



DOG BLOG

The blog of Mullenscote Dog Training Centre

Issue 3 - May 2012

Ok so its been horribly wet this month but its meant that I have been able to really test out all of my latest waterproof wear, we are so lucky here at Mullenscote, being given the opportunity to wear and try out all the latest outdoor clothing is a real privilege, Hunter Wellies and the New Alan Paine coat and trousers have meant the rain has not really been an issue.

When the weather is as dreary as it has been for the last month it really gets to everybody, "Morning how are you?" "Alright I suppose but the blessed weather is really getting to me," is the depressing reply that you get from most people you speak to. Well there's another great reason to have a dog as a companion, when you get into the kennels first thing in the morning depression and lethargy is the one thing you are not about to endure. Unless they are really poorly, dogs are just so pleased to see you and the weather doesn't matter at all to our canine friends they just want to get outside and go for it!



The New Membership package has rather caught me by surprise, whilst giving lessons and going about daily duties its just brilliant, every time I walk into reception or look out across the training field there's somebody different working away, training their dog, I just love the dedication and enthusiasm that people put into being better at training their dogs, the buzz around the place is just so exciting.

Alison Lewis has come on board to help us mange our blogs and website so it now means that we'll be much better organised on that front, we are doing our best to update our picture gallery each month so if you've a picture or written dog related article you'd like posted or included in the this blog then please do send it to me. <http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/gallery.html>

Kennel Club Working Gundog Certificate

On the Thursday 28th June we are running a KC WGC day with a limited number of spaces. Author, A Panel Judge and top Spaniel Trialer, Paul Rawlings is coming down as Senior Assessor so if you think you and your dog are up to it, then this could be your big chance not only to be assessed for the Working Gundog Certificate but by someone as Famous in the Gundog world as Paul.....Cooooo!

KC WGC Day

Meet 9-30am

Mullenscote Dog Training Centre

Thursday 28th June

£38 per handler

to include a Light Lunch





PAWGO Courses

Our award courses continue to go from strength to strength and the efforts and achievements of some of the handlers on the courses is monumental. Superb results from this months assessments so don't forget to look at the Gallery, check out how good you look. Make no mistake if you sign up for one of these courses we really do push you to succeed, training your dog properly is essential, the sense of achievement alone is worth its weight in gold but more importantly a well trained dog is easier, safer and the dog itself becomes much more balanced and happier, I think that's what they call a 'no brainer.' Latest course dates on the website – click on the link to see more. <http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/courses.html>

Less is More !

As we learn more about the skills and techniques we need to train a dog one thing we need to fine tune is the voice and use of the whistle, every time you set to work with your puppy or dog be aware of how much you are speaking to and using the whistle on the dog. You are aiming for minimal use. Ensure that if you issue a command that you put yourself in a position to ensure that the dog learns to obey your first command, don't continually say "Sit" or blow the stop whistle several times before the dog gives you a response.

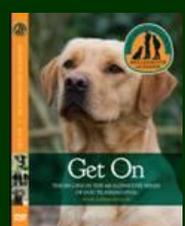
The puppy needs to learn to respond to your first command, keep him close to you, early re-call work can be done on a lead or line, give your command clearly, a short series of pips on the whistle, then give the dog a light check on the line to ensure he responds immediately, as soon as the pup responds praise him and make sure the puppy is taught that re-call means to come straight back, sit at your feet and look up at you.

A tennis ball or any dummy that your puppy wants held up near your chin as he comes back can be used to get a young puppy to look at you, to get him really enthusiastic, as he sits and looks at your face throw the ball off to one side and let the pup race after it and make a retrieve. This exercise is a great way to teach the youngster to re-call, sit, look at me and early self control. You can gradually extend the time that the puppy has to sit and wait before releasing the ball and of course the reward for the puppy is the retrieve.

Make sure that you start this exercise in a confined area with minimal distractions. Your husband, your wife, somebody else's wife (who said that?), other people in the room will distract you and the puppy, other dogs are often a massive distraction. So to be clear... just you the puppy and a tennis ball make for a perfect classroom for early lessons. As this game makes slow but gentle progress your objective is to give the puppy so much fun that you condition him to respond immediately to the re-call whistle as it means 'Retrieving time with the Boss, brilliant'. This conditioning through play is a relatively straight forward training technique and is one easily practised by a novice handler. It is the minimal but accurate use of the whistle that will encourage the puppy to respond quickly and consistently. Less is more!

It's Draw Time

Over the next three months we are running a draw from our contacts list to win one of our training DVD's. This months lucky winners are: Elizabeth Braakenburg Dyce, David Canterbury, Victoria Harrild-Jones, Ed Phillips and Lee Wickens.



My thanks to all of you who have taken the time to compliment on the new look blog – we are working hard to achieve the balance of interest and brevity which is what we believe a good blog should be.

We are promised some better weather over the next few weeks – if all else fails at least the rain should be warm!

So get out there and ...

Keep Training

Howard



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