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Special points of interest:

- T Ch Fernamber Talisman featured in Dogs Life
- T Ch Fernamber Talisman awarded Tracking Dog of the Year by the Golden Retriever club
- Fernamber Off Lead is three years old
- Goorambat Awatere awarded two qualifying scores and two first in ring

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# Fernamber Off Lead

## Welcome to our Autumn Issue

Well, we can only say—better late than never! This issue is sorely overdue.

In February, our house was inundated with water in the Melbourne storms and we have been moving furniture and packing and unpacking all our worldly goods ever since, so that the carpet could be replaced. Things here have been a bit disorganised.

On 20 December, Ashley had her puppies, but not without a bit of drama. In the end she needed a caesarian in the middle of the night.

But she had five healthy puppies who proceeded to keep us busy for the next eight weeks.

The puppies have now all settled in to their new homes. Lizzie is with Paul and Sue and their family in Thornbury; Missie flew all the way to Tamworth to be with Vickie and Darren; Murphy lives with Kylie and Jeff in Caroline Springs; Floyd is with Simon and Fiona in Ashburton and Beau has a new family in Melton, Gary, Gayle, Adam, Kasey and Nicole.

Paddington is a star! The latest issue of Dogs Life featured an article on tracking which included his photo and information about the Tracking Dog of the Year! He was referred to as this year's star tracker!



Ashley's puppies. Lizzie, Missie, Floyd, Murphy and Beau.

As well as being awarded Tracking Dog of the Year by the Tracking Club of Victoria, Paddington also earned an award from the Golden Retriever Club for their Tracking Dog of the Year! Clever lad!

Congratulations to David and Daniel, Goorambat Awatere, who earned two qualifying scores in Novice and two First Places in ring at his first two trials. Also to Liz and Charlie (German Shorthaired Pointer) who earned their Jumping Dog title and a qualifying score in Novice.

Happy Birthday to Paris, Bailey, Harvey, Cosmo, Jackson, Rupert and Goldberg who were five years old on 13 January. Also to Paddington, Charlie, Morgan, Tully, Topaz, Teagan, Shamrock and Meg who turned four years old on 26 February. And congratulations to Shilo, Shona, Monty, Fletcher, Chester and Shaq who are 11 years old on 1 April.

And congratulations to Fernamber Off Lead which is three years old this issue!



Our Lounge Room—Do Not Enter!



The Spare Room—Cannot Enter!

## Assistance Dogs

A hearing dog responds to important sounds such as fire alarm or smoke alarm, telephone ringing, door knock or bell, baby crying, a person's name being called or household appliances. The dog goes back and forth to the sound until his deaf or hard of hearing human partner follows him to the source of the sound.

A service dog retrieves and moves for a person who has a physical disability or uses a wheelchair. The dog goes for help, picks up things that drop, retrieves from high shelves, turns on light switches, pulls the wheelchair and carries essentials.

A specialty dog does many of the same tasks for a person who has multiple disabilities, such as deafness and physical disabilities, and needs more specialised help. Services can be trained as needed.

A social dog works for children and adults who cannot assume total responsibility for a working dog but can benefit from the therapeutic value of a dog. They are trained for residential settings such as nursing homes, halfway houses and psychotherapy centres. They have all the advanced skills of a service dog.

A service dog for the classroom is an innovative teaching tool used by social workers, therapists and special needs teachers working with children with physical, emotional and developmental disabilities. The dogs help them teach basic concepts like "up," "under," "down." Children with histories of abuse often need a catalyst to prompt disclosure. An assistance dog, non-judgemental and unconditionally loving, provides the help necessary to identify children in crisis.



There are many different types of assistance dogs. Many are shelter rescues.

## The Puppy Party

On Saturday 4 December 2004 a group of 30 dogs and their owners gathered at Duffy's Picnic area at Cardinia Park to celebrate two birthdays!

Teagan's eight puppies were about to turn one year old on 10 December and Chantelle's six puppies would be one year old on 5 December. A good cause for a celebration!

Each dog received a party pack of doggie goodies and there was birthday cake for all! Teagan, Montana, Harry and Wally the Beagle were our lucky prize winners and took home a new toy!

We all enjoyed a bar-b-que lunch and a chance to relax. Everyone had a great time and there was much food and drink consumed. The dogs enjoyed their doggy goodies together with samples from the bar-b-que.

Cameras worked overtime capturing the event. And everyone participated in the Great Group Photo!

What a handsome bunch!

## The Puppy Party Guests!



"One year old today..."

## Motor Vehicle Accidents

Any dog can be hit by a car at any time. If an animal has been hit by a car take things slowly and logically.

First, try and move the dog off the road. Assess what damage has been done and attempt to fix things in this order

- Check breathing – apply mouth to mouth if not breathing:
- Check heart beat – apply heart massage if not beating:
- If there is a hole in the chest, cover with fingers or bandage or whatever you can find, otherwise the animal will not be able to physically breath:
- Stop any bleeding. Use fingers first then a pressure bandage:

- Splint any broken bones. A magazine and a tie or panty hose will do
- transport by carrying animal in the centre of blanket.

Sometimes the animal will be in distress so be careful when approaching or you may be attacked. You may even have to muzzle your dog because even a friendly dog that is crazed with pain can inflict nasty wounds.

The animal will probably be in shock so get him to a vet immediately. Even if there are no visible problems take him to a vet anyway because there can be delayed problems 1-2 days after the accident



After a motor vehicle accident, apply first aid, then take your dog to a vet immediately.

## The New Geriatrics

At one time, a dog's life expectancy was the same as the wolf's, typically about seven or eight years. Some individuals lived longer and the potential life expectancy was greater still, but the vagaries of life meant that few individuals lived longer than the average age.

Our care and attention to dogs changed that. Today many dogs reach their potential of 13 to 18 years of age. Some even live longer. But with advancing years come changes in the nature of disease.

A wider range of age related disorders are now being diagnosed in dogs than before—

wear and tear, metabolic disorders, diseases that result from slow, steady accumulations of damage, such as cancers and heart disease. Senile dementia, akin in many ways to Alzheimer's disease in people, now occurs in dogs.

Geriatric medicine is a new field in veterinary medicine, new, at least in part because of the successes of disease control, owner responsibility, and good nourishment.

*Dr Bruce Fogle—Natural Dog Care*

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*“The vagaries of life meant few individuals lived longer than the average age.”*

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## Lassie

"What is it, Lassie?"

Oh! A boy fell down a mine shaft and broke his ankle and is diabetic and needs his insulin?

Is THAT what you're trying to tell me?"



"What did you think I said?"

## First Aid for Your Dog

In any emergency it is imperative that you act quickly, rationally and competently. In any emergency there are three basic rules:

- **DO NOT** become the second accident. Too many people rush into a situation before sizing it up and often get hurt themselves.
- **DO NOT PANIC.** If any emergency treatment is to be successful you must be cool, calm and collected.
- Treat the most serious injury first, immobilizing a broken leg will have little effect if an animal is bleeding profusely. In order of importance, get the animal breathing, get its heart beating, stop any bleeding, THEN treat anything else.

### Bleeding

Any blood loss from a wound must be stopped. This is not a time to be squeamish because loss of blood can cause shock and death. If you have no other way to stop bleeding, then finger pressure on the area will suffice. Simply place your hand onto the area that is bleeding and press hard. If you have access to a handkerchief then place that on the bleeding area and apply pressure by tying it in place with a tie or panty hose. Tourniquets are no longer recommended for stopping bleeding because they can do long term damage to a limb.

### Broken Bones

These often look worse than what they actually are. However, quick first aid can stop a problem from complicating and could even save a limb. All fractures should be stabilized with a splint. You can quickly make a splint with a piece of wood or stick. In a real emergency a rolled up magazine will suffice and you can tie it in place with a tie or panty hose. Once the fracture is stabilized, transport the animal on a blanket, using it like a stretcher.

### Heart Massage

Heart massage can be life saving. You must act quickly though, after 2 - 4 minutes of heart stoppage there will be permanent brain damage. Place the animal on its side on a firm flat surface. Place the base of the palm on your right hand on the lower front third of the chest. Lean over the dog and place your other hand on top of your right hand. Apply downward pressure at the rate of one pump every 3-4 seconds. It may also be necessary to apply mouth to mouth resuscitation. If after ten minutes you have no success you should stop because the chances of getting a natural heartbeat are next to nothing.

### Mouth to mouth

If your dog is not breathing, unless you do something it will die. Remember you can catch more germs from kissing a person than you can from a dog.

Place your dog on its side and kneel over it. Place your mouth entirely over its nose and mouth and breath into it until the chest rises a bit. Then allow the animal to exhale itself. Do this gently about 5 times and see if the animal breathes for itself. It may also require heart massage, and if it does then 3 breaths followed by 10 pumps constantly is the correct combination. If your patient doesn't start breathing after 10 minutes of this he is unlikely to.

### Shock

Shock can kill easily. It does not mean an animal is scared. It is in fact a medical state where there is not enough blood going to vital organs like the brain. It can occur due to blood loss, severe diarrhoea or vomiting, burns (due to loss of fluids), poisoning and motor vehicle accidents.

An animal will pant or have shallow rapid breathing and will appear cool to touch. Pulse is rapid and weak and pupils are dilated. Generally the animal is unaware of its surroundings and may not be able to stand up.

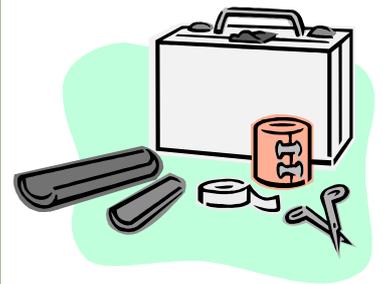
A good judge of the severity of shock is obtained by touching the gums with your fingers until the area of the gums is white, time how long it takes to appear pink again. This is called capillary refill time. If the capillary refill time is 1-2 seconds it is normal. The longer it takes the more serious the shock is – over 10 seconds and it is a very major problem. In severe cases the gums may not even be pink but look white instead.

Fluid replacement is essential and is the main treatment of shock. If mild shock is present then offer milk or water to the animal at the same time reassures your dog by speaking in a quiet voice. If possible, put the animal somewhere quiet and away from external stimuli.

Keep the dog warm by wrapping it in a blanket. NEVER apply direct heat like a heating pad, radiator or heat lamp. A dog in severe shock should go to a vet as quickly as possible.

Always reassure your dog. Be prepared to leave him with your vet who will probably put him on an intravenous drip.

Always remember time is of the essence when it comes to treating shock.



In any emergency it is imperative that you act quickly, rationally and competently.



After any serious injury, veterinary attention should follow emergency first aid.

## Canine Hair

Canine hair is made of the protein keratin and dead epidermal cells and it grows from follicles in the inner layer of the skin. Some hairs are densely packed into fibrous outgrowths that become fingernails and toenails. Animals depending on their coat for temperature regulation often have several hairs per follicle. Each follicle has an oil or sebaceous gland to keep skin and hair smooth and elastic. Breeds developed to work in water have a high oil content in their coat so that water runs off the guard hairs and does not penetrate to the skin. Hair also protects the dog from injury to his feet, eyes and ears.

Dogs have three types of hair; soft downy undercoat; stiffer guard hairs forming a layer to protect the undercoat and skin from harsh weather and cold water; and whiskers, specialised sensory hairs.

Dog hair grows in cycles. When it reaches a certain length it stops growing, then dies and that's when the hair sheds. Shedding appears to be seasonal, but is actually governed by photoperiod or day length. Dogs that live outside usually shed heavily as the days lengthen, but those living mostly indoors seem to shed all year. Loss of the winter undercoat helps the dog stay cooler in warm weather, a necessity for an animal whose only sweat glands are in the pads of his paws. Female dogs often drop their coats after a heat cycle or whelping.

In winter, muscles in the skin allow a dog to fluff his coat up, trapping a layer of air warmed by his body between the skin and the environment. Thus shielded, he can curl up in a ball, tuck legs under his body, cover his nose with his tail, and sleep outside in below zero temperatures.



Dog hair is marvelously efficient at insulation.

## Correction Collars

Correction collars are not altogether harmless and must be used with caution.

Corrections on a choke chain have a garrotting effect on the neck of the dog that causes bruising to the skin and underlying tissue and nerves. You don't see it because the dog has hair!

Bruising is the seeping of blood into the tissue of the muscle causing swelling and pain (bruising) and scar tissue can be formed - scar tissue has no feeling - so more pressure must be applied to achieve the same result.

The blood leaking into the tissue cannot

escape because of the "sheath" that encloses every muscle, so the additional fluid causes a pressure build up within the muscle itself. It can put pressure on the nerves. There are 16 major nerves in the dog's neck serving the dog's face, legs, heart, lungs and liver. Pressure build up can compromise these nerves!

Pressure on the carotid artery in the dog's neck can cut off the blood supply to the brain - resulting in anything from brain damage to death. The windpipe is made of thin "u" shaped cartilage rings (like a vacuum cleaner cord) easily crushed by constriction.

*"Correction collars need to be used with caution."*

## The Creation Story (as told by the dog)

On the first day of creation, God created the dog.

On the second day, God created man to serve the dog.

On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth to serve as potential food for the dog.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labour for the good of the dog.

On the fifth day, God created the tennis ball so that the dog might or might not retrieve it.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the dog healthy and the man broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest ..... but He had to walk the dog.



On the first day, God created the dog

## The Newsletter from Fernamber Golden Retrievers

Cheryl and Clive 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)

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Robbie



*Dash and Dot's Life Rules,*

*"The cat is not a squeaky toy; so  
when I play with him and he  
makes that noise, it's usually not  
a good thing."*

*Until next issue,*

*Cheryl and Clive,*

*and our Goldens, April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley*

## Robbie's Rescue

In February 2004 the Basset Hound Club received a phone call about a Basset Hound seen living under the old wharf not far from busy Footscray Road just opposite the Telstra Dome. A Basset living under these conditions with no food or water, on his own, close to busy traffic is a terrifying thought for any dog owner.

Rescuers immediately went to the Docklands. There lying amidst bags of rubbish was a very undernourished red and white Basset Hound. He was sleeping in the sun (his rescuers thought at first that he was dead) but when they approached, he shot into a hole under the wharf. After blocking other escape routes, a rescuer climbed into the hole and the Basset ran out—straight into the noose waiting for him. Once in the car he settled down and breathed a sigh of relief as if to say 'At last they've come and got me.'

How long he had been living in the hole we do not know, local workmen reported seeing him there well before Christmas. He was pitifully thin and the sand had got into his eyes and ulcerated them. He probably survived only on rubbish, food scraps and dead seagulls. He smelt like nothing describable. He was taken home for a hot bath, a warm bed and plenty of good food. His eyes also needed urgent veterinary attention.

After some exhaustive detective work, it was discovered that the Basset's name was Robert.

The wharf and hole where Robbie had been living were in a heavy construction zone, but across the road from the wharf is a park area with trees and water gardens. A group of workmen spoke of a brown dog with long ears who looked like he was blind who had been living under the old wharf for many months. They would see him wandering around the park every morning and then again around 4:00pm when they would throw him the remains of their lunch. Otherwise he ate whatever he could find.

The workmen said he appeared to be waiting for someone because he always lay on the ground looking towards the road, but he always ran back to the hole if anyone approached. They were pleased to hear he had been rescued and was at last enjoying some TLC and a warm bed.

This is the most dramatic rescue the club has had. Had Robbie not been rescued he probably would have died, either starved or run over on the road. Robbie is now happily living with a family on a farm in South Australia and has adjusted very well to his new life.

The club discovered that Robbie was first sighted at Docklands in March 2003 and had been living rough for over 11 months.

The last piece of Robbie's puzzle has also fallen into place. He was not dumped or unwanted, in fact he was a very much loved companion. Tragic circumstances led him to being left where we found him. This dear boy was patiently waiting for someone who could never return.