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Special points of interest:

- T Ch Fernamber Talisman CDX named Champion of Champions at the Tracking Club Champions event
- T Ch Fernamber Nymph awarded her Tracking Champion Title
- Fernamber Nymph TDX awarded her Tracking Dog Excellent Title

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Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Spring Issue

Welcome to Spring with some wild weather already!

What a magnificent tribute to Clive in June. More than 300 dogs of every breed and their handlers formed a guard of honour as the funeral procession passed. A touching and special occasion.

April, Teagan, Paddington, Ashley and Cheryl are slowly adjusting to our new life without Clive...

Congratulations to Kim and Bella, T Ch Fernamber Nymph who is now a Tracking Champion! Bella qualified for her TDX title with three excellent grades and earned her Test 6 in difficult conditions at Mildura. Well done to you both—another Fernamber Champion!

Congratulations also to Pia and Harley, the German Shepherd on earning his Companion Dog title and to Liz and Charlie, the German Shorthaired Pointer who also earned their Companion Dog title. Congratulations to you both on a fine effort.

In August, Paddington competed at the Tracking Club of Victoria's Champion of Champions event at Shepparton, with the help of his very able handler, Dawn.

Not only did we have a great weekend with tracking friends, Paddington was named the Champion of Champions in very close competition. What an honour!

And Cheryl won one of the great raffle prizes on offer—a lovely pair of grooming scissors, as well as the prize for guessing the winning dog and his score. Must have been the 'lucky' tracking cap!



A magnificent tribute—the guard of honour



Champion of Champions—Smiles all round!

Black Spots

Goldens are genetically a red/yellow dog due to the influence of the "extension yellow" gene. Goldens are all homozygous for the recessive e gene which prevents the formation of black or brown (liver) pigment in the hair.

Occasionally a puppy can be born with a black spot. The black spot consists of a limited and clearly defined area of black hair anywhere on the body. It may be as small as three or four black hairs, or extend to a large splotch of solid black or black tipped (sable) hair. It is caused by a random somatic mutation and is not genetic in nature.

At some stage in the development of the puppy before birth, a body cell mutated from the recessive ee to the dominant E. Then, all cells that develop from that cell

during the growth of the fetus will carry the formula for E and this allows black pigment in the hair. Sometimes there are multiple areas of black forming almost a mosaic effect.

However, puppies born with these black markings are quite likely to be completely normal in all other respects, and in all likelihood will not produce similarly marked offspring.



This young dog has several large splotches of black but is otherwise of normal Golden colouration.

Eye Trauma

As a general rule, all eye problems should be seen by a vet as soon as possible. The eye is a very delicate structure and sight can be lost quite easily with delays in treatment.

Never put anything into your dog's eye which you wouldn't put in your own eye. Do not use medications prescribed for other animals or humans. These could be harmful.

The most common emergency eye problems are trauma (such as being hit in the eye with a tennis ball), foreign bodies (especially grass seeds) and eye

prolapses.

There is little you can do in terms of first aid for trauma or foreign bodies. You should have your dog checked by a veterinary surgeon as soon as possible.

Eye prolapse is a problem that occurs most commonly in dogs with short noses and big eyes such as a Pekingese. It can occur if the dog is hit by a car or involved in a dog fight. It is vital to keep the eye moist. Saline is ideal but tap water is better than nothing. Be careful putting liquid into a prolapsed eye as this is extremely painful. Take your dog to a vet immediately.

"The eye is a very delicate structure and sight can be lost quite easily with delays in treatment."

Howling

Many breeds and some individual dogs have a propensity to howl, a sound that is considered music to the ears of a houndsman or the wolf fancier but not so cool by suburbanites and city dwellers.

Some of these howlers need a trigger, a siren to accompany or another dog to start the chorus, but some need no encouragement to throw back their heads and send a mournful song to the full moon, to the strains of a violin, or to some unseen, unheard spirit.

Wolves howl to bring the pack together before a hunt and to seek contact with other pack members.

Even though they do not gather to hunt, some dogs may howl to connect with another being. At times, however, dogs seem to howl out of sheer joy.



Wolves howl to seek contact with other pack members.

Central Nervous System Modulators

The primary products in this category are Fipronil (**Frontline**[®], **Frontline Plus**[®]), Imidacloprid (**Advantage**[®]) and Selamectin (**Revolution**[®]).

Frontline[®] and **Advantage**[®] work on the flea's (adult and larvae stages) central nervous system, but in slightly different manners.

Frontline[®] affects the movement of chloride ions across sensitive nerve cells, essentially paralyzing these nerves.

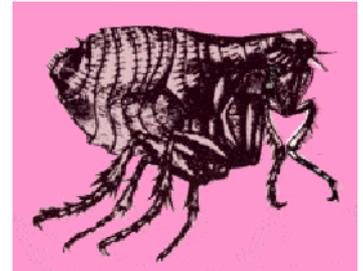
Advantage[®] interferes with the functionality of specific neurotransmitter receptors. By interfering with the signals between nerve cells and the essential functions they perform, the effect of either product is death of the adult flea.

Frontline Plus[®] also contains an insect growth regular to prevent development of

eggs into adult fleas. These products are selectively toxic to fleas.

These products are applied topically to skin (not to fur) and spread via natural oils to all areas of the body, remaining in the sebaceous glands and hair follicles. It is not absorbed into the blood. **Frontline**[®] remains in these glands for up to three months and is also toxic to ticks for up to one month after application.

Revolution[®] affects chloride ion movement across nerve and muscle cells of invertebrates, resulting in paralysis. It is applied similarly to the other two products but is absorbed systemically and is parasitocidal to a variety of parasites. It also inhibits the development of heartworm larvae. It also inhibits development of the flea egg into adult fleas.



Adult Flea
Ctenocephalides felis

Organophosphates

These insecticides affect fleas (and other ectoparasites) via preventing the natural degradation of the neurotransmitter (*acetylcholine*) at neural junctions (*synapses*). The result is persistent neurotransmitter-mediated neural stimulation, resulting in hyperactivity, respiratory paralysis (due to muscle exhaustion), convulsions and death. Unfortunately, the same mechanism of activity can also result in toxicity and death to animals. Since these insecticides can be absorbed through the skin under certain circumstances, they are potentially dangerous, especially in certain breeds of

dogs (e.g. Whippet and Greyhounds) and to cats. In addition to the neurological mechanism of toxicity, excessive exposure to organophosphates in cats can lead to fatal, necrotizing pancreatitis.

Example of Organophosphates used in flea products applied to animals (or to flea collars) OR as area/premises treatments include *Chlorpyrifos*, *Coumaphos*, *Cythioate*, *Diazinon*, *Dichlorvos*, *Dioxathion*, *Malathion*

“Organophosphates can be absorbed through the skin and are potentially dangerous.”

Insect Development Inhibitor

Lufenuron (**Program**[®], **Sentinel**[®]) inhibits the formation of chitin, the external skeleton of fleas. It does NOT kill the adult fleas, and the exact mechanisms of inhibition are not known (the manufacturer has not explained these). Adult female fleas ingest the product during a blood meal; the flea's eggs are then rendered sterile, they cannot develop into other stages.

The product is given orally (pill or liquid) monthly. It is considered very safe for puppies and kittens 6 weeks or older.



What is this itch!

	Fleas Adult <i>Ctenocephalides felis</i>	Fleas Immature <i>b</i> <i>Ctenocephalides felis</i>	Heartworm <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i>	Roundworm Adult <i>Toxocara Canis</i>	Hookworm Adult <i>Ancylostoma caninum</i>	Hookworm Immature <i>Ancylostoma caninum</i>	Whipworm <i>Trichuris vulpis</i>	Tapeworm	Sarcoptic Mange Mite <i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i>	Ear Mites <i>Otodectes cynotis</i>	Lice	Paralysis Tick <i>Ixodes holocyclus</i>	Adult Brown Dog Tick <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i>	Active Constituent	Waterproof
Advantage (Bayer)	•	•												Imidacloprid	•
Advocate (Bayer)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•			Imidacloprid Moxidectin	•
Frontline Plus (Merial)	•	•										•	•	Fipronil Methoprene	
Frontline Top Spot (Merial)	•											• Paralysis Ticks are not killed immediately	•	Fipronil	After 48 hours
Program (Novartis)														Lufenuron	Not applicable given internally
Revolution (Pfizer)	•	•	•						•	•	•			Selamectin	After 2 hours
Sentinel Spectrum (Novartis)		•	•	•	•		•	•						Lufenuron Praziquantel	Not applicable given internally

This chart shows some popular flea and worming medications, and the parasites they treat.

Different medications work in different ways and you should always be aware of how the medication works and the parasites that the medication controls.

The Immune System

All mammals, including the dog have similar defence mechanisms against disease. All of the body's pathogen defence mechanisms make up the Immune System. A pathogen is any agent such as a virus or bacteria that can harm the individual. Every minute of every day all individuals are being silently attacked by pathogens from the air, food, water, and our own intestinal tracts. The true miracle is that any of us survive at all!

Mucosal Immunity takes place in the mucous lining of the respiratory, urinary, and digestive tracts. This barrier to disease often is the first line of defence against viruses and bacteria and uses an antibody which binds up invaders and prevents entrance into the body.

Cell-Mediated Immunity individual body cells learn through past experience what

foreign invaders look like. Cells recognise invaders and mount a response by manufacturing immune proteins. Natural exposure and vaccines which "look like" a natural pathogen can induce the cell to remember what the foreign invaders look like. A healthy cell is then prepared to fend off future attacks. Every cell in the body has the ability to recognize an invader, but for the most part, specialised white blood cells play a major role.

Humoral Immunity works from the body's fluid sources, the blood and lymph. If the body has an encounter with a pathogen, it makes antibodies to circulate in body fluids. These molecules disable invaders and prevent them from doing harm.

It is far safer for the body to learn to recognise an invader from a fake invader than to risk learning from an actual attack.



The Immune System fights pathogens

The Importance of Exercise

Routine exercise is therapeutic for a dog's mind and its body. It enhances well-being and strengthens the immune system.

The benefits of routine and appropriate exercise have been thoroughly researched and evidence in its favour is overwhelming. Exercise increases circulation, improves heart and lung function, strengthens muscles, keeps joints mobile, reduces the risk of diabetes, maintains natural weight, improves immune function and encourages sound sleep.

Routine exercise increase the body's ability to produce energy effectively and helps feed the brain with oxygen, maintaining

mental alertness. Brain cells die if the brain does not receive sufficient amounts of oxygen and glucose. Some researchers believe that exercise requiring coordination and mental agility such as hide-and-seek, generate more connections between brain cells.

Exercise is nature's antidepressant. During exercise, body temperature rises and endorphins, the body's natural opiates are released. Sustained exercise also burns the waste products that accumulate during stressful inactive periods.

"Routine exercise is therapeutic for a dog's mind and body."

That Doggone Driver!

A driver jumped from his car to confront another motorist who had crashed into him, only to find a dog at the wheel.

The crash happened in the car park of a shopping town in an eastern German town.

Police were called and officers determined the dog had let off the handbrake when it jumped from the back seat into the front while it was left on its own.



Who's driving!

Fernamber Golden Retrievers

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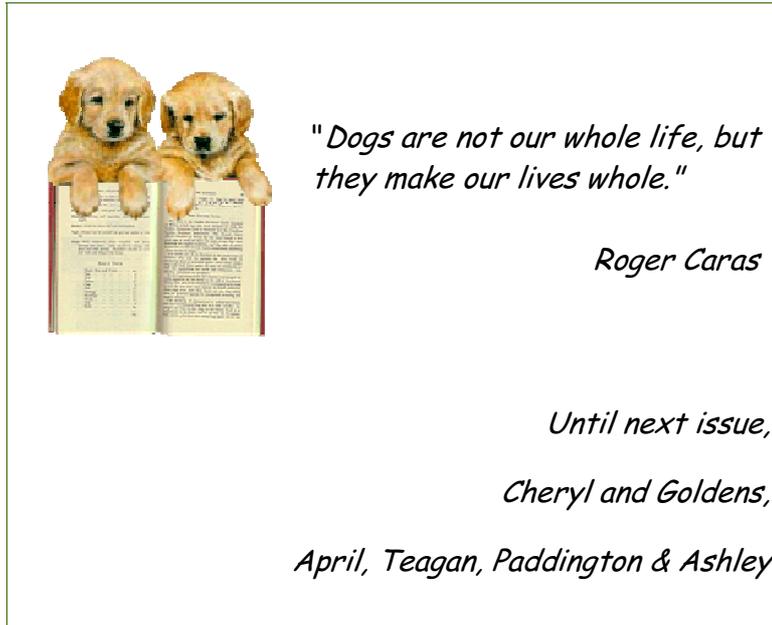
*Golden Retrievers are
the Clever Companions*

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

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Outsmarted!



*"Dogs are not our whole life, but
they make our lives whole."*

Roger Caras

Until next issue,

Cheryl and Goldens,

April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley

The Leopard, the Monkey and the Golden Retriever

A wealthy lady decided to go on a photo safari in Africa. She took her faithful Golden Retriever along for company.

One day, the Golden Retriever was chasing butterflies and before long he discovered he was lost. Wandering about, trying to find his way back, he noticed a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the obvious intention of having lunch.

The Golden Retriever thought to himself, "Oh Boy! I'm in deep trouble now! He noticed some bones on the ground close by, and immediately settled down to chew on them with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard was about to leap, the Golden Retriever exclaimed loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any more around here."

Hearing this, with a look of terror on his face, the leopard halted his attack in mid stride, and slunk away into the trees.

"Whew," said the leopard. "That was close. That Golden Retriever nearly had me."

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figured he could put his knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. So he headed off in the direction the leopard had gone.

But the Golden Retriever saw him heading after the leopard with great speed, and figured that something must be up. The monkey soon caught up with the leopard, spilled the beans and struck a deal for himself.

The leopard was furious at being made a fool of and said to the monkey, "Here, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine."

The Golden Retriever saw the leopard coming with the monkey on his back, and thought, "What am I going to do now?" But instead of running, the dog sat down with his back to his attackers, pretending that he hadn't seen them yet.

Just when they were close enough to hear, the Golden Retriever said loudly, "Where's that damn monkey? I sent him off half an hour ago to bring me another leopard!"