

Send us your email  
address for the next issue

Special points of interest:

- T Ch Fernamber Nymph CD's puppies are born on 24 October 2008
- Ferntip Golden Blaze UD turns fifteen
- Gr Ch Tulzean Autumn Tango is Best in Show at the Golden Retriever Club Championship Show

Inside this issue:

The Australian Kelpie Muster	2
The Kelpie	2
Surfing the Net	2
Grace—The Bionic Dog	3
No Parking	3
Amazing!	3
Cancer in Golden Retrievers	4

# Fernamber Off Lead

## Welcome to our Summer Issue

It seems we are looking ahead to a long hot dry summer...

There was great excitement at the Houlden household when Bella, T Ch Fernamber Nymph CD gave birth to her litter of puppies. Bella has six new babies, two girls and four boys.

There have been a few Goldies on the 'Get Well' list and we wish them good health and a speedy recovery! Best wishes to Tom, Joshua and Missie!

A grand old gentleman, Joshua, Ferntip Golden Blaze UD turned fifteen years old in September.

Congratulations to Jane and Grand Ch Tulzean Autumn Tango who was awarded Best of Breed at this year's Royal Melbourne Show and followed that by winning Best in Show at the Golden Retriever Club Championship show.

Some very good friends have been lost to



Gr Ch Tulzean Autumn Tango—Best in Show

us recently. Farewell to our faithful companions, Fergus, Richa and Basil. We are all thinking of Barb and Kirra, and Trish, Tony and Finn who are missing their mates.

In October, we set a date for the great Christmas Photo Shoot! Every year we get all our Golden Retrievers together for a group Christmas photo! It is a day not without frustration—try getting a Golden Retriever to smile and say "cheese"!

Out here in the wilds of Plenty, the council has decided to seal our little country dirt road. So perhaps there will no longer be a dusty brown car in the carport (even though it is actually blue!) It certainly has been a change to have large vehicles and heavy machinery working outside on the road all day. Poor Paddington has had a hard time letting me know that there were strangers around. He did his very best to try and make them go away! He is a good boy—he tries very hard to look after his Mum!

Christmas will soon be with us—we hope you get all your organisation done with a minimum of fuss and we wish you good health, safe journeys and the very best of the festive season!



Knowing how it could change the lives of canines everywhere, the dog scientists struggled diligently to understand the Doorknob Principle.

## The Australian Kelpie Muster

CASTERTON was host to the annual Australian Kelpie Muster over the last June long weekend. With thousands attending the two day event, it is clear that this event is high on the priority list for dog owners and breeders nation wide.

The Working Dog Auction, held on the Sunday left the crowds in disbelief as auction prices skyrocketed, with the average price of the Kelpies sold hitting \$2485. As the auction wound up, it was clear that the national record price for a Kelpie bought at Auction would soon be history. With a total of 65 Kelpies sold, Top Dog "Red" did his bit to help fight the blues hounding rural Australians. At just 11 months old Red broke national working dog auction records when he was knocked down by local auctioneer James Tierney for \$7400. The proceeds will go directly to

beyondblue: the depression initiative to help promote health services in rural Australia. Red was donated for the auction by renowned breeder Paul Macphail, Beloka Kelpies whose client Jackie Merchant, from Tasmania, trained the pup. Her dad, Dennis Merchant from NSW was the winning bidder. Mr Merchant promptly donated "Red" back to his previous owners, a truly humbling gesture. The quality of the working dogs brought in buyers from all over Australia and proves this is by far Australia's premier Working Dog Auction. The 2006 record of \$5600 was trumped five times this year. The Casterton Kelpie Association, essentially a not for profit organization is vital to the Casterton community. The Muster weekend raised over \$30,000 for local charities.



Auction Top Price Dog "Red"

[www.kelpie-casterton.org](http://www.kelpie-casterton.org)

## The Kelpie

Back in the 1870s a Scottish grazier called George Robertson mated two Scottish collies. A black and tan bitch, which resulted from that coupling, so impressed a young stockman by the name of Jack Gleeson that he offered to buy her. Robertson refused to sell and instead gave the pup to his nephew. Undeterred, Gleeson, in the dead of night on the Glenelg River offered his horse in exchange for Robertson's nephew's pup. Gleeson called her "Kelpie" - in his native Scottish, meaning "a malignant water spirit haunting the fords in streams in the shape of a horse".

In the Ardlethen area of New South Wales he mated her with two other Scottish collies, "Moss" and "Caesar" and so the breed now known as the kelpie was born. Nancy Withers of Pomanda Working Kelpie Stud said Gleeson had an eye for the new breed's potential. "Jack Gleeson was only very young, only in his 20s when he got Kelpie but he was already known as an excellent stockman and horseman and he really did appreciate good stock," she said. "So once he saw this strain of working dog, obviously he thought they were very high quality and he wanted one," she said.

## Surfing the Net

A man was telling his friend about how his cat could surf the net.

His friend was amazed. "He's a darn smart cat isn't he!"

The man replied "Not really. It took the dog six months to teach him!"



This is cool!

*"Kelpie" - a malignant water spirit haunting the fords in streams in the shape of a horse.*

## Grace—The Bionic Dog

August 2007

Grace the bearded collie's future looked to be going down the plughole when arthritis left her unable to walk. But she is back on her paws again after becoming the first dog in Britain to have a knee replacement - paid for with the £5,000 her owners had saved up for a new bathroom. So eager were Julie and John Parker to ease seven year old Grace's pain, they didn't think twice about showering the cash on their beloved pet's veterinary bills.

A team of vets opened up the knee in her rear left leg, removed damaged cartilage and inserted a metal and plastic prosthetic joint during the three hour operation. The state of the art canine treatment was introduced 18 months ago in the US but had never been performed in the UK .

The Parkers drove 222 miles from their

home to bring Grace to the clinic where the operation was performed. The vets' practice is one of only three in Britain registered to carry out the delicate operation and its staff underwent specialist training in the US. Orthopaedic veterinary surgeon Toby Gemmill, who helped to operate on Grace, said: "These techniques are extremely new and this sort of surgery has only been carried out 14 times in total. The problem Grace had before was that she had worn a lot of the cartilage between the femur and tibia away so it was bone rubbing against bone. Now, there is a metal against plastic articulation which will remove the pain and help her move more freely." Today, as Grace gingerly took her first steps with her new joint, Mrs Parker said: "Grace is more important to us than some new tiles and a shower."



Grace

## No Parking

A council has apologised to a woman who was fined £60 after workmen painted a disabled bay around her car. When Shirley Hatcher, 67, parked her car in North Road, Southampton, Hampshire, there were no parking restrictions in place.

Mrs Hatcher, of Priory Road, said: "I had just gone to the hairdressers and when I returned there was this disabled bay and the £60 fine.

I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it. My car was covered in polka dots from the paint they had used. I was fuming, absolutely fuming, all I could think was

what sort of idiot did this. I saw the funny side of it the next day - you couldn't make it up."

A spokeswoman for Southampton City Council has apologised for the error and said that the authority would cover the costs of repairs to her car.

She added: "Occasionally things go wrong no matter how hard we try to get things right. We were in error, as was our painting contractor, and we're very sorry. We are doing everything we can to put it right, and to examine our processes to prevent anything like this happening again."

## Amazing!

I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid.

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervti sy, it deosn't mtttaer in what oredr the ltteers in a word are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is that the first and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm.

Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?



What!

---

*Check out the  
Best Friend's Dog Shop!  
[www.thedogshop.com.au](http://www.thedogshop.com.au)*

*A great place to buy  
all sorts of cool doggy  
paraphernalia.*

---

The Newsletter from  
Fernamber Golden Retrievers

Cheryl Gibson  
Corrimela  
1 Namatjira Ave  
Plenty Vic 3090

Phone: (03) 9435 7848  
Email: cgibson@fernamber.com



*Golden Retrievers are  
the Clever Companions*

See our previous issues at  
[www.fernamber.com/page9.html](http://www.fernamber.com/page9.html)

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



It is estimated that cancer needs 5 to 6  
(and probably more) meaningful  
mutations for cancer to gain a foothold.



*Dash and Dot say,*

*"Pet dogs jump the fence...  
Obedience dogs demonstrate  
problem solving intelligence."*

*We wish everyone a very happy  
festive season  
and the very best for 2009,*

*Cheryl and Goldens,*  


## Cancer in Golden Retrievers

Rhonda Hovan

Cancer is a very real concern for the Golden Retriever because of the breed's high incidence of cancer. Unfortunately cancer is a fact of life, the longer we live, the higher the risk of cancer. Cancer affects essentially all animals and any animal that has lived beyond his normal reproductive life is at increased risk of developing cancer.

Cancer is not one disease, but many diseases that share the same characteristics. Cancers contain cells that don't stop multiplying when they are supposed to and don't die when they are supposed to. Cancers are identified by their cell of origin. A lymphoma is a cancer of the lymph system. An osteosarcoma is a cancer of bone cells. Hemangiosarcoma is a cancer that occurs in endothelial cells. Endothelial cells line blood vessels. Hemangiosarcoma tumours form in all types of vascular organs, the spleen, liver, heart and lungs – and sometimes in the brain and skin. This is the most common form of cancer in Golden Retrievers.

Errors or mutations in genes lead to cancers. Every time a cell copies itself there is an opportunity for a mistake to be made. Most mistakes are harmless and very few cancers are the result of a single mutation. It is estimated that cancer needs 5 to 6 (and probably more) meaningful mutations for cancer to gain a foothold. Neither inheritance or environment exposures alone cause cancer, but both contribute. Inherited mutations can give a puppy the predisposition to develop cancer, but this is not inevitable.

Cancer can develop when a cell gains immortality or somehow gets a survival advantage over other cells. Additional

mutations allow these cells to out-compete other cells and a tumour is formed. Further mutations lead to metastasis and disease.

A leading theory to explain the breed wide elevated incidence of cancer is that the original foundation dogs in the breed carried genes predisposed to cancer. Another theory is that because the Golden Retriever breed has an increased risk for several immune related diseases including allergies and hypothyroidism, he is more susceptible to cancer. A compromised immune system is significant because the immune system plays an important role in recognising and eliminating abnormal cells.

Although the exact mechanisms haven't been identified, it is thought that the everyday process of oxidation of food produces free radicals and that these free radicals cause damage to DNA and inflammation. Because cells are more susceptible to damage when they are dividing rapidly (during growth), overfeeding at the earliest stages of puppy hood has the greatest potential for harm.

Fortunately we do have choices that may significantly reduce our dog's cancer risk. Puppies that are raised to follow a very slow growth curve have a reduced risk of cancer. Lean and fit adults are also less susceptible. Dietary supplements may improve the cancer risk profile. Fresh cruciferous vegetables such as cauliflower, broccoli, brussels sprouts and cabbage, daily addition of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids and selenium and vitamin E act as antiinflammatories and antioxidants.

Reduce exposure to known carcinogens such as asbestos, second hand smoke, pesticides and radiation.