

Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of the Fernamber Newsletter, Fernamber Off Lead.

We hope to make this a regular issue to inform you of new things, keep in touch with everyone and to let you know what our other puppies are doing.

Paddington and his brothers and sisters are one year old this month. They celebrated their first birthday on 26 February. Happy Birthday Paddington, Morgan, Charlie, Tully, Topaz, Meg, Teagan and Shamrock! We hope you all had a happy day and were able to share some birthday cake!

Ashley is now five months old and still as cute as a button. She is madly chewing all kinds of things trying to get those adult teeth through. Luckily Paddington is here to help her destroy things. So far we have only had cardboard boxes, plastic



Golden Retriever puppies are hard to resist!

containers and dog toys destroyed, although my sister's moccasins mysteriously disappeared from her bedroom and are now extinct! Culprit unknown!

We play the substitution game and quickly swap an

article that shouldn't be chewed for a dog toy. It works every time!

Ashley is continuing her obedience training, she really seems to enjoy it! She was asked to demonstrate exercises to the group in her first puppy class!

Reece from Swan Hill reports that Oakey (Ashley's brother) completed his very first water retrieve with fine style!

Meg (Paddington's sister) came first in her obedience class at a recent fun day, beating fourteen other hopefuls.

We love to hear about the Golden Retrievers we have bred. Thanks for keeping in touch!

Special points of interest:

- Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter Fernamber Off Lead
- Fernamber Golden Retrievers now have a website. Visit us at <http://fernamber.tripod.com>
- Our new email address is cgibson@myaccess.com.au

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Fernamber Golden Retriever Website

We are very pleased to announce that Fernamber Golden Retrievers are now on the web!

Cheryl has been working hard to put together our website and the site was transferred to the web on 4 February 2002. Fernamber Off Lead will be a regular addition to the website.

Our website address is <http://fernamber.tripod.com>.



We also have a new email address, cgibson@myaccess.com.au

Trimming Toenails

Unlike our toenails, dog's toenails have a nerve and a blood vein inside them. When the toenail is cut too short it causes pain and bleeding. The entire nail isn't sensitive, there is a live part and a dead section which is the part that can be safely trimmed.

The live area in light coloured toenails is easy to see. The section with the nerve and vein is pink and the dead part is white.

A lot of Golden Retrievers have black toenails, making it impossible to see where one area ends and the other begins. But there is another way to tell. By holding the foot with the pads facing up, you can see along the bottom side of the nail, a groove. It begins at the tip of the toenail, where its outline is very sharp, deep and distinct. The groove continues towards the toe becoming wider

and shallower until its outline blends in with the rest of the nail and seems to disappear. The part of the toenail with the deep distinct groove is the dead area. There is no nerve or blood vein in that section and you can safely cut it off without hurting your dog.

Accidents happen even to the most experienced nail trimmers and a cut nail can bleed heavily. A pinch of flour applied to the end of the nail will stop the bleeding, but a product like Kwik Stop which is designed for the purpose is more effective. If you cut a nail don't fuss. Offer an apology and a treat and continue with a different paw.



Trimming toenails can be tricky.

Heat Stroke

Heat stroke or Hyperthermia in dogs is an emergency situation requiring immediate attention.

Dogs do not have sweat glands like humans and can only disperse heat by panting and through the pads of their feet. A dog can easily become overheated if left in a parked car, left without shelter outdoors, or given excessive exercise in hot humid weather. A dog can endure body temperature increases for only a short time.

Prevention of heat stroke is always best.

- Never leave your dog in a parked car even on a moderately sunny day
- Always provide him with plenty of fresh drinking water
- Always ensure he has adequate shelter

- Do not exercise him in the hottest part of the day

Signs of heatstroke are excessive panting or difficulty breathing, a body temperature above 44 degrees (normal temperature is 38–39 degrees), collapse, bloody diarrhoea or vomit, depression, stupor, seizures or coma.

First aid required:

- Get your dog out of direct heat
- Hose the dog with cool (not cold) water
- Place water soaked towels on the head, neck, feet, chest and abdomen
- Point a fan in the dog's direction
- Take him to the nearest veterinarian immediately. Some problems may not show up for hours or days.

How to Tell the Weather

To tell the weather, go to your back door and look for the dog. If the dog is at the door and he is wet, it's probably raining.

If the dog is standing there really soaking wet, it's probably raining really hard. If the dog's fur looks like it has been rubbed the wrong way, it's probably windy. If the dog

has hail on his back, it's probably hailing.

Of course, to be able to tell the weather like this, you have to leave the dog outside all the time, especially if you expect bad weather.

Sincerely, THE CAT



I think it's snowing!

Heartworm Prevention

Fort Dodge Animal Health Australia has announced a breakthrough in the control of heartworm disease in dogs. Dog owners can now have their vet administer an injection that will last a full year.

One important feature of the new product is that it overcomes the current problem of poor compliance. It has been reported that of those dogs in Australia on a monthly heartworm preventative, fewer than 6 monthly treatments are administered in a 12 month period.

Another major benefit is its high level of safety. Australian trials have shown no injection site reactions and the product has been shown to be safe at 6 times the dose rate and safe in dogs that have an existing infection of heartworm.

The injection can be given to dogs after six months of age. Young dogs treated at six months are protected for 9 months. Dogs treated from 9 months are protected for a year.

The Proheart Injection means that dog owners no longer have to worry about daily or monthly dosing. Their vet can provide 12 months protection at the same time they receive their annual vaccinations. The good news is that the cost of the once a year injection is about the same as 12 months supply of the major monthly heartworm products.



A new heartworm injection is available from your vet

Clipping Your Dog

Should I have my dog clipped?

Some breeds, such as poodles and bichons, have to be clipped, as their hair just keeps growing and does not shed out. Other breeds, such as terriers, schnauzers and spaniels, are usually clipped to a smart and tidy style. Clipping a severely matted coat is kinder than putting a dog through the discomfort of having it groomed out. Otherwise, clipping a breed such as the Golden Retriever whose coat is usually left natural is not recommended as it often results in a thick bushy coat which is very prone to matting.

Will my dog be cooler if I have him clipped?

Not necessarily. How hot a dog gets in warm weather depends on how thick his undercoat is - not how long his hair is. Clipping the coat short does not reduce the thickness of the undercoat or remove dead hair and therefore will not make the dog any cooler. In fact you may make things worse - long hair may actually insulate a dog against heat and if you cut the coat off, you remove this insulation. The best way to keep your long haired dog cool is to ensure he is groomed regularly to remove excess undercoat.

“Long hair may actually insulate a dog against heat and if you cut the coat off, you remove this insulation”

www.mudpuppy.co.nz

How to Housetrain Your Puppy

Take a large newspaper with a bit of weight, such as the one of the weekend papers.

Roll this up into a cylinder and fix it with at least two rubber bands.

Place the newspaper in a handy position such as the kitchen bench, where it will be available for use when your puppy makes a mistake.

When your puppy makes a puddle on the carpet, rush to the rolled up newspaper and take it in your right hand.

Speed is of the essence to reinforce the lesson.

Raise the rolled up paper high above your head and swing it downward.....

Hit yourself on the head, three times, while exclaiming loudly,

“WHY wasn't I WATCHING the puppy!!!!”



A rolled up newspaper can have a surprising use!

Fernamber Golden Retrievers

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*Golden Retrievers are
the Clever Companions*

**Visit us at
[http://
fernamber.
tripod.com](http://fernamber.tripod.com)**



Dash and Dot say,

*"If it's too hot for you outside,
then it's too hot for us!"*

Until next issue,

Cheryl and Clive,

and our Golden Retrievers,

April, Teagan, Paddington and Ashley

A Moment in Time

Believe it or not, but 8.02 pm on February 20 this year was an historic moment in time.

It was not be marked by the chiming of any clocks or the ringing of bells, but at that precise time, on that specific date, something happened which has not occurred for 1,001 years and will never happen again.

As the clock ticked over from 8.01pm on Wednesday, February 20, time was, for sixty seconds only, read in perfect symmetry 2002, 2002, 2002, or to be more precise - 20:02, 20/02, 2002.

This historic event will never have the same poignancy as the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month which marks Armistice Day, but it is an event which has only ever happened once before, and is something which will never be repeated.

The last occasion that time read in such a symmetrical pattern was long before the days of the digital watch and the 24-hour clock - at 10.01am on January 10, 1001.

And because the clock only goes up to 23.59, it is something that will never happen again.



This moment in time is unique.