

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

July 2017



August Break

Thursday 10th August

NO TRAINING

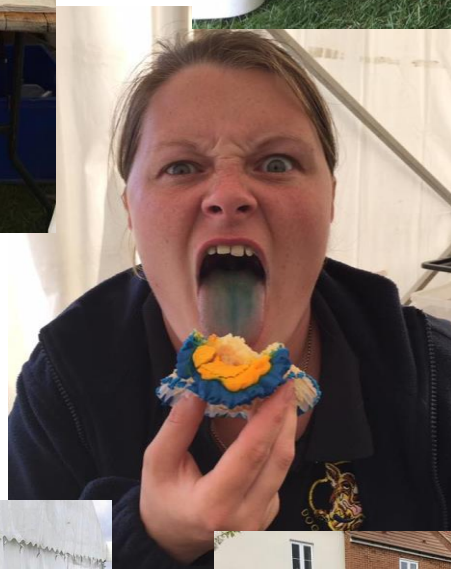
and

Thursday 17th August

NO TRAINING



Thank you ALL for working so hard, for all the planning, setting up,
helping on the rings,
Wallingford Agility Show really is the BEST show ☺



Wallingford DTC Agility Show 2018
Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd April *put this in your diary now!*

Training Groups and Attendance

There have been some minor changes to training groups – those affected are already aware and the latest version of the groups is on the facebook group.

If you are going to be unable to attend training, either as a one off or for several weeks then please do let your trainer or Gill Rhodes know. This enables us to put out a suitable amount of equipment if numbers are low, and to rearrange groups on the night if needed.

The committee recognises that members will have breaks from training for many legitimate reasons. If you will be away from training for a short time, e.g. bitch in season/holiday, and wish to keep your training space then you need to continue paying for your place. The hire cost for the venue is the same regardless of how many people turn up, and we need to cover this cost.

If you have not been to training for six weeks, you will receive an email or phone call asking whether you wish to continue training. Please stay in touch!

Anyone who has not attended training for two months may lose their place, dependent on the circumstances, and their place will then be offered to those on the waiting list. This is because as a club we rely on class members to set up and put away equipment on training nights.

Members who are not currently attending training on Thursday evenings are always very welcome to attend matches, fun events, social events etc.



Any existing WDTC members will be given first refusal on any available training spaces for dogs of all levels. So if you are on a break from training e.g. due to injury or maternity leave, or if you wish to start a training a new dog, please speak to Gill Rhodes, who will let you know when a suitable space becomes available.



Dash'll Do



"God was having a bad day when he put Dash together" explained the advert on the rescue pages of Agilitynet. "One ear up, one down, one brown eye and one that was piercingly light blue – not to mention his stumpy Queen-Anne-shaped legs. 'Two dogs each' we agreed – until I read about Dash. "Two each, and we could share a small one, couldn't we?" I asked Ian.

We contacted Many Tears and Leah brought him to a show to meet us. He got on well with the other dogs – and we took him in. That was in Autumn 2004 – he was 'about 1 year old' (personally, I think a bit more, but we'll never know).

What he lacked in looks he made up in buckets with his personality. I took him to the training classes Wallingford used to run at East Hagbourne, and Dash passed his Good Citizen; doing the stay was the trickiest bit for him. Then Ian decided to do a bit of agility with him. I recall Dash's first measuring session – which was done right next to the trade stands. Someone there was squeaking a toy – and hey, Dash was a terrier and adored squeaky toys; I'm not sure how we got him to stand still for long enough to be measured into small, but we managed it.

Ian didn't do a lot of training with him, but when he started to compete, he did well. I'll qualify that statement. Ian wouldn't even bother running him in a ring that was next to the marquee / burger van / trade stands, as half-way round a course, Dash would take himself off at speed to investigate if any food had been dropped.

However, when he stayed in the ring, he almost always won – amazingly getting to grade 6. He started to get the occasional lameness and we agreed that his stumpy legs probably weren't designed for agility, so he was retired.



Dash loved life – he was macho, feisty and gregarious. He adored swimming (no prizes for guessing that his favourite show location was Wye Valley). A few years ago, at a show at Berkeley Castle (surrounded by small river) he and Lazer (another swimming fan) would NOT get out of the river. We walked away and waited out of sight, but all they did was 'attach themselves' to anyone else who visited the river, with their dogs, racing to retrieve their toys. In the end, I gave a young lad who was in the river 2 leads and asked him to bring them out. He was surprised & chuffed with the £5 I gave him; I thought it was money well spent.

Dash was a proper terrier and earned his keep by catching and killing 3 rats in the garden, but he also used to love snoozing in the sun. Since we moved, he loved pottering round the paddock, and throughout his life was a great lap dog in the evenings. For a little dog, he leaves a very big hole in our lives.

Jacky Hutchinson

Ashley 20/8/1999 to 2/4/2017

I know we all say it, how our dogs change and shape our lives, well, Ashley did all that and more for me. He was my first agility dog, and without him I wouldn't know any of you from the agility community who are reading this now.

He was lucky to live past 10 weeks, as my miniature poodle at the time, attacked him and broke his jaw beyond repair. The vet didn't think he would make it, but it was another 17 years before I had to say goodbye to him.



The lady who ran his puppy classes persuaded me into having a go at agility. He was very clever and needed to be occupied was her opinion. We joined the Wallingford dog club when he was 12 months old. The first week he hated it! Not a great start, but it was mostly positive from the next week on.

It was Jose who got us competing. He did very well, not fast, but very reliable, and we always came away with a place or a clear round. We eventually won out of beginners into novice, as it was then, but never got any higher. He was always getting placed and I never knew him to knock a pole, miss a contact, or come out of the weaves. He was so eager to please. He did his last competitive run at the UKA national gaining a 3rd place in senior steeplechase at 13 years old! What a little star.

He was the most amenable and well behaved dog ever. You could take him anywhere, in any company and he wouldn't put a paw wrong. He was so friendly and affectionate too. So many people loved him.

He wasn't ill at the end and literally woke up one morning and everything had shut down. Just worn out I guess. So this is my goodbye to my special boy. As Wendy Botto so rightly said after he died....he taught me so much and every time I run one of my dogs a little piece of Ashley will be right there with me. X

Pam Hancock

