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Special points of interest:

- T Ch Fernamber Echo CD awarded Tracking Dog of the Year
- Visit this new website Harvikgold Golden Retrievers at www.harvikgold.com
- Congratulations to Adam, Betsy, Tessa and Mitchell on the arrival of Nathan on 26 September 2006

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Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Summer Issue

Another year has nearly slipped away. Two weeks ago Victoria was subjected to an icy Winter blast with snowfalls on all major mountains and also in Ballarat, Lorne and the Dandenongs. Melbourne had a day with only a 13°C maximum temperature and for Ballarat (7°C), Castlemaine (9°C) and Ararat (9°C), it was the coldest November day on record! (This is supposed to be the Summer Issue!)

In July of this year, 188 Golden Retrievers gathered at the Guisachan estate in Scotland where Lord Tweedmouth bred the first Golden Retrievers to celebrate 60 years of the Golden Retriever Club of Scotland.

Congratulations to Teaka, T Ch Fernamber Echo CD and her proud owners Pia and Noel. Teaka was awarded Tracking Dog of the Year for 2006 by the Tracking Club of Vic. Teaka is the fourth Fernamber Golden Retriever to win this award.

Previous winners were; in 2002, T Ch Fernamber Tradition; in 2004, T Ch Fernamber Talisman CDX; in 2005, T Ch Fernamber Nymph; and in 2006, T Ch Fernamber Echo CD. Well done to you all!

Traveling in the Car

“Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing right in your ear.”

--Dave Barry



Guisachan, Scotland—the birthplace of the Golden Retriever. Photo taken by Carol Stafford at the Golden Retriever Club of Scotland's 60th Year celebrations.

Congratulations to Kim who is now a Life Member of the Tracking Club of Vic and congratulations to Judith and her German Shepherd who qualified for his Community Companion Dog title. Well done!

Zulu, the re-homed Flat Coated Retriever is fit and well and running the show in her new home. Glad to hear it!

Sad condolences to Jasmin and her family who are missing Maxie, Fernamber Excalibur, who passed away suddenly.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. Watch out—the silly season is about to begin!



Heat Stroke

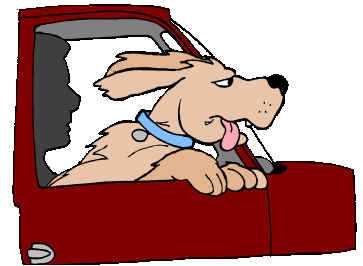
Perspiration or sweating is an excellent system that allows humans to conduct temperature exchanges with the outside air, preventing the body temperature from rising too quickly.

Unlike humans, dogs cannot perspire through their skin. Dogs perspire through their mouths. Air blowing in an open space does help cool their body through radiation and conduction.

What happens in the event of heat stroke? If left in the heat in a vehicle that is almost entirely closed, the dog will begin to pant in order to perspire and to lower his rising body temperature. He is unable to lower his temperature through his skin because there is no air circulating in the closed vehicle. His body temperature quickly rises to a dangerously high level. In addition, a

panting dog quickly exhausts the amount of healthy air available in the vehicle and ends up breathing in exhaled air that is high in carbon dioxide and low in oxygen. The combination of these factors makes the dog highly susceptible to fainting. It occurs suddenly. The dog is often standing, as though in a daze, his legs spread apart, gasping for air and breathing quickly. Often, he will tremble or have convulsions. If his temperature reaches 42°C, he will begin to vomit and will go into a state of shock, which quickly becomes irreversible. Rapid action must be taken.

The dog's temperature must be brought down as quickly as possible by placing him in lukewarm water that is progressively cooled, or in cool water in a well-ventilated, airy place. Take the dog to the veterinarian as soon as possible.



Please don't leave me in the car!

Skin Disease

Self mutilation, mainly by means of scratching, is a significant part of skin disease if dogs become very itchy.

However, self-mutilation and obsessive licking may also occur for other reasons such as boredom, stress or pain and can cause quite serious open sores.

This licking becomes a means to an end in itself as it can result in the release of endorphins ('happy chemicals' which have a slight pain relieving effect) in the dog's bloodstream. Treatment of pain, or increased stimulation to relieve boredom, is obviously importation, and acupuncture can

also be helpful, but it can be difficult to break the habit and sometimes 'bitter' sprays (not on damaged skin) have to be used to deter any licking.

Skin infections are fairly common, but may be due to immaturity or underlying skin disease due to parasites, allergies, wounds or self damage. When infections do occur they are characterized by reddening and thickening or swelling of the skin, the formation of pustules or a rash and occasionally pain. Long courses of antibiotics are sometimes needed and any underlying disease should also be treated.

"If conditions are good, skin can grow from the edges of an open wound at a speed of 1-2 mm a day."

The Sky is Falling!

The first grade teacher was reading the story of Chicken Little to her class. She came to the part of the story where Chicken Little tried to warn the farmer.

She read, "... and so Chicken Little went up to the farmer and said, "The sky is falling! The sky is falling!"

The teacher paused then asked the class, "And what do you think that farmer said?"

One little girl raised her hand and said, "I think he said: "Holy Shit! A talking chicken!"

The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes.



"The sky is falling!"

Guide Dogs in Australia

The first person to train dogs specifically to guide the blind was Johann Klein, founder of the Institute for the Training of the Blind in Vienna in 1819. Following the First World War, a special school for educating selected dogs was established in Germany to help the many thousands of people who were blinded in the war. By 1925 the success of the school became known in other parts of the world.

The first guide dog arrived in Australia from the British Guide Dog association. Arnold Cook, a young West Australian, lost his sight through a rare disease at the age of 18. After graduating from the University of Western Australia, Arnold Cook went to England to study at the London School of Economics. Whilst there, Arnold heard about the guide dog association and applied for a dog. He was accepted and

trained with Dreana, a black Labrador bitch. In 1950, Arnold returned home with his guide dog, the first in Australia.

Dreana created enormous interest and soon other blind West Australians were anxious to have their own dog. A year later the first Guide Dog Association was formed in Perth. With the help of the Apex Clubs, the Guide Dog Association bought the first trainer to Australia from England. Beau, a Kelpie-Border Collie Cross was the first Guide dog to be trained in Australia. Beau and his blind owner, Elsie Mead, travelled all over Australia promoting guide dog mobility.

By 1957 there were guide dog associations in each state and in 1962 a national organisation was established and a guide dog and mobility training centre was opened in Kew, Melbourne, in 1962.



Elsie Mead
and her guide dog

Vaccination and Maternal Antibodies

Puppies receive antibodies to protect against disease from their mother through the first milk produced, called the colostrum. After this, maternal antibody levels drop by half approximately every 10 days. Puppies that were born first or were more aggressive at nursing on the first day will get more maternal antibody than their littermates. As this protection wears off, the puppy becomes susceptible to disease. The reason that a series of vaccinations are given to puppies is due to the way maternal antibody protection wears off. When the first vaccinations are given, usually around six weeks of age, only 10 to

25% of the puppies have lost maternal antibody protection. ONLY these puppies are protected by the vaccination. In the others, the maternal immunity destroys the vaccine virus so the puppy does not develop immunity to it.

At nine weeks of age, probably 50 to 75% of puppies have lost maternal protection to parvovirus. So by this time, most puppies can be protected by the vaccine but 25% or more still have enough maternal antibody to interfere with the vaccine.

Finally, at twelve weeks of age, most puppies can be protected by the new parvovirus vaccines.

“The reason that a series of vaccinations are given to puppies is due to the way maternal antibody protection wears off.”

Tracking Dog of the Year!

Congratulations to Pia and Noel Butcher and their very clever Golden Retriever, Teaka, T Ch Fernamber Echo CD, who was awarded the prestigious award of Tracking Dog of the Year for 2006 by the Tracking Club of Victoria.

The Tracking Dog of the Year is the best dog amongst all the dogs of all breeds competing in tracking who are members of the Tracking Club of Victoria.

Teaka began competing at the beginning of the tracking season gaining her Tracking Qualification Test in March 2006.

She followed this with qualifying grades in all six tests and was awarded three 'Excellent' grades along the way. She earned her Test Six qualification and her Tracking Champion Title in August 2006.

Teaka was also awarded the T Ch Pointgold Pure Pleasure Trophy for the Highest Graded Dog at the Golden Retriever Club of Vic's Trial in May 2006.

Teaka is the fourth Fernamber bred dog to win this award and we congratulate her on her outstanding success!



T Ch Fernamber Echo CD

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](http://www.fernamber.com)**



*"If you think dogs can't
count, try putting three
dog biscuits in your pocket and then
giving him only two of them!"*

Phil Pastoret

We wish everyone a very happy festive season

and the very best for 2007,

Cheryl and Goldens,

April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley

Guide Dogs Australia

In Australia, the Labrador is the main breed of dog used as a guide dog. Recently, however, there has been cross-breeding of Labradors with Golden Retrievers, and more recently, Standard Poodles, to produce the Labradoodle (specifically bred for people who have allergies).

The Labrador is ideally suited to be a guide dog because it has a placid temperament, requires little maintenance, and it is highly trainable. It is a responsive, intelligent dog that learns quickly. The Labrador's greatest asset is its willingness to please.

Guide dog associations throughout Australia breed more than 200 Labrador puppies each year to train as guide dogs.

Each puppy is placed with people (usually families) chosen for their ability to care for the puppy. Known as "puppy walkers" these families teach the puppy basic skills such as house training, sitting on command and walking correctly on a leash.

Socialisation is one of the most important parts of training given to the puppy by its puppy walkers. This involves taking it to shopping centres, railway stations, city centres and a range of other places it is likely to encounter during its training and subsequent work as a guide dog.

When the puppy is about 12 months old, it is assessed for its suitability for training as a guide dog. During a two week period, it is assessed for its reactions to other dogs, cats, trains, buses and other situations it is likely to encounter as a working guide dog. Dogs that are unsuitable may either be trained as companion dogs for people with a disability or they may be offered for sale. For the successful dogs, an intensive five month training program commences.

When people who are blind or vision impaired apply to have a guide dog, they undergo a program to assess their suitability. Usually, guide dogs are given to adults who can care for the dog and give them plenty of work and exercise. A guide dog instructor works with the guide dog and new owner for about four weeks.

The guide dog is taught to judge the width it has to allow in order for the vision impaired person to avoid bumping into things such as other people, prams and bicycles. The dog is also taught to judge heights, which enable it to avoid overhead obstacles such as overhanging branches.

It is not the dog that makes the decision about when to cross the road. In general, the owner knows whether traffic is moving, or whether cars have stopped. The owner then gives the "forward" command. If the owner has not heard the approach of a vehicle, the dog will refuse the command, then proceed once the car has passed. Before training with a guide dog, the owner is well oriented to the area and able to direct the dog to the destination. After travelling the route several times, the dog will remember the route.

The guide dog is taught that it is on duty when in harness. However, it can be easily distracted and shouldn't be patted when in harness. When out of harness, it behaves just like any family dog. Guide dogs are normally about 18 months old when they are allocated to a vision impaired person and should have about 8-10 working years ahead of them. When a guide dog retires it usually stays with the guide dog user and enjoys a normal home life.

The Association for the Blind of WA (Inc)