

SOUTH ISLAND  
GERMAN SHEPHERD LEAGUE INC

NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2016



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## EXECUTIVE

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HONORARY MEMBERS: Duguld Thomas, Darron Willett.

HONORARY VETS: Total Vets, 516 Gloucester st, Linwood

NEWLETTER EDITOR: Jane Dalzell (Temporary)

CLUB GROUNDS: Canterbury Agricultural Park, Wigram Road

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## SOUTH ISLAND GERMAN SHEPHERD LEAGUE

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: (including newsletter)

Subscriptions due 31<sup>st</sup> March each year

New Junior Membership	\$10.00	Renewal \$10.00
New Single Membership:	\$40.00	Renewal: \$40.00
New Double/Family Membership:	\$50.00	Renewal: \$50.00



#### TRAINING:

Breed Presentation  
Obedience,  
Agility

**TRAINING:** Canterbury  
Agricultural Park, Wigram Road

#### WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FROM 6.30PM

Sundays 10.00am

At Sigsl clubrooms

Contact Blue Gardiner for further information Ph 03 344 0390

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

<b>STUD DOG DIRECTORY:</b>	\$5.00 per year
<b>BREEDERS DIRECTORY:</b>	\$5.00 per year

#### CLUB MEMBERS:

Quarter Page:	\$25.00 per year
Half Page:	\$50.00 per year
Litter and Vale Notices	Free to club members

#### COMMERCIAL:

Quarter Page:	\$50.00 per year
Half Page:	\$100.00 per year



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## EDITORIAL



Well, Giddy - so it seems my attempt to escape the job of Newsletter Editor was unsuccessful and you are stuck with me for a bit longer.

If anyone wants the job, please let me know –

Please also in the meantime do let me know of any interesting medical conditions or news of any sort that may be of interest to other readers that you may have come across and I will do my utmost to find a relevant article e.t.c

to include in the editions.

Since Allan wrote his presidents report we have been able to confirm that Sargent Tim Yates will be giving a talk at the clubrooms 27<sup>th</sup> September. Details further on.

I think it's great to bring some socialisation back into the club – We aren't ALL about shows ya know. (But then these things do need your support too)

I have included an article about Pyometra (Thanks Rona for this suggestion) which is a condition caused by hormonal and structural changes in the uterus lining resulting in an infection – basically pus in the womb. Read on to find out more.

We also have the 2016 awards winners list – Congratulations to everyone.

A little bit of history about where the experts think wolves became dogs and a little bit of a spiel for the Blind Foundation – Did you know SIGSL sponsors a Guide Dog puppy?

Check out the notice board for our upcoming shows and judges – Deb B has been working very hard to secure new and interesting judges from near and afar. These things take a lot of time and coordination, liaising and cajoling so don't forget to say thanks to our Deb B.

There's also a little bit of this and a little bit of that – read on.

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A police officer jumps into his squad car and calls the station.

“I have an interesting case here,” he says. “A woman shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped.”

“Have you arrested her?” asks the sergeant.

“No, not yet. The floor's still wet.”

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## PRESIDENTS PEN

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to write my first Presidents Report, with also appreciation to those who voted for me. I sincerely hope I can live up to and perform to your expectations.

The new committee met for the first time on the 11th of July and by the measure of interest and enthusiasm shown, the club looks to be under good guidance for the next 12 months.

Before going any further with this report I must on the behalf of S.I.G.S.L offer a tremendous vote of thanks to Liz Wilkinson for the past years of dedicated and competent service given in her role as President to the club.

This is going to be a hard role for me to fill over the next 12 months. although I am eagerly looking forward to the challenge. Fortunately, Liz is not leaving us and will continue in a supporting position of Vice President, and hopefully as Show Manager.

The tiring and sometimes endless work that Jane as Secretary/Treasurer and Deb as Show Secretary put in must also be appreciated. To the committee, who I thank hugely for standing, I look forward to working with you for the next 12 months.

Already some innovative ideas have been discussed by committee and will come into effect in the near future. I have been in contact with two organisations for 2 nights of guest speakers at the club rooms on different subjects. As soon as dates are confirmed, members will be notified.

Back in the mid-1980s I made up a booklet giving the basic information regards German Shepherds. The booklet had a bit about most things, which I gave to puppy buyers. With the research and expertise help given by Lynette Baker, who has worked hard on this, we have managed to produce a handbook that covers extensively a great amount of features for the new and maybe even the more experienced. After the committee has edited and fined tuned the book, it will be made available to the members. It is hoped that breeders will pass on the books to puppy buyers in the future.

I have made inquiries regarding the Health and Safety Act and how it affects us and I am waiting for the information to be sent to me. Also I made inquiries about the Corporate Societies Inc. I have just received this info which I will put into context and report to you in the next newsletter.

That is about it from me for now... Any inquiries feel free to call me. Allan.

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# Where Did Wolves Become Dogs – Maybe In Two Places

Laurent Frantz – Washington Post

Where in the world ancient gray wolves morphed into early humans' best friends has [long been the subject of scientific debate](#). Some argue it happened in Asia. Others think it happened in Europe.

*[\[Scientists still don't know how dogs became dogs — but they might be close to finding out\]](#)*

A new study posits a new idea that could throw everyone a bone: Dogs were domesticated in both regions, at separate times.

The claim remains just a hypothesis, according to the authors of a paper published Thursday in the journal [Science](#). But they say their analysis of genetic and archaeological evidence makes it the best explanation for a long-standing conundrum that has been hard to solve in part because breeding has made today's dogs, which all have roots in Asia, so genetically scrambled.

To come to this conclusion, the researchers, who are part of a [major project on dog origins](#) based at the University of Oxford in Britain, looked at DNA sequences from the remains of 59 ancient European dogs ranging in age from 3,000 to 14,000 years old. But they also had a complete genome taken from a 4,800-year-old fossil of a dog's inner ear bone, which was dug up at the [Newgrange archaeological site](#) in Ireland. They compared these to DNA from hundreds of modern dogs.

*[\[This puppy was frozen for 12,400 years, and its body is nearly intact — fur and all\]](#)*

What they saw was a dramatic genetic split between the modern European and East Asian dogs. But when did it happen?

To figure this out, the Newgrange dog was key. Knowing its age allowed them to calculate a genetic mutation rate — or “calibrate an internal molecular clock,” said co-author Greger Larson, an Oxford evolutionary biologist. And that indicated that the East-West divide happened between 6,400 and 14,000 years ago. Here's a Science magazine video that illustrates the idea:

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This could mean that dogs were domesticated first in East Asia and then migrated West, maybe with their new human pals. But the earliest archaeological remains of dogs found in Europe are at least 15,000 years old — before the split they calculated occurred. What's more, a movement from east to west would have left a timeline of dog fossils scattered in the geographic area in the middle. And those haven't been found.

"In between, we do not find any dogs earlier than 8,000 years old. We find human settlements there, but we don't find dogs," said lead author Laurent Frantz, an evolutionary geneticist at Oxford. "If dogs were domesticated only once and transported from east to west, we should find these gradients, and we can't find it."

So they hypothesized that two populations of now-extinct wolves, one in Europe and one in Asia, were domesticated independently. Dogs later migrated from Asia to Europe, and their genetics pretty much engulfed the original dog populations in the West. They emphasize, though, that lots more testing, including of well-preserved ancient dog remains from Europe, is needed to help prove it.

Dual domestication happened before, with pigs, Frantz pointed out. And though the explanation isn't as neat as a single-origin tale, he said he thinks it could serve to calm the east-west dispute that dogs canine science.

"I think what this paper is really showing is that these can be reconciled," he said.



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## CLUB NOTICE BOARD

### Upcoming Events

#### Social Evening



**Sargent Tim Yates** will be giving a talk at our clubrooms on training of the police dogs and also the law and your dog.

7.00pm Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Supper is provided afterwards.  
It would be great to see you there.



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### SHOWS

November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> – Judges Harald Hohmann and Vince Tantaro

Obedience and Agility will also run at these shows - one on each afternoon.

Catering will be done by the Darfield Primary School PTA – Please support them.

The Canterbury Junior Kennel Association is running a specialist German Shepherd show in conjunction with their show in early December – Judge is Pieter Tjerkstra.

It is great that the clubs are willing to run these extra side shows for us and so committee would like to encourage as many as possible to enter so they will continue to run them.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017 – Judges are Melanie Groth and Nancy Herms



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## Triple Shows – Child/Junior Handler Results

The placings for child handler in June were as follows:

CHILD HANDLER – AGE - 7yrs - 11yrs

Cory McNally -	1st Place
Savannah Goulding -	2nd Place
Isabella Arnold -	3rd Place
Shiarna Walsh -	4th Place



JUNIOR HANDLER – AGE - 12yrs - 16 yrs

Mikayla Arnold -	1st Place
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## Results

CCOC

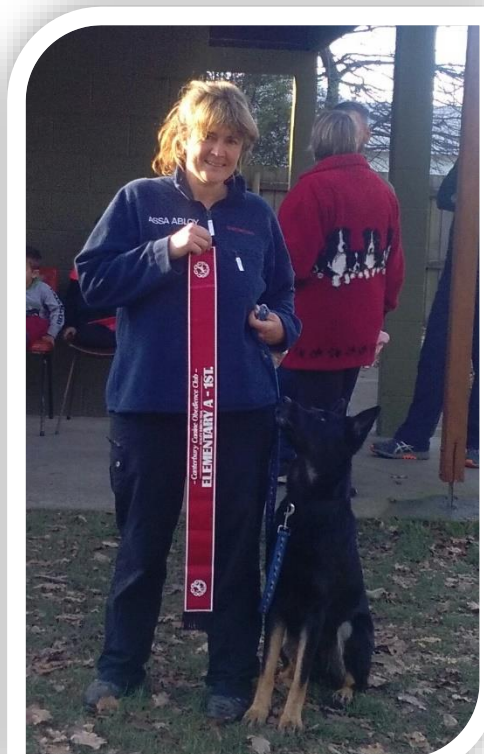
Darron Willett and Jess won seniors Agility

Zeba and Karen Wilson won elementary A

Obedience

Helen Hill and Minit 3rd in novice.

Zeba won special prize full points retrieve & scent in test A.



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## Lawyer

### Christine Eastgate

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- Enduring powers of attorney, Estates, Earthquake red zone.

Thank You Thank You Thank You Thanks You Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You

Thanks to the few people who turned up to help at the recent working bee – We washed the building including the windows. Dug a new garden along the East side of the clubrooms and Allan and Barbara kindly donated and planted some plants. We also have upgraded most of the agility equipment with new grit system surface – just a few dog walks and the A frame left to do. Unfortunately, we ran out of time to get this done but will schedule another working bee soon.



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# **Pyometra**

Source - <https://www.vets-now.com/pet-owners/dog-care-advice/pyometra-in-dogs/>

## **What is pyometra?**

Pyometra is an infection of the uterus (womb). It is a common condition in older female dogs that have not been spayed, but can occur in un-spayed dogs of any age. Occasionally we see cases occurring in cats.

## **What causes pyometra?**

Each time a female dog has a season (usually about twice a year) she undergoes all the hormonal changes associated with pregnancy - whether she becomes pregnant or not. The changes in the uterus that occur with each season make infection more likely with age. A very common organism called E. coli, found in your dog's faeces, usually causes the infection. We most commonly see cases of pyometra in the 4-6week period after a heat. Injections with some hormones to stop seasons or for treatment of other conditions can also increase the risk of pyometra developing.

## **What are the signs of pyometra?**

Pyometra is of course, only seen in females (since males do not have a uterus). It is more common in older females (above 6 years of age) but can be seen at any age. The signs usually develop around 6 weeks after the female has finished bleeding from her last season, but in some cases the bitch appears to have a prolonged season.

## **Early signs that you may notice are that your dog is:**

licking her back end more than normal  
off colour  
off her food  
drinking more than normal (and will probably urinate more)

## **These signs will progress and you may see:**

Pus (yellow/red/brown discharge) from her vulva  
She may have a swollen abdomen  
Vomiting  
Collapse  
If left untreated signs will worsen to the point of dehydration, collapse and death from septic shock.

## **Diagnosis**

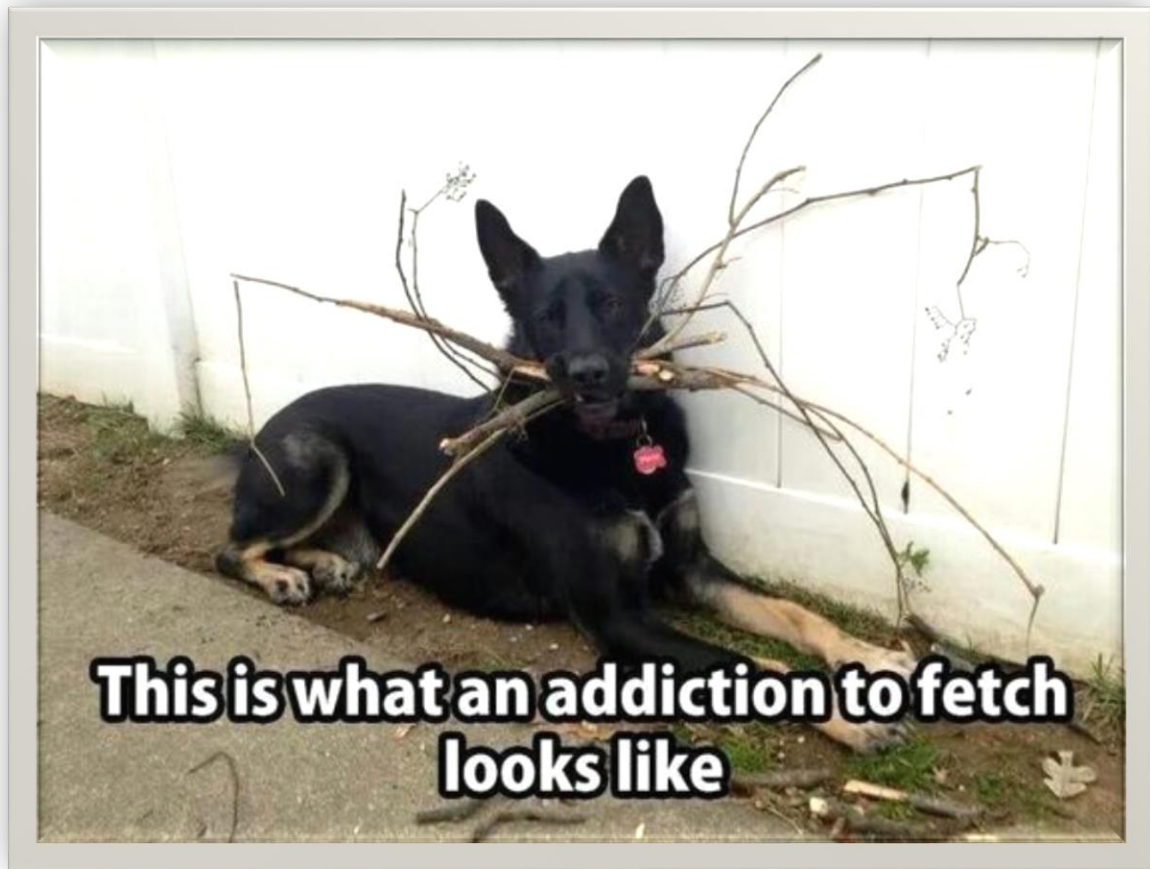
Your vet will probably suspect your dog has a pyometra based on your description of the signs and from their examination of your pet. They may suggest procedures such as ultrasound and blood tests to confirm the diagnosis, rule out other possible causes and to check that your pet is well enough to undergo treatment.

## **Treatment**

The treatment of choice for pyometra is surgery to remove her uterus **as soon as possible**. The operation is essentially the same as a routine spay, however there is more risk involved and a higher chance of complications when the operation is being carried out on a sick pet. Your dog will also be given intravenous fluids (a drip), antibiotics and pain relief.

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## Keeping your German Shepherd Healthy-

<http://www.thegermanshepherd.org/>

### Look, Listen, and Learn from your German Shepherd

The first question you should ask yourself should be quite general: has my German Shepherd been able to move normally, in a healthy manner, or is he or she suffering from a lack of coordination or is he or she limping or walking with difficulty? Have there been any changes in weight or appetite lately for either food or drink, or in temperament – is my German Shepherd more aggressive or angry than usual, or more lethargic? Just like people, animals have personalities, and signs of anger or depression in dogs, as in humans, can be a sign of something medically wrong. Likewise, watch out for a bloated abdomen – this can be a sign of the often-fatal illness Gastric Torsion, which requires immediate (as absolute soon as possible – call an overnight vet) attention!

Once you have finished asking yourself these general questions, check out your German Shepherd's mouth. Are the gums healthy-looking, or are they red or swollen or even bleeding; are the teeth dirty or loose, or are there any sores of the tongue or gums. Shepherds can be stinky, but particularly bad breath can be the sign of something a bit wrong, so do watch out if you can. It's always better to be safe than sorry, so if your German Shepherd is acting differently or just doesn't seem right, it's time to go to the vet.

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SIGSL has been a supporter and sponsor of the Blind Foundation Guide dogs for many many years now and last year we donated \$240.00 to them.

This is a quote from Greg – one of the many people our donation has helped. I am so lucky to have been matched with my guide dog Jazz. I lost my sight in y 30's and was reluctant to get a guide dog due to the unknown. I was afraid to even try for several years. Fortunately, my wife convinced me and it's been the most rewarding experience. Jazz is my best mate and we are inseparable. Its thanks to the generosity and support of your that I am just as independent as any sighted person.

Below is a story about another guide dog – this was included in the NZ Dog World German Shepherd Feature October 2015 but as not all of our members are NZKC members I thought it worth a repeat.

### **Vic and Guide Dog Willow**

Interviewed and Written by Stacey Dalzell

The German Shepherd breed is often perceived as being the type of dog associated with police dog handling or search and rescue dogs due to their loyalty, intelligence and general trainability. However, it is the same abilities, nature and skills mentioned above that make a German Shepherd an ideal guide dog for those with vision impairment. While public perception tends to associate guide dogs as being a Labrador or golden retriever it is also common knowledge that other breeds are just as capable of being a guide dog including poodles, Dobermans and other cross-breeds. While the use of such breeds may not be common in New Zealand for Vic Sinclair there was no question in his mind, he wanted a German Shepherd as his guide dog.

Vic's current dog Willow is a German shepherd. She is strong willed, fast and intelligent. Vic believes that Willow's temperament is similar to his own and this allows them to be well matched. Certainly, it was these traits and then some that allowed for Victor to quickly establish a bond with Willow and build upon her Guide Dog Service training to match what he required. Prior to Willow, Vic had another German shepherd guide dog Zoe. Zoe had reached the end of her working life and Vic requested that he be able to have another German Shepherd. The Guide Dog Service were very accommodating in making this happen for Vic, as breed preference is generally not taken into account when matching dogs to their owners. At the time of receiving Willow she had been trained by The Guide Dog Service. This included placement as a puppy with a volunteer where she was socialised and introduced to different situations she would face as a working dog. At around a year old she was returned to The Guide Dog Service. Here she was given intensive training and her personality and temperament traits were assessed together with her health and guiding ability. As she met the required criteria, she was then able to enter her working life with Victor.

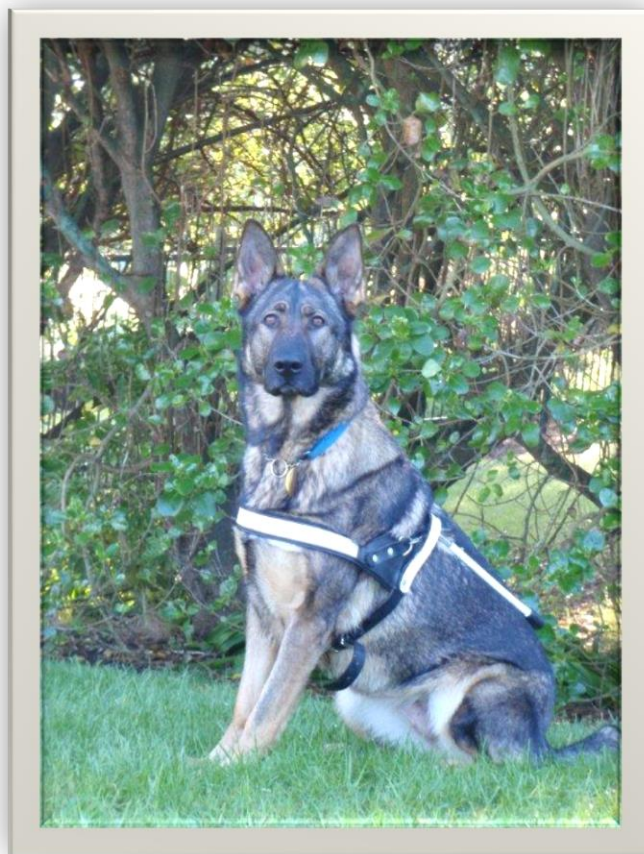
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It is part of the process that The Guide Dog Service provides a trainer to assist the handler and their dog work together. At this point it was found that there were some aspects to which Vic and Willow did not quite match. Vic advises that The Guide Dog Service do a wonderful job in training the puppies and provide a fantastic service in doing so, however for him he needed more from Willow and to be able to achieve this he needed to provide the further training himself. At this point it was about getting Willow to understand Vic, build upon their bond and train Willow to understand his personal preferences and idiosyncrasies. Of course, there were a few accidents during Vic's training, but thankfully nothing too serious. Vic advises that within 7 days of The Guide Dog Services trainer leaving, he had Willow trained up to his standard.

In order to bring Willow up to his required standard Vic set to build a bond with her. Questioning Vic on how he achieved this in such a short time, he advised that it was all about showing Willow love, kindness and discipline. He also attributes his success to the idea that Willow needed to become part of the family unit and his wife was also involved in the training process. Vic also proceeded to build a chain of command to make sure that she remained a working dog. To this day, Willow remains attentive and focused to Vic's requirements. She is not even vaguely distracted by other dogs or people. He then set to establish various commands for which Willow was to respond too, guide dogs are trained to specific words to respond to their handler's command. At the time that Vic received Willow Vic estimates that Willow had a command vocabulary of around 40 – 50 words. This has now been extended to about 80 – 100 different commands including being required to lift her feet and wipe them before entering the house.

This is the type of work the creator of the German Shepherd – Max Von Stephanitz knew his beloved German Shepherd was capable of and the traits and workability that Willow shows are what he desired for them - ***Take this trouble for me: Make sure my shepherd dog remains a working dog, for I have struggled all my life long for that aim.***

#### Guide Dog Willow



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## **2016 SIGSL AWARDS** – (S =SPECIALIST – AB = ALL BREEDS)

**AB LSC Dog of the year** - WESTFIELD VENDETTA  
**AB LSC Bitch of the year** - WESTFEILD YOUR IRRESISTABLE  
**S LSC Dog of the year** - WESTFIELD VENDETTA  
**S LSC Bitch of the year** - WESTFEILD YOUR IRRESISTABLE  
**S Puppy of the Year** - SIGSL TROPHY - AKTAHUND HERE WE GO AGAIN  
**S Junior of the Year** – SIGSL TROPHY - HUNDMESTER IRON MAN  
**S Intermediate of the Year** – SIGSL TROPHY - BOOTY CALL OF TAIMANA  
**S NZ Bred of the Year** – SIGSL TROPHY - AKTAHUND TAKE A MOMENT  
**S Open of the year** – SIGSL TROPHY - BOLDOVA OF TAIMANA  
**S Veteran of the year** – SIGSL TROPHY - BRADWINS VENUS MOONSHINE  
**S Gough Trophy** – BREEDERS AWARD SHIELD - ZETLAND MAD MAX  
**S Jubilee Trophy 25th Breed** – JUBILEE TROPHY - WESTFIELD AVA  
**AB Puppy of the Year** – VERNIS TROPHY - WESTFIELD ARMADEUS  
**AB Junior of the Year** – HEATHCOTE TROPHY - WESTFIELD ARMADEUS  
**AB Intermediate of the Year** – GLENLOMACK TROPHY - WESTFIELD XIVA  
**AB NZ Bred of the Year** – KIRSTY MEMORIAL TROPHY - WESTFEILD AVA  
**AB Open of the year** – CHEW TROPHY - WESTFEILD XIWA  
**AB Dog of the year** - ZAUBEHAUS TROPHY - WESTFEILD XIWA  
**AB Bitch of the year** - EICHEMAENT TROPHY - WESTFEILD AVA  
**AB G L Bowron** - SOUTH LAND TROPHY FOR DOGS GAINING MOST POINTS AT OPEN /SPECIALIST + ALL BREEDS - ZETLAND MAD MAX  
**AB G L Bowron** - WOOLSTON TROPHY FOR BITCH GAINING MOST POINTS AT OPEN /SPECIALIST + ALL BREEDS - BOOTY CALL OF TAIMANA  
**Obedience** - OBEDIENCE DOG OR BITCH OF THE YEAR - OLDFIELDS SENNA  
**Albara Kennels trophy** - FOR THE CLUB MEMBER WHO HAS DONE OUTSTANDING WORK TO SIGSL – EVAN RAHURAHU  
**Child Handler** - CORY MCNALLY  
**Agility Dog/Bitch of the year** - FOUNDERS TROPHY DONATED BY TRAINING COMMITTEE - BRADWINS RAGS TO RICHES  
**Agility Trophy No1** - BRADWINS RAGS TO RICHES AND OLDFIELDS SENNA  
**Working Trails Dog/Bitch of the year** - ENYA VON HEISENBERG

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A panda walks into a bar and gobbles some beer nuts. Then he pulls out a gun, fires it in the air, and heads for the door. “Hey!” shouts the bartender, but the panda yells back, “I’m a panda. Google me!” Sure enough, panda: “A tree-climbing mammal with distinct black-and-white colouring. Eats shoots and leaves.”

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A pig walks into a bar, orders 15 beers, and drinks them. The bartender asks, “Would you like to know where the bathroom is?” “No,” says the pig. “I’m the little piggy that goes wee-wee-wee all the way home.”

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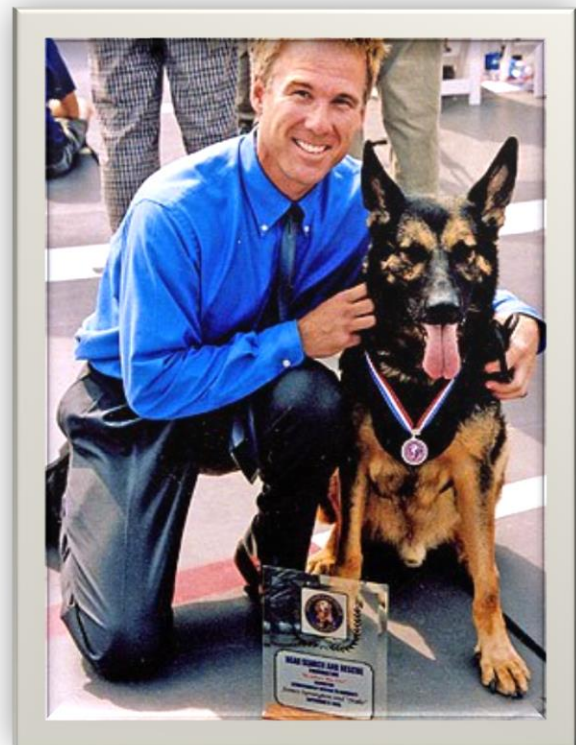
## Famous GSD's BUDDY

Frank Morris, a blind Tennessee teenager, brought the first guide dog to the U.S. from Switzerland when he heard about their remarkable ability to be trained to help the visually impaired. In 1929, he established [The Seeing Eye](#), America's first guide dog school.



## RIN TIN TIN

Corporal Lee Duncan rescued Rin Tin Tin when he was a puppy from a bombed out German kennel near the end of World War I in 1918 and took the dog home to California. When a producer spotted the dog jumping over 10 feet at a dog show, [Rin Tin Tin](#) went on to star in movies and radio adventures before he died in 1932.



## 9/11 RESCUE DOG TRAKR

Trakr and his human partner James Symington searched the rubble of the World Trade Center in 2001 and found the last survivor under 30 feet of debris. This past summer, the German shepherd was chosen by a California company to be [cloned](#).

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## **Two GSDs Trialling in the South Island. May 21 & 22nd 2016**

The May Working Trial venue this year was a beautiful family owned farm in Whitecliffs, inland from Darfield. Featuring lovely rolling hills turning into steeper country which provided ideal country for the advanced tracking levels of WD and TD as well as just enough flat land to hold the control and some lovely flatter paddocks for the UD tracks.

Finding farmers willing to host our sport is always a challenge and the farmers who do allow us to troll all over their 'home' are held in the highest regard and it goes without saying we treat the farmers and their land with the utmost respect over the several weekends we invade their privacy, as we require several visits to suss out the venue, plan the tracks and of course the 2 days of the trial itself.

This trial attracted 8 entries which included 2 GSD's a Vizla a kelpie a Golden retriever a flat coated retriever and a couple of border collies.

The GSD's were represented by Helen Hill and Nek Minit (Aktahund Take A Moment) in UD and Karen Wilson & Zeba (ENYA -VON HEISENBERG CGCB RN UDX WDX) in WD.

The Trials Timetable is a logistical nightmare fitting in tracks from 15 minutes to 3 hours old and having to factor in travel between tracks, some participants doubling as tracklayers themselves (everyone pitches in and helps as person power is another challenge for trials), control, searches and all the other exercises that have to be completed around the all-important Track Times. For the 8 dogs in 3 levels this required 20 tracks from hard surface to free tracks and leash tracks, over the 2 days.

So - to the German Shepherds ☺

1st up was Zeba & I doing WD searches. A great start as Zeba found and returned to me the 4 matchbox size articles spread in a 23x23metre

Next up for Zeba was the Leash track – laid 1 ½ hours earlier and accessed via a steep farm track. We found the tracklayer trying to keep warm while she waited and as I harnessed up Zeba, she gave me the only hint I would get – the direction she approached the peg from the gate. It is a daunting prospect walking to a white peg just inside the gateway of a maybe 10- 20-acre paddock and looking at the beautiful terrain which in this instance included a creek and a gentle hill and lots of rolling open space. Time to put your trust in your dog and with a quick command 'seek' off you go.

The dog is the expert – the handlers job is to read the dog and work out when she is 'tracking' and when she isn't so sure and then there are the times when the dog is very convincing that the track goes 'this way' but as a handler you are pretty sure that the dog has got onto the scent of a bunny.

Zeba tracked superbly to the first article – yay relief that so far so good and approximately half way there. From this point the track crossed the creek and ran along a fence line but Zeba wasn't convincing enough and to the dismay of the followers, I made the call to back track and cross back over the creek. Zeba managed to track parallel to the actual track (thanks to the wind direction) and picked it up again where it crossed back over the creek and headed back up the hill to the final article via a slight detour which cost a few more points off our total.

Next up for us was the Control. The heelwork and jumps posed no problems and the send away / redirection exercise required a few extra commands to complete but still a super display of this notoriously difficult exercise and Zeba enjoyed every minute – and ensured everyone heard her!

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The final exercise for the WD participants was the 10 minute down stay with handlers out of sight. Always the longest 10 minutes ever but when you are live' and a qualification is on the line, somehow that 10 minutes feels even longer. Still Zeba had no issues with the stay today and gained enough points for WD – not quite that X we are all after but a good days work all the same.

**Sunday we do it all again.**

Zeba missed 1 article in the searches but that's still a pass – 50% must be attained in every exercise to pass.

The track paddock we drew today was next to yesterday's one and this time Zeba was on fire.....She tracked like a train I was just doing my best to keep up & hold on to the line. At one point I had to jump down a bank over a creek bash through tussocks over my head, back up a hill to where she found the 1st article.

We finished the track having lost just 4 points!! Such a buzz and one of those tracks I will remember for ever. The intensity in her pulling into the line was unreal - she was so confident yes it's this way mum. Just AWESOME 😊

Our control was a lot better today & the send away/ redirection was achieved with fewer commands and a bit listening than barking from Zeba.

Then that dreaded down stay but again Zeba was cool calm and settled and we had qualified WDX. The icing on the cake was gaining Highest Qualifier and BEST WD TRACK

Having now attained 2 WDX's we are up to the next and highest level - TD. I'm so proud of what my amazing little black GSD Zeba has achieved in the past 14 months. I can't wait for the next challenge of TD.

But I'm also a little nervous as our first opportunity will be at NDOA as team Dog for the Southern region. Please keep your fingers crossed, for both the 2 South Island GSDs in the Southern Region Team travelling up to Auckland at labour weekend. Wahoo EXCITING!!! "Go the GSDs" Nek Minit & Zeba

And if you think you'd like to give Trials a go – go for it!

Trials a great test of resilience and dedication of handler and dog - a truly rewarding way to build an amazing relationship with your dog. Zeba & I live for it. It's in her blood. By Karen Wilson

Working Trials May 2016

Whitecliffs

It's been a long time between drinks.....I entered the world of Working Trials in early 2002 and was instantly hooked. My amazing bitch Feista, Stattlich Free Spirit CDX ADX UDX WDX and I bumbled along learning together and to our credit gained 2x UDX and 2 x WDX before her retirement.

Mr Kreuz, Graf Edelmann Lion King UDX took over as my new partner and we encountered a new set of challenges as we also embraced the changing face of dog training (positive reinforcement, clickers food and toys) Sadly Kreuz never got to fulfil the potential he showed as an injury ended his career, in this very physically demanding sport, with just UDX against his name.

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I had by now ventured into the world of showing and breeding and this took over my time and became my main focus for a few years however I never lost sight of the GSD being a working dog and needing a job to do so I continued to 'play train' all the dogs and develop my reward based training skills. So when my current partner Nek Minit (Aktahund Take A Moment) began to display an exceptional working talent I ventured into tracking with her, mostly to keep her brain engaged and focused and because we were developing an amazing working partnership.

So when I was challenged (thanks Karen!) to enter UD at the May trial I finally relented and my entry went in at 9.00 pm on the day they closed!

There ensued a sleepless night alternating between cursing myself for accepting the challenge - and sheer excitement at what lay ahead.

The reality was that I had 3 short weeks to move from 'playing around at trials' to being up to UD standard. I can honestly say that those 3 weeks produced some of my best training ever. We inevitably had challenges faced with such a tight timeframe.... Minit is a workaholic but a sensitive kid and too much pressure could easily backfire. So, internally stressing to the max, I had to be outwardly calm and assured. Everything had to be a game which we both enjoyed otherwise the demanding training schedule wouldn't work – many repetitions HIGH value reward and FUN.

Long story short we went into the Trial knowing that all but 2 of the 8 exercises were 'DOABLE' (my training Mantra over that 3 weeks). \*See exercises below

We nailed those 6, nearly got one of the others and didn't attempt the final exercise as we weren't 'live' at that stage so I wasn't prepared to practice failing this exercise – the down stay. So, on the Saturday, Minits 1<sup>st</sup> ever Working Trial, she passed with flying colours the Heelwork, Scale wall, Clear Jump, Long Jump and the dreaded Sendaway. She did a lovely track which was a huge buzz for me as tracking handling isn't my strongest skill, and she made a very credible attempt at the Seekback, just not quite understanding yet that it is a tracking exercise not a search, but she still found the article.

Sunday and again flying colours for all the 'DOABLE' exercises, except the track, which we still passed. However, there were 2 legs with strong cross winds – tracking in these conditions were still work in progress for us - and I knew we had got blown off the track, confirmed by the whistle indicating we were 30 meters from where we should be.

For the first time ever I was able to get us back to where we had last been on the track. From there Minit worked her heart out trying to keep on the scent and then all of a sudden she dug in and pulled strongly into the harness and straight to the article – WOOHOO SUCCESS!! Huge praise and playing with her toy I had mixed emotions as we headed back to the gate: we'd got the whistle – disappointment. BUT we'd completed the track - elation.

And when I got back to the judge/tracklayer/onlookers, in typical Trials people fashion everyone was so positive and encouraging that we had managed to get back on track and finish after receiving the whistle ..... That is Trials folk for you!! Thanks again Karen for encouraging me back to the fold ☺

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*Training Working Trials is like no other dog sport discipline. Tracking is the dog's world and we have to 'hand over the reins' to the dog and just guide and develop their skills, motivation and sheer love of their job.*

*We who track stand in awe of our dogs and the trust, bond and partnership built on the way is amazing and very humbling after all it is they who are 'Following Ghosts' – we are just along for the ride*

#### EXERCISES:

**Track:** 600 – 800 metre 30 minute old track of 3-4 legs

**Seekback:** 90 metres with right/left turn half way. Article dropped 20 m from start. Dog tracks back to article. Article small dark coloured about wallet size.

**Heelwork:** Test B level starting with figure of 8 around 2 people standing approximately 2 metres apart

**Scale Wall:** Scalewall 3 x height of the dog, maximum 1800

**Clear Jump:** Retrieve dumbbell over solid jump twice height of the dog

**Long Jump:** Length 4 x height of dog at shoulder (max length 2700).

**Sendaway Drop and Recall:** Dog must run to natural marker 36 – 54 metres away, drop on command at marker and recall to handler

**Stay:** 10 minute handlers out of sight.

<u>Minits Points</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Heel Free	21/25	19/25
Sendaway	22/25	16/25
Retrieve Jump	19/20	20/20
Scale Wall	20/20	20/20
Long Jump	20/20	20/20
Down Stay	-	-
Seekback	5/30 F	10/30F
Leash Track	195/200	170/200
Footnote		

The hard work has been well rewarded as Minit and I have been selected to represent the Region in UD at the NDOA, in Auckland at Labour Weekend. Our training buddies Karen and Zeba are the TD team. So 2/3 of the team are German Shepherds which is an awesome achievement 😊

Karen: Karen Wilson who with her dog Zeba are our training partners and buddies

Following Ghosts: by Suzanne Clothier and John Rice – my tracking bible

NDOA: National Dog Obedience Assembly

By Helen Hill

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## Keeping your German Shepherd Healthy- Contd

<http://www.thegermanshepherd.org/>

### Eyes, Nose, and Ears of your German Shepherd | Pay Attention to these Crucial Areas

Next, pay attention to your German Shepherd's eyes. While a healthy dog has a clear, bright gleam, a dog who is unhealthy might have some of the following symptoms: a tendency towards squinting, eyes that are cloudy with discolored whites, pupils that don't respond immediately or are unequal in their response, or discharge coming from the eyes. These are all warning signs that something might be wrong. Additionally, check out your German Shepherd's ears for redness or crusty tips, which might be a sign of infection (pay special attention if your dog is frequently shaking or tilting his head and scratching his ears; he or she may be trying to tell you that something is wrong.) Also be sensitive to any bad odors coming out of the ears. It must be noted that German Shepherds have tendencies toward allergies and immune system problems that can often be an underlying problem causing the ear infection.

Likewise, a healthy nose is wet and black – but be aware of colored discharge coming out of the nose or a crusted top – these are both warning signs of potential health issues, such as bacterial rhinitis, infected sinuses, kennel cough, and distemper. Additionally, constant sneezing or a running nose can also be a sign of a foreign object within the nasal passage, while polyps and tumors can cause breathing difficulties if found in the nose. Though polyps are not malignant, tumor can be malignant, along with being benign also. In short, be vigilant about your German Shepherd's health at all times.

### Feet, Toes, Anal Maladies (Perianal Fistulas) | German Shepherd

Next, check out your German Shepherd's feet, making sure the toes are not swollen or misaligned, and that there are no split nails or abrasions; active dogs can sometimes also get pebbles, twigs or other small items stuck in their paws, and this can be painful and cause limping; luckily, in most cases, you'll be able to remove the item from where it's stuck. Also be sure to look around your German Shepherd's anal region to make sure there is no redness or swelling; be mindful of "scooting" along the floor (this can be a sign of perianal fistulas, a serious condition), or your dog's frequent licking of the area. German Shepherds are unfortunately quite prone to perianal fistulas, due in large part to the high number of glands in the perianal area when compared to other breeds. This can quickly become an uncomfortable situation for your German Shepherd, but there are procedures (ranging from simply clipping the hair around the anal region, to thoroughly bathing the anal area, along with even surgery) available.

Additionally, examine your German Shepherd's stool to make sure it isn't black or bloody; these can be serious warning signs. Also make sure that there are no changes in your dog's genitals or mammary regions; discharge or changes in urine can be strong health indicators. Finally, take a closer look at your dog's skin to make sure there are no sores or red spots, lumps, or hair loss; be wary also of parasites.

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## **STUD DOG LISTING**

### **CH BRADWINS LORD JESTER BSCL1 'A' 'Z'**

Multi Excellent, Multi Gold Medal Winner, Multi Best In Show  
Specialist Breed Champion

### **Hips 2/2, Elbows 0/0**

**Sire:** Ingo v Frankengold (Imp Germany)

**Dam:** Ch Iccara Panache BSCL1 (Imp Aust)

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