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Special points of interest:

- Clive was invited to judge the dog obedience section at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
- Our dogs are finally home again after their great escape. Our new fence has been completed.
- Fernamber has moved to a new web host. No more pop up ads! Check us out at www.fernamber.com

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Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Winter Issue

Our new fence was finally completed in April and our two errant Golden Retrievers April and Paddington are home at last. After surviving more than three months with only two of our Golden Retrievers we spent three weeks without any at all—a big shock to the system.

Cheryl is slowly learning to walk again after her accident. She progressed from two elbow crutches to one and now is using a walking stick. One gentleman at physiotherapy summed it up perfectly when he said "I learned to walk 80 years ago and now I have to start all over again!"

In April we travelled to Sydney where Clive had been invited to Judge the obedience section of the Sydney Royal Easter Show. We had an enjoyable few days in the harbour city.

Travelling with a crutch was a new experience. The crutch had to be scanned on the security belt and travel in an overhead locker. Luckily Cheryl could by this stage take at least one step so that she could get through the security scanner. On our return flight Cheryl caught the people mover from Gate 11 and was glad she did when the driver informed her that it is half a kilometre from that gate to the escalator!

In May we had a weekend in Mildura where Clive judged the Murray Valley obedience



Open Dog placegetters
Sydney Royal Easter Show

trials. We had an excellent weekend and enjoyed the hospitality of the club.

The following weekend was spent at Wangaratta where Clive judged and our brother-in-law David, stewarded. There was a second infamous trip to the Brown Brothers winery at Milawa.

Happy Birthday to Sacha's puppies, Shona, Shilo, Monty, Chester, Shaq and Fletcher who were nine years old on 1 April 2003.

Our condolences to Pia and Noel and Golden Teaka who recently lost their German Shepherd Kobi unexpectedly.

The Sydney Royal Easter Show

Clive was invited to judge the dog obedience section at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and we spent a wonderful two days there and met many NSW triallers.

The standard of work shown by the competing dogs and their handlers was excellent with some fine work displayed by Border Collies, Golden Retrievers and German Shepherds to name just a few.

In Sydney the dogs have to qualify to enter the Royal. Only the best 15 dogs and

bitches are selected for entry to each class.

This year was the first year that a Novice class was held at the Royal and the standard of work in this class was also very good.



Where's Ralph?

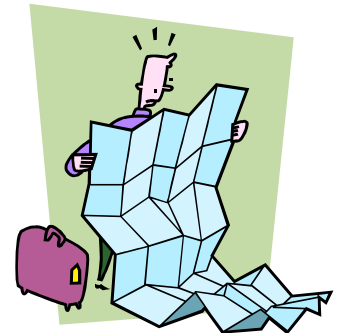
The 'Find Ralph' game teaches the principles of scenting a human to your dog. First associate the name with the person it belongs to. With two people in the room ask your dog to find 'Ralph'. Have 'Ralph' call the dog and give him a treat. When he associates going to the target person with getting a treat, make it more difficult. Have 'Ralph' hide in another room and send your dog to find him and reward him with a treat. Treats must stop coming from the target person, or you risk teaching the dog to "find the person with the treats."

Move outdoors, and have your 'victim' hide close by. Let your dog watch the person disappear into the search area. The dog should cast about trying to catch scent rafts floating on the breeze. When he finds your person, reward him and make the next

'find' a little more difficult. Turn him in a circle before he goes after the person (so he loses the last point of sight). Next have the dog's back turned while the person hides. Eventually, have the dog completely out of the area when the person hides.

This game is not difficult to teach. At an instructor's training camp my roommate demonstrated how she could send her Golden Retriever Tess to 'find Lonnie' from our cabin to the main lodge, while there was a social going on. Tess worked her way through the room and past all of the food, to find me amongst hundreds of other people. This behaviour was developed over just a few days of occasional practice.

A cute 'parlour trick', but behaviour that could be eminently useful.



Where has Ralph gone?
www.dogscouts.com

Why Dogs Bark

Dogs bark to say that there is something strange happening and to be alert. In the wild barking tells the puppies to hide and calls the adults for action. The barking signals that something is happening. Once the new arrival has been identified, either a greeting takes place or an attack.

A fearless dog that is intent on attacking is silent. He doesn't waste time barking and sounding the alarm. He rushes over and bites. A dog that wants to flee will also be silent as he runs away.

A more common occurrence is when a dog is not quite sure. He is feeling some fear while he thinks about attacking. This dog

will snarl and retract his lips to reveal his teeth. The urge to attack is still strong so this is not a dog to be trifled with.

If the dog is more fearful, he will alternate barking with growling. If fear gains the upper hand the growling will be replaced by loud barking until the threatening situation goes away or reinforcements arrive.

Apparently barking was improved during the process of domestication of the dog. Wolves bark, but not as loudly as dogs—although they can learn to bark loudly if they live around domestic dogs. It seems likely that humans bred the louder puppies to create better guard dogs.

Get Well Soon!

Best wishes to Ann who had an unfortunate altercation with a dog resulting in a serious injury to her arm.

And our best wishes to Norma for a speedy recovery after her surgery.

Brain Teaser: Four Hats

Four men are buried up to their necks in the ground. They cannot move and can only look forward. Between A and B is a brick wall which cannot be seen through.

The men know that between them there are four hats—two black and two white, but they do not know which colour hat they are wearing.

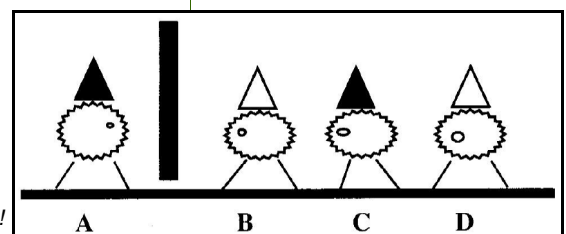
Before they can be set free, one of them must call out the colour of their hat. If the answer is wrong they will all remain imprisoned. The men are not allowed to talk to each other and have ten minutes to

work out the answer.

After one minute, which one of them calls out? And why is he 100% certain of the colour of his hat?

There are no outside influences or other ways of communicating. The men cannot move and are buried in a straight line. So A and B can only see their respective side of the brick wall, C can see B, and D can see B and C.

Answer in this issue - no cheating!



Microchip Adverse Reactions

The British Small Animal Veterinary Association administers the Microchip Adverse Reaction Reporting Scheme. The scheme independently records all adverse reactions associated with microchips including migration, loss from the body, infection or failure to work.

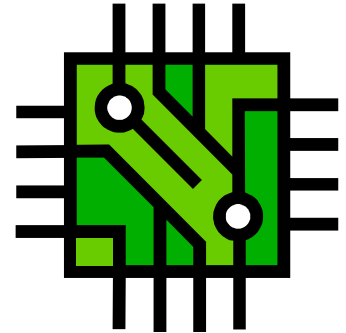
In the first two years of the scheme a total of 61 reports were received; 49 from the UK and the remainder from Europe. The total number of dogs and cats registered on the UK Petlog database was 973,588.

The time taken for a reaction to develop varied from immediate (loss of the chip) to three years, with most reactions occurring within the first 12 months. Fifty-six dogs and three cats had reactions. Interestingly, 46 of the dogs were pedigreed animals with 'active' breeds over-represented. Causes of the adverse reactions were as follows

(where specified): abscess-3; failure-4; loss-1; migration-47. The most common sites for migration were the shoulder, elbow and sternum.

This report confirms the BSAVA's position that microchipping represents a safe and reliable method of pet identification. There appears to be some variability between brands with some more prone to migration.

To minimize the risk of an adverse reaction, it is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions and implant the microchip deep into the skin between the shoulder blades. In Europe, the site used is the left side of the neck. In this study the site of implantation could not be analysed as a risk factor for migration. The study also did not evaluate if microchips implanted by veterinary surgeons are more or less likely to migrate.



A study on adverse reactions to microchips reported only 61 instances

Puppy PreSchool

You have to give a new puppy the opportunity to learn to 'talk dog' by allowing him to socialise with other puppies and adult dogs. Puppy preschool classes supply fantastic learning opportunities for a new puppy.

Puppy preschools, normally held at veterinary surgeries, provide your puppy with a safe supervised environment to socialise with other dogs and people before his vaccination program is completed. Puppy preschool classes are becoming increasingly popular as people recognise the benefits of the classes. Puppies can attend puppy preschool classes from eight

weeks of age. They are the perfect place for puppies to learn about other dogs. Young puppies think that all dogs look like their mum and littermates, but dogs come in a greater variety of shapes and sizes than any other species in the world. Your puppy needs to learn that even though they may all look different the fundamentals of dog body language are the same. A play bow or a submissive roll over means the same to a German Shepherd as it does to a Fox Terrier.

Learning to read and communicate these messages will help your dog to play and interact peacefully with other dogs.

"Puppy PreSchool classes are becoming increasingly popular as people recognise the benefits"

The Cross Eyed Rottweiler

A man took his Rottweiler to the vet.

"My dog is cross-eyed." the man said, "Is there anything you can do for him? "

"Well," said the vet, "let's have a look."

He picked the dog up and examined his eyes, and then checked his teeth.

Finally, he said, "I'm going to have to put him down."

"What? Because he's cross-eyed? "

"No, because he's really heavy"



A quick health check

The Newsletter from
Fernamber Golden Retrievers

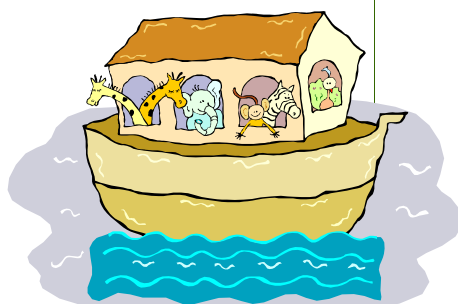
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All the animals went into the ark
two-by-two



Dash and Dot say,
"Never totally eliminate the
rewards you give your dog.
After all, you wouldn't work for
nothing—why should he?"

Until next issue,
Cheryl and Clive,
and our Goldens, April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley

Noah's Dog

When a man named Noah started building a boat out in the middle of the desert, everybody laughed. They thought he was crazy. But Noah wasn't listening to them, he was listening to the God of the Hebrews, who said to build a boat. So Noah built a boat. Noah called his boat an ark.

When he finished it, he rounded up all the animals, two-by-two to travel on his ark. People laughed at Noah's possums and panthers and penguins. They laughed at his cheetahs and chinchillas, giraffes and gazelles and rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses. Into the ark they went, two-by-two. Pretty soon, it started to rain.

It rained and it poured and it rained some more. People stopped laughing and the ark started floating. Noah and his family and all the animals two-by-two, rode safely on the waters. They sailed for 40 days and 40 nights. When the rains stopped, out of the ark came Noah and his family and all the animals two-by-two. All except one.

No one could find the little dog. Noah searched everywhere. He looked on the first deck. He looked on the second deck. Then the third deck. Finally, in the farthest corner of the lowest deck he found the little dog.

The dog was shivering and standing

with his nose pressed hard against the side of the boat. "Come here little dog" called Noah. "It's time to come out. Here doggie, doggie!" The little dog wouldn't move. Noah gently pulled him away. "What's this?" said Noah. "A hole in the ark. The ark could have sunk! Little dog, you kept us safe - my family and all of the animals, two-by-two, with your little nose"

The little dog was proud. But most of all he was hungry. "Little dog" said Noah, as he pulled out a juicy bone, "So all the world and all the generations will know your great deed, your nose will always be cold and wet, just as it is today."

And that is how the dog got his cold wet nose. The next time you feel your dog's nose, remember the little dog who used his nose to protect Noah, his family and all of the animals, two-by-two.



Brain Teaser Answer

C is the one who calls out that his hat is black. C reasoned that because D can see both C and B, he would have called out if both hats were white. Therefore because C can see that B's hat is white then his hat must be black!