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Special points of interest:

- Fernamber Rendezvous TD awarded her Tracking Dog Title
- T Ch Fernamber Tradition CCD awarded his Community Companion Dog Title.
- T Ch Fernamber Nymph CCD awarded her Community Companion Dog Title.

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Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Winter Issue

In March, Cheryl had one of those special birthdays that end with a zero! (And she is not telling which one!)

Much to her shock, her family organized a wonderful surprise party to celebrate, complete with Golden Retrievers, lots of friends, too much food and a giant cake! Thank you guys!

Congratulations to Kim and Tully, T Ch Fernamber Tradition CCD who earned his Community Companion Dog title and his first pass in Novice obedience. Also to Kim and Bella, T Ch Fernamber Nymph CCD who also gained her CCD title.

Tracking season is upon us once again, with people and dogs traveling long distances to stand in paddocks in the (very) early morning.

Harley and Pia were first cab off the rank, earning their Tracking Dog title at the first tracking trial of the year.

At the Golden Retriever Club Trial in May, we had a wonderful day with Ashley, Fernamber Rendezvous TD and her two handlers, Dawn and Peter qualifying for her Test 1 and tracking on for Test 2 to gain her Tracking Dog title! Ashley was also awarded best Golden Retriever of the day!

Congratulations to Avalon, Connor and Willow who also earned their Tracking Dog titles. Avalon was the star with two Excellent grades and also best Golden Retriever of the day! Liz and Charlie gained the ultimate—Tracking Champion!

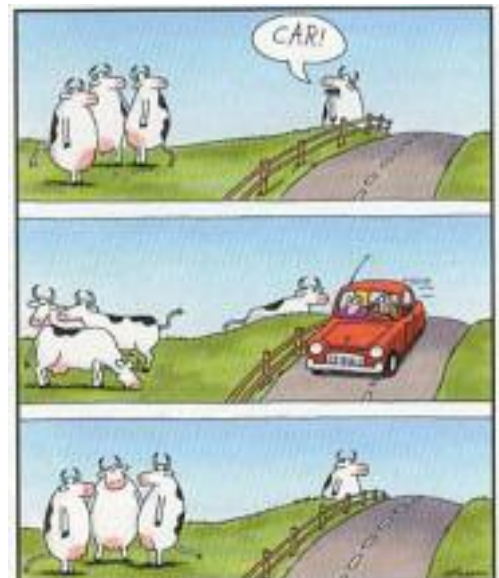
Sadly over the past few months we have said goodbye to some of our older canine friends. Farewell Miss Zena, Dylan and Spider who are restored to health and waiting at Rainbow Bridge. Their families here are missing their smiling faces.



Cheryl at her surprise birthday party.

Get well wishes to Lyn who is recovering from a bout of pneumonia.

From 1 May 2007, councils cannot accept new registrations for a dog or cat that has not been implanted with a microchip. This includes previously registered dogs and cats that move into a new municipality.



Tooth Fractures

Animals tend to get two different types of tooth fractures: fractures in which the pulp (nerves and vessels inside the tooth) is exposed and fractures in which the pulp is not exposed. Fractures involving the pulp can occur as a result of trauma, such as being hit by a car or a ball or something hard. This type of fracture often bleeds and since the nerve of the tooth is exposed can be accompanied by extreme pain and sensitivity to temperature change.

Some fractures occur over time and are caused by daily wear and tear. Chronic dental wear can also cause damage at the root of the tooth and can often lead to infection and swelling of the face.

Fractures that are painful can lead to behavioural changes, such as dropping food when eating or suddenly preferring

soft food to hard. Animals that routinely chew on cages or hard plastic bones are especially likely to develop this type of fracture. Sometimes a fracture is not discovered until the animal has an oral examination, which is why it is so important that your dog have a check up every year.

Tooth fractures can be treated in many ways, depending on the injury: extraction, root canal, or if discovered early enough, restoration.

If the tooth is fractured and the pulp tissue is not exposed, the tooth can be restored with a hard white substance that fills in the cracks and seals the tooth. For a fracture deep enough to involve the pulp of the tooth, a root canal can be performed.



Tooth fractures can be treated

Belle the Life Saver

A FLORIDA dog that called for help by mobile phone, saving the life of her owner in a diabetic seizure, will receive an award. Belle the Beagle, dialled the emergency number 911 on her owner's mobile phone when he lapsed into unconsciousness. Kevin Weaver originally got Belle for companionship, but after learning about a non profit organisation that trains dogs to alert diabetic owners of oncoming seizures he decided to have her trained. With a lick and sniff of Mr Weaver's nose, Belle can detect his blood sugar levels. When they drop below normal, she is trained to warn him by whining and pawing at him. Belle

was doing just that on February 7, but Mr Weaver thought she just needed to go outside. Minutes later he had slipped into a diabetic seizure. The well-trained Belle retrieved his mobile phone and, using her teeth, pressed the "9" key, which was programmed to dial 911. Paramedics arrived on the scene minutes later. "I am convinced that if Belle wasn't with me that morning, I wouldn't be alive today," Mr Weaver said. Belle is the first animal to receive the VITA Wireless Samaritan Award. The award is given to individuals who use their wireless phones to save lives, stop crime or help in emergencies.

"Belle used her owner's mobile phone to call for help."

Central Animal Records Statistics: Number of Recoveries

Year	By CAR Tag Number	By Microchip Number	Total Recoveries
2000	4803	5009	9812
2001	6995	8112	15107
2002	9500	13407	22907
2003	12938	22454	35392
2004	15712	32940	48652
2005	18838	45651	64489
2006	22089	63954	86043



The amazing microchip—it works!

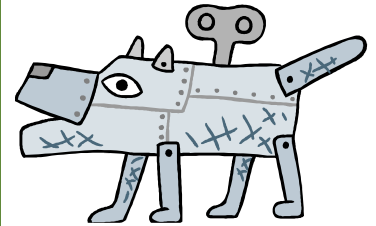
Arthritis

Arthritis is more common than most pet owners realise. Overall, one in five dogs suffers the disease, but in dogs more than six years old, 65% are sufferers. The pain an arthritic pet experiences is comparable to that experienced by affected humans but the problem lies in a pet's inability to communicate this pain to us. The limping and stiffness seen are often put down to old age and owners therefore assume the pain a pet shows is normal and that treatment is not necessary. This is certainly not true and there are many treatment options available but, sadly, the majority of dogs and cats with arthritis have their condition undiagnosed and untreated. Arthritis makes movement painful. So, affected pets hobble around the house, struggle up and down stairs and work especially hard to get to their feet in the

chilly mornings.

Arthritic dogs or cats will be reluctant to exercise and are less likely to jump or play. Dogs are less likely to chase balls and will have difficulty jumping into the car. Dogs and cats have difficulty in rising after resting, although after they have struggled to their feet, they tend to move more freely as they 'warm up'. When resting, a dog will often constantly lick, and sometimes even bite, an affected joint due to the pain experienced in that joint. Dogs with arthritis will often lag behind during walks and they may limp. They have a stiff, stilted gait and show an exaggerated swinging of their hips as they walk. Some will yelp with pain when touched.

An animal with untreated arthritis is in continual pain and has a reduced quality of life.



Arthritic dogs may have a stiff, stilted gait.

Treating Arthritis

Generally speaking most people think that nothing can be done for arthritis. But there are a number of successful treatments that can be used. Pentosan, Cartrophen and Sasha's Blend have had very good success rates in up to 8 out of every 10 dogs!

These products contain naturally occurring plant substances that are given as either an injection, powder or tablets. Pentosan and Cartrophen are repeated once a week for four consecutive weeks. Sasha's Blend is a powder placed in the food each day. Unlike previous arthritis drugs, these drugs are used to encourage the joints to produce more synovial (joint) fluid and therefore

lubricate the joints making them more movable.

Testing in humans is being attempted to see if it is as successful as in dogs. 80% of all dogs treated with Pentosan, Cartrophen, or Sasha's Blend improve significantly, some become like a young pup again. When Pentosan or Cartrophen work well, the results usually last from 3-6 months. Failing these other steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's) e.g. Rimadyl, Etogesic can be prescribed. These drugs are much more powerful and provide excellent pain relief. Some vets use a combination of these drugs.

Stay!

Father Barry Foster parked his car on a rather steep slope close to his church. His little Cairn Terrier was lying on the back seat.

The Father got out of the car, locked the door and issued his usual parting command to his dog, "Stay!"

Just then an elderly man passed by. He pointed at the car and asked "Why don't you just try putting on the hand brake?"

"Eighty percent of dogs treated improve significantly."



Who's responsible?

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)**



Pheromones are naturally produced scents
detected by mammals.



Dash and Dot say,

*"Sofas are to dogs like napkins
are to people. After eating it is
polite to run up and down the
front of the sofa and wipe your
whiskers clean."*

Until next issue

Cheryl and Goldens,

April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley

Dog Appeasing Pheromones (DAP)

The sense of smell is vitally important to dogs. Smells are a form of communication, a way to mark territory and a method of tracking down friends and enemies.

Scientific studies have shown how important a canine's own naturally produced scents, or pheromones, can be in helping the animal to stay calm in a crisis.

Pheromones are detected by mammals by the vomero-nasal organ, in the nasal cavity. The receptors are neurologically linked to the emotion system in the brain.

One of the canine pheromones is causing great excitement for animal behaviourists.

"This particular pheromone is an incredible find and the key to providing the treatment of dogs with stress related conditions and behavioural problems," says Daniel Mills, who is principal lecturer in behavioural studies at the University of Lincoln.

French scientists were the first to identify and synthesize this particular pheromone found in all lactating mammals. Produced by the mammary glands, it is passed from the mother to her offspring and conveys constant reassurance: it is nature's ultimate feeling of security and anti-anxiety.

"My interpretation of why this pheromone therapy works," says Daniel, "is based on the release of a chemical signal by the part of the brain that deals with recognition - or more accurately making things appear 'familiar'. The uncertainty of unfamiliar signals that trigger anxiety and stress. If the uncertainty can be removed, then the stress will cease to exist. "By introducing a familiar 'signal' like the appeasing pheromone, the dog feels less anxious.

This is why it is so useful in cases of separation anxiety, because the pheromone makes a dog feel more confident when he is left alone."

This particular pheromone is proving very effective in alleviating stress related signs in puppies and adult dogs. Vet Sarah Heath, says: "I have used it to help overcome a wide range of anxiety based problems in dogs. Many are separation related, such as destructive behaviour and excessive vocalisation when the owner is absent, and general attention seeking tactics. Pheromonotherapy is also very effective in counteracting a puppy's insecurity in a new home, or reassuring the dog anxious in kennel accommodation or whose home is invaded by a 'strange' dog or person. It is rewarding to see it work in cases of compulsive disorders, such as excessive licking, and phobias such as noise tolerance. It really is quite amazing!"

Pheromonotherapy must be part of a therapy programme and is not a stand alone cure. Daniel explains, "The appeasing pheromone is not a panacea: it complements the dog's natural tranquillizing mechanisms. It can be very effective in correcting stress related behavioural problems and is providing the answer to treatments of various phobias.

Human research into chemicals produced and emitted into the air is also uncovering evidence that our own behaviour can be managed in a similar way, but for now, dogs are benefiting from the science of identifying and replicating nature's 'calm' in a mad world.