



# Axe Vale Dog Training Club

www.axevaledogs.org

## Newsletter - October 2010

### Chairman's Chat

I must start by thanking Tony (Foot) for the many years service he has put in as Chairman of this Club. As I am discovering, there's more to the job than is apparent from the outside - I only hope that I can fill his shoes. Enjoy your "retirement", Tony.

Where has the summer gone? Some 4 months have passed since I became Chairman, and it seems like yesterday. We hosted our first Agility Competition in August, and despite all the panics beforehand, the day went well and attracted 117 entrants, with over 170 dogs competing. We are hoping to repeat the event next year, so keep an eye out for the details, once we can establish a suitable date.

Our agility and obedience classes continue to be popular, and due to the demand from members, we will be starting an extra agility beginner's class on 4th January 2011. This will also mean that we will have to re-arrange existing classes to accommodate. Please see the column opposite for more details on how to apply and on the attendance changes being made. (Places on the beginners' course will be limited, so make sure that you have registered to book your place.)

We will be having a slightly longer Xmas break this year (the trainers deserve it!), so the last normal Obedience Training Day will be Wednesday 1st December (Xmas Party on 8th) and the last Agility Training Day (Clear Round night) will be Tuesday 7th December.

As ever, contributions to the newsletter would be very much appreciated - so if anyone has any articles, jokes or just general observations on the doggy world, please pass them over to me and I will do my best to accommodate them. Contact details at the bottom of the back page.

### Quick Diary

Wed 29th October	Quiz Night (see back page)
Tuesday 7th Dec	Agility "Clear Round" night.
Wed 8th December	Xmas Party, Blackdown
Tuesday 4th Jan 2011	Agility restarts (New schedule - see this page).
Wed 5th Jan 2011	Obedience restarts
Wed 12th Jan 2011	New Puppy Class starts.

### Agility Classes

As mention in the Editorial, we are starting a new Agility Class for beginners on Tuesday 4th January. If you are interested, please let Valerie (Secretary)

know, or fill in your details on the form available on Wednesday club-night. Places are limited, so please ensure that you have registered if you do not want to be disappointed.

Note that all dogs attending Agility classes must have attended at least 3 Obedience sessions and reach appropriate standards of obedience. Valerie or any of the other trainers will provide more details if required.

For existing Agility attendees, this will mean us having to re-arrange existing classes - please see the

changes outlined below.

6:30 - 7:15 Class 1 (Valerie's Class - was 8:15pm)

7:15 - 8:00 Beginners (New Class)

8:00 - 8:45 Self Help Class (was 7:30pm)

8:45 - 9:30 Class 2 (Nicki's Class - was 6:45pm)

These new times will be applicable from Tuesday 4th Jan onwards.

The Committee appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience to certain members, but, after a long discussion, it seemed the only practical solution to allow us to give other members the chance to take up Agility activities.

### Don't Miss It !

**Our Annual Xmas Party is on Wednesday 8th Dec at Blackdown Village Hall. Start 7pm**

Games for dogs & owners.

Dog Friendly Santa,

Raffle & refreshments.

Do come along. The evening is lots of fun and good for socialising your dogs. They enjoy it as much as the owners !

### What's in a Name ?

A burglar is sneaking into a house one night, when out of the darkness comes a voice, "*I can see you, and so can Jesus*".

The burglar freezes in his tracks and is too frightened to move. After ten minutes, nothing has happened so he moves forward. Again comes the voice, "*I can see you, and so can Jesus*". The burglar is again too frightened to move.

After thirty minutes, he decides to do something. He backs very slowly and tentatively to the wall and feels around for a light switch. He switches on the light and there in front of him, sat a cockatoo in a cage, who says, "*I can see you, and so can Jesus*".

Greatly relieved, the burglar laughs, "It's just a bird". The cockatoo looks at the burglar and says,

*"I might be just a bird, but Jesus is standing right behind you and he is a German Shepherd !"*

Axe Vale DTC

## Grand Quiz Evening

Friday 29th October at the Ship Inn, Chard.

Starting at 7:45pm

(Get there earlier for a good table)

Teams of four (or less), Entry £5 a team.

Prizes and a raffle. All welcome.

### November the 5th and all that.

The dreaded (for pet owners) firework season is looming up, so we do not apologise for repeating our annual advice.

Please consider everyone's pets at this time, and how terrified they may be by the noise.

Keep your pets safe inside after dark, or safely on a lead if they have to go out.

Do not fuss them or show anxiety which will only worry them more.

Act normally, with drawn curtains, television or music on, or indoor games to play with them if preferable and they are willing.

If all else fails, allow them a safe place to hide in (eg. behind the sofa, under the stairs, under the bed) and leave them be.

Try to ignore the bangs yourself and make no comment.

You could try using O.A.P. Diffuser, a plug in device giving off appeasing pheromones, which calm the dog.

Alternatively, you can use Bach Flower Remedies, or try the Sounds CD, which helps to get your dog gradually accustomed to all sorts of sounds. Ask at Club about any of these.

### What Do I Buy my Dog for Xmas ?

Well, here's an idea. Honda have recently unveiled their new "dog friendly" car. Called the Honda Dog Friendly Element EX (catchy name – that !!), it features easy-wash seat covers, a fitted cushioned raised dog bed with restraints to keep Fido safe in the event of a crash, a built-in spill-resistant water bowl, an extendable ramp, a rear interior fan and finally, a paw logo on the side of the body (the car, not the dog - stupid !!).

The bad (?) news is that it is only going on sale in the US. Ah well, perhaps next year ..... I think not !!!

As an aside, recent correspondence on a dog rescue website about which car is the best one for dogs, produced the following answer -

***"One in which he can reach the pedals with his paws."*** .....***Boom, Boom !!***

### A Warning about Chocolate

Whilst us humans can eat chocolate with little harmful effect (apart from on the waistline), chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine which is toxic to dogs and is one of the most common forms of dog poisoning in this country. In significant quantities, theobromine can be lethal. Severe symptoms can include vomiting, abdominal pain, panting, drooling, muscle tremors or rigidity

Dark chocolate contains considerably more theobromine than milk chocolate, and cocoa powder contains the highest levels of all (hopefully, the chances of your dog getting hold of a tin of cocoa powder are remote – although it has happened).

In this country, most cases of serious poisoning have related to continental type dark chocolates, as these contain much less milk and more cocoa. As to quantities, well this is very difficult to assess, but, as a rough guide, 4oz of milk chocolate or 1oz of continental dark chocolate could be fatal for a small dog and ½lb of milk chocolate or 2oz of continental dark chocolate could be fatal for a larger sized dog.

If your dog eats any significant quantity of cocoa powder or dark chocolate, **CONTACT A VET IMMEDIATELY. - DO NOT WAIT FOR SYMPTOMS TO BEGIN.**

Chocolate is digested very much more slowly by dogs than people. Symptoms may not appear for many hours after the chocolate is eaten. so do not be fooled into thinking that everything is OK. The earlier the treatment the more likely you are to save your dog's life.

### Winter Weather

During the winter season, bad weather can unfortunately mean that we have to cancel training nights - often at short notice. You will appreciate that in these cases, we cannot ring everyone who might be attending. So, if you have any doubts about the weather, be it snow, ice, thick fog, or flooding, please ring Valerie, or, if she is unavailable, any one of the Officers' numbers (below) to check, and avoid what may be an abortive and uncomfortable journey.

#### Committee :

Chairman : Kevin Tricker,

Secretary : Valerie Bamber

Treasurer Christine Shalders

Vice-Chairman Jill Hodgson

Committee Members, Jackie Down, Pat Newby, Nicki Potts.

Newsletter edited by Kevin Tricker, 28 Easthams Road, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7AQ. Tel (01460) 74080

Email: newsletter@axevaldogs.org

Contributions welcome. Unless otherwise stated, articles and images in this newsletter remain the property of the author and may not be reproduced in part or in full without express permission.