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Special points of interest:

- T Ch Fernamber Tradition CD named the Champion of Champions!
- Fernamber Rendezvous TDX awarded her Tracking Dog Excellent Title
- T Ch Fernamber Nymph CD awarded her Companion Dog Title
- T Ch Fernamber Tradition CD awarded his Companion Dog Title
- Fernamber Tambourine NRD awarded First Place in a Restricted Stake in Retrieving
- T Ch Goorambat Belle Starr awarded her Tracking Champion Title
- T Ch Goorambat Awatere CDX ET awarded his Endurance Test

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# Fernamber Off Lead

## Welcome to our Spring Issue

Along with the rest of the world I got my copy of the new book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* the week it was released and I started reading it straight away. Then I went along to see the new movie *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Both were great!

Clive discovered Harry Potter long before it was trendy and well before all the hype began. He recognised very early that these books were not just for kids! Sadly Harry's tale has ended, but there are still two more movies to look forward to!

The big news is from the Champion of Champions weekend held by the Tracking Club of Vic in July. At this competition dogs of all breeds that have already earned their Tracking Champion title compete to be named the Champion of Champions! This year the honour was awarded to Tully, T Ch Fernamber Tradition CD. Congratulations to both Tully and Kim on a fantastic effort!

The tracking season is all but over but clever Ashley, Fernamber Rendezvous TDX earned her Tracking Dog Excellent title in July after passing her Test 4 and



Tully and Kim—the Champion of Champions!

Test 5 tracks. A very big thank you to her handler Peter who did an excellent job keeping her on track!

These clever Golden Retrievers are new Tracking Champions! Congratulations to Avalon, Naala, Pip, Riley, Jem, Scout, Ben and Connor!

Kim also had success with her two Golden Retrievers in the obedience ring. In June Bella, T Ch Fernamber Nymph CD earned her Companion Dog title with two First in Ring awards and the Highest Scoring Dog in Trial at the Hastings Obedience trial.

Then Tully, T Ch Fernamber Tradition CD earned his Companion Dog Title and was awarded the Highest Scoring Golden Retriever in Trial at the DOGS Victoria trial.

In June Meg, Fernamber Tambourine NRD was awarded First Place in the Restricted Stake and then followed that with Second Place in Restricted in July. Congratulations Meg and Norma!

## Bee Stings

There are some human medications that you can give to your dog orally to help prevent or reduce swelling and inflammation after a sting.

Benadryl™ cough syrup has anti-histamine in it and can be given orally at a dose rate of approximately 1ml per 5 kg body weight. It is advisable to administer Benadryl with a syringe for accurate dosing.

Dramamine™ is another product available at pharmacies which is used in people to combat travel sickness. This product also contains an anti-histamine and comes in both liquid and tablet forms. Generally as a rule the dose is 2-4mg per kilogram of bodyweight:

Most antihistamines can cause drowsiness and you should be aware that treatment with oral anti-histamines alone will never be

completely effective at eliminating the symptoms of insect bites in dogs (ideally they should receive an injectable form given by your Vet). It is acceptable to trial home treatment of insect bites received to the face or muzzle using the above products.

However insect bites inside the mouth are more serious as they can cause swelling at the back of the throat which could cause subsequent obstruction of the trachea and impair breathing.

If your dog is experiencing difficulty breathing or seems distressed, it is vital that they receive **IMMEDIATE** veterinary attention.



Leave me alone!

## Sniffing Dogs Used for Endangered Species Research

In Washington, dogs are working as research assistants in projects involving endangered species and plants. Dogs are being trained to find unusual scents: faeces from bats, bears, lynx, turtles and whales. Packleader Dog Training in Washington specializes in this training in order to locate endangered species and plant life. Owner Barbara Davenport rescues dogs from the Humane Society and trains them to aid researchers in a variety of wildlife research. The dogs that are the best for training are high energy dogs, dogs that are difficult to place in homes because, she says, "...they are annoying to live with." But these dogs

make perfect sniffer and search dogs. For humans, tracking endangered species is like finding a needle in a haystack. The dogs can sniff out the needle (faeces) in short order and make better use of the limited funds that the researchers have. Chilko, a Belgian sheepdog, is helping researchers find a rare Western pond turtle. Chilko has become an expert at tracking these endangered turtles. Researchers working in the Atlantic Ocean are using dogs to find the faeces of a species of North Atlantic whale. They are hoping to discover why there are only 350 of them left on earth.

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*"Dogs are being trained to help researchers in a variety of wildlife research."*

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## How Many?

A farmer is wondering how many sheep he has in his field, so he asks his Border Collie to count them. The dog runs into the field, counts them, and then runs back to his master.

So," says the farmer. "How many sheep were there?"

"Forty," replies the dog.

"How can there be forty?" exclaims the farmer. "I only bought thirty-eight!"

"I know," says the dog. "But I rounded them up."



"That's near enough!"

## The Skin

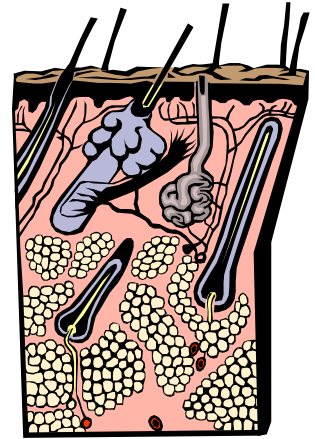
The skin is the largest organ in the body, with functions varying from protecting the inner tissues to heat regulation and fluid conservation. Skin is a multi-layered structure with epidermal (skin surface) cells produced in a layer just millimetres below the surface. As new cells are made, and old dead cells flake off, newly produced ones are moved gradually through the layers becoming harder and then dying so that the skin surface consists of hard dead cells that shield softer living cells beneath. Below the epidermis lies the dermis, a thicker layer which nourishes and supports the epidermis, anchors hair follicle roots and contains glands that produce oily secretions keeping the skin surface supple and waterproof. The epidermis has no blood supply and very slight grazes may just remove surface cells without causing

bleeding. The dermis however contains many blood vessels and wounds deep enough to damage this layer bleed readily.

Whenever the surface layer of the skin is broken, it loses its ability to keep out bacteria so infection becomes a possibility.

This is a problem in dogs where many of the wounds are caused by dirty objects such as stones, wire or other dog's teeth.

In the first four hours after a wound is sustained, thorough cleaning may eliminate any bacteria, but after that the wound is likely to become infected. Partial thickness wounds (those that don't expose deeper tissues) may merely need twice daily bathing with antiseptic to prevent infection until they heal, but deeper wounds commonly need treatment with antibiotics and may also require stitches.



Skin is the largest organ in the body

## Emily's Journey

APPLETON, Wisconsin. When Emily the cat went missing a month ago, her owners looked for their wandering pet at the local animal shelter. But this week they learned that Emily had sailed to France.

Lesley McElhiney figures her cat went prowling around a paper warehouse near home and ended up in a cargo container that went by ship across the Atlantic Ocean and was trucked to Nancy, a city in north eastern France.

Employees at a French lamination company found her in the container, checked her tags and called Emily's veterinarian back in the US, John Palarski.

"She probably had access to food and water," Palarski said. "I doubt if she went three weeks without."

Palarski faxed the cat's vaccination records to French authorities to help remove her from quarantine, but the family is now wondering exactly how they will retrieve their pet. Emily will need a health certificate from France to return home, and she will have to go through quarantine again on entering the United States.

"The only thing we can think of right now is buying a plane ticket," McElhiney said. "She's getting to be an expensive little thing."

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*"Emily sailed all the way to France."*

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## Toast

Making the perfect slice of toast is apparently not as easy as it seems. Far from it.

Scientists in England have spent three months and \$25,000 developing a formula for perfecting the humble brekkie favourite.

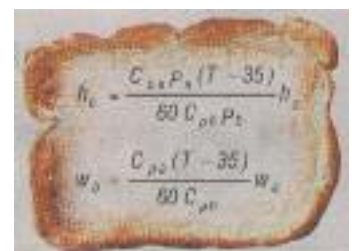
Researchers at the University of Leeds found that the perfect piece of toast needs to be heated to at least 120 degrees C and should have partly melted butter patches on it, improving its taste and texture.

For this to work, the butter should be applied at a fridge temperature of five degrees Celsius, the equation shows.

The formula was developed following research commissioned by the butter brand *Lurpack*.

They wanted to know how the properties of melting butter affected the toast.

The equation relates to the critical amount of butter, applied at fridge temperature, required to produce this effect.



**The toast formula:**

H represents thickness, Cp the specific heat, P density, T the initial temperature of the toast w the weight, and subscript a and b toast and butter

The Newsletter from  
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the Clever Companions*

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Sweet Dreams



*Dash and Dot say,*

*"The garbage collector is not  
stealing our stuff!"*

*Until next issue*

*Cheryl and Goldens,*

*April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley*

## Sweet Dreams

Changes in sleeping patterns affect our behaviour as well as our dogs. How well your dog sleeps has a direct effect on his behaviour and his ability to learn. Interestingly, when dogs do sleep, they do so in a manner remarkably similar to ours.

Dogs like humans, respond to changes in light and darkness as well as to our internal biological clocks. This cycle, our circadian rhythm, tells us when to sleep and when to wake. Dogs have circadian rhythms too, but they split their day between wakefulness and sleep. A dog that has nothing to do will often resort to sleeping to while away the time.

Initially scientists focused on the idea that sleep is a process of restoration and regeneration, but this proved an incomplete assessment. If this were so, then a dog who had run the equivalent of a marathon would require three or four times as much sleep as usual. Studies on people deprived of sleep for several days show that they usually only require an extra hour or two to recover. Certainly they do not need the 20-30 hours of sleep they have lost. By the same token, people or dogs that have spent the entire day dozing on the beach, still sleep at night.

Other scientists have suggested that sleep is a behaviour that evolved to keep an animal out of harm's way. Our ancestors would have hunted during the day when it was easier to see and could have learned to lie down in a safe place and not waste energy at night. Similarly nocturnal animals that are active at night spend most

of their day sleeping.

But species such as wolves that hunt both during the day and at night sleep whenever they can, including during periods when they have the option to be active.

During sleep, a dog passes through five phases: stages 1, 2, 3, 4, and REM (rapid eye movement) sleep. These stages progress in a cycle from stage 1 to REM sleep, then the cycle starts over again with stage 1.

Stage 1 is actually a transition between wakefulness and sleep as the dog becomes drowsy. It is the lightest form of sleep. In Stage 2 the brain uses electrical activity to ensure that the dog stays asleep. In Stage 3 the dog starts to sleep soundly (even snoring) and the body stops moving. Stage 4 is deep sleep.

After stage 4 the dog moves into the second type of sleep known as REM. Now a loss of muscle tone is accompanied with rapid movement of the eyes as they dart back and forth under closed eyelids. The heart rate goes up and down, breathing can be irregular and brain scans show the brain is more active. When people awaken during REM sleep, they often describe bizarre and illogical tales — dreams.

REM sleep also has an important effect on the learning centres of the brain. It is the time when the brain can take stock of the day's experiences, either consolidating the information it needs or flushing out unwanted useless things that would clutter up storage space.