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Special points of interest:

- Fernamber Edynn TDX qualifies for her Tracking Dog Excellent title.
- Fernamber Nymph TD qualifies for her Tracking Dog title.
- Fernamber Tambourine CD NRD qualifies for her Novice Retrieving Dog title.
- Fernamber Silhouette CDX earns her tracking Test 1
- Fernfall Stand By Me CDX passes her Tracking Qualification Test

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Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Winter Issue

Our new carpet is finally laid and looks great! And the tradesmen have finished repairing our house after the February storm. We are now in the process of replacing water pipes, guttering and adding new storm water drains so that it doesn't happen again!

Most of our belongings have been reshuffled (and reshuffled) and in theory things will be more organised. We will see—perhaps more things are going to be lost! We decided to give away our antiquated desk and now our computer, printer and scanner remain unplugged and inactive!

The first Tracking Trial of the season was held at Haddon early in May. April and Teagan tracked without success, but two of Teagan's daughters were successful. Edynn, Fernamber Edynn TD passed her Test 3 with a grading of Good and Bella, Fernamber Nymph passed her Test 1 with a Very Good grading.

At the Golden Retriever Tracking Trial we redeemed ourselves. April, Fernfall Stand By Me CDX, passed her Tracking Qualification Test and Teagan, Fernamber Silhouette CDX passed her Test 1 with a Very Good grading. Bella, Fernamber Nymph TD, was awarded her Tracking Dog title with a Test 2 pass graded Very Good

A clean house is a sign of a broken computer.



The Fernamber Tracking Dogs!
Bella, Edynn, April, Teagan and Paddington at the Knox Tracking Trial.

Test 2 and Edynn, Fernamber Edynn TDX, was awarded her Tracking Dog Excellent Title after getting an opportunity to track on, with a Test 4 pass graded Very Good and a Test 5 pass graded Good. Congratulations Lynn, Edynn, Kim and Bella!

Bella and Teagan were jointly awarded the T Ch Pointgold Pure Pleasure Trophy for the highest graded Golden Retrievers. We are very proud of our Fernamber Tracking Dogs!

We were very excited when Paddington's sister Meg, Fernamber Tambourine CD NRD, qualified for her Novice Retrieving Dog title with three First Places in Novice at three consecutive trials! Meg also recently earned her first qualifying score in open obedience. A big congratulations to Meg and Norma.

And more congratulations—Daniel, Goorambat Awatere CD qualified for his Companion Dog title with three First Places and Gooramabat Mikasa CDX ET was awarded her Endurance Test title. Congratulations David, Daniel and Piper!

And to Pia and her German Shepherd Harley who earned two qualifying scores in Novice and a First in Ring! Well done!

Debarking

In NSW, Victoria and SA the surgical debarking of dogs is only allowed as a last resort, when the only alternative is the dog's forced destruction because of nuisance barking. The Aust Veterinary Association, the RSPCA and other animal welfare organisations are strongly opposed to dogs being subjected to this surgery.

Debarking is no substitute for proper care, management and training the dog. Vets cannot operate under instruction from an owner wanting a quieter pet!

While the surgery itself is not difficult, it does expose the dog to the dangers of general anaesthesia and surgical risks. Vets generally agree that as many as 50 per cent of debarked dogs later develop problems arising from the surgery.

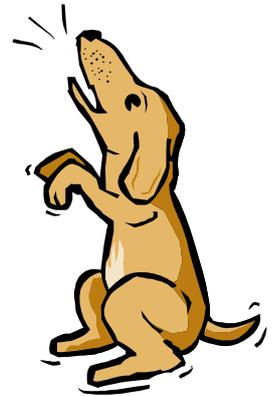
In removing the vocal chords the dog is

severely restricted in one of its most necessary methods of communication. However the dog won't go silent, he will develop what defenders of the practice politely call a "soft bark."

University of Sydney based animal behaviourist and veterinarian, Dr Paul McGreevy is far from being an advocate of the surgery, except in the most extreme cases. "The striking point is that the dogs carry on doing their best to vocalise," he said "It is sad to hear the honking noise they make in place of their bark."

And he is quick to explain that debarking does not make the dog any less stressed, fearful, frustrated, lonely or hypersensitive.

In other words debarking has not removed any of the usual reasons that make some dogs problem barkers.



"Pay attention to me!"

Brass Monkeys

Not so many years ago, war ships needed to keep a good supply of cannon balls near their cannons. But preventing them from rolling about the deck was a problem.

The best storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

To prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others, a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called a Monkey was used. But if this plate was

made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make Brass Monkeys.

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when cold. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was, quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.

And all this time, you thought it was a vulgar expression, didn't you?

*"Do you really
know what a
Brass Monkey is?"*

The Chess Game

A man went to visit a friend and was amazed to find him playing chess with his dog.

He watched the game in astonishment for a while. "I can hardly believe my eyes!" he exclaimed. "That's the smartest dog I've ever seen."

"He's not so smart," the friend replied. "I've beaten him three games out of five."



May the best man win!

A Wolf in Pup's Clothing

Jenn Diamond

My dog is from a puppy mill. Last Christmas, in my haste to ensure the perfect puppy for my six year old daughter, I went to what I thought was a network of reputable breeders. I even consulted the Better Business Bureau to make sure they were for real and found there were no complaints on this organization. Calling themselves National Breeders Association this pet store sells more than 2,500 dogs a year to customers who believe the dogs are from reputable breeders.

When meeting my puppy for the first time I was told that she "came in a little higher" than what was written on my deposit slip - \$500 above the already high price - due to her lines and her breeding. Not being able to bear the thought of my daughter's disappointment I decided that the added cost was worth it since she came with lifetime training, shots, and a health guarantee. The next morning at my vet, I learned she had numerous infections that are consistent with dogs that come from puppy mills. Three appointments and \$250 later, she was healthy again.

A journalist by trade, I decided to do some real research on this company and found dozens of similar complaints. I also located the puppy farm in Missouri where our dog was born. Furious about what they were doing to consumers, I wrote to the Better Business Bureau.

About two weeks later, I received a call from Joe Grastara, co-owner of National Breeders Association. He was sorry about my situation and offered me a \$200 credit. When I laughed, he offered to reimburse me for the vet bills and the \$500 price difference I was charged. During the conversation he also admitted to getting my

puppy from Pine Spring Pets, a broker who gets dogs from "commercial breeders" - better known as puppy mills. Grastara argued fervently that commercial breeders are not puppy mills, but now I know better.

Store owners argue that "commercial breeders" are regulated under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and are therefore OK. They argue this point adamantly, as if consumers can relax knowing their pets are raised in the same manner as beef and livestock.

The USDA seal of approval does not signify gold standard of care. "Any facility wholesaling puppies is required to be licensed by the USDA," says Stephanie Shain, director of the Humane Society of the United States. "There are literally thousands of breeding facilities around the country and only about 100 inspectors. I'm sure the USDA would agree that enforcement is a problem."

The puppy mill was introduced in 1954, following the end of World War II, when the US Government commissioned a 10 year irradiation study that would require the use of hundreds of thousands of dogs. Who was better suited to raise them than America's farmers, just beginning to recover from the Great Depression?

When the farms outlived the study and found themselves with puppies and no more government program to sell them to, they turned to laboratories and pet stores.

The new industry of breeding dogs in mass quantity ran grossly unregulated until 1970, when the Animal Welfare Act was passed.

Today, in the pet retail business, "puppy mill" is a four-letter word.

(Continued on next page)



"Where do those puppies come from?"

Smart Answer!

The cop got out of his car and the kid who had been stopped for speeding slowly rolled down his window.

"I've been waiting for you all day," the cop said.

The kid replied, "Well I got here as fast as I could."

When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.



What about that ticket!

A Wolf in Pup's Clothing

Jenn Diamond

(Continued from previous page)

Thanks to the efforts of activists, the public knows that a puppy mill is a place where dogs are bred in mass quantities, in unsanitary and inhumane conditions for the sole purpose of making a profit. These dogs often carry genetic defects and communicable diseases and some even die days or weeks after they are purchased.

Most puppy mills call themselves "commercial breeders," and continue to fight for their right to mass produce puppies for retail. Though registered businesses are regulated by the USDA, the fines and punishments for cutting corners on the care of these dogs are inconsequential compared to the profits.

Pet stores are in the business of making money. They are not rescues, kennels, adoption agencies or networks of reputable breeders whose purpose is to find good homes for dogs while trying only to recoup their costs of caring for that animal.

Relying on a steady stream of new puppies to feed the continued demand for man's best friend, pet stores must deal in quantity. It is therefore impossible to provide the same quality of dog that a reputable breeder, who focuses on only a single breed with the sole purpose of improving the line.

"They need to guarantee they have a continuous supply of puppies and they can't do that without using commercial breeders," said Shain. "Pet stores buy from commercial operations and those puppies are shipped to them. It isn't somebody down the street who happens to have a litter of Norwegian Elkhound

puppies they want to sell to the pet store."

Reputable breeders do not produce dogs in an assembly line fashion, but pick only those with the best qualities, nearest the breed standard, to mate and produce litters. Reputable breeders belong to breed-specific associations; these associations exist for the sole purpose of preserving a specific breed, not selling puppies.

Pet stores have devised ways to distance themselves from puppy mills, going so far as to call themselves breeders networks or specialty boutiques. They tell consumers their puppies do not come from puppy mills, but will not state that in their contracts. Despite the mass of information available on puppy mills, the public still wants to believe these claims.

"When you purchase a puppy from a pet store you are unwittingly perpetuating the business," said Shain. Additionally, you may be surprised at what you bring home.

In addition to physical ailments, puppies who come from puppy mills often display a number of temperament issues such as aggression due to inbreeding and lack of proper socialisation.

The position of the Humane Society is to never, ever, ever buy a dog from a pet store of any kind, Shain said. She recommends obtaining puppies through your local SPCA where 25 percent of the dogs are purebred, or seeking out rescue organizations or legitimate breeders.

Aside from not contributing to the puppy mill problem, you will get a healthier dog for less money. Most purebred dogs sold by legitimate breeders cost less than pet store dogs of unknown quality and origin.



Pet store puppies come from puppy farms.

"Purchasing a puppy from a pet store perpetuates the puppy farm trade."

Say NO to Animals in Pet Shops

Say No to Animals in Pet Shops is an Australian organisation formed to;

- Educate all potential pet owners why they **shouldn't** buy their companion animals from pet shops
- Lobby Federal and State Government to **ban** the sale of animals in pet shops

Their message—Don't buy animals from Pet Shops while homeless animals die!

Resist the temptation to buy that gorgeous kitten or puppy in the window. Because this lucrative pet shop market exists in Australia, backyard breeders and "puppy

farms" who supply pet shops continue to churn out more and more poor puppies and kittens. Don't think you are 'rescuing' an animal from a pet shop when you purchase it - this only makes way for others to suffer.

Approximately 130,000 dogs and 60,000 cats are killed at the pounds every year.

The practice of selling animals from pet shops promotes irresponsible breeding for profit by their suppliers. We already have far too many dogs and cats without homes.

www.saynotoanimalsinpetshops.com

SAY NO TO ANIMALS IN PET SHOPS
www.saynotoanimalsinpetshops.com

Home Alone Games

If your dog spends some of his time inside your home while you are away, you can still provide some educational toys for him to amuse himself with while you're gone.

A Treat Ball is a hollow plastic ball. Treats come out of the hole in the top of the ball. The dog can bat, kick or paw this toy around for quite a while, until a treat finds its way out of the hole.

A Kong Toy is a hard rubber toy with a hollowed-out centre. It has an irregular shape, so that it bounces and moves in unexpected directions. You can fill the inside of the Kong with a variety of goodies, like cheese, peanut butter, cookies, dry food, fruit, vegetables, or anything else good for your dog. The dog is kept interested by the changing menu.

Another variation of the treat "exercise puzzle" is a standard brown paper bag with various kinds of treats inside. The bad part is that the dog might shred the bag, but if you have a dog who was going to shred the curtains anyway, cleaning up pieces of a paper bag when you arrive home would be the least of your worries. Make sure that the bag has no staples, tape or plastic parts that your dog might eat along with the treats. Leave it on the kitchen floor for your dog to find, unwrap and enjoy.

If you have a dog which does not already shred your house, or one which would respectfully leave a paper bag intact, this one isn't recommended. You may teach him habits you don't want to encourage.



What's in the bag?

Guardian Angel

In Middlesbrough, UK, an exhausted and drowning dog has reportedly been saved by a seal.

Witnesses said a seal suddenly appeared and pushed the ten year old Labrador German Shepherd cross to safety.

Chris Hinds, who spotted the dog, said "I initially reached in to get hold of him, but when he saw me he panicked... he was an old dog and struggling. I thought, 'This dog is going to die.' There was no way I could get in to rescue him.

Just then a seal popped up out of nowhere. He came behind the dog and actually pushed him. I have never seen anything like it in my life. This dog would not have survived in the water if it hadn't been for that seal."

Fire crews were called to the scene by Chris's son and helped capture the confused dog. "It was just like the dog had a guardian angel," said Chris.

*"In Middlesbrough, UK,
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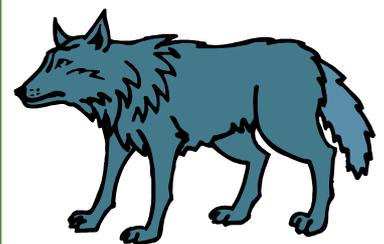
What Did You Say?

The dogs with the 'clearest' body language are those that most resemble the ancestral wolf. The more a breed has been modified by man, the more difficulty these dogs have being understood.

Dogs such as Spaniels, with floppy ears can't prick or flatten their ears back against their heads. If a dog's eyes are obscured by hair, as in Old English Sheep Dogs and Pulis, with their Rastafarian-style dreadlocks, other dogs can't read the intention in their eyes.

Dogs with long flowing coats, like Salukis can't raise their hackles, while dogs with naturally short or docked tails can't wag them to show they are happy, or tuck them between their legs when afraid.

Black dogs may also have a problem making themselves understood, as they may appear as silhouettes to other dogs, obscuring the subtle nuances of their gestures.



"What did you say?"

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)**



Lumps should be checked
by your vet



Dash and Dot say,

*"The greatest thing you can do
with your dog is to play with him"*

Until next issue,

Cheryl and Clive,

and our Goldens, April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley

What to do About Lumps on Your Dog

"Lumps are very common occurrences, especially in geriatric pets," says Dr. Timothy Fan, a veterinarian specialising in cancer care. "Approximately 30 percent of all tumours found in dogs occur on the skin. There are a few important questions owners should ask themselves when they find suspect lumps on their pets."

Has the lump appeared suddenly, or has it been there awhile? Has the lump stayed the same in consistency and appearance or has it changed recently? Does the lump seem to separate from underlying tissue or is it attached? Is there only one lump or have you found multiple similar lumps? And finally, are there changes in your pet's behaviour such as eating less, weight loss, vomiting, diarrhoea, or lethargy? These questions may help your vet evaluate the seriousness of the lump's presence.

"Lumps are often benign accumulations of fat, known as lipomas. However many lumps are not lipomas, so all should be evaluated for the possibility of malignancy," says Dr. Fan. In general, many benign lumps may grow slowly and remain unchanged for many months. However, many malignant lumps grow rapidly and may infiltrate into the underlying tissue.

"The easiest way to figure out if a lump is benign or malignant is to take a fine-needle aspirate," says Dr. Fan. "We extract a few cells and look at them under a microscope. "Many skin tumours, benign or malignant, can be cured with surgery. However, skin tumours could be just the tip of the iceberg," warns Dr. Fan. Diagnostic tests

may be needed to determine whether the lump is a manifestation of a more widespread disease.

The most common malignant skin cancer in the dog is mast cell tumour. Mast cells are normal cells in the body that serve a normal defence mechanism.

If the normal mast cell undergoes a malignant change, a mast cell tumour may be produced. Mast cell tumours may be benign; however, many tumours possess varying degrees of malignancy, ranging from local reoccurrence following surgical removal to aggressive systemic disease, which may be fatal. The potential for mast cell tumour aggressiveness may be determined by a biopsy.

Although mast cell tumours primarily affect the skin, they have the potential to spread to other areas of the body. Therefore, it is important not only to address the skin tumour, but also to fully evaluate patient for systemic spread (metastasis). If there is no evidence for tumour metastasis, surgical removal of the mast cell tumour may cure the problem. If complete surgical removal of the mast cell tumour is not possible, radiation therapy or chemotherapy should be considered.

When you notice a lump on your pet have a veterinarian look at it. Many pets have lumps all their lives that remain benign, but if a lump is malignant, your pet has a better prognosis if treated early. "Skin cancers are quite common and many times are treatable and curable," says Dr. Fan.