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Special points of interest:

- April and Crystal were ten years old on 19 January 2006
- Fernamber Edynn TDX had a litter of eight puppies on 14 February 2006
- Krikka Rockey Road CD earns his first Open pass

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Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Autumn Issue

Welcome to another new year!

In December, Ashley and her litter of puppies got together to celebrate their first birthday! Happy Birthday Missie, Floyd, Murphy, Lizzie and Beau! It was a rainy day, but the Golden Retrievers didn't seem to mind!

At Croydon's Obedience Trial Charlie, the German Shorthaired Pointer, Krikka Rockey Road CD, earned his first Open pass towards his CDX title. Two more passes to go Liz!

On the 19 January 2006, April and Crystal were ten years old, so all the family, including four legged relatives, got together to celebrate! It seems like only yesterday that they were little baby puppies. A lot has happened since then—both these girls have their CDX titles and they each have a whole new generation of kids and grandkids.

On a sad note, April and Crystal's father, Nicky, Ch Goldog Alpine Nicholas, left us for Rainbow Bridge in November. He was 14 years old and left behind a legacy of many other beautiful sons and daughters.

Zulu the Flat Coated Retriever is doing well

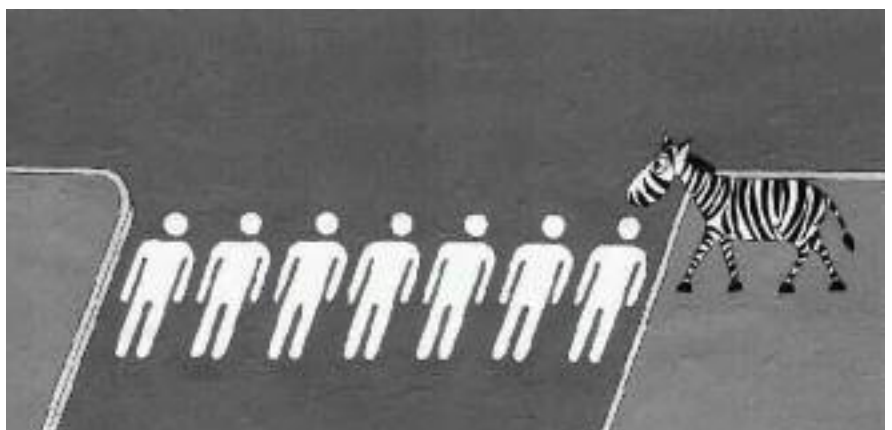


Happy Birthday April and Crystal!

in NSW. She has settled in to her new home with Colleen and John and is happily making herself indispensable!

Teagan's daughter Edynn, Fernamber Edynn TDX had a litter of eight puppies, six girls and two boys on the 14 February 2006. Congratulations Lynn and Mark and Rory, the proud father!

Tracking season will soon be here and we will be out tracking in the cold and wet. (Hard to believe when it is still so hot!). We will also be around the obedience rings when the weather gets a bit cooler.



Bosworth the Therapy Dog

Several of my hounds have been therapy dogs. I'd hate to tell you the number of times I've clouded up during our visits, but I can also look back on many sometimes happy, sometimes sad, and often incredible stories of my therapy visits.

One that comes to mind is about the teenage girl, Karen, who had been in an automobile accident and had been only semi-conscious for two years when I first took Bosworth to visit with her. The only part of her that moved occasionally was her eyes, but most of the time her expression was a blank stare.

We put Bosworth up on the bed with her and he snuggled close. That's all we did for about ten minutes. On the next visit, a week later, we did the same thing. This became a regular routine. One of the nurses took a picture of Boz with Karen

and it was kept in a little frame by her bedside. Once when I arrived her parents were there. As usual we put Bosworth on the bed. Karen smiled ever so slightly and then, very slowly but distinctly, said one word, "dog". As I was leaving the mother came to me with tears in her eyes and said, "I never thought I'd ever hear my daughter's beautiful voice again."

A few weeks later, when I went down to the dogs' room in the morning I found Bosworth dead. He had died of cardiac failure at four and a half years. It was our regular night to go to the nursing home and I dreaded going without him. When I got there I immediately told the nurse on duty about Bosworth. Very softly and quietly, with wide eyes, she told me that Karen, too, had died in her sleep during the night.

James Ryan



Therapy dogs help others.
www.therapyanimals.org/ita

Consult Your Vet

- If your dog has a cut that requires stitching, take him to the vet as soon as possible—the more quickly it can be done, the more likely it is that the wound will heal cleanly and successfully. If you aren't sure if this needs doing contact your vet for advice.
- If your dog has been injured in a fight with a cat or another dog, be aware that although puncture wounds from teeth or claws appear quite small and insignificant, they can cause problems. They may be much deeper than they look and can often heal too quickly on

the surface, leaving infection trapped beneath. Take your dog to the vet as a course of antibiotics is advisable.

In addition also consult your vet if

- You are in any doubt as to the severity of the injury.
- You are unsure of your ability to deal with it.
- The cut begins to look inflamed and sore around the edges and the surrounding area is hot to your touch during healing.

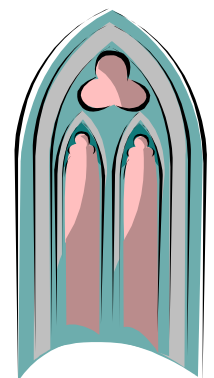
*“Consult your vet
 if you are in
 any doubt
 as to the severity
 of the injury”*

Doorway to Heaven

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said,

"Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"



How to get in?

Canine Teeth

Dogs have two sets of teeth in their lives. The 28 baby teeth erupt between the third and sixth week. Puppies do not have to grind much food, so they have no molars. Puppy teeth begin to be replaced by adult teeth at about four months of age.

Most adult dogs have 42 teeth, with the molars coming last, at about seven months. The order of tooth replacement is incisors, then canines and finally premolars.

The teething period can be frustrating; as the puppy chews everything to relieve the discomfort. Teething can cause irritability, and fluctuations in appetite.

Your dog has six incisors on the upper jaw and six on the lower. He uses the incisors to nibble shreds of meat from bones and to groom himself and other dogs.

Canine teeth are the scary ones. They

conjure up pictures of ferocious wild creatures. Wolves use their fangs to grab and rip their prey; dogs use them to hold objects in their mouths and for defence.

Four premolars line each side of the upper and lower jaws in back of the canines.

These are the shearing teeth, used to rip great hunks of flesh from prey. Dogs still eat in the manner of wolves, by grabbing meat with the premolars and ripping it off the bone.

Dogs use their premolars to chew on rawhides, bones and chew toys. They hold the toy between their paws and grab it with these strong pointed teeth by tilting their jaws to the side. The top jaw has two molars on each side, and the bottom jaw has three. These are the crushing teeth, used by wolves to crack bones and by dogs to finish off a large biscuit.



Dogs use their premolars to chew on bones

The Pape Dog Show

The first dog show ever was organised in 1859 on 28-29th June and was held in the Corn Market, Newcastle upon Tyne, England.

It was organised by the gunsmith William Rochester Pape, who was the great grandfather of the late Pat Pape of Abbotsford Golden Retrievers and John Shorthouse, a brewer's agent.

No bitches were exhibited and only dogs were admitted to the precincts of the show.

The engaging of the judges, printing of the schedules, taking of entries and

supervising of the show was all done by Mr Pape.

There were only two classes—Class 1 Pointers and Class 2 Setters. Each class had the prize of a best quality Pape gun worth 15 guineas.

The UK Kennel Club was not inaugurated until 1873 and the Stud Book containing all that was known of authenticated pedigrees was dated back to the 1859 Pape Show.

Play Time

Play times with your dog are just as important as his exercise and training sessions. This is a great opportunity for you and your dog to spend some quality time together.

These fun sessions can take place while you are out on a walk or in your garden. You can use a special toy to signal to your dog that it's time to play.

An Animal Emergency Centre has opened in the Main Terminal Building at Essendon Airport. Open all night, weekends and public holidays.

Phone 9379 0700

www.animalemergency.com.au



Play time is fun!

The Newsletter from
Fernamber Golden Retrievers

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*Golden Retrievers are
the Clever Companions*

See our previous issues at
www.fernamber.com/page9.html

**Visit us at
www.fernamber.com**



A Target Stick! What Fun!



Dash and Dot's dictionary:

"WASTEBASKET: This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes, and old lolly wrappers. If you get bored, turn over the basket and scatter the paper all over the house."

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

Targeting

Targeting is a very useful and easy skill to teach your dog. The easiest thing to teach your dog to 'target' is your hand. You want to get your dog to touch your hand with his nose whenever you present it in a certain way – such as a fist rather than a normal open hand.

To start, put a treat in your hand and close it to form a fist. Standing just in front of your dog, drop your fist down a few inches from his nose. It is highly likely that your dog will reach forward and sniff.

Immediately praise and give your dog the treat. Repeat, this time with your fist a little further away, so your dog must move a little to reach out and 'touch' the target – again, *reward immediately*. Your hand dropping in and out of his vision is likely to attract him, as too the smell of the treat, so if he hasn't noticed your hand, don't just leave it dangling – remove it and try again. If your timing is good and your treats are tasty, your dog will soon be moving several feet to touch his nose to your fist.

The next step is to remove the treat from your hand and repeat, keeping the rest of your gestures exactly the same. If your dog touches your fist – *reward immediately* from the other hand. This way your dog is learning that even though he may not be able to smell a treat in your fist, he will still get a reward for reaching out and touching.

When your dog is reliably touching your

hand every time it is presented, you can add your 'cue word' – 'Touch'. You can make this exercise harder by holding your hand up high so that he has to jump for it, or down low so he has to crawl under a coffee table or chair. Swap hands making sure your dog is happy to move toward either hand.

Now you have an invisible lead or lure which you can direct your dog toward you wherever you are. Targeting is the most common method of training and handling performing animals such as seals, dolphins and other animal actors. Once your dog understands the principles of targeting, you can extend his repertoire to lots of other desired behaviours.

Close the Door Please!

Put a post-it-note or similar on your fist and get your dog to 'touch' as before, making certain the dog touches right on the post-it-note. Now move the post-it-note onto a cupboard door and encourage your dog to 'touch'. Quite quickly your dog should transfer his touch from your hand to the cupboard door. Now open the door and ask your dog to 'touch' again. At first reward any attempts to put nose to door, then slowly reward only stronger pushes – soon your dog will be shutting cupboard doors around the home more reliably than the kids!