



'HK's AUGUST BLOG'

Mullenscote Dog Training Centre and Lains Shooting School
Blog



August 2015

Fresh back from the New Forest Show we've had a fantastic three days, probably one of our most local shows it was just great to catch up with so many friends and fellow 'dog men/gals.' Just one more weekend to do with Jemima Parry-Jones at her International Bird of Prey Centre in Gloucestershire, Jemima always makes us feel so welcome and the Falconry guys are starting to take a real interest in using dogs to assist them with their art.

The down side of a summer in Show arenas is that the dogs learn some funny and undesirable behaviours. Brook our Labrador has decided that he will 'run in' on the very first retrieve of our last two shows, a combination of his initial excitement at the first dummy thrown and if I'm honest I'm just not focussed on the dogs enough to manage his enthusiasm. That however has now been addressed and Brook and I have once again agreed that he's to wait for a command before deciding to make a retrieve. Carrie; our ESS continues to be a superstar, her willingness to hunt irrespective of what is put in front of her is nothing short of wonderful, she comes out time after time and hunts every billiard table arena as though it's a Yorkshire Moor stuffed with rabbits. We took our new puppy ESS Fizz to The Forest, she was nothing short of a superstar, and took to the arena like a professional. We've got to get her to hunt like Carrie now but she is looking very promising.

Preparation continues for the World Championships in Serbia, both Link and Tashi are currently on top form. FTCH Chyknell Eagle of Mullenscote (Link) will soon be running in trials to qualify him for his third Cocker Championships and FTCH Wamilanghaar Tash of Mullenscote (Tashi) will look to retain his current position as 2014 Champion in the Kennel Club Championships to be held in Yorkshire just three weeks after returning home from Serbia.

Following on from the success of last year we have booked two more Game shooting days with Mike and Antonia at Honeycombe in Dorset on the 1st and 22nd of Sept. These days are ideal if you have a young dog that you are ready to bring to the shooting field and are aimed particularly at handlers that are 'new to the game.' This is one not to missed. Places are limited so get in quickly otherwise you might not get a space!

Howard

"Gun Dog Training Days at Honeycombe Shoot together with Howard Kirby and Mike and Antonia Appleby" 1st and 22nd September

Gundog Training days are now available at the Honeycombe Shoot in Sherborne Dorset which is run by Mike & Antonia Appleby and is now one of the most renowned game shoots in Dorset.

Mike and Antonia have teamed up with professional gun dog trainer Howard Kirby who owns and runs Mullenscote Gun Dogs and Lains Shooting School based in Hampshire and together they will be hosting a full day of gun dog training for 10 handlers.

These training days are aimed at those who want to go picking up, beating or to have their dog sat at their peg on a shoot day. These training days are open to all standards of handler and their dogs. Not only will it give handlers and dogs excellent training facilities and opportunity but it will also give them an insight into what is expected on a traditional and professionally run shoot.

A training day at Honeycombe is the perfect environment as it gives handlers and their dogs the chance to learn on a real sporting estate.

Professional Photographer Jill Thompson from JT CLIQ will be taking Photographs on both days

"These Training Days are an excellent opportunity for Handlers to make that next step into the Shooting Field, it's a huge step to take and it needs to be done correctly - Mike, Antonia and myself will be right alongside you offering tips and advice to give you a relaxed, fun and informative day," says Howard.

Cost for the day including all refreshments & lunch
£155 per handler (max 2 dogs per person)



Top Tips from our Resident Vet Nurse

Well it's that time of the year where the grass is long and full and our dogs are running around in it thoroughly enjoying themselves.

However it only takes that one pesky little grass seed to cause a problem, from a swelling on the foot, leg or body to a shaking head or a nasty cough.

Grass seeds due to their design can only move forwards, so if not found quickly they will only continue to tract further in to your dog making them uncomfortable, in pain and unwell and can be potentially life threatening.

So if you can't avoid these heavy grass areas you can help by making sure you take an extra few minutes after every walk/exercise to groom all over your dog, check their feet, in-between their toes and take a look in and around their ears, this could prevent grass seeds even starting to cause a problem.

If any of the above symptoms appear, we would advise you to contact your veterinary surgeon for advice.

Michelle



Head Vet Nurse Michelle from Endells Vets in Salisbury

Gundog Courses

Our PAWGO Working Gundog courses are once again underway, dogs and handlers are subjected to a gently applied pressure to study the art, do their homework and ensure that they're more than ready for assessment at the end of the six week training period. Come assessment day the pressure is really on. One of our regular dog training clients, an army officer declared 'that he found patrols in Iraq less scary than Gundog Assessment day.' Serious Stuff this gundog training! Course dates can be found on our website.

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

Play Barn

The Playbarn is now in use and the first of our Kennel Club Listed courses are underway. Basic obedience, come, sit, stay, focus and heelwork along with grooming, health checks, responsibility to the public and discussion groups with vet nurses and a veterinary surgeon will help to ensure that owners get the best from their dogs. Each course has an assessment and an award. The Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme is a long established training programme that has a proven track record.



Mullenscote is Kennel Club Approved to deliver puppy, bronze, silver, and gold awards within the purpose built Playbarn which gives us a secure all-weather training environment for all kinds of dog training classes.

For course dates and info. <http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/puppy-companion-dog-courses.html>

Working Test



Our second Fun Working Test will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 12th of Sept starting at 1:00pm. It will be run on very similar lines to the July Test with an emphasis on ensuring that dogs succeed.

Puppy (Up to 18mths), Novice and Open Tests will ensure that there's a class to test both yourself and your dog. You will need to email us your name, dogs name breed and age and of course which class you wish to enter.



Top Tip

There's always another day

Training should be a fun and enjoyable experience both for you and your dog. Anything else and your dog will be less likely to want to work for you. Hence, try and avoid training when your emotions are low e.g. when you are tired, stressed, frustrated, angry or just not in the mood to have fun! Pick times of day when your mood and energy levels are high. I like to train in the early mornings when both I and the dogs are rested and hungry (mind you, I'm always hungry!). During training, try and avoid scolding, frustration and anger. If things are not going well and you feel yourself becoming stressed, finish off the session by getting the dog to do something you know he will succeed in, praise him/her to the heavens, put the dog away, calm down and try again later. By finishing every training session on a high note, your dog won't have any negative memories when you come back to have another go and will be raring to work with and for you. Remember, there's always another day.

Stephen

KEEP TRAINING!!!



... Howard