

Duston German Shepherd Dog Training Club

Newsletter

Winter Edition 2011



www.dustongsd.org.uk

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the D.G.S.D.T.C Newsletter. We have many exciting upcoming events to announce and also a look back on some of the goings-on and past activities that happened at our Dog Club during the autumn.

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Winter Events:

**Christmas Party
Night!**

**Tuesday 20th
December 2011,
7.30pm.**

**Annual Club Dance.
Saturday 21st
January 2012.**

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Calendars:

Our 2012 Calendar will be available shortly, they cost £5.00 and are worth every penny! They contain some lovely photographs of members' Puppies and Dogs. Please give your order to Carol.



A Night at the Races!



We held our Annual fundraising 'Race Night' on Saturday 8th October 2011 at Duston Village Hall.

The Race Night itself is literally a fun packed lottery where you have a little flutter on the horses - the more you bet, the more you can win, and more importantly the more money can be raised for Our Club!

All the action takes place on a giant video screen, the atmosphere is electric and everybody gets involved. People really enjoy the occasional flutter and the enthusiasm grows throughout the night. People who have never placed a bet before become very involved - cheering their horse along.

This year's Race Night was a great success, raising £428.06!

Many Thanks to those members who supported the event and Thanks to Carol for organising and selling tickets, horses etc.

WANTED!

**IF YOU HAVE ANY OLD MOBILE PHONES AND USED
PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES PLEASE DONATE THEM
TO THE CLUB, THERE IS A RECYCLING BOX ON THE
FRONT DESK.**

Have-A-Go Day!

The DGS DTC held a "Have a Go Day" on 24th September 2011 at our field in Bugbrooke. There were numerous activities for members and their dogs to take part and enjoy. A puppy and Beginner Agility Course and a progressing dog Agility Course gave handlers the chance to teach new pieces of agility equipment to their dogs, as well as polishing and perfecting their dog's skills on a full course.



A Rally-O course was also setup, testing handlers and dogs obedience aptitude and ability. Rally-O is a form of obedience trail, but rather than having an instructor or judge give the handler commands to follow with their dog, the handler follows a series of signs, placed on top of cones. The signs can give various instructions, such as different stays, recall, weaving etc.

A Fastest Recall competition gave owners the chance to see how fast (or slow and steady, in some cases!) their dogs were at coming back them!



A Flyball course, German Shepherd style, was great fun for all dogs to take part in. Small cavaletti jumps are spaced along the run of the course, at the end there was a GSD sized flyball board, with GSD sized Tennis balls placed on it! The aim is for the dog to make its way as fast and cleanly as they can down the jumps, retrieve the ball and then bring it back to owner via the jumps, most dogs love Flyball, as its fast and fun!

Also a Dog Scurry gave dogs a chance to use their jumping and retrieving



skills. Bales of straw were set in run and the dogs favourite toy was placed at the end, the aim was for the dog to clear the bales, retrieve toy and make their way back down the bales, the run was timed to see how fast each Dog was.

The day in review was a great success – a total of 52 attended including Members and family and friends. The weather was just right and everyone had a really good day. All the Instructors and helpers worked very hard. Very many thanks to Stephanie for organising and thanks to all the helpers.

The grand finale of the day was an outstanding demonstration from 'The Pacesetters Dog Display Team'. If Carlsberg made Dog Teams...they'd probably be the best in the world.





Heelwork to Music Workshop Day

On Saturday 1st October 2011 a special workshop was held at Duston Village Hall. Alison Davidson, a highly renowned "Heelwork to Music" competitor and Judge at Crufts, gave members a full days tuition and display of professional Heelwork to Music skills with her own dogs, which incorporated fun obedience.



Heelwork to Music, or "HTM", as its usually abbreviated, is a dog sport that is officially recognised by the Kennel Club. HTM is derived from "musical canine freestyle", which basically means a handler and their dog working obedience skills, tricks and dance to a piece of music. It develops creative interaction between dogs and their owners and most dogs love the one-to-one attention.

Many dog owners will have seen people such as Mary Ray and Richard Curtis on Television competing at Crufts, as well as Donelda Guy and Tina Humphrey on Britain's Got Talent.

14 attended including spectators, 10 members/dogs took part in the actual Heelwork to Music, thanks to Stephanie for arranging the event and also organising the lunch.



Everyone who attended had a fantastic time and can't wait for Alison to hold another Workshop! There were many exhausted dogs (and handlers!) at the end of the day, both mentally and physically!



Sponsored Walk:

A Cheque for £500.50 raised from the Sponsored Walk this summer, was sent to the Village Hall Management Committee. They have sent their thanks to all members who took part in raising much needed funds for The Village Hall.

If you ordered Poloshirts, Sweatshirts, Hoodys, Fleecees and Rugby Shirts they will be delivered before Christmas.

If you missed this order then there will be a chance to place new orders in the New Year.

You can have the DGSDTC logo put on various items, you can even have a Black or White GSD or our standard Black and Tan Dog Design. In addition you can have your own Dogs name embroidered on your garment.

Please see front desk for full details of types of clothing and colours you can choose from.



D.G.S.D.T.C. Christmas Party Night

Please ensure to put the Christmas Party Night in your diary!

It will be held on Tuesday 20th December 2011, from 7.30pm.

The Party Night is for ALL members to enjoy so please do come along, it is always a good evening, lots of fun for both Dogs and handlers. It is great for socialisation and also to meet people and dogs from other classes. There will be the usual Raffle and of course free refreshments.

Also we hold a Fancy Dress Competition for Both Dog and Handler, prizes will be awarded! The more imaginative the better!!!

The Committee work very hard during the year organising various events for members, but this year the support has not been as good as in the past, so members, please make an effort and come along, you are sure to enjoy yourselves!

Please Note: There will be no usual classes on this night, apart from the intake.





News Hound!

If you have anything you would like to add, contribute or share in the Spring 2012 edition of our Newsletter then please email gsdnewshound@live.co.uk or alternatively you can speak to Kayleigh, The Newshound. If you attended a dog show or activity, have any unusual photos of your dog or any topical items, then add them to YOUR dog club Newsletter!

Diana had her knee replacement operation on Saturday 8th October and she was home on Tuesday 11th October 2011. Thankfully the operation was a complete success, we hope to see her back at the Club in November.

Marlene had her hip replacement on 9th November 2011, she is recovering well and hopes to be back to Club as soon as possible.

Congratulations...

Ashley Johnson, a Member of The Pacesetters Display Team, Married Katrina Jones on 30th September 2011.

DISPLAY TEAM TRAINING:

Winter training has now started for members who are in The Pacesetters Display Team. Anyone that may be interested will be most welcome to join us on a Sunday Morning, at the Bugbrooke Field.

Please ask Stephanie for more details.





COMMITTEE CORNER

In this section of Our Newsletter we aim to inform our members on information from our Committee, however in this edition the aim is for you to get to know our committee a little better.

The Members of the Committee are: **John Swannell** – Chairman/ **Marlene McNulty** – Secretary/ **Stephanie Petrusevicius** – Treasurer and Instructor/ **Dianne Ashton-Bowtle**/ **Pauline White**/ **Paul Dale**/ **Keith Marsden**/ **Carol Pasfield**/ **Sonia Chambers**.

This issue will focus on: **PAULINE WHITE**.



Hi my name is Pauline, and I have been married to Dave for 42 years, I have two daughters and three grandchildren, over the years we have owned seven dogs, three have been German Shepherds including the two we have now.

Our love of German Shepherds came about because we lost one of our dogs, a Doberman called Max, he was 13yrs old and due to ill health had to be put to sleep. Unfortunately that left his buddy a collie/cross called Boss on his own and as we had got them both on the same day 10 yrs ago, he started to pine and we thought we would lose him as well. So off we went and toured round some kennels for a companion for him and us. After looking around quite a few, we eventually found her in kennels at West Haddon, she was about 4 months old, a stray that had been found roaming the streets, as we had taken Boss with us we asked the man if we could introduce them to each other, just to make sure they got on ok, and he agreed, the meeting was a great success. It was as if they had always been together, that was it we took her home and named her Jay, she was a joy to have, friendly, both with dogs and people, the grandchildren adored her. She gave Boss a completely new lease of life for another few yrs, but sadly he passed away at the age of 13yrs leaving Jay on her own. But she didn't seem to mind and she was happily with us until her sudden passing at the age of 12.

We were absolutely heartbroken, as she was what you would call the ideal dog, she walked to heel, on and off lead, came when you called her and didn't chase after other dogs or cats. She was such a laid back girl even my Cockatiel used to sit on her head and she wouldn't bat an eye! We were so distraught over her passing, we hated coming home as there was no one to greet us with a sloppy kiss and the house seemed so empty without her. So it wasn't long before we started talking about getting another dog. Dave noticed an advert in a shop window which read: "7 month old German Shepherd bitch for sale, needs a good home due to marital problems". We didn't hesitate, we rang the number on the advert and soon we were on our way to see her! We asked all the usual questions, including is she ok with other dogs, has she been socialised etc. The answer to both was yes, we could see she was good with children as there were children in the room with her and she came running up to us tail wagging and was a very friendly girl. We had no reason to hear alarm bells ringing over the previous questions, we looked at each other and said we will have her. Oh! If we knew at the time what we were letting ourselves in for I think we would have thought long and hard first, but bereavement does something to you and we jumped in feet first, we took her home and called her Tash.

I couldn't wait to take her for her first walk, so the next day I took her over the fields. I kept her on the lead and she seemed fine, no problem at all, or so I thought. As I was on my way home I met my friend with her dog, whoosh! Tash lunged after her dog barking like mad, pulled me flying across the road and I went down like a sack of spuds so hard I had bruises everywhere, including two broken toes. We kept making excuses

for her,(perhaps it's because she isn't used to us yet),but after a few weeks we had to admit defeat, she was no problem, until she saw another dog, then all hell let loose, after Jay this was a nightmare.

I didn't know where to turn, then I remembered Steph, I had known Stephanie for years, in fact my sister had been married to Pete, Stephanie's brother and although I hadn't kept in touch, I knew she trained German Shepherds. So I found her telephone number and rang her in tears. Stephanie said come to the club for a talk, then later she met Tash and that was the start of my association with the club, that was 4 yrs ago.

We decided to get another German Shepherd because Dave had taken control of walking Tash and I wanted a dog of my own, so we got BJ, an 8 week bundle of black fluff. He was a real cutie, very bright and alert, I made sure he went to the club every week to socialise and everything was going great, but then on Christmas Eve when he was 6 months old I noticed he was dragging his back leg. As all the vets were closed over the holiday we kept him quite and rested him hoping that he had just strained his leg and it would get better on its own. But bless him he was in a lot of pain, and so we took him to the vets as soon as it was opened, and our worst fears were confirmed and was referred to Moulton College for scans and painful examinations. They discovered the discs at the base of his spine had crumbled ,they said they had never seen this happen to a dog so young before and that it was probably genetic, but wasn't sure and so he was put on strong painkillers and complete rest for 2 months. We were told he will always have a delicate back area and I will have to be careful what I let him do; he can jump but not too high and not excessively.

He can be a grumpy boy, but we believe he was frightened by an aggressive dog barking at him through the grill of an adjoining cage as he was coming out of the anaesthetic at the college and this has made him wary of meeting new dogs. But once he has made friends with them he's fine. He has just completed his First year with the display team and this has been a help for him and with encouragement and a lot of hard work he is slowly getting over his fears and is now 100% better than he was. We are both retired now, but the two dogs take up a lot of our time with training and walks, the grandchildren can need looking after especially during school holidays and needless to say Nan and Pap's taxi service comes in handy when Mum has to work. When I do get some time to myself I like to read or try a new recipe, with Dave being the Guinea Pig. I have been a member of the club for 4yrs and was elected on to the committee last year and my role is to talk to members old and new and to try to put new members at ease. I am sure you all remember your first visit, I know I do, you don't know what to expect and if you don't know anyone else there you feel very apprehensive. I am also available if you have any suggestions or grievances that you think the club should know about, and I can raise the subject on your behalf at the next committee meeting, this is why I think the club needs a committee so that members can have a say in how there club runs.

WINTER WARNINGS...



Late autumn sees many fallen acorns, conkers and other seeds and leaves on the ground where we walk our dogs. However many people may be unaware of the dangers they can be to our canine companions if consumed.

Horse Chestnuts or Conkers as they are more commonly known, are highly poisonous if chewed or eaten and of course very dangerous if swallowed whole, as they may cause a serious blockage. You can discourage your dog from picking up and playing with conkers, by having an exciting toy as alternative lure or a tasty treat in exchange.

The Oak tree can also be one to avoid for dog owners. The acorns, tree bark, leaves and buds may all poison a dog when ingested. The young, green acorns are more dangerous than the mature brown ones, but total avoidance is best. Another source of the poisoning can be if a dog drinks water contaminated with oak leaves. Try to dissuade your dogs from drinking from puddles and carrying a handy dog water bottle on your walk by giving your dog drinks, little and often will help quench their thirst.



Canine Cookery Corner

A lot of our dogs enjoy special snacks and treats on a daily basis, however many of the shop bought ones are full of ingredients that are not very good for your dog, especially with a GSD's sensitive gut. Processed treats from many manufacturers are full of chemical preservatives, sugar, salt and artificial colours and flavours.

Below you will find a festive recipe to make for your dog! Why not give it a go and cook up something tasty and healthy for your dog.

Christmas Gingerbread Dogs

Ingredients

- 310g wholemeal flour
- 60g porridge oats
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 175g treacle
- 5 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons water
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Preparation method

Prep: **15 mins** | Cook: **1 hour**

1. Preheat oven to 170 C / Gas 3. Lightly grease baking trays
2. Place all the dry ingredients in to a large mixing bowl and give them a stir.
3. Add the eggs, treacle and oil to the dry ingredients, mix until well blended. Add the water if needed.
4. Place dough on a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth.
5. Roll to 5mm (1/4 in) thickness and cut with your favourite cookie cutter.
6. Bake in the hot oven for 30 minutes. Once the initial 30 minutes is up, turn off the oven but leave the biscuits in the warm but off oven for a further 30 minutes to crisp.

Tip: These dog biscuits require the use of wheat flour which some dogs are sensitive to, if so it's so easy to modify this recipe, simply substitute 125g of the wholemeal flour for either 90g oat flour, 100g rye flour, 120g rice flour, 110g barley flour or 120g potato flour.

If you have any recipes that you would like to add to the Canine Cooking Corner then please email gsdnewshound@live.co.uk.



TRAINERS TIPS...

Games to Play:

SCENTING & SEARCHING

Tether your dog or get someone to hold the collar or tell them to stay. Show them a titbit or toy and pretend to hide it in different places around the room; under cushions, behind chairs, under the corner of a carpet etc. Leave the toy or titbit in one of these places, then return to the dog and tell him to seek or find (what word you use is up to you but don't use your retrieve command). If necessary help him look in each place, until he finds the titbit or toy. Once found lavish praise on finding it (let him have titbit or play with the toy). Three or four goes to start with, then you can increase the difficulty as he becomes more experienced at finding the toy or titbit.

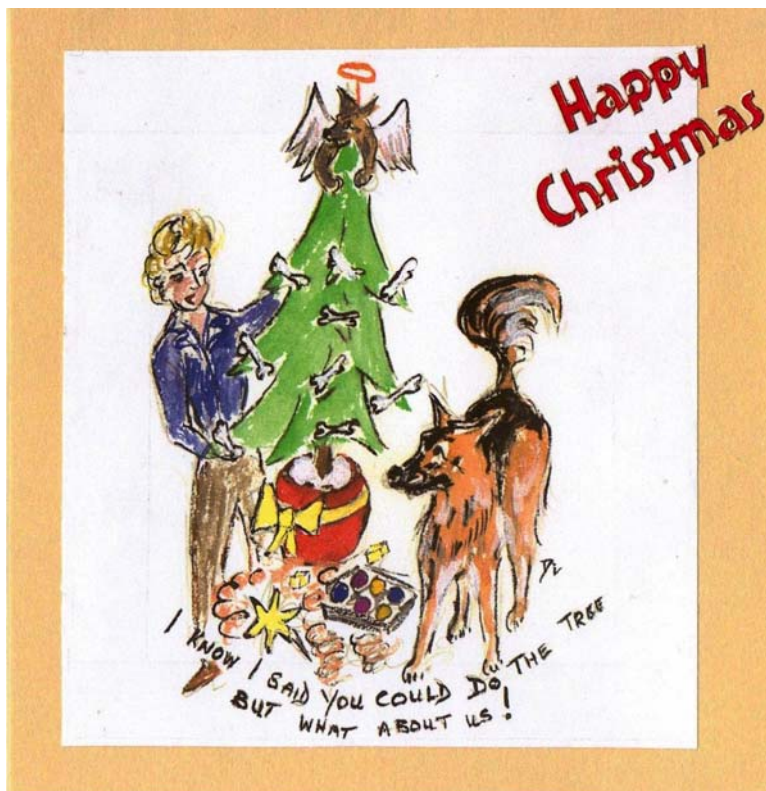
Once he can do this game try something a little harder:

Next, hold the dog whilst a friend or member of the family shows the dog a titbit or toy before going quickly into the other room and hiding. (Make sure the hiding place is not too hard to start with). Try to be as quick as possible to encourage the dog to find the hidden person, again giving a different command (such as find them). As soon as the dog finds the person, you and your helper should lavish the dog with praise, along with the toy or titbit. Once the dog is proficient and understands the game and command, the toy and titbit can then come from you instead of the helper. Both these games can be done in the garden and out on your walks. Keep the search areas small to start with as you want your dog to be successful otherwise you will lose the interest of your dog. Remember have FUN!

Stephanie

Shepherd Sketches... by

Diana Ashton-Bowtle



Annual Dance

2012.

Tickets for the Dance will be on sale shortly, please see front desk for details. There will be a live band, disco, delicious buffet and a great atmosphere as always.

It will be held on Saturday 21st January at St Crispins Social Club, Duston. Please speak to committee members for more info. ALL MEMBERS and Family/Friends welcome!

Dog Of The Issue

The Dog Of The Issue (or DOTI) features Indie doing a spot of carol singing! Indie is 3 years old and owned by Caroline French.

If you would like your dog to have a chance to be DOTI in the Spring Edition of the newsletter then please send your SPRING themed photographs to gsdnewshound@live.co.uk and see if your photo is picked to be the next Dog Of The Issue!

