Hike!

Vol 3 No 2 November '00

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Hike!

The Australian Sled Dog Racing Magazine

Published Monthly

Advertising Rates (3 editions)

Full Page - $30 Half Page - $20 Business Card Size - $10 Back Page - $50

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Musher Profile - Daniel Odgers

I am 16. I am the youngest of 4 children. I live with my Mum Julie & Dad Nick & my Brother Michael & Sisters Melanie & Felicity. We all live at Greensborough in Victoria.

Apart from my love of mushing I really enjoy mountain bike riding with my Brother Michael. During the summer we spend a lot of time down the Beach Where I enjoy Surfing & Body Boarding.

Dan on a training run *Photo: S Creely*

CLUBS:

I have been an active member of the Southern Cross Sled Dog Club for the past 3 years.

WHEN DID YOU FIRST START MUSHING:

I started mushing in 1997. I saw my first Husky when I was about 4 years old & started to nag Mum & Dad to get me one. Dad would take me to the Melbourne Show so that I could watch the judging of the dogs. It was at the Show that we first discovered that the dogs where not only used for showing but for racing as well. My enthusiasm did not get less, it got bigger & when I was 9 years old Mum & Dad had no choice but to give in & bought me Mishka. I soon became very well known in the local area as The Dog Boy. As every day after school I would hook Mishka up to my bike & hoon around the streets as I was too little to walk her. The trips to the Show continued till we met up with David Pettifer who was running a VSDRA stand. David pointed me in the right direction. It didn't take long before Dad & I started going to meetings & workshops.

HOW MANY & WHAT TYPE OF DOGS DO YOU HAVE:

I now have 2 Siberians Huskies as Mishka is getting too old for racing Keisha has taken over. Mishka started as just a pet & as I became more interested in racing she was a great help in getting me started. Keisha has the running lines that are needed to continue to excel in the sport.

MOST MEMORABLE INCIDENT IN MUSHING:

Being given the opportunity to race in the B60. Due to my young age the length of the race was modified to 30km. The experance of the night race & the distance with a large team has made me detirmand to continue to try my hand at these types of events. I am very grateful to Steve Carrick of believing that I could manage such a challange.

WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST INCIDENT:

When I was racing in the B60, Jason Strenger came past me & as he did he asked me if I had seen his shoe. He continued past me with 1 shoe & a wet & dirty sock. I thought at the time "If I was in front of him how would I see his shoe."

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL GOALS IN THE SPORT:

My passion has now become to run as many long distance races as I can. Being out on the trail with the dogs for all those hours is something I love & I just can't get enough.

ADVICE FOR THE YOUNG MUSHERS:

Never give up, no matter how hard it seems. If you really want to race with the "Big Boys" don't get discouraged because you are too young. The time spent in the juniors will help you when you come up against the "Big Boys" or "Girls."

TRAINING TIP:

I find the best training tip is to train as often as you can under similar race conditions: With other people or find a trail that is challenging to keep the dogs on the ball. Train with a friend. I get Dad to drive me to Narbethong on the weekend when we are not at a race.

WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE TO YOU SUCCESS SO FAR:

Hard work from both myself & of course my Dad because without his support I would not be able to race at all. Most of all I need to acknowledge Karen McCarthy for all the help & knowledge she has shared with me, & the loan of her dogs to make up the team. Without Karen I would not have been able to compete in the races that I have in the past 2 years. Also all the people that have supported and encouraged me.

I was wondering if you'd be so kind as to put a thank you in *Hike!* for me. The following people have been a great support to Lawrie and I since my surgery and I think it is nice to thank people publicly where possible. Breast cancer can be a lonely journey but the support and positive thoughts that our friends in the dog world are sending our way are making the trail a little easier.

- Owen & Helen Robertson for the company and care.
- Shelley Fordham & Merv Turner for stripping out coats and cooking a great roast.
- Mario & Jane Suban for the endless supply of delicatessen items and support.
- Natalie & Darren Higgins - who also stripped dogs and brought the best Chinese food. To Natalie especially for searching the internet and wading through thousands of Web sites to gather information for me. Natalie also keeps me supplied with cross word magazines and chocolate.
- Clem & Veronica Bittendorfer for gorgeous flowers and timeless phone calls offering support.
- Mark and Karin Waldock for the great phone call in hospital.
- Yvonne Peheim for donuts and removing stitches when they were just about ready to remove themselves.
- Henry and Dominique Cordani for the caring and supportive phone call.
- Karen Johnson for visiting me in hospital and bringing flowers even if I didn't want to smell them.
- Peter and Sharon Komidar for the card and kind words.
- Joel and Sarah Hines for playing with puppies and dogs and for yummy chockies and flowers.
- The Southern Cross Sled Dog Club for flowers and offers of support.

Thank you all very much for the positive energy you are sending my way. We need it.

To all lady mushers out there. Don't forget to check your breasts. Young women **do** get breast cancer. If you have any queries see your GP then please call me.

Love Hayley

Sled Dog Running in NSW

D Skakal

To my knowledge, the first sled dogs run in harness in NSW belonged to Sue Smith from country NSW, in approximately 1990-91.

In October of 1991 a handful of Victorians, including Nola Randell and David and Helen Pettifer, travelled to Sydney to give a sled dog demonstration at Parramatta Park. The rig pictured along with lines and harnesses was purchased that day by myself which started my experience in running sled dogs. Training would often be around the block on concrete footpaths, dodging parked cars, jumping gutters, avoiding cats etc.

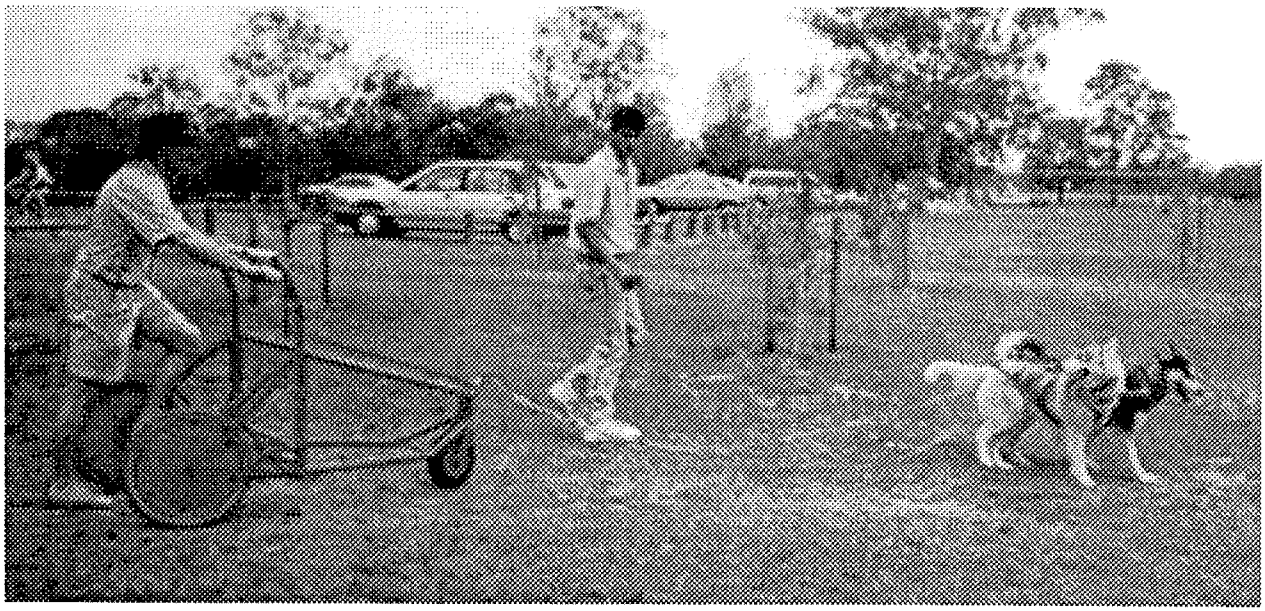
Also going to local trotting track and doing a few laps was also done. This rig was later sold and I then purchased an updated model rig in 1994, which I still use for training today. In February 1994 the idea of running sled dogs in the Southern Highlands has commenced and in August 1994 the first SHCNSW sled dog workshop was held in Penrose State Forest, with Nola Randell coming up from Victoria to give us some pointers. There were approximately 15 people in attendance at this first workshop.

It was about this time that Marty Karow and some friends had started running dogs in the Southern Highlands as well. Running at Bleangalo and Penrose State Forest then became the main areas of training for the members of the SHCNSW with introduction days organised by the social sledding sub-committee with Ivan Douglas being very influential. In July 1996 the SHCNSW hosted its first fun run at the Erskine Park Dog Show grounds which was extremely successful despite the conditions.

On 29-30 June 1996 the first sled dog race in NSW was held at Belanglo State Forest hosted by the Siberian Express Sled Dog Club and the rest is history.

Above: ATV training at Mark Levitsky's Kennel with an 11 dog string. Picture taken September 2000 Winsconsin USA. Ideal location with Mark able to run over 200 km straight from his dog yard.
Photo: Daniel Skakal

Below: Myself as a young 19 year old with my first two Siberians, Yukon and Nanook pictured here at 11 months. The grey dog Yukon still runs in haarness today, competing in Undera '97 and even this year in the Pee Wee Classes at the Freight Run.
Photo: C/o Daniel Skakal



Right of Reply - State of the Sport Report

Hike! received the following email from the Northern Exposure Gig Racing Club in response to last month's SOS Report. Our editorial policy is to publish without comment articles printed by any person or organisation that may feel aggrieved by an article published in *Hike!* However, as the NEGRC also printed their communication in the Ozworkingdog email list, we have printed both the original communication and the *Hike!* response which appeared on the email list.

Northern Exposure on SOS Report

On behalf of all members of the Northern Exposure Gig Racing Club Inc, including the Executive Committee, I wish to respond to your "conclusion on the state of mushing in Queensland", as published in your recent issue of Hike. I am deeply offended, that based on incomplete and therefore inaccurate statistics, you have singled out our state. I refer to the following quote:

"However, there is also some cause for concern. In some states, particularly Victoria and Queensland, it would appear that new beginners are not being recruited to replace those that leave the sport through natural attrition." If you would have made the slightest attempt to contact our club, and verify your facts before printing your conclusion, you would have learned that we have just completed our most successful year ever! While your statistics imply that our numbers are down from last year, a complete picture would have included the novice class, which is a direct indication of how many new beginners we do have.

We have had a very large influx of new members this year (from 42 in 1999 to 54 in 2000), which is largely due to hard work and dedication by club members to promote the sport. In addition, the numbers appearing at the Classic are not a complete picture of our club membership. Many members enjoy the sport as non-competitive recreational mushers, who enjoy attending the season fun runs while not entering the competitive events.

"While its far too early to panic, its not too early to put in place some mechanisms to encourage new starters into the sport."

Once again, a bit more research and you would have learned that our club has a number of mechanisms in place to encourage new membership:

1. Early season (March) picnic workshop to introduce mushing to the general public (broadcast on local radio, and sponsored by Pedigree).
2. Information pack is sent to each interested person (club mission statement, first visit to-do list, calendar with maps)
3. All new members receive a Mushers Starters kit (includes mushing commands, race rules, veterinary health tips, tips on training, equipment maintenance and list of suppliers Australia wide) in a bound book form.
4. In addition to the Northern Exposure Classic, the club also organizes fun runs every second Sunday during the winter and five point score races. The fun runs attract between 25 and 35 cars per event, and the point score attracting 46 teams this year.
5. We have long established affiliations with local, interstate and overseas organizations. The Siberian Husky Club of Queensland (Social) have been a sponsor of the children's classes for the last three years. The Alaskan Malamute Club of Queensland (Social) and NEGRC have jointly arranged promotional picnic days to demonstrate what both clubs can offer to owners of Northern breeds. We have shared resources with Undera, exchange magazines with SHAM, Mush with PRIDE, ISDRA, and have shared articles with VSDRA.
6. The media is used to full capacity to promote the sport in Queensland, with no less than 4 television interviews and 3 live-to-air radio interviews during this season.

Does this sound like the sport of sled dog racing in Queensland is in crisis? Far from it!! Your conclusion draws an erroneous picture and infers that if any musher is considering the Northern Exposure Classic next year they may want to think again. The executive committee take exception to your comments and on behalf of our members we are seeking a public apology from yourself and Hike. We take our responsibilities towards our members and the sport very seriously and trust that you will endeavor to get your facts a little straighter next time before you go to print.

Donald & Jacqueline Maillet

Hike! on the SOS Report

I would like to make some observations:

1. I would urge readers of this message to refer back to the original article - either in Hike or on the web site - to determine whether the degree to which the concerns expressed by the NEGRC are warranted.
2. The conclusions in the SOS Report were drawn from the statistics available - and based on all Qld mushers competing on the national circuit (which includes - but is not restricted to - the Northern Exposure Classic).
3. The Northern Exposure Gig Racing Club or its race was not mentioned anywhere in the article.
4. Hike editorial policy is that if any article is found to cause concern to an individual - Hike will print that person's communications (provided they give permission) in the next edition. Which the Mailets have done - and their email will be printed.
5. Hike is a magazine by mushers for mushers - it raises issues of concern to the mushing community and seeks to foster informed debate. It is NOT just a good news magazine.

NOTE: Hike does not have any hidden agendas with regard to any club or organisation. In fact, Hike has made considerable efforts to put races in distant states such as SA and Qld on a more level playing field to encourage growth of the sport in those areas. It has done (and will continue to) do that by the following:

1. The Hike point score is deliberately constructed so as not to penalise the smaller races - by adopting a complicated time based methodology rather than the simple point a looser methodology which would severely disadvantage the smaller races.
2. The pointscore is based on the best of 4 races - this was deliberately chosen to allow mushers in far flung areas to have the best possible chance of doing well in the pointscore (we could have chosen not to limit the number of races - which would have eliminated virtually any chance for mushers other than from Vic, NSW and ACT to do well)
3. Hike prints the NEGRC race entry form at no cost to the club
4. Hike publishes NEGRC race results and also publishes these on the net - for a global audience
5. Hike includes NEGRC race in its pointscore system
6. Hike currently has a readership of 138 people in Australia and overseas (and many more on the net) - for many of these people Hike is the only means by which information regarding the NEGRC race is made available. The only other means to my knowledge are the club magazine and the magazine for VSDRA members. I would estimate that over half the Hike subscribers belong to neither of these organisations.

I acknowledge that the further information provided by the Mailets would have informed the conclusions and as a result I amended the web page immediately these facts were brought to my attention. And provided the Mailet's the opportunity to submit an article in response in the next edition of Hike - which they have since taken up. Please note that the novice class was not included in the statistics for the following reasons:

1. Not all races and not all states have novice classes - therefore to include these would have weakened the rig our of the statistical analysis.
2. Novice races are not included in the national pointscore (for the same reason as above)
3. The point of the SOS Report was to analyse participation in national circuit classes - by class and by state.

Finally, I would like to encourage all clubs and organisations to submit articles for publication in *Hike*! on their activities to encourage new starters in the sport. Apparently there is much going on that is unknown outside of the clubs themselves which should be exposed to a wider audience. This is the kind of debate we hoped to generate from articles such as the SOS report.

Free and open debate is crucial to the development of this sport.

Thought of the Month

If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." —Unknown

TOP 20 REASONS DOGS DON'T USE COMPUTERS

Jacqui McNicol

21. Distracted by cats chasing the mouse.

20. Can't stick their heads out of Windows '98.

19. Fetch command not available on all platforms.

18. Hard to read the monitor with your head cocked to one side.

17. Too difficult to "mark" every website they visit.

16. Can't help attacking the screen when they hear "You've Got Mail."

15. Fire hydrant icon simply frustrating.

14. Involuntary tail wagging is dead giveaway they're browsing www.pethouse.com instead of working.

13. Keep bruising noses trying to catch that virtual Frisbee.

12. Not at all fooled by Chuckwagon Screen Saver.

11. Still trying to come up with an "emoticon" that signifies tail-wagging.

10. Oh, but they **WILL**... with the introduction of the Microsoft Opposable Thumb.

9. Three words: Carpal Paw Syndrome.

8. 'Cause dogs ain't **GEEKS!** Now, cats, on the other hand...

7. Barking in next cubical keeps activating YOUR voice recognition software.

6. SmellU-SmellMe still in beta test.

5. SIT and STAY were hard enough, **DELETE** and **SAVE** are out of the question!

4. Saliva coated mouse gets mighty difficult to maneuver.

3. Annoyed by lack of newsgroup, alt.pictures.master's.leg.

2. Butt-sniffing more direct and less deceiving than online chat rooms.

And the Number 1 Reason Dogs Don't Use Computers...

1. TrO{gO DsA|M,bN HyAqR4tDc TgrOo TgYPmE ("Too hard to type with paws!")

Source: David Letterman Show

Vale Morrie

Rob Nash and the ANARE Club

For those of you who have watched the ABC video *The Last Husky* or have had the good fortune to meet them in person, you would know that two of the Mawson Huskies, Morrie and Ursa remained in Australia after they were removed from their frozen homeland. The sad news is that Morrie since passed away. Hike! was priveleged to gain permission to reprint this touching tribute to Morrie.

Morrie passed away at 0445 Friday morning the 4th of February as the consequence of a fit/heart attack. Both Susan and I were with him. His temperature had been up from Monday, and he last took food Tuesday afternoon. To keep him from dehydrating we kept his water intake up by feeding from a plastic syringe, but the hot weather was another debilitating factor. The antibiotics brought his temperature to normal Thursday afternoon and he began showing more awareness of his surroundings, but at 1830 Thursday he started having pain for which we gave him some analgesic. That evening Morrie slept from 2030, he took some water at 0100 Friday, then slept again until 0400 when he again began to experience pain. The major fit occurred at 0430, after which he never regained awareness again, breathing and heart-beat gradually fading out. It was 6 years to the day since release from the one month quarantine period at the Antarctic Division, Kingston, Tasmania which was required following arrival from the southern continent. Robert and Susan Nash. The following is Morrie's record from the Mawson

Dog-file.

NAME: Morrie
SEX: Male
SIRE: Ahab
BITCH: Jenny
BORN: Mawson, 15 September 1985
DESCRIPTION: Black body, white markings on face, pink nose.
REMARKS:
1986. Became regarded as the ugliest thing on four legs for thousands of miles. A really odd looking dog. Went on a few runs with Nanok's team, but was mostly only used on training runs. Solid, but not the most powerful dog we've got. Not for breeding. See what you think.
1987. What a dog! Pulls his heart out, never needs mushing up and easily disciplined. I don't think he's ugly either. Has earned himself a permanent place in Blackie's team. Run beside Tilley and Ursa in all positions. Not a fighter, a good, honest dog. A bad harness chewer.
1988. Ditto for 1987. Has harness chewing down to a fine art. Best and most consistent puller on Blackie's team. Run mid team alongside Ursa all year.
1989. He may be the ugliest dog on the station, he may be able to demolish his harness in three seconds flat and he has taken lessons from Houdini in how to escape from his collar, but I wouldn't swap him for any other dog. Put him on the trace, alongside Ursa, and Morrie will pull all day, through any conditions. On the Kloa trip he would pull until he was exhausted and then keep pulling. We had to cool him off with snow baths on sunny days and at the end of the day you could hear him gasping for air as he plodded along, head down, tongue out and his lead bar tight. Has a strong attraction for Bonza and was infatuated with Kamik when she was a pup. I don't think he is capable of breeding as he doesn't know what bitches are for. A real personality. If I needed two dogs to get me home, Bonza and Morrie would be my choice.
1990. Half of the Morrie and Ursa team, although contrary to what some people think, you can run Morrie with another dog, Bonza or one of the bitches. Morrie is not fussy, and will keep you entertained whoever he is run with and he has a one track mind. Uglier than ever after he lost his other ear at the start of the year. Loves a tummy-rub, is an excellent worker and one of the favourites this year.
1991. Pulled like the champion he is, but towards the second half of the year he started to show signs of his age with a touch of arthritis and sometimes becoming exhausted. Worked well on the Kloa run. Very good escape artist, needs two collars. Overall a wonderful dog and one of my favourites.
1992. Has been described by some as the ugliest dog in Antarctica. However a very friendly and kind dog with not a bad streak in him. Has lost a lot of fur from his tail and around his backside. Seems a little lethargic recently and a little arthritis creeping in. Has been one of the most consistent and hardest workers in harness of the Mawson dogs and will pull till he drops. During 1992 has slowed down and showing signs of old age. One of the most popular dogs on the station (31 August 1992). Morrie is not running in the team any more due to severe arthritis. Hair has grown back. He's still happy but now a station pet (31 December 1992).
1993. Too arthritic to run but mobility has improved over the year from being allowed to roam everyday, that is until the penguins returned. Was kennelled in the green hut below the old field store and a heater on a time switch provided 2 hours heat in the morning to ease early morning stiffness.
15 December 1993. Departed Mawson for Australia.
05 February 1994. Relocated to Rob Nash's property at Altona, Victoria.

Morrie's gentle loveable nature drew in hundreds of people during his years of retirement in Australia. Many people met Morrie fund raising for the ANARE Jubilee and Husky Memorial 1994-97. Morrie gave of his friendship unconditionally and people responded, suprised that such a tough working life could produce so amiable a character. But to survive as a working sledge-dog a husky

must retain a sense of self, consequently young dudes who prodded him with a foot and old codgers who poked him with their walking sticks were appraised with a raised eyebrow and a 'what's this about' woof. Morrie was fascinated by children and literally eyeball to eyeball would walk into the middle of sitting groups of school children to flop onto his side for pats. Retirement wasn't all easy for Morrie but he faced life with effort and overcame the adversity with his shining spirit. Midwinter Dinner 1995 Rex Moncur, then Director of the Antarctic Division, helped to carry Morrie up the stairs. Morrie had a bone infection in the arthritic joint of his left elbow and there was concern about his future mobility but Morrie got up again, as always. I cannot think of Morrie as passed but merely as having heard a call of 'Ready Boys' and gone to rejoin the teams, to be present always on the wind in the open spaces under the stars.

A tribute to the Mawson huskies by Lawerence Morris, who now cares for Arne & Bundy in the USA.

The Passing

Can you still feel the rhythm of the sled?
From sea ice up to the plateau's heights
The teams pulled there so it is said.

Although they are dispersed: retired or dead
And little remains in spindrifted white,
You may still hear the rattle of the sled.

Where leopards sprawl on frozen beds
And emperors huddle and brood in the night
The teams ran there so it is said.

Up over the sastrugi they appear, spread
Out in a fan, heads down, tails swung upright.
Can't you hear the rasping of the sledge?

Plunging on through featureless dread,
Doubled up to assault precipitous might,
In unknown places they were proved it is said.

Should emptiness weigh upon lowered head
At fissured edges where the margin is slight,
There will always remain the line of the sled-
The Mawsons have been there: let it be said.

Morrie *Photo: C/o Rob Nash*

Clem Bittendorfer at the Undera Dash 2000
Photo: A&F Matthews

Racedogs Pedigree Register

Kjell Arne Ek & Rickard Lundmark

We are now moving toward a time when the continents surely have "moved together." We now have the possibility to communicate with each other by e-mail and messageboards all over the World Wide Web.

This pedigree register will hopefully add another dimension on the Internet for mushers. It will be valuable for all mushers who wish to further develop their breeding program. The register, designed by Kjell Arne Ek - former top Swedish musher, allows mushers to compare different lines, to determine how many successful team-dogs and leaders various dogs and kennels have produced and how succesfull the dogs have been in the "big" competitions. You can also follow litter-mates that may have been sold to other continents.

We hope that everyone who is an active musher (pulka, skijorers, sprint, middle distance, long distance, recreational) will use this register. The registry is designed to accommodate all dogs that are used for sled dog sports, regardless of whether they are of pure or mixed breed. The registry is designed using SQL (Structured Query Language) that guarantees good performance even with many users and lots of data."

The Racedogs Pedigree Register can be found on www.racedogs.com

Tick Paralysis Prevention

National Tick Paralysis Forum

Paralysis ticks (Ixodes holocyclus) are among the most dangerous parasites that can affect your dog. It is estimated that more than 20,000 domestic animals are paralysed by this tick in Australia each year and unfortunately, many die.

Where do we find paralysis ticks?

The paralysis tick is found on the eastern seaboard, from North Queensland to Northern Victoria. It is not restricted to the immediate coastline but can be found a long way inland in suitable habitats. In the northern parts of Australia, paralysis ticks may be found all year round, while in the southern states the season begins in spring and finishes in late autumn.

Paralysis ticks are found on animals which live in or near thick bushland. The native host for the tick is the bandicoot which has strong immunity against the tick's toxin. The tick completes a 3 stage lifecycle, with larva, nymph and adult each requiring a separate host animal for survival. Each stage of the tick can be picked up by your dog when moving through grass or vegetation. Once on the animal, the tick is quite mobile and searches out a suitable site for attachment where it becomes deeply and firmly embedded in the skin.

The tick sucks blood from the host animal and in turn secretes saliva that contains protein which is a lethal poison when absorbed into the animal's bloodstream causing signs of tick paralysis.

How to identify the paralysis tick

The paralysis tick can vary in size from a pinhead (larval form) to a thumbnail (adult) once engorged. The paralysis tick is easily recognisable by its light grey to blue black colouring. This contrasts to the common cattle tick and bush tick which are brown in colour.

Once the tick has commenced engorgement, a skin reaction may occur at the site of attachment. The skin becomes red and a raised thickening or 'crater' may appear. If the tick detaches from the animal, the tick crater remains as evidence that it was attached.

Symptoms of tick paralysis

If your dog lives in or visits a high risk area for paralysis ticks, it is important to look out for the symptoms of paralysis. In a typical casae, the tick would usually be engorging for 3-5 days before symptoms appear. Occasionally however, cases of paralysis can occur more rapidly than this.

The first symptoms my be a loss of coordination in the hind legs, however the animal may have a change in voice or may start to retch, cough or vomit. As the paralysis progresses, the hind legs become paralysed, followed by the forelegs. The animal can have a lot of difficulty breathing and may not be able to stand or walk. Eventually tick paralysis can result in coma and death.

The time sequence for the stages of paralysis varies from a few hours to a week. Not all cases follow a simple progression and the animal can die suddenly in the very early stages of paralysis. Factors which can influence the toxicity of ticks to pets include the season and the geographical area plus variation in the individual dog immunity and 'attractiveness' to ticks.

What to do if your dog shows signs of tick paralysis

It is important to seek veterinary attention as soon as your pet shows symptoms of tick paralysis. If you suspect your pet may be suffering tick paralysis, don't offer food and water, as this may lead to pneumonia and breathing difficulties if your pet can't swallow properly. It is important that you do not stress the animal, so allow it to rest in a cool, dark place until you take it to your vet.

Once at the clinic, your vet can give your dog an antitoxin to help in recovery. The anti-toxin is serum collected from dogs bred specifically for immunity to paralysis ticks. This is an extremely difficult and lengthy process which means the anti-toxin is expensive. Other specialised procedures such as sedation and treatment for respiratory complications may be vital for your dog's complete recovery and all of these procedures can require hospitalisation for several days.

How to protect your dog from paralysis ticks

(a) Avoid the tick habitat

For instance, during the tick season, don't take your dog walking in bush areas known to harbour large numbers of ticks.

(b) Search dogs <u>every</u> day for ticks

The most essential preventative measure is a thorough search of your dog's skin and coat **every day** during the paralysis tick season. This should be done even if tick control products have been applied. This method gives you 2 to 3 chances of finding a tick before serious tick paralysis occurs, since the tick must generally be attached for at least 3 days before causing paralysis.

It is important that a systematic approach is used when searching for ticks. It is not just a visual exercise, but also involves using the fingertips to feeel through the animal's coat. Ticks or tick craters can be felt as lumps on the skin surface.

Start at the animal's nose and slowly examine the face, ears, lips and eyes **Most ticks are found forward of the front legs, especially on the face, neck and ears, however be careful of skin folds around the lips and ears.** Search around the eyes and on top of the forehead carefully before checking the neck. Remove collars and search through the skin folds in the neck. Continue down

the shoulders to the forelegs. Sometimes ticks can hide between the toes or pads, or under the armpit, or on the tip of the elbow.

Check both forelegs before going to the body. Examine the chest, back, belly, around the tail and anus and back legs.

If you find a tick, rapidly kill or remove it and don't forget to search for more. Some dogs can be infested with many ticks at one time.

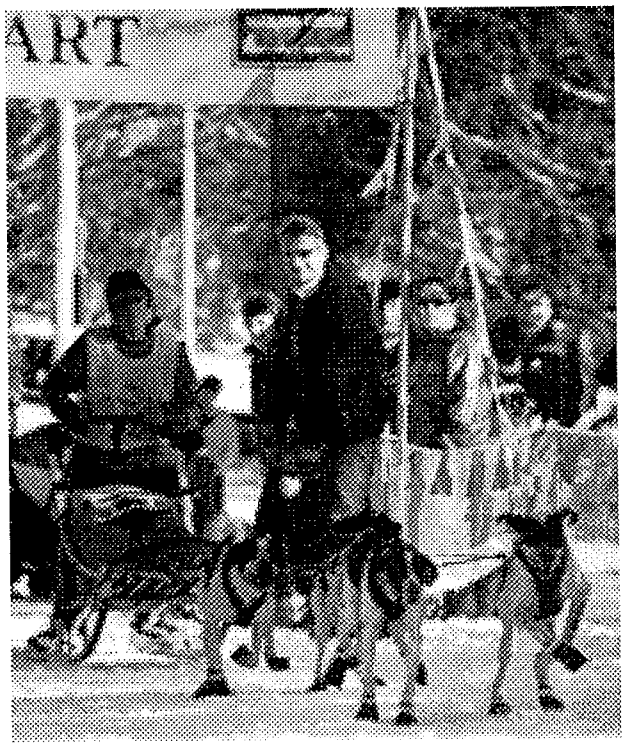
(a) Remove ticks

As soon as a paralysis tick is found it should be either rapidly killed or rapidly removed. If the tick is manipulated excessively before being killed or removed, the tick paralysis may get worse.

For rapid kill, use a rapid knock-down insecticide such as pyrethrin (fly spray) or an insect repellent. Spray the tick until saturated and remove the tick once it is dead (1-2 hours later). For rapid removal, quickly remove the tick without squeezing the engorged abdomen. Your vet can do this or show you the best method. A pair of tweezers is often helpful.

(b) Preventatives for paralysis tick control

In addition to daily searching, application of products specifically intended for tick control can greatly reduce the risk of tick paralysis for your dog. Ask your vet for their recommendation.



Kim Snibson and her Pointers blast out of the start chute at the 2000 A5000
Photo: Sharon Komidar

Yearly Heartworm Treatment Coming Soon!

A new polymer technology will soon revolutionise the delivery of heartworm medication to dogs.

Professor Rick Atwell, of the University of Queensland's School of Veternary Science, said pet dogs would soon need only an annual injection instead of monthly tablets.

The new drug-delivery system incorporates the standard heartworm preventer drug, moxidectin, with organic polymers which are injected as a tiny bead under the skin. This 'microsphere' is made of a naturally occuring lipid which eventually dissolves.

"Its like a tiny little golf ball through which the drug is released slowly over 12 months," Professor Atwell said.

Canberra Times 22 October 2000

Just a Thought
Top 10 Finishes

Michael Herbst

With the strength of competition in Australia these days , I and I am sure many other mushers go to a race and hope to get into the top 10 at any race these days. Of course there is the few that are constantly in the top placing and they deserve all the rewards that come with their hard work. But the others that don't quite have the dogs it takes to win at the moment, it would be nice to receive something to go home with to recognize that top 10 finish. Some races such as the Sydney Sprint and Canberra Classic do award the mushers with top 10 finishes with a sash and I am sure that it is greatly appreciated by all. Many thanks must go to the people that sponsored the sashes at Canberra. Other races on the circuit can take note from these guys. I would personally appreciate a sash for coming 5th to 10th instead of a small cash price or a bag of dog food. A sash is something we can keep and reflect on at the end of the season. At one race I came 7th and won $10, I would rather of had a sash, something to keep.

So this is just a thought!, could all the races on the National Circuit please award the top 10 finishes with a sash? If you as a musher feel the same, please let the race organizers know how you feel, They are not mind readers and they run the races for us the mushers and our teams. I am sure that it is something that can be reached with ease.

Undera has the T-Shirts for the top 5 finishes then a sash would be nice for the following 5 finishes as it is probably the hardest race in Australia to gain a top 10 finish as the times are so competitive.

It would be nice to come home with something for the hard work of a TOP 10 Finish.

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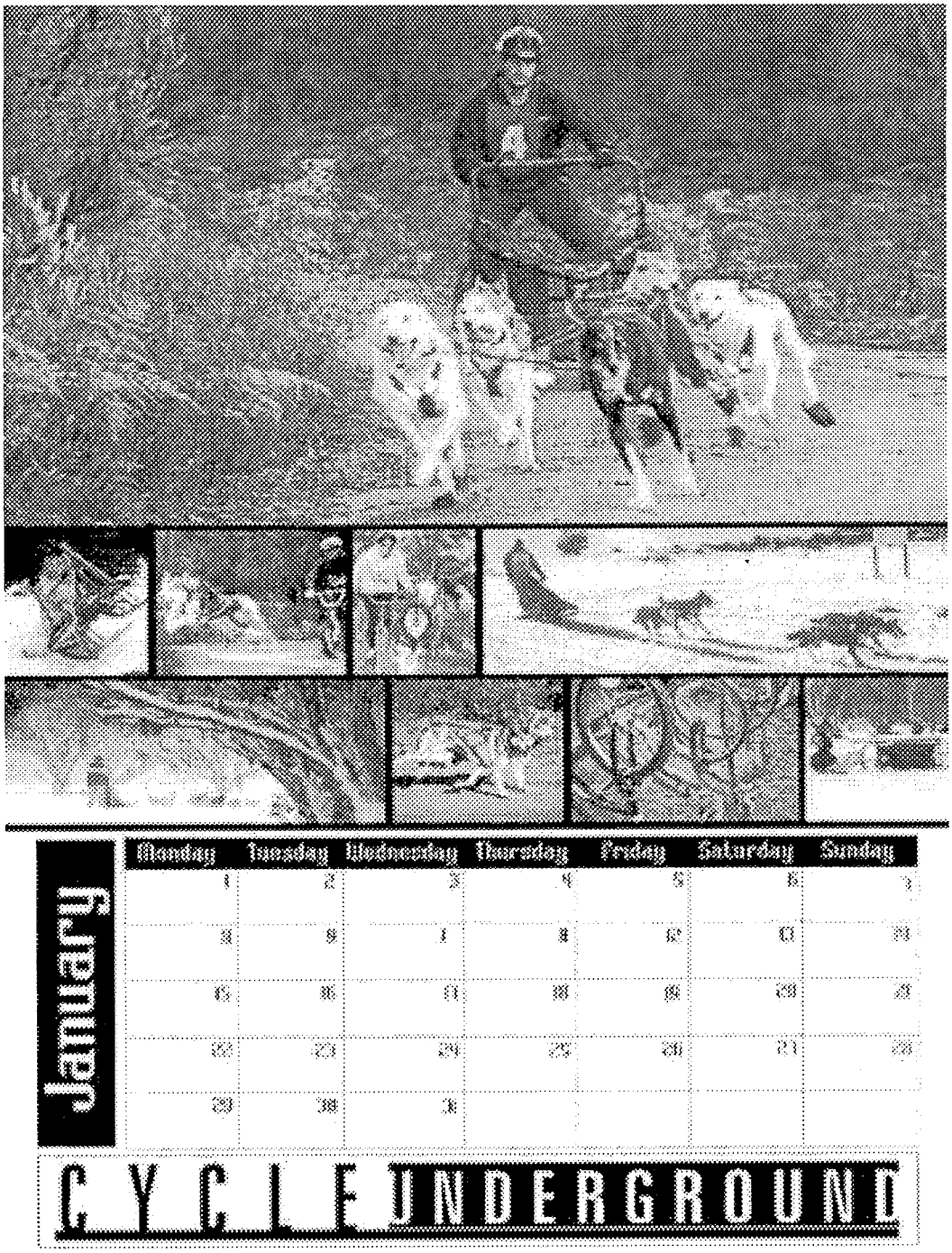

2001 Sled Dog Racing Calendar

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2001 Provisional Calendar

Sprint Races

Race	Distances	Date	Contact
Southern Cross Pro Am (Victoria) TO BE CONFIRMED	1 Dog Class – 2 heats of 3km 2 Dog Class – 2 heats of 4.8km 4 Dog Class – 2 heats of 6.8km	19-20 May	Karen Johnson Kazjohn@netspace.net.au (03) 9853 0193
Undera Sled Dog Dash (Victoria) TO BE CONFIRMED	1 Dog Class 3 heats of 2km 2 Dog Class, 3 heats 4.5km 3&4 Dog Class 2 heats 7km + night heat 4.5km, Novice 2 heats of 2 km -no night heat	9-11 June	Helen & David Pettifer pettifer@bigpond.com
Sydney Sled Dog Sprint (New South Wales) TO BE CONFIRMED	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 4km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 8km 3 Dog Class 2 heats of 12km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 12km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 15km	23-24 June	Craig Turner ionamal@shoal.net.au (02) 4285 2457
Northern Exposure Classic (Queensland)	1 Dog Class 3 heats of 2.5 km 2 Dog Class 3 heats of 4 km 4 Dog Class 3 heats of 6 km	29/6 - 1/7	Donald Maillet d.maillet@mailbox.uq.edu.au (07) 3822 6427
Great Grey Bound? (Victoria)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 2.4 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 6.5 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 9.0 km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 12.7 km	7-8 July	Jacqui McNicol mcnicol@ruralnet.net.au
Wild Dog Derby (South Australia)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 3.6 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 5.9 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.6 km	14-15 July	Dave Brown davebrown@ozemail.com.au
Sydney Sled Dog Shield (New South Wales) TO BE CONFIRMED	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 3.6 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 4.6 km 3 & 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 8.2 km	28-29 July	Ivan Douglas skylaska@zip.com.au (02) 9824 7759
The Burn (Victoria) TO BE CONFIRMED	1&2 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.5km 3, 4 & 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 15km Junior Class 2 heats of 3.8km	4-5 August	Lisa Hodgson lihuk@netspace.net.au (03) 5281 5283
A5000 Sled Dog Derby (Victoria) TO BE CONFIRMED	TBA	11-12 August	Robert Stevens sleddogs@ssc.net.au (03) 5428 3285
Canberra Classic (ACT) TO BE CONFIRMED	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 3.6 km 2 & 3 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.2 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 9.0 km	18-19 August	Len Tomlinson Kivawolf@bigpond.com (02) 6258 8063

Distance Races

Race	Distance	Date	Contact
Southern Highlands Freight Run (New South Wales)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.8 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 14.9 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 20.8 km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 20.8 km	7-8 July	Beckie Walters bknown@ozemail.com.au
B60 (New South Wales)	6 Dog Class 2 stages of 30km (min 4 dogs)	21-22 July	Stephen Carrick crack@ozemail.com.au
Kooyoora Challenge (Victoria) TO BE CONFIRMED	2 heats of 25 km 6, 8, Open class (min 4 dogs)	4-5 August	Jacqui McNicol mcnicol@ruralnet.net.au
CSDC Distance Race (ACT) TO BE CONFIRMED	2 stages of 15.5km (min 4 dogs)	18-19 August	Andrew Gersbach andrew@dataflex.com.au 0414 690 204

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