



BARE BONES

MCGSDA Derby Branch
Newsletter December 2013

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

Hello members, is it too soon to wish you "A very Happy Christmas and a very Happy and Successful New Year"? It has been a while since the last news-letter but we have continued with our successes and we have held several Social Walks which is something that we will continue with next year. We added a new date to the diary this year; a New Year Social Walk we are doing the same again on Wednesday 1st January 2014.

Midland Counties German Shepherd Dogs Rescue, are holding their Christmas Fayre at North Lodge, King's Corner. Derby DE21 4RG on Saturday 30th December 2013 from 10:30 to 16:00hrs admission is 50p with free parking and all dogs are welcome providing that their owners behave. Proceeds from this event go to support the MCGSDA Rescue effort throughout the year.

We are holding our Award Presentation Night and Christmas Social on Saturday 14th December 2013 commencing at 19:00hrs and running until 23:30hrs at the Travellers' Rest Public House on Ashbourne Road, Derby, DE22 3AJ. Tickets are **£10** and include **live entertainment and a hot meal**; these are available from Trish Godfrey (Dollie's Mum) every Sunday at our training session. As usual the Christmas Fuddle will take place after training on Sunday 22nd December 2013.

The Good citizen Silver Award Training is progressing well and the tests will be held on December 8th.

We have also gained two new **Obedience Instructors** this year (congratulations to **Jackie Butler and Trish Godfrey** who worked hard to get their dogs to Class 4 and completed successfully our 'in-house' training course) along with a new **Agility Instructor, Kath Beardmore** and we have continued to increase the number of members attending both Sunday Training and Tuesday Agility. Surely a tribute to the dedication of all of our Instructors!

Trish has four rescue dogs including two rescue GSD's which both train at the club, she has trained her female GSD 'Dolly' who she adopted from 'Just for Dogs' from puppy class to class four and her male GSD 'Woody' who she adopted from GSD Rescue has also progressed from class one to class four. Trish has been chairperson of 'Just for Dogs Rescue and Re-homing Centre' for the last 12 years and has adopted/fostered many difficult and challenging dogs and believes that with the correct training, patience, understanding of the dogs' needs and kindness almost all dogs can overcome their difficulties and become a loving member of the family.



Kath writes:-

'I joined the club in 2003 with a very boisterous, hooligan of a dog, who didn't listen to a word I said! I was in class 1 for over a year; eventually after a lot of hard work I got to class 2 and then class 3. I started fun agility at the club in 2004 and never looked back, Zak adored it (as he still does now at nearly 11!) and best of all he started to listen to me. I joined a serious class at Selston and started competing, mainly on a Saturday/Sunday at the agility shows. I had so much fun and won lots of rosettes with him. Zak did really well considering he was competing mostly against border collies, due to his size category. As Zak would not and still will not, retrieve, we concentrated on agility, as I knew class 4 was unattainable at that time.



Many members, particularly owners with 'naughty' dogs are delighted to see how their dogs listen and learn so quickly, even after just a couple of sessions. For the dog that gets a bit bored at obedience, agility is a great way to have some fun and let off a bit of steam! You may even get the bug and go on to compete, like I did. I know that Dave, Linda and Pauline in particular have been thrilled with the way that their dogs have taken to agility and that they have enjoyed it as much as the dogs have.

At the end of our Agility Season Three awards were made:-

Best Newcomer: Pauline and Harvey.

Best Improver: Hilary and Lottie.

Best Handler: Lynn and Sophie.

Well done to them and all handlers and dogs that attended the sessions; here's hoping 2014 will be another successful year for the MCGSDA Agility Club. We are even hoping to be part of the very successful obedience demonstrations and show off to the public just what our GSD'S are capable of on an agility course.

Hope to see you all next year.'

We also had two more happy events this year:-

Matilda Knysak and Mariusz Drozd (Gizmo's Mum and Dad), who our regular attendees at training and Social Walks will know, announced the safe arrival of their baby daughter Amanda on 18th September. A bouquet was sent from the Club and she was very quickly brought down to see us. Matilda amazed us all as she attended all of the social walks this year up to about a week before the happy event and was out with us on the 5th October for the next walk along with Amanda in a push-chair!

We had another celebration on 2nd of November when Trish's daughter gave birth to her own bouncing baby daughter, Millie. Very many congratulations to Jodie and Dean on becoming parents. Congratulations also to Trish and Dave on becoming grand-parents and also to Dena and Jeff on becoming grand-parents again. Also congratulations to Trish's son Liam on becoming an uncle.

With the 'Season of Goodwill' approaching fast, let us not forget about our 4-legged friends. I know that our members are all responsible owners but it does no harm to remind us all of some very valuable facts and safety tips to remember at this time of year:

Dogs need a warm, dry and safe place to live and their routine to be as consistent as possible. We tend to give our pets 'treats' at Christmas and New Year but some things that we regard as treats can have dire consequences for our dogs.

Do not forget that chocolate, grapes and raisins are dangerous to dogs if eaten, so is Xylitol, a sweetener found in many sugar-free confectioneries.

Giving your dog left-overs from your festive fare that he is not used to can cause tummy upsets, cooked turkey and chicken bones can lodge in a dog's throat and may even perforate the alimentary tract and onions can cause anaemia.

DO NOT give your dog alcohol and remember that anti-freeze used in car cooling systems and windscreen sprays is sweet and thus very attractive to dogs and cats. This attraction can lead to animals licking spilled anti-freeze, which is deadly if ingested, so take extra care when topping up water and coolant levels not to spill any and to clean it up promptly if you do.

Whilst it is good for us to have a break and change of routine this can be unsettling for your dog so do your best to keep his routine consistent, keep his feeds and walks to the usual times and set time aside for play and attention.

Remember;-

He is your friend, your partner, your defender.....your *dog*.

You are his life, his love.....his *leader*.

He will be yours, faithful and true to the last beat of his **heart**.

You **owe** it to him to be worthy of such **devotion!**

The words above are not from my pen (or should that be keyboard?) but are a few words that Jackie found on-line and they seemed very appropriate to end thh section on hints for care at this festive time

The dates of Social walks during 2014 are:-

Wednesday 1st January

Saturday 4th January

Saturday 1st February

Saturday 1st March

Saturday 5th April

Saturday 10th May

Saturday 14th June

Saturday

Saturday

Saturday

Saturday

Saturday

Saturday

5th July

2nd August

6th September

4th October

1st November

6th December

The Derby Branch AGM will be held on Sunday 12th January 2014 at Elvaston Village Hall and will, as usual, be a dog-free meeting so that we can get more of you into the hall and get through the business, which includes the election of Officers and Committee Members and the approval of new and renewing members. All members are encouraged to attend and new members to the committee warmly invited.

The Association AGM will be held on Sunday 26th January 2014 at Elvaston Village Hall again a "dog free event".

Once again we will be having the annual obedience competition, fun day and companion dog show on dates in 2014 which are yet to be announced.

For further information, about M.C.G.S.D. Derby Branch please contact Gill & Terry Ing on 01332558716 or John & Jackie Butler on 01773 880645.

By contributing a third of our training fees we support Midland Counties German Shepherd Dogs Rescue, North Lodge, Kings Corner. Derby DE21 4RG.

If you have any ideas for inclusion in future copies of the newsletter please don not hesitate to let me know. I can be contacted on 01773 880645, 07720061904 or reltubj1b@gmail.com.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year