



Axe Vale Dog Training Club

www.axevaledogs.org

Newsletter - October 2011

Chairman's Chat

Once again, the year has flown by and here we are again approaching Winter. The Indian Summer we experienced towards the end of September & beginning of October was very welcome, but the unusually high temperatures brought back worries about leaving Fudge in the back of the car – not usually a problem this time of year! Anyway, I suspect that, by the time you read this, we will be into the rainy season and we will have forgotten all about it.

This year's outdoor activities have been somewhat curtailed, as date clashes and availability of our usual site up at Thorncombe meant that we had to shelve our plans for a repeat Agility Competition. We are currently looking at the possibility of providing an indoor event in the Spring or Autumn of 2012 when the diary is not so crowded, so keep an eye out for details.

The regular Misterton Fete demonstration took place once again in May and some 17 dogs and owners took part. The weather was dry, but windy, which seemed to affect a lot of the dogs, as performance was a little erratic – even from the "better" competitors. Anyway, the public seemed to enjoy it – as they always seem to do when things go wrong!

Our agility classes continue to be well attended and by the time you read this, another group of beginners will be joining us at Higher Pound Farm. However, we have seen a drop off in members attending the obedience sessions on Wednesdays. This has not applied to the Puppy classes which have, as ever, been popular, although it would be nice to see more puppies continuing their training into the other sessions. So many of our attendees seem to leave us after the puppy course finishes.

Quick Diary

Friday 11th Nov	Quiz Night (see back page)
Tuesday 13th Dec	Agility "Clear Round" night.
Wed 14th Dec	Last puppy class & Xmas Party, Blackdown
Tuesday 3rd Jan	Agility restarts
Wed 4th Jan	Obedience restarts

So, if you are one of those members, why not come along for a bit of "top-up" training, or just to socialise your dog with other pets. It is only £2 per session, and you only pay if you attend. Just have a word with one of the trainers about which class might be the most suitable.

The last full Obedience Training night before our Xmas break this year will be Wednesday 7th December (Xmas Party on 14th) and the last Agility Training Day (Clear Round night) will be Tuesday 13th December. See the "Quick Diary" on this page for other key dates.

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.

Kevin Tricker

Don't Miss It !

Our Annual Xmas Party is on Wednesday 14th Dec at Blackdown Village Hall. Start 7:15pm

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 !

Quick Quiz

All the answers below are types/breeds of dog (number of letters in brackets)

1. The easternmost area of Canada (12)
2. Former England test cricketer & wicket-keeper in 1980s (4,7)
3. Sounds a little hoarse (5)
4. Teutonic flock guardian (6,8)
5. Food ! Food ! (4,4)
6. Mixed up someday (7)
7. Lennox Lewis, for example (5)
8. City and state in Mexico (9)
9. Famous book and film, based on prisoner in Devil's Island (8)
10. Cistercian Monk and Abbot of Clairvaux (5,7)
11. Tarka's worst nightmare (10)
12. Named after old Russian word for "fast" (6)

Answers on bottom of back page.

Axe Vale DTC

Grand Quiz Evening

Friday 11th November at the Ship Inn, Chard.

Starting at 7:45pm

(Get there earlier for a good table)

Teams of four (or less), Entry £6 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 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.

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. We will do our best to put cancellation information on the website, so check this first if practical. However, this may not be updatable at a moments notice, so, if there is nothing displayed on the website, but you still have 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.

Quiz Answers
Newfoundland, Jack Russell, Husky, German Shepherd,
Chow Chow, Samoyed, Boxer, Chihuahua, Papillon,
Saint Bernard, Otterhound, Borzoi

Chocolate, Grapes & Raisins

Now that the Xmas season is fast approaching, and treats are often left around the house, always remember to keep these items away from dog temptation, as they all contain ingredients toxic to dogs.

Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine and is one of the most common forms of dog poisoning in this country. Dark chocolate contains considerably more theobromine than milk chocolate and is far more dangerous.

Grapes & Raisins have also been shown to be toxic to dogs, although the cause is as yet unknown.

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

Many Hands Make Light Work

A lot of work is done behind the scenes to help this club operate, but all members can do their bit.

Every week, on both Tuesdays and Wednesdays, mats and agility equipment have to be brought out of storage and set up for you to use and then cleared up and put away at the end of the evening. This is a necessary operation, which is much easier if there are plenty of willing hands to carry it out.

So, please, if you are in an early or late class, or could come earlier or stay behind a little longer to help out, we would much appreciate your assistance.

Are Dogs More Intelligent than Humans ?

A Canadian Animal Behaviour Analyst has produced a video which can help you assess your dog's IQ.

Apparently, if you buy the video, which costs £34.99 plus £4.99 p&p, then you can be certain that your dog is more intelligent than you are.

A Dogs View

Whilst waiting for their obedience class to start, two dogs were talking.

One said to the other..."The thing I hate about obedience classes is that you learn ALL this stuff that you will never use in the real world."

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