



Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

July 2012



Summer holidays



**No training Thursday 9th
or Thursday 16th August**

A word from the editor



Well hasn't it come round quick, yet another issue of Watchdog!

It is hard to believe it is nearly August, and it has taken this long for the sun to reach us. I am typing this in boiling heat... having spent the last two days washing endless mud off the van and caravan! Hopefully we will have some more good weather for the next few weeks for all the longer camping shows and summer holidays. Enjoy yourselves, wherever you are going, and don't forget your suncream and your waterproofs.... and if you are not on holiday, don't forget we have two weeks off training, so please do not come to Blewbury on the 9th or 16th August.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed this month, and please do remember to send me any photos you would like included next month – particularly if you have clever dogs with trophies or rosettes! Please keep the articles coming too – deadline for the next issue is 24th August.

Alison Pearce



Get set..... GO!!

Dogs in hot cars

I am told that summer is just around the corner.... fingers crossed! As temperatures rise it is worth a reminder about the dangers of leaving dogs in cars, vans or caravans. Temperatures in vehicles can rise very quickly into the dangerous range, and dogs do die in unventilated cars every year. Please be sensible, and make sure your dogs are safe.



There are a range of products that can help make your car safer for your dog, such as silver sheets, non-spill water bowls, fans, thermometers and a new alarm system called Animalarm.

All dog owners should be aware of the symptoms of heat stroke:

- Heavy panting
- Profuse salivation
- A rapid pulse
- Very red gums/tongue
- Lethargy
- Lack of coordination
- Reluctance or inability to rise after collapsing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Loss of consciousness

If a dog shows any symptoms of heatstroke, move him/her to a shaded, cool area and ring a vet for advice immediately. Heatstroke should always be treated as an emergency.

Dogs suffering from heatstroke urgently need to have their body temperature gradually lowered:

- Immediately douse the dog with cool (not cold) water if possible
- Let the dog drink small amounts of cool water.
- Never cool the dog so much that he/she begins to shiver.
- Then go straight to the veterinary surgery.

There is also a rare condition called Exercise Induced Hyperthermia with slightly differing symptoms - there are two articles about this condition (also called Border Collie Collapse) on the Agilitynet website, so please do read them if you are concerned about your dog.

Even at training on a Thursday evening, it can still be extremely hot at 7pm if it has been a sunny day, so please take care that your dogs are shaded, ventilated and well watered.

Alison Pearce

Agility news

Boasts

Caerphilly (KC) 21-22 July

Gill & Shade 1st G4,5 Jumping (120 total)

Third jumping win & into Grade 6

Gill & Shade 1st 60 Weave Challenge
(15.117 secs)

Gill & Shade 1st Collie Sprint 1-7 Part 1
(143)

Gill & Shade 2nd Dog Vegas CG3-5 Agility
(258) - qualified for final

Gill & Shade 4th C4-5 Jumping (98)

Kevin & Fell 5th G5-7 Circular Jumping

Alison & Alf 8th G1-2 Jumping

Aileen & Ozzie CR CG3-5 Dog Vegas
Agility (144)

Alison & Alf CR 1-2 Agility

Kevin & Fell CR 1-7 Collie Sprint pt 2

Gill & Chi CR Anysize Jumping

Adams July Show (KC) 22 July

Jill & Cass 1st G4,5 Jumping (113 total)

Jill & Cass CR C4-7 Jumping (204)

Tuffley (KC) 6-8 July

Friday

Gill & Shade 9th C 1- 7 Helter Skelter
(157)

Carolyn & Ollie CR C1-7 Ag Pt2 (195)

Carolyn & Ollie CR C1-7 Jump Pt2 (193)

Saturday

Jill & Cass 4th G4,5 Jumping (77 in g5)

Carolyn & Ollie 7th C3-5 KC Nov Olympia
Pt1 (229)

Carolyn & Ollie 12th C1-4 Jumping Pt2
(242)

Sarah & Foxy CR 1 - 2 Agility comb (137)

Carolyn & Max CR G6 Jumping (182)

Sunday

Carolyn & Ollie 4th G3 Jumping Pt1 (142)

Gill & Chi 6th Anysize Jumping (142)

Carolyn & Max 10th G6 Jumping (190)

Lansdown (KC) 30 June - 1 July

Saturday

Aileen & Ozzie 1st G3 Jumping (170)

Sarah & Foxy CR G1-2 Agility (130)

Dinah & Cinders CR Med G3 Jumping (46)

Dinah & Cinders CR Med G3 Agility (43)

Carolyn & Ollie 5th G1-3 Jumping.

Crufts Team (Carolyn/Ollie, Jill/Cass,
Gill/Shade, Jo/Pip) - 7th with 15 faults.

Sunday

Alison & Alf 4th G1-2 Agility

Kevin & Fell 5th G6-7 Jumping

GT Agility (UKA) 29th June - 1st July

Friday

Sarah & Merlin 1st Beg Stch 3 (23)Q

Sarah & Merlin 1st Beg Stch 1 (27)Q

Pam & Martha 3rd Novice Jumping (4) Q

Sunday

Jill & Cass 1st Sen Jump (9ish) Q

Jill & Cass 1st Sen Gamb (7ish) Q

Gill & Bertie 1st Sen Gamb (2/3?) Q

Gill & Bertie 1st Sen Jump (5) clear round
but 0.4s over time NQ

Gill & Mindy 1st Nov Stch (8) Q

Gill & Mindy 1st Beg Ag (11) -but 5 faults
NQ

Pam & Martha 1st Nov Jump (12) Q

Pam & Martha 1st Nov Gamb (9)

Pam & Martha 3rd Champ Stch (12)

Below: Gill and Shade and the dragons at Caerphilly



Agility news



Ozzie wins his first G3 jumping

We ran early in the class and when checking on the time was told that a lot of people had been eliminated. So ok – it was a course where there was a reasonably long run after jump 3 between a tunnel and jump to jump number 4 then a pick up after 8 across a jump to jump 9, two more jumps and a left hand turn to a cloth tunnel followed by a left hand turn to the weaves – missing the obvious trap of a jump straight ahead. Round again through a number of jumps to the cloth tunnel – this time going straight on with a left to the penultimate jump and a pull in for the final jump – we made it (not like at club where we 5R'd the final jump!) –managed from behind all the way. There were places where we

could definitely have tightened up our turns, but bless him, he was really listening and I guess I finally got my signals right at the right time! Bless – we made it! Love you OZ! Ps he also had a great agility run in the qualifier, but I did not manage to pull him in between 2 jumps, but really pleased with his contacts! Watch out folks 1/3rd of the way to G4!

Aileen Watson

Tatti wins G4 agility

Tatti Botto won grade 4 agility at Thames, it made me cry after all the problems we have had! We are still not consistent but when we get it right it's fab, that's good enough for me! Well done little Tatts you will always be my special little pup! Wendy x

For anyone that does not know Tatti has been on medication for epilepsy now for a year and a half

plus is incredibly sound sensitive with strong association values so I have been gently increasing the level of complexity of agility very slowly and steadily, sometimes we get it totally wrong but who cares, we are back! Thanks to all the trainers who have been understanding and for allowing us to take our own route. I hope we are now back on track...

Wendy Botto



Agility news



Cass reached the 200 points needed for the Agility Warrant - Bronze, at the Thames show on 9 June. They were accumulated over the 18 months she'd been competing at Kennel Club shows. Her certificate arrived last weekend and here she is squinting in the unaccustomed sunshine!

Jill Lowe

Agility Warrants

The Agility Warrant scheme rewards consistency for agility dogs and has proved to be extremely popular with those who take part in agility, the fastest growing dog sport.

The Agility Warrant is offered on three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold - and is based on a points system, whereby points are accrued by the registered owner of a dog which has obtained the required number of points in standard agility and jumping classes at Championship and Open Shows.

Agility Warrant application forms can be downloaded from the Kennel Club website www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Kennel Club

OmnipPro Starters Final



Pip and I had a great time at the OmniPro Starters final at Lansdown on an evening that couldn't have been worse in terms of weather. By 6pm it was almost dark and the rain was of biblical proportions, so the organisers kindly delayed the start of the event until there was the smallest break in the clouds.

Right: Jo preparing for her run

Warnings were given to competitors about being careful on the course, but the judge didn't listen to his own briefing and had a horrible fall as the second dog ran across the dog-walk and hit his head quite hard on the ground. Luckily he was ok and the competition continued.

Young Pippy was a little star and worked the first section of the course really well, keeping all her jumps up. Because of the sticky ground conditions I didn't get to where I had planned to be to handle a pull around, which meant I was a lot further up the course than I had planned to be when I sent her onto the see-saw so I could cross-behind. In a very un-Pip like moment, she saw me cross-behind the see-saw and popped off – noooooooo!

But then she went on to manage the rest of the course brilliantly, weaving like an angel and keeping all her poles up, and even managing the "Southlawn Spin" as she went around the "star". Somehow I heard a spectator say – "did you see that dog do 360 degrees over a jump and keep it up?". Perhaps I should contact Ashleigh and Pudsey and demonstrate a new trick?



Whether I should have crossed behind the see-saw is a matter for debate, and one that we considered A LOT when we were walking the course. I decided to go with it to avoid crossing behind a jump and giving Pip the slightest excuse to knock a pole, since this is her weak spot, and didn't for one moment think she'd jump off the see-saw.

We ended up with the 4th fastest time, and although the judge marked the see-saw, the scime didn't see it, and so we came 4th overall.

Thanks to Lorna for helping with the course walking decisions, to everyone who crawled out of their caravans in the deluge to support us, and the supporters via text who wanted to stay but decided to leave the showground while they still could to avoid getting stuck in the mud overnight, and also to Aileen and Karen for the beers in the pub afterwards.

Jo Tidmarsh

Lansdown Agility Show

Or “How to spend 12 hours judging 400 dogs”

Lansdown started off as a normal judging appointment – I was asked to judge a variety of classes consisting of Small Agility Grades 1-3, Medium Agility Grades 1-3, Large Agility Grade 4 and Large Jumping Combined 1–3 Part 1. Not a bad selection and looking forward to designing the courses.

On 19 March 2012 the KC announces Lansdown now has an Olympia Qualifier as Diamond Dogs Show is cancelled. As the schedule was already out, the classes could not be combined, but the results from the separate grade 3, 4 and 5 classes would be taken together to get the qualifiers. With this due to be 3 different judges in 3 different rings, this was going to be interesting!

Sevenside ask me to judge the Grade 4 and Grade 5 classes with Bridgitte Wyre getting the Grade 3 (yes changed to 2 judges in 2 different rings). We both agree and I'm given the task of designing the course. Come the middle of June I have a first version of the course and emailed it to Bridgitte and over the next few days we tweak it back and forth by email to get the final course.

On the show weekend I arrive on the Friday night and go to find the ring. An hour later 2 courses have been roughly set up. (Bridgitte is not coming until 6.30am Saturday morning and we are judging in separate rings).



Saturday arrives and alarm goes off at 6am. Not a good start we forgot the tea and coffee. Grumpy judge, grumpy scime and the day hasn't even started.

I meet Bridgitte at the ring at 6.30am. I manage to acquire some tea and coffee from another helper so happier people and we have enough for the weekend as well. We start on the first ring, putting all the obstacles in the correct place and check the angles (for those who can remember school, geometry comes in useful). A good hour later the first course is finished.

Now for the second ring, not as easy as it sounds, as it has to match the first. We started with the dog walk, measure to another obstacle put it up, measure to another put it up, check distances and tweak, this goes on for whole course. The show starts at 8.30am so at 8.15am we decide we will have to start late at 9am. At about 8.45am both courses finally set and a quick measure with the wheel shows that the courses are the same length. Just time to change, have some breakfast before judging starts.

Whilst we were setting up there were a few comments about the way the KC have handled the Qualifier and it isn't right. We try to ignore them but do say a couple of times to take it up with KC and leave us alone, we're making it as even as possible.



Courses walked, classes start and the course runs well. Grades 4 and 5 over before lunch but Grade 3 which is in 2 parts doesn't finish till mid afternoon. As it's a qualifier we hold all presentations till end. After all the classes have finished a couple of people who ran both courses said well done and that they felt the courses were the same.



After these classes I have a Small 1-3 Agility class which I use the same general layout for but change the order and then a Grade 4 jumping which was just a flowing course that enabled the dogs and handlers to have some fun. It was the end of a long wet day so I decided to make it on the flowing side but still had a couple of big traps that did the job.

By the time all my classes had finished and all the presentations were completed it was 6.30pm giving the 12 hour day as a judge.

Left: Sensible dog!

The whole day had the typical British Summer weather we are currently having consisting of rain, a bit more rain and then some rain. At least Saturday was slightly better than the Sunday.

Kevin Pearce

Introducing Parkie

Parkie came to live with me in March aged 6 months. He's a Jack Russell, and is very small in size with a HUGE character. He thinks (or knows) he's very important and can quickly work out how to be cute to get what he wants. He does such a sweet meerkat impression when he thinks you have a treat for him.

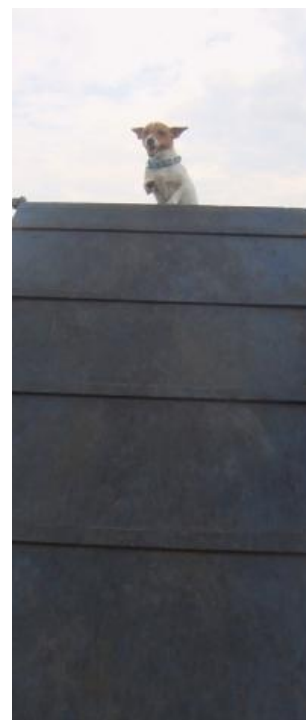
I first met him when Wendy (Botto) was fostering him for the rescue centre Many Tears. He had been rescued from the pound in Ireland, and although I was not looking to add to my collection of dogs, when I met him I just fell in love with him. I was concerned at first that he was too small to be a playmate for Daisy - my staffie x lurcher, but they are absolute best friends and they play constantly. He is also so gentle with my 2 older dogs, Grouse (the Jack Russell), and Holly (the Springer Spaniel), so they have accepted him happily into their house. In fact Holly has rather taken him under her wing, and she normally just ignores other dogs.

Daisy is the first dog I've done agility with, and to be honest, I didn't really expect Parkie to do it. However, Parkie is turning into quite a little star. His favourite pieces of equipment are the A frame, and the dog walk. Its hysterical watching him do the A frame - he makes everyone laugh.

On Saturday 14th July, having only been training a few weeks at Wendy's field, and a couple of weeks with WDTC, he took part in a demo at Ladygrove in Didcot. I thought he'd just run off to see all the people and other dogs, but he only nipped out of the ring briefly once! He did a little sequence of 3 jumps to a tunnel to 3 jumps and of course got to do the A frame and dog walk.

I can't imagine not having him now. He's got such a following everywhere I take him now. He's just perfect - he's a proper little outdoor dog that enjoys going to the stables, chasing rabbits, and exploring the garden, but come the evening - he's definitely a lap dog who loves his comforts!

Dawn Graham



Tuffley Show

Last year was my first time at Tuffley show. The journey wasn't too long, it was a glorious day, a gorgeous setting in a field below the castle. The short walk from day parking to the rings took you over a little bridge where people were playing with their dogs in the little river, throwing toys for the dogs to jump into the pool to fetch and children were perched on the rocks with water pistols. Everyone dried out in no time as it was so hot. The courses were good, the sun kept on shining, Fell won her jumping and Alf had two clears, I remember lying on the grass eating ice cream waiting to watch the Champ final, and it was a truly idyllic day.

When Kevin was asked to judge there this year we were pleased, we could camp and it would be lovely sitting by the pretty little river in the sun looking at the view of the lovely castle, we thought. Hmmmm, well it didn't turn out quite like that.

We had a taster the week before at Lansdown, but Tuffley did take mud to a new level. We arrived just after 7am on Saturday, and luckily we were allowed to pull off the road into the gateway of the camping area. But for nearly 3 hours we got no further, as the mud was too deep for us to drive onto the field, and all the towing vehicles were busy.



We thought the best thing to do was to walk up to the rings to find out how things looked. Things looked quite wet. There was standing water in some of the gangways that went over the top of my feet, and some rings had big puddles in too.

I spent quite a lot of time looking at the river (*left*). I knew the show organisers and the farmer were monitoring it, but I kept checking on it myself to make sure it was still going down throughout the day.

Then there was an announcement that the show was on, so we walked some courses and found the ground in the rings was surprisingly good - mostly puddles rather than mud, and it didn't feel nearly as slippery as the pathways and roadways. We trudged (waded?) back to the main entrance to get Fell and Basil, who collected an elimination each. Basil's opinion of agility slipped a notch, as he was wet and muddy and

yuk. His little face was a picture of disgust, and I decided not to run him again that day, as I didn't want to put him off agility altogether.

Finally at 10am we were towed to our pitch. Things always seem better when you can make yourself a tea or coffee, but when the rain started again I'm afraid my enthusiasm for agility left me completely and I spent half the afternoon fast asleep and the rest reading Harry Potter!

The rings all finished very early, and Kevin went out to set his course up for judging the following day. He set up the course as designed, then adjusted to work around any particularly muddy or wet bits in the ring. *Right: Kevin and Fell testing the course.*

On Sunday Kevin found a new mini-lake had formed overnight at one end of the ring, so the course was



altered again to avoid it. Most people approached the day cheerfully, after all everybody who saw the ground on Saturday knew what they were in for on Sunday!

Some judges did change their courses, some didn't, as not all the rings were equally wet, but every competitor had their own choice whether to run or not. I know Alf is very surefooted and doesn't mind the wet, and he loved his two runs on Sunday morning. As Sunday wore on, the sun came out, which was actually a bit weird. The mud started to dry up, and from being really wet liquid mud, in places it became sticky sludge.

From my scrimer's chair I didn't see any dogs slip at all - although I did see several handlers slip, and I think people really ought to be sensible and not run in wellies or non-studded trainers. One person said very honestly to me that she wouldn't even walk her dogs in such mud if she was at home, as she had a back problem and couldn't risk a slip, so she was not running, but she was on ring party so she stayed to help all day (sat down safely).

There were some mutterings about judges not filling the places with clear rounds, as though that meant the courses were too difficult - but given that only 30-50% of dogs ran in most classes, I think most judges did get 10% of that number clear in the larger classes, which is perfectly reasonable. I know some of the numerically smaller classes struggled for clears, and some of the small/medium classes were won on faults both days, but statistically this is just "one of those things" and does affect some graded classes at all shows, not just in the mud! If only 10 dogs run a course you would only really expect 1 clear round, and we all know dogs don't understand statistics.

All around the show, there was a slight air of confusion as classes were running so short of dogs, it seemed that no sooner were classes opened than they were calling to the end with no dogs in the queue. We broke for lunch having finished the first two classes - on paper this should have been over 380 dogs! The Junior agility was set up for walking over lunch and with only 47 dogs supposed to be in it, things were looking good for an early finish. Our ring party brought a radio into the score tent, so we had Murray-Federer in the background, and with the sun shining it was at last starting to feel like a summer show.... just with wellies on.

It was at the end of the Juniors class that the wheels fell off the wagon, as over an hour and a half later we were still waiting to be told whether we could break the course down, or whether it was needed for a run off. The "Agility for Juniors" event takes points from 4 classes over a weekend show, and the overall winner is decided from these points. In the event of a tie, their last course of the weekend is used for a run off. Unfortunately none of the paperwork had been done at this point, and we had a very long wait while all the points were calculated and added up. In the meantime all the other rings finished and packed away, and just our ring was left looking a bit sad on its own.

Once Kevin had eventually done all his presentations we were just waiting to walk the dogs and hitch up. The exercise area was deserted by this time, and it was lovely to stroll around it in the sun, finally able to enjoy the view of the castle against the blue sky (*right*). Alf enjoyed a swim in a muddy ditch, which left him by far the cleanest of all our dogs.

We were lucky and caught a passing tractor as soon as we were hitched up. When we got home, things were sorted into piles by how muddy they were. Ditas went straight out the back to be hosed off, the leads, toys and dog beds, together with what seemed like hundreds of wet socks made a soggy muddy heap by the washing machine, and I took Fell straight for a bath - she is still not speaking to me!

Alison Pearce



Devon Dogs Summer Camp



Maze and I went to 'Summer Camp' in the heart of the Devon countryside at the beginning of July. It would have been more aptly named 'Rainy Camp' as it didn't stop raining from the minute I arrived on Monday afternoon, until Wednesday afternoon (after I had finished for the day). We got a break from it on the Thursday, and everyone was so grateful for a dry day! Then it wasn't too bad for packing away on Friday morning. All the mud did make me feel a bit like I was at Glastonbury at times though! We were lucky that we were able to move the rings once they started getting too muddy, so it didn't affect the dogs running at all.

As Maze was only 17 months old, I felt like she was a bit too advanced for some of the foundation classes, but not necessarily up to the competition standard classes. I chose the classes which I thought would suit us best, and Maze coped so well with every one of them. We got to choose two practical sessions per day, and also were able to attend a seminar each evening.



If I had to choose my favourite sessions from camp, they were probably Motivation and Send Aheads with Dave Munnings (*below: Dave working with Annette and Maze*) and Boxwork with Jo Tristram. I also really enjoyed a non-agility session which I did with Lauren Langman, as it reminded me how important a good foundation and relationship are for agility. There were also sessions run by Matt Rouse and Gemma Hanekom, but I was not in any of those.



There were about 30 handlers on the camp, and quite a few of these were training multiple dogs. Many of the dogs were collies, but there were a fair few other shapes and sizes too! There were classes to suit all dogs, right from puppies to experienced grade 7 dogs, and those that had more than one dog were able to switch between dogs whenever they liked.

Aside from agility, we had fantastic facilities. It was held on a proper campsite (which doesn't even usually allow dogs!) so really was luxury compared to what I'm used to! Everyone was camped around the outside of the site, with the three rings in the centre. They also put on a few social events, which included a pub meal one evening and a BBQ on the last night.

All in all, we had a great time. Everyone just got on with enjoying themselves and didn't let the weather get in the way, and the dogs certainly didn't care about the rain! It was great to spend time with some lovely people and learn so much at the same time. Now that Maze is 18 months old and starting to compete, we can hopefully put some of what we learnt into practice!

Annette Parker

When Harry met Gemma

I can't tell you my history as I am too young to remember it, but the bits I remember are I moved in to a lovely family home in Didcot earlier this year, where I had loads of fun playing with the other dogs there and of course the lovely Gio-Gio.

During my stay there I got taken to a place where there were literally hundreds of other dogs all jumping jumps and lots and lots of people, I had great fun there, I put on my smart coat so that everyone could see me and took my favourite toy. Whilst I was playing 3 ladies came over to say hello to me, they were talking to my mum who then asked me if I could show them what I could do, which of course I did. One of the ladies seemed to just stare at me (I will call her the lady in pink) and almost seemed a little sad, the other two ladies kept saying how cute and perfect I was but this one lady seemed a little unsure, as they left I noticed that she turned round and gave me a final glance.

When we got home that evening mum told me that I hopefully had a nice new home waiting for me, I didn't really understand so just carried on in my own little way, but everyday mum would tell me that my new mummy had asked how I was or what I was doing.



A few days later the lady in pink arrived at my house, I was so excited to see her and gave her a big cuddle and kiss, she then got my favourite toy and blanket and put me in her car, about an hour later we arrived at a very nice house and waiting outside was another lady and a dog, we all went for a lovely walk and I got to know, who I now know is my big brother George, he explained to me that he preferred the quiet life and as long as I didn't annoy him we would get on just fine. It turns out that this was to be my forever home and family. I love my new life, I am learning so much and enjoy showing off my tricks to anyone that might look. I love going to school where eventually I will learn about jumping. I also love going to doggie parties, I have been to two now and both times have come home with a red ribbon which apparently is REALLY good.

I have since found out why the lady in pink (mummy) was sad that day and that is the reason that my full name is now Oli's Little Halo Kid, I just hope that I can make her proud in years to come!

By Harry Swann (Halo of Many Tears) adopted by Gemma Swann from Wendy Botto

(Above: Harry with Kasey Parker)

(Gemma saw Halo who I had named Harry at our show! Although she was already looking at another dog it was love at first sight and fate too. Gemma had sadly lost her agility dog earlier in the year, Harry's name was so apt for her. This was the foster dog that Tony could easily have kept as he was so like our beloved Ernie! A tough one to part with but what a fantastic life he has with Gemma, Harry has already started agility with Lesley Olden and the Lakers! As Gemma says, she is giving him the best start that she can!)

Wendy Botto

Didcot Demo and Rush Court Demo



*Don't forget to send your articles, pictures, questions and reports
before the 24th August for the next issue!*