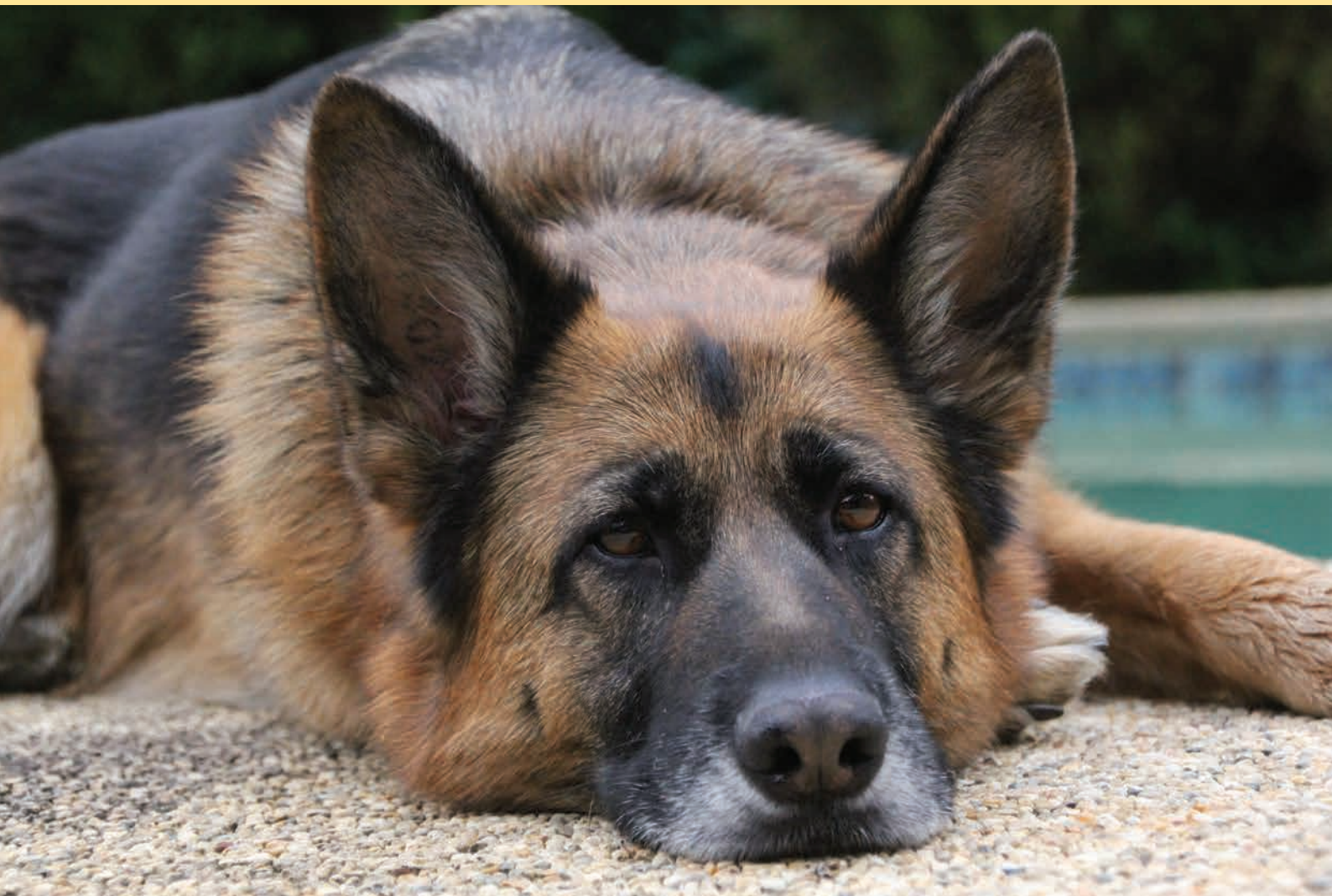


THE German Shepherd Dog

QUARTERLY NATIONAL REVIEW



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

Summer 2021

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www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org

EVENT calendar

GSDCA Events

Date

13th & 14th February 2021

Event

GSDCA Annual General Meeting

Location

Video Conference

Member Club Shows

Date

12/12/2020

14/02/2021

14/02/2021

6/03/2021

21/03/2021

27/03/2021

3/04/2021

3/04/2021

4/04/2021

10/04/2021

8/05/2021

9/05/2021

Judge

Henderson Alastair

Tantaro Vince

Kada Jessica

Prall Jochen

Butterfield Jean

Knuckey Robyn

Pike Jane

Butterfield Jean

Adamson Melissa

Butterfield Jean

Tantaro Vince

Urie Ian

Location

GSDL

GSDCTas

GSDCTas

GSDCV

Other Vic

GSDAWA

GSDL

Other NZ

Other NZ

Other NZ

GSDCV

GSDCV

Event

Sanctioned Show

AM

PM

Championship Show

Kerang & District KC

Members Competition

Champ Show

Wellington District GSDC

Wellington District GSDC

Ruahine Kennel Assoc

SBE

SBE

Quarterly National Review Closing dates

Close dates for content submission and advertising in future magazine editions

Edition

Autumn 2021

Winter 2021

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19 February 2021

5 May 2021

Delivery to Members

Early March

Early June



www.facebook.com/GSDCA



www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org



<http://database.gsdcouncilaustralia.org>



www.wusv.org



Aus Respekt zum Hund.
www.schaeferhunde.de

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Advertising

Wulkano-Uno von Schnitzerteam
HD/ED Normal

Contacts

GSDCA EXECUTIVE

President

Sean Lynch
Ph: +61 467 798 973
e: president@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Secretary

Lyn Phillis
Ph: +61
Mobile: +61 0432 279 078
PO Box 197, Mt. Barker SA 5251
e: secretary@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

NBC Chairperson

Jenny Yuen
Mobile: +61 419 332 409
e: nbc@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Obedience Chairperson

Julie Urie
Mobile: +61 490 058 214
e: obedience@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Editor

Jacinta Poole
Ph: +61 403 455 858
5 Yangoora Court,
Mount Waverley VIC 3149
e: revieweditor@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Treasurer

Peter Flynn
Mobile: +61 468 814 438
e: treasurer@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Judges Committee Chairperson

Louis Donald
Mobile: +61 409 774 144
e: judgescommittee@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA OFFICERS

Breed Health & Welfare Committee Chair

Dr. Candy Baker
Ph: +61 409 168 299
e: gsdhealth@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

HD Registrar

Doug West
Ph: +61 416 219 260
e: hded@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA Webmaster

Jacinta Poole
e: website@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA Database Coordinator

Frank Moody
Ph: +61 419 134 718
E: database@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA Website

www.gsdouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA CONSULTANTS

GSDCA CONSULTANTS

HD
Dr Roger Lavelle
Dr J. L. Richardson

President's Report



Hard to believe this year has come to an end and what a year, Covid-19 has changed everything we do including our wonderful hobby.

It was the first year ever that the GSDCA National Show and Trial had to be postponed then followed up postponing it again until 2022, this alone has caused

much heartache amongst our exhibitors. It is the most important event we hold and is our main source of breed direction and our most loved event.

We also had to cancel this years NBC meeting, again very disappointing but the GSDCA had little choice.

This coming AGM will be a first as we will hold this meeting via "Team Meeting" or similar and these details will be sent to the clubs in the near future.

This years AGM will see a number of Executive positions to be elected.

Review Editor – Jacinta Poole has completed this role outstandingly, producing a quality magazine and always on time, Jacinta will be missed.

NBC Chair – Although we all pushed Jenny to do this role she has excelled in this position and is very well suited for it, thank you Jenny for your service.

Obedience Chair – Julie has decided not to seek re-election, thank you Julie for your years of service.

I look forward to welcoming in the new Executive at the AGM even though it's via the internet and with the new Executive will come new ideas. I wish all the candidates good luck.

Internationally I have just read that Germany have set the dates for the 2021 BSZS Sieger Show to be held in Nurnberg on the 2nd to 5th of September, let's just hope that things change enough for this show to go ahead but I am very doubtful even if it does that we will be able to travel. Locally a few shows are set for early 2021 and I would like to wish the clubs every success.

At this time I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Best Wishes

Sean Lynch

GSDCA President

Editorial

Welcome to the summer 2021 edition, just as we begin to wave goodbye to the year 2020 - one that most are happy to see the end of. Covid-19 certainly put a spanner in most plans, ending our involvements in all dog activities for months, cancelling the National and keeping us at home and safe. As a Victorian, we've got more to celebrate than most as things ease up and I do hope that next year brings a lot more fun and freedom to our dog fraternity across Australia.

This edition has some great articles for your enjoyment. Dawn Howard has provided an excellent summary of the changes to obedience and Rally trial rules that begin on January 1st. Dawn's simple explanations give our trialers a clear view on what they will see changed in the ring.

We also shone the spotlight on Wolf Meffert and Veronica Fairburn to highlight their lengthy involvement in GSD's. Alastair Henderson has provided some insight into the benefits of Bowen therapy for your dog's health, maybe an alternative you might consider and we hear from Jo Cathie about her thoughts on dogs.

Kurt Morton caught up with dog groomer extraordinaire Jess Bird and they've provided a really instructive and informative grooming article that will provide many with some great tips and information on looking after your dog's coat.

Our resident vet Dr Candy Baker has written an excellent article on pregnancy ultrasonography in the bitch for the information of breeders. We also take this opportunity to congratulate Candy on her new arrival, baby Ruby. Congrats to the whole family 😊

There are some great members stories this edition, highlighting those who do both simple and extraordinary things with their dogs. This includes Audrey Franc's story about her new assistance dog Bronte. We also hear from Henrk Zakrzewski following successfully attaining his Obedience Grand Champion title with his dog Rohan. Yay.

Time to Say Good bye

Lastly, my time as Editor of the Quarterly National Review is coming to an end. I have decided to stand down from my role at the AGM in February, leaving 1 year of my 2 year term for the newly elected Editor. This will be my last edition as Editor. I have held the position for 5 years now, completing 19 editions. My aim since taking on the role was to try to ensure that the Quarterly National Review was a magazine relevant for ALL members of GSDCA clubs, those involved in breeding, shows, trials and pet owners alike. I do hope you have found these efforts worthwhile and enjoyed each edition. I have tried to ensure I produced a magazine that upheld the high standards of many previous editors, and I hope I've raised the bar even further !

Thank you to everyone who contributed articles when asked, or of their own accord, the clubs that submitted news to share each edition and to our regular contributors. Your help was much appreciated by myself and you added to the value of each edition.

Thankyou to the Executive members who took the time for contributions and support over the 5 years, and special thanks to secretaries Val Moody and more recently Lyn Phyllis who completed the proof reading of each edition.

I look forward to spending more time with my own dogs now. After all, they are the reason we get involved and stay involved in the GSD world.

Here's your Summer 2021 edition.

Merry Christmas and Enjoy.

Good Bye !

Jacinta

Meet Wolf and Veronica, Uhlmsdorf Kennels

We asked Wolf Meffert and Veronica Fairburn of Uhlmsdorf Kennels to share their longstanding history and involvement in the GSD fraternity.

You've had a long history in the German Shepherd Dog, tell us how and when you got involved

It all began in Darwin. Not long after Wolf purchased his first German Shepherd Dog he saw a notice in the NT News (Darwin's newspaper) inviting German Shepherd Dog owners to a meeting at the Chung Wah Society Hall. This is where he first met Riley Wing MBE and some 10 other interested GSD owners. This was the foundation meeting of the Northern Territory German Shepherd Dog Club in September 1970. In the following month Veronica attended the first meeting which formalised the Constitution and Incorporation of the Club.

We both became obedience instructors in 1971 when the club held weekly training sessions at the Botanical Gardens. In 1972 the club introduced its own Tattoo Scheme and held a Breed Survey. Wolf was elected President of the Club in 1973, a position he held until our move to Canberra in 1979. Veronica joined the committee in 1973.

In 1972 Veronica attended the 2nd National in Canberra and we both attended the 4th National in Nuriootpa in 1976. This encouraged us to conduct the NT Club's 1st Specialty Show and Trial in the same year. A significant aspect of this show was that we were not required to hold a 'Best in Show'.

Wolf was a Councillor on the North Australian Canine Association (NACA) from 1972 till 1979.

Another involvement at the time was Wolf travelling "South" numerous times to represent the Club at National Council AGM's and the special meetings being held to set up and introduce the National Breed Survey Scheme. We felt it was important to have a face as well as input at these meetings. It also helped the Club to keep up to date with National issues.

Following Cyclone Tracey the NT Government offered land to the NACA to set up a dog showing facility. Wolf was instrumental in arranging establishment of these facilities.

In order to have climatic conditions more suited to the GSD we moved to Canberra in 1979.

We both joined the ACTGSDA in 1980. Wolf joined the committee later that year, he has held various positions including President which he currently holds.

Veronica joined the ACTGSDA Committee and has held many positions including Treasurer and is currently the Secretary.

We have both held positions on National Council, Veronica was the HD/ED and NBC Registrar for a number of years. As Registrar she initiated the computerisation of the Breed Survey and HD and ED certificates, avoiding the tedious error free manual typing process. She was also responsible for the design of the current HD/ED certificate.

Wolf held the position of National Tattoo Officer and set up a data

base to record all the tattoo prefixes. This eliminated the duplication and even triplication in the manual tattoo prefix records.

Wolf was elected onto the Canberra Canine Association (now Dogs ACT) and held the position of Vice President for a number of years and was awarded Life Membership of that organisation.

We have been actively involved for many years and would like to hand the reins over to younger people but it's extremely difficult. Consider the broad range of activities of a typical GSD club. It requires a considerable amount of time and involvement to fully comprehend the operation of a committee. It is consequently very difficult to find young people who have the breed at heart, and the interest, patience and tenacity to maintain their involvement at what, at times, are difficult circumstances. It appears that most Clubs in Australia have the same problem as the majority are run by mature people that have been there for many years.

It is interesting to note here the NT GSD Club has folded due to a lack of interest. We found that extremely disappointing.

We are both recipients of National Council Service Awards.

Tell us about your first GSD

Veronica's first German Shepherd Dog was a pedigreed female Esnesnommoc Klanval (Sasha) which she purchased in Townsville and took with her to Darwin. At that time it was illegal to have an entire GSD in the NT. However, this law was changed shortly after her arrival in the NT, exempting Sasha as long as she attended obedience training. This was all thanks to the efforts of Riley Wing MBE who was also the driving force in the formation of the NT German Shepherd Dog Club.

Sasha obtained her Australian Champion and CD Obedience titles.

Wolf's first German Shepherd Dog Paladene Charmain (Meerna) came from Queensland. She gained her CD Obedience title in 1972.

An interesting aside to the above NT law. Attempts to have this law repealed was unsuccessful for many years. In early 1979 Wolf received a phone call from a member of the relevant NT Minister's Office. The staffer lived in Tennant Creek and his GSD bitch had just had a litter of puppies. I explained the requirements of the law and within a week the law was repealed.

How did you get involved in showing your dogs?

Initially in Darwin we attended All Breeds shows which were held at night under lights. These shows would typically go through to 1 or 2 in the morning. We experienced success at these shows being awarded Best in Show on a regular basis with our Shepherds consequently some of our dogs obtained their Championship titles in four shows.

As noted earlier, following our attendance at the 4th National in Nuriootpa we were completely hooked on Specialty showing and set about introducing that concept into the NT Club. The first Specialty Show in Darwin was introduced in 1976 with Louis Donald judging conformation and Riley Wing MBE judging the Obedience. This show became an annual event.

Why did you take up breeding and when was Uhlmsdorf Kennels established

We began breeding in Darwin in 1976 and registered our Kennel Prefix. We were looking for a German sounding name that could be pronounced without difficulties. Hence Uhlmsdorf which means

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the 'Village of Uhlm'. You will not find it on a map. We purchased an adult bitch and had her mated to Ingo Hafenlohrta for our first litter. Overall we had reasonable success with our breeding program, although it was difficult sending a bitch to the southern states to be mated. Also as noted, the climatic conditions were not conducive for raising puppies. Therefore, we only had a couple of litters. Living with cattle ticks and the arrival of the Parvo Virus certainly did not help. We became more involved in breeding after we moved to Canberra in 1979. We purchased a pup from Sam Bonifacio 'Vinberg Iced Kiev' "Sky" who basically became our foundation bitch. Iced Kiev was the litter sister to Vinberg Iced Kiwi a National Gold Medal winner.



Vinberg Iced Kiev

What or who (including dogs) has had the biggest influence in your involvement with showing, breeding and owning GSDs

At the 1969 Ballarat National we heard that a dog we had admired for some time *Ch Delridge Echo Imp UK (Ludi) was for sale.

As we had already put plans in place to move to Canberra the temptation was too great and we had to buy him. (Delridge Echo was owned in Partnership with John and Jenny Kenworthy)



Ch Delridge Echo

*Ch Delridge Echo was the best dog. He was everything you would expect a German Shepherd Dog to be. He was our heart dog. We tend to measure the character and personality of dogs by the standard he set. Unfortunately, he died at the age of 8 and he is still missed by us.



Ch Delridge Echo (Ludi)

People that influenced us in our breeding program were Sam Bonifacio, a larger than life character, very knowledgeable and entertaining in the ring with very flamboyant critiques. There was also Louis Donald, of course, who lived in Canberra and would come to the Clubhouse on a Wednesday night (obedience training night) and "hold court". These were very interesting nights. His Surveys were exceptional and educational.

Louis always held respect for people in the breed that imported dogs. In those early days this was a lengthy and expensive 15 months process.

We must also emphasise that one of our early mentors was Riley Wing MBE a former President of National Council and President of the South Australian Club. As mentioned he was responsible for the formation of the NT Club. The other mentor was Jürgen Neddermeyer, a close friend of Riley's. Jürgen visited Darwin a number of times including a trip to assist us with running our first specialty show and also our first Breed Survey. In more recent times Melanie Groth is often used by us as sounding board with our breeding and is always happy to give advice when asked.

One important dog that was used by us in our breeding program was CH Prima Zorba 'A' he gave great strength and very good forequarter. This gave us some lovely strong dogs to show and strong bitches to breed with. * Ch Uhlmsdorf Jersey Fire 'A' was a Zorba son who gave us a great deal of pleasure gaining many excellent's and a VA grading.

Tell us about your 'best dogs' both now and in the past. Not necessarily wins, but about the dogs

As mentioned above, Ch Delridge Echo was a great German Shepherd Dog. He obtained many excellent gradings and was graded excellent at five consecutive Nationals, including a Bronze Medal at the 1981 National. He was the perfect German Shepherd Dog completely reliable in every circumstance.

FR Ch Aus Ch * Ogus De Columbo 'a' (imp FRN) (owned in partnership with John and Jenny Kenworthy) was also a great dog who was multi excellent graded. He produced some nice animals in England and Australia probably the most notable of them in Australia was the Hasburn Talkin Litter. We owned, *Hasburn Sweet Talkin (Gambit) in partnership with Jenny and John Kenworthy, she was 1st Puppy bitch and 2nd Junior bitch at the 1986 National held in Canberra. Her Brother won his class at the same National.

Gambit was also graded VA on 3 consecutive occasions and was a Vice Siegerin.



Ogus De Columbo with Terry Shaw



Ogus De Columbo with Malcolm Griffiths

Current dogs would have to be *Ch Uhlmsdorf Black Douglas 'A' 'Z' *Ch Uhlmsdorf Jack Black 'A' 'Z' * Uhlmsdorf Black Dimond 'A' 'Z'. We have * Uhlmsdorf Ellie Mac 'A' 'Z' to thank for these animals either as their Dam or great Dam. Her daughter *Uhlmsodrf Pink Champagne 'A' 'Z' is continuing in her mother's footsteps as a producing bitch.



Uhlmsdorf Ellie Mac AZ

What significant changes do you think have affected the breed in the last 20 years and what challenges face all GSD breeders today?

The early days saw the introduction of National Health and Welfare programs such as the Tattoo Scheme, Breed Survey and the Hip Dysplasia scheme. This was followed some years later by what were world first initiatives by the National Council. These were the Haemophilia and the Elbow Dysplasia schemes. In the last 20 years the biggest changes would be the abandonment of the tattoo scheme in favour of a Micro Chip only scheme and the WUSV Harmonisation initiative. The latter is certainly very idealistic but seems to fall into the overall unrealistic category. It is however important to adopt and possibly adapt the more practical and realistic parts of this program.

There is also the "anti-dog" movement which is attempting to make dog ownership more demanding and difficult. The technology era promise of more leisure time instead has turned out to create a time poor society. Social media and ever increasing pressure of family life has made dog ownership onerous. This however is offset by the faith, trust and companionship of your German Shepherd Dog.

We would also like to mention the 'Breed Assessment Scheme' which was presented to an AGM and heavily pushed by the ACT club. The concept was to make a basic assessment of animals that attend obedience training giving owners a brief evaluation of how their family pet fits into the general standard for the GSD. It would also provide valuable information on breed issues such as soft ears, over and under size, monorchids, missing teeth etc., something that would not be picked up in the show ring or at breed surveys. It also included long coats which was a disqualifying fault at the time. The concept behind this would be a stepping stone towards gaining some additional interest by GSD owners to look beyond the basic obedience option. Unfortunately the Council insisted that only Breed Surveyors were capable of making these basic assessments and that the results would be handled by the Obedience subcommittee. We believe this was an opportunity missed to encourage greater active participation by GSD pet owners.

What do you feel are our responsibilities as custodians of the breed and what do you think will be the biggest influence on the future of the breed

We must ensure that we do not regulate the GSD breed out of

existence. Our aim must be to produce healthy animals of sound character for what is essentially the family pet market. The so called working lines to us tend to be hyperactive and are more suited to the IPO enthusiast and You Tube video clips.

Frozen Semen has become an important part of breeding in Australia. It makes it much easier for breeders to access dogs that are located a great distance away in Australia. It also opens up access to semen from what are considered to be top producing sires based overseas.

Almost 30 years ago, we along with Sam Bonifacio, Fran Farley and with the help of Dr Karen Hedberg imported Semen from an English and a German Dog. We didn't have any luck with any of our females becoming pregnant. Fran Farley had small success resulting in one pup. Sam was the only one that had success. A female from that litter was purchased by Leishjaelyn Kennels and became their foundation bitch.

Uhlmsdorf Kennels have had great success at National Shows and Trials, tell us about the dogs, work and people involved to make that happen

We must thank "Team Uhlmsdorf" for handling and help with training our dogs. A special mention to Mona Carrol (Woods) for her exceptional handling and Vic G. for his training. Thanks also to Lauren McGregor who helps out with Handling when she can. The team behind the scenes that travel long distances to support us, also help out with training, double handling and whatever else is needed. Thanks also go to Melanie Groth, Kurt Morton and Cassie Booth for their expert handling of our dogs. (In the past thanks must also go to go to Malcom Griffiths and Terry Shaw.) We have bred or owned many dogs gaining high "on the pegs places" we have mentioned a few above.

The most recent ones are:

AO Uhlmsdorf Black Label UD. "Jackson" owned by Vic G Jackson has had an exceptional career.
2017 National - 1st Puppy dog and Winner of Winners Gold Medal
2018 National - 6th Intermediate dog and Winner of Winners 2nd place Silver Medal
2019 National - 1st Intermediate dog and Inaugural Joylene Neddermeyer memorial trophy and Winner of Winners Gold Medal
2018 National - AO Uhlmsdorf Taylor Swift UD Winner of Winners Gold Medal

We are very grateful for all the hard work Vic puts into his dogs achieving amazing results.



Vic G with Uhlmsdorf Black Label and Uhlmsdorf Taylor Swift

INTERVIEW chat



Vic G, Mona Carrol and Uhlmsdorf Black Label

*CH Uhlmsdorf Jack Black 'A' 'Z' - Josey (owned in Partnership with Ben Lowes) achieved his Aus Champion title in 4 Speciality shows

He has had many excellent gradings and best dog in show awards and has been on the pegs at 3 Nationals.



Uhlmsdorf Jack Black

*Ch Uhlmsdorf Black Douglas'A' 'Z' - Zac (Owned by Sam and Lauren McGregor)

He achieved his Aus Champion in a combination of All breeds and Speciality Shows he was second Junior dog at the Sydney National also receiving the Excellent grading at 2 Nationals and many other shows.



Uhlmsdorf Black Douglas AZ

*Uhlmsdorf Black Dimond 'A' 'Z' - "Bertie", he is our special "Jenky" boy, litter brother to Uhlmsdorf Black Label. Bertie has had a number of best dog in show awards and some high excellent gradings. He has also been on the pegs at two Nationals.



Uhlmsdorf Black Dimond AZ

What part of being involved in GSDs gives you the greatest pleasure? And what has been the highlight

Without doubt the dogs give us enormous pleasure. Our dogs are our pets before they are show dogs and not all of them make it as show dogs. They are all treated the same and are a little spoilt. They are allowed in the house, our oldies have their daily walks and spend their time on the couch.

We have made some great lifelong friends here and oversea through owning and breeding German Shepherd Dogs.

The first excellent for any dog we have bred or owned is always a bit special.

We gain pleasure from the families that have bought dogs from us and update us on a regular basis with photos or visits. Many of these family's return to us for another dog

They also recommend us to others interested in buying a German Shepherd.

One of the highlights was winning the Sam Bonifacio Trophy at the Adelaide National I think it was made extra special because it was so unexpected

What advice would you give to the novice buyer of the German Shepherd

Do your homework always buy from a reputable breeder, it's a good idea to contact the German Shepherd Dog Club in your area as they have a puppy listing service. For breeders to be on the list they have to comply with GSDCA Schemes.

Look at the conditions in which the pups are raised, look at the Sire and Dam.

Research obedience training in your area and take the pup along as soon as possible. It is very important to socialise your pup and instil fundamental obedience before the pup becomes difficult to handle in novice hands.

We encourage people buying pups from us to visit with the pups as they grow, it gives us a chance to get to know the people and to educate them on raising a pup.

Encourage puppy buyers to contact the breeder if their Vet recommends surgery for HD and desexing of pups at an early age.

Don't necessarily believe all you read on Social Media

Is there anything more you would like to add?

With some 40+ years of close involvement with National Council we do have some views on its function and operation. This will however be a matter for another time.

Grooming – the importance of caring for your dog's coat

The distinguishing factor between stock coat and long stock coat is naturally their coat !

But how are we to care for the requirement for both maintenance and showing? I caught up with Jess Bird from the Happy Puppy dog grooming.

Jess shows in both all breeds and specialty and has a number of breeds including Siberian huskies, Shiba Inus and German Shepherds.

Kurt Morton & Jess Bird

Starting with the tools of the trade, what are your basic maintenance tools and what are your basic show tools? (please list brands if possible and explanation of each tool)

My go to products both in the salon and my own dogs include:

- Shampoo and de-shedding shampoo
- Conditioner
- Slicker brush
- Coat finishers
- Blow dryer

What does grooming look like for basic maintenance?

I love using Petway Clarifying Shampoo on all types of dogs. It's awesome for removing dirt, grime and any excess oils in the coat without stripping the coat of any goodness. It leaves the coat feeling fresh, healthy and it smells amazing. I do two washes to make sure we get a good lather and a deep clean to make sure we get all that grime out. So, I wet the dog down first then depending if the dog is really dirty or not. I will actually mix the shampoo into a container with water and use a sponge to apply and work it to a lather. If the dog is super dirty I will apply the shampoo neat onto the body then sponge to create a lather. Making sure you spread all over the dog. I will then lightly rinse (don't have to remove all shampoo this wash) it just helps removes some of the dirt. I then reapply another lather of shampoo. Then rinse all the shampoo out.

Petway Deshedding Shampoo is my absolute go to for those times of the year where that hair is falling out and multiplying in the house/ garden. I use this on all double coated or shedding breeds. It helps release the undercoat by stimulating follicles to release the hair while leaving the coat conditioned and not drying it out.

It is important to remove all shampoo residue. If it's not removed, it can leave an oily texture, lead to the coat not drying properly and to hotspots or skin irritations. I find the most effective way is to run my hands over the coat to feel if there is any shampoo left. Areas I found that are easily missed is the groin, pants under the mouth/throat and ruff of neck. Once all shampoo is removed, I follow with a few of the products listed below.

Another go to product for any breed is Plush Puppy Fast Spray. I apply once I have finished rinsing the shampoo off the dog and before blast

drying. I give a light spray over the body heading towards the tail to avoid the face area. It also helps strengthen, adds moisture and condition the coat. It is an amazing product. I use it on majority on larger breeds, all double coated and long-haired dogs. It cuts the drying time in half, making the water evaporate and leave the coat quicker. It actually also helps add strength to the coat and conditions while protecting the coat from the heat of the dryer. Having LSC and double coated breeds it's a product I use all the time. Who doesn't love cutting down the drying time?!

Plush Puppy TLC Spray on Conditioner is something I use on all of mine and also dogs in the salon. This product is amazing and helps condition, adds moisture to the coat without leaving an oily residue and you just spray on then blow dry. It also helps detangles long haired coats. You can apply then rinse out or leave in, but I prefer to leave it in. Or if I'm removing or brushing pants even tail area on say a LSC shepherd I'll use TLC. I don't like to comb out these areas dry and it helps moisturize to prevent breakage. However, I will use this Stock coats as well as it is great on their coats and leaves the coat feeling amazing.

Plush Puppy OMG is also quite a handy product to have. I found it's great for detangling and de-frizzing long haired dogs. You can buy as a spray or concentrated. I just spray on the desired area i.e. pants that have become compacted and require a good brush out.

I will use a blast/force dryer for drying. It helps separate the coat and remove excess water from after bathing. It also helps to remove and loosen the dead moulting hair from the coat. However, with LSC I would watch the way you do pants, the feathers on the fronts of legs and hair behind the ears as these areas are quite "whispy" and fine hair can knot easily. (commonly called as Whip Knots). They're caused when long hair is force-dried at an angle that allows the hair to whip around and double back on itself. The hair should blow out straight away from the tip of the dryer. I will also tend to use a slicker brush or my hands to keep the hair straight. I will go against the grain of the hair when de-shedding it helps loosen it and gets the nozzle right to the base of the roots realising the dead undercoat that needs to come out. I will always start at the back of the neck, work down the body, do the sides of the dog then pants and followed by the chest area, then tail last. I like to break into sections so you can dry thoroughly and work down the dogs' body, pushing the water downwards and off the dog.

A slicker brush and a fine-tooth comb are everyday products and are great for all over and either coat variety. I like to use the comb for the finer areas behind ears pants and fronts of legs as well as the tail it helps just get those fine knots out, and the clumped old coat that can form in the pants and tail. Sometimes slicker brushes can just skip over the finer knots which then can lead to further larger knots or missing dead coat. Slicker brushes are good for the body and removing some of the undercoat. They are a great finisher to brush over and put the coat in place or to assist in drying.

Another tool is a rake and I prefer these so much than a furminator. I use these when we are de-shedding a dog or there is a lot of excess coat to be removed or the coat has started to compact. They help remove and pull the old shedding coat without stripping or breaking the new coat like furminators can do. I do find a comb works just as well in some areas. However, watch you're not putting too much pressure against the dog's skin as you can cause brush burn and the skin to go red and cause bleeding or skin irritation.

It is important with a breed like LSC and even Stock Coat you comb or brush from the base of the hair don't just run the brush or comb quickly over the dog as you will miss dead hair, knots and clumps of hair. Which can lead to the coat compacting with dead coat, making it extremely hard to remove. Part the hair and make sure you get down to the base of the hair.

Nail Trimming I usually do before I bath. There are two types of nail clippers you can get. I do tend to avoid the guillotine type I find they

GROOMING chat

are easier to cut the nail to short but everyone has their preference. A dremmel also works well at filing the dogs nail right back but it is best to get your dog use to this at a young age. Nails grow differently on dogs and I find dogs that live inside grow a lot quicker than outside side. I recommend doing them anywhere from 2-6wks.

Maintenance grooms can differ to show grooms, how do you achieve that show ready glow?

I guess show maintenance depends on what we are trying to achieve. I will list a few products that I wash and prep my guys in. Different shampoos and products do different things and have different results depending on how they are used and coat of the dog.

Ashley Craig, I have recently found this range and I love it. There is a 4 step process with this one. You start with the Renew. This you put onto a dry coat so no need to rinse the dog down first. I will normally use a sponge to help get a great cover. This one I leave on for about 10mins this helps makes it way into the coat and helps repair the coat. I then very lightly rinse some of it off following it with the Cleanse you mix with water. This is a great one for cleansing removing dirt and grime. I will fully rinse this on off and then I will actually follow with Whiten. I know that may sound odd for a Shepherd however, it actually gives a fantastic shine and helps enhance the colour. Then there is the Restore which acts as a conditioner and helps hydrate and revive the coat. Fully rinse and make sure all shampoo is removed.

Now this next range Plush Puppy, I have used for years and there is so many different products you can use either for the bathing, drying or on the day of the show.

Natural All Purpose with Henna, is one I will use the majority of the time its more of an everyday wash. Its great for all colours and coat types. It has a minimal effect on the coat texture. Wet the dogs coat thoroughly and apply to the coat I usually 1:5 (1 part shampoo to 5 parts water) lather all over the dog. Lightly rinse then reapply. I will still do two washes. After that I will then thoroughly rinse all shampoo of making sure you check those areas that are easily forgotten (the groin, pants under the mouth/throat and ruff of neck).

Natural Body Building Shampoo is a fantastic product if your dog has blown coat and you need to add that lift and volume to their coat, or even if you have a dog with a flattish coat. I will use on the whole body but you can just use to the areas you need to add volume to. Thoroughly wet the dog down. Apply shampoo you can dilute it down, depending on how out of coat the dog is and how much volume I'm aiming for I will put shampoo straight on lather it up so you get a nice coverage of shampoo over the body I will leave on for about 2-5 mins you don't have to. Then fully rinse off making sure you remove all shampoo.

I will mainly use the Plush Puppy TLC as I described before. However, if I do have a dull coat or dry coat I will apply Natural Silk Protein Conditioner. After rinsing the shampoo out while the coat is still wet. I will dilute this 1:5 I actually like to mix up in a spray bottle and apply to the areas that need it. I will then rinse the dog all over again making sure I remove all of it. I have found if conditioner is left in the coat it can flatten the coat and give it an oily/greasy look.

I will apply FAST once I have finished rinsing the shampoo or conditioner off the dog and before blast drying. I give a light spray over the body heading towards the tail to avoid the face area. It also helps strength, adds moisture and condition the coat. It is an amazing product and always use it.

After shampooing and rinsing your dog now comes the drying, it is important to have the coat fully dried to achieve the best results and is the most important step. I will also tend to use a slicker brush or my hands to keep the hair straight. Slicker brush works well as you can dry

the coat and style as you go, controlling the way the hair falls. Drying is quite important to make sure you achieve how you want the coat to look at the end, and have that complete finish. I know stock coats don't have as long a drying time as a LSC, but I still find it important to have the coat completely dry.

Stock Coats seem to moult a lot more hair year-round so blast drying helps remove a lot of that old dead coat leaving the coat looking fresh and healthy. A damp or wet coat can lead to the coat looking flat and lifeless on the day of the show. I will use my hands to run over the dog to feel for wet spots. I will usually finish a dogs' head with a overhead dryer or a small hand held dryer, this especially on long stocks it helps prevents the silky hair behind the ears tangling up or drying fuzzy like they have a perm. If the dog really doesn't like the dryer around that area a microfibre towel will dry the area and remove most of the moisture then use a comb or slicker to run through the hair to make brush it straight and make sure there are no knots. Depending on the dog coats some types, I find are better if they are groomed a day or two before the show.

A few other products I use more on the day at the show and are staples in my grooming box are:

Plush Puppy Volumizing Spray: Love this product. Its great if you have a dog that is out of coat or you want to give it a fuller look. You can either purchase the spray or the cream that you can dilute into a spray or apply as cream and blow-dry. But I just use the spray, its much easier to apply. I use it on all my breeds if they are out of coat and have had great results from it. We will use it on the day of the show. Spray on the area you need to give volume to brush against the grain of the hair with either a slicker brush or pin brush to get it the base of the hair follicle. Then lightly with comb or pin brush style the hair to desired style. And then let dry. Its great to use all over the dog.

WonderWash: Now this a must have! This product has saved me a few times with upset tummies that have led to messy accidents, puppies that have rolled in things they shouldn't have or just a dog that has gotten dirty. It is suitable for all breed and coat types. Its works wonders for emergency situations that you don't have time to rewash and dry. I spray straight on the dry coat onto the area or areas that I need to fix up. Then with your hands scrub it in to form a lather, or if its for a messy situation use a towel to rub it into the coat to form a good lather. I just towel dry the area afterwards.

Plush Puppy Odour Muncher is a great deodoriser whether you're using it for that doggy smell or if you have had a naughty puppy roll in something. I use it all the time in the salon, shows, at home even works great if you have forgotten your deodorant.

Plush Puppy HOLD: Is my equivalent to hairspray. For me it just holds better. So if your dog is having an untameable hair day or you are just trying to give a little lift to a certain area it's a great product to use. It's a quick dry formula which helps prevent it becoming sticky. I usually wash it out quickly with a little water after the show just to prevent it building up in the coat.

OMG Spray is also another a product I take to shows. It's great for detangling and de-frizzing. It also helps soften and adds shine. We usually use it one the pants and tails of our LSC. I don't like combing/brushing dry as it can make the coat brittle so I like to spray a little OMG then comb through.

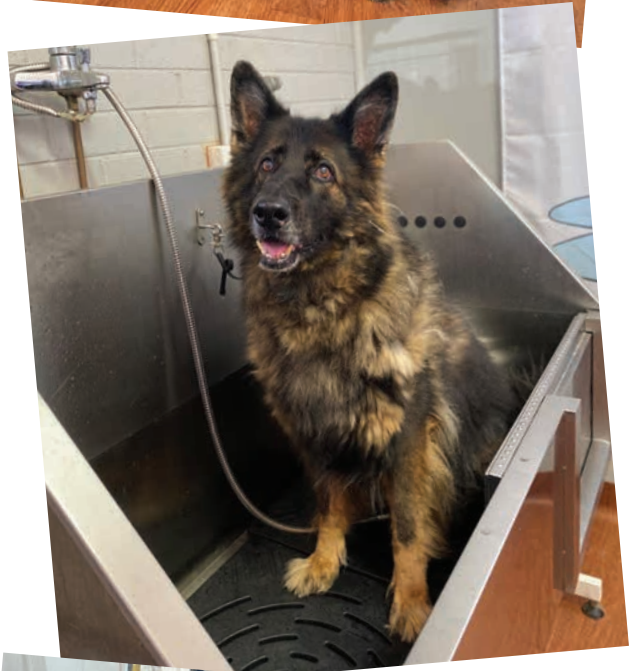
Shine N Comb can add shine to coats that are little dull on show day, or on a black dog it adds a great shine to the coat. I usually put it on just before judging.

Satin dog coat: Is a great product for those hairies. We dampen the coat or the area that is a little wavy before putting it on. And then leave it on for an hour or before they go in for judging. It seems to help flatten the coat out.

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deshedding rake or comb. I do tend to stay away from the furminators, as I find the furminator brushes can strip the coat and leave holes if not used properly usually if there is too much pressure used. When shedding I brush more regularly as I want to get that old coat out. I'll brush every day or every second day. The quicker you get the old coat out, the quicker the new coat comes in.



How often should you be grooming your dog?

I must admit I don't brush every day. Usually a light brush once a fortnight with our LSC. But that completely depends on what your dog coat is doing and what its activities are.

Brushing regularly helps prevent any knots forming in the coat. I like to focus on areas like behind the ears, backs of the front legs, tail and especially the pants as I find they can get little knots or the hair can clump together easily. It also helps loosen any dead coat or dirt build up in the coat. I will brush more regularly when the dog is shedding. A



GROOMING chat



Where are the difficult bits and what should we be focussing on ?

I tend to see a lot of stock coats in the salon with super long nails and the dogs don't tend to like feet being done. So, an important area to watch and encourage new puppy owners to get their dogs used to having their feet touched.

As well as dead coat build up down the back flanks and pants. Other areas commonly forgotten are the back flanks, pants and tail a lot of times the hair builds with dirt and grime and are that seems to be left untouched when brushing

For long stock coats, behind the ears is a place to watch, it tangles very easily. Pants are an area that is super important and I see them tangled and compacted way too much! It can become easily compacted with dead coat, dirt/mud and if the dog swims and the coat hasn't been dried properly. A fine-tooth comb as well as a detangler or anti-static spray which is where I like using Plush Puppy OMG. These areas I found if left untouched and not conditioned dries the coat making it dull and very brittle.

Under the arm pits there is quite a lot of wispy and fine hair that can get easily tangled, it can also hold grass seeds which if become embedded can cause issues I find a lot of dogs tangle quickly under here if they wear a harness. It's very sensitive area to remove the knots so very important to watch and comb this area out.

On non-show dogs I like to tidy the sanitary areas so around the pants again and around the male's penis, as I find there can sometimes be a little dribble and it can become sticky which can lead to knots. Also, around the bum, if the dog has had an upset stomach can cause mess, and if not washed out the coat to stick together and then knots can form around that. The feathering on the backs of the front legs is another area to look for.

Hair on feet and under the pads I find pick up a lot of dirt, bits of pieces from the garden and can lead to them picking up grass seeds. I tend to trim my dogs' feet under the pads to help prevent dirt or them slipping and sliding inside. As well as the hair between the toes as I find it can knot easily and it just gives a neater appearance. I use a slicker brush and brush the hair up and scissor the wispy bits off

How often do you wash for maintenance? Is this only when coat drops?

It really depends on how dirty the dog is, the dogs coat, as well if they are being kept in show condition or not. I still do maintenance baths even if the dog is not shedding. Your dog will still have dirt, grime and some dead coat build up between each coat drop. Maintenance baths help remove that.

It's a tricky question to pin point exactly when to and how often. I know I do more maintenance baths on my Siberian Huskies, or bathing of their legs as I am aiming at keeping their white areas as white as I can.

I don't like to over wash though as I don't want to remove the natural oils from their coat. Older dogs or non-show dogs depending on their coats 4-10wks, as well as if the dog is giving out that doggy odour or has skin issues maybe even more frequently than that.

I do find older dogs, their coats can dry out and become brittle in some areas like their pants, cause knotting and clumping of the hair so dogs like this need to be maintained a little more to prevent this from happening.

We do a lot of All breeds and Speciality shows and we prepare the dogs exactly the same in both, and believe their coats should be maintained in between.



What are three things you should never do?

1. Never shave or clip your shepherd. It actually destroys the outer and under coat. It can break the ends. Sometimes it results in the coat never growing back properly, the coat will regrow in a different direction. It can also lead to the coat growing back double the thickness. The double coat actually acts as a cooling agent for your dog, so when you shave you are removing the protective layer and the insulating layer. I do however understand there is sometimes some reasons why it is needed like health or skin related issues. But please try to avoid if you can.
2. Using human Shampoo or soaps on your dog. Dog and humans' skin has very different Ph balances. Using a human shampoo on a dog's skin can disrupt the acid mantle which can cause his skin to feel dry and flaky which can lead to repeated scratching and abrasions. Some human shampoos have a high Ph balance or harsh chemicals it can really irritate the skin and strip away the protective oils from the dogs' coat.
3. Brush excessively – use products to assist otherwise you will end up damaging the dogs skin by causing brush burn.

What are your three top tips?

1. Get your dog use to being groomed at a young age. Whether it be brushing, combing, running your hands through their tail, getting them used to having their feet touched, their ears being played with. Even getting them to sit and stay while you brush. Makes it so much easier for yourself and a possibly a groomer down the track if you decide to take them to one.
2. General maintenance is a must. Deshedding and removing that undercoat is important. Being a groomer who does a lot of Shepherds whether it be short coat or long coat in the salon, it's a massive thing I see a lot of the time that has been forgotten. Along with nail clipping, ear cleaning.
3. Prepare and maintain your dog's coat are key. Results don't happen overnight. A well-presented dog gives it that edge and makes them stand out. The appearance of a dog is important, a well groomed and presented dog makes it look impressive and a class above the others.



NATIONAL awards

48th National Show & Trial Update

The GSDCA Executive recently made the difficult decision to not hold the 48th National show and trial next year, 2021. Due to the uncertainty surrounding international travel for judges and interstate borders within Australia, it was felt only fair to give the host club (GSDL) and exhibitors advance notice.



The 48th National Show & Trial will now be held in May 2022 in Sydney, with dates to be confirmed.

The judges currently contracted for 2021, subject to their availability, remain as is for the event when held in 2022. We thank our hosts the GSDL for their willingness to be flexible during these pandemic times.

For future Nationals, the state rotation will then continue with Victoria hosting 49th National in 2023 and South Australia will host the 50th National celebrations in 2024.

GSDCA Service Award

Ian Marr

Ian Marr was presented with his GSDCA Service Award at the WA Members Comp in September. Robyn Knuckey presented Ian with his well deserved award.

Congratulations Ian and thank you !



National Obedience Competition

The GSDCA Annual National Obedience Plaque shall be awarded to the best obedience dog and handler gaining the highest aggregate of qualifying scores for each of the CCD, Novice, Open, UD and UDX classes, and Rally-O Novice, Rally-O Advanced, Rally-O Excellent and Rally Master.

The competition is open to all owners of ANKC registered pedigree GSD who are financial members of a Member Club of the GSDCA at the time of the competition, and shall be a member of an ANKC Affiliate (State Canine Control) at the time of the competition.

The awards will be known as:

- CCD – "Best Community Companion Dog"
- CD – "Best Novice Dog"
- Open – "Best Open Dog"
- UD – "Best Utility Dog"
- UDX – "Best Utility Dog Excellent"
- "Best Rally Novice Dog"
- "Best Rally Advanced Dog"
- "Best Rally Excellent Dog"
- "Best Rally Master Dog"

Entries for the GSDCA National Obedience Competition are now open.

Closing date for all entries is Friday 28th February 2020.

If you and your dog have trialed successfully in the past year, please check the GSDCA website for all relevant information.

Competition details can be found here <http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/working-gsd/obedience>

Download the National Obedience entry form here <https://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/forms>

Categories cover all Obedience and Rally Obedience Classes, so don't be shy and get those entries in.

Wishing everyone the best of luck for the upcoming year.

Julie Urie

GSDCA Obedience Chairperson

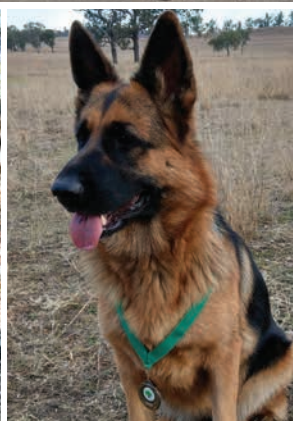
E: obedience@gsdcouncilaustralia.org



Meet Bronte

Here is my beautiful GSD Bronte, BLUEMAX BRONTE TDX. She has achieved a lot in her short life. She has just turned 3 years old at the end of August. Her breeding is Djambo Von Fichtenschlag x Bluemax Tiger Lillee. She is my fully certified assistance dog. She is also a champion tracking dog and has travelled everywhere with me. She gives me great confidence

Audrey Franc



BLUEMAX BRONTE TDX

After losing my beautiful German shepherd girl, it took me about 15 months to get over my loss. I finally decided I needed another German shepherd in my life. After searching far and wide I settled for a pup from a mating of Djambo vom Fichtenschlag a ED IPO3 6x VA and Bluemax Tiger Lillee. It was an anxious wait for a call to say that a female pup had been born. I took my beautiful baby home at 8 weeks old.

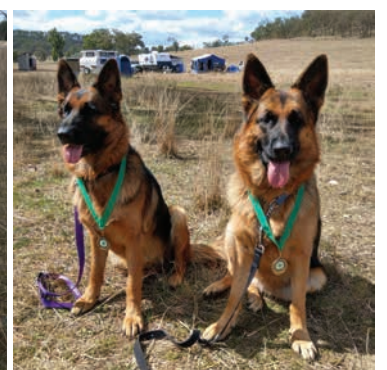
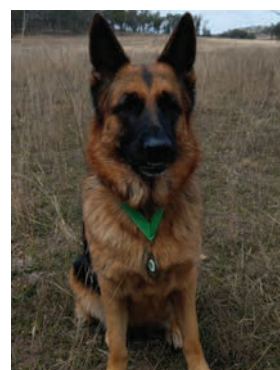
Bronte had her first 5 months training at the GSD club at the Skye branch in Victoria. We then moved permanently to Queensland and started her tracking training at the Gympie obedience club at 6 months old. She was a natural, she achieved her tracking title by the time she was 9 months old sharing the same success as her litter sister Bluemax Ranie. Now at 3 she has her excellent and one track away for champion title.

As time has gone on, I had old injuries and medical complaints arise and Bronte would help me with a few things, like collecting my shoes for me, finding my specs and keys, and picking up things that I had dropped and bringing them to me. But life was restricted, and I needed more. I contacted Positive Response Dog Training Brisbane for help, and find out what was needed for Bronte to be trained as a certified assistance dog. They were very helpful and suggested Viraul Training as we are 2 hours away. Firstly she had to be assessed by the qualified persons, to make sure she had the qualities to be a successful service dog. A sound and trustworthy temperament was paramount, and to have exceptional training ability.

She was eager to learn her new role, and took everything in her stride. She learnt how to tuck into small spaces in restaurants, and public transport, to also block on busy streets when people get too close, plus many more behaviours. After 6 months of intense training came the day for our big trip to Brisbane for her final test with Positive Response Assistance Dogs (PRAD). She passed and now has her certificate and wears her jacket with pride. We never looked back. Bronte can identify certain medical problems. When I am with Bronte I feel comfortable to go to places that I would normally avoid.

Bronte and I have travelled to many places and have unforgettable memories, she is my constant much loved companion.

Audrey Franc



WANTED

Do you have a good story or a tale to tell?
Or a great photo of your dog???

We'd love to hear about it.

Send it to us at
revieweditor@gsdcouncilaustralia.org



Hi, I'm Zak

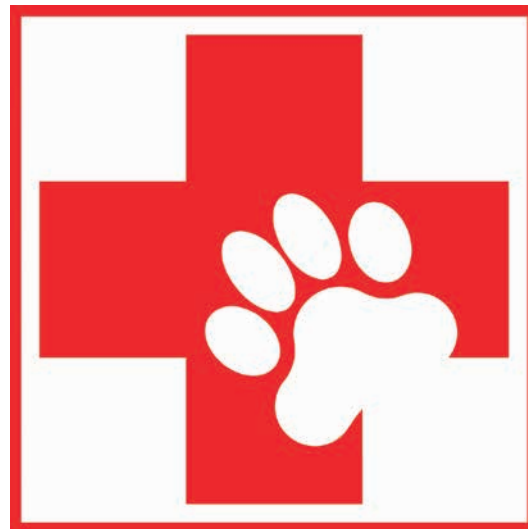
Here is Zak (21 months old) on his daily walk during covid-19 in Melbourne, meeting up with a dad and daughter he has never met before, but he loved saying 'hello'.

Zak's friendly nature made their day !

Bob Mackay



Your dog's HEALTH feedback?



Has your GSD been recently diagnosed with illness, or perhaps unfortunately passed away?

Your dog's information and health details could help future GSD's. The GSDCA collects information to collate and assess diseases and illnesses affecting our dogs. Even if your data is several years old, submission will help.



All data remains confidential and is submitted directly to our Breed Health Veterinarian Dr Candy Baker. Please consider helping our data collection by submitting a form, no matter how old your information – it will all help.

Please fill out our online GSDCA Health Profile Form when something happens with one of your adults or puppies. It will help create a good data collection base to go on with into the future of improving the health of our breed.

Visit www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org and click this button on the home page to go direct to the form, which can be downloaded or submitted online direct to Candy.

Or here is the link:

<http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/gsdcacontent/uploads/2015/03/GSDCA-Health-Profile-Form-August-2016.pdf>

PREGNANCY ULTRASONOGRAPHY IN THE BITCH

Dr Candice Baker

BSc BVMS MANZCVS (ECC)

GSDCA Breed Health and Welfare Chair

Early diagnosis or confirmation of pregnancy is a common necessity for breeding dogs. Following natural or artificial breeding it can be very beneficial to know if there are viable puppies and an approximation of numbers. The due date for whelping is commonly calculated out at 63 days from ovulation (surge in progesterone or peak in luteinizing hormone).

It can be difficult to pin point exactly the earliest time for pregnancy diagnosis. There can be a few factors affecting this, such as exact date of ovulation, how long maturation of eggs from the bitch took, and exact fertilization of those eggs. With the improved image possible with newer ultrasound machines, ultrasonography is a reliable method for diagnosing pregnancy in dogs.

To **improve** image detail for pregnancy ultrasound examination and assessing the entire uterus, some factors should be considered:

- Positioning of the bitch on their back, on a soft trough like mattress
- Clipping excess hair away from the underside of the belly to aid contact of the ultrasound probe on the skin
- And of course, bitch compliance – keeping still

Early ultrasonographic pregnancy diagnosis as early as 18-20 days is possible with experienced operators and newer machines by detection of fluid filled structures known as gestational sacs. Care must be taken to avoid mis-identification of intestinal loops, blood vessels or other structures as gestational sacs. Using most available ultrasound machines, foetal heart beats can be detected as early as day 23. The foetus develops rapidly after day 30, which then means identifying internal organs is possible. Limb buds are visible from day 35 onwards.

Single early gestational sac

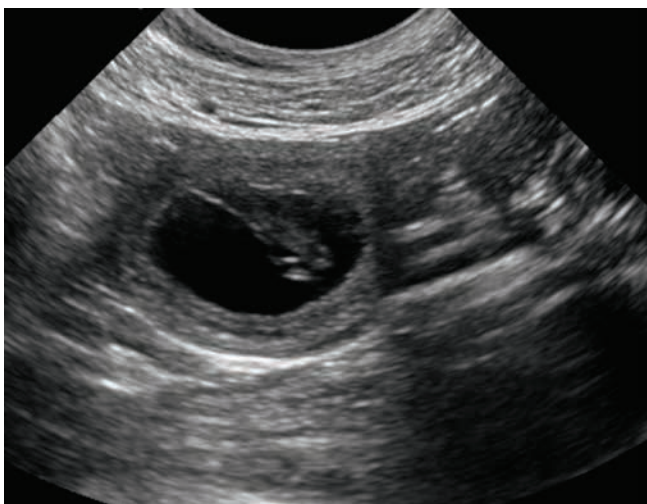


Figure 1: Early gestational sac detected at 21 days. Multiple early gestational sacs

Advanced foetal development

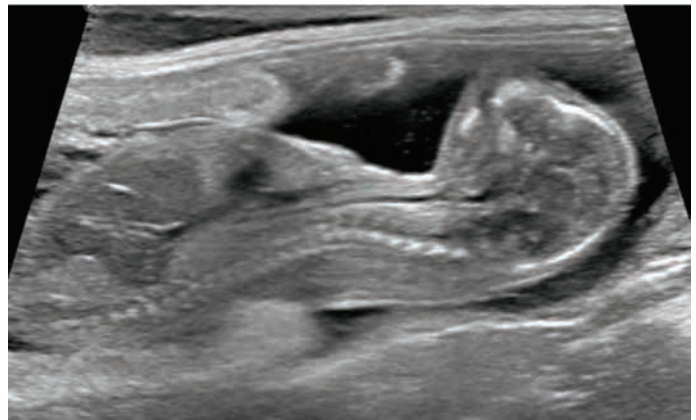


Figure 2: Foetal development detected at 48 days showing advanced development of the foetal structures including the lungs and liver.

There are also formulas to determine gestational age and predict time of whelping based on dimensions of the sac diameter, crown-rump length, head diameter and body diameter. Using these formulas, time to parturition can be predicted with an accuracy of $\pm 2-3$ days.

It is thought that ultrasound is still not a reliable means of ascertaining litter size, particularly during the later stages of pregnancy. From day 43 onwards (the later the better) foetal skeletons are ossified enough to perform an x-ray for pregnancy diagnosis. The ability to count more precise numbers of foetuses on x-ray is based on counting skulls and spines. Occasionally with really big litters there are pups that may be superimposed on each other and this may affect accurate counting.

Certain types of foetal abnormalities can be picked up through mid and late gestation, such as hydrops foetalis (walrus pup) and treatment and foetal monitoring can be ensued. Or pre-term miscarriage. Ultrasound is also helpful close to whelping or caesarean section, having the ability to assess foetal heart rates enables a veterinarian to assess for foetal distress or demise. Similarly, bowel motility can be assessed and confirmed which indicates readiness to whelp or perform c-section.

Pregnancy ultrasound in dogs is paramount in veterinary clinics who see breeding dogs regularly and advantageous for breeders to utilize for many reasons.

With special thanks to Dr Timothy Foo BSc BVMS MANZCVS (Radiology), DipECVDI – European Boarded specialist in veterinary diagnostic imaging – who supplied the images and reviewed the article.



ANKC OBEDIENCE RULE CHANGES EFFECTIVE IN 2021

By Dawn Howard,

ANKC full panel Obedience, Rally, Tracking and Track and Search judge

The ANKC has introduced new rules changes for triallers, effective 1 January 2021. We asked Dawn Howard to summarise the changes as they apply to obedience trials to assist members with what they can expect to be different as of next year.

Thank you to Dawn for the following article which is very informative and explanatory.

Take note all and good luck in the ring.

Every five years the Obedience Rules are reviewed. The rule changes arising from the latest review are effective from 1 January 2021.

The good news this time is there are no new exercises so no extra training should be required, and one exercise has been removed from the Open class, namely the Sit Stay. While that is the most obvious change, there are several less obvious but still important changes in the rules. As a competitor it is very important that you do know the rules. It is surprising how many competitors go into the ring, quite unaware of some of the details of the rules.

I always advise people, especially trainee judges, to read the General Rules (Glossary) first, then the rules for the class you are either competing in or judging.

GENERAL RULES INCLUDING GLOSSARY

Exhibits. Entry number.

The Handler must be provided with the dog's catalogue number which must be worn where it can be clearly seen. In the case of multiple entries, only the entry number pertaining to that particular entry is to be visible whilst in the ring.

Fouling. A dog which fouls at any time while it is under the control of the Judge must be disqualified.

For all classes, a dog will be disqualified if it fouls the ring; that is the same as it is now in Rally and Agility. Therefore, you need to make extra sure that your dog has had a chance to empty before you go into the ring. Obviously, that is easier said than done, but it is important. Previously if your dog fouled the ring it was just a 5% deduction, so provided you hadn't lost too many points, you could still qualify.

Withdrawal of Dog:

A dog may be withdrawn during judging of the individual exercises with the consent of the Judge, but must not take any further part in that class, except where required as a stand in dog in a group exercise. Should a competitor choose to withdraw after the individual exercises, they must inform the Judge or Steward prior to the commencement of the Group exercises.

Under **Commands**, there is one very important change:

"A voice command and a signal may be given, but must be used simultaneously. A signal should be a single gesture of the arms and hands only. Signals must be inaudible and must not touch the dog. The arms and hands may be returned to a different position but, once there may not be moved again during that portion of the exercise."

In practice this means that, in the recall exercise, for example, you could,

once you face your dog, have your hands by your side, give your signal to come, then place your hands in front of your body. As the rule says, once your signal is given, your hands and arms must not be moved again. Of course, you could keep your hands and arms in the same place. Just handy to know that you won't be penalised for changing position if you wish to.

Training aids in the ring

Tug leads have been added to the list of forbidden equipment. Not many people use tug leads for obedience, but it is handy to know that you can't now. Especially for new handlers, you need to practice your ring etiquette before you enter the ring. Get rid of your food treats, toys, clicker, whistles, food bags and now tug leads.

"No food or visible or audible aids carried or worn by the Handler, or Training Aids (ball, 'bumbags', toys, dummies, tug leads etc.) will be taken into the Ring by the Handler.

Penalty – Disqualification"

Entering the ring

The position of the dog after entering the ring, and the precise position of the handler are now specified:

Entering the Ring:

On the Steward's call of the dog's catalogue number, the Handler will enter the ring with the dog on lead and stand near the "starting marker" on whichever side preferred, and sit the dog in the heel position. The exception is for Group exercises when the Handlers will take up position with their right foot next to the stay marker. Unless otherwise stated in the description of an exercise, the dog must be sitting in the heel position before the exercise commences.

Another exercise that has a change is the group exercises: the following is a new statement, quoted straight from the rulebook.

"Excluding dogs from Group Exercises:

Where a Judge considers that it would be unsafe for a dog or dogs to take part in, or continue to take part in, a group exercise, the Judge shall advise the handler or handlers that the dog or dogs is / are disqualified and is / are not permitted to take part in or continue to take part in the exercise.

In considering whether it would be unsafe for a dog or dog to take part in or continue to take part in an exercise, a Judge may consider any relevant matter including, but not limited to, the following:-

1. (a) *The conduct of the dog or dogs leading up to or during the exercise, including conduct that occurs anywhere in the precincts of the trial rings.*
2. (b) *The effect or likely effect of that conduct on other dogs taking part in the exercise.*
3. (c) *The conduct of the handler or handlers of the dog or dogs leading up to or during the exercise.*
4. (d) *The likelihood of harm being caused to dogs, handlers or trial officials. "*

This means that if a judge sees a handler or a dog behaving in an inappropriate manner, anywhere in the precincts of the trial rings, they can refuse to allow them to enter the ring. Of course, the Judge had this power in the past, but now it is clearly spelt out. The reminder for the handler, is make sure you keep your dog under control at all times, and as far as possible make sure your dog is steady around, and in, the trial ring.

Another important change relates to **Breaking from Position in the Down Stay:**

Before the following paragraph was added, "showing air" may have been considered a Zero score. Many a dog has been non-qualified for "showing air" when they have rolled from side to side in the past.

If a dog lifts to settle itself or to roll onto a hip and 'shows air' in the process during the Down Stay, as long as the dog does not move off the position where it was left there shall be no deduction. If the dog continually lifts or rolls from hip to hip, it shall be deemed as fidgeting."

Equipment

There are some changes, but your German Shepherd will still be jumping the same height it always did. The main change is that there is a new height category of 400 mm. Most GSDs will jump 500mm. Clubs will have to alter some boards, now called "panels". There will be more scope for clubs to have lighter jumps. E.g. plastic panels, that hang from cups, as used in some agility equipment. Much safer if a dog misjudges and accidentally hits the jump.

Bar Jump:

The Bar Jump must consist of **two uprights 1000mm - 1200mm high** and a bar approximately 35 mm in diameter. The bar must be coloured black and white alternate sections of about 100 mm and be a **minimum of one point two (1.2) metres and a maximum of one and a half (1.5) metres in length**. The Jump will be adjustable for height. Side post adjustment to be constructed so as the bar will fall off if hit hard enough, in either direction.

It is interesting to note that whilst the Broad and Solid Jump can be between 1.5 to 2 metres wide, the Bar is 1.2 to 1.5 metres. UD competitors need to be aware of Bar Jump dimensions.

Gloves used for UD and Open may differ in size depending on the size of the dog:

"The Handler will provide three predominantly white, wrist length, cotton gloves which must be open and must be approved by the Judge. **The size of the gloves may be in proportion to the size of the dog.**"

Similarly, the UD scent discrimination articles may vary in size according to the needs of the dog.

Scent Discrimination (UD):

"Scent Discrimination articles must consist of three sets of articles comprising five wooden, five metal and five leather. The articles must be a minimum of **100mm and maximum of 200mm long**. The other dimensions must not exceed: wood



18mm square; leather 25mm wide and 6mm thick; and metal a maximum external diameter of 18mm. The metal articles may be knurled but no articles are to be coated or covered with any material. **The size of the articles may be in proportion to the size of the dog**"

Scent Discrimination (UDX):

"All of the scent cloths will be the same colour, made of towelling or similar material (e.g. face washcloths) and **shall be approximately 300 mm square**. The cloths will be folded in half, rolled firmly and **secured at each end with a matching coloured elasticised band or similar. Five matching colours will be used per set. Each pair will have the same coloured securing bands.** The cloths shall be supplied by the Handler."

This is a sensible alteration, to conform with what many handlers now provide. I use hair ties. Pairs of articles with separate colours, this allows the judge to choose two articles with the same colour bands, to impart their scent to. It's very easy to see which was the correct article.

TERMINOLOGY

There are two changes in terminology from the previous rule book:

The term "**marker**" is used throughout instead of "post" or "peg". E.g. "starting marker".

Gender neutral terms are used, e.g. "him/himself" is changed to "their/ themselves".

That brings us to the end of the Glossary and the start of the classes.

COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG

Apart from the general changes, the only change is in the Stand for Examination, where the head will not be examined:

"The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. The Judge will examine the dog by **touch from the withers and along the back only**. The **head, mouth, tail and legs must not be examined.**"

NOVICE CLASS

Apart from the general changes already covered, no changes in this class.

OPEN CLASS

The big changes here are the removal of the **Sit Stay** and the **Down Stay** is **shortened from 5 minutes to 3 minutes**.

Consequently, the points for each exercise have been adjusted.

"The exercise for each dog and the maximum points shall be:

1. Heel Free	40 was 30
2. Stand Free for Examination	20
3. Drop on Recall	30
4. Retrieve Dumbbell on Flat	30 was 20
5a. Retrieve Dumbbell over Solid Jump	30
5b. Directed Retrieve	
6a. Broad Jump	
6b. Distance Control	30
7. 3-min. Down Stay-Handler Out of Sight	30
Less penalty for misbehaviour	
TOTAL	200 "

This will be a popular rule change for people who are concerned about leaving their dogs in the out of sight stays. There are still out of sight stays, but none in the sit position and the time the dog is left is shorter.

DIRECTED RETRIEVE

There are two changes. First, the distance between the dog and the gloves has been changed from "at least twelve metres" to "approximately 12 metres":

"The Judge or Steward will then place the two (2) gloves across the end or side of the ring. The Handler with the dog sitting at heel, will stand in the ring facing in the opposite direction to and **approximately twelve (12) metres** from where the middle distance is between the gloves. The gloves must not be placed into position until the completion of the previous exercise."

This change means that you won't unexpectedly get a 15 metre distance from the gloves.

Second, there is an immediate halt after the about turn. Basically, this means that you don't take a step forward as you turn.

"The gloves will be designated "One" and "Two" reading from left to right when the Handler turns and faces the gloves. The Judge will give the order "One" or "Two" and then order the Handler to "About Turn" and **'Halt'**. The Handler will give the command to Heel, and then turn in place, right or left, to face the designated glove. The Handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting at heel. The Handler must not touch the dog, nor reposition the dog.

The immediate halt is required for every about turn in all other exercises.

UTILITY CLASS

SCENT DISCRIMINATION

When the dog comes back with the article and sits in front, there is no finish. This might take some training with experienced dogs as they are so used to waiting for the finish. In total there are three less sits for the dog.

"The Judge will take the article from the Handler and state 'Part Exercise Finished' or 'Exercise Finished' and then 'Article Correct' or 'Article Incorrect' followed by 'Take up Position' if further articles are to be retrieved. **The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler until after the Judge orders 'Part Exercise Finished' or 'Exercise Finished'.** If the wrong article is retrieved in any of the tests, it will be removed in addition to the correct article and the remaining tests will be completed with fewer than 12 articles in the ring."

Under **deductions**, "or anticipates the finish" has been removed and replaced with "does not remain sitting in front of the Handler":

"Substantial: For the particular part of the exercise in which the dog is slow in going out or returning, does not work constantly, plays with or excessively mouths the article, picks up the wrong article even though he puts it down immediately, fails to sit, **or does not remain sitting in front of the Handler.**"

DIRECTED RETRIEVE

Consistent with the Open Directed Retrieve, the distance from the gloves is to be approximately 12 metres and we have the halt after the about turn:

"The Judge or Steward will then place the three (3) gloves across the end or side of the ring. The Handler with the dog sitting at heel, will stand in the ring facing in the opposite direction to and approximately twelve (12) metres from where the centre glove is placed. The gloves must not be placed into position until the completion of the previous exercise."

"The exercise shall consist of a single retrieve. The same number glove will be used for every dog in the class in the trial. However, if circumstances warrant, the Judge may alter which glove is used."

GROUP EXAMINATION:

The only change here is that the distance between the dogs and handlers has been changed from "at least 5 metres" to **approximately 5 metres**.

UTILITY DOG EXCELLENT CLASS

Very few changes in UDX.

SEEK BACK WITH DECOY ARTICLE

The articles used in this exercise must be similar to those used in Scent Discrimination:

*On entering the ring, the Handler will surrender two (2) identical, **different numbered Seek Back articles**, which will be placed on the Judge's table. The Judge must designate the article to be scented by the Handler, **the seek back articles must be the same shape as and dimensions not to exceed those of a Scent Discrimination Article.***

DIRECTED SENDAWAY AND RECALL

Now defined that the dog cannot go past the back edge of the nominated area or come in from behind it:

"Deductions:

*Zero Score: For a dog which needs more than one command to leave the Handler, fails to enter the Nominated Area, fails to sit where sent, sits entirely outside the Nominated Area, fails to go the required distance. **Goes past the back edge of the Nominated Area or enters from behind.** For the Handler giving a command to sit whilst the dog is outside the Nominated Area, for a dog that fails to come on the first command or anticipates any part of the Principal Feature."*

DISTANCE CONTROL

Description of Exercise:

Commands to be by a single verbal OR physical hand signal (but not both together).

"The Judge will order the Handler to take up position at a designated point where the dog is not facing the Nominated Area, with the dog in the stand position. After the Handler has indicated they are ready, the Judge will order 'Leave' (Leave your Dog). The Handler may command the dog to stay and move forward approximately ten (10) metres, and on the Judge's order 'About Turn' and 'Halt'. On separate orders from the Judge, the Handler will command the dog to sit, stand or down until six (6) changes of position have been completed. The Judge will decide the order of the positions; the same order is to be completed by each dog. The orders may be given by the Judge verbally or by **signage which must be clearly visible to the competitor. The Judge will decide which method will be used and the same method will be used for each dog at the trial**

on the day. The dog must perform a Sit, Stand and Down at least once. At the completion of the changes of position, the Judge will order 'Return' (Return to Your Dog)."

This is a discretionary alternative for the judge. It is a procedure that is sometimes used in the UK and I have used it in Singapore. It is not as unusual as it seems, but I doubt many judges will take up the option here.

MULTIPLE RETRIEVE

The revised description of the exercise is:

"The Handler will provide three leather Scent Discrimination articles *that may be any colour including white or black and may be numbered.* The articles must not be covered with any material or painted. The dog must retrieve an article in each of the two (2) tests. The Handler, with the dog sitting at heel, will stand in the ring facing in the opposite direction to, and at approximately twelve (12) metres from where the centre article is to be placed. The Judge or Steward will then place three articles in a straight line with the articles approximately six (6) metres apart, **tongs must be used. Articles to be placed approximately one (1) metre from the edge of the ring."**

Previously the colour of the articles did not include black. Now they must be placed by tongs. Also, as in previous retrieves, an immediate halt is required after the about turn to face the articles.

Temporary Covid-19 rules approved by the ANKC.

There are two temporary rule modifications, to enable compliance with COVID-19 restrictions. These are:

1. For off-lead exercises, the lead will be retained by the handler instead of being handed to the steward.
2. For the "Figure Eight" exercise, the distance between the two stewards will be increased from 3 metres to approximately 4.5 metres.

Sanitiser

Obviously, there will be various local State and Territory requirements which will continue to change as conditions change.

One thing is certain, dogs will have to get accustomed to sanitiser. This is especially important for UD and UDX dogs that will have to find the correct article after the judge and/or steward has used sanitiser.

There are ample sources of information about infection control in household, retail and hospital settings. However, us dog handlers have an added issue.

We now have dogs who are expected to find a scent through sanitiser.

Sonja Needs, who conducts research on detection dog projects at the University of Melbourne advised that staff at the university have experimented with various sanitising products:

- Alcohol based sanitisers are effective but can irritate dog's noses. They won't be allergic, just sensitive. i.e. These sanitisers may make dogs sneeze but shouldn't make a trained dog unable to recognise a scent.
- Chlorhexidine, commonly used in hospitals.
- Zoono, which contains a Quaternary Ammonium Compound, this has been used in WA obedience trials without problems.

The last two are less likely to irritate a dog's nose.

As I indicated at the beginning of this article, there is not a lot of extra training required. But there are several important changes that you need to be aware of when you are in the trial ring.

ANKC Rally Rule changes

The rule changes arising from the latest review are effective from 1 January 2021.

The first of the changes is that Rally Obedience has changed to simply Rally, which is what we call it anyway.

RO Ch has also been simplified to R Ch.

The minimum size of rings has increased to 15 by 45 metres for outdoors and 15 by 30 for indoors.

B classes have been removed, a move which will please some trial secretaries.

When a dog is disqualified for fouling the ring, the dog shall be immediately excluded at the point it has non-qualified.

There is an extra deduction in the 1 to 10 point deductions: "out of position when heeling between stations". That was always the case, but now it is explained.

Under nonqualifying scores, "dislodgement of a jump" and "course distraction picked up and removed by dog" have been included.

The course for each class will be posted at the ring prior to the walk-through time.

The direction the handler takes should be clear from the preceding sign.

Stationary Exercises have been explained as any signs indicating a "halt" or no forward motion by the dog.

Distance markers are to be placed at stations where handlers are required to proceed a certain distance from the dog.

All jumps are to be white except for the bar jump. This means that some clubs will have to repaint some equipment.

The major changes are in the signs. Novice has not changed. Some have been renumbered and there are 17 new exercises/signs from Advanced to Master.

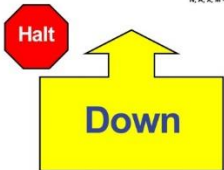
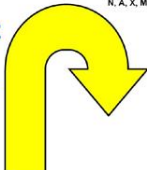
Some existing exercises have been added to or changed. e.g. Jumping exercises, no retries allowed if the dog knocks the bar down or steps on the broad jump.

I have not dealt with every exercise, especially when the only difference is re-numbering or some are left or right turns that share similar rules.


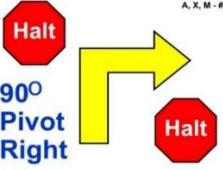


NEW NUMBER & EXERCISE DESCRIPTION		OLD NUMBER & EXERCISE DESCRIPTION	
ADVANCED		ADVANCED	
46	Halt Leave Dog Recall 3 mtrs	46	Send Over Jump- Handler passes by
47	Double Right U turn	EXCELLENT	
48	Double Left U turn	47	Halt- Stand- Sit
49	Double Left About Turn	48	Halt – Stand – Down
50	Call Front, Handler Reverses 3 steps- Finish	49	Moving Stand – walk around Dog
51	Leave Dog – about Turn – Return to Dog	50	Halt Leave Dog Recall 5 mtrs
52	Halt - Dog circles Handler – Forward	51	Circle Spin at Heel
53	Send Over Jump- Handler passes by (old #46)	52	Four Cone Fig 8
EXCELLENT		MASTER	
54	Halt- Stand- Sit (old #47)	53	Back up 3 steps
55	Halt – Stand – Down (#48)	54	Halt – Leave Dog – Down – Sit – Distance Commands – Return
56	Moving Stand – walk around Dog (old #49)	55	Stand – Leave Dog – Down – Sit – Distance Commands- Return
57	Halt – Leave Dog – Recall 5 mtrs (old #50)	56	Moving Stand - Walk around Dog
58	Leave Dog – About Turn – Recall Dog – Finish Right	57	Moving Down- Walk around Dog
59	Leave Dog – About Turn – Recall Dog – Finish Left	58	Moving Sit – Walk around Dog
60	Right U Turn – Left About Turn	59	Halt – Leave Dog – Call to Heel
61	Left U Turn – Left About Turn		
62	Left About Turn – Right U Turn		
63	Left About Turn – Left U Turn		
64	Circle Spin at Heel (old #51)		
65	Four Cone Fig 8 (old # 52)		


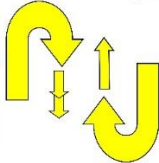
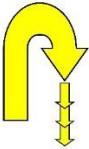

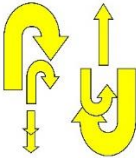

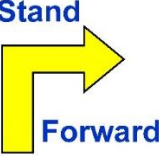
MASTER			
66	Halt – Leave Dog – Down – Sit – Distance Commands – Return (old #54)		17 NEW EXERCISES FROM ADVANCED TO MASTER 7 New Advanced 6 New Excellent 4 New Master
67	Stand – Leave Dog – Down – Sit – Distance Commands – Return (old #55)		
68	Moving Stand - Walk around Dog 3 mtrs (old #56)		
69	Moving Down- Walk around Dog (old #57)		
70	Moving Sit – Walk around Dog (old #58)		Altered only
71	Halt – Leave Dog – Call to Hel (old #59)	3	Sit
72	Back up 3 steps (old #53)	21	Spiral
73	Stand - Pivot Right- Forward	22	Spiral
74	Stand – Pivot Left – Forward	27	Stand
75	Call Front – Circle Spin Right – Finish Left	32	Down
76	180 Turn Left – Heel on Right		


Rally Sign Changes

<p>4. Halt - Down - Whilst heeling, the Handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down. The Handler must return to an upright stationary position before moving forward. (Stationary exercise)</p>	<p><small>N.A.X.M.-84</small></p>  <p>This appears on several signs. You will have to remember to stand up straight before moving forward.</p>	<p>7. *About Turn Right - Whilst heeling, the team makes a 180° about turn to the Handler's right. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping.</p> <p><small>N.A.X.M.-87</small></p>  <p>This means that you can't stop on the turns. This statement occurs in stations 7 to 12.</p>
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Advanced

<p>36. Halt - Stand Dog - Walk Around – The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler stands the dog, commands and/or signals the dog to stay as the Handler walks around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The Handler must become stationary in heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)</p>	<p><small>A.X.M.-#36</small></p>  <p>Very important to stop when returning to dog.</p>	<p>37. Halt - 90° Pivot Right - Halt – The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place and must not take any steps forward. (Stationary exercise)</p> <p><small>N.A.X.M.-#37</small></p>  <p>Again, you have to stop after completing pivot.</p>
<p>41. Halt - Call Dog Front - Finish Right – The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler calls the dog to front and the dog sits in the front position, facing the Handler. On command, the dog then moves from the front position around the right of the Handler and sits in heel position. Handler must remain stationary. (Stationary exercise)</p>	<p><small>A.X.M.-#41</small></p>  <p>This is similar in exercise 42.</p>	<p>45. Halt - Down - Sit – The Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down. The Handler must return to an upright stationary position before commanding and or signalling the dog to sit. The Handler does not physically handle the dog or move forward or backward. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the sitting position. (Stationary exercise)</p> <p><small>A.X.M.-#45</small></p>  <p>You must remember to stand upright before commanding the dog to sit.</p>

<p>46. Halt – Leave Dog - Recall - The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit and stay, then moves forward 3 metres to the marker, performs an about turn, halts and commands and/or signals the dog to come. The dog shall sit in front of the Handler. The Handler shall return to the right side of the dog by either a step back to the side or around the dog. The Handler must become stationary in heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise).</p>	 <p>A, X, M - #66</p>	<p>47. Double Right U Turn - Whilst moving forward and without pausing, the Handler and dog will complete a right U turn, heel approximately two (2) metres and then, repeat the right U turn and continue forward. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping.</p>	 <p>A, X, M - #67</p> <p>Double Right U Turn</p> <p>New sign. This will take some practice. Hopefully there will be some videos available. Exercise 48 and 49 have similar requirements.</p>
<p>50. Call front, Handler Reverses Three Steps - Finish The Handler calls the dog to the front, reverses three steps, with the dog moving with Handler. The dog returns to heel and continues heeling forward without stopping. The dog does not sit during this exercise. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping.</p>	 <p>A, X, M - #68</p> <p>Call Front Reverse 3 Steps Return To Heel</p> <p>New sign. Remember you mustn't stop anywhere, and the dog mustn't sit.</p>	<p>52. Halt – Dog circles handler – Forward - The Handler halts and, without the dog pausing or sitting, sends the dog in a circle to the right so that the dog moves around the back of the Handler and returns to the heel position. The Handler then moves forward to the next station. The dog does not pause or sit before it is sent around the Handler or when returning to the heel position.</p>	 <p>A, X, M - #69</p> <p>Dog Circles Handler</p> <p>New sign. You halt, but the dog must continue to move and not sit at any stage.</p>
<p>60. Right U Turn – Left About Turn - Whilst moving forward and without pausing, the Handler and dog will complete a right U turn, travel approximately two (2) meters and then complete a left about turn and continue forward. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping.</p>	 <p>X, M - #70</p> <p>Right U Turn Left About Turn</p> <p>New exercise. Similar to 61, 62 and 63. Most difficult part here will be to make sure that you and the dog move continuously, and the dog doesn't sit anywhere.</p>		
<p>Master</p>			
<p>66. Halt – Leave Dog – Down – Sit - Distance Commands - Return – The Handler halts and the dog sits. The handler leaves the dog and moves forward 3 metres to the marker, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once the dog is in sit position, the Handler returns around back of dog into heel position. The Handler must become stationary in heel position before moving forward to the next station. The maximum total movement forward by the dog will not exceed 1 body length of the dog from start to finish of the exercise. (Stationary exercise).</p>	 <p>M - #68</p> <p>Old exercise with requirements tightened up. 68 is similar.</p>	<p>73. Stand – Pivot Right – Forward – The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to Stand as Handler comes to a halt. With the dog standing, the Handler pivots 90o to the right and the dog moves with the Handler. The dog does not sit. The Handler must become stationary before the team heels forward. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)</p>	 <p>M - #73</p> <p>Stand 90° Pivot Right Forward</p> <p>New exercise. 74 is similar. This will take lots of practice, especially 74. The dog cannot sit.</p>

<p>75. Call Front – Circle Spin Right – Finish Left – The Handler calls dog to the front, the dog completes right 360 spin in front (Handler continues to move backward until dog has completed spin). Send dog to heel left.</p>	<p>Call Front 360° Circle Spin Right Finish Left Forward</p>  <p>New exercise. Handler continues to move backwards.</p>	<p>76. 180 Turn Left – Heel on Right – 180 Turn Right - The Handler, whilst moving, signals the dog to complete a 180 degree turn to the left, at the same time turning 180 (left) toward the dog. The dog is to 'heel' on the right for a minimum of three steps. The Handler then signals the dog to turn 180 to the right, at the same time turning 180 to the right. Dog is returned to heel position.</p>	<p>180° Left Dog Heels Right side 180° Right Dog Returns To Heel</p>  <p>New exercise. This will require training as it is a new concept.</p>
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Some of the new exercises will have to be trained for.

Most exercises have remained the same and some have been spelt out and tightened up.

Also remember that you won't get every new exercise on a course.

Due to Covid-19 there will be Government requirements to obey. The club holding the trial will be responsible for that. The ANKC has amended that rules to allow the lead to be kept by the handler. When you get to the start, you will remove your lead and clip it over your shoulder or put it in your pocket.

Always remember Rally is fun for you and the dog.

Enjoy the new exercises.

A big thank you to my friends Sharon Semple and Lorna Piper, and to Jenny Clancey who produced the chart of exercise changes.

Dawn Howard

Wulkano-Uno von Schnitzerteam

'a' Normal ED Normal, IPO2, Lifetime Korung

Sire: Ulkan von Maikhus IPO2

Dam: Ixy van Contra IPO1

VA1 Romania 2018

SG1 Slovenia 2016



Official Survey translation:

"Medium size, strong bone, substantial, correct overall construction, very good expression.

Very good head, high withers, straight firm back, normal length and lay of the croup, correct fore and hindquarter angulations, good forechest

development, correct underchest development, stands correct in front.

Moves straight coming and going, far reaching gait through a firm back.

Temperament firm. TSB pronounced."

Uno's father Ulkan von Maikhus needs no introduction. Uno's mother Ixy van Contra now forms the foundation of von Neu Garmond Kennel and in addition to Uno Ixy produced VA (Hun & Slo) Happy von Schnitzerteam, VA (Hun) Hero von Schnitzerteam, Italian Vice Sieger 2018 Zenit von Schnitzerteam. Ixy is grandmother to Sg1 Heidi von Schnitzerteam & Sg1 Mr. Maverick von neu Garmond amongst many other promising youngsters.

Uno is currently located in Perth WA. Please contact

Bronson Pereira on 0437 119 858 or Jordan Petreski on 0410 682 654

for stud enquiries and further information regarding Uno.

Would Bowen Therapy help my dogs?

Alastair Henderson

GSDCA Breed Surveyor & International GSD Judge

Throughout my lifetime involvement in the dog world I have been open to using different therapies to achieve the best possible physical condition for whatever discipline my dogs were involved.

My interest in Bowen Therapy was initially sparked when watching Marie Paterson, a Tasmanian German Shepherd Club member, working on my dogs before a show.

I was encouraged by Marie to attend a course at which she is a teacher for ISBT -International School of Bowen Therapy in Australia and New Zealand. After many weekends of attending the course and practising on as many different breeds and friends' dogs that I could get my hands on, I graduated in 2018 as a qualified practitioner from the ISBT-International School of Bowen Therapy.

A full Bowen appointment/treatment takes around 45-60 minutes, depending on how comfortable the dog is. This includes the time to take the history from the owner, palpation, gait and body assessment. A critical part of any treatment is the assessment by the Bowen Practitioner to determine what sequences need to be used.

Bowen Therapy is a very gentle & relaxing method and it is rewarding to see the difference I can make in one session, whether it be assisting an older dog with better comfort and mobility, a Stud dog or an animal completing an agility, obedience, Tracking, ET or show.

A German Shepherd in the specialty ring may have the fitness required to compete but may still have a sore back or hamstring tightness that effects their performance and as such, maybe their placing.

Bowen Therapy can impact on the musculo-skeletal system and other body systems including vascular and lymphatic.

An owner may observe some changes in their animal in response to the therapy i.e. change in gait, range of movement.

I would recommend that leading up to a show, working discipline or breeding most dogs will need at least two treatments to make them feel happy and ready to perform at their best.



History of Bowen Therapy

ISBT-Canine and Equine Bowen Therapy is a recognised interpretation of the work of renowned Australian manual therapist, Thomas (Tom) Ambrose Bowen (1916-82).

It is a unique manual therapy for large and small animals and involves a series of specific moves over muscles, tendons and the soft tissue fibres of the animal's body.

Its very specific and positive impact on the body's connective tissue network, the fascia, can assist repair and recovery and maintain general health. It is suitable for animals of any age, from pets to high performers.

For more about Bowen, the Man and the Therapy, go to www.thebowenbook.com

ISBT-Canine & Equine Bowen Therapy is effective for:

- muscle stiffness and injury
- improving joint mobility
- complementing veterinary care for chronic conditions i.e. arthritis
- assisting in rehabilitation and recovery from injury or surgery
- helping to resolve behavioural or stress issues
- maintaining a healthy body.

NOTE:

ISBT-Canine and ISBT-Equine Bowen Therapy is not a replacement for veterinary care. You should always consult your veterinarian if your animal is unwell or injured, or has a condition requiring veterinary attention. ISBT-Bowen Therapists are trained how to work with vets, and to only treat where appropriate.



A Few Moments with Jo Cathie

For those of you who don't know Jo Cathie, she is a very well-respected Judge in Europe and in Australia, a successful Breeder, handler, educator, motivator and accepted expert in the presentation of the German Shepherd Dog. Jo has been in Australia for a very short time and has already brought a successful team together, bred multiple National winners and headed a very successful and well supported education series to support the Australian breeders and exhibitors.

Let's find out more about Jo in the start of this Spot Light series.

Firstly Jo, can you tell us what drew you to the German Shepherd dog and how you started in the Breed?

I had no breed upbringing like so many breed enthusiasts. I started high school and met a girl whose family was involved in the periphery of the specialist ring and did obedience training at a local club. Her dad saw how much I liked playing with their dogs and suggested I try the club. I started basic obedience with a longcoated sable female. The club had ring craft classes so I joined those too. And off into the world of junior handling I went. Addicted from day one.



With PEDRA DEGLI ACHEI

Who are your Mentors in the Breed?

My mentors in the breed have been primarily Janette Irvine of Millvins Kennel in Scotland who taught me how to breed, whelp, rear and really how to care for dogs. I am acutely aware that my preferences are still 'Millvins-Type females' – then there's David and Joan Hall of the famous Gayvilles kennel, my judging and specialist showing gurus who have

been supportive of my career in dogs for some thirty years now, and probably unbeknown to him, Marc Van Hout, a German Shepherd trainer and manager like no other. I understood that he read the dogs wants and needs better than most and realised it is key in performance. Margit Van Dorssen has long been an inspiration as she perhaps should be to all female breeders and judges. She has achieved the pinnacle in a country dominated by the men. I have had the great pleasure to come to know her well and she is among the most helpful of 'mentors' for anyone with a genuine question. The many beautiful dogs I have had the good fortune to be involved with have taught me the rest.

Breeders that you most respect and why?

Breeders I most respect and why...? That could be a long list to be honest. Davie and Joan at Gayvilles, Isobel Anderson at Amulree, and Malcolm Griffiths at Bedwin. I grew up with them dominating the UK show scene and with real prolonged consistency. They were the catalogue entries that were toughest to beat. I also always loved Joyce Hopkins and Pam Meatons Moonwinds breeding – they seemed to be doing different things to most of the UK in the 80s and through their quarantine kennels introduced litters from Eiko Kirschental and Cherry Bergmanshof the results of which I truly appreciated. Hunnegab, Val D'Anzin and Zenteiche - my favourite German breeders - the breeders of the best females in my opinion. Huhnegrab full of substance and power, Val D'Anzin unlimited style and Zenteiche complete package females... Lana, Pola, Zara.... Christoph and Silke are also among the nicest of people, with plenty of time for anyone who cares to seek their help.

I must say Eric and his Val D'Anzins have been a joy to watch over the years. He too was doing 'different' breeding selections to the mainline breeders when I was a youngster and his male Adel Du Val D'Anzin caught my eye after producing quality bitch after quality bitch in the nineties – we made the decision to use him and this was my first attempt at contacting Eric.... Unfortunately Adel had passed away tragically just days before we called. It was directly after Adel that Eric truly struck gold (Tabata excepted as she was before this) and he has seldom done much wrong since – now churning out the world's best females regularly.



Adel Daughter VA (FBI) DEEMOY DU VAL D'ANZIN

In Italy I was always keen to see the work of Ambrogio Verpelli with his Del Frutteto females, and more recently Lucianos classy Valcuvia stock.

There are also some super breeders in Scandinavia who are ahead of the game too, and the Swedish, Danish or Norwegian Sieger is well worth a look, taking in Hagadahl, Quattrogarten, Falokens and Team Marlboro. I have so much respect for true breeders in all countries. Clever breed folks.



with MARGIT VAN DORSEN in Belgium

What do you think are the most important aspects to ring preparation and presentation?

Well I believe you get out what you put in. In all ways. Time invested as well as the quality of food, training etc contribute to having the dogs prepared to the best of your ability. Put the best fuel in to run an engine smoothly, stay healthy to look the best. The single most important thing for presentation is no secret. It's happiness. Happy dogs show well. Dogs who have the best contact with their owner will go the extra mile with a smile on their face to please them, and revel in the praise for doing so. Every moment spent with them and every time you lay hands on them will make them a better dog.

Tell us a little about some of your greatest moments/achievements in the breed so far?

Blimey... I guess for me the moments and the achievements aren't necessarily the same thing. As achievements go my first VA1 title stands out as the best feeling to date I think. Veneze Ellie making VA1 in Holland in an amazing year where she won 6 V1s, a huge landesgruppen V2, a UK BISS in great company and was VA1 Siegerin in Holland and in the UK. She was a delight to live with and it was my great honour to be entrusted to help develop a female of such quality. I also handled VA Kaleya Amur through a supreme season of wins and her Landesgruppen SG1 at Koln Bickendorf under Herr Sheerer stands out as a giant buzz as a young handler. He spoke to me as I led the class but I missed what I said as I was busy presenting Kaleya in stance for him – Marc asked 'did you hear him?' I said 'no' and he told me 'He said 'you do that very well' ha ha – I finished that class with wings on my feet.



with KALEYA, Belgian Sieger Show

I'm also very proud to have had VA Leo von der Zenteiche with me for his first six shows before he headed off to start his IPO training at 11months old. He was a young film star of a dog and drew crowds everywhere we went. I was thrilled for his breeder when he got his first male VA – and he remembered my small part in the dog – it was a great moment.

More recently Havoc and Hannibal's medals together in my first experience of exhibition in the open classes at the National made me incredibly proud, and even better shared with great friends in the Knuckey's, repaying their original vote of confidence in trusting me with beautiful Pedra Degli Achei. Our girls Havoc, Vantaa and Italiaa managed three 'doubles' at championship shows in 2019 taking bitch challenge and reserve challenges together - for me that is a most worthwhile achievement as we strive to build a kennel on the backs of strong bitches. As moments go however, most will know that little Vantaa has brought me undone a couple of times - not least her national 2nd placing, her Excellent Merit in 2019 behind Havoc and a lovely BISS a couple of months later. Quite unexpected from the quiet achiever.

The special achievements are the ones that tug on the heart strings. I am proud to have been involved in many memorable dogs and great days. Heras world Siegerin win, Fergie's hard fought first medal, Ninaa's National win for her fabulous family. I could go on and on, so many enjoyable experiences with good friends.

Those of you who know you, consider you to be a very passionate and motivated Team person. Why is it important to have a united Team?

Heather says 'Teamwork makes the dream work' and she is dead right. All of the great names I've mentioned above and all of the most successful people in Europe I have seen operate as 'teams'. It is HARD to do dogs alone, and it is so fulfilling to enjoy their best moments with friends. The more people work together, the faster and better their dogs come on in my opinion. I think the mid north coast team prove it over and over. A great bunch of people. A great team.

In your opinion, what are the traits of a good breeder?

Consistency. And knowing their own dogs and their own lines. Marc commented to me once in Belgium that I am ALWAYS looking at my dogs, always watching them. I answered, 'no one will ever tell me something about them that I don't already know.' I still live by that. And by knowing what you have you can manage them in the best way possible and move forward and build on them to improve and succeed. You don't need to tell everyone what faults you see.... Just know them yourself and be honest.

In your opinion, who are the most beautiful dogs that you've seen?

Gosh - I have been lucky enough to see some very beautiful dogs. In the UK Ch Gayvilles Dixie the sexy sable was one of my favourite females, along with Ch Amulree Tisnt, Ch Ziska Felsenwehr, Ch Tramella Xanti, Ch Tigram Odyssey (another sable) and Ch Larath Odyssey. In males I was most impressed by beautiful Bedwins Barry, Ch Moonwinds Golden Mahdi and the outstanding Ch Laios Van Noort. In Europe I was quite blown away by the males Furbo Degli Achei, Arex vd Wilhelmsharte and Dux Intercanina when I saw them. There have been too many top German girls to list but Vanta Wienerau, Zara Zenteiche, Chira del Frutetto, Chipsi Bad Boll and Gamba Huhnegrab would be somewhere at the top of my list. I have not been in Australia long but Zicke, Pedra, and the Odin daughter Valkyrie pretty much top the list for me here.



CH LARATH ODYSSEY



VA FURBO DEGLI ACHEI



CHIRA DEI FRUTETTO

What do you think we could do in Australia to improve the education, retention and engagement of exhibitors?

Improving retention and engagement of the members means first listening to them. Properly. And trying new things. Not letting ideas and motivation be shot down before they've gotten off the ground. Not letting the shadows of the past and the squad of negative nellys kill off attempts to move forward and improve. We must learn tolerance and respect. And we must work hard within the peer group to win the confidence of the membership. This has been said before. It has not yet been achieved. Exhibitors must learn to hear and accept constructive criticism and judges and surveyors must learn to be confident and consistent in delivering it. Those who put the breed first, should find a natural path toward the leadership group.

Finally, from a judging perspective, what would you consider to be the traits of a good judge?

Traits of a good judge. I'd like to say 'poker face' but a) it's not essential and b) just as well because I've never mastered it. In all seriousness the most important trait again is consistency - and the only way to be truly consistent and 100% accountable is to stay straight. Unaffected by any knowledge of who the dog, handler, owner, or second cousin twice removed is. Judge straight and true and the rest will work itself out. The judges who judge straight and well stand out, because unfortunately it is often easier to be influenced.

Henryk & Rohan - the follow up

Here is Part 2 of the story of Henryk and Rohan, which began in our Autumn 2020 edition. We at the GSDA of WA were tremendously thrilled when at the German Shepherd Dog Association's most prestigious Obedience Trial, The West Coast Challenge, for decades run in conjunction with The West Coast Challenge Championship Show, Henryk Zakrzewski and his striking Vonalfstyne Freundrohan UDX, gained the O.G.R.CH. Title.

Honey Gross-Richardson

Henryk & Rohan

By Henryk Zakrzewski

So after over 15 years of my association with the GSD breed it is official now that my wonderful family dog Rohan is an Obedience Grand Champion and from now on his full official name is O. GR. CH. Vonalfstyne Freundrohan.

To be honest, I don't think you enjoy your dog trialling as much when you are at the stage of requiring just one more leg for the title, especially at this level of the competition. The closer I got to achieving it, the harder it seemed to be.

It can be quite frustrating knowing that your dog is not performing to his full potential as he, no doubt, senses more than the usual tension radiating from you at the trial and seems to suffer by not being able to please you and turn the ring work to a positive experience. Being a GSD, with his brain power, it doesn't help his emotional state. You feel bad, rightly or wrongly, because you think that the relationship with your dog which you have cultivated and cherished for so long is suffering.

So when it's over and you manage to achieve your last required Championship score and ours has happened during the very prestigious, all breed, obedience competition - West Coast Challenge, you cannot ask for any more, especially if you also have come first on the day.

It may be far-fetched but I believe that my journey with Rohan was seeded a very long time ago with my unusual fascination with wolves as a kid, dreaming to become friends with one.

Their notoriously bad reputation and mysterious behaviour balanced with their attentiveness and care for their own made them so special in my young mind. The interest in wolves turned into an interest in certain breeds of dogs, the ones resembling wolves.

Many decades later my own children's shift to becoming independent and more focused on their friends provided an incentive to get closer to my childhood dream while helping to fill the emotional void I felt at the time. An opportunity had been created to own a more complex dog, one of the wolf like breeds, I chose the GSD. Assertive, powerful but gentle, shy on occasions and, overall, very loyal and protective of its perceived family with a clear ability to differentiate friends from foes. At least as far as the aesthetics went it fulfilled my childhood desire to experience and appreciate its majestic looks and behaviour. But let's not forget, a GSD is not a wolf, it is far from it, thousands of years from it, it just loosely resembles one.

In 2005 my wife Wendy and I joined the GSD club at Gosnells WA with our first GSD (bitch) Zena followed by our second GSD (male) Moser.

At the first glance, to my ignorant eye, the club activities seemed somewhat too embarrassing for an adult of my type to participate in, especially, the noises you were encouraged to make by the club trainers to get your pup's attention. That wasn't me but I soldiered through and eventually I managed to overcome my hang-ups and became part of the 'circus' but most importantly I started enjoying it.

Early success in obedience and agility trials with my wonderful first male

dog Moser became an important motivator for my future activities under the ANKC umbrella.

Rohan was our third GSD and a fabulous family dog to have in our household. I clearly remember Rohan's first night at home after picking him up as an 8 week old pup from the airport. He came on a flight from Queensland. I set his bedding in our sitting room with my mattress on the floor beside and had my hand inside his bedding for comfort (his or mine) right through the night. It was like being a father again and the night was cold, one of those 2 oC WA July nights. It was unusually cold inside the house as I left a sliding door open for him to be able to go to the back yard if he wanted to do his things. And he did it many times, being able to find his way outside and back to his bedding and the comfort of my hand. I was impressed.

If there is a particular element or period in his life leading to the strength of our bond and future performance success, besides his genetical make up, it is our time together in the first 16 weeks of his life. I made sure I was always with him, mostly playing and rewarding him for keeping his focus on me. We were inseparable, I was his dog mate. Any time he opened his eyes after a sleep or a nap I was there for him, ready for an interaction. I believe the foundation of our relationship has been set there then which has enabled me to draw on this right through our trialling career.

We followed with our strict work ethics, based on our relationship, cultivated carefully, mainly through consistency and very orthodox but simple family dog relationship where humans behave in a protective and caring but firm way towards the dog and the dog respects the humans and knows his place within his family structure. It was important that as he grew up and matured he knew his boundaries and limitations very well. Things can get out of control with that sort of male dog very quickly.

And, it hasn't been just smooth sailing, without challenges. Male German Shepherd Dogs like Rohan seem to always keep checking their hierarchy status within the household. There are always some sacrifices you need to make and accept that maintaining the consistency of your behaviour with the dog can create a conflict with your close ones and a perception of being rude, arrogant and unpleasant in your social life.

If you are prepared to stay strong on the consistency, this can be the price to pay. There is obviously more than one way to achieve success with your dog. I have just shared my way, far from scientific. This has been working for us and Rohan has been a wonderfully exciting student to spend time with. Originally bred for security and police work with genetic traits of high drive, powerful athleticism, strong protective instincts and high cognitive skills.

However challenging at times, these traits, no doubt, have contributed to his success in the Obedience Ring.

Time for trivia -

In order for your dog to achieve an 'Obedience Grand Champion' title you need to participate and qualify with the required number of points, under specified conditions including number of different judges, in a minimum of 19 or 22 obedience trials:

- the shorter path with a minimum 19 trials when the 'O. CH. Title' is achieved after the 'UDX Title'; or

- the longer path with a minimum of 22 trials when the 'O. CH. Title' is achieved before the 'UDX Title';

(Rohan and I qualified for the title following the longer path).

It would be an absolute honour to meet a handler with their dog who achieved this title with these minimum number of attempts.

And finally, there are different reasons why you want to be part of a GSD club like ours. I have always looked at the club as a second to non facility for dog training, unprecedented in WA and possibly in the whole

MEMBER success

of Australia with a lot of experience and dedication amongst volunteers who are good in making things happen. There is one thing common to them and the ordinary members of the club - the love for the breed.

I have only been involved in the 'sport dog' side of the club activities, since joining in, comprising of obedience, tracking and agility.

In my case, my achievements wouldn't be easy without a senior dog trainer at the club like John Glenn. In my eyes, a genuine, down to earth person, always happy to listen and find time to try something new to help you with your dog. Absolutely selfless with an overwhelming love for the breed.

And above all, the pillar of the club obedience section, a structural one.

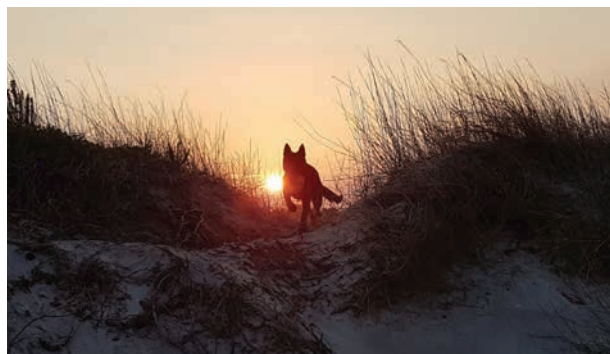
Without turning this to a Hollywood Oscar acceptance speech, thanking everyone, I would like to single out John. Thanks mate.

Henryk.

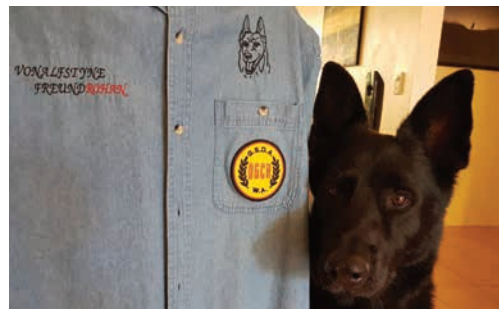
'With the family getting ready to walk the big bad black wolf'



'Rohan with his Critical Pass trophy from the recent Westcoast Challenge trial'



'Early morning beach play on the dunes with a smoky Sunrise in the background'



'Rohan (Vonalfstyne Freundrohan) with his Obedience Grand Champion title badge'



'The GSDAWA club shirt +'



'Dressed to Kill with his Dad'

"My main message in this story is that the breed makes such a wonderful family dog whose brain needs stimulation and it can be achieved in doing Obedience training and possibly progress all the way to the top. The breed is well suited to achieve this.

But let's not forget about their purpose as a family pet with a delightfully complex personality and reassuring protection abilities to you and to your household".

Henryk

Are You Making These 10 Training Mistakes?

Ten common mistakes and how to avoid them

By Steve Dunne

After thousands of years of practice, you might think that training a dog would be a natural, almost intuitive, process for us humans. But, too often, we make honest errors in training that result in nagging misbehaviours and strained relations. Owing to the dog's resilient nature, minor mistakes rarely result in catastrophe. But major errors can cost owners (and dogs) years of frustration. I've therefore listed the ten biggest training mistakes I see owners make, and offer alternatives to improve your chances of keeping you and Fido on the straight and narrow. Note that these are related to training technique only, and not to other important areas such as socialization, enrichment, or exercise.

1. You don't train your dog often enough

Most of us do teach basic behaviours and routines to our new dogs. But once the relationship stabilizes, we often allow our dogs to go on "auto-pilot." Consequently, response times for important behaviours can worsen; often a dog won't even respond. This degradation is simply a function of a lack of practice; if you play golf only once a year, you're going to stink at it, right?

Instead of "training then forgetting," keep your dog's established behaviours sharp by working them randomly and regularly, several times each day. "Sit" for dinner, "wait" at doors, "down" at the dog park; be spontaneous and unpredictable. Then, each month, teach a new behaviour—a trick will do—to keep your dog's mind and motivation up. The larger your pet's repertoire of behaviours, the smarter he or she gets, and the more important you become.

2. You repeat commands

I see this often, especially among newbie owners with challenging dogs. The owner has taught a behaviour such as "sit," but, due to distractions, bad technique, or confusion on the dog's part, the pet fails to respond. The owner asks repeatedly until, after the sixth or seventh attempt, the dog halfheartedly sits. This stalling becomes a learned behaviour, one that's hard to break.

This often occurs with behaviours that haven't been fully proofed, or with one the dog doesn't particularly like to perform. Headstrong dogs, for instance, hate to lie down, as it is an admission of deference. Timid dogs also resist lying down, a position they might deem too unsafe.

When I teach "sit," I do so as if it's a fun trick; I treat reward at first, praise, then work it in other locations, reducing treat rewards along the way while increasing praise. I make sitting, lying down, or coming when called the greatest things to do.

Once you are sure a dog knows a behaviour, ask only once! If you are ignored, it's either because you haven't taught it properly, or the dog is distracted or simply rebellious (yes, they can be!). Take Fido to a quiet spot and ask again; if he still doesn't respond, go back to basics and re-teach, avoiding the mistake of asking multiple times, or of making the behaviour seem dreary or unbeneficial. If you suspect your dog is simply blowing you off, don't be afraid to show your disappointment by saying in a convincing tone: "No; sit."

One other tip; after asking once without response, wait a moment, while

looking your dog square in the eye and moving in a bit closer. Often this will be enough to get the dog to comply. Then praise!

3. Your training sessions run too long or too short

Teaching new behaviours to a dog is a process of evolution, not revolution. The key is in knowing that it's usually going to take numerous sessions to perfect a new behaviour.

Time spent on a training session should reflect some positive result; as soon as you attain some obvious level of success, reward, then quit. Don't carry on and on, as you'll likely bore the dog, and actually condition it to become disinterested in the new behaviour. Likewise, don't end a session until some evidence of success is shown, even if it's a moment of focus or an attempt by the dog to try to perform. Remember that ten one-minute sessions in a day trump one ten-minute session every time.

4. Your dog's obedience behaviours are not generalized to varying conditions

If you teach Fluffy to "sit" in the quiet of your family room, that's the only place she will reliably sit. It's a mistake that many owners make; failing to generalize the new behaviour in different areas with varying conditions and levels of distraction will ensure spotty obedience at best.

To generalize a behaviour, first teach it at home with no distractions. Then, gradually increase distractions: turn the television on or have another person sit nearby. Once that's perfected, move out into the yard. Then add another person or dog. Gradually move on to busier environments until Fluffy will perform consistently, even on the corner of a busy city street. Only then will the behaviour be "proofed." This generalizing is especially vital when teaching the recall command, a behaviour that might one day save your dog's life.

5. You rely too much on treats and not enough on praise, esteem, and celebrity

Treats are a great way to initiate a behaviour or to reinforce that behaviour intermittently later on. But liberal use of treats can often work against you. There can develop in the dog's mind such a fixation on food that the desired behaviour itself becomes compromised and focus on the owner diffused. Think of it: you'll rarely see hunting, agility, Frisbee, or law enforcement dogs being offered food rewards during training or job performance. Why? Because it would break focus and interfere with actual performance. Instead, other muses are found, including praise and, perhaps, brief play with a favourite toy. Most of all, reward for these dogs comes from the joy of the job itself.

By all means, initiate new behaviours with treats. But once Fido learns the behaviour, replace treats with praise, play, toy interludes, or whatever else he likes. Remember that unpredictable treat rewards work to sharpen a behaviour, while frequent, expected rewards slow performance and focus. Also, understand that you are a reward as well; you responding happily to something your dog has done will work better than a treat, and have the added effect of upping your "celebrity quotient."

6. You use too much emotion

Excessive emotion can put the brakes on Fluffy's ability to learn. Train with force, anger, or irritation and you'll intimidate her and turn training sessions into inquisitions. Likewise, train with hyperbolic energy, piercing squeals of delight, and over-the-top displays of forced elation, and you will stoke her energy levels far beyond what is needed to focus and learn.

I tell students to adopt a sense of "calm indifference"—a demeanor suggesting competence, and a sense of easy authority. A laid-back,

loving, mentoring kind of energy that calms a dog, and fills it with confidence. If your dog goofs up, instead of flying off the handle, back off, and try again. Likewise, if she gets something right, instead of erupting with shrill pomp, just calmly praise her, smile, then move on. She will gradually imprint on this relaxed attitude and reflect it.

7. You are reactive, not proactive

Dog training is a lot like the beautiful martial art of Tai Chi, with equal parts physical and philosophical. It takes timing, technique, and stamina, as well as a devotion to understanding the canine mind. It is not a skill that can be learned by watching one half-hour television show or from reading a few books. It takes time.

As a result, many dog owners have not yet mastered the timing and insight needed to train as capably as they might like. Like someone playing chess for the first time, they react to their opponent's moves instead of planning their own.

When you simply react to Fido's misbehaviours, you lose the opportunity to teach. Instead, practice your technique; anticipate his reactions ahead of time, becoming more proactive in the process. For example, if trying to quell a barking issue, instead of waiting for the barks to start, catch Fido right before his brain says "bark," and distract it into some other, more acceptable, behaviour. Know that whatever stimulus is causing the barking needs to be either eliminated or redefined as a "good thing" in the dog's head. This takes experience and a proactive role on your part.

8. You are inconsistent

Dogs need to feel that their mentors and providers are consistent in behaviour and in rule setting. If you vary training technique too much, especially in the beginning, you'll diminish your dog's ability to learn. For instance, if one day you stay patient with a stubborn dog, but the next day lose your cool, she won't be able to predict how you'll react at any given moment. This breaks confidence and trust. Instead, stick to a consistent methodology and be unswerving regarding what is suitable behaviour. For instance, if Fluffy isn't allowed on the bed, but you let it happen two times out of ten, that's inconsistent. Set rules and stick to them.

9. You lack confidence

Loss of confidence is a weakness, and I think that, as natural predators, dogs can sense it instinctively. It's why frightened people get bitten more often than calmer individuals.

Show a lack of confidence and Fido will exploit it. That's not a condemnation of your pet; it's just a dog's nature. To avoid this, simply work him more and attain some training successes. Attending a class with him can work wonders to increase your confidence, as can you spending time with other dogs. Try trading dogs with a friend every so often for the different experience. Take your dog into different venues, and push yourself and your dog to learn more. Practice!

10. You don't train to the individual dog

Every dog has a distinct personality and behavioural profile. Though breed helps determine this, the individual dog's character must be understood before training can succeed. As a trainer, you must determine what methods will work best with your dog.

For example, most retrievers are very sociable and can handle lots of people or dogs around them. But try this with a Chow Chow or Shiba Inu, and you may be in for a surprise. Likewise, a dog with a high food drive will respond to treats, while a dog with a low food drive may require a different muse. A shy dog will fare poorly with a robust training technique, whereas a swashbuckling dog might not even hear the gentle appeals coming from a trainer with a less hardy style. Think timid Toy Poodle versus rowdy Rottweiler.

If you have a shy dog, plan on showing a saint's patience. Train peacefully, with little distractions at first. Train to the dog's limitations, but plan to gradually sneak in social situations to desensitize and build confidence. If your dog is a big, bulldozing lummoX, be just as big, just as hearty. Know that this dog can be challenged more than that timid dog. And know that, because of its size and strength, you simply must achieve control over it, especially in social situations. For dogs in between, reason out a training strategy based upon personality, size, age, energy, breed, and history.

If you stick to these basic guidelines, you'll slowly redefine yourself as the resident trainer, and not just your dog's concierge. Practice, succeed, be confident, and have fun with your protégé!



NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



GSDC of VICTORIA

PRESIDENT

Mr. Vince Ebejer

Ph : (03) 9467-8653 M: 0411 462 358

E-Mail president@gsdcv.org.au

SECRETARY

Mrs. Dearne Jackson

Ph: 0413 278 042:

E-Mail secretary@gsdcv.org.au

We've Done it !! Yes, all of Victoria is out of lockdown, finally. In Melbourne we still might have a few restrictions, but after over 3 months of not going more than 5km from home including curfew, its time to let loose 😊 As we go to print, our metro branches are either back training or close to opening. Our country branches were luckily able to go back to training in early October as their restrictions eased early. So finally we can see many of our members face to face, and just as importantly provide training and support to all those new members who got a GSD puppy during lockdown. We're all so glad to be back !

Kudos to our branch committees and instructors who for the main kept our members active with regular updates and challenges in lockdown. Also answering heaps of enquiries from new puppy owners and those who have adopted dogs during the pandemic. But there is nothing like getting the dogs together for training, so onward and upward from here !

What has been impressive is how well so many of our member's dogs have come back after extended breaks in lockdown etc. There will be plenty of pass up ribbons on the horizon that's for sure as they progress through the class levels. A big shout out to their owners who have carried on their training, ensuring the dogs continued to learn and grow into great dogs and breed representatives.

Unfortunately all our shows and trials since March were cancelled. We were able to conduct breed surveys in June only and hope that in late November/December we can run several more breed survey days. We know we have quite a few animals ready and waiting for survey now restrictions are eased. Thanks to everyone for their patience.

Our **13 Club** for our oldest and bestest dogs has been running for well over 15 years now,

and our latest addition is **Axelton Princess Talia**, owned by Karen D'Amico (Kwint vom Juerikstall x Futashand Echo Beach) and bred by Mrs K Powis. Welcome !

As we lead into Christmas and the new year we can only hope that things continue to improve and life gets back to normal.

So bring on 2021. Hopefully everyone can get together with family and friends for the festive season. Stay safe. Now we know more than ever to appreciate the time we have with family and loved ones. Spoil your dogs and make every day count!

Merry Christmas and holiday season to everyone, and a very Happy New Year to all 😊

'My Shepherd, My Friend, My Responsibility'



GSD LEAGUE NSW Inc

PRESIDENT Mr. Terry Jarvis

M: 0407 271 418

E-Mail tepe@bigpond.net.au

SECRETARY

Mrs. Fay Stokes

M: 0401 019 213

E-Mail faystokes1@bigpond.com

As I write it is comforting to see all states gaining some normality and the opportunity for the dogs to socialise and work again in groups.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following on having been classified at Breed Survey on August 22:

Bhuachallie Demonstrator AZ
Sundaneka Whiskey Cobbler AZ
Gabmalu Echo (AI) LSC AZ
Stobar Ghanaa AZ
Jaknell Ahead of the Game AZ
Morekos Firey Tolly (AI) AZ
Luci du Lamentin (Deu) a ED
Kuirau Rhine AZ
Hillmagic Cherry Katana AZ
Janeme Matilda AZ
Babanga Untamed Pizza Love AZ

Thanks to all those participants for observing the COVID-19 Rules under very trying windy conditions. Our next survey is scheduled for Sunday 8th November.

I would like to thank the dedicated Obedience crew with Tony D'Arcy, Yvonne Spek, Wayne

Wagstaff and Rose for their continued help with the Tuesday and Thursday night training although we missed out on a few sessions they were always anxious to get back into training and now we are back.

The club was very lucky to be able to hold the October GSDL Championship Show, on Saturday October 10, under COVID-19 Rules which excluded all spectators. The show was judged by Dr Karen Hedberg (NSW) with 94 entries. Her SC Challenge Dog was Aimsway Mugshot and SC Challenge Bitch was *Jaknell Love Bomb AZ. Her LSC Challenge Dog was *Konkasha Desert Cobra AZ and LSC Challenge Bitch was Vladimir Once You Go Black. Thank you to Dr Karen Hedberg for standing in at short notice to judge.

Unfortunately, due to bad weather we had to cancel the Specialty Showing Training Day on Sunday 25th October with Jo Cathie and team for instruction, practice, problem solving and advice. The emphasis is on enjoyment, education and dog socialisation.

We do however have another Specialty Showing Training Day already booked for 15th November at 11am - 2.30pm which we can look forward to.

With all continuing well the GSDL AGM will go ahead on Monday 30th November at 8pm in the clubhouse. We would like to thank the outgoing committee for all their work during these trying times and trying to make decisions in advance, predicting the directives that were coming from the NSW State Government on COVID-19 guidelines. We look forward to the new committee and hopefully a 2021 where more activities for members and their dogs are allowed.

The GSDL Christmas Members Competition on Saturday December 12 will be judged by **Mrs. Jenny De Lucia (SA) beginning at 4pm. Prior to the show will be The Annual Pointscore Awards Presentation beginning at 2pm in the clubhouse.**

I would like to acknowledge a new oldie who has joined the 13's Club Honour Roll:

Harley (Sundaneka Harley) born on August 8th, 2006. Proudly owned and loved by Chris Heiner. Harley is still going strong and has actually turned 14. Congratulations!

Unfortunately, out of our control, the 2021 National has been cancelled, so we will see everyone in Sydney in 2022 with bells on. Hopefully there will be other activities we can enjoy in 2021 with our dogs. Merry Christmas to all and hopefully we are free to celebrate with family and friends anywhere in Australia. Stay safe, do the right thing and be healthy.

Karen Stevenson

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



GSDA of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT

Mr. Brian Lubbock M: 0419 865 804

E-Mail president@gsdawa.org

SECRETARY

Mrs. Lucy Lubbock M: 0419 865 590

E-Mail secretary@gsdawa.org

As the 2020 year comes to a close here in the West we go into night training sessions at the end of November.

We will still have celebrations with our Graduation and Closed Club trial, Fun Day, Children's Christmas Party and Annual Presentations.

Presentations will be a smaller celebration this year as our shows and trials have been reduced in number.

Our dog fraternity here has grown with many new members. We have had an absolutely unprecedented run of enquiries for puppies and training.

This is a huge positive for our breed here in W.A. if we can ensure people are coming and enjoying their training sessions.

Currently the Dog Act is being overhauled in W.A. There are some contentious issues on the table and our parent body DogsWest has been in talks with the government. Sadly plenty of people had time to put in submissions but many didn't and now spend hours on social media complaining. A tip I would give them is be pro-active at the time rather than leave it until the death-knock. I have had discussions with the Department of Local Government putting our case forward via my local member of Parliament.

COVID19 - W.A. has fared much better than most states – our strong intrastate and hard border equalled 0 community transmission.

The thought of anyone I care about having to be intubated for weeks or be left with long lasting complications (or worse) chills me to the bone.

As we head into the silly season we hope to be able to share it with family and friends so I urge you to heed warnings and hopefully we can have a brighter 2021 for us all.

I note that today Victoria has had fantastic numbers for the past 5 days – it was hard but worth it.

Wishing all our German Shepherd enthusiasts a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy 2021



Margaret Adams Editor G.S.D.A. of W.A. (Inc.)



ACT GSDA

PRESIDENT Mr. Wolf Meffert

Ph: (02) 6226-3959 M: 0414 302 456

E-Mail wmeffert@bigpond.net.au

SECRETARY

Ms. Veronica Fairbairn

Ph: (02) 6226-3959

E-Mail wmeffert@bigpond.net.au

Similar to other clubs around Australia, it has been an unusual year for the ACT German Shepherd Dog (ACTGSD) association. Training this year has definitely been impacted by the COVID pandemic, but we were able to keep some puppy classes running all year. On 17 March 2020, consistent with health advice and local restrictions we suspended Obedience Classes until May. We were able to run some puppy classes on a Saturday morning, however since May we have been able to have our full range of classes running on a Wednesday night. We are utilising though, a system of 'Train and Go', to keep everyone safe. We have seen a significant increase in the puppies coming to training and are working to overcome any issues that resulted from them only having limited ability to socialise during the COVID restrictions.

The club is super proud of Vic Grzeszkiewicz who at the Belconnen Dog Obedience Club (BDOC) double trial in August placed with Ace (Allinka Versace) in the CCD class 3rd with 96 and 1st with 100. Many would know that Vic is one of our most experienced trainers in the club and we are fortunate to have him available to pass on his skills to so many generations of handlers.

On the 18th of October, the club was invited

to have our dogs invited to lead the 2020 Mental Health Foundation Walk for Mental Health. One of our club members, Dr Steph Hodson talked at the start of the walk about benefits of having a dog on wellbeing - including connection, physical activity and unconditional love.



Steph highlighted how she and her husband Shaun had first joined the ACTGSD some 28 years ago. This was a community they remained part of as they moved around Australia on military postings, becoming part of shepherd clubs in Darwin, Wagga and Sydney, ultimately returning to the ACT club. She highlighted how their military family found community and friendship - both key to mental health through their involvement in our clubs. Fortunately the day was one of the few sunny days recently in Canberra and everyone had a brilliant time – especially our dogs who were the stars of the walk and received heaps of pats and attention.

Newsflash!! Vic G and Ace achieved their CCD title with a 1st place and 98 points early in November. Three trials, 3 passes and a title. Congrats to Vic and look out for Ace in the future, these guys are a team to watch 😊



**German Shepherd
Dog Club
of Queensland**

GSDC of QUEENSLAND

PRESIDENT

Mr Louis Donald

E-Mail president@gsdcqld.org.au

SECRETARY

Mrs. Michelle Hammond

Mobile: 0418 709 238

E-Mail secretary@gsdcqld.org.au

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



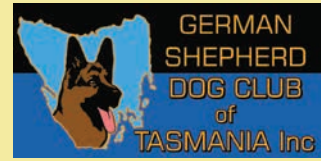
GSDC of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT Mr. John DeLucia
M: 0491 610 096
E-Mail jjdelucia@bigpond.com
SECRETARY
Mr. Stephen Collins
Ph: (08) 8556-2340 M: 0419 212 749
E-Mail secretary@gsdcsa.org.au



NEWCASTLE & HUNTER REGION GSDC

PRESIDENT
Mr. Paul York
M: 0419 266 726
E-Mail p.york@bigpond.com
SECRETARY
Mrs Kay York
M: 0402 421 385
E-Mail: babanga5@bigpond.com



GSDC of TASMANIA

PRESIDENT
Mr Ken Millhouse
E-mail kiorah001@gmail.com
SECRETARY
Ms Jacquie Cullen
E-Mail jacquiagsd@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS AT RAINBOW BRIDGE

T'was the night before Christmas, at Rainbow Bridge too.
We Bridge kids were thinking as always of you.
We'd seen how the holidays weren't bright this year,
Heard you whisper so often, "I wish you were here!"

We know how you wish you could just stay in bed
And sleep through the holiday lying ahead,
When all celebrate with their loved ones so near...
Unless they have loved ones on this side this year.

But we're no less alive here, on the other side.
If you could just see us, you would've laughed and not cried.
The dogs all in harness, pulling the sleigh.
The cats all in Santa hats pointing the way.

The pet birds all flying back over the rainbow,
Bound homeward in spite of Earth's darkness and snow.
All the pets that you've lost, pets for whom you've cried,
Flying home on this Christmas to be by your side.

If you feel warm fur brush you when no pet's around,
Hear a soft bark or purr, just a ghost of a sound,
We're trying to tell you we're visiting this way,
And our visits, even rainbows, can be on any day.

But for Christmas we have something special to do,
A sleigh full of happy dream visits for you.
On doggy, on kitty, on winged friend and ferret!
The love that you lavished, we mean now to share it!

We're fetching that love home, the way we once played,
With the closeness we shared and the memories we made.
Our Earth lives with you were too short for us, too,
And on this Christmas Eve we have so much to do.

So all through this night as you sleep in your beds,
Sweet visions of fur babies dance in your heads.
This one special night we can bring you Home for a while,
Your true home in Heaven, where again you will smile.

Over the rainbow you'll fly, for a short while this night,
Hours that you'll be happy, hours that will feel right,
Hours to cuddle and hug us, to run and to play,
Before the return to Earth in our magic way.

And when you awaken and face Christmas Day,
We pray you'll remember your trip on our sleigh,
But in case you forget, just remember our love.
Remember us watching you, your angels above.

Sending love wrapped in rainbows, shining and bright,
Love that will guide you through the darkest night,
Love found in each memory unwrapped through the year,
Replacing dark sorrows with Christmas cheer.

Leave the toys to St. Nick, we Bridge kids bring dreams,
Sweet visits to remind you all is not as it seems
When you look all around you with tired Earthly eyes.
If you saw as we do, there'd be joy and surprise.

There are fur angels waiting by those Christmas trees,
Always there for you and hearing your pleas.
We're never more than a thought away from your home,
You're never forgotten, you're never alone.

Nor are we alone here, with our Rainbow Bridge friends.
We know only joy here, the celebrating never ends,
And after our reunions with you Christmas Eve,
We Bridge kids will party like you'd never believe.

But we'll slip away often to be by your side.
Sitting there watching you, eyes open wide,
Praying you'll be able to catch a glimpse of us, too.
But whether or not you see us - Merry Christmas to you!

Cindy Morgan (2007)



Nothing In Life Is Free (NILIF) – Teaching Your Dog To Say Please

By Thomas Wipperman

What is NILIF?

In Dog Training, the acronym NILIF stands for Nothing In Life Is Free. This refers to the school of thought that a dog never is given attention or anything else they consider valuable without first offering something in return. NILIF stays away from the proven incorrect 'Alpha Dog' train of thought and focuses almost entirely on Positive Reinforcement. You may believe that NILIF means a dog cannot receive attention outside of training, but that is not correct. This article will go over the correct ways to implement NILIF, what to stay away from, and the pros and cons of the training style.

Many dog trainers, unfortunately, associate NILIF with the 'Pack Order' mentality. Other trainers see it as a bar on fun, not allowing your dog to be a dog. NILIF training can be very fun and rewarding, but it does require a fair bit of consistency and discipline from both you and your dog. If you want to see if this training style is for you, keep reading.

How to Begin NILIF

To begin NILIF does require a bit of basic training to already begun. A brand new puppy or a dog in a new environment won't understand what's being done without already having a few basic cues down. Sit and Come should be understood and performed with a fair bit of consistency to begin any sort of training using NILIF. The more cues the dog already understands, the better NILIF will proceed. NILIF should be considered a style of training, not a full replacement of all training methods. You should teach your dog as many cues as possible for NILIF to be the most effective. Being able to ask for different cues in different situations will give you much more control over how your dog interacts with its environment.

The basic idea of NILIF is that when your dog approaches you, they are not given your attention immediately. The dog must ask your permission before getting your attention. A dog asks for permission most commonly by sitting. If you are approached, and your dog noses at you, barks, jumps, or does anything except the cue that you want, they get nothing from you. You do not push them away or tell them no. Even giving your dog eye contact is attention. When your dog moves to a neutral behaviour, such as standing, you can then ask it to Sit. Once your dog Sits, they are given the reward of attention.

You may have a dog that attempts to get your attention incorrectly. A dog might jump on your side as you are greeting it, or try to put their head up on the table during a meal. Some dogs may even attempt to take something from you so that you will chase them around, playing their favourite game of 'My person yells and chases me under the table.' NILIF is there to replace that jump with Sit, or that head on the table with a Down.

Why NILIF Works

The reason this works is simple – dogs will almost always go for what they consider to be the highest value object around them. Your dog will find the highest value object, and begin to interact with it. If you are

the highest value thing around them, they'll do what they know will get your attention first. When barking has always gotten your attention, why try anything else? They would rather have you tell them to stop barking than getting no attention at all, so they will take the negative attention that the bark gets. While it can be difficult to ignore your dog at first, they will realize that they are not getting anything for the behaviour. Your dog will stop doing behaviours that get no attention. Always remember, it is easier to replace a behaviour with a new one, than it is to get rid of a behaviour. A dog needs an option in every situation, and without an option given to them, they'll pick whatever they like.

Eventually, once your dog understands that a good choice gets them attention, and a bad choice gets them nothing, they will want to pick the good choice every time. You will notice them sitting immediately for attention, waiting as you open a door or put their leash on, behaving during grooming sessions, and much more. NILIF takes this a step further, and applies it to all aspect of the dog's life. They do not go outside to go to the bathroom or for a walk without a Sit or a Shake. They do not get food until they do a Stay while you put their bowl down. The dog learns to ask permission for things they want, and learns to focus on you for what that permission needs to be.

NILIF also applies to things like potty training. When your dog gives you the correct behaviour, such as going to the bathroom on a pad or on the grass, they are given the attention they want. This can be verbal praise, petting, or a treat, depending on what the dog prefers the most. Even if they are not directly asking for attention, a good behaviour still gets that reward they want. The more you enjoy the training, the more the dog will as well.

How to Keep NILIF Going

The biggest key for all of this, of course, is consistency. A single person giving a dog incorrect feedback is all that it takes to regress a dog's training. Luckily, it is easy to know who may be giving the dog improper attention, as the dog knows who allows what actions. You may have seen or heard someone telling their trainer, "He listens here, but never at home!" This is usually because the training environment has stayed consistent, while the at-home environment is lacking. The dog knows that the trainer does not allow and does not acknowledge jumping or barking, but that the someone at home does. While this is sometimes mistaken as a dog considering itself 'Alpha', this is not the case. The dog knows what it can do where, and acts accordingly. Consider the dog to be like a child who knows their grandparents let them eat candy before dinner, so they go to their grandparents to ask for that candy.

The Positives of NILIF

There are a ton of reasons that NILIF works well. It is very easy to get your dog started on it at any age, from the puppy stage to the senior stage. Even older or stubborn dogs learn well from this style, and it is proven to work with disabled dogs who may bark or jump more often. NILIF is also all positive, so there is never a time that a dog may associate any negatives during the training. NILIF is a proven method that combines with every other method of Positive Reinforcement.

The investment that it takes to begin NILIF is small. Consistency, your attention, and a handful of treats are all you need. You will be amazed to see your dog suddenly sitting when they would jump, and greeting people with a Shake rather than a tackle. NILIF works wonders on any minor behaviour issue.

The other biggest positive is that NILIF is easy to maintain. All you have to do is follow a set of rules and watch your dog follow the same rules. Watching your dog learn these rules and follow them is a reward for you, and getting attention is a reward for them. Because it is so simple to

TRAINING chat

follow, both you and your dog will find yourselves following the rules set without even thinking about it.

The Cons of NILIF

While NILIF does have many positives, cons do exist. Ignoring a destructed behaviour like chewing furniture or barking outside cannot be solved without additional training methods, as those behaviours are self-rewarding. Redirection is required for these behaviours, or other cues such as Leave It must be used. You should make sure you are giving your dog full training lessons for cues meant to redirect them back to you. NILIF does not work for severe behavioural issues, either. Aggression and resource guarding are not an easy fix, and speaking to a professional dog trainer is important for any issues that could cause your dog or others to be hurt.

Another con is that many trainers see it as a negative training style. The 'Say Please' style is one often preferred, as it takes the idea of NILIF and adds more positivity to it, as well as more direct engagement with your dog. It has also been related with certain actions like the 'Alpha Roll', an outdated method that has been proven to both be damaging to the dog, but extremely dangerous for the owner as well.

The other thing to keep an eye out for is called Extinction Burst. Extinction Burst is a phenomenon seen in dogs who are about to stop showing a behaviour that has been ignored. Imagine if your dog walks up to you, sits down, and gets petted almost every time because you have been using NILIF. Suddenly, one day, they begin to jump again, and even more than before. If you notice your dog is doing well, and suddenly they seem to have regressed, that is an Extinction Burst. Your dog is trying one last time to force that bad behaviour to work, and it is a sign that the bad behaviour is almost gone. Once you push through that last bit of jumping, that bad behaviour should be gone. It's extremely important to not allow the action to succeed again, or you'll be back at square one.

Enjoying a Well Trained Dog

The idea of NILIF is a simple one – rewards and attention come when the proper behaviour is shown. No attention is given when an incorrect action is shown. Following those two rules will result in a happy, well-trained dog. Just remember, these are only guidelines! Nothing beats working with a Positive Reinforcement Dog Trainer. When you look for a dog trainer to help you and your dog along a happier path, make sure they only use Positive Reinforcement. Shock collars, prong collars, or Alpha Rolls all are damaging and cruel, so stay away from trainers who swear by them. Remember, training a dog is an investment. It may take some time, but the end result is always worth it. It is ultimately up to you to decide whether or not this training style is right for you.

Source: <https://k9deb.com/nilif>

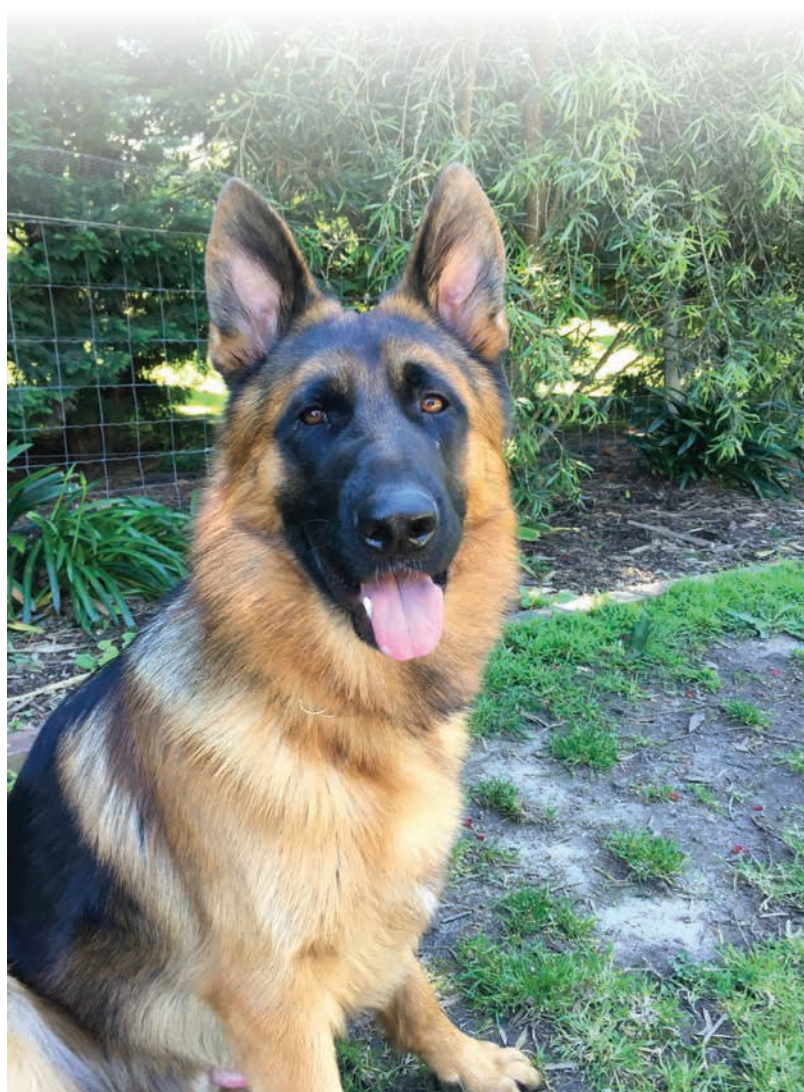


The fidelity of a dog is a precious gift demanding no less binding moral responsibilities than the friendship of a human being.

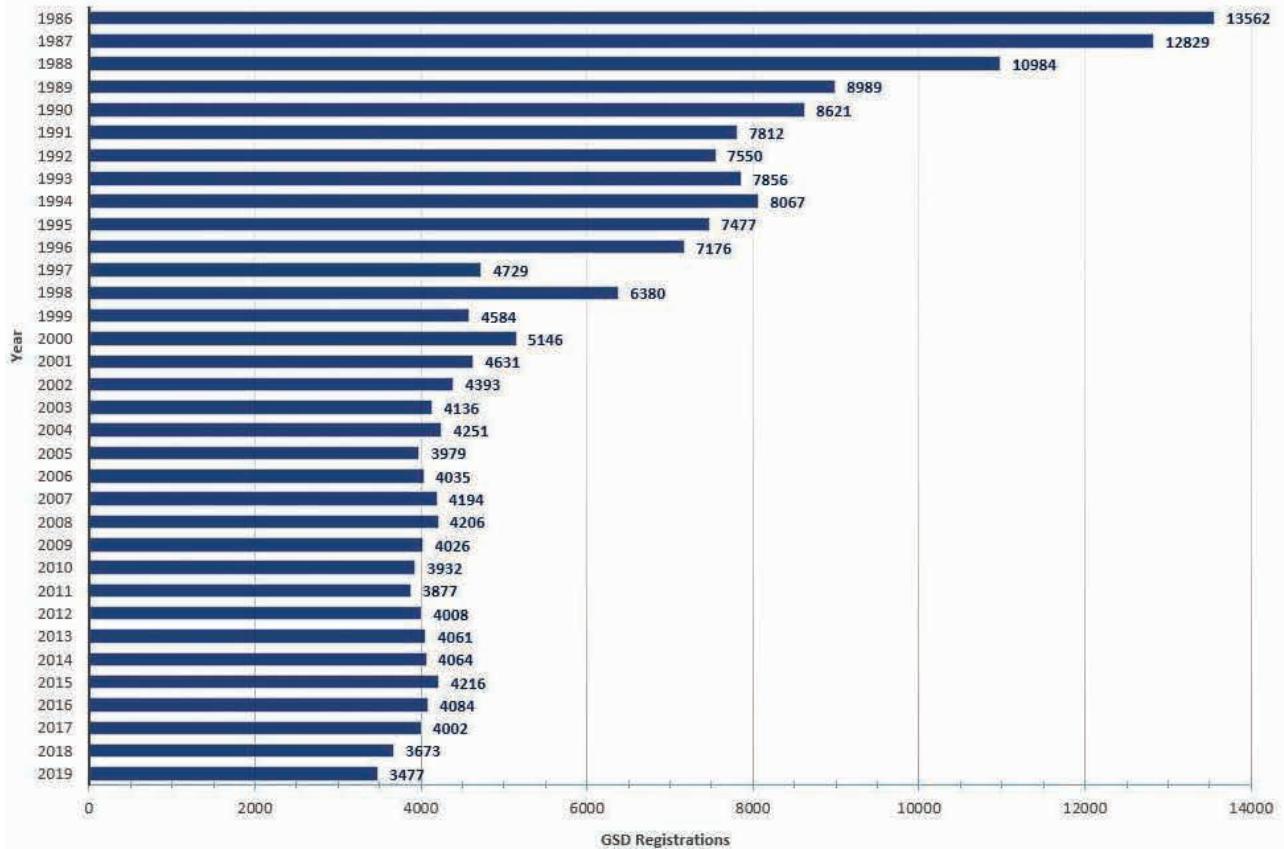
The bond with a dog is as lasting as the ties of this earth can ever be.

There is no faith which has never yet been broken, except that of a truly faithful dog

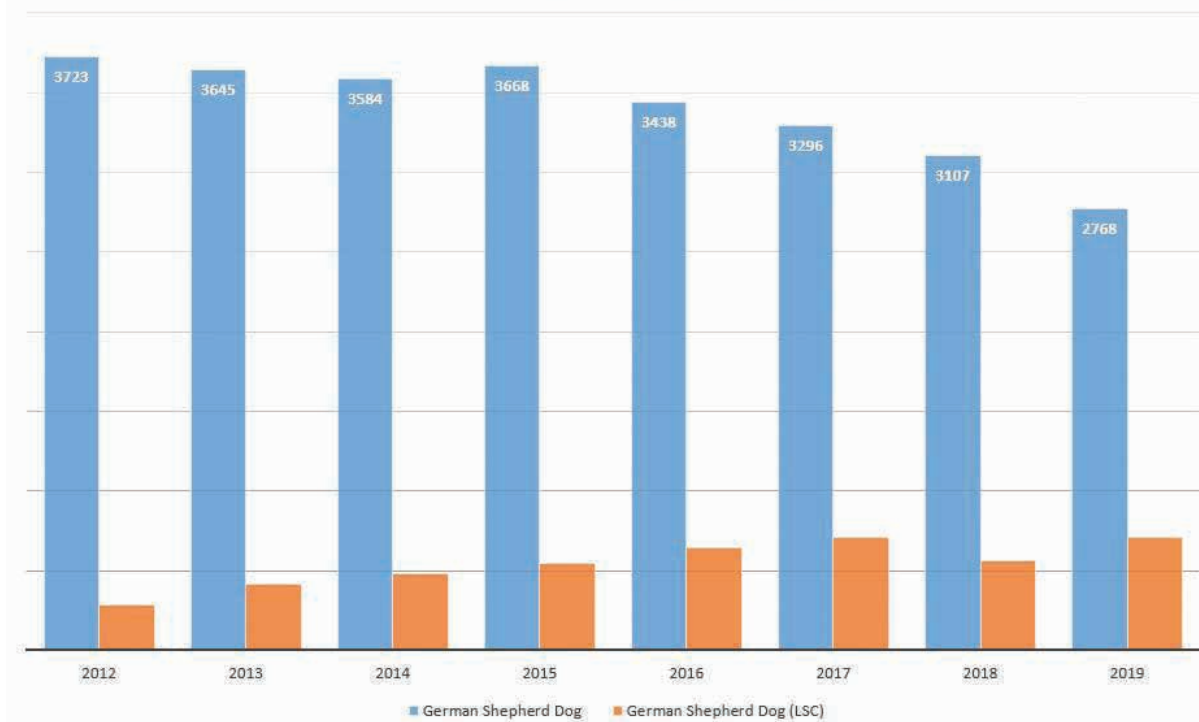
Konrad Lorenz



**ANKC Registrations for German Shepherd Dogs
1986 - 2019**



**ANKC Registrations 2012 - 2019
Stock Coat and Long Stock Coat GSD**



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!



Bite Inhibition Training and Aggression Prevention

Article by Edel Trembath

BA (Psych), Dip. CBST (Canine Behaviour Science and Technology) – Canine Behaviour Consultant

In addition to Socialisation which was covered in a previous article, there are another two time-sensitive items on the agenda. These are:



What does Bite Inhibition mean and how does it differ from Bite Threshold? (These two often get confused)

Bite Inhibition refers to biting in which the dog greatly inhibits the pressure of his jaw so as not to injure the play partner. The goal of Bite Inhibition training is to gradually decrease the strength of biting and to teach the pup that play biting is best done on toys and other dogs, not on people. If bite inhibition is well established it is known as the dog having a soft mouth and if a dog's bite causes injury it is known as hard mouth.

Bite Threshold refers to how readily a dog will bite or in other words the minimum amount of intensity of a trigger required that initiates a behavioural reaction such as biting.

Why bother with Bite Inhibition Training at such an early age?

Research has shown that the strength of the bite cannot be changed in adulthood. Several well-known, competent professionals have tried without success. Adult dogs who did not learn finesse with their mouths as youngsters are more likely to cause more serious injury, either during play or intentionally biting when injured or frightened. This is why it is important to teach Bite Inhibition now as a preventative measure, just like using vaccinations to prevent serious health problems.

It is easy to train this behaviour as soon as the puppy is brought home, because the puppy bites so readily at this age and they have needle-sharp teeth. Also the training takes awhile and it should be completed before the adult teeth come through and the jaw strength increases.

It can be hard to accept that puppy biting is a valuable thing, but it

actually represents a great opportunity to practice Bite Inhibition and puppies who do not play bite should be actively encouraged to do so to rehearse soft mouth. Puppies first learn about Bite Inhibition during play with other puppies. By biting each other, puppies get feedback on the strength of their bite. As puppies play with each other, one pup is bound to bite a littermate too hard. The bitten pup will let out a sharp yelp, the game ends suddenly and all play stops. Through these undesirable consequences, puppies learn to inhibit their bite and as a result, they bite during play only at a strength that avoids punishment and still accesses play as the reward. Puppies can learn not to bite people, just as they learn not to bite each other too hard.

The following methods help owners with teaching Bite Inhibition

Firstly, if your puppy never bites hard and only softly, allow him to bite you for a few weeks and then redirect the puppy to toys. See below for more info on how to present the toy.

Secondly, if the puppy's bites are not all soft which tends to be the majority of cases, make a distinction. Begin by yelping only on the hardest bites, ignoring the softer ones. For example, allow the softest 75 % and target the harder ones. As you progress, yelp at gradually softer and softer pressure until he eventually mouths you with no pressure at all. To teach this, try yelping like another littermate when you feel your pup's mouth putting pressure on you. You can either use the word "OUCH," "AWRP" or "EEPS" (whatever comes out of your mouth naturally). How you say it is more important than what you say. The word chosen should be sudden, abrupt and relatively loud. It should start and stop almost instantly, going from silence to full volume in a second, so as to startle the pup just as she bites down. (Good idea to practice without the pup, so that you can do it well when needed. It really helps!) Long drawn out "No-o-o-o-o-s" will have little or no effect.

Swap your Hand with a Toy. After you yelp and it has to be immediately afterwards offer the puppy a toy. Move it around approximately 30 centimetres in front of his face (be aware that if the toy is too close it can discourage play) and encourage the pup to bite onto it. It will not work unless you present the toy instantly after you yelp, because playful pups simply need something in their mouth. If you don't give them something appropriate, they'll go straight back to biting you. Playing a quick game of tug instead of rough play biting can be very effective. (Important to carry a toy at all times and wear pants with large pockets). Rarely is simply teaching a pup what not to do useful on its own, she must simultaneously be taught what to do. The positive reinforcement can include continued play, if the pup happens to bring a tug toy, a quick tug session, praise or a treat. Yelping and redirecting teaches two things: Humans are very sensitive to the power of her jaws and it is much more fun to play with a dog toy especially a tug toy than someone's ankle or hand.

When it's not working

As with all training, resist doing the same thing over and over again if it does not bring results. A good method when applied properly should work relatively quickly with a few repetitions.

Thirdly, some puppies can get aroused by the yelp such as "Ouch" and use even harder bites than before. If this is the case try standing up, crossing arms and looking away for 30-60 seconds without saying anything to the puppy. If this is not working then dramatically jump up and leave the room in a big huff for a minute. The puppy wants interaction most of all and stopping the interaction is a severe consequence for the pup. The puppy will wonder what stopped all the fun. After you ignore him for a few seconds, try reengaging with a toy so you can direct the biting to an appropriate thing. If you need to do this

more than 4-5 times within a few minutes of play, your pup may simply need to burn off some energy by going for a walk or doing a few laps in the backyard before you interact closely with him. It could also be the case that he is hungry, thirsty, needs to go to the toilet or is overly tired and needs a nap.

Occasionally puppies go after your ankle when leaving the room, then simply stop moving and stand still. If this does not work, try spraying your pants and shoelaces with something that makes the nipping taste bad.

Also, it is important to remember that for time-out to work, it has to be consistent and note that time-outs are a type of punisher and like any punisher when applied too early in the development of training program they can hurt a relationship. Therefore, it is best to try the other methods first. Additionally, whatever you do, do not use corporal punishment with the puppy. Exchanging nuisance behaviour for a potential fear of hands is bad practice.

Finally, if the puppy does not play-bite people or even other puppies at all, then try to engage the puppy in some gentle roughhousing to facilitate getting this vital information about his/her bite pressure with the first or second method.

BE PATIENT some puppies will be very persistent about trying to play with you as a toy again and again, but eventually they should learn to modulate their behaviour. However, if play biting isn't getting better by the time he is six months old, consider contacting a professional.

It is strongly recommended to not allow children to do bite inhibition training with the pup.

The third time-sensitive element is Aggression Prevention and entails Aggression to Strangers, Resource Guarding and Intolerance to Body Handling

To prevent **Aggression to Strangers** has been covered in detail in the article on socialization. To summarize, puppies need enjoyable exposures to a variety of people.

To prevent **Resource Guarding** let's look at food bowl guarding and object exchange exercises.

There are several Food Bowl exercises

Firstly, **"Instalment Feeding"** - instead of feeding the ration at once, do it in instalments. For example: Add part of the meal's ration to the bowl and as the puppy finishes add another ration. Repeat many times. The puppy learns that human approach is adding and making things better.

Secondly, **"Food Bowl Bonus"** - approach the puppy mid meal and add a bonus which is better. For example: If the puppy gets biscuits, add chicken. There are 2 variations to this exercise. You approach the bowl, touch the bowl and add food. Finally, you approach the bowl, pick it up to add yummy food and make it better and then return the bowl. Do 1 repetition per meal.

Object exchange and possession sharing exercises

Walk past a toy-chewing puppy and drop an extra-special treat next to the pup as you pass. Do this many times. Then if the pup has a chewy, say "give" or "thank you, take the chewy away, surprise with yummy treat(s) and give the chewy back. Do these about five times, assuring to vary the time between repetitions. Then leave it for a-while. Do a few sets of repetitions a day with varying objects and the trend emerges: when humans take things away, it is a very good thing for me and the pup sees the approach of people as a great experience.

Body Handling Exercises

There are many instances in which we need to be in contact with our dogs, such as when we inspect or brush their teeth, help them into vehicles, do vet exams and not to mention that we humans often simply can't stop touching our dogs.

The secret is to repeatedly perform body handling throughout the socialization period and beyond, assuring to make them pleasant experiences and going at the pup's pace. In particular give attention to the mouth, ears, feet and for some dogs rear quarters such as their tail. Let's look at an example of getting the pup to like having ears examined: To get the pup used to ear handling start with a 1-handed 1 second ear touch, follow each touch with praise or a click and a treat and do it 5 times. If the pup is comfortable with 4 or 5 touches go to the next difficulty such as 2-handed 2-second ear touch, then flipping the ear open for 2 seconds, then progress to flipping the ear and looking inside for 2 seconds (watch how closely you get your head, if it is uncomfortable start further away). But if the pup is comfortable with only 3 out of 5 repetitions then repeat the same level. Should the pup be only comfortable with two out of five repetitions then go back to the previous level. Repeat with the other side. Be aware that one ear may be more sensitive than the other. Also if your puppy's ears are painful and you have to give her drops out of medical necessity, it is not advisable to attempt ear drop desensitization as described above. It is much better to be truthful with the pup. Don't tell her it is fine, because it is not going to be fine. Rather tell her that something unpleasant is going to happen and say something like "I'm so sorry, it's going to hurt". This separates the unavoidable nasty experience so that your approach at other times is protected. Moving towards and touching your pup is worth protecting. When the pup feels better you can start working the plan so as to gradually get her used to ear handling. A similar step-by-step plan can be used for a mouth check. Feel free to contact me for more details of the plan as it can be handy knowledge for getting the pup used to taking a tablet or teeth inspected. It is really important to not push the pace as you want your dog to not just tolerate, but to trust.

Summary

The three explained time-sensitive elements (Socialization, Bite inhibition and Aggression Prevention) stand for several lines of defence against fear or aggression in adult dogs. Dogs may bite when feeling threatened and when competing over resources. But if they are comfortable with different people and situations, having their bodies handled and comfortable with having their things approached or removed, they are less likely to resort to biting. Furthermore, if they have soft mouths and do bite, it is much more likely for the damage to be non-or minimally harmful.

Suggested Watching and Readings

Dog Training 101, Jean Donaldson through the Great Courses
McConnell, P and Scidmore, B, The Puppy Primer, 2nd edition
O'Heare, J, Aggressive Behaviour in Dogs

Please note: rather than calling the puppy an "it" or using awkward "she/he," I have chosen to alternate between "he" and "she" in the article. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to email me at: ralph.edel@bigpond.com

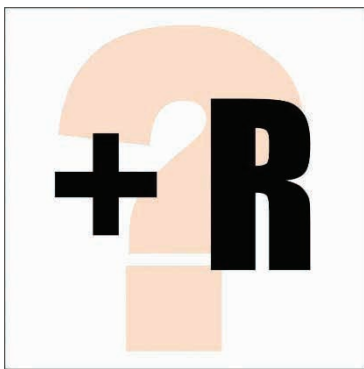
Performance Series - Motivating dogs 1

By Steve Courtney

So, motivating dogs to offer behaviour, change behaviour, repeat behaviours and create behaviours is a big deal in today's training world.

And surprisingly, very few people know how to motivate their dogs effectively, leaving them with lack lustre, unreliable, slow dogs that often just fail the exercise often.

When I ask most people how they motivate their dogs, I am often told that their dogs are "**food motivated**" and that they use "**positive reinforcement**" to motivate their dogs.



This is not at all true, and whilst I am not going into detail here, I am going to put some ideas forth and let you think them over.

For those that want to understand the true sources of motivation, we run Masterclasses on this topic as an introduction or in depth course. You can find out more here (info@k9pro.com.au)

So, here are a couple of scenarios that I want to share with you.

I walk into McDonalds kitchen and up to the kid making burgers. I ask him "how many burgers can you make in an hour".

He says "on average about 75, why?"

I say "ok cool, so, if you can make 100 burgers in the next hour, I will give you \$100.00".

He says "are you for real?" and smiles

Why is he smiling?

So we start the clock and he rips into it, working his butt off and as we approach the 30 minute mark he is told that he has 60 burgers done. He is delighted and excited and powers on.

He is delighted and excited and powers on... Not he has not seen the \$100 yet, he doesn't have it yet, the hour is not up, but he is pretty happy.

He gets to the 1 hour mark and I stop the clock and tell him "time is up, you have made 106 burgers!"

He jumps up and down in pure joy, cheering, hugging and high fiving everyone.

Again, he does not have the money, he has not seen the money, it could be in the ATM still, but he seems pretty happy...

What elements made him work harder than his average?

Positive Reinforcement? Well at this point of the story I have not given him that money yet, have I?

So I ask him if he liked my game and he says "yes, 100%".

So I say, "lets keep going, in this next hour, I am offering \$1000.00!"

His eyes widen and he is wildly excited.

I say "all you have to do is make 1000 burgers and you get \$1000.00!"

He gets annoyed, stressed, angry even and feels defeated. He whines and tries to bargain.

I say "nope, thats the deal, go".

He tears into the work, dropping his cooking utensils, spilling the sauce, burning his hand and by 10 minutes he walks off in a rage.

All I did was offer him more money... right?

In this next scenario, its a true story actually.

Years ago, I worked with a client who has a Australian Cattle Dog, the dog was about 15 months and was human aggressive.

We worked together for a few months and he was fine to go on his own. I assume all went well.

When we moved to our current property, turns out he lives just down the road.

I messaged him and he said "pop over for a refreshment on Saturday, if I dont answer the door, come round the back, Bluey will be there".

I agreed and hoped that Bluey had actually tamed his human aggression or I may find myself bitten lol.

I walked around the back and Bluey, who was more like a Whitey now, was 13 years old, met me with a smile. He was in fact very friendly.

I like to think he remembered me, but I doubt that is true.

Anyway, as we enjoyed our refreshment, Bluey spotted a Kangaroo down the back and shot off after it. He came wandering back, happy with himself a few minutes later.

I asked Geoff "how long has he been chasing Roo's?"

Geoff said "all his life"

I said, "has he ever caught one?"

Geoff "no, but he thinks today is the day!"

He has never caught one but is STILL highly motivated to chase after them... Why?

Scenario 3 is a dog I saw at Bunnings. I was parked in the drive through part waiting for my ticket to be checked.

A big, open area, windy, drafty place with high amounts of foot traffic and cars etc.

As I watch a guy walking through this area with his dog, about 30 metres away.

The dog lifts her head into the wind and spins around, comes running back to my car, sniffing all around. The owner runs over and calls her away, she ignores him.

He says "have you got a dog in there?"

I smiled and said "always"

He said "she loves dogs"

So, if I asked 100 people who have been training noseworks for a couple of years, could their dog automatically find birch in this wind tunnel like area, being a new place with high distraction, 300 – 400 square metres?

If they were being truthful, they would probably say no.

But this dog can, even though no one has ever intentionally trained her, or formally rewarded her.

So again I say, many people just do not understand motivation, leaving them putting in a lot of effort, only to get a poor performance from their dogs.

Before embarking on teaching any exercises or learning any sport, my advice is to learn about **how to motivate your dog**.

If your showing your dog food or a toy so the dog has value for you, something is wrong.

If you need a leash to keep your trained dog with you at training, something is wrong.

If you need to administer harsh leash corrections for performance work, something is wrong.



Unlock your dog's inner power and commitment and channel that into engagement with you.

A dog that is motivated can easily learn engagement is necessary to access success.

With engagement you can teach anything.

Ref: <http://blog.k9pro.com.au/performance-series-motivating-dogs-1/>

Unlocking your dog's training potential

By Steve Courtney

Do you have a dog that can hear the rustle of a packet and come belting into the room but can't unlock your dog's training potential? So many people will say yes and laugh, but their dog will not come when called.

It should be no surprise when I tell them that they actually trained the response to the packet too, **they just don't know how.**

As a trainer I would apply a simple strategy I refer to as the ABCs of training.



Antecedent

This is of course the A and this means something that occurs before something else.

In the above example the sound of the package logically occurs before the chips (reward) come out.

Behaviour

The dog comes up with a behaviour, running to you, so that he or she has a better chance of getting some of the chips.

Consequence

The consequence of running into the room is an increased likelihood of getting a chip (+R)

The consequence of not running into the room will reduce the likelihood of getting a chip. (-P)

Hence ABC.

Most people train this by accident. The sound of the packet happens consistently when you open the pack, you can't help it.

By intermittently giving a chip you provide a good consequence (positive reinforcement)

The dog offers the behaviour, reliably and consistently.

If people could grasp these simple concepts they could train their dog to do anything.

Instead we get excited about the most special programs with "high value treats" and clickers and special collars and harnesses and halters.

When at home the dog comes bolting for a chip...

The dog goes through the roof when you get home from work and

don't want a lot of energy, but the dog is highly motivated to get to you. You don't even have a chip...

You head to the park and the dog doesn't want to know you.

Even if you have a chip!

Knowing how to produce the most effective antecedent and deliver the most meaningful consequences means that your dog will only have to focus on the behaviour.

The trainer **MUST** responsibility for the "A" and the "C" and the dog takes responsibility for the "B" in the ABC model.

Most people do not provide a clear cue (antecedent) for the behaviour they want their dog to display.

Person wants their dog to sit, so they: –

Put hand into a shape that looks like you have food in it

Raise that hand up in a sweeping motion

imultaneously giving eye contact, saying "sit" and facing the dog.

Now, know that everything in red is the antecedent for the behaviour. If everything is not delivered at the same time, the sit doesn't happen.

So perhaps the dog is not looking at you when you do all of this, he or she does not see the visual signals but only hears the verbals, and does not sit.

Is the dog being disobedient?

Or, did he or she miss part of the cue?

Who knows?

Now what consequence will you deliver? will you provide negative punishment for disobedience by not delivering the reward?

Will you reward the dog for not complying?

There is such a benefit in actually learning foundations that sometimes we can overlook or not invest enough into.

People are keen to train the exercises, which is great, but if you have little to no engagement, vague – multi facet cues, no accurate communication system, a dog without a clear motivation for the reward, then you will struggle.

Training potential, is the dog's highest level of ability.

Training a dog to deliver a behaviour reliably on cue is made up of several foundations that need to be solid, well before the exercise is introduced.

Good training is the result of exercises trained well on good foundations.

Weak foundations will not support exercises under distraction.

Here is a little test you can run. Have your dog standing, walk off 3-4 in front and give just a verbal cue – down or sit, see if your dog needs more than a verbal.

If your dog cannot do this, and of course your dog knows how to do these things, then perhaps your cue is multi staged.

Now turn and face your dog and do what you need to so that your dog **DOES** deliver the sit or the down.

If your dog did not sit or down the first time but did when you faced the dog and gave more than just a verbal cue, you have a multi phased antecedent.

This can help you identify why your dog may not follow instructions sometimes.

Ref: <http://blog.k9pro.com.au/unlocking-your-dogs-training-potential/>



Dogs in the Covid Era

By Fred Lanting

The coronavirus era is fully with us, with incidence rising and falling (mostly the former) everywhere. Dog owners are as susceptible as any other group that is known for people from various areas getting together in a specific location... perhaps even more than most.

An epidemic is the rapid spread of disease to a large number of people in a given population within a short period of time. Many people mistakenly call the Covid-19 outbreak of 2020 (actually started late-2019) an epidemic, but the accurate designation is: a pandemic. That is the spread of a disease that becomes prevalent over a wide geographic area such as one or more countries or continents, or the world. Malaria is one example, and the 1918 flu was another pandemic, claiming millions of lives.

It typically takes many cases and many months before the full nature (cause, progression, susceptibility, etc.) of a new pandemic is revealed. Other animals might carry the “germs” (actually, virus particles/macromolecules, which are smaller than bacteria and often mutate into different varieties). But we are still learning that humans (so far) are the only ones affected. But don’t hold your breath... there have been many viral diseases that have “jumped” across the species boundaries. A few non-human animals have been identified so far as harboring and possibly spreading this virus.

Dog shows have been cancelled, some postponed one or more times, exhibitors and judges and show chairmen losing prepayments for arenas, motels, and airlines which will not indefinitely extend dates. I have had clubs tell me of new future dates based on wispy wishes that the pandemic will blow over in less than a year. Different states’ quarantine and incoming-travel rules have wreaked havoc with plans. For example, I had to cancel one assignment because the airport was in a state that denied travelers from my state, even though the show I was to do was just over the border in an adjacent state. It was either that or submit to several days’ quarantine first!

A few Coronavirus-age events have been carried out, with sensible cautions. One show I judged was held outdoors (under a high roof, though) with plenty of room between exhibitors’ set-ups, and people standing at reasonable distances from each other. Plenty of “wipes”, most people wearing masks, and dentition exams done with minimal contact and more distancing than previously. I put mask aside for show-win photos; some judges keep them on. But unless we shout or cough at each other, I can’t imagine much risk during those short minutes.

At another show, the judges were able to officiate in separate buildings of an exhibition center, so there was almost no crowding anywhere except momentarily when entering the ring. Again, many masks when folks got close to each other, minimal handling of dogs, much hand wiping. Nobody coughing or sneezing, which is something that previously we wouldn’t have even thought of noticing. I have inquired, and so far have heard of no Covid cases arising among exhibitors at either of these Sept-Oct 2020 shows.

Although most shows have been cancelled, if you do attend one, here are some factoids and ideas that you should pack in your kitbag: researchers have found that coronavirus remains active on human skin for nine hours (5 times longer than flu), showing the need for frequent

handwashing. An October study reported in the Clinical Infectious Diseases journal said that the longevity of SARS-CoV-2 virus strain (the cause of Covid-19) is a major reason this pandemic is accelerating in many or most places. 40 million and growing.

Take ethanol-based hand sanitizer with you. Despite the longish virility, the virus is susceptible to alcohol as well as to hygiene via frequent and vigorous washing. However, washing groceries in or from the supermarket might be overkill, according to a CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) statement last May. They said it “does not spread easily” that way, although that conclusion was only 5 months into the endemic. The “easy” spread is, however, by person-to-person contact. Wash your hands often (and keep fingers out of mouth & nose), don’t kiss any strangers, maintain distance whenever you can.

If you are a show judge, just check the bite and the premolars. In 99% of breeds, missing teeth just are not a problem outside of the premolars. If you have to help an exhibitor push the tongue away, use a hand-wipe before going on to the next dog. Posing for the win photo? If you don’t want to wear a mask during the photo-shoot, it will still be as safe for both judge and handler as if you did.

We can still have fun competing in shows. Proximity to carriers is not a guarantee of transmission. In fact, I’ve seen many families living in the same house where one person had Covid, but the others never contracted the disease! Sensible care without panic will almost surely be sufficient prevention. Progress in the battle is being made. Despite recent evidence that people who’ve recovered from this virus can indeed contract it again, I think (hope) that eventually, it will “go away” or at least become far less common. Something to pray for and work toward.

See you at the shows (someday!).

Fred Lanting is an approved show judge in 30+ countries, a breeder since 1945, a GSD owner since 1947. Many years an SV judge.

Author of the HD/Orthopedic Disorders book, a poetry collection, and a “war-and-peace” novel. Ask about them.

Copyrighted articles on various sites. To order books: 3565 Parches Cove, Union Grove, AL 35165 or Mr.GSD@netscape.com



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The Trade practices Act 1974 came into force on 1st October 1974 and certain provisions of the Act relating to consumer protection place a heavy burden on advertisers, advertising agents and publishers of advertisements. In view of the difficulty of ensuring that advertisements submitted for publication comply with the Act, advertisers and advertising agents must ensure that the provisions of the Act are strictly complied with. In case of doubts advertisers are advised to seek legal advice.

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