



## 'HK's SUMMER BLOG

Mullenscote Dog Training Centre and Lains Shooting School

Blog

July 2015



Crikey we've had an exciting 'run' here at Mullenscote over the last twelve months. The highlight being with Wamilanghaar Tash of Mullenscote, Tashi to his friends; qualified and then went on to win The Kennel Club HPR Championships held at Swinton in Yorkshire. Which not only confirmed what an ace dog he is but also made him up to FTCH (Field Trial Champion).

In early 2015 we started our Training Ambassador scheme which involved inviting a team of great people to assist us with the ongoing development of Mullenscote Dog Training Centre. This has proved to be extremely successful enabling us to offer clients considerably more support and individual attention when attending one of our courses. There is of course an additional bonus in that we have a wealth of Professional skills and experience to call upon as we move onwards and upwards.

One of our new projects is 'The Play Barn'... a purpose designed indoor training building. This now means we are able to offer Kennel Club Good Citizen courses for pet and companion dogs. The first of these evening courses start on the 14<sup>th</sup> July with KCGCS Puppy and Bronze classes. This is a really exciting project and we intend to deliver a high standard of puppy and dog training classes. <http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/puppy-companion-dog-courses.html>

With a lot of luck and a tonne of organisation we are off to the Gundog World Championships that are to be held in Serbia in October. Sponsored by the Kennel Club the Great Britain Team has so much to do. Stating the obvious all handlers will need to ensure that their dogs are fit healthy and at the top of their game. Rabies vaccinations as well as an EU passport will need to be in place and right up to speed. Because Serbia is not in the EU there are more regulations to comply with on our return trip to the UK so it is really important that all is in place. My own passport and gun licence to take shotguns to Serbia will also need to be arranged. I am going to be competing my Cocker, FTCH Chyknell Eagle of Mullenscote in The St. Hubert which is run differently to UK trials in that handlers are also required to shoot over their own dogs. For me this is perfect, my two favourite sports all rolled into one competition. I am so looking forward to the opportunity to go head to head with the World's Best but as for the travelling! Ohh my goodness that just fills me with horror, do bear in mind it's a big occasion for me to visit London let alone go through Immigration Controls with Dogs and Guns. I'll keep you up to speed with the progress.

# KEEP TRAINING!!!



..... Howard

## Working Test Fun

Report by Russ Hodges

Wow! What an evening to remember here at Mullenscote, The Chudleys Fun Working Test was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June, and with the emphasis being on fun it was truly a fantastic evening. The event was organised to say a big fat thank you to all the Training Ambassadors, and friends of Mullenscote for their help and support in the further development of Mullenscote Dog Training Centre.

Thirty one very keen and maybe slightly nervous handlers running their dogs, who were at various stages of training was sure to be a fun event , the handlers were split into teams of 6-7 drawn from a hat to make sure we had an even spread of experience and ability.

The Chudleys Working Test consisted of 5 single marked retrieve stands each scored out of 20 possible points, however there was the infamous Chudleys Gamble stand, where the handler could choose to up the stakes and try 'The Chudleys Gamble' to gain a further 5 points for their team by completing a split retrieve, the big gamble being it could go wrong with dogs picking the last dummy down and losing all of their marks. Tricky decision!

With a maximum of 105 points on offer for each team member, I was so pleased to see so many high scoring teams and even some perfect individual scores which just goes to show that the TA's are putting into practice what they preach on the training ground.

The evening was a huge success and we just can't wait for the next one.

Russ



Don't worry here's the next one!

## Working Test Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 10am

With so many gundog owners wanting to learn more about training gundogs and maybe then going on to compete with their dogs we are running a Fun Retrieving Working Test for all breeds on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015 starting at 10am. There will be three classes Puppy, Novice, Open. Handlers will be asked to complete 5 Retrieving tests. Tests will be set with a view to encourage and develop dogs at all three levels.

This will be an excellent opportunity for handlers of all abilities and levels of experience to get together and enjoy running their dogs.

We will need 5 Judges and 5 dummy throwers which is another way for you to join in with the event and gain some more experience.

Cost = £10 per handler, Entries will be limited, please email [howard@lainsshootingschool.co.uk](mailto:howard@lainsshootingschool.co.uk) including your name, dogs name, breed and age please.

## Play Barn Launch

### Mullenscote Dog Training - Press Release

Mullenscote Dog Training Centre near Andover launches a new and exciting Companion Dog Training facility and will offer bespoke training courses, including the Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Scheme Puppy, Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, for all breeds of pet dogs.



Howard Kirby leads the team at Mullenscote, along with his Training Ambassadors; one of which is Russell Hodges.

They both agree that outside of the hugely popular gundog training courses they deliver, the foundation aspects of teaching a puppy to respond to commands and raising a well socialised puppy could be adapted for all breeds of pet dogs. Speaking to colleagues in the veterinary and pet industry they recognised the need to offer a wider and diverse training package to include pet dogs, and now have a fantastic purpose built facility to assist owners with the challenges of puppy handling and behaviour issues.



Mullenscote Dog Training Centre, in association with the Kennel Club, are now proud to offer an indoor training facility, specifically for companion dogs, in the Andover and Salisbury district. Companion dog training is open to all breeds of dogs. Pet dog owners love and care for their pets without any expectation that the dog needs to work for a living. They simply want a well behaved, well socialised dog that enhances the pleasure of being a pet dog owner. The puppy, foundation, bronze, silver, and gold Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Schemes are 5 week structured courses. They are a fun, group training experience that will develop the owner's understanding of responsible dog ownership. It will provide the pet dog owner with the knowledge to develop their pet into a dog that is a pleasure to own, one that is both obedient and well socialised. Disobedient pet dogs in the company of irresponsible dog owners can make people feel anxious and even fearful for their own safety. The Kennel Club dog training scheme is all about training

responsible dog ownership and dogs to be obedient. 'Training a dog can be a fantastic experience; our job at Mullenscote is to ensure dog owners get professional advice that is personalised and relevant to their individual dog and circumstances' says Howard.

The courses will be run from the new Play Barn at Mullenscote Dog Training Centre in a relaxed fun environment; pet dog owners can expect a gradual development of basic exercises and troubleshooting demonstrations of daily life situations. The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme is non-competitive and the emphasis is placed on the standard of achievement and delivered using unique training aids.

Courses are run on a weekly basis on either a Tuesday or Thursday evening with classes taking place at 18.30 and 20.00.

Courses start on Tuesday 14th July 2015. Each course will be 5 weeks duration costing £99.

Puppies must be between 12 weeks and 6 months of age and vaccinated.

For Info., course dates and costs visit our website.....

For Pet and Companion dogs - <http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/puppy-companion-dog-courses.html>

For Gundogs - <http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/courses.html>

## Top Tips from our Resident Veterinary Nurses

### *During the Warmer Season – Be Heatstroke Aware!*

A dogs main way to rid themselves of excess heat is by panting, if dogs are unable to reduce their core body temperature they will develop heatstroke; which can kill. Some dogs will also be predisposed to overheating due to breed, illness and age. Therefore please remember to avoid hot environments and activities that increase their chances of heatstroke this summer especially in cars.

Here is a youtube video of just how dangerous it is to leave your dog in a warm car.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbOCCQ-y3OY>

Heatstroke signs are heavy panting, vomiting, diarrhoea, brick red gums, warm to touch, stumbling or collapsing, confusion, anxiety leading to fitting and possible death. If you see these signs and think it is related to the heat move them to a cool and shady area use cool (not cold) water or a cool matt to avoid shock and lower the body temperature and allow the dog to drink small amounts of cool water.

If you suspect your pet is overheated do not take the 'wait and see' approach; contact your vet and seek medical advice and treatment immediately.



Maria From Strathmore Vets in Andover  
and her Canadian Duck Toller, Louie

Maria, Student Vet Nurse x

## Training Tip

From Stephen Harrison

Try not to fall into the habit of constantly telling your dog off: it's unpleasant and wearing, both for you and the dog.

Of course we need to correct our dog when they are doing something wrong, but if all our dog ever hears is "No!" "Stop that!" "Leave that!" "Stop chewing my leg!" and other similar reprimands, our scoldings will come to have less and less effect: it'll become like white noise in the background for them, as it's all they ever hear, and they're not being taught what they should be doing, only what they shouldn't be doing.

So, as a first step, what we need to try and do is to be consistent with our corrections (try using a single word or a growl for every correction) and then immediately follow this with instructing the dog in something they *can* do e.g. come, sit, stay, watch me followed by a treat (the hoop work we employ here at Mullenscote is ideal for this exercise). In this way, our dog will learn more quickly, as they will associate the unwanted behaviour with Mum's/Dad's unpleasant growl, and the behaviours we like with a tasty morsel. This will lead more quickly to our dog abandoning the unwanted behaviour and repeating the behaviours we like.

So, in summary, this month's top tip is: always follow a correction with instruction and reward.

## Out and About



The 2015 Mullenscote Demo Team at The Royal Bath and West Show