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Special points of interest:

- T Ch Fernamber Talisman awarded Tracking Dog of the Year for 2004
- T Ch Fernamber Talisman CDX awarded his Tracking Champion Title
- Fernamber Edynn TD awarded her Tracking Dog Title.
- Fernamber Rendezvous CDX awarded her Companion Dog Excellent Title.

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Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Summer Issue

Meet our new Tracking Champion!

Paddington earned a Test 6 qualification in September which made him a Tracking Champion—T Ch Fernamber Talisman CDX. The dust had barely settled when the Tracking Club of Victoria named him as Tracking Dog of the Year 2004! We are thrilled with our clever boy!

We have two very clever litter brothers. Tully, T Ch Fernamber Tradition is also a Tracking Champion and was Tracking Dog of the Year 2002!

Two more Fernamber Golden Retrievers have achieved success. Congratulations to Lynn and Edynn, Fernamber Edynn TD who earned her Tracking Dog title. And congratulations to Ernie and Leah, Fernamber Rhapsody CDX who has earned her Companion Dog Excellent title!

In September, The Golden Retriever Club hosted the Mary Ray Seminar which was an outstanding success. Cheryl was part of the team that organised this event. Mary Ray is a leading positive trainer from the UK, known for her Heelwork to Music routines featured each year at Crufts. She imparted much of her wisdom on positive training methods to an eager audience.

Our condolences to Prue, Juliet and Simon who are missing their Golden, Oscar who sadly passed away.

April, Fernfall Stand By Me CDX, surprised us yet again when she was presented with



Paddington, our new Tracking Champion and Tracking Dog of the Year!
photo by Wendy Seng Hpa

a trophy from Northern Obedience Dog Club for the Highest Scoring Open Dog! We are expecting a busy Christmas and New Year with Ashley's puppies due to arrive on 21 December.

We hope you enjoy another bumper issue! Seasons greetings to all!



Canine Body Language

When a dog meets another who is lower in ranking, he will display dominant body language. When he meets a dog higher in ranking he will show submissive language. These postures are tempered by personality.

A frightened dog will instinctively try to make himself look smaller and show the aggressor that he is not worth worrying about. He will avoid eye contact and lower his head while laying his ears back out of harm's way. Submissive dogs try to avoid situations by offering appeasement gestures like crouching, cowering and placing their tails between their legs. A submissive dog may lie on his back exposing the most vulnerable part of his body to tell the aggressor he is no threat. A terrified dog's eyes are wide and staring with pupils dilated.

Dominant dogs, rather than launch an attack that may result in their injury, try to diffuse a threatening situation by showing dominant body language. They advance confidently with head and tail held high, looking straight ahead. Their hackles bristle to make them appear bigger and their ears face forward indicating they are alert and not a bit concerned. The tail is held high to expose their scent glands.

If the dominant dog doesn't receive a submissive attitude he will then snarl and expose his teeth. He will stalk on stiffened legs ready to lunge. He will pull his ears back against his skull before he attacks to protect them from damage.

The dog that wants to play holds his head low, front paws stretched out and bottom up. His tail will be held high and wagging. This is known as the 'play' posture or bow.



Who's in charge around here!

The Importance of Sleep

Relaxed sleep is as important as routine exercise for the well being and good health of a dog. While eight hours a night is enough for most people, dogs need twelve hours of sleep each day.

Sleep consists of Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep, when dreams occur and Non-REM (NREM) or deep sleep. Deprived of either form of sleep a dog becomes confused and forgets his training. During dreamless (NREM) sleep, your dog's body repairs and regenerates itself and the immune system strengthens and revitalises. Puppies have more need of NREM sleep than adults because this is

when they build their muscles and bones. With advancing years the need for NREM sleep diminishes.

During dream (REM) sleep a dog's eyes move behind the lids, the whiskers on its face quiver, and sometimes he makes yelping sounds. About 20 per cent of a dog's sleep is REM sleep.

No one knows the exact purpose of sleep and dreams but both appear to be vital for dogs, and both activities should always be allowed to proceed without needless interruption.

Dr Bruce Fogle— Natural Dog Care

*“Relaxed sleep
is as important
as routine exercise
for the good health
of your dog.”*

The Mailman

One day a mailman was greeted by a boy and a huge dog.

The mailman said to the boy, "Does your dog bite?"

"No," replied the boy.

Just then the huge dog bit the mailman.

The man yelled, "I thought your dog doesn't bite!"

"He doesn't." replied the boy, "That's not my dog!"



The mail must get through

Canine Parvovirus

Parvoviruses are smaller than most viruses and consist of a protein coat (a "capsid") and a single strand of DNA inside. It is hard to believe that such a simply constructed organism could be so deadly; however, this virus has proved especially effective at infecting rapidly dividing host cells.

Parvoviruses are not enveloped in fat the way many other viruses are which makes them especially hardy in the environment and difficult to disinfect away.

The canine parvovirus is a relative newcomer. The original canine parvovirus, discovered in 1967 and called "CPV-1," did not represent much of a medical threat except to newborn puppies but by 1978, a new variant, "CPV-2" appeared in the USA. This newer version seems to represent a mutation from the feline parvovirus. Because this virus is shed in gigantic numbers by infected animals and is especially hardy in the environment, worldwide distribution of the virus rapidly occurred, partly due to the fact that the virus is readily carried on shoes or clothing to new areas and can survive freezing temperatures.

At this time, the virus is considered to be "ubiquitous," meaning that it is present in every environment unless regular disinfection is applied. Attempting to shield a puppy from exposure is completely futile.

In 1978, no dog had any sort of immunity against this virus. There was no resistance and the epidemic that resulted was disastrous. To make matters worse, a second mutation creating CPV-2a had occurred by 1979, which seemed to be even more aggressive. Many veterinarians had to make do with feline distemper vaccine as it was the closest related

vaccine available while manufacturers struggled to supply true parvo vaccines.

Over twenty years have passed since then. The current form of the virus is called CPV-2b. Virtually all dogs have been exposed to it at least to some extent which means that most adult dogs, even those inadequately vaccinated can be considered to have at least some immunity.

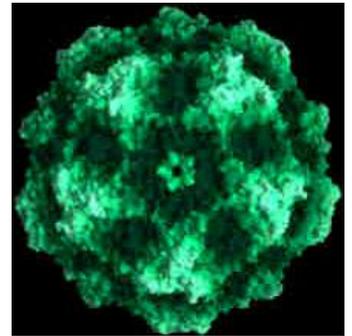
Parvoviral infection has become a disease almost exclusively of puppies and adolescent dogs. Parvoviral infection must be considered as a diagnosis in any young dog with vomiting or diarrhoea. With proper hospitalisation, survival rates approach 80%.

Many household disinfectants are not capable of killing the virus. The best and most effective disinfectant against viruses is bleach. One part bleach is mixed with 30 parts water and applied to bowls, floors, surfaces, toys, bedding, and anything contaminated. Bleach completely kills parvovirus.

Infected dogs shed virus in their stool in gigantic amounts during the 2 weeks following exposure. Because enormous amounts of virus are shed, there is a huge potential for environmental contamination where an infected dog has been. The virus can survive for up to seven months outside.

Whether an individual dog gets infected or not depends on the number of viral particles the dog experiences, what kind of immune experience the dog has had with the virus and how strong the individual dog.

A typical infectious dose for an unvaccinated dog is 1000 viral particles. An infected dog can shed 35 million viral particles per 30g of stool.



An actual Canine Parvovirus

Excellent
training treats are
Twiggy Sticks
- mild salami sticks
from your delicatessen.

What is a Virus?

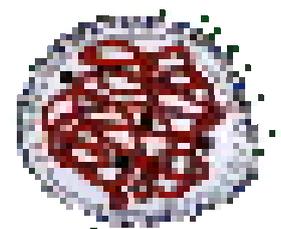
Viruses are strange life forms. They have only the bare bones of biochemical equipment (barely enough to qualify for the title life form).

- They have only one type of nucleic acid (either DNA or RNA but not both)
- They reproduce from this nucleic acid
- They possess no metabolic enzymes
- They are completely dependent on their host cell

Viral Particle One individual virus is a viral particle. Viral particles are so small

(some only the size of a large protein) that we cannot really call them creatures. The word virus is more correctly applied to a species or genus of virus.

Capsid The nucleic acids within the viral particles are surrounded by a protein coat, and sometimes a fatty envelope. This coating is the capsid. The capsid proteins are crucial to the virus' ability to attach and infect a host cell. Viruses that have a fatty envelope do not last long in the environment; these viruses tend to require direct contact for transmission of infection.



Viruses are strange life forms

Antibody Titre Study

“Serum antibody titres to canine parvovirus, adenovirus and distemper virus in dogs in the UK which had not been vaccinated for at least three years” was a study published in April 2004. The study’s purpose was to determine the persistence of immunity by measuring antibody titres against Canine Distemper Virus, Canine Adenovirus and Canine Parvovirus in dogs that had had no booster vaccinations for at least 3 years.

Canine Distemper Virus: 29.5% of the dogs tested were not protected and up to 35.9% could be expected to be at risk in case of an outbreak of Distemper.

Canine Adenovirus: 8% of the dogs tested had no protection at all and up to 24.3% of dogs could be expected to be at risk in the event of an outbreak Canine Infectious Hepatitis.

Canine Parvovirus: Up to 9.4% of dogs

were at risk in case of an outbreak.

For puppies, however, the situation is noticeably different. 199 puppies were sampled for antibody titres on the day of their first vaccination and again on the day they received their second vaccination.

Canine Adenovirus: Before their first vaccination 80.8% of the puppies had no protection at all, but following the first vaccination 63.1% showed protective antibody titres.

Canine Parvovirus: Before their first vaccination 45.7% of the puppies had no protection against Parvovirus. Following vaccination 79.2% of the puppies showed protective antibody titres.

The study shows that puppies will be less at risk from these diseases if they are given vaccinations.



We need more research to determine the persistence of immunity

Herd Immunity

Herd Immunity is the level of immunity within a population. An important component of preventing high rates of disease is the building of sufficient immunity in a population. Once a certain proportion of a population is immune to a disease, the natural spread is interrupted and the disease declines. But if the rates of vaccination fall below the necessary population coverage then the disease regains a hold and epidemics can occur. If enough people choose to not vaccinate their dogs there is a very real concern that diseases such as Canine Distemper, Infectious Hepatitis and Canine Parvovirus

may again reach epidemic proportions.

A disease can be eradicated by vaccination even if the entire population is not vaccinated. In humans, smallpox was clearly eradicated without vaccinating the entire population and polio has been eradicated from the Western Hemisphere. In Finland, Canine Distemper reappeared in 1994 after a 16 year absence. The outbreak occurred in areas with high density dog populations and involved vaccinated dogs. It was concluded that a critical decrease in the population's immunity during 1990 to 1994 was a major reason for the outbreak.

“A decrease in population immunity can result in an epidemic.”

Viral Infections

The viral particle's goal is to attach to a host cell and inject its nucleic acids inside the cell. The capsid is very specific about what host cells it can attach to, specific for species, as well as for cell type. Once the viral particle has injected its nucleic acids into the host cell, the next goal is to manufacture messenger RNA for the cell to translate into protein. The proteins produced will shut down the cell's normal function and convert the cell into a factory for viral particle production.

Once messenger RNA is made, the host

cell is doomed. The action of the RNA will be to shut down normal cell function and dedicate the cell to the production of viral capsid and viral DNA.

Soon the host cell is little more than a bag of virus. These viral particles either bud off the surface of the host cell or the host cell simply explodes leaving millions of new viral particles to seek new host cells.

The only way to stop this process is for the immune system to recognise the infected cell early and destroy it before virus production becomes too advanced.



Viral Particles

When is the Best Time to Spay?

Each season a bitch has increases her chances of developing mammary tumours (the most common type of cancer in dogs) in later life.

Spaying before the first season reduces this risk to 0.05% (5 dogs in 10,000); spaying between the first and second season increases the risk to 8% (eight dogs in 100) and after the second season the risk increases to 26 per cent.

Looking at these figures alone, one would be tempted to have all bitches spayed before their first season.

However, there is a school of thought that the first season is important in terms of maturing the urinary tract, thus reducing the chance of her developing urinary incontinence later in life.

It is also worth considering the risks of the

procedure. Mature animals cope better with anaesthesia than puppies, so there is an argument for not spaying pups less than six months of age.

In addition the procedure is safest when performed on a bitch who is not in season or coming into season. If a bitch has a season, vets usually wait three months. Obviously with a puppy, one doesn't know if she is about to come into season and it may be best to allow her to have a season in order to time the operation correctly.

Choosing when to have your pup spayed is a difficult decision. That first season does markedly increase the chances of her developing mammary tumours. However, waiting until she has had one season does yield certain benefits, while still keeping the risks of mammary tumours relatively low.



Deciding when to spay can be a difficult decision

Outdoor Games

Dogs require a lot of exercise, both the mental and physical kind. Just walking from room to room, occasionally wrestling with the other dog or taking a walk are not enough. Your dog wants to run and play with you. If you can combine exercise with games that stimulate his mind you will improve the bond between you.

Frisbee Teaching a dog to catch and fetch a Frisbee is "cheap" exercise. You only have to stand in one spot for a few minutes with your dog, while he exercises every muscle in his body and has great fun.

Fetch Many dogs will fetch sticks, balls, toys, or anything else you are willing to

throw, for hours on end. This is great exercise and you can add an element of problem solving by tossing the object into some leaves or tall grass so that he has to search for it. Be careful with your choice of objects and their landing area. Your dog could injure himself on a sharp stick or other debris. Always check out any area where you play with your dog.

Buried Treasure If you have a dog which is in the yard all day, you can make his day more interesting by sprinkling dry food here and there for him to find later. It is much more interesting than eating it out of his bowl, and it keeps him busy searching.

"The best games are those that provide exercise and stimulate the mind."

The Wishbone Foundation

A new charity will provide relief for struggling members of the Australian community through free health care for their pets. The Wishbone Foundation aims to reduce animal surrender rates and help vulnerable Australians by caring for their pets, the first and only organisation of its kind to operate nationally in Australia.

"There are thousands in the community with pets they dearly love but struggle to care for. These animals often fall into neglect or have to be surrendered to shelters because of lack of resources, or

the physical inability to do basic things like walking, bathing, even feeding," said Sheryn Cooper-Smith, founder and CEO.

"With the help of our team of volunteers and sponsors, Wishbone is able to provide health care, exercise, training, grooming and respite care free of charge to those who need it most, and most importantly, help to keep dogs with their families."

The foundation will work with Australian welfare organizations to reach at-risk members of our community – the elderly, chronically ill and disabled.



The Wishbone Foundation aims to help people care for their pets.

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



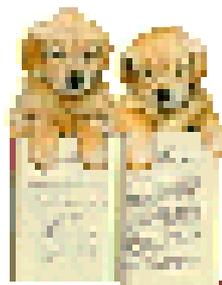
*Golden Retrievers are
the Clever Companions*

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

**Visit us at
[www.
fernamber.
com](http://www.fernamber.com)**



"Surprise!"



Dash and Dot say,



"Christmas light bulbs,
Christmas ornaments, Christmas
stockings, and tinsel from the
Christmas tree are not food!"

We wish everyone a very happy festive season

and the very best for 2005,

Cheryl and Clive,

and our Goldens, April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley

How to Wrap Presents With a Puppy

- ◆ Gather presents, boxes and paper together on the living room floor.
- ◆ Get tape back from puppy.
- ◆ Remove scissors from older dog's mouth.
- ◆ Open box.
- ◆ Take puppy out of box.
- ◆ Remove tape from older dog's mouth.
- ◆ Take scissors away from puppy.
- ◆ Put present in box.
- ◆ Remove present from puppy's mouth.
- ◆ Put present in box after removing puppy from box.
- ◆ Take scissors from older dog and sit on them.
- ◆ Remove puppy from box and put on lid.
- ◆ Take tape away from older dog.
- ◆ Unroll paper.
- ◆ Take puppy OFF box.
- ◆ Cut paper being careful not to cut puppy's foot or nose that is getting the way as she "helps".
- ◆ Let puppy tear paper remaining to be cut.
- ◆ Take puppy off box.
- ◆ Wrap paper around box.
- ◆ Remove puppy from box and take wrapping paper from her mouth.
- ◆ Tell older dog to hold tape so he will stop stealing it.
- ◆ Take scissors away from puppy.
- ◆ Take tape older dog is holding.
- ◆ Quickly tape one spot before taking scissors from older dog and sitting on them again.
- ◆ Fend off puppy trying to steal tape and tape another spot.
- ◆ Take bow from older dog.
- ◆ Get the roll of wrapping paper puppy ran off with.
- ◆ Take scissors from older dog who took them when you got up.
- ◆ Give pen to older dog to hold so he stops licking your face.
- ◆ Remove puppy from present and hurriedly slap tape on to hold the paper.
- ◆ Take now soggy bow from puppy and tape on since the sticky stuff no longer sticks.
- ◆ Take pen from older dog, address the tag and attach while puppy tries to eat pen.
- ◆ Grab present before puppy opens it and put it away.
- ◆ Clean up mess puppy and older dog made playing tug-of-war with roll of wrapping paper.
- ◆ Put away the rest of wrapping supplies and tell the dogs what good helpers they are.