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**Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc. Vic.**  
60 Tamarind Crescent Werribee 3030

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## *Newsletter*

August - September 2006

CLUB EMAIL ADDRESS: [breton@clubbreton.com.au](mailto:breton@clubbreton.com.au)  
CLUB WEB SITE: [www.clubbreton.com.au](http://www.clubbreton.com.au)

### **Upcoming Club L'Epagneul Breton Events for 2006**

- **October 25<sup>th</sup> - Annual General Meeting**
- **October - Brittany feature in Vicdog Magazine**
- **November 4<sup>th</sup> – Open & Championship shows**
- **November 12th – CEB Retrieving Trial & Christmas breakup.**

# *Your Club L'Epagneul Breton Contacts.*

<i>President</i>	<i>Andrew Yeomans</i>	<i>9584 4526</i> <i>Email— chakazulu@bigpond.com.au</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Emily Lee</i>	<i>9772 4970</i>
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	<i>Mark lee</i>	<i>9772 4970</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Peter Price</i>	<i>9848 6507</i> <i>57 Eucalypt Ave Lwr Templestowe</i> <i>Email— pandv@bigpond.com.net</i>
<i>Committee members</i>	<i>Mark Mallamaci</i>	<i>9816 3745</i>
	<i>Michael Calleja</i>	<i>9363 3602</i>
	<i>Frank Tate</i>	<i>9399 2718</i>
	<i>Dr Ayman Hassan</i>	<i>9700 5222</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Bill Allen.</i>	<i>60 Tamarind Crescent Werribee 3030</i> <i>Ph/Fax (03) 9741 9534</i> <i>Email — ozbritt@ozemail.com.au</i>
<i>Puppy Officer</i>	<i>Ray Waldron</i>	<i>(03) 5874 3810</i>

## Club L'Epagneul Breton Committee of Management Meetings 2006.

February Wednesday 8th - Committee meeting.	April Wednesday 12th - Committee meeting.
June Wednesday 7th - Committee meeting.	June Wednesday 21st - Extraordinary Special Meeting
August Wednesday 9th - Committee meeting.	October Wednesday 4th - Committee meeting.
October Wednesday 25th - Annual General Meeting (AGM)	

*All Club L'Epagneul Breton members are encouraged to attend these meetings to observe how your club is run. If we gain sufficient attendances there may also be a possibility of other activities taking place prior to the meeting, such as coaching of dogs and handlers for conformation shows, lectures, films, etc. So make the effort to attend and enjoy the night. Please contact the Secretary for further information on venue, time, etc.*

**Club L'Epagneul Breton now have a web site.**

**[www.clubbreton.com.au](http://www.clubbreton.com.au)**

*For information about what's happening within our breed world wide and at a club level check out this marvellous new initiative of your Club L'Epagneul Breton. If you have anything you would like to paste or advertise on the web site place forward it to the club Treasurer, Peter Price, for committee approval at our new club email address;*

**[breton@clubbreton.com.au](mailto:breton@clubbreton.com.au)**

## Editor's Ramble.

Hi again all. In the time that I have been editor of the club newsletter I have always tried to maintain a positive attitude towards our dogs & hunting in Australia in general. Unfortunately there is a time for bouquets & there must also come a time for brickbats. Brickbats it is this time around.

Lets start by having a look at the Extraordinary General Meeting that was held on a cold Wednesday night, 21st June. This meeting was of great importance to our club. Important changes were mooted to our constitution as it has not been updated for many years. To say the committee were disappointed with the turn out is an understatement. The total number of people that attended the meeting was a poorly 8. Yes just 8 members thought their club was important enough to leave their warm lounge chairs to turn up & support it, and 6 of those members were committee members. Only 2 non-committee members bothered turning up.

Our club President, Andrew Yeomans, has worked tirelessly for the good of the club, taking up the presidential reigns at short notice when he should be doing other things that are of far more importance to his family. We all owe Andrew a huge debt of thanks for his efforts. Mark & Emily Lee are together tackling what is in my opinion the single most important job in any club, that of Secretary & Assistant Secretary, & they are doing a sterling job of it. Peter Price has almost single handedly brought the club back from the brink of financial disaster. In fact we are probably in the best position financially that we have seen in over 10 years.

The others on the committee that are also doing their best; Ayman Hassan, Michael Calleja, Frank Tate, Mark Mallamaci & Ray Waldron, all are working damned hard to ensure our club runs smoothly. But *STILL* the members just can't be bothered getting off their bums to support these fine people that care so much for the Epagneul Breton in Australia. Together we have looked endlessly for answers as to why club members simply can't be bothered turning up to our events & I must admit to being stumped. I have to say that I no longer have any idea of what it will take to get people interested in our club events.

The feeling is, that unless we are contacted by suitable numbers of club members, showing enough interest in running events next year, then the work involved in running them is just not worthwhile. Why should we hold events simply for the benefit of owners of other breeds from other clubs, when we don't get any Bretons entered or even Breton owners turning up? There's a very good chance that our club will considerably downscale it's efforts next year, to the point of remaining simply a contact point for the breed & possibly publishing a small quarterly newsletter to pass on information, & that's all. Take heed Club L'Epagneul Breton members; there are some that are advocating that it just may be time for the club to call it a day & fold up all together. Maybe they are right. Maybe the club has had it's day & we should let it die rather than keeping it on life support.

I certainly won't let it go without making every effort to ensure the club to survives. I see the club as being far more important than it's committee & members. It is a resource that is vital to the future of the breed in this country. It is a meeting place, a crossroad as it may be, for those that may not be involved with the breed but are contemplating getting involved. Where else could a person that shows interest in our breed be directed to find out more about the breed if not to the breed club itself. And what of safeguarding the standard for our breed in this country?

No, in my opinion this most wonderful of all breeds of hunting dogs cannot be let down by consigning the parent club to the past. But don't expect too much next year. The committee members just don't see the point in working without the support of club members anymore. What a sad pity to see such a great & proud club reduced to a shadow of it's former self. I really wonder at times if the owners of these beautiful little dogs are truly genuine toward the dogs they own. At the moment it certainly appears not.

*Bill Allen. CEB Newsletter Editor.*

## ***Power Road Veterinary Clinic.***

**Dr Ayman Hassan**

**Mon—Fri 9.00a, - 7.30pm**

**Sat 9.00a, - 1.00pm**

**9700 5222**

**Cnr Power & Heatherton Roads  
ENDEAVOUR HILLS.**

# President's Address.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to another news letter. First off a big congratulations to Michael Calleja on obtaining Field Trial Champion status for his bitch Bridie. Well done Michael. I must also thank Mark and Emily Lee on running our Field Trial. It was a baptism of fire for them and they survived the ordeal.

I was disappointed in the attendance at our Special Meeting and hope we can get a better attendance at our AGM. Speaking of which – keep the middle of October free- we need your attendance not only to elect a committee but to formally ratify our “new” constitution, duty statement and requirements for life membership.

I won't be able to continue next year due to work and family commitments. I find myself stretched for time to give proper service to the club.

The Show subcommittee has organised our Shows for November 4<sup>th</sup> yes I said Shows plural as you will see further in the news letter we are having a Championship show as well as a Club show. You will notice the time is 9:15 am this is to allow those who are going away for the weekend the chance to show their dog and then go up to the rice or where ever they wish to go. We need all our dogs to attend- no matter what colour or shape to attend, you may be surprised to find that “mongrel” you think you have is worthy of winning something.

regards Andrew Yeomans.

*The Club L'Epagneul Breton inc Vic' Committee of Management would like to  
pass on their*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CLUB L'EPAG-  
NEUL BRETON MEMBER MICHAEL  
CALLEJA &  
FT Ch AILETIREUR MINNIE DE COOMBE  
(Bridie).**

This year Michael & Bridie succeeded in winning an All Age Field Trial that gave them Bridie's Field Trial Championship (FTCh) title. Michael has trained & trialed tirelessly with his dogs, & his efforts have finally paid off. Many times have I heard people write off our breed by saying that good examples of the breed just can't be produced anymore in this country. Well Michael has shown those doubters that good Bretons do still reign as the supreme field hunters that we know they can be & can still mix it with the very best. There is no doubt in my mind that there are excellent Bretons out there still being produced by our breeders, that are capable of beating the best the others can offer. Michael & Bridie are proof of that. On behalf of the committee I would like to take this opportunity to offer a heartfelt 'well done' to Michael & Bridie.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLUB WILL BE HELD ON **25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006** IN THE MEETING ROOMS OF THE VICTORIAN CANINE ASSOCIATION, ROYAL SHOWGROUNDS, EPSOM ROAD ASCOT VALE AT 8PM. AGENDA AS FOLLOWS;

## AGENDA

1. Opening
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of AGM 2005
4. Committee reports
5. Election of 2007 Office Bearers & Committee.
6. Statement of income & expenditure
7. Appointment of Auditor
8. Presentation of Annual Awards.
9. Close

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW CALLED FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS.

- \*Note\*
1. Both Nominee & Nominator must be financial members of the Victorian Canine association and Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc' Vic'.
  2. Nominations must be received not later than 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006.

## VACANCIES

- President x 1
- Vice Presidents x 3
- Honorary Secretary x 1
- Assistant Secretary x 1
- Treasurer x 1
- Ordinary Committee Members x 8

Only items agendered for the meeting will be aired so Notice of Special Business must be presented, in writing, no later than

*Address all correspondence to;*

Club L'Epagneul Breton Secretary  
 Ms. Emily Lee  
 11Chadwell Grove  
 Chelsea Vic'  
 3196

I,.....(please print) would like to nominate.....

For the position of.....(please print).

Signed.....Date.../...../.....V.C.A membership number.....

I, being the nominee for the above position, accept the responsibilities & duties of the above position on behalf of Club L'Epagneul Breton and it's members for the term of 2007.

Signed.....Date.../...../.....V.C.A membership number.....

**CLUB L'EPAGNEUL BRETON INC.VIC.**

*(Sponsoring the Brittany Breed)*

**RETRIEVING TRIAL -12<sup>h</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

To be held und the Rules and Regulations of the Victorian Canine Association.  
A copy may be inspected at the office of the Secretary of the fixture on the day of the trial.

**Trial Managers**

Mr Ray Waldron Ph 0427 152 696  
Mr Michael Caleja Ph (03) 93633602

**Trial Secretary**

Mr Andrew Yeomans Ph (03) 95844526  
3 Barclay Dve  
Cheltenham 3192

**Location :** Phone the Trial Manager during the week prior to the Trial for directions

**Judges & Stakes:**

Novice Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – T.B.A.  
Restricted Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – Mr Barry Kavanagh  
Field & Game Stake – T.B.A.

**Entry Fees :**

Novice Members - \$12.00 Non-Members - \$14.00  
Restricted Members - \$14.00 Non-Members - \$16.00  
Entry includes all VCA levies.

**Entries :** Accompanied by Entry Fees to be sent to the Trial Secretary.

**ENTRIES CLOSE 3<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

**ABSOLUTELY- NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Draw to be *conducted at the home of the Trial Secretary on 7<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm.*

**Vetting from 7.30am Start 8.30am Sharp.**

Trophy and Sash for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sash for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in all Stakes

-----  
A FIELD & GAME STAKE IS TO BE CONDUCTED ON SUNDAY  
**FROM 10.00AM – ENTRY FEE \$10 – TO BE PAID ON THE DAY**

Catering - Lunch & Breakfast available both days.

***Shooters Licence – A competitor must produce their current shooters licence at vetting or they will not be permitted to compete at the trial.***

**CLUB L'EPAGNEUL BRETON INC.VIC.**

*(Sponsoring the Brittany Breed)*

## **2<sup>ND</sup> CHAPIONSHIP SHOW**

***Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006***

**Location - Lancefield Park Reserve, Chauncey Street, Lancefield**

Schedule of Classes 1,2,3,4,5,10 & 11 (dogs & bitches)

**Entries** accompanied by fees to Show Secretary, Mrs M Di Natale

144 Edwards Street, Reservoir, Vic 3073 PHONE 03-94606469

(No Calls After 9pm Please)

Cheques/money orders made payable to Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc.

**Entries close 4<sup>TH</sup> October 2006**

**JUDGE: Mr. P .Machen (CAN)**

**Catalogue** \$1.00 each. Please Order and pay with Entries.

**Entry Fees** \$15.00 each.

Entries will not be accepted without fees.

**Judging Times:** 12.30 pm OR at the Completion of The Rarer Gundog Spaniel  
Championship Show.

Club L'Epagneul Breton Show will run alongside The Victorian Gundog Club  
Championship Show.

Catering: Available

**Special Prizes:** Trophy and Sash for All in Show Awards.

Full listing in Catalogue.

CLUB L'EPAGNEUL BRETON INC.VIC.

*(Sponsoring the Brittany Breed)*

## **OPEN SHOW**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

***Location - Lancefield Park Reserve, Chauncey Street, Lancefield***

Schedule of Classes 1,2,3,4,5,10 & 11 (dogs & bitches)

Special class: 22 For Dogs and Bitches of any other colour than Clear Orange and White. (Must also be entered in ordinary classes).

QC Class for exhibits with a pass or Qualifying Score in Obedience, Agility, Retrieving, Field, Tracking, Jumping etc disciplines. (Must also be entered in ordinary classes)

**CHAMPIONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE IN ORDINARY CLASSES.**

**Entries** accompanied by fees to Show Secretary, Mrs M Di Natale  
144 Edwards Street, Reservoir, Vic 3073 PHONE 03-94606469  
(No Calls After 9pm Please)

Cheques/money orders made payable to Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc.

**Entries close 4<sup>TH</sup> October 2006**

JUDGE: Mrs D Hall (Vic)

**Catalogue** \$1.00 each. Please Order and pay with Entries.

**Entry Fees** \$10.00 each. CLASS 22 AND QC CLASS \$5.00 each.

*Entries will not be accepted without fees.*

**Judging Times:** At the completion of Club L'Epagneul Breton Championship Show.

Club L'Epagneul Breton Open Show will run alongside The Victorian Gundog Club Championship Show.

**Catering:** Available

**Special Prizes:** Trophy and Sash for All in Show Awards.

Full listing in catalogue.

# CLASSIFIEDS

*It is Editorial policy that anyone with litters to advertise, or anyone seeking pups, shall be entitled to advertise through this newsletter without fear or favour. Contact between breeders & prospective purchasers shall then be the business of those parties, & the Club L'Epagneul Breton shall accept no responsibility for any further dealings. The Club L'Epagneul Breton will not show favour toward any particular breeder & are not willing to endorse any litters so as to remain neutral in any private dealings.*

## ***For Sale.***

### ***Browning B25 U/O Shotgun.***

B1('C' grade) Sporter  
*Hand Made in Belgium with Exhibition grade wood.*  
27 1/2 inch Barrels  
Choked 1/4 & 5/8 ths.

This is a delightful gun in absolutely beautiful 'near new' condition. Suitable for Duck, Quail, Pheasant, Partridge, or Sporting Clays.

A classic example of this famous gunmaking marque.  
Comes with hard case.

New replacement cost—in excess of \$12,000

**\$4000 Neg'.**

For further details contact;  
Bill Allen.

Ph. (03)9741 9534

Mob 0417 393 466

E-mail ozbritt@ozemail.com.au

*Bill Allen Newsletter Editor.*

## ***North West Four Wheel Drive & Camping***

*For all your 4wd accessories & camping gear contact Frank Cassar at;*  
*Tel. 03 5428 7475 Fax. 03 5428 7476*

*Email. northwest4wd@tsn.cc*

*37 Gyro Close Riddells Creek Vic 3431*

***LIGHTFORCE SPOTLIGHTS.  
FREEDOM TENTS, SOUTHERN  
CROSS TENTS, TJM & ARB 4WD  
ACCESSORIES, AND MUCH***

## ***FOR SALE.***

Club L'Epagneul Breton Caps \$15 - Dark Green/Brown Peak - Cream/Brown Peak

Club L'Epagneul Breton Badges Cloth \$8 Metal \$5

Contact Andrew Yeomans on;  
9584 4526

## **Internet Links de L'Epagneuls Bretons.**

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/french\\_brittany/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/french_brittany/)

This is a Yahoo hosted mailing list for owners/breeders of French Epegneuls Bretons. There are members on this list from over 20 different countries. Many of the members are from the home of our wonderful little dogs, France, including Mssrs Pierre Williems, Pierre Terran, Christian Gunther (current President of the French Club Epagneul Breton), and many others. Ownerd by George Kuvats in the USA and jointly moderated by Bruce Daniel (USA) & myself, this is one of the very best internet resources available for those supporting the Epagneul Breton.

*Bill Allen*

## *Electric Collars. Yay or Nay?*

These days there is quite a bit of talk around concerning the use of Electric Collars for dog training. Many people that know me will already know my opinion on the use of these devices but I'll just go over it briefly again for the benefit of any newcomers. For starters let me make it quite clear that I am not against the use of E-collars, but I do have some serious reservations about the use of them, and for that reason I *do not* recommend their use in training our Epagneuls Bretons. E-collars are just tools. That's all. No doubt used properly they are an excellent tool for training dogs, however, like all tools they can be used poorly. The big problem with E-collars is that if they are used poorly, by someone that doesn't understand the process of training a dog (with or without a collar), they have the potential to absolutely devastate a dog. They can ruin a dog forever in the space of 10 minutes.

Whilst there are some good pro trainers in the USA & England, there are very few pros in many other countries, & none that I know of in Australia. So all gundog trainers in this country are basically amateurs that may only train ½ dozen dogs in a lifetimes hunting. Some that are involved in trialing etc may deal with more but most don't. Given the differences between each & every dog, there is no way someone that only deals with that small number of dogs (1/2 dozen in a lifetime) can possibly gain the experience & knowledge to properly use an E-collar without eliciting the help of someone whom knows what they are doing, & as I said they are very few & far between to start with over here.

First & foremost the important thing, in my opinion, is to learn to train your dog without the E-collar. Only once someone properly understands the methods & (more importantly) the 'psychology' involved in training dogs, should they ever consider moving to the use of such tools. I see far too many people that don't understand how to properly correct their dogs in the first place. Given the use of an E-collar, many people would ruin their dogs before they even realised what was happening. 'Psychology' is what it is all about. Absolutely no doubt about that. The methods employed to train our dogs are aimed at one thing only; to manipulate our dogs brain in order to get him to do what we want him to. Now let's get one thing straight right now. Many people say that dogs only really want to please us. Absolute hogwash IMO. Does anyone really think that if they could convince their dog that we really didn't want them (our dogs) to hunt at all that they would gladly give it all up just to please us? No way, not with these dogs. They are genetically engineered hunting machines. Instinct is what it's all about, & training the dog, by manipulating him psychologically through our training methods, to steer his instincts into working for us.

There are two types of training methods we need to employ, & they simply *MUST* go hand in hand. Either one used alone simply will not work. The first method just about everyone alive today has heard of – positive reinforcement. This is the process of making the dog do something in order to show him what we want (for instance forcing his butt down when we give the 'sit' command) & then rewarding him when he has learnt to associate the sounds we make (which we call 'commands') with the actions we want from him. Usually the reward he gets is either verbal praise or a tasty treat. However, this will only get us so far. Imagine that your dog is 100+ metres in front of you, having a little run around, when a rabbit gets up & bolts. Does anyone really think that pulling a little piece of sausage out of their pocket & offering it to the dog will stop him chasing said rabbit? No way. In this situation we must employ the second method – avoidance training.

Avoidance training is the method used to control our dog's choices. Suppose our dog is out 100+ metres in front & the bunny bolts, we then give him the 'stop' command. Now we have presented the dog with a choice. He can obey us & stop, or he can use his escape route – to run away (follow the bunny). Remembering that dogs are not good reasoners within their own field of intelligence, we find we now need to 'assist' his decision making process. How so? By putting a 'negative' in place to cut off his escape route. His choice now is 'escape route = negative, obedience = positive'. We use a 'negative' that the dog wishes to avoid to guide him into making the decision we want - to obey. Hence the term 'avoidance training'.

So what methods can we employ to create such a 'negative' that the dog will want to avoid? The classic method is proper use of the E-collar, & this is where the proper understanding of the device is vital. It is not meant to punish the dog for transgressing, it is meant to be the 'negative' the dog will want to avoid if he looks to use his escape route. Hence the collar is used to steer him into making the decision we want him to – obey our command. Used properly there is very little need to continually 'zap' the dog, once or twice is usually enough to create the negative we need. The level used must also be barely enough to get the message across, not a godawful 'whack' that turns the dog inside out. I would encourage any new dog trainer to use their brains a bit (this is what it's all about – trainers using their brains) & think of other methods that can be used for avoidance training before ever resorting to the use of the E-collar. There are many others believe me. Only once you've learnt to use your intelligence adequately, will you understand enough about manipulating your dogs brain to be ready to turn to the use of tools such as the E-collar to assist you. Till then – avoid the things like the plague I sez.

*Bill.*

# The Royal NSW Canine Council Ltd.

## National Championship

*Utility Gundog Field Trial 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup>. June, 2006*

The Royal NSW Canine Councils Retrieving & Field Trial Committee conducted the National UTFT Championship in the St. James area of Victoria. This was held in Victoria due to the poor conditions of the NSW countryside & to the government regulations, which affects the running of our field trials at present.

The trial consisted of two rounds in the field and one water test (water test as in retrieving trials). The dogs competing were mainly German Shorthaired Pointers, a Brittany Spaniel & a very good Hungarian Vizsla, the paddocks used were wheat stubble with a lot of regrowth & a scattering of native grasses. The trial started on Saturday morning 08:00 hrs. With the first field round, there was a misty fog which restricted visibility to around 150 meters, unfortunately this fog stayed with us till the end of the first round, which concluded about 13:00 hrs with only a slight breeze together with the fog it made for quiet a testing time for both dogs & handlers with birds being quiet active running & taking to flight well out in front of the dogs. (In competition two handlers walk together, & with their dogs working around seventy-five meters in front, the judge (Mr. Bob Atkinson) & judges steward (Mr. Gus Stephens) walk with the two handlers, each brace of dogs was given from 40 to 45 min. to show their abilities with their handlers assistance as this is a team effort. The gallery which comprises of the other competitors & spectators follow depending on conditions fifty meters behind being just able to see the brace of dogs in competition). At the end of the first round there was a forty minute drive to the local river comprising of large connecting billabongs, with logs bulrushes Red River Gums every thing you require for a National water test. The run for each dog comprised of two mark retrieves one down stream & the other across to test the marking ability & memory when on completion of these two retrieves the competitor had to do a blind (unsighted) retrieve about seventy meters.

Of the ten dogs going to the water, by 16:00 hrs. unfortunately only six made it through this grueling section of the trial to advance to the second field round to be concluded the following Sunday morning. Sunday morning saw a different day sunny with a good breeze for the dogs to work, so by 09:00 hrs the second round was under way with the six remaining dogs (3 braces). This is where the pressure starts for both the handler & dog's, for the handlers know any mistakes or slips now could make a big difference, after each brace ran again putting on some outstanding work over 45 minutes, all competitors were called & informed that a result had been reached & the trial was concluded. To the relief of the last brace which had a sleeping fox jump up out of the grass & take off, as dogs in competition have to ignore such things (wild feral cats fox's etc.) it would have tested the handler's control. Dogs also have to work in the same paddocks with live stock sheep, cows, horses, etc.

### Results:

1st FT.CH.INKALINE KRAKKA JACKRRD German Shorthaired Pointer

Handler Mr. Russell Thomas

(handler had good control in both field & water with dog doing excellent work all round excellent team effort)

2<sup>nd</sup>. CH.HUBERTUS PANNONIAI EKES Hungarian Vizsla

Handler Mr. Garry Ponzio

(would have been one of the best display by a H/V I have seen some slight mishaps, possibly a bit of handler tension crossing over to the dog.)

3<sup>rd</sup>. POINTGOLD OBLITERATE German Shorthaired Pointer

Handler Mr. David Mills

(young dog shows a lot of promise good luck in the future)

(Bob) R. Atkinson - Judge

# **Victorian Canine Association**

## ***Utility Gundog State Championship Field Trial***

*17th June 2006*

The V.C.A held its Utility Field Trial State championship on the weekend end of the 17 of June in the Donald area on the Lake Buloke flood plain, in very trying conditions. We had 12 dogs start the trial with three different breeds represented, (GSP's a Brittany and a Vizsla) the trial paddocks were a mixture very sparse stubble paddocks, and a recently ploughed up paddock. The birds where few and far between, and very elusive, making the dogs work extremely hard for every bird. In conditions like these it was no wonder that so many dogs fell by the way side, mostly due to lack of working ability (missing birds or bumping up birds). Due to the low bird numbers and poor conditions, and the fact the first round didn't conclude until late in the after noon, it was decided to run the water retrieve straight after the first round of field work. The judge required six dogs for the water test component.

The retrieve itself was set with the handlers to fire at a marked bird across water, with the bird landing in some dead fallen trees, they then had to proceed to the next firing point where they were to fire at a 40 metre blind retrieve over a fence in open cover. The dogs had to fetch the blind first. Only 3 dogs managed to complete this part of the trial.

On the Sunday morning the second leg of the field work was run in new paddocks but, as it has been all season, the birds where very sparse. Terry Loft and his dog were the only competitors that could handle these birds consistently and stay out of trouble. The trial reflected the very hard season that we have had with birds and the drought conditions, and also showed us that these little game birds are more than a match for the dogs and handlers when the conditions are harsh.

### *Result*

1<sup>st</sup> T. Loft's – FT CH Quailblazer Point Taken – GSP  
2<sup>nd</sup> R. & V. Thomas's FT CH Inkaline Krakka Jack RRD - GSP

## **French Club Epagneul Breton membership.**

*For anyone wishing to join the French CEB (including their wonderful magazine-now with English articles) there are now two easy ways to do so. From Pierre Willems in France (French CEB Treasurer) comes this advice.*

We offer a new facility to pay your subscription (= 37 euros).

1. You can proceed by a bank transfer, IN EUROPEAN CURRENCY (i.e. EUROS) to the account of which the IBAN code is as follows; IBAN:  
FR64.3000.2079.4000.0003.9365.M67 SWIFT Address: CRLYFRPP
2. If you have internet access go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) & open a paypal account using your credit card. Transfer 37 Euros to [willems.pierre@libertysurf.fr](mailto:willems.pierre@libertysurf.fr) and your magazines will be posted.

**DO NOT FORGET TO MENTION YOUR FULL ADDRESS AT WHICH YOU WANT THE MAGAZINES TO BE MAILED.**

# Training Tips

## *Retrieving desire & a few hints.*

The Epagneul Breton - Brittany - call him what you will. He is a 'utility' gundog, a 'HPR' (hunt, point, retrieve), a 'versatile', or a 'continental'. Different names for the same job. These dogs should be able to hunt for game in all manner of cover, point that game when it is found, & retrieve it once it has been shot. The main uses for these dogs are in hunting quail, ducks, & rabbits. Other game regularly sought includes hare, pheasant, partridge, and deer. There are yet others, but these are the main quarry of our mighty French dog.

I have often maintained that you can put any Breton into a quail field & they will all find quail. Some better than others, but they all do it. It's their bread & butter. It's what they do better than any other dog in my opinion. That doesn't mean you don't have to train them to hunt quail. The dog must be obedient. It absolutely *must* come in when it is given the command. It must also learn to hold point & not bump birds, & there are plenty of other things he needs to learn before he can be called a competent hunter. However, it's when we start to look at retrieving that we find out Bretons can be a bit weak (in comparison to hunting).

For that reason I always favour bloodlines & pups that show strong natural desire to retrieve. When assessing a dog I never worry about what a dog can or can't do, that comes down to training, & there are just as many poor dogs that are well trained, as there are good dogs that are poorly trained. As a hunter you may feel that you are better off with the former. As a breeder I always prefer to see the latter. I always watch for what a dog '*wants*' to do, not what he can do. Desire depends on good breeding, and there is no substitute for good breeding. There's an old saying that "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear" & I'm sure it was 1st written by a gundog breeder. Unfortunately there are very few of us that can pick a champion at 6 weeks of age. The pup we choose may not always develop the way we hope he/she will. So what do we do when we get a dog that lacks desire to retrieve?

This is always a tough question, as it means that right from the beginning you need to start some serious thinking. Training gundogs is a thinking man's (woman's) game. As a trainer you need to be a problem solver. You are the engineer that is responsible for building the training program that will make your raw Breton into a polished hunter, and trying to get a dog to pick something up when he is not inclined to is one of the biggest challenges you will face. You can look at what the pros refer to as 'Force Training', but I must admit I don't particularly like the idea. I believe that these are not dogs that take well to pressure. They are too intelligent & sensitive of nature. Pressure them & they will quickly learn to go their own way. Then you've got a battle of wills on your hands. Much better to avoid that unless it is absolutely necessary. I much prefer my dogs to work for me rather than in spite of me. However, it may be that there is no alternative in the end. If you go down this path (FT) then make sure you study the methods properly & try to find someone that can help. More on force training next issue. So what can we do to entice our dog to pick up if he's hesitant. Well here's a few hints;

- One of the biggest mistakes people make with these dogs is starting them in the hunting field far too early. Starting the dog before the important preliminary work will undoubtedly see you end up with a 'self hunter'. Don't start your dog on game hunting/retrieving until he is well schooled in obedience. Introducing your dog to ducks, quail, etc when he is young & not totally obedient will only see him race off into the distance when asked to pick up a dummy during training (& yes training on dummies is absolutely necessary-unless you can shoot ducks & quail over him at least twice a week for training). Get him used to the mundane work involved in training. Make it enjoyable for him so he does it with enthusiasm. Then it's no trick at all to turn him onto game.
- Don't rush your dog. Obedience, & in fact all other forms of training, take time. It can't be rushed. The dog must not only learn each lesson, but he must learn to carry out instructions every time without fail. Far too many people want to hunt over 12 month old dogs. There is no way a dog of that age will be ready to hunt over in my opinion. How could he be? There's simply not enough time for him to learn what he needs to, in just 12 months.
- Here's a few tricks that sometimes work when the dog won't pick up a thrown dummy. Rub the dummy all over the dog to get his scent on it. It's surprising how this one can work. Try a bone in the middle of the dummy. One experienced trainer I know actually used an old stale loaf of bread to get his dog retrieving. It just so happened that the dog was hesitant to retrieve until one day it picked up an old loaf of stale bread that was left lying around in a park. The chap involved had the wisdom to seize the moment & decided that if that's what the dog liked in its mouth then that would do nicely for the dog to learn to retrieve with.

# Victorian (VCA) Field & Retrieving Trial Program 2006

## Field Trials

<u>Date</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Trial Type</u>
2 September 2006	VCA	Spaniel & Retriever Championship
3 September 2006	VCA	Spaniel & Retriever Championship
16 September 2006	SGC	Open Spaniel & Retriever

## Retrieving Trial

9 September 2006	Golden Retriever Club (Vic)
10 September 2006	Golden Retriever Club (Vic)
22 September 2006	National RT Championship (Qld)
23 September 2006	National RT Championship (Qld)
24 September 2006	National RT Championship (Qld)
7 October 2006	Irish Water Spaniel Club (Vic)
8 October 2006	Irish Water Spaniel Club (Vic)
21 October 2006	Victorian Gundog Club (Vic)
22 October 2006	Victorian Gundog Club (Vic)
28 October 2006	Victorian Canine Association Championship
29 October 2006	Victorian Canine Association Championship
11 November 2006	German Shorthaired Pointer Club (Vic)
12 November 2006	L'Epagneul Club (Vic)

<u>Legend</u>	GSP – German Shorthaired Pointer Club
	SGC – Sporting Gundog Club
	CHWGC – Central Highlands Working Gundog Club
	LRCV – Labrador Retriever Club of Victoria
	ESS – English Springer Spaniel Club
	VCA – Victorian Canine Association

## Training Tips (continued).

- Try starting your dog off in water rather than on land. This is the method I favour, but remember it works best during the warmer months when the dog is more willing to enter the water. On land a Breton's natural instinct is to go away from you in order to hunt. In water, just about every dog will want to come to you rather than go away. We are merely harnessing its natural instinct to come to you with something. The trick here is that you absolutely must start the young dog off by getting him used to walking through puddles with you. Then progress to walking through shallow water. Gradually move to deeper water until you have the dog swimming. All the time you *must* be in the water with the young dog. If you aren't willing to get your waders on & get in there then forget it. You are going to struggle every time. Get your waders on & show him that there's nothing to worry about. Once the dog is swimming you can start by dropping a small item in front of his nose. Make it something he/she likes., such as a duck wing. Keep the dog swimming & picking up the wing, each time just taking it off the dog long enough to once again drop it a little way in front of the dog. It must be fun, & keep these sessions short & frequent. Gradually you can increase the distance & then move onto a dummy with a wing tied to it & before you know it you'll have your dog doing retrieves in no time. Eventually you can transfer what the dog has learnt & enjoyed onto land. Then it's full steam ahead. Hope this helps a few Breton owners out there.

*Good luck & good hunting.*

*Bill.*



## Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc.

### Membership Application 2006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the VCA? YES ( ) NO ( ) If yes please provide your VCA No. \_\_\_\_\_

I desire to become a member of Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc. Vic. And in the event of my admission to the Club as a member I agree to uphold and be bound by the rules and regulations of the club.

Types of Membership: Dual ( ) Single ( ) Junior ( )  
New Member ( ) Renewal ( )

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AND PAYABLE BY 1 SEPTEMBER EACH YEAR

Fees: Dual \$20.00 Single \$15.00 Junior \$2.00

Members wishing to join puppy buyers will be charged \$2.50 for 12 months duration after which normal fees will apply.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete all details and forward with your fees to the Treasurer.

The Treasurer  
Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc.  
C/- PO Box 2122  
Templestowe Heights VIC 3107

Cheques should be made payable to *Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc.*