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Special points of interest:

- Our website home page has counted over 1400 hits and the site now has more than 100 pages of information online.
- Fernamber Tradition TDX has been awarded his Tracking Dog Excellent title.
- The fourth Golden Retriever National was held in Western Australia on 26-29 August.
- Golden Retrievers will be at the Royal Melbourne Show on Sunday 22 September.

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# Fernamber Off Lead

## Welcome to our Spring Issue

In July, Clive was invited to judge at the Albury & Border Kennel Club's obedience trials. We both spent a very enjoyable weekend enjoying the club's hospitality.

Jaimee, Fernamber Serenity CD and her owner Margaret travelled to South Australia to compete at the Meningie Retrieving Trials. Clever Jaimee was awarded fourth place in the Novice Stake on both days.

On 1 August, Chantelle's seven Golden Retriever puppies, three girls and four boys arrived at my sister's house. (Extremely cute!)

Also in August, Paddington, Fernamber Talisman CD, was awarded a second qualifying score towards his CDX title. He is now working on that elusive third pass....

We also travelled up to Redcliffs with April and Paddington to compete at the Redcliffs Obedience Club trials. Although we didn't come home with any passes we had a great weekend with some very fine spring-like weather!

Clive attended an Endurance Test as a back up runner. An Endurance Test requires a handler to run or cycle 20 kilometres with their dog. April's sister,



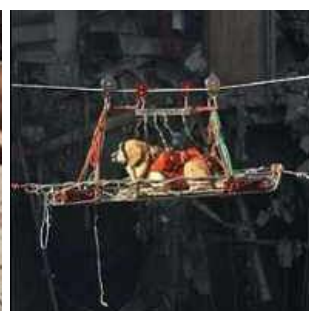
Cheryl and Clive with Crystal, Chloe, Joshua, April and Paddington on the beach at Seaspray

Crystal qualified for her ET title on the day. We believe she is only the fourth Golden Retriever to gain this title in Victoria. Congratulations Crystal and David!

Tully, Fernamber Tradition TDX qualified for his Tracking Dog Excellent title at the Tracking Club's trial. He was awarded a pass in Track 5 with an Excellent grading to qualify for this title. Tully is only eighteen months old! Well done Tully and Kim!

This year Golden Retrievers will be at the Royal Melbourne Show on Sunday 22 September.

## Search and Rescue Dogs at the World Trade Center 11 Sept 2001



## What is Clicker Training?

by Karen Pryor

### *The click is a marker signal*

Clicker training is a system for teaching behaviour with positive reinforcement. You use a marker signal to tell the animal when it's doing the action that will pay off. The system was first used by dolphin trainers who needed a way to teach behaviour without using physical force.

### *No corrections or punishment required*

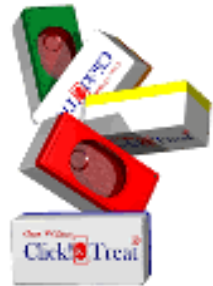
In traditional training, you tell an animal what to do, make that behaviour happen (using force if necessary), reward good results, and punish mistakes. In clicker training you watch for the behaviour you like, mark the instant it happens with a click, and pay off with a treat. The treat may be food, a pat, praise, or anything the learner enjoys. If the learner makes a mistake you wait and let them try again.

### *Replacing the clicker with praise*

Clicker trainers focus on building behaviour, not stopping behaviour. Instead of yelling at the dog for jumping up, you click it for sitting. Instead of kicking the horse to make it go, you click it for walking. Then, click by click, you "shape" longer sits, or more walking, until you have the results you want. Once the behaviour is learned, you keep it going with praise and approval and save the clicker and treats for the next new thing you want to train.

### *It's fun and exciting for pets and people*

Animals quickly learn that the marker signal means, "Something good is coming." Then they realise they can make you click by repeating their behaviour. They become enthusiastic partners in their own training. Clicker training is exciting for animals and fun for us. And it's easy to do. You might get results on the very first try.



More information is at  
[www.clickertraining.com](http://www.clickertraining.com)  
[www.blackdog.net.au/Links.html#clicker](http://www.blackdog.net.au/Links.html#clicker)

## By a Whisker

Vibrissae occur in all mammals except man and are large, stiff hairs of sensory character. Although commonly referred to as whiskers, they are unlike the passive whiskers of man, but are instead sophisticated sensing organs.

Vibrissae are constructed differently to other body hair. They have highly specialized follicles, the root being embedded in a mass of erectile tissue and having a rich sensory nerve supply. Vibrissae can detect air currents, subtle vibrations, and objects in the dark. They provide an early warning system for objects that might strike the face or eyes and

probably help direct food and objects toward the mouth.

From anatomical data on dogs and behavioural and neurophysiological data on other mammalian species, one can hypothesize that the vibrissae are sense organs of some importance to the dog.

Research in animal behaviour has shown that we can be terribly ignorant regarding the sensory capabilities of animals. The practice of cutting the vibrissae of show dogs may not be harmless. At best it is unnecessary and at worst it may be a form of sensory deprivation, the effects of which are beyond our current knowledge.

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*“Although vibrissae are commonly called whiskers they are actually sophisticated sense organs.”*

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## The Telegram

A Golden Retriever went to a Western Union office, took out a blank form and carefully wrote:

Woof, woof, woof, woof, woof.  
 Woof, woof, woof, woof.

The clerk examined the paper and said to the dog. “There are only nine words here. You could send another ‘woof’ for the same price.”

“But,” the dog replied “it would make no sense at all!”



How should I word it?

## Search and Rescue Dogs

Search and Rescue dogs use their superb sense of smell to find people who are lost or injured. A dog not only has a more powerful sense of smell than ours, it is far more discerning. He is able to pick out one target odour in a sea of odours.

Dogs locate humans by detecting microscopic skin cells called rafts. Humans continually shed these skin cells which float in air currents or fall to the ground.

Many Search and Rescue dogs and their handlers are volunteers, donating their own time and energy to help victims.

Search and Rescue dogs mostly locate victims working on the scent carried in air currents but some are trained in tracking.

**Disaster Search Dogs** are trained to find victims trapped under rubble or debris

caused by earthquakes, mudslides, hurricanes or other disasters. They are able to search inaccessible crevices and gaps. Their work is difficult and dangerous.

**Water Search Dogs** use air scent to help locate bodies under water. The dog can locate rafts from the body that float to the water surface. They can work on the shore or from a boat on the water surface.

**Cadaver Search Dogs** are trained to locate bodies. They are able to locate bodies that have been buried a long time, often when only bones remain.

**Tracking Dogs** are primarily taught to follow the trail of a specific individual using the scent of disturbed earth and vegetation as well as rafts, and ignoring the scents of others, lead his handler to the lost person.

## Ouch!

Dogs do not always seem to be affected by pain as profoundly as people. This is partly because dogs cannot communicate their pain to us in words and evolutionarily it is safer for a dog to hide signs of pain; an injured dog can become the target of predators. A good rule of thumb is that a condition painful in people is also painful in dogs. Animals possess receptors in the brain that release endorphins in response to pain. Endorphins are the body's own pain relief medication. These probably evolved so that an animal could continue to function in spite of pain.

We can infer a dog is in acute pain if it vocalises or tries to escape from a

particular stimulus. Chronic pain is far more difficult to recognise. Changes may be so subtle that they go unrecognised even by the most observant owners. There may be the loss of normal behaviours or the appearance of new uncharacteristic behaviour. Some dogs in pain appear dull or depressed, while others appear tense and agitated. Painful animals often eat and groom less. Physiological indicators include increased blood pressure and increased levels of cortisol, a hormone excreted in response to stress.

The careful observation of behavioural changes remains the most useful method of recognition of pain in dogs.

## The Real Me

Recently I had the task of settling an elderly neighbour into care. Among his souvenirs I found a photograph of a handsome sailor in uniform. I had it framed and then displayed in a prominent position in his new bedroom.

Its arrival caused quite a stir. Everyone in the home looked at him in a fresh light.

"Was that really you?" one of the young carers asked.

"No," the old man told him. "That is me. That's how I still am—inside."



Information about Search and Rescue Dogs is at [www.dog-play.com/sar.html](http://www.dog-play.com/sar.html)

## Update

Sasha's Blend  
as featured in our  
Winter 2002 issue  
can be ordered at a  
very competitive price  
from this site  
[www.vetproductsdirect.com](http://www.vetproductsdirect.com)



A picture says  
a thousand words.

## Fernamber Golden Retrievers

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the Clever Companions*

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Scott Shields and Bear at the World Trade Center site. Photo by Melanie Stetson Freeman, Christian Science Monitor



*Dash and Dot say,  
to dogs and their humans,  
"We don't stop playing because  
we grow old, we grow old because  
we stop playing!"*

*Until next issue,*

*Cheryl and Clive,*

*and our Goldens, April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley*

## World Trade Center Heroes—Scott Shields and Bear

The day after the World Trade Center attack, a Golden Retriever was proudly walking through the site carrying his handler's helmet in his mouth. This brought smiles to even the grimmest of faces. That dog was Bear, an 11 year old Golden Retriever, one of around 300 search and rescue dogs who worked at ground zero after the terrorist attacks.

Shortly after the second World Trade Center tower was hit, Captain Scott Shields and Bear were on their way to the site. Shields always has his gear packed and ready and he arrived at the WTC disaster site in just 38 minutes. It is believed he and Bear were the first K9 team on the site.

Amid the confusion, Shields donned his equipment and readied his dog. The two climbed a huge mound of rubble three stories high and got down to business. "It was by far the worst disaster site we had ever worked," recalls Shields, "But you should have seen Bear up on those iron works, he was determined."

During the first few hours on Tuesday, organizing the rescue effort was the focus, Shields said. The New York Fire Department didn't have any trained rescue dogs, and within hours of Bear's arrival, the Golden Retriever had become a leader – locating many buried victims in the rubble including some survivors. Very few rescue dogs arrived on the scene until late

Tuesday afternoon. Initially a few firemen followed the two as they worked their way through the debris, but as the team's expertise became apparent, hundreds of New York's Bravest fell in line behind them.

Like so many others that day, Shields and Bear worked straight through the night and into the following morning. For the first eight hours Bear was the only search and rescue dog working the area beneath one of the towers' leaning facades. During those hours, Bear's sense of smell was critical. Though there is no record of how many "hits" - recoveries of human remains - Bear made, he had the most of any search and rescue dog, according to Shields. Every time Bear indicated a "yes," by rubbing the earth with his nose, "he was right," says Shields.

Their work at Ground Zero has earned Shields and Bear numerous awards and distinctions. "It seems that everyone in New York knows Bear," he laughs. "When we walk down the street, people call him by name."

But Bear is not the same dog he was before September 11. The long hours and hard work injured his back, causing random falls. "Bear won't work again," says Shields, "And I haven't been able to clear my mind of the ghastly images."

- excerpts from various news articles. For more details see <http://landofpuregold.com/beara.htm>