



Your Dog Would Choose Us!

A WARM WELCOME

This month's newsletter is packed with info including features on two of our canine members, a Canine Club employee, dates for the diary and tips on how to tackle dog walking in the dark and gloom as winter approaches.

As more members join The Canine Club, we are constantly striving to provide a wider range of canine related services. The first step in this quest was for me to take some time away from The Canine Club in September to study for a qualification in canine hydrotherapy.

This was an intensive course hosted by the foremost canine hydrotherapists in the country. The upshot being that after 10 incredibly challenging and fulfilling days I now have the nationally recognised qualification 'Certificate in Hydrotherapy'.

As part of the course we were required to complete a series of modules:

- understanding spinal conditions
- understanding orthopaedic conditions
- canine anatomy
- first aid for canine professionals
- pool water management

At the end of each module was an exam which we had to pass to progress to the next module. We also completed three practical days in the swimming pool treating real dogs with real conditions.

Prior to achieving the qualification I had a rather misguided impression that canine hydrotherapy was a simple case of supervising the dogs messing about in a pool. This is definitely not the case. With a skilled and qualified instructor, every dog can get huge benefits from regular hydrotherapy sessions from rehabilitation swims to maintenance swims, fitness swims to general wellbeing swims. I can now provide a tailored swimming programme for your dog in consultation with your vet.

There will soon be a dedicated section on our website but please do give us a call if you would like more information about hydrotherapy for your dog.



The Canine Club News. October 2011. Issue

CANINE NEWS

Dates for the diary

Christmas closing

Please note that like last year, we be closing the day crèche from 5pm on Friday 23rd December, reopening with business as usual on Tuesday 4th January 2012.

During this time we will be offering a limited morning walking service on Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th and Friday 30th December. Dogs will be collected by 10am and dropped home after lunch. ***If you would like to book your dog/s in for the walking service please let us know ASAP.***





Bertie (black)



Ole



Alastair (and Thunder!)

Featured Members

This month we have asked Ruby & Ellie, Julian's nieces, to write a little bit about two of our canine members....



Bertie (black):

- He loves water!
- He has an incredible talent for launching himself into the river, usually belly first into freezing cold water
- He gets very excited on his walks and loves the others chasing him
- He jumps around and plays with his other doggy friends all the time
- He loves attention
- He likes to sit with you in the crèche
- He loves his sticks!



Ole the Collie:

- He loves attention
- He brings things back to you
- He gets very excited but doesn't jump up on you!
- He likes to sit with you
- He's patient
- He's not stubborn (unlike someone we know – Winnie!)
- He loves going on walks with his doggy friends
- He's very kind to all his friends in the crèche
- He loves playing chase
- He's just so cool and cute!

Featured Employee – Alastair Howat

Hi, my name is Alastair - I've only been in Cheshire for a year having moved from Carlisle last summer.

I went to university at Newton Rigg near Penrith and studied Outdoor Education. This often involved fell walking and taking care of several dogs while we were out and about, which was always fun. So meeting Julian and the gang and getting involved with The Canine Club has been brilliant.

I have a giant schnauzer and a miniature schnauzer at the moment and I am trying very hard, although with not much luck, to find an Irish Wolfhound puppy. Having had dogs of all different breeds all my life there came a time where I needed to start grooming them at home. That started my passion for grooming and I've been grooming other people's dogs now for quite some time. I want to continue with my dog grooming and take it as far as I can, hopefully to a competition standard. I also want to show and eventually breed Irish Wolfhounds hence trying so hard to find a puppy so I can get started.

If you can't find me up at The Canine Club & out with the dogs up there I will probably be off enjoying the outdoors. I love skiing which I have been doing since I was about six and would really like to get out to Canada to do some Heli-skiing (when you get a lift to the very top of the mountain via helicopter and jump out & make your own route down the slope!). I hope to do that without to many injuries in the not so distant future! I also enjoy mountain biking, sailing and kayaking in which I have varying qualifications.



Keeping Safe in the dark

(advice taken from Your Dog Magazine – November 2011)

The clocks will soon be changing and for most of us, it will be dark when we get up in the morning and when we get home from work (sorry to remind you of this). Not many people fancy walking their dogs when it's cold, wet & dark but it's best to try and keep a dog's exercise constant throughout the year or weight can easily be gained and fitness levels lowered.

Wrap up!

It sounds so simple but it's so easy to start getting a chill when you're out – especially in your hands, feet and ears. Keeping warm at home is equally as important. Below are a few helpful tips for owners and their dogs.

- Protect yourself against the elements by wearing several layers under a coat.
- Gloves & hats are definitely worth taking with you when the temperature dips, even if they stay in a pocket!
- Invest in a waterproof coat for your dog. Toy breeds, dogs with little or thin coats and older dogs can suffer from the cold and particularly benefit from wearing something warm.
- Remember to towel dry your dog after a walk in cold, wet weather. No matter how hard it's been raining, always towel dry a dog underneath and under their armpits if their coat is wet.
- Make sure your dog is warm at home too – keep bedding out of draughts and give your dog a couple of extra blankets to 'bury' into.

Safety First!

Keeping safe is so important when walking your dog in gloomy weather or after dark.

- Stand out in the dark to other road users. There are loads of hi-viz products on the market for both walker and dogs. Don't put yourself and your dog in danger unnecessarily.
- Take a torch with you, especially if you live in a rural area. It will help make sure you don't walk into anything and also highlight to road users that you're there.
- Carry a mobile phone in case of emergencies.
- Be careful about letting your dog off the lead in the dark. Make sure the area is secure and there are no hidden hazards. Excellent recall is a must or you could be spending a long time out in the cold.
- Watch out for slippery leaves/ice on pavements & the road.

Keeping active!

When the weather keeps your walks short, try some active & challenging play with your dog instead – both in the garden & the house.

- Invest in a 'light up' ball or frisbee and play retrieving games in the garden. (Yogi has a light up ball and LOVES it)
- Hide food or toys around the house for your dog to find.
- Fill a Kong or food ball with your dog's breakfast or dinner so he/she has to work at getting the food out
- Organised indoor training or agility classes – your dog will get exercise and socialisation but will also stay warm and dry.

Of course you could always give us a call to see if we have availability for an extra day crèche day as a treat for your dog - let us take your dog for a walk in the daylight when you can't!

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Source – taken from The Glow Company



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