



BARE BONES

MCGSDA Derby Branch
Newsletter Summer 2016

Training 3pm at Elvaston Castle, Golden Gates off Station Road B5010. (Follow signs for Cricket Club)

Jasmine's Story.



Our German Shepherd Jasmine is a lively individual, and despite attending a puppy class and following text book techniques, we hadn't had much success in stopping her pulling. We'd tried a Halti harness and a Julius K9 harness but neither did the trick. In a chance meeting the delivery driver bringing another harness met Jasmine the German Shepherd as she rushed out to greet him, vocally. He asked if we went to the German Shepherd group at Elvaston which was the first I'd heard of it. A quick search on Google pointed us in the right direction and we got in touch with the MCGSDA.

We signed up and started training in class one (Jasmine was 18months old at this point), where we worked on basic skills like heel work on the lead and stay/wait commands. Progress was slow at first and being a nervous dog Jasmine didn't like meeting other adults

(or leaving me!) After a few tortuous weeks we realised that training went more smoothly if I left my partner at home as she was constantly on the lookout to see where he was (and running to see him at every opportunity despite only being about ten metres away). Plenty of treats during training helped Jasmine to grow in confidence, as did plenty of practice over the rest of the week.

We eventually passed the test to move to class two (on the second attempt) where we are now. Jasmine has made continued progress and works off the lead as well as on the lead. We've learned and rehearsed lots of new tricks including hand commands, positions on the move and the recall.

Probably the most useful skill that Jasmine has picked up is the ability to mix with other dogs (and people too!) when we all go into the Village hall after training. However, Jasmine now walks without pulling and usually at heel. When it is safe, Jasmine is confident off the lead and the commands we were taught are useful as I can call Jasmine to heel when a cyclist or jogger approaches, she will walk next to me until released using the command 'free' when she runs off and continues her sniffing. The hand commands are extremely useful as well and when Jasmine is in front I can order her to sit down or lay down simple by raising or lowering my arm. It's amazing how much more we both enjoy walks – I feel in control and Jasmine knows what is expected of her (in fact she is starting to come to heel herself now without being prompted when she sees a cyclist coming).

I can't recommend the Midland Counties German Shepherd Dog Association highly enough. The trainers are first rate – friendly, approachable, knowledgeable and know the breed really well. It's also a chance to meet a range of other people who all share a love of German Shepherds.

Rob Butler.

On Sunday 24th April Ray Jones K.C.A.I. organised the Annual Obedience Competition. The competition was run with separate classes with each class having its own scoring criteria so that any of the competitors, across all of the classes, could achieve the coveted Mick Wood Memorial Trophy. As usual competition between the Handlers and their Dogs was quite strong and in the end the Overall winner of Competition and hence, recipient of The Mick Wood Trophy was Sue Page with Shady.

The individual class winners were:

Puppy Class,
Jean with Luna

Class 1
1 Ian & Zeta
2 Caroline & Isla
3 Charlie & Prince

Class 2
1 Rob & Jasmine
2 Leighanne & King
3 Dianne & Jo

Class 3
1 Rowan & Bobbie
2 Ray & Benson
3 James & Yogi

Class 4
1 Sue & Shady
2 Mariusz & Gizmo
3 Pauline & Harvey

Many thanks to Ray for running the competition, Brian Waters (our Branch President) for Judging and also to all of our members who took part.

On Tuesday 28th June 2016 James and Ella Whitehead announced the safe arrival of their lovely little son, Jameson. We offer our joint congratulations to James and Ella.

On Sunday 24th July we held the annual FUN DAY; which this year raised a total of **£307** for MCGSDA Rescue from donations made for the food and drinks on offer, together with the

proceeds of the raffle which was held on the day. I offer a heartfelt thank you to all those who attended on the day and took part in the competitions that were run to make it the success that it was. Special thanks go to Terry and his son-in-law, Darren, who so ably cooked the food and also ran the raffle. I also wish to thank all of the Instructors and Committee Members who helped to run competitions during the afternoon. Last but not least a big thankyou to all of the people who arrived early to help set up and stayed back to help clear everything away afterwards.

Agility has again been run on a regular basis throughout May, June, July and August; subject to weather conditions being suitable to not present any Health and Safety concerns for either dogs or handlers. On Saturday 6th August the Agility Competition was run. This was split into two classes, the Advanced for those with previous experience of agility and Novice for people who have no previous experience.

The winners in the Advanced Class with a clear round were Jackie Butler with Merlot; with Sue Page and Shady coming 2nd and James Whitehead and Yogi coming 3rd (both on penalty points). It has to be said that very slow and careful won the day.

The Novice class was won by Joe with Holly, with Alex and Binky coming 2nd and Paul with Chester coming in 3rd.

This is not the first edition of our Newsletter but we have not had one for some time. It is not an easy task to compile regular editions and I would welcome assistance from anyone who has some new snippets of information or news that they feel others might like to know or, indeed, other items (recipes for biscuits, funny photographs etc.) that they would like to contribute, please do contact me; John Butler, either in person, by telephone on 01773824822 or by e-mail at reltubj1b@gmail.com.

I look forward to receiving your contributions.
John Butler, Chairman and Editor.