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Special points of interest:

- Fernamber Tradition TD awarded his Tracking Dog Title.
- Fernamber Tradition TD awarded a Track 3 and a Track 4 pass.
- Fernamber Tambourine awarded First Place in Encouragement
- Fernamber Talisman CD awarded a qualifying score in Open

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Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Winter Issue

We both attended the inaugural Golden Retriever Club Tracking Trial in May to see what happens at a tracking event.

We were able to see dogs tracking and Cheryl watched while Tully, Fernamber Tradition gained a Track 2 pass graded 'Good' and his Tracking Dog title! Well done Kim and Tully!

Clive was enlisted as a tracklayer and ended up walking many kilometres that day by the time he laid two tracks and followed several others.

Kim and Tully have since gained two more tracking passes, a Track 3 graded 'Good' and a Track 4 pass graded 'Very Good'. These passes count towards Tully's Tracking Dog Excellent title. What a clever team!

Also in May, we entered the Golden Retriever Club's Open Show. April was



Teagan and her family
Paddington, Teagan, Teagan and Shamrock

awarded Best Open in Show after winning her class, with Teagan in second place. Ashley didn't get a placing but handled herself very well considering she had very little show training and had never been in a show ring.

Clive was invited to do some

practice tracks with Paddington which they both really enjoyed. Clive may now have caught the tracking bug!

In July we spent a lot of time organising the Golden Retriever Club Gundog Obedience Trial. At this trial, Meg, Fernamber Tambourine was awarded First Place in the Encouragement class. Well done Meg and Norma!

Paddington was awarded a qualifying score in Open class and Second Place at Geelong's Obedience Trial. Clive was one very happy handler!

Fernamber Website News

A new section has been added to the Fernamber website dealing with problem canine behaviour.

Living with Puppy Behaviour includes sections on;

- Chewing
- Digging
- Jumping up

- Biting and Mouthing

Take a look at www.fernamber.com

Hints and Tips: A smear of Vicks Vaborub will protect your microspray sprinkler system from your inquisitive Golden. It tastes and smells terrible and won't wash away in the first downpour. It does need to be reapplied but your Golden will soon lose interest in the microsprays.

Kennel Cough (Tracheobronchitis)

Tracheobronchitis is an inflammation of the trachea (windpipe) and bronchi (the upper airways in the lungs). There are many different viruses and bacteria which cause tracheobronchitis. Viruses are the more common cause.

Dogs are infected by coming into contact with other infected dogs. Some infected dogs show no symptoms. The disease is highly contagious and can be contracted by exposure to an area where an infected dog has recently coughed. Immunity amongst dogs varies.

The predominant sign of the disease is a dry, hacking cough in an otherwise healthy dog. The coughing usually occurs in short bursts often followed by gagging and the expectoration of mucus/froth. Many people think there is something stuck at the back of the throat. Excitement, exercise and

pulling on the lead often induces coughing. Intermittent coughing can persist for two weeks with little other effect on the dog. These dogs generally do not require any treatment. Human cough suppressants are safe to use but are of limited value. In a small percentage of dogs, the disease can be a lot more severe. There may be a fever, loss of appetite and lethargy. These dogs require antibiotics and other care.

At present it is only possible to vaccinate against two of the organisms that cause kennel cough: **Parainfluenza virus** and the bacterium **Bordetella bronchiseptica**.

The standard **C5 vaccine** includes Parainfluenza and Bordetella. A dog that receives a **C5 vaccine** is as protected from kennel cough as is possible. A **C3 vaccine** does not include any protection against kennel cough.



A vaccine is available for only two of the causes of Kennel Cough.

Grooming Your Golden Retriever

Grooming your Golden Retriever is important to keep his skin and coat in top condition.

The dead hair in the coat of an ungroomed dog prevents air getting to his skin, provides a breeding ground for fleas and lice, encourages infection and skin diseases and traps debris such as grass seeds, thorns and twigs. A long coated breed can become immobilised by matts between his toes and armpits.

Grooming removes dead hair, stimulates strong healthy hair growth, a shiny coat and healthy skin. It also greatly reduces

the amount of hair inside your house.

A daily grooming session is a good idea for your new puppy. This gets him used to standing still while being brushed and combed. It also teaches him to stand quietly while he is being handled.

Later a weekly session will keep your Golden Retriever's coat in good condition. In the weekly session check for matts that can develop in the finer hair behind the ears, between the toes and under armpits. Matts should be cut out with scissors.

A good quality pin brush with rounded points will not damage your dog's skin.

"A daily grooming session ensures your new puppy gets used to being brushed and handled."

The Digging Pit

There are many reasons that your dog digs. It is a natural canine activity. A dog digs to provide a warming pit or a cooling hollow, or to find insects, bulbs or roots. He may be digging to escape, digging out of boredom or just plain digging for fun. Of course a favourite pastime is burying a bone and then digging it up again.

The problem is that you and your dog have different ideas about an appropriate place to dig. The solution is to choose a spot and make this a place where he can dig as much as he likes.

Praise and reward your puppy when he digs in this special place. This place becomes his digging pit. Encourage him to dig here and only here by making it the most interesting place to dig. Keep it well stocked with all kinds of goodies - stashes of dry food, training treats, chew toys, tennis balls, squeaky toys and marrow bones.

Once your puppy discovers the treasure trove his digging pit is, he won't want to dig anywhere else and digging here will keep him entertained and occupied for hours.



A Digging Pit will keep your dog occupied for hours.

Sasha's Blend

Sasha's Blend is a nutritional supplement that can help dogs with sore and stiff joints arising from arthritis, joint injury, surgery or general wear and tear. Dogs participating in high performance activities may also benefit.

Glycosaminoglycans are a component of connective tissue and act as a natural joint lubricant. Arthritis, ageing, gastric and skin complaints are directly associated with changes of glycosaminosaccharide content in tissue.

Glycosaminoglycans have a role in maintaining the viscosity of various body fluids that act as a buffer cushion and help ease the movement of joints. As dogs age, the amount of glycosaminoglycans produced decreases, which can result in

stiff joints, pain and discomfort.

Sasha's Blend is high in proteins and complex sugars containing glycosaminoglycans. These are responsible for the lubrication and anti-inflammatory effects of Sasha's Blend.

High concentrations of glycosaminoglycans suppress the symptoms of arthritis and joint pain. Sasha's Blend also contains vitamins and nutrients which generate an improvement in your dog's overall condition.

Sasha's Blend is available through veterinary clinics.

The Sasha's Blend website can be found at www.sashasblend.com.au



Sasha's Blend is a nutritional supplement for dogs.

Scent Games

The canine nose is perhaps a million times more sensitive than the human nose. A dog can detect the presence of a friend, locate a dead body, find a bomb or a parcel of drugs and distinguish between objects bearing the scent of a particular person.

The dog's nasal cavity is rich with blood vessels and nerve endings that connect to a highly developed olfactory centre in the dog's brain. This allows him to decipher a vast amount of information from minute particles of scent.

Games using scent are great fun for dogs and their owners. Begin training by placing

an object in plain sight and telling your dog to "Find!" As the dog understands, move the object further away. The goal is to be able to hide it completely under lounge cushions, inside a shoe in the wardrobe or under a chair and send the dog to find it. Another game is to place a dog biscuit under one of three upturned garden pots and tell your dog to "Find!"

A dog can learn to find his lead, find his owner or find the toy he left in the backyard. Dog owners interested in more than fun games at home may be interested in teaching their dog to track.

"The canine nose is perhaps a million times more sensitive than the human nose."

Seeing is Believing

On a flight from Seattle to San Francisco a plane unexpectedly stopped in Sacramento along the way. The flight attendant announced that there would be a delay and if passengers wanted to get off the aircraft, the plane would re-board in 30 minutes.

Everybody got off the plane except one gentleman who was blind. The man's seeing eye dog had lain quietly underneath the seats in front of him throughout the flight.

The pilot approached the blind man, calling him by name. "Keith, we're in Sacramento

for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?" The blind gentleman replied, "No thanks, but maybe my dog would like to stretch his."

There was a stunned silence when the disembarked passengers looked up and saw the pilot, wearing sunglasses, leaving the plane with the seeing eye dog.

People scattered. They not only tried to change planes but they tried to change airlines!

Things are not always as they seem!



An uneventful flight.

Fernamber Golden Retrievers

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the Clever Companions*

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fernamber.
com](http://www.fernamber.com)**



The Martingale Collar
An excellent training collar for a
Golden Retriever.



Dash and Dot say,

*"Ten minutes spent each day with
your dog either training or in a
game will build a strong bond and
make your dog a happy one!"*

Until next issue,

Cheryl and Clive,

and our Goldens, April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley

Training Collars

The most common type of collar used for training is a chain correction collar, but there are many other alternatives. The correction collar relies on punishment to control the dog. Jerking or pulling on the collar results in an uncomfortable tightening around the dog's neck that makes him stop his current activity.

There are alternatives to this method of training. Techniques using correction and punishment can be successfully replaced by methods using positive reinforcement - praise and rewards.

A correction collar made in flat nylon webbing still provides a correction but is much gentler.

The Martingale Collar is a type of limited correction collar. The collar lies flat like a buckle collar or with a leash will constrict to the size of the dog's throat and if adjusted correctly will not continue to tighten. The design also means that a dog will not slip out of his collar.

The Limited Correction Collar is nylon with rings like a correction collar, but one ring is sewn in so it only travels a few inches.

This type of collar cannot tighten any smaller than the dog's throat.

The Head Collar (also known as a Halti or Gentle Leader) fits on a dog's head with the lead attaching under the muzzle. This allows you to guide the dog by controlling his head. Dogs need an adjustment period to get used to this collar because it feels strange on their face. Some dogs never adjust to this type of collar. As with all training collars it is important to use this collar correctly. The head collar should be used short term to correct a specific problem.

Dogs can also be trained with a simple buckle collar. Flat buckle collars can be made of leather or nylon. Leather collars have a belt type buckle while nylon collars have a clip fastener which is easy to attach and remove. There is no correction with these collars.

A Martingale Collar is an excellent choice for a Golden Retriever providing control especially of a young dog but without harsh correction.

All these collars are permitted in obedience classes.

*More information about collars can be found at
www.dogscouts.com/collars.shtml and
www.blackdog.net.au*