



# BARE BONES

MCGSDA Derby Branch  
Newsletter Autumn 2016

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

## Lucy's Story



My story starts about 18 months ago.

When I was born I was the smallest of a litter of eight, four males and 4 females. Life was quite good and Mum fed me well but I was always the 'runt' of the litter.

When it came time for me to move on from my nice warm Mum, two very nice people came to see me and they had travelled a long way to see me. Their old dog, Sophie, had recently passed over the Rainbow Bridge and they needed another German Shepherd to keep them company.

I was a very nervous little pup; but I made sure that they saw me as I sat on the lady's foot, heh, heh, she was a sucker for the lost look and it was love at first sight and so my little story begins.

At first I couldn't go out and stayed either indoors or went out in the garden to play and 'do my business' until I had 'had my jabs'. Once I had received all of my vaccinations my dad Started taking me out for short walks, only about 10 minutes three time a day but, as I got

bigger and stronger we went for longer walks, I was very nervous of both other dogs and people. As time passed by and I grew bigger; rather than getting more brave and confident, I became even more nervous and scared.

One day, dad sat me down and said that he was going to take me to school. Now that was **really scary!!** When I first got there. There were lots of dogs and people and I felt very nervous and afraid but they were very nice and kind to me and gave me lots of treats.

I was in the Puppy Class at first and a nice lady called Dot used to stand by the wall of the Village Hall and tell us all what we were supposed to do. After a few weeks, as I learned what I had to do, I started to really enjoy myself, then I met Joe and we became really good friends and it became great fun!

At the end of my first year we had a fuddle at Christmas and I heard mine and my Dad's name called out and we were given a great big silver cup for me being the best puppy of the year. Yahoo!!

Since those very early days I have come a long way and the people who have trained Dad and me make it so much fun. Dad and I still go training most Sunday afternoons. It's still fun and I get to meet all my mates and I love it. I am much more confident with other dogs and people now and it's all down to the kindness, understanding and patience of the Instructors.

### **Promotions.**

From Class 1 to Class 2-

Caroline and Isla.  
Sylvia and Diesel

From Class 2 to Class 3

Diane and Joe

***Congratulations to you all.***

- Leave the 'den' that you have created accessible; if he goes inside it talk to him and praise him gently using your attention as his reward for this behaviour.
- When the fireworks are over with do not try to coax him out; after all he is in his safe place, this is especially important if you have given him medication as this may make your dog less aware of you.
- When he does come out give him some praise but otherwise treat him as you normally would.
- If you **HAVE** to go out close the curtains and leave the TV and lights on to reduce the impact of the noises and flashes outside,

Now we are entering the silly season where we can expect that there are going to be a lot of bright Lights and whizz-bangs going off..... yes; its Diwali (October 30<sup>th</sup>) Hallowe'en (October 31<sup>st</sup>) and Bonfire Night (November 5t). Whilst this is great fun for the majority of us we must remember that it is much less so for our animal friends.

Here are a few tips to help you and your pet to cope:-

Start now, at this time in October you should think about two things; how to help your dog cope this year with the fireworks and then how you can work towards reducing his fear levels before the next firework event.

- Make him a safe den – it could be an indoor kennel, or a cardboard box, or even a space under the table. The thing is it must be readily accessible to him and, ideally, an enclosed area where he will not see the flashes.
- Muffle the noises by covering his den in blankets or duvets.
- Make going inside this den a positive experience by giving him treats and toys inside it. ALWAYS leave the den door open so that he can come and go as he pleases.
- A visit to your Vet may be useful particularly if your pet is unusually frightened as some commonly prescribed drugs have the added benefit of blocking memory formation meaning that your pet will not remember the scary events.
- Don't leave your dog alone if you know that there will be fireworks. If you have not taught him the ways of coping you will need to be there to reassure him.

***Please note that the annual Christmas Fuddle will take place on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be training that day but this will take the form of shorter classes. Memorial Trophies will be handed out to the winners at the fuddle. This will be the last day of training before Christmas; training will resume on New Year's Day, an afternoon of training will help blow the cobwebs away!***

It Is not an easy task to compile regular editions and I welcome assistance from anyone who has some new snippets of information or newsworthy items that they feel others might like to know, such as the story of your dog (especially if it is a rescue dog) or, indeed, any other items (recipes for biscuits, funny photographs etc.) that you would like to contribute, please do contact me; John Butler, either in person, by telephone on 01773824822 or mobile 07720061904 or by e-mail at [re tubj1b@gmail.com](mailto:re tubj1b@gmail.com).

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