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Special points of interest:

- The fifth issue of Fernamber Off Lead has arrived.
- Fernamber Tradition qualified for his Tracking Champion Title
- Fernamber Tradition named Tracking Dog of the Year!
- Fernamber Talisman awarded his Companion Dog Excellent title.
- Fernamber Tambourine awarded a Qualifying Certificate in retrieving.
- Fernamber Twilight awarded third place in Intermediate at the Royal Melbourne Show

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Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Summer Issue

Fernamber Off Lead is five issues old and we think that is a good reason to celebrate. We made it through the first year of publication!

We have more reasons to celebrate at Fernamber. Paddington, Fernamber Talisman, was awarded his Companion Dog Excellent Title at Albury on 2 November 2002. He was 20 months old!

Tully, Fernamber Tradition qualified for his Tracking Champion Title on 14 September. Tully was 18 months old! Then to top off a brilliant year in tracking, Tully was named 'Tracking Dog Of the Year' for 2002 by the Tracking Club of Victoria. Congratulations to Kim and Tully on this super achievement.

Shamrock, Fernamber Twilight, was awarded third place in the Intermediate bitch class at the Royal Melbourne Show in September. Shamrock has not been in a show since she was a puppy, so Clive and I had to do a quick refresher course on gaiting and stacking!

Meg, Fernamber Tambourine was awarded fourth place in a retrieving beginners test in November. A week later she was awarded a qualifying certificate (QC) in retrieving in



Teagan and her puppies on the day they were born.

her very first Novice Stake. Well done Meg and Norma!

These talented youngsters are all littermates!

Ashley and her brothers and sister turned one year old on 29 September. Many happy returns to Leah, Cody, Jasper, Oakey, Cooper, Vinnie and Bundy!

And Teagan and her brothers and sisters turned five on 3 November.

Teagan gave birth to a litter of six beautiful puppies on 7 November. Her three boys and three girls are cuter every day!

No One is Above Suspicion!



Itchy Skin!

Dogs react to allergens with skin problems, unlike humans who react with nasal symptoms. Skin problems range from poor coat, itching and chewing to hot spots and self mutilation.

Inhalant Allergies Inhalants are the most common allergy. Allergens can be pollens, dust mites and moulds. Symptoms are scratching, biting, chewing at feet and constant licking. Your dog may shake his head and rub his muzzle or ears. Itching is most severe on feet, flanks, groin and armpits. Hot spots may result from the constant chewing and scratching. Pollen allergies are seasonal. Treatment is by use of corticosteroids and antihistamines.

Flea Allergies Some dogs are extremely sensitive to flea saliva causing severe itching and the risk of secondary bacterial

infection. All fleas must be removed to provide relief.

Food Allergies Food allergies can also cause skin problems and can develop over a lengthy period of time. The allergen can be a protein such as beef, chicken or pork or a carbohydrate such as rice or wheat. Diagnosing a food allergy takes great patience and involves eliminating all possible allergens.

Bacterial Allergies Staph bacteria present in the environment can cause an allergic reaction. Poor immune system function allows bacteria to invade the deeper layers of skin causing pyoderma, lesions and flakiness.

Contact Allergies Contact allergies occasionally occur from reaction to a chemical such as a disinfectant or cleaner.



Constant scratching could be caused by an allergy

A Dog's Eye View

Most of the dog's eye is the pigmented iris; the white of his eye is far less obvious than in man. The pupil is in the centre of the iris with cornea covering both. Light enters the eye through the cornea and travels through the anterior chamber, the pupil, the lens, and the posterior chamber to the retina. The pupil regulates light by contracting if the light is bright and expanding if it is dim. The retina transfers images to the brain via the optic nerve.

Dog eyes are protected by upper and lower eyelids, a third eyelid, and tears. Lashes on the upper eyelid keep debris out of the eye. The third eyelid or haw generally sits

unnoticed at the inner corner of the eye. The haw, or nictitating membrane, which lubricates and protects the eye, may become obvious when the dog is stressed or ill.

The dog's eye is more discerning of dim light than man's but is less able to sharply focus on detail; thus he sees better in the dark than we do but surrenders some visual acuity. It has long been thought that dogs do not discern colour, but that supposition has been debunked by recent research. Current wisdom holds that dogs see some colours but do not have the detailed colour vision of man.

“The dog's eye is more discerning of dim light than man's but is less able to sharply focus on detail”

Tracking Dog of the Year!

Congratulations to Kim and Tully, T Ch Fernamber Tradition who was named 'Tracking Dog of the Year' by the Tracking Club of Victoria. Tully successfully completed his Tracking Dog title, Tracking Dog Excellent title and his Tracking Champion title all in this year.

Tracking requires a dog to follow a track laid by a tracklayer and to locate articles left on the track and the tracklayer at the end. Each dog's performance is graded by the Judge. A Test 1 track is up to an hour old and 800m in length. The Test tracks

increase in difficulty including the length, the number of turns, the age of the track and the number of crossover tracks. A Test 6 track is the most difficult of all. The track is up to three hours old, 1100m in length, with six angle turns—two of them acute. The track is laid by an unknown tracklayer and includes two crossover tracks by other unknown people.

Tully and Kim were awarded this title after completing six tracks and earning an Excellent and several Very Good grades along the way. Well done to you both!



Tully
T Ch Fernamber Tradition
Tracking Dog of the Year for 2002!

Rewarding Good Behaviour

Many people don't seem to understand rewarding a dog's good behaviour. They don't recognise good behaviour or just expect dogs to somehow be naturally good. Good behaviours are; Sitting (not jumping up); Quietness (not barking constantly); Eye contact (giving you attention); Walking on a loose lead (not pulling); Coming to you for any reason (not running away); Lying still (not racing around like a maniac); Bringing you anything – even your best watch! (not playing keepings off); Staying near you (not wandering off).

If you reward these behaviours you've just taught your dog to Come, Sit, Down Stay, Heel, Retrieve, Not Jump and Not Bark, and all without taking an obedience class! Watch for one of the behaviours to occur, and reward your dog with a treat. The concept is very simple, but if you fail to do it

you may end up with the "dog from hell." Use something your dog likes to reward the behaviours. This can be a tidbit, a play session or a chance to retrieve a toy.

Rewarding this behaviour forms positive associations with those behaviours. And he will want to perform them all the time!

A dog will only perform behaviours that are productive for him. If you don't reward good behaviours, they will disappear and be replaced by self-reinforcing behaviours, like barking, digging and chasing. Once you have formed good habits, they are hard to break. Just as once bad habits are formed, they are equally hard to break. It pays to do it right the first time.

Reward the simple behaviours that you've been taking for granted! Open your eyes and open your treat bag! What you reward is what you'll get!



Reward your dog for good behaviour

Hot Weather Ahead

In hot weather your dog needs to have well ventilated shelter from direct sun and plenty of fresh water. Dogs have a higher internal body temperature than humans and get warm at lower temperatures than we do. Because they do not sweat, they pant away a lot of moisture during warm weather and must have constant access to fresh water. Heat and humidity are more stressful for puppies, geriatric dogs, dogs that are overweight or out of condition and dogs with chronic illnesses.

Long thick coats provide insulation in both cold and hot weather and removal of this natural insulation can stress the dog

further. Long coats should be brushed daily to remove any dead undercoat which traps heat.

Most Golden Retrievers will enjoy lying in a toddler's wading pool or running through a sprinkler. A damp area in the garden to lie in, is much appreciated.

A frozen soft drink bottle filled with water will keep your dog's drinking water cool all day and a couple more are also fun to play with.

Avoid strenuous exercise in the heat of the day. Take walks in the early morning or evening and limit vigorous play sessions.

“Dogs have a higher internal body temperature than humans and get warm at lower temperatures than we do.”

In Honour of Bear

At the World Trade Center disaster site, Golden Retriever Bear and Scott Shields spent 18 hour days risking their lives and health to locate those trapped in the rubble. A co worker remarked “Observing him on the pile and comparing him to some of the other rescue dogs, he was clearly in his element. He was peaceful, agile, and didn't slow down until it was time to rest. Other dogs I noticed behaved erratically, emotionally, and were apparently overwhelmed by the number of bodies.” Bear's work was wonderfully detailed by Firefighter T J Mundy in Dennis Smith's

book 'Report from Ground Zero' as he located the body of beloved New York Fire Department Chief, Peter J Ganci Jr. Bear, who was due to turn 13 in November 2002, slowed down dramatically after his time on the pile.

Sadly, this special guy with the biggest of all hearts crossed over to The Bridge on 23 September 2002. In October his life was celebrated in a memorial ceremony that was held on the New York pier where the Intrepid is docked. Bear's spirit and selflessness will live on in the hearts of many.



Scott Shields and Bear
See www.landofpuregold.com/bear

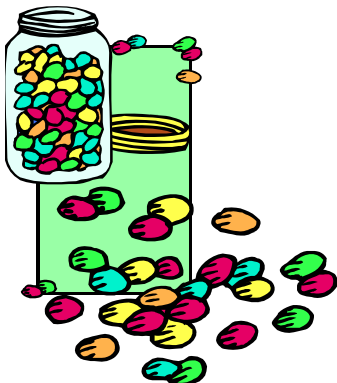
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*Golden Retrievers are
the Clever Companions*



Is the jar full?



Dash and Dot say,

"If your dog is awake, he is
being trained!"

We wish everyone a very happy festive season

and the very best for 2003,

Cheryl and Clive,

and our Goldens, April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley

Philosophy on Life

A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him.

When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks about 2" in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The students laughed. The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

"Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognise that this is your life.

The rocks are the important things - your family, your partner, your health, your children - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car.

The sand is everything else. The small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks.

The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal."

"Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."