



Axe Vale Dog Training Club

Newsletter - October 2009

Editorial

Someone once said - "never volunteer". Well, you'd think by now I would have taken that piece of advice to heart - but I haven't, so here I am taking over the high profile role of Newsletter Editor from Jill.

Anyway, a sincere thanks to Jill for all her efforts in the past and I hope that I can match her performance.

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

Axe Vale Dog Club now On-Line !!

By the time that you receive this newsletter, we should have our very own website up and running. Have a look at it on www.axevaledogs.org. As you will see, there are still a few finishing touches to be made, but these should be added in the next few weeks.

The website will be a great way for you to keep up-to-date with the latest news, check on dates, or just show off your dog piccies. On the last of these, I would greatly appreciate any good photos you have of your dogs - and a little write-up if possible - to include on our photo gallery. Send to (or contact me) "webmaster@axevaledogs.org"

Don't worry if you do not have them digitalised, I can scan them in from a normal photo if required.

Quick Diary

Wed 11th Nov - Pre-Puppy Course talk

Wed 18th Nov - Puppy Course wk 1

Friday 20th Nov - Quiz Night (details on back page)

Wed 9th Dec - Puppy Course wk 4 followed by Xmas party for all. (Last obedience before Jan 2010.)

Tuesday 15th Dec. - Agility "clear round" night - (Last agility before Jan 2010.)

Wed 16th Dec. - Xmas dinner. location TBA.

Tuesday 5th Jan 2010 - Agility restarts

Wed 6th Jan 2010 - Obedience restarts (including puppy course week 5)

2009 Obedience Show

Our Obedience show on Saturday 20th June at Thorncome Sports and Social Club was a great success, not only because the competitors, the judges and the helpers enjoyed themselves, but also because we passed our Kennel Club inspection with flying colours. Congratulations are due to everyone who took part.

In addition to our Obedience Show next year, we shall hold a small Agility Show as well, to see 'how we do', with a view to making it part of

our regular calendar. Provisional dates for the two events are 12th June for Obedience and the 1st August for Agility.

Please make a note in your diaries, as any help you can give will be gratefully received.

Tony

Don't Miss It !

Our Annual Quiz Night on Friday Nov 20th at the Globe Inn, Misterton. For more details see the back page.

More medals than Beijing ?

Saturday 19th September saw some 12 members and their dogs assemble at Blackdown Village Hall to take their "Good Citizen Dog Scheme" obedience tests.

Last minute frantic refresher work in the car park must have paid off, as all 12 dogs walked away with assorted awards - albeit after some fraught moments when some of the dogs wanted to pursue their own agendas.

Congratulations to all who entered and to the hard work put in beforehand both by the owners and the trainers.

Awards were :-

Gold Standard

Lisa & Tuppy, Jemma & Dexter, Linda & Hardy, June & Charlie, Pat & Lady, Val & Rosie, Sue & Wills, Kevin & Fudge, Judy & Gus, Sue & Lucy

Silver Standard

Pat & Lady, Barbara & Missy, Linda & Hardy

Bronze Standard

Barbara & Missy, Christine & Holly

Final thanks must go to Valerie for all the organisation involved and to the examiner, Lindsey, whose endless patience and cheerful manner help to alleviate any last minute nerves and turned the whole afternoon into an enjoyable occasion.

Axe Vale DTC

Grand Quiz Evening

Friday 20th November at the Globe Inn,
Misterton. Starting at 7:30pm
Teams of four (or less), Entry £5 a team.
Prizes and a raffle. All welcome.

If you want some additional bodies to make up a team,
let us know at the Wednesday clubnight and we will see
if we can help.

Proceeds to Ferne Animal Sanctuary.

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.

Don't Let Your Dog Read This !!

"Obedience classes are for wimps. If you find yourself being tricked into attending, do whatever you can to embarrass your owner. Stoop as low as necessary to ensure that your human never wants to go through that again !"

From - "One Hundred Ways for a Dog to Train its Human", by Simon Whaley

Misterton Fete

The Club once again had promised to provide a fun agility demonstration at the Misterton Fete on Sunday 7th June. The weather forecasters had promised strong winds and persistent rain – fortunately what we got were fluffy clouds, long spells of sunshine, and a cool breeze. You couldn't have asked for better weather for the dogs and their gently perspiring handlers !

And so some 17 assorted dogs and handlers put on a show of dog agility of varying levels of competence to the evident enjoyment of the crowd of spectators.

Congratulations to all below for their participation (and in some cases extreme courage in the face of severe embarrassment as several dogs were on their debut performances in front of a live audience). Worth particular mention were Fudge, for mugging a small child for a sandwich during his round, Milly, whose artistic interpretation of the correct route left the public somewhat confused and Belle, who showed us the correct way to do it, and proved that there's one old dog that doesn't need to learn any new tricks !

Entrants : Bill & Tilly, Suzanne & Moses, Pat & Lady, Jackie & Lulu, Linda & Hardy, Nicky & Poppy, Iain & Milly, Val & Belle, Gemma & Dexter, Kevin & Fudge, Christine & Wooster, Nicki & Bear, Val & Taz, Helen & Wills, Sue & Lucy, Lisa & Tuppy, Nicki & Yogi.

Finally : We have in our possession some video of the performances of various dogs in this event, extracts of which we are hoping to show on our new website in the near future.

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 one of the Officers' numbers (below) to check, and avoid what may be an abortive and uncomfortable journey.

Committee :

Chairman : Tony Foot

Secretary : Valerie Bamber

Treasurer : Nicki Potts

Vice-Chairman : Jill Hodgson

Committee Members : Mike Baker, Jackie Down, Lisa Gane, Pat Newby, Christine Shalders, Kevin Tricker.

Newsletter edited by Kevin Tricker, 28 Easthams Road, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7AQ. Tel (01460) 74080
Email: newsletter@axevaldogs.org

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