



DOG BLOG

The blog of Mullenscote Dog Training Centre

Issue 2 - April 2012

What a month!

What a month? Weather variations from sharp frosts to skin burning sunshine, I can vouch for the skin burning as having spent a week outside in the beautiful sunshine training dogs one of my friends commented "that I looked like the perfect advert for why you **shouldn't spend** too long on a sun-bed." I was a little disappointed as up to that point I had rather thought that I looked more like a Bronzed Adonis, I know what you're thinking? 'Get to Spec-Savers Kirby'!



Springtime Training

Our first show at Thoresby Park, Nottinghamshire was the perfect start to the season, canine team members old and new were a pleasure to take into the arena. We saw dogs of every shape and size some with basic behaviour problems and some dogs that were really well trained.

With the Rabbit pen 'well stocked' I'm having a brilliant time working with clients and their dogs, the excitement and sense of achievement you get when a dog finds, flushes and then sits really takes some beating. Watching clients bring their dogs on from a puppy to this really advanced work is very rewarding for everyone involved. There is a short video on our Mullenscote website http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/sporting_shooter.html which shows a young HPR, German Long-Haired Pointer that has really got the idea and is now producing a wonderful find, point and flush, the next stage is for Iain to teach young Vym to sit to the flush. Lovely to watch!

I know you don't need me to tell you but with the weather being so changeable it's really easy to get caught out and accidentally leave your dogs in a hot car, so do be extra careful ... and don't forget to fill that water bowl.

Mothers Day Gundog Success

When most Family's were meeting for a traditional Mothers Day Family Gathering 'Gundog Fanatics' the Thatcher's were standing nervously in gallery as they waited to compete with their Gundogs in their first Gundog Working Test. Mother and son Julie and James Thatcher attended The Kintbury Gundog Society A/V Spaniel Spring Test at West Woodhay, Berkshire judged by Mr Tom Sheppard and Mrs. Anita Jones.

Both Julie and James couldn't believe their luck when Julie was awarded Second in the Puppy class with her ESS Woody (Bawden Flight Hugo Ector) whilst James made it a double being awarded Second place in the Novice test with his ESS dog Bob (Glenrussell Druid of Mullenscote.)

Both Julie and James are Regulars at Mullenscote Dog Training Centre. "It's been fantastic watching both Julie and James develop their handling skills, learning to train and handle a dog is a real skill that people under-estimate, these two are so dedicated to learning to train their dogs. In fact James is now coming to Mullenscote through his school once week as part of his work experience development. We help with about twenty young people every year that are considering a career with dogs or animal care. Whilst gaining academic qualifications is essential I believe that 'hands on' work experience can be so important for a young person's future. Offering a work placement to young people is a big commitment it's really important that whilst they are in a business that they are not used as free labour to make tea and sweep the floor. Ensuring that young people are well supervised but allowed to develop and feel that they are gaining a sense of responsibility and achievement requires considerable input from any employer. We do our very best to give our young people a very positive and educational experience. All that said it's tremendously satisfying when young people like James blossom and really start to produce the goods."



Course Dates

The dates for the courses starting in May have been announced – click on the link to see more <http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/courses.html>

We have updated our picture gallery with some stunning photographs of some of the participants of our last courses ... click on the link to see if you have made it into our hall of fame ... <http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/gallery.html>

Training Club Membership

We are pleased to announce that the take up for club membership has been good. Just to remind you that for £48 a year membership includes:

- Free access to Training Centre Facilities
- Free access to Rabbit and Bird Pen
- 10% Discount on all Training Sessions and Courses
- 10% Discount on Dog Food
- Free Exclusive Club Membership Badge and Car Sticker



For more details or to sign up please contact our reception on 01264 889467

Communication part two ... Shouting and Arm Waving

Last time we looked at the essentials needed to communicate successfully with your Gundog , Voice, Body Language, The use of our arms to give direction and of course the whistle. So now we've got our head around the basics its time to explore how to put them to good use. Learning any new skill is great fun but there is so much to absorb and no sooner do you think you've mastered a skill then something else pops up. First timers to Gundog training and every Top handler in the world will have at some point been through the same confusion, frustration and thoughts of "Ohhhhhh I just can't get this, I'll never be good enough."

The reason I'm using so much of this article to revisit handler enthusiasm and confidence is that it's a lack of confidence that is easily transmitted to your dog. The hardest part of learning to train a dog is that you need to acquire a huge amount of knowledge and skill before you start to train your dog otherwise the communication process between teacher and pupil breaks down really quickly. Put yourself in the position of the dog.....

You're tied on the end of a lead to a Trainee Teacher, one that is not particularly good, who lacks confidence and seems to be constantly referring to a Book, DVD or Professional Trainer. Worse still after each consultation with any of the above the Trainee Teacher comes out and gives you a whole new version of Shouting, Posturing, Arm-waving and as for the Whistle Blowing stuff the poor dog is probably thinking, 'if you blow my eardrums out with that whistle one more time I might just like to shove it right up where the sun don't shine!'..... Not an ideal teacher/pupil relationship.

Most of us start learning to train our dogs about three weeks after the puppy has arrived, already this puts you in a difficult position because you need to know what your doing from the outset. If you are considering getting your first Gundog have lessons, go to training clubs but really importantly ensure you get some real practical training experience before your puppy arrives. This prior knowledge of Puppy management will make things much easier for you and your dog.

Try to make sure you know what to expect from your puppies development and training before it gets to that point. So once again learn skills before you need to put them into practice. I know it's not the way most of us go about our dog training education but it really does make sense to be well informed and practiced before you try to teach anything to your pup. More on this subject in next months Blog!

Things are really starting to busy up with the show season. Kedleston Hall is our next on 21st and 22nd April. Do check the website for details and come along and see us.

Meanwhile ...

Keep Training

Howard



PS Don't know what to buy for that birthday – why not consider an introductory shooting lesson for just £49 ... click the link for more details <http://www.lainsshootingschool.co.uk/lessons.html>

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