

THE

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG

NEWS

Winter 2016



Official Magazine of the German Shepherd Dog Association of Western Australia (GSDA of WA) Incorporated

Affiliated with the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA)

Affiliated with DogsWest - the Canine Association of Western Australia (CAWA)

**PLEASE support us in purchasing your
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**The sponsorship package we have enables us to purchase the food
at an excellent price. The savings you make will pay for your training in a
short period of time AND it will help us retain our sponsorship**

Has your dog reached the ripe old age of 13 or 14 years 3 months and 1 day?

Have they qualified for the 13 Club or the Centurions?

Have they received their awards?

**The Association intends memorialising our oldies who have
reached these important milestones on our website.**

**If you have not heard from me recently seeking a photograph
PLEASE let me know so they can be included.**

Our dogs and owners are an important part of our history.

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**Please remember to support our valued and faithful sponsors
where you are able to:**

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BioJohn, Scarboro Toyota, Canning Vale Fish and Chips**



Dear Members

Another edition FINALLY put to rest—unfortunately due to an eye problem I have been limited to the time I could spend staring at the computer but I am back on deck now.

VERY pleased to advise that your Management Committee was re-elected unopposed at our recent Opening of Nominations meeting. The only change was to the Treasurer's position with Eric Herson who is standing down after stellar performances over the past years. Joan McMulkin will take on the mantle of Treasurer, she has been attending our meetings this year to familiarise herself with procedures. So it is Thanks to Eric and Hi to Joan. Thanks go to our Returning Officer John Glenny for his professionalism.

This obviously means that you—the members—are happy with the current set-up and we all look forward to working for you in the 2016-2017 year.

On Page 6 I have included the calendar until the end of September for your reference. To make sure that no-one misses any event I have trawled through the dates and added any closing dates. This should alleviate the comment I missed the entries!! Also note that our General Meetings have been moved to Sundays to enable more members to attend and see the working of the association.

Thanks to the small but hard workers who came to HQ for the filling of the slip bin. It was shoulders to the wheel got it cleaned up quickly and had time for some tasty raisin toast and lattes. If you snooze you lose!!!! I can't believe one bin could hold so much.

If anyone is interested in the old licensed trailer—you are welcome to put in a small bid. We no longer have a use for it so if you do let me know before it goes onto Gumtree to be sold.
All offers will be considered.

Went on a visit to our sister ground—Otago Park—had a great time chatting to you all—hope to repeat the visit soon. Will keep sending those updates!!!! Cheers for now Margaret



Margaret 0418 351 877—



I feel I must include this tribute to Wayne Davies—
son of Roy and Vicky (dec) Davies, long time supporters and life member of the G.S.D.A. of W.A. (Inc.)

Congratulations Wayne on attaining this award for another brilliant performance.
Sadly your talent was needed elsewhere and you left us suddenly earlier this year.
I know that you are smiling down from the giant theatre in the sky with your darling mum, Vicky
both watching how proud your family and friends are of your work and your life.





Dear Members

For those who are new to the Association we would like to advise you that we are sponsored by Mars Pet Foods and we have the opportunity to supply you with your dog’s feeding requirements at a discounted price.

The savings you make on the purchase of 3 bags equals the price of an annual membership. Well worth supporting us in rewarding our generous sponsors.

At Retail outlets these bags would cost you between \$116 and \$126 per bag

We have available for purchase

ADVANCE	20kgs	Active	\$95.00
	20kgs	Chicken	\$95.00
	20kgs	Large Puppy Growth	\$95.00

Note these are usually only sold in 15kgs at retailers

ADVANCE	17kgs	Turkey and Rice	\$85.00
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Food is available at Headquarters when training is taking place.

Further enquiries to John Crace on

Mobile: 0417 493 110 or

Email: vicepresident@gsdawa.org



Our German Shepherd World has lost an excellent friend recently - Rebecca Vinci
I take heart that Rebecca's strong beliefs mean she will be a Rainbow Bridge
taking care of all of our dogs with our GSD family
Deepest Sympathy to Peter, their family and friends
SHE WAS A VERY SPECIAL LADY

An Eternal Memory...

...Until We Meet Again

Those special memories of you
will always bring a smile
if only I could have you back
for just a little while
Then we could sit and talk again
just like we used to do
you always meant so very much
and always will do too
The fact that you're no longer here
will always cause me pain
but you're forever in my heart
until we meet again

DATE	EVENT	TIME	DETAILS
4/07/20146	Management Committee Meeting	7.30 pm	
<i>4/07/2016</i>	<i>Closing date for July's Obedience Trial</i>		
10/07/2016	Graduation at Otago Park	9.00am	
23/07/2016	Obedience Trial (Saturday)	1.30 pm	
<i>25/07/2016</i>	<i>Closing date for Rick Richardson & Walter Martin Memorial Shows</i>		
7/08/2016	Annual General Meeting	12 noon	Headquarters
<i>7/08/2016</i>	<i>Closing date for 4th Breed Survey</i>		
14/08/2016	4th Breed Survey	1.00 pm	
20/08/2016	Rick Richardson Memorial Ch. Show	8.30 am	Honey Gross-Richardson
21/08/2016	Walter Martin Memorial Champ. Show	8.30 am	Greg Green (Victoria)
<i>22/08/2016</i>	<i>Closing date for the E.T., V.I.M.S. and Montemelia</i>		
<i>28/08/2016</i>	<i>Closing date for Graduation at HQ</i>		
<i>28/08/2016</i>	<i>Closing date for Graduation at Otago Park</i>		
28/08/2016	Trainers Meeting	12.00 pm	
3/09/2016	Endurance Test	9.00 am	
4/09/2016	Graduation at Gosnells	9.00am	
3&4/09/2015	Vims & Montamelia	9.00 am	
<i>5/09/2016</i>	<i>Closing date for the 2nd Open Show & 3rd Members' Competition</i>		
5/09/2016	Management Committee Meeting	7.30 pm	
11/09/2016	Graduation at Otago Park	9.00am	
<i>18/09/2016</i>	<i>Closing date for 2nd Character & Working Assessment Entries</i>		
25/09/2016	2nd Character & Working Assessment	11.45 am	
<i>26/09/2016</i>	<i>Closing date for West Coast Challenge show</i>		

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE—

Following our last Quarterly General Meeting it was agreed that we would run our Members' Meetings on Sundays after training starting at noon sharp. This would enable our Otago Park members to also join us.

Hopefully we can sizzle a sausage for lunches and we can have productive meetings and more members are available to air their voices regarding the association.



New

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South Australia says

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the time or where I am, and it
arrives right to my door. The
breeder size bags give me the
best price per kg to feed my
Goldens - what more can I
ask?"*

Ruth Thompson
CHALEUR Golden Retrievers,
South Australia

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* Dogzonline Point score system



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Backyard beauty really is a dog killer in disguise

IAN WALKER, The Daily Telegraph

VETERINARIANS are warning dog owners to rip out a beautiful but poisonous backyard plant which has killed at least one Sydney dog and sickened a number of others.

The purple flowering Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow plant, also known as brunfelsia bonodora, causes seizures when dogs eat their toxic berries and seed pods. Animal Referral Hospital Dr Fiona Park said there had been a surge in brunfelsia poisoning cases over the past two months in Sydney.

"We've had one dog die as this plant causes seizures ... and if any dog has severe seizures it can eventually lead to organ failure and death and unfortunately that's what happened," she said.

"If you've got a dog definitely get rid of the plant and in terms of having the dog out and about just keep the dog on a leash."



The purple flowering Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow plant, also known as brunfelsia bonodora.

A berry bad situation

Known as Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow, the shrub grows slowly, up to around 4m tall, and 2m wide.

It comes with a dense green foliage, with purplish leaves in colder weather. The violet flowers appear from September to November, and grow well in Sydney and Brisbane

The brown berries can poison dogs, leaving them with fever, vomiting, muscle tremors, staggering and seizures. Owners are warned to remove the berries when they appear.

Dr Park recently treated eight-month-old beagle puppy Mac, who suffered serious seizures after eating the deadly plant. Anti-seizure drugs didn't stop his convulsions so he was put under a general anaesthetic with a breathing tube for 24 hours. It was days later before he was able to walk again.

She said telltale signs of brunfelsia poisoning include vomiting, increased salivation, diarrhoea and muscle tremors that can last up to several days.

The tropical American plant can grow 1m-2m and is popular in hedges and perfume gardens.



In Remembrance of our lost friends

DEAREST FRIEND

I lost my dearest friend today,
No finer could be found.
My love for you is utmost true,
It has no endless bound.
So hard to say,
"Good bye" to you,
Forever, trusting friend,
I'll keep you in my memories,
I promise till the end.





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If you would like the Association to stock any other products please do not hesitate to ask your Vice President, John Crace.

The Bio-John Equine and Pet Superstore is located on Abernethy Road in Belmont and has a large warehouse layout where you will find everything you will need. Our friendly staff is passionate about animals and their needs.

At Bio-John Equine & Pet Superstore we offer you an extensive range of products from the leading market suppliers so you can continue to use the products you know and trust. We cater to all your furry friends and your feathered friends too!

Did you know that G.S.D.A. of W.A. Members get a 5% discount? Just let the staff know.

Our dedication to traditional old fashioned service sets us apart from your everyday shopping experience and we look forward to welcoming you into the Bio-John Equine & Pet Superstore!

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Opening Hours

Weekdays 7.30am – 5.00pm

Saturday 8.00am – 12.00noon



**When we go on walks,
why do you always
steal my poo?**



HealthyPets.Mercola.com

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**I feel sorry for people who
don't have dogs. I hear they
have to pick their
own food up if they
drop it on the floor!**



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Kids Meals \$5.00

Kids Meal 1

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Fish Fingers (2) & Kids Chips

Kids Meal 2

2 Franks in Batter,
1 Pineapple Fritter & Kids Chips

Kids Meal 3

Small Fish & Kids Chips

(All Served in Small Cartons with Tomato Sauce)

Meal For 1

1 Fish
Pineapple Fritter
\$2.50 Chips
1 Can Drink \$11.30

Meal For 2

2 Fish
\$3.50 Chips
1/2 Serve Squid \$21.50

Meal For 3

3 Fish
\$4.50 Chips
Choice of:
3 Dim Sims
3 Crab Sticks
3 Pineapple Fritters \$27.90

Meal For 4

4 Fish
\$4.50 Chips & 1.25ltr Drink
Choice of:
4 Dim Sims
4 Crab Sticks
4 Pineapple Fritters \$37.50

Family Feast

5 Fish
\$5.50 Chips
Choice of:
5 Dim Sims
5 Crab Sticks
5 Pineapple Fritters \$45.00

Fishermans Basket

Fishermans Basket for 1

Small Fish
\$2.50 Chips
1 Crab Stick
2 Crumbed Prawns
1/2 Squid
Tartare Sauce \$14.60

Fishermans Basket for 2

2 Small Fish
\$3.50 Chips
2 Mussels (in batter)
2 King Prawns (in batter)
2 Tasmanian Scallops
2 Prawn Cutlets
1/2 Squid
Tartare Sauce \$26.80

Gourmet

Deep Fried Camembert Cheese \$7.50

Alternative meals for 1 all \$6.50
(choice of mashed potato or chips)

Mashed Potato, Sausage & sm gravy \$6.50

Chips, Sausage & sm gravy \$6.50

Chicken Breast pieces & Chips \$6.50

Choice of Chiko/Spring Roll, \$6.50

Chips & can \$6.50

Battered Hamburger, Chips & can \$6.50

3 Chicken Strips & Chips \$6.50

In hiding

I'm hiding here, under the table, appalled and extremely dismayed
I thought we were best friends for ever so I'm feeling completely betrayed
I enrich your whole life so you tell me bring you love and camaraderie
If you're down I unflinching cheer you by laying my head on your knee
You smile at my sweet little habits, you laugh at my funny antics
You tell me I'm faithful and loving, you're proud of my cleverest tricks
Wherever you lead me I'll follow I'll walk, resolute, in your path
All this and how do you repay me? You tell me its time for a bath!!!!



*Could members please ensure they clean up
after their dogs—we have plenty of bags and
deposit bins around Thank you*

STIHL

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Suddenly spooked- Secondary fear phase in adolescent dogs by DogComm

If you have a puppy anywhere from around 6 months old to 18 months (and more!) and they suddenly spook at anything at all you will often be told by your doggy friends, with a knowing nod, 'oh, that'll be the secondary fear phase'.

Your teenage puppy may suddenly show fear, backing away or perhaps even barking at things they coped well with before- people with hats, flapping carrier bags, people on ladders, bikes and scooters, black or flat faced dogs etc are all top ten triggers. *Inanimate objects can suddenly become a source of terror!*

But what is 'secondary fear' and what should we do about this sudden spookiness?

Secondary fear isn't very well defined in the scientific research and there's some debate about when it occurs (which is likely to be influenced by breed and genetics) and if it actually occurs. It's well reported though that dogs may suddenly (and hopefully temporarily) become more fearful about certain things.

Secondary fear is thought to occur anywhere between around 6 and 18 months old, during the period of social maturation where dogs change from puppyhood into adults. There are complex hormonal and neural changes that also occur around this time and sudden fear may well be linked to these physiological changes within the body. The primary fear centre in the brain, the amygdala, is enlarged at this time meaning that it reacts more sensitively to the environment and stress hormones are at their highest levels in adolescents.

In evolutionary terms, secondary fear also often corresponds with the time (around 8/9 months old) when older puppies of wild and semi feral dogs would have left their family group and ventured off alone into the big wide world. It is thought that a scaredy period at this time would protect puppies from venturing too close to things that could present a danger to them. Perhaps we still see throwback behaviour to this time.

Not all dogs will have a secondary fear phase and some dogs may have more than one (if you are unlucky!) It typically lasts between 1 and 3 weeks and needs careful handling as there is a risk that dogs may become permanently fearful of certain things if they are exposed to a very traumatic experience at this sensitive time.

What should we do about it?

Don't force them to face their fears or immediately embark on a heavy duty program of socialisation. For example, if they showed fear towards tall men with hats, don't expose them to lots of very tall men in hats in close proximity. Space and time are what you need right now- let them see the things they are worried about but from a distance they can cope with and ideally give them several days after a 'scary incident' before you expose them to the same thing again.

We give them space from the things that scare them (perhaps on the other side of a road for example) so that your dog stays 'under threshold'- by this we mean they are in an emotional and physiological state where they can cope aren't so stressed that they can't learn. Doing this gently and without stress is key so that we make good associations.

We give them time (at least a few days) so that they have chance to 'de-stress' and get back to normal before exposing them to the stimulus again. Allowing time to recover avoids the effect of trigger stacking (where scary things add up together to result in a very stressed dog) and gives your dog a recovery period.

We always ensure that we don't make a big deal about the 'scary thing' – we never force our dog to approach the flapping bag/scary plant/person in high vis, we give the dog the choice if they'd like to approach and we watch their body language carefully to judge how they are feeling. We also counter condition around the 'scary thing' from a distance so we pair exposure to it with things the dog likes (normally food!). Counter conditioning takes practise to get right so consult a trainer or behaviourist if you need help.

Be careful not to lure towards trouble– as humans we are always tempted to get our dogs (and our children!) to face their fears but this isn't helpful. If we lure (with food in the hand) a dog towards a 'scary' bin/person/dog then the dog will follow the food towards the scary thing and may then suddenly become very worried when they realise how close they are. Luring then towards scary things also removes the dog's free choice, which is something that we believe is very important- to give our dogs choices.



Avoid making it worse– if you expose a fearful dog to something they are scared of in the wrong way, or too close, or for too long, or to a too scary version of the thing, then you risk making the dog MORE fearful rather than less scared.

Do lots of low arousing, feel good activities to help get through a spooky phase. Loads of scent work and Ttouch ground work is best and being around people and dogs that they know and like.

Don't pick this time to start something new and potentially stressful. I delayed starting Sylvi's hydrotherapy as she was in a fearful phase at 6 months old and showed sudden spookiness towards novel objects and people. So going to a new place, being handled by a new person, wearing a floating vest, being showered and dried etc would have been too much for her at that time. Two weeks later when she was back to normal we started hydro and she thrived.

Think back to early socialisation- are there any gaps or things you didn't cover? In winter puppies it's common to forget to expose them to sunglasses and summer hats and in summer puppies we can forget to get them used to big bulky coats and winter hats for example. Did you miss out mobility scooters and are they an issue now? If you've identified a gap then remedial socialisation is a great idea- don't be afraid to ask for help from a reward-based trainer or behaviourist to help you with this.

A fear of certain breeds of dogs can often overcome by remedial socialisation (Sylvi has no fear of flat-faced friends!)

Check they are feeling okay- consult your vet if they are behaving out of character or if you see a sudden change. Adolescence can mark the onset of some medical conditions so always rule out any medical cause (including pain) for behavioural changes. Fear and pain are strongly linked and can exacerbate each other. Don't assume that it's 'just' behavioural as they are young, it's crucial to rule out our medical causes.

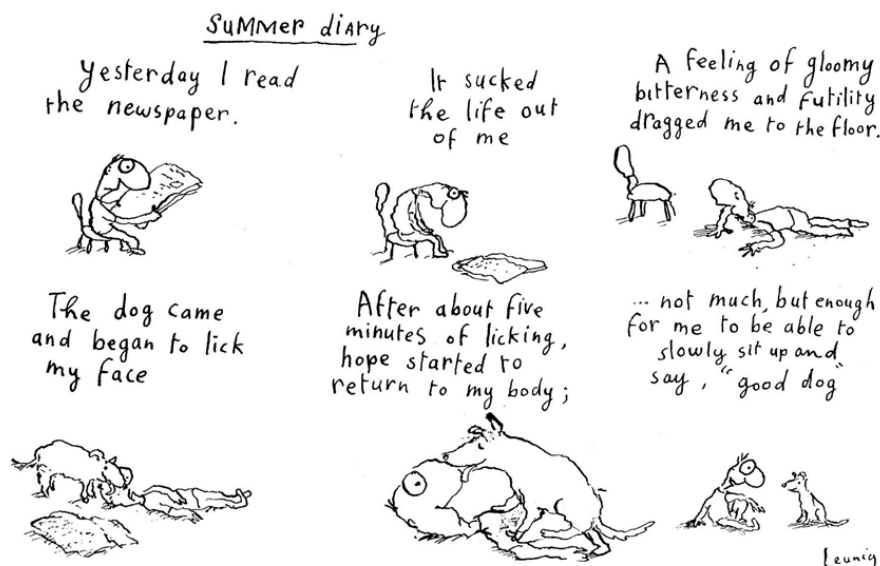
If the fearful phase persists or gets worse then don't delay in getting help, all behavioural issues are easier to 'fix' if they have only recently occurred rather than behaviours that have been practised for months or years.

With any luck though your normal (whatever normal is!) adolescent will return pretty quickly.

Laura McAuliffe, Dog Communication 2016.



Recommendations made in any of our articles are a guide only and are not a substitute for responsible veterinary treatment.



Memories are made of this!

Not every day of all the members of the GSDA of WA is spent training their dogs, playing with puppies, helping new members train their new dogs! Sometimes some of us, have a chance to visit friends who for some reason or another are no longer training with us, but who are still very much in our hearts.

Let me tell you about one of such days, where a small group of us got together to bring a smile to the eyes of a friend, and share with her family, a little more about the life of our club member, their mother and grandmother, and the esteem in which we hold our own, their Jean. Our now sadly retired from what we know as a normal life, keen trialling member, Jean Wohlhuter, who suffered a stroke just days after winning her last trophy, is happily homed at the RAAF centre in Merriwa. The staff and care are just wonderful!

In the year 2013, Jean was our Best Lady Handler at the SBE, when she competed with her South African bitch Chanook. With the help of Margaret Adams, Di Bolger and long term club member Heather Roe, arranged for a small group of Jean's close family and friends to visit her on Monday the 11th of April, 2016, for a very special presentation!

So a lovely tea party was arranged in the care centre, and surrounded by us all, Jean seemed more like the hostess, than the patient we all deeply care for! From her comfortable day bed, she surveyed her loved ones and friends, and her dogs enjoying pats from all, as her daughter Jody and daughter in law Barbs spoiled us all, plying us with cakes and kept filling up our tea-cups. Barb's dad was over on a visit from Vancouver, and her sons Christian and Brody, as well as their cousin James had an



enjoyable morning, with the dogs to pat, and electronic games to play while James' dad Martin, Jean's son, must have marvelled at what a happy and contented bunch we were, all visiting his mum on this morning we shared.

Di, Chris and Peter Barsby, Heather and I, represented the GSDA, and with greetings from the President, the committees and members of our club, it was my privilege to present to Jean, her Best Lady Handler trophy and a beautifully framed, to be treasured for ever, 13th Birthday Certificate!

Yes!! It is "The 13th Club", for Jean's beautiful and ever so fit and vibrant Chanook vom Chantian UD!!!

Heather is Chanook's guardian, and Jean's very special and best friend, and brings her to visit Jean frequently. Jean's other beloved dog, a gorgeous little white sweetheart, Tinkie, all of 8 inches tall, is nine now, and lives with Jean's daughter Jodie! Both dogs are quite at home in the huge aged care facility, with its beautiful gardens and very attractive individual rooms, with access to the verandas and walk ways, and having them both underfoot, taking turns checking up on Jean, whilst we were enjoying cakes and chocolates with our cuppas, added charm and tranquillity, to what to me, felt like a happy family get-together!

Jean's delight, her sheer joy was plain to see, and with her family around her, and us old friends, I know the memory of this special day will continue to bring a smile to her eyes! Jean's dear husband also resides at this wonderful hospice and at times this charming dear couple meets to have lunch together! It is comforting to know, that the family lives close by and visits often, and even a very occasional visit from a friend in the GSDA, usually arranged by Heather, brightens Jeans' day.

Many of our readers knew Jean and admired her work with beautiful Chanook, and I just had to share this little story with you!

Perhaps the photos taken on the day, have captured some of the happiness of that morning.

In closing, let me say that we all, wish Jean and her loving family all the very best for happiness and good health!

HONEY

Life Member, GSDA of WA

NICOTINE: THE DEADLY DANGER

Nicotine is a highly poisonous substance that can kill both humans and animals.

In the Three Act Tragedy by Agatha Christie, Belgian detective Hercule Poirot investigates when one character, Sir Bartholomew Strange, was poisoned with nicotine, a colorless, odorless liquid lethal at just a few drops. Toxicology experts warned that drinking the equivalent of just two bottles of e-liquid could deliver enough nicotine to kill a human.

There were nine UK deaths from nicotine poisoning in the three decades leading up to the 1970s, when nicotine was available in liquid form in insecticides.

The lowest fatal dose was between 50 and 60 milligrams - equivalent to smoking about 20 to 30 cigarettes or drinking two high strength bottles of e-liquid containing 24 milligrams of nicotine each.

Nicotine poisoning induces vomiting, muscles spasms and seizures. In fatal cases it interferes with the central nervous system and causes respiratory failure.

It is also highly poisonous to cats and dogs. Common signs to watch for include vomiting, abnormal heart rate, uncoordination, tremors, weakness and collapse.

Nicotine is a rapid acting toxin and, often, pets will show signs of poisoning within 1 hour of ingestion, the [Pet Poison](#) helpline warns.

The toxic dose for nicotine in pets is 1/2-1 mg per pound of pet body weight, while the lethal dose is 4 mg per pound of pet body weight.

So a 40lb dog would get very sick after eating one cigarette - but would need 11 cigarettes to die from nicotine poisoning.

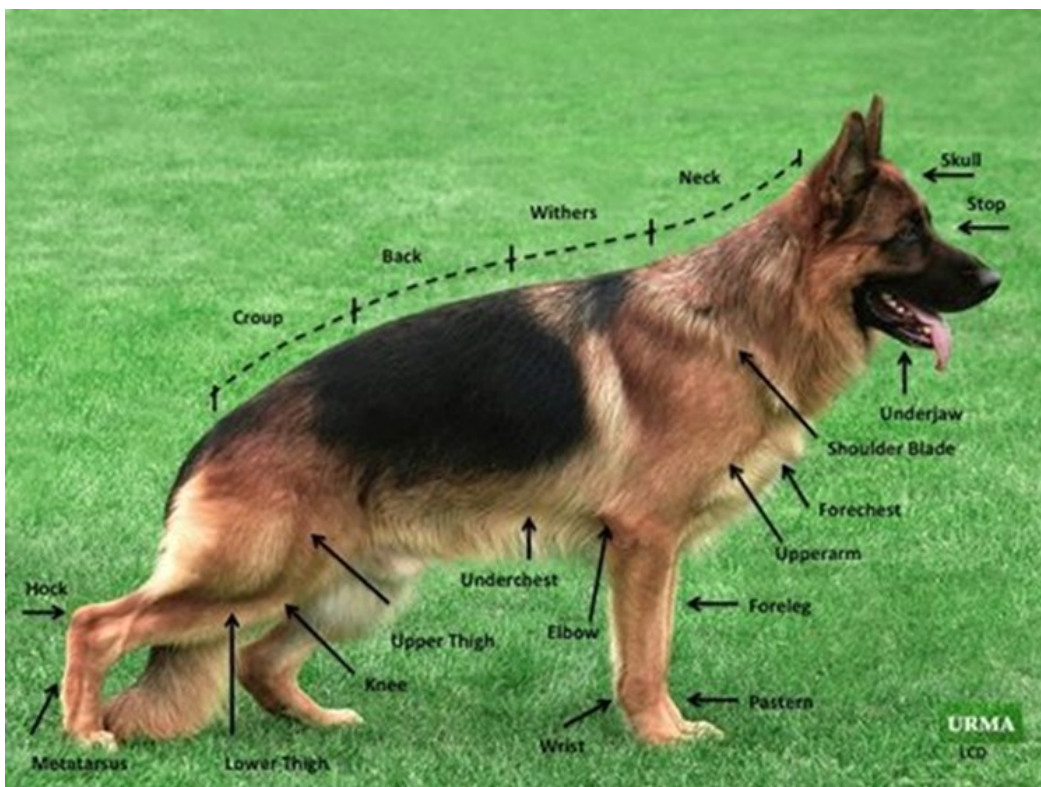
Pets ingesting small amounts of nicotine often vomit spontaneously and may self-decontaminate.

However, even when vomiting occurs, veterinary evaluation after ingestion is typically recommended so that the heart rate, blood pressure and neurological status can be monitored.

Treatments including additional decontamination, IV fluids and medications to slow the heart rate, decrease the blood pressure or stop tremors may be needed.



NEW SMOKING ZONES HAVE BEEN SET UP FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SMOKE AT HQ



Fridge Foods

HEALTHY DOG SNACKS



Pet Nutrition Blogger
Rodney Habib

facebook.com/PlanetPawsPetEssentials

print & stick on your refrigerator!



ANTIOXIDANT RICH

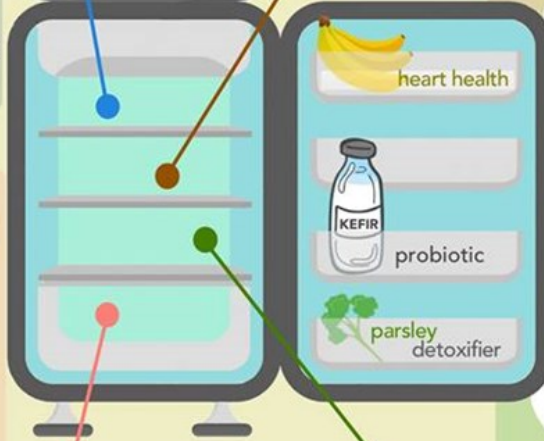
- bell peppers
- brussel sprouts
- spinach
- blueberries
- apple
- blackberries & raspberries

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY

- pineapple
- sardines
- turmeric root
- cranberries
- papaya
- asparagus

- shiitake
- spirulina
- pumpkin
- ginger
- kale
- broccoli

CANCER SMASHING



- almonds (ground) immune booster
 - pumpkin seeds (ground) ligament health
- (some put in fridge)

- eggs
- kelp
- coconut oil
- wheatgrass
- pomegranate
- sprouts

SUPERFOOD CALIBER

NOTE TO SELF:

It is illegal
to stab people
for being Stupid.



Canning Vale Fish & Chips

Two pups may be tempting but it is double trouble

People often ask whether having two GSD puppies together is a good idea, the short answer is NO, not unless you are very experienced AND have a great deal of time on your hands even then most experienced owners would not consider such an arrangement due to the potential problems that often result.

Two puppies together are usually more difficult to raise and to house train, they learn more slowly because they are distracted by one another and tend to concentrate on each other rather than on their owner.

The hierarchy can be a big problem with dogs or bitches, either one party tends to become very submissive and the other very bold or the pair become over dependent on each other and become anxious and distressed if separated even for short periods. If both puppies are very similar in strength of personality they can become fierce rivals as they get older and may need to be permanently separated, not an easy option in a family home. It really is not possible to train two dogs at once so having two puppies at once means separating them for training time and that means spending twice as much time as with one puppy. Being able to devote all one's time and attention to one pup through puppyhood and adolescence produces a much better balanced and less confused dog who should by early adulthood be well trained and in a position to tutor a younger companion and keep them in order. Also by the time a dog is about a year old you will know whether he or she likes the company of other dogs and whether another dog will provide an ideal companion, whether bitch would be better, or perhaps no dog at all.

Puppies can become too dependent on each other

Sometimes people think that having two pups together provide a solution to the problems encountered when dogs are left unattended for long periods, such as when their owner is at work all day. Common sense dictates that this is absurd, two dogs left to chew the house, mess on the floor, tear up furnishings, dig up the garden or bark and howl will create twice the problem it may have been intended to solve. Dogs should not left unattended for long periods on a regular basis and if you are unable to give one dog the time and companionship it needs and deserves you should certainly not consider having two!

Partners in crime

Having two dogs that may not get on or may exclude you from their relationship is very difficult to resolve once you love them both.

We recommend always starting with dog or puppy and adding another 12 - 18 months later this will give you time to train and bond with your dog and to reflect upon whether you still want two dogs. Undoubtedly two well adjusted canine companions who each enjoy a close and secure relationship with you are a delight and many of our puppies go as a second dog to households that already include one dog - often one that we have bred but we never allow two puppies to go to the same household at the same time.

If you want two dogs together and do not necessarily want a puppy do consider the breed specific rescue organisations who often have pairs of older dogs who have lived together prior to going into rescue and who will be more difficult to home as a pair.



*Please don't forget Your Breeder *

I know from day one not every puppy could stay -
preparing them for life took many hours each day.

I love every minute watching them develop and thrive -
helping them discover the world fills me with pride.

The weeks are numbered - never enough time-
I worry even though I know the puppies will be fine.

Now I trust you with this puppy and hope you understand,
I handpicked you and expect you to follow the plan.

Continue to provide new experiences each day -
never stop training - and always play.

I will never forget my puppies and will always be here -
please provide them the best for the rest of their years.

No matter how long ago your baby was here -
not staying in touch is my biggest fear.



GSDCA Scale of Charges as from 1 July 2016 – GST INCLUSIVE

Service or Product	Charge to Clubs/Applicant	Charge to Members by Clubs	
TATTOO CHARGES			
Tattoo per pup	\$2.00		
Tattoo Prefix	\$25.00		
AUS Number	\$25.00		
TOOTH CERTIFICATE			
Tooth Certificate	\$40.00		
NATIONAL BREED COMMISSION			
Breed Survey Pass	\$27.00	\$35.00	
Breed Survey Fail	\$27.00	\$35.00	
Breed Survey Book 2012 & 2013	\$50.00		
Breed Survey Book 2011	\$40.00		
Breed Survey Book 2010 and prior	\$20.00		
GSDCA Title Verification	\$25.00		
HD & ED CONTROL SCHEME			
Charge to Members and payable to National Council			
HD/ED Appeal	\$130.00		
HD/ED Form – Hips & Elbows	\$88.00		
HD/ED Form – Hips only	\$50.00		
HD/ED Form – Elbows only	\$33.00		
Paid to Readers by National Council (*GST Exclusive)			
HD/ED – Readers Charge	\$49.74 *		
HD - Readers Charge	\$31.09 *		
ED - Readers Charge	\$18.63 *		
QUARTERLY NATIONAL REVIEW			
QNR Magazine cost to members per edition	\$5.50		
QNR Advertising – Front Cover	\$300.00		
QNR Advertising – Back Cover	\$250.00		
QNR Advertising – Full Page	\$500.00		
QNR Advertising – Double Spread	\$900.00		
QNR Advertising – Half Page	\$275.00		
QNR Advertising – Quarter Page	\$115.00		
QNR Subscriptions Private Subscriber - Australia	\$55.00		
QNR Subscriptions Private Subscriber – New Zealand	\$83.00 AUD		
QNR Subscriptions Private Subscriber – SE Asia	\$85.00 AUD		
QNR Subscriptions Private Subscriber – UK/Europe/ USA/Canada	\$70.00 AUD		
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEDALS/PLAQUES			
Standard Conformation Excellent Medal (Round)	\$4.40		
Standard Obedience in Trial Excellent Medal (Round)	\$15.00		
National Show Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals (Large Round)	\$7.50		
National Show National Conformation Excellent Medal (Large Round)	\$7.50		
National Show Obedience Excellent Medal (Triangle)	\$22.00		
National Show Memento (Octagonal)	\$9.50		
National Council Award of Merit Plaque Excellent Graded Animals	\$22.00		
GOLDEN JUBILIEE EDITION			
Soft Cover	\$75.00		
GSDCA MEETING SUBSIDY based on KMs by air (maximum \$1,000.00 total)			
	<i>Venue: Adelaide</i>	<i>Venue: Sydney</i>	<i>Venue: Melb</i>
GSDC of Qld	\$220.00	\$128.00	\$226.00
N&HRGSDC	\$173.00	\$22.00	\$140.00
ACT GSDA	\$134.00	\$54.00	\$73.00
GSDC of Tasmania	\$174.00	\$192.00	\$99.00
GSDA of WA	\$299.00	\$606.00	\$462.00



From the Obedience Chair: A lesson in history and the future

An important notice to all members: We, the GSDA of WA will be conducting an Endurance Test, on the 3rd of September, right here, at our beautiful Headquarters in Passmore St. Southern River! All the relevant notices will go out in due course, and today, I present to you, an article by the former President of the GSDA, my beloved, late husband, Rick Richardson. This is a light hearted account of the history of the ET, and I think it might just pique your interest!

We are hoping for a strong representation from our own club this year, and the ET is open to every dog between the ages of two and eight years. Cycling with your dog, is one of the absolute best ways for wonderful bonding through an activity that brings your fitness levels to a new peak, and will help you keep your dog in top condition. You do need to be a member of Dogs West in order to participate, for the ET is an ANKC sanctioned event. It is conducted not only Australia wide, but all over the world, where there are strong, active German Shepherd Dog Clubs following the example set by the SV, the parent club of our breed, in Germany.

Here is the link to the ANKC Rules for the Endurance Test, http://ankc.org.au/media/1088/152910endurance09_sepb.pdf and here is my email address, richardson@eftel.net.au Drop me a line please, expressing your interest in this year's ET and I shall send you one of my articles on training your dog for the Endurance Test.

This year, 2016, sees the 40th Anniversary of the lifting of the infamous ban, requiring all German Shepherd Dogs being desexed. What a thrill it would be, to have a contingent of our wonderful German Shepherd Dogs running the ET on our grounds this September! How long does it take to prepare your dog for the morning of a 20KM run?? For a dog of average fitness, running, playing, training every day, with or without jogging or cycling included, it would be 3 to 4 weeks, for a couch potato it would take a couple of weeks longer. Ideally every GSD enjoys his 5km run 3 times a week, and some lucky owners take their dogs cycling daily, what better way to have FUN with your dog before and after training? So come on, everybody, ENJOY those crisp winter morning and c c c cold evenings with a heart and soul warming run with your dog, your dog trotting at your side, and you taking the easy way, doing all that leg work, even sitting down, you won't be cold for long!

Enjoy your Happy Training,
HONEY

New Committee! Let's change the rules. Why? Because we can!

The Endurance Test was started in Germany, or to give it its German title, "Ausdauer Prüfung" (That's the AD found on German Pedigrees! It is not as some think signifying Agility Dog) No one knows exactly when the E.T. started, this part of the S.V. history appears to have been lost somewhere in obscure record books, which no doubt Honey could unearth, given time! What we do know is that it was part of a test to gauge the working aspects of dogs after a controlled amount of stress had been applied. (More of that later in this article.) The E.T. became so popular that it developed into a sport in its own right. Thousands of German Shepherds and lots of other German working breeds in the Motherland take part every year for the title and more importantly for the high level of fitness and the fun of the physical effort for the handler and dog. There, it is also a prerequisite for breeding along with various other requirements. Should anyone doubt that the ET is enjoyable for the dogs then they have never been in the midst of the forest and hear the excited yodeling of our **Canine Good Companions**. Sorry about that, I couldn't resist the opportunity to get in a commercial!

The concept of the Endurance Test was first imported into South Australia, in Jürgen Neddermeyer's early days, and then shortly afterwards, in 1975 to be exact, into W.A. where it is still run by the G.S.D.A. twice a year in Perth. Our country training grounds of which we had 12, were pretty far flung in those days, Kalgoorlie (700ks from Perth) and once up on a time, Port Hedland (1500ks from Perth) Both of these training grounds held an E.T. annually.

In W.A., after Honey had translated the German rules, a committee of four was formed. The original people responsible for the introduction of the test were the then Training Supervisor, Mr. Roy Davies, and at that time already an Obedience Judge Honey Gross, as she was then known. (that was before she succumbed to my irresistible charms.) and including Mr. John Fenner and myself, who were both later to become Obedience as well as Agility Judges. Honey and John later went on to come well known GSD specialist judges and Breed Surveyors.

Our first attempt at running the event was very nearly the last. Our chosen venue was the Royal Agricultural Society Show grounds. A course was planned to circle the show grounds using bitumen, gravel and the grass on the centre arena. The participants of our first attempt gathered and it was something like the start of the Sydney marathon, they were supposed to travel at an approximate speed of 10-12ks per hour. As soon as the word START was spoken, a car took off with some owners peering at their darlings out of the car windows.

Well! The dogs saw their owners disappearing so they all took off too. With bicycle brakes desperately applied but to no avail, they went off in a stampede, dragging their handlers behind.

So much for massed starts!! That was the moment when there came the first change of the newly written ET rules. No massed Starts! In future they would go at one-minute intervals and that would be maintained throughout the test. That change of rule must be an all-time record even for Australia. Just as well it was a local event. WE could have had to wait five years for the next ANKC change of rule meeting, and then anything could have resulted!

Honey, John and I, from the very beginning, tried to encourage owners to participate in all aspects of our sport, and after sorting out and managing to stop the ill-disciplined lot still charging around the Show Grounds we began to organized the first E.T. Our judge for that event was a renowned Obedience and Retrieving judge Mrs. Marie Ewen.

Marie became the first President of the Canine Association of WA. A position she held for ten years. She enthusiastically gave the GSDA of WA support for many of our ideas and took part in judging our top Obedience events such as the STUBBS, a once a year competition celebrating its 45th Anniversary!

Back to the ET- to maintain our aim of encouragement by leading by example, we three were the first to enter. Roy's dog, at six years of age, which was the cut-off point that we had decided on, in line with Germany, could no longer compete.

Honey's Tobarro Dingalara A.O.C. John's Viscount Rebel UD and my youngster, Stronway Gallant CD, were among the first of a group of 5 to gain the E.T. title in WA. Witherstein Vivonne CD (Jan Steward) and Jaguar Maxine CD (John Brinks) were the other two.

One incident that just can't go unreported (albeit it with a loving smile) was the arrival at the E.T site of the wife of the President of Perth Training Obedience Dog Club. Mrs Nell Minty. She came armed with a rather heavy umbrella and a strong arm, ready to defend those helpless young German Shepherds who were, as she thought, being forced to run until the last one standing was to be declared the winner.

The first successful exhibitor with another breed to complete the E.T. was a Doberman owner Frank De Catania with his bitch Tutu. She eventually became the first dog to gain Westralian Obedience Champion Associate. Her title was Tutu W.O.C.A. E.T.

The original committee of four, bearing in mind we were only dealing with GSD's at the time.

thought that a heeling section and the jump, would conform to the German concept. So we added that at the end of the gaiting, a heeling routine to Obedience trials Novice standard should be performed and also included a jump and return over the standard obedience hurdle, with an optional retrieve.

Over the years that followed I cannot recall any dog failing the gaiting they did however fail the Jump, which was after all a part of the dogs' fitness and standard of training test.

To encourage owners who did not do obedience and those with show dogs too, we went along with the virtual elimination of the high standard of heeling. We wanted the test established and hope to emulate so many of facets of the dog sport and create an ET Ex. Just like CDX.UDX. ADX. Etc etc. ETX sounds good to us!

On the topic of keeping it fun and light, Honey and I were running just a little late for the start of the ET being held deep inside the State forest at Glen Eagle. We passed the huge Marquee that was to be the reception lunch tent and noticed a young man busily working on the marquee alone. My thought was he should have help. We all walked or cycled past the young man during the test. It was within sight of part of the course and constantly being passed by Shepherds, Dobermans and Rotties. When the event was over, everyone started for the clearing and the tent, only to find a large empty space where the tent and the beer should have been.

It was no fun to find that our illustrious huge Marquee was dismantled and stolen from right before our very eyes! Little did we know that the young man was taking it down and home with him, marquee, beer and all those chicken sandwiches so lovingly prepared. The Department of Youth and Recreation and their insurers didn't believe it either.

Another but funny incident happened to Honey, who, having taken in the decimal system with her mothers' milk still shudders at the thought of tradesmen in hardware shops selling 25mm diameter tubes in 6 foot lengths! She can't even hack mixing my metaphors, whatever they are! Anyway, to cut a long story short, which I always find difficult to do, with 15 Grandchildren and 5 Great Grandchildren I have to be a story teller and being born and living in countries that had no television, helped hone my skills.(at story telling)

Back to Honey's faux pas, she had typed out the schedule for yet another one of the Endurance Tests and had given the height of the jump as 90mm instead of 90 cm which was what she had intended, it annoyed her no end, that here metrics meant 900mm when any sane European would say 90 cm. By the way 90mm is the exact height of a packet of cigarettes (whatever they are) lying on its side. Of course no one took any notice except one large gentleman who angrily demanded that the jump be reduced for his dog to the height shown in the schedule. His claim was that he had trained his dog, a rather large GSD, to jump that height.



At each change of rules we seem to have drifted further and further away from the original concept.

The prime object of the ET has been overlooked. The 20 Ks, as stated in the old rules, German and those devised here in Australia, was to put controlled stress on the dog in order to see that it was still able after the gaiting, to perform its main function and that was to work.

We worked hard to persuade other breeds to take part to save the event and to get the title ET recognised by the ANKC so that those owners with pure breed dogs could have it on their pedigree. Our idea was that eventually, as with so many other aspects of our sport, the basic title would only be a foretaste of the REAL thing

Once the Endurance Test had been accepted by the A.N.K.C., exhibitors and dogs of all shapes and sizes and in all States were able participate in the fun. Thank goodness it's mainly the dogs that have to be fit and hard.

It did for a time look as if the judges too were going to have to become marathon runners. Early drafts of the proposed NEW Rules seem to suggest that the judges would expected to run with the handlers and dogs! OK, OK, they are able to cycle or walk as well!

Mind you, one of the best Endurance Tests we enjoyed, apart from Honey Judging in Port Headland, where the course started at 4 or 5 in the morning, cycling across the oval with wonderfully fertile smelling recycled water creating a lush spongy lawn that sucked the bicycle tires right down into the turf and demanded tremendous will power and muscular strength to keep the bikes and dogs running at 10 to 12 kph, and where the truckies early in the morning, thundering ever Eastward in their gigantic road trains shook their heads in wonder, and rubbed their bleary eyes, to see a handful of cyclists with dogs, would you believe, cycling madly into the sunrise, and quite apart from the ET in Kalgoorlie, where my fair lady cycled part of the way to get into the spirit of things, and found that someone, the Army or Volunteer Defenders of the Faith, like Dad's Army, was taking pot shots, and we all had to detour, hoping that the one who led the troupe before we were stopped and re-directed, would come out alive, apart from all these exciting events giving their special flair to the ET, one of the best, was when Honey and I followed the dogs in a classy black Mercedes! OK, ok, before you splutter on your Port, this was in Germany, and we were privy to the Real McCoy in idyllic countryside with Honey serenading the river alongside which the cycle track ran, with a song about the Neckar and the Rhine.

Our ET courses were idyllic too, over the years we have worked in some stunning country side.

The Gnaragara Pine Plantation was a virtual paradise, and our later venue in the pines, Glen Eagle, was breathtaking.

Before we found Glen Eagle, Honey and I explored the possibility of using quiet roads so that the ET, just as in Germany would go from one village (read township) to another. So, starting in South Perth, and cycling along the river, sounded ideal! There is a good variation of surface, from bitumen to footpaths to grass verges to dirt tracks, it's all there. So were the hoons who enjoyed revving their motors right behind Honey cycling with her Brandy. Now don't get the wrong idea, Brandy was her double Ingo bitch with cast iron temperament and nerves of steel, and nothing fazed her, but it just wasn't safe to risk a troupe of cyclists on the roads which were suddenly filled with crazies who loved to startle the dogs and do wheelies in front of their noses, with the screening or blue metal flying around their ears. That was definitely not on.

Desecration of forest.

Our current venue is near North Lake. A lovely little lake surrounded by natural bush with some stunning Eucalypts, Banksias and those Melaleucas! Wildflowers galore of course, and little slithering creatures that we prefer not to see. But that's life! The dogs are on lead, the snakes cross the tracks and roads but prefer the bush and we don't let the dogs play with them! We're tough in the West, but not that gung ho either. Obedience Chairman, Marilyn Wrigley, was quite taken with our ET and VIMS when she visited WA in 2008, and is hoping to turn the VIMS into an Australia wide competition! Now THAT'S a challenge!

So over the years, we saw quite a few changes of venue and quite a few Rules changes too.

One rule that was of considerable concern was the one that in essence allows any dog between the age of two and up to and not including eight years to compete. The number of people who vote for demanding that once a dog is successful and attains the title ET it shouldn't compete, should be aware of what they are asking for. To vote for a possibility that would allow a dog of almost eight years to be subject to the stress of a 20ks run for the first time, should look at the dog's inability to deal with this unless it was a habitual athlete.

One slight worry was that something which has been a happy, fun event would go the way of Agility, which, when it started, was also fun event for the exhibitors and especially the dogs.

Unfortunately that aspect was quickly lost in the sometimes dour battle for titles.

The E.T. is happily non - competitive and here at least it has remained an event where a spirit of camaraderie is always present.

The only danger is a possible lack of understanding by some officials and some exhibitors of the level of fitness required by the dogs. As I have repeated the main object is to see if after controlled stress, (20Kms) the dog is fit to work. In the past some have said if the dog has managed the 20kms it should pass. Not so.

Arriving at an Obedience Trial venue and walking around the ring won't get a C.D. title would it? However under the new rules, all that is required after the 20kms is for the dog to walk some 10 metres up and down under orders from the judge. No jump, no obedience to trial standard! The little Recall can be managed by any 8 week old pup! Most of the babies would even SIT!

Already there appears to be a misunderstanding by some controls in thinking you must have areas of bitumen. The rule says "after three Ks of bitumen" in the context that if one of the varied surfaces was bitumen then it should not exceed three Ks! The rule doesn't say that there must be!

Want to be in it? All dogs, no matter what aspect of the Dog Sport they are in, Show, Obedience, Retrieving, Agility or the newest additions for you AND your dog to enjoy; Dances With Dogs even, with Heelwork to Music and Freestyle!
The first step is teaching the dog to trot or gait beside a bicycle. Not for Doggie Dancing, for the ET!
The How To Do It is explained in detail in Honey's Pre-Kindy Training Manual. (If you own a Shepherd, this book is a MUST!)
Slowly build up to about 5 Ks two or three time a week. It is not necessary to do 20 Ks in training. A big NO, is running the dog for long stretches on hard surfaces like bitumen, a dog's pasterns were not built to withstand that type of pounding, and finally, use a collar, not a choker!

All the ANKC affiliated clubs will have the ET Rules on their web site, and the internet gives you access to many interesting articles on the Et and how to train for it.

Who knows if you like it and get the title E.T. maybe you'll help push to introduce E.T.X.
Yeah. I know that's really a mens' edition of the E.T. but we need you ladies to help us get tough.
WHAT do we call the ETX?? The Endurance test the way it USED to be, with Heel work to Novice Standard, and the Jump with or without retrieve, over the hurdle!



WHEN IS THE NEXT E.T.???????

Saturday 3rd September 2016

WHERE IS THE NEXT E.T.???????

G.S.D.A. of W.A. Headquarters

23 Passmore Street Southern River

**Closing date for entries 22nd August
2016**

HOW DO I TRAIN FOR THE NEXT E.T.???

Ask your trainers



Socializing Your Puppy: Why “Later” Is Too Late

June 23, 2016 jsummerfield

It's a common scenario.

You've just brought home your new puppy. Eight weeks old, all roly-poly fluff and cute as a button.

You've heard that puppies need to be “socialized,” and you definitely plan to work on that when you get a chance. Maybe sign up for a class with your local trainer, or start taking her for walks around the neighborhood. But not just yet.

You'll start when the weather gets warmer. When your work schedule eases up a bit and you have more time. When the kids go back to school. And you want to make sure she's had all her shots first, right? There will be plenty of time for socializing later.

Wrong.

Unfortunately for many new puppy owners, it's easy to assume that there's no need to worry about training or behavior issues at such a young age. I talk to owners about puppy kindergarten classes and socialization during every new puppy exam at our veterinary clinic, and it's a constant refrain: “Oh, we don't need to start anything like that yet. She's doing fine right now, no problems. Maybe when she's older.”

The fact is, “when she's older” will be far too late. Scientifically, here's the reason why: puppies go through a critical socialization period from 6 to 16 weeks of age that will dramatically impact their behavior for the rest of their lives. During this period, their brains are like tiny sponges – soaking up everything they experience and filing it away for the future.

(I should note here that some experts in the field consider the socialization period to end as early as 12 weeks, and there is also some evidence to suggest differences in the optimal socialization window for different breeds – which is a fascinating topic in itself, but beyond the scope of today's post! Suffice it to say, as a general rule of thumb, 16 weeks is a good estimation.)

Whatever puppies see at this age, they will consider a normal part of life as adults. Kids on bicycles? Fine. People with umbrellas and shiny coats? No problem. Lawnmowers, crying babies, men with beards and hats – for a well-socialized puppy, these things are all a normal part of the world around them.

BUT... beyond 16 weeks, something happens. New things, which before were accepted with cheerful curiosity and a wagging tail, are now met with suspicion. Anything that the pup has not already encountered is automatically assumed to be dangerous and scary – so bicycles, umbrellas, lawnmowers, etc. are now terrifying monsters to be barked at or cowered away from. You may have met adult dogs who are fearful of everyday objects or unfamiliar people; in many cases, this is the end result of poor socialization during this all-important period.

This is actually a pretty staggering fact – nothing “bad” has to happen at all. A simple lack of exposure at the right time can result in an adult dog who is unable to cope with normal life. And in practice, this is one of the saddest things I see.

Why are dogs wired this way? From an evolutionary standpoint, in the wild, having a short window of time for accepting new things makes a lot of survival sense. For wolves, coyotes, and foxes (the domestic dog's closest wild relatives) as well as for feral dogs living on their own, odds are high that anything truly “new” is bad news – something that may hurt or kill them.

Thus, there's an expiration date on how long the canine brain is open to novel experiences. An adult wolf or coyote that happily walks up to unfamiliar things (like other predators, cars, or even humans) won't survive long. Even though our pet dogs lead comparatively protected lives with little to fear from their environment, they have inherited this hard-wired behavior pattern from their more cautious ancestors. This is why no amount of cajoling and coaxing can convince a poorly socialized adolescent dog that a plastic bag blowing across the parking lot is no big deal – to her, escaping from it or defending herself is a matter of life or death



So when should you start actively socializing your puppy? Right now. As soon as possible. From the very first day your new pup comes home, the clock is ticking.

Now, one final caveat... what about vaccines? You may have heard that your puppy should not go anywhere until she's had all of her shots.

You should absolutely be careful! Diseases like parvo, distemper, and others can be deadly, and are unfortunately common in many areas. But consider this – your puppy will not be fully vaccinated until after she's 4-5 months old. If you wait until then, you've already missed your opportunity.

The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) feels so strongly about this issue that they published a [position statement on puppy socialization](#) in 2008, stressing that owners should be introducing their puppies to new places, people and other dogs **prior to completing their vaccination series**. In particular, they strongly recommend beginning puppy kindergarten classes as early as 7-8 weeks of age.

So, what does this mean for you? It means to be smart about where you take your puppy before she's fully vaccinated. I normally recommend avoiding places like dog parks, pet stores, and high-traffic public areas where lots of strange dogs are walked. Instead, visit friends with healthy, vaccinated pets. Go for car rides – visit McDonalds, Starbucks, or the drive-thru lane at your bank or pharmacy. Walk your pup around the block to meet your neighbors. Invite the kids playing outside to say hello.

Just do it before 16 weeks of age. Someday, when she's a happy, well-adjusted adult, your puppy will thank you for it.

A reminder to our MEMBERS you will find it easier & much easier to enter shows AND trials via Show Manager.



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The Dark Side of Socialization: Fear Periods and Single Event Learning - jsummerfield

Years ago, when I was a senior veterinary student working as an extern with OSU's clinical behavior service, I saw a case that stuck hard in my memory and has never faded.

The patient was a beautiful three-year-old female German shepherd I'll call Heidi. She was a lovely dog in most respects – friendly and gentle with people, very bright, and a quick learner. In the consultation room, she was calm and well-mannered, approaching us readily with a wagging tail for petting and treats.

Heidi had one flaw, and unfortunately it was a serious one – she was intensely, violently aggressive towards other dogs. She had to be brought in to the veterinary hospital through a rear entrance to avoid walking her through the lobby, and great care had to be taken to make sure she did not encounter any other dogs on her way in or out of the building. Her owner was a petite middle-aged woman, who loved Heidi dearly and was deeply committed to her. She had been managing Heidi's dog aggression as best she could for a long time, but things were getting worse.

The incident that finally prompted her to seek out a veterinary behaviorist had occurred the week prior to her visit with us. A smaller, off-leash dog belonging to a neighbor in her apartment complex had approached her and Heidi during their daily walk. She tried to pull Heidi with her and hurry away in the opposite direction, but the other dog began running towards them and Heidi was frantic to get at it, lunging and snarling at the end of her leash. In desperation, her owner tackled Heidi and lay on top of her, using her body weight to keep her thrashing 80 pound dog pinned to the ground until the other dog was retrieved safely by a neighbor and taken away.

The owner, in tears as she related the story to us, concluded by stating that she was certain Heidi would have killed the other dog if she had been able to reach it.

A sad story and a difficult situation, to be sure, but not unlike many other cases we saw on the behavior service. Most aggression issues in dogs can be traced back to some combination of poor socialization, negative early experiences and/or a genetic predisposition to fearfulness, but Heidi's case stands out for me because of something unusual in her history – her aggressive behavior had been triggered very abruptly, in response to a single traumatic incident at precisely the wrong time in her life.

According to her owner, Heidi had been friendly and playful since eight weeks of age with none of the early warning signs we so often see in fearful puppies. Both parents had outstanding temperaments, and were friendly with both people and dogs. She went for daily walks with her owner and regularly encountered strangers and other dogs with no problems. So far, so good.

So what went wrong?

Heidi's front yard had an underground electric fence paired with a shock collar, commonly known as an Invisible Fence type system. She also had a particular dog friend that she enjoyed playing with, a young Labrador mix who belonged to a neighbor. The dog often came into Heidi's yard to play with her, and the two could be seen wrestling and chasing each other all around the house almost every day.

One afternoon when Heidi was around seven months old, something happened.

She and her doggy friend were playing and wrestling as usual when they inadvertently strayed too close to the boundary line. Heidi received a shock from her collar, yelped in pain and confusion, and redirected aggressively towards the other dog – who, for his part, reacted defensively and fought back. A full-blown dog fight erupted in the blink of an eye, and the dogs had to be physically separated to calm down.

Under most circumstances, this type of incident would be scary and unpleasant but quickly shaken off. But for Heidi, it was life-changing.

From that point on, it was like a switch had flipped inside her head. She lunged and snarled at the neighbor dog whenever he came near the yard, and never played with him again. Over the next several weeks, she began reacting aggressively toward other dogs on walks, at the vet's office, and outside the window at home. Her owner was at a loss to understand why her previously gentle, friendly dog was suddenly behaving like Cujo.

The answer lies in a perfect storm of variables, coming together in the worst possible way.

I have discussed the socialization period for puppies in a previous post – this is a developmental phase in which puppies are learning about the world. Things that they see and experience in a positive way during this period will be seen as normal later on.

But – and this is a big BUT – the flip side is also true. Young dogs go through two separate “fear periods” as they grow, which are essentially times when the pup is extremely sensitive to bad experiences.

The first occurs fairly predictably at around 8-10 weeks of age. The puppy is very young at this point and owners are (hopefully!) managing her environment carefully and exposing her to lots of great stuff for socialization purposes, so often times this first fear period passes without any obvious signs or behavior changes – many owners never notice that it has taken place.

The second is more variable, but for most dogs it occurs as a 2-3 week period in late adolescence, somewhere between 6 and 14 months of age. This one is sneaky – it pops up when owners least expect it, long after their tiny pup has become an independent teenager. By this point, most of us are giving our dogs more freedom and no longer micromanaging how they interact with the world. It can be a shock, then, when something happens at this age that turns all of our assumptions upside down.

So what happens during the fear period, exactly?

You may notice that your previously friendly, confident adolescent dog becomes spooky about certain things that don't normally bother her... perhaps she refuses to go near a new garden flag in the yard, or barks at a man with a beard who says hello to her on the street. This sudden increase in suspicion and reactivity towards things in the environment is normal – as long as you are cheerful and don't make a big deal of the problem, it will pass on its own and you'll have your familiar, happy-go-lucky companion back in 2-3 weeks.

The dangerous part is this: during this particular developmental stage, your dog's brain is on a hair trigger, exquisitely sensitive to anything "bad" that may happen. A single frightening or painful experience during the fear period can have a lasting impact for the rest of your dog's life.

This is a phenomenon called single event learning – meaning that it only takes one experience to result in an intense, permanent emotional reaction to the trigger that caused it. It makes a lot of survival sense in the wild, when a young wolf needs to steer clear of a dangerous predator without requiring multiple near-death experiences to teach the lesson. But in our pet dogs, this peculiar little "glitch" in the brain's memory processing system can have devastating consequences.

An all-too-common example:

When my oldest boy Remy was a puppy, he had his first nail trim after coming home with me at the age of 9 weeks. (Recall that the first fear period normally occurs from 8-10 weeks of age!) Unfortunately, one of the nails was cut too short – he yelped and struggled, and it bled briefly. Styptic powder was applied to stop the bleeding, the rest of the nails were trimmed without incident, and he seemed perfectly happy five minutes later.

No big deal, right? For a well-adjusted adult dog, probably not.

However... over the next few months, nail trims with Remy became progressively more difficult. I was careful to make sure that he wasn't "quicked" again, and he got plenty of treats and praise during the procedure every time thereafter – but it didn't seem to matter. My otherwise laid-back, cooperative dog would struggle with something akin to panic as soon as the trimmers appeared.

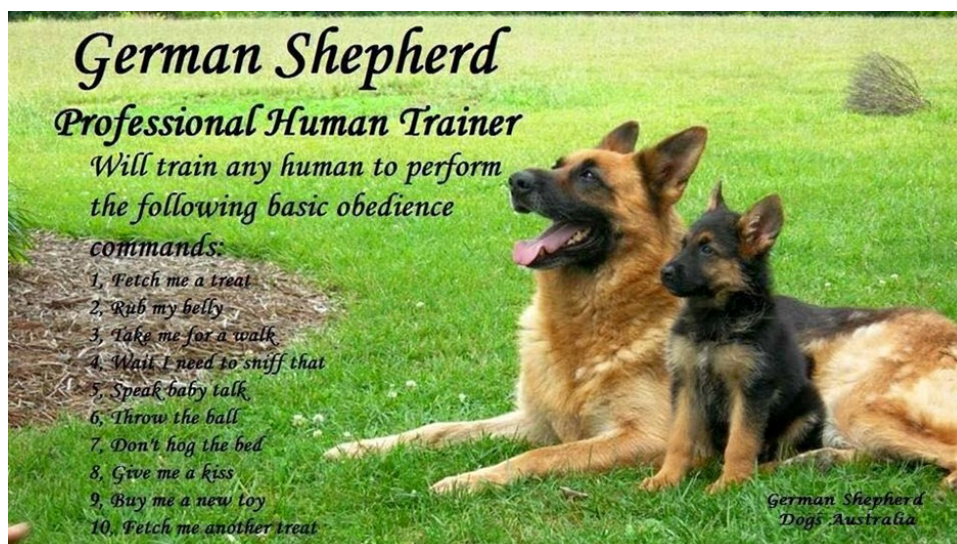
Why? Because his single, isolated bad experience at 9 weeks old still held more weight than all the others put together. Single event learning is powerful stuff.

And thus, we have Heidi. Sweet, easy-going and perfectly dog-friendly... until the day she wasn't.

Her owner left OSU that day much encouraged, with a training plan for Heidi and a better understanding of the things that made her that way. And Remy, as an adult, learned to stand comfortably for nail trims again after many months of careful work to overcome his fear. Thankfully, these kinds of behavior setbacks are not insurmountable – with time and effort, adult dogs can be taught better coping skills and form new, more positive associations with things that frighten them.

So what can we do with this knowledge?

Unfortunately, we can't keep our dogs in a bubble. The world is an unpredictable place, despite our best efforts... we cannot always control everything that happens to them or how they may react. But, we can try to ensure that scary experiences are few and far between during these sensitive periods of development. And if bad things do happen – we can recognize them for what they are, and be proactive in responding and addressing the fear before things get worse.



Did you know?

The side of a hammer is called a cheek

The Atlantic Ocean is saltier than the Pacific

Giraffes can't swim

Dreamt is the only word that ends in "mt"

Shakespeare invented the words assassination and bump

Bookkeeper and Bookkeeping are the only 2 words in the English language with three consecutive double letters

An Iguana can stay under the water for 28 minutes

Green tea has 50% more Vitamin C than black tea

The most popular colour for a toothbrush is blue

Mosquitoes prefer children to adults and blondes to brunettes

The lifespan of a squirrel is 9 years

The first crossword puzzle appeared in 1913

The three most common languages in the world are Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and English

Toilets use 35% of indoor water use

The average person falls asleep in 7 minutes

All of the clocks in the movie Pulp Fiction are fixed to 4:20

Giraffes and rats can last longer without water than camels

You begin to feel thirsty when you body loses 1% of water

Mercury is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature

Your most sensitive finger is your index finger (next to your thumb)

Hippopotamuses have killed more people in Africa than any other animal





MORE THAN A DOG

Last Wednesday the 18th May my beautiful Jaz would have been 16 years old. For those of you who have been lucky enough to have a special relationship with a dog will understand I was very upset.

I went to bed in the early hours of Thursday morning after many tears. The rest of the night and all day Thursday I spent in bed except for the occasional visit to the toilet. When I woke up Thursday morning my hand was on my little Tammy's back, she was awake looking at me with wide eyes. All day she spent snuggled up with me in bed. When I woke at 7.15pm I was trying to focus as it was dark. As I did I realised Tammy was lying on my chest (she only weighs 5.5 kg). Her eyes were wide open and when she realised I was awake she gave me a kiss.

I was so grateful that I had this sensitive little dog with me during this sad time.

Recently one of our senior instructors said Tammy was a very intelligent dog, I already knew this.

For those of you who have been passing derogatory comments since I have been bringing Tammy to the club, yes you are right, she is not a dog she is MORE than a dog and I am extremely lucky to have her with me.

Carol-Anne Davies



SOCIALISING A PUPPY

Puppies go through a critical period of socialization between eight and sixteen weeks of age. During this period of time they mature very rapidly. If isolated from external stimuli and not exposed to the outside world, they can grow up to be fearful adult dogs.

Litters of puppies raised in an isolated location such as a barn, a garage or an isolated dog kennel often have little exposure to humans, except those feeding them. If puppies never leave their confined, isolated quarters where they have been raised, they may never experience any external stimuli such as automobiles, strangers, loud noises or loud children running and playing.

Poorly socialized puppies can result when they have been raised in the wild by an abandoned, female dog. If these puppies are fortunate enough to be discovered by a human and receive handling while still very young, they have a better chance to trust humans and be less fearful. If they receive no human handling before they are sixteen weeks of age, they will probably grow up to be very fearful adult dogs that are not acceptable family pets. If puppies are not socialized at an early enough age, it makes little difference where they have been raised; by a breeder, a private family or in a vacant building. The outcome will usually be the same. Puppies that receive little or no human handling between the ages of eight and sixteen weeks of age often remain fearful when exposed to new situations. Meeting their new family for the first time; the car ride to their new home; their first trip to the vet; meeting children, strangers or other dogs for the first time can be extremely frightening for these puppies.

How can we make sure the puppy we adopt will be well socialized and become a good fit for our family? We will never be able to affect puppies raised in the wild by an abandoned dog or by breeders who don't know how important it is to socialize their puppies. What we can do is not allow our emotions to override good, rational thinking when making a decision about which puppy will make the best family pet. If you feel sorry for and want to adopt the shy puppy that avoids eye contact and doesn't want to be picked up, you may be setting yourself up for future problems. When surveying a puppy or litter of puppies for adoption that have had little human handling, be mindful, if they are over sixteen weeks of age and are very shy and fearful, they may always remain somewhat shy and fearful. If handled with kindness, patience and love, some of these puppies may learn to trust their family members yet remain somewhat fearful of strangers. A puppy adopted at eight weeks of age is more likely to become a well-adjusted family pet than one adopted at sixteen weeks old.

Eight weeks of age is the ideal time for a puppy to be adopted into a new home. Likewise, adopting a puppy prior to eight weeks of age can also create problems. They will miss out on some of the important interactions that take place with other puppies in the litter. A puppy adopted too young may miss out on the consequences of biting a littermate too hard. This puppy's new owners will then pay the price when it bites them too hard while playing. How do we get our puppies socialized so they grow up to be well-adjusted, adult dogs that are comfortable meeting strangers, children and other dogs? The key is to make sure your lasts from age two to three weeks, and it's during this time that your puppy's eyes will open, and he'll slowly start to respond to light and movement and sounds puppy gets exposed to everything it may ever be exposed to, during its lifetime, while it is very young. The critical age of socialization is between eight and sixteen weeks old. If not exposed to new things during this critical period, your puppy may always be fearful when exposed to new things in the future. After you have chosen your new puppy and have had it examined by your veterinarian, you can begin to expose it to new things. Your puppy will not have had all its vaccinations yet, but you may still take your puppy to a family or neighbors home to expose it to children or friendly, vaccinated dogs. If you have small children, dogs or cats in your family, you are fortunate. Your puppy will become accustomed to children, their screaming and active play behavior and will also learn how to act around other pets.

If you are a single adult, a couple without children or a senior citizen, you will have to go out of your way to expose your puppy to children of all ages. You can invite well-mannered children into your home to have supervised play with your new puppy. If you don't know anyone with small children, you can often find parents with their children at local parks. Keep some tasty treats available for the children to give your puppy so it will learn that children are fun to encounter.



When you have visitors come to your home or when the mailman delivers mail or the deliveryman brings packages, do the same thing. Give them a dog treat, have them make your puppy sit, and then give the puppy the treat for sitting. This will teach the puppy to submit to them and it will be rewarded for sitting. Your puppy will also learn that visitors will come bearing gifts, instead of them being something to bark at and to protect the family from. Enrolling your puppy in a "puppy kindergarten" or a puppy training class will have many wonderful benefits. This will be a way to take your puppy out of the house once a week where it will be exposed to many new situations during a critical period of socialization. Be sure to choose a puppy training class where the emphasis is on having fun and meeting new puppies and their owners. Instructors should use only a "buckle" type collar and never a "choker" or "pinch" collar.

Basic training using praise and food rewards for motivation will make you and your puppy enjoy going to class. Choosing the correct puppy for you and your family that fits your particular life-style is critical. Exposing your new puppy to pleasant experiences, between eight and sixteen weeks of age, such as strangers, children and other dogs, is critical to having a well-adjusted adult dog.



**At the end of the day,
we all love our dog,**

SO

win with grace and lose with dignity.



Dog shows should be fun for everybody!

Balance Play & Rough-Housing With Your Dog

Some people appear to enjoy teasing, manhandling, or rough-housing with puppies. Puppies may find teasing and rough-housing to be positive and enjoyable, or unpleasant and frightening. Good-natured teasing can be a lot of fun for both parties. Properly done, teasing can do a lot to build a puppy's confidence by gradually and progressively desensitizing him to all the weird things people - especially men and children - do. On the other hand, relentless teasing can be frustrating and damaging. Malicious teasing is not teasing; it is abuse.

Confidence-building might involve temporarily withholding toys or treats from the pup, temporarily hugging or restraining the pup, making strange noises, or temporarily making mildly scary faces or slightly weird body movements, and then praising the pup and offering a food treat. The food reward builds the puppy's confidence by reinforcing his acceptance of your scary faces and weird actions. With each repetition you may act a little scarier and weirder before offering a treat. After time, your puppy will confidently accept any human action or mannerism. If the puppy ever refuses a treat, you have stressed it. So stop being silly for a while until you have handed the pup half a dozen treats in a non-threatening situation.

Puppies have to be trained to enjoy teasing. For example, being relentlessly pursued by a child with outstretched arms can be the scariest thing on the planet for a puppy without prior preparation. However, being pursued around the dining room table by an owner doing monster-walks can be one of the most enjoyable games for a puppy who has been taught to enjoy playing the game. Most dogs love to be chased as long as they have been taught that the game is non-threatening.

Malicious teasing on the hand (taking pleasure in the puppy's displeasure) is just too cruel and silly for words. It is decidedly not funny to cause the puppy discomfort or to make him afraid. You are teaching the pup to distrust people, and it is your fault when, as an adult, the dog reacts defensively. Sadly though, it will be the dog that gets into trouble, not you. Please don't allow this to happen.

There is a simple test to determine whether or not the puppy finds teasing to be enjoyable. Stop the game, back up, and ask the puppy to come and sit. If the puppy comes promptly with a wagging tail and sits with his head held high, he is probably enjoying the game as much as you are. You may continue playing. If the pup approaches with a wiggly body, lowered head and tail, makes excessive licking motions with his tongue, and lies down or rolls over when asked to sit, you have pushed the puppy too far and he no longer trusts you.



6 Steps To Introducing A New Puppy To Your Other Pets

Introducing a puppy to the existing pets in a household is accomplished positively if the established house-pet is acknowledged before the puppy is acknowledged.

1. Before bringing a puppy home, feed your established pet a partial meal.
2. When you bring the puppy home, bring your pet outside to greet the puppy. If you have a particularly dominant-type pet, arrange this meeting a block or so from your home.
3. Walk the pet with the puppy (however well you can get the puppy to walk!) and let the existing pet sniff the puppy all he wants. Stay outside for forty-five minutes to an hour.
4. Take the pet and puppy into the house and just walk around the house for ten to fifteen minutes, letting everyone get adjusted to a new body in the house.
5. Feed the established pet another partial meal and let puppy watch.
6. Feed the established pet again, and this time put a bowl down for puppy. If the other pet comes to the puppy's bowl, tell him "No." Whenever you feed your animals, feed the older ones first, but make them respect the puppy's bowl.

Five Ways To Keep Your Puppy Busy

All of the games and skills discussed below are designed to contribute to both the fun and the positive upbringing of your puppy. These energy-producing exercises act as building blocks that make advanced training easier and enhance the bond between owner and puppy.

Grooming Practice: Starting grooming procedures at an early age teaches the puppy acceptance of hands-on treatment over all parts of his body and emphasizes relaxed "stays." Grooming also assures the owner of dominance as nails are cut and teeth are cleaned, as the puppy learns to be quiet and tolerate these "house-cleaning" techniques.

Hide & Seek: is fun for owners and puppies alike and helps teach your puppy how to come.

Put your puppy on a sit-stay or have someone else hold his leash.

Hide behind a nearby tree or, if inside, a piece of furniture.

3. Wait five seconds, then call him excitedly.
4. When he "finds" you, praise him with lots of love and a tidbit or ball.
5. Make each hiding place a little harder and a little farther away. Sometimes return to your puppy and end the game at that point so he will not think he always has to leave to get you near him.

Find The Toy: teaches early discrimination by smell.

1. Tie your puppy to a chair or have someone hold his leash. I think we prefer the latter!!!!
2. Let him watch you put several objects on the floor: a can, bottle, box, telephone. Use a glove or just barely touch these articles when placing them on the floor.
3. Go back to your puppy, take his favorite toy and hold it in your hands for several seconds, and let him watch as you throw it in with the other objects.
4. Release him and tell him "Fetch!"
5. When he does, praise him lavishly.
6. As he gets good at selecting his toy, use one of your well-scented gloves or socks and put it with similar objects that are unscented. Pretty soon scent discrimination will be an understood part of his life from your viewpoint, not just from his viewpoint.