

WAGGING TAILS

Issue 5

Summer 1997

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION

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TRAINING DAY - TATTON - 12TH APRIL 1997

Once again we were blessed with marvellous weather for this event held at Tatton Park in Cheshire. All participants and helpers were greeted with a welcome cup of coffee by Audrey Forster and her gang and, after the usual greeting and chatter, proceedings were opened by our chairman.

The large entry of 57 dogs was split into five groups according to age and experience. The puppy group was taken by Liz Geoghegan, beginners by Elaine Whittaker, novice "A" by Peter Forster, novice "B" by Jackie Winder and advanced by David Showell. The groups dispersed to the four corners of the large area we had been allocated and had plenty of room to move around without "getting under each others feet". In addition, Denise Jury was on hand to provide help with any particular training problems. After around two hours intensive training, the younger dogs in particular were ready for a break.

In the afternoon, four tests of varying difficulty were set up to see what the dogs (and handlers) had learnt.

Tea and cakes were served at the end of the day and hopefully everyone went home feeling they had had a productive and enjoyable day.

Our thanks go as always to Liz for organising the day, the trainers for giving so freely of their time and all who contributed towards the success of the day.

Letter to the Editor

I feel I must write to say how much I enjoyed the training day at Tatton Park on 12th April. After a slow and tedious drive across t'moors from South Yorkshire, I finally arrived 45 minutes late, harassed to death and with a flatcoat whose main aim in life was to hang himself with his new rope lead (the old one was eaten some time ago!!)

The lady who took the Beginners Class soon put me at my ease and Josh in his place and both of us went on to have a thoroughly enjoyable day. (I'm sure Josh raised a few titters when he found a 'nest' of dummies under a tree - they're his passion in life!!)

It was our first ever attempt at anything of this sort and I think we're hooked! So, please pass on our thanks to all the people who organised the day and let's have another one soon.

Viv Scaife, Conisbrough, Nr. Doncaster

KNOW THE FACTS BEFORE BREEDING YOUR DOG

We think it is extremely important to learn the facts and possible consequences in advance if you are contemplating breeding your Flatcoat. In today's overcrowded world we, the keepers of our Flatcoats, must make responsible decisions for them and for ourselves. The following points should be thought about carefully.

Quality - A K. C. registration is not an indication of quality. Most dogs, however bred, should not be bred from. Many Flatcoats, though wonderful pets, have defects of structure, personality or health that should not be perpetuated. Breeding animals should be free of known defects before starting on a reproductive career. Breeding should only be done with the goal of improvement - an honest attempt to produce puppies better than their parents. Ignorance (even in law) is no excuse. Once you have created a life, you cannot take it back, even if blind, crippled or a canine psychopath.

Cost - Dog breeding is not a money making proposition if done correctly. Health care and maintenance, proof of quality, extra food, facilities, stud fees, adverts, etc. are all expensive and most must be paid before the pups are sold. An unexpected caesarean or emergency care for an extra large litter or sick pup can soon turn into a big liability. And this is if you sell the pups.

Sales - First time breeders have no reputation to help them find buyers. Previous promises of 'I want a dog just like yours' soon evaporate. Consider the time and expense in caring for pups that may not sell until they are four months old, even older with males. What would you do if your pups did not sell? Send them to the local home or RSPCA? Dump them somewhere? Sell cheap to anyone who may sell onto labs or unsavoury buyers? Veteran breeders always have accommodation for older pups who linger past the puppy stage.

Joy of Birth - If you're doing it for the children's education, remember that the birth may be at 3 a.m. or at the vets on a surgery table. Even if the kids are present, they may see the birth of a monster, or mummy, or see the bitch scream and bite as you attempt to deliver a pup that is too big, or stuck half in and half out. Some bitches are not natural mothers and ignore or savage their pups. The bitch may not be able to look after her pups through infection, she may even die. Pups can be born dead - how long do you try to revive a pup, when and how do you euthanase a deformity? Flatcoats are easy whelpers and the joy of healthy pups with a contented bitch is fantastic, but if you cannot deal with the possibility of a tragedy, don't start.

Time - Breeders of quality dogs spend many hours a day with the bitch and young pups. The bitch cannot be left when whelping and needs to be watched very closely before whelping (who has spent 2 nights sitting up with a bitch thinking she might whelp) and after whelping to ensure she is O.K. and the pups are doing fine. Bottling at first is every 2 hours and it's not the feeding but the ablutions that take the time. As the pups get older, grooming, socialisation and cleaning take a lot of time. Paperwork, pedigrees and interviewing new owners also takes a lot of time. If you have abnormal pups, sick pups or an anti-social bitch, count on twice the time and, if you cannot provide it, you will have dead or poor pups that are bad tempered, anti-social, dirty or sickly - hardly a buyer's delight.

Humane responsibilities - It's midnight - do you know where your pups are? Thousands of dogs are put into "homes" or die unwanted through disease or starvation. Some of them are flatcoats with papers. Do you screen potential buyers carefully? Or will you just take the money and not worry if the pup is chained up all its life or let loose to run the streets? Will you turn down a sale to the wrong home? Or will you say yes and not think about the pup you held and loved now having a litter of pups (pure breed or mongrel) every time she comes in season, or a male mating every bitch he comes across. These are your grandpups. Would you be prepared to take a grown dog if the owners could no longer care for it? Or can you live with the thought that the baby you brought into the world will be put down because no-one wants it.

2ND OPEN SHOW HELD 4TH MAY 1997

The Association held its second open show early last month at Woodford Community Centre. Judging commenced promptly but unfortunately inside due to gathering rain clouds. Junior handling was held during the lunch break, judged by Alison Carroll. All the youngsters did very well and show a lot of promise for the future. After lunch, there appeared to be an improvement in the weather, so judging commenced for the bitches outside. A particularly heavy shower, however, very soon had everyone scurrying back under cover. Rosettes were provided by our sponsors, Spillers Petfoods, who also had a stand where everyone could check the weight of their dogs and take advice on feeding.

Best in show went to Miss Helen Hughes' **Heronflight Haste**, Reserve best in show went to Mr. & Mrs. B. Jones' **Shargleam Legend at Benvellyn**, Best Puppy went to Mrs. S.A. and Miss S.J. Moults' **Capeldewi Merman** and Best Veteran in show went to Bob Allen's **Ebony Gleam of Darillens**. All these winners were presented engraved glass rose bowls by the Association.

Our thanks go to everyone for making this an enjoyable and successful day but in particular our judges Mr. Read Flowers and Miss Fiona McKinlay and our stewards Mrs. Hazel Wilson and Miss Becky Johnson.

DOGS - MP - 1st Moults' Capeldewi Merman (BPIS) Good head and bone, excellent lay of shoulder, good all round balance, 2nd Scarlett's Doctor Jazz, Younger than 1 and lacked body at this stage, moved well, 3rd Clark's Fettler Roy. **P** - 1st Wensley's Stownsley Moody Blues, Fair head, good eye, excellent bone and feet, moved and showed well, 2nd Bowman's and Broome's Lanternwood Pyrethrum, similar type to 1 but lost out on movement, 3rd Hughes' Coalport Cosworth, Res. Cawkwell's Rievaulx Monsoon. **J** - 1st Geoghegan's Hightarn Rambler, Nice overall type, good bone and feet, moved and showed well, 2nd Jones' Black Elk of Montana, Sound overall type, preferred head and movement of winner today, 3rd Mescus' Llecan Piper. **SY** - 1st H. Rambler, 2nd Cross' Hartshead Sir Lancelot, Pleasing head, lacked body and balance of winner, moved OK. **N** - 1st McGahan's Stompy Jones, Upstanding young dog, pleasing expression, good bone and body, moved well, 2nd L. Pyrethrum, 3rd Black Elk of M., Res. Beswick's Tanglebriar Floodtide **G** - 1st Allen's Darillens Wings of Song, Good overall type, excellent bone and body, feet OK, moved well with drive, 2nd Moults' Caslterock Wild Thorn, larger dog than 1, preferred overall type of winner, 3rd H. Sir Lancelot, Res. Coar's Torwood Pitstop **PG** - 1st D. Wings of Song, 2nd Hargreaves' Wolfhill Touch of Guinness, very nice liver, has all the essentials, not quite the body of winner 3rd Thompson's Hazelmere Bailey at Dowlesbrook, Res. Cross' Caslterock Fearless Raven **L** - 1st Hughes' Heronsflight Haste (BIS) medium sized dog, full of quality, well shaped head, good body and bone, in good condition, moved well, 2nd Smith's Seaspray Onyx, Larger dog than 1, good head, excellent bone, moved soundly, 3rd Jury's Heronsflight Herald of Torwood, Res. H. Bailey at D. **O Dog** - 1st Allen's Clowbeck Black Drake at Darillens, Quality dog, nice head, good dark eye, good shoulder and bone, moved soundly and with drive 2nd Geoghegan's Shargleam Black Lark, Close up to winner but lost out on movement on the day, 3rd Stompy Jones, Res. Jury's Torwood Paradox **V** - 1st C. Black Drake at D., 2nd Wensley's Stownsley Whincestor, another quality dog, nice head, good body, bone and feet, moved soundly and with drive, close up to winner, 3rd Whiting's Mirfield Maximillian of Spenbeck **Special Liver** - 1st W. Touch of Guinness

READ FLOWERS

Brace - 1st Smith, 2nd Hargreaves, 3rd Badby, Res. White

BITCHES - MP - 1st Howson's Eskmill Legacy, sweet little 6 month bitch, lovely headed with good front, shoulders and stifles, well muscled and very happy on the move, 2nd Pendleton's Goldingale Lovely Lady, nicely constructed 7 month bitch, slightly racier and less mature than 1, good topline and tail set, again well muscled for age, moved happily, 3rd Donnelly's Eskmill Linbeck, Res. Burroughs' Elmstock Bunch of Thyme. **P** - 1st Perry's Blithdale Lesha (RBPIS), pretty little 11 month girl with nice head and front, good reach of neck and correct upper arm, good turn of stifle, well muscled and moved well. 2nd Hargreaves' Forgeway Diamond Pedlar, 12 months on the day, quite a mature pup with a sweet expression, good depth, short coupled, good turn of stifle and well muscled, 3rd Moor's Stownsley Thin Lizzy, Res. Donnelly's Eskmill Keriana **J** - 1st B. Lesha, 2nd S. Thin Lizzy 11 month old bitch with gentle expression, good depth, short coupled, good turn of stifle. **SY** - 1st Tierling's Karaholme Heath Heather, This lovely young lady caught my eye in the ring, beautiful head and expression, lovely reach of neck, well laid shoulders, good front and upper arm, beautiful topline, good depth, lovely turn of stifle and well muscled, in good condition overall and was pleased to award RBB, 2nd Thompson's Hartshead Sleeping Beauty at Dowlesbrook, Another pretty bitch with good front angulation, topline and tail set, well muscled with good turn of stifle, moved well, 3rd White's Whiteabbey Maillezais Rose, Res. Thornton's Lakemere Jenny Wren at Whittersbeck **N** - 1st K. Heath Heather, 2nd Bellamy's Grenor Gypsy Princess at Lathkill, Mature strong bitch, but very pretty, lovely neck, good front assembly and well laid shoulders, good topline, powerful quarters with nice turn of stifle, sadly the floor did not help her to show her movement fully, 3rd S. Thin Lizzy, Res. Swift's Torwood Puddleduck **G** - 1st K. Heath Heather, 2nd Branston's Delaneige Winter Wren, very pretty bitch who challenged 1 very hard, gentle expression, good neck and shoulders, nice topline, very well muscled. Good turn of stifle and shown in lovely condition, moved very well, 3rd Badby's Spirit of the Wind, Res. Cooper's Tanglebrair Hidden Spring **PG** - 1st Hargreaves' Riversflight Maiden, Sweet head and expression, good shoulders and upper arm, nice depth and good turn of stifle, moved steadily, 2nd Wensley's Stownsley Lily of the Valley, Strong bitch with good front, short coupled with powerful quarters, moved happily, 3rd Rees' Verdant Treacle Toffee, Res. Burford's Wilfhill Cymru Gold. **L** - 1st Jones' Shargleam Legend of Benvellyn (RBIS), very elegant and classy lady with a beautiful head and gentle expression, lovely reach of neck, well laid shoulders and good upper arm, good depth of chest, length of rib cage and turn of stifle, well muscled and in lovely condition, she moved easily with reach and drive, 2nd Donnelly's Springburn Dreamer of Eskmill, Lovely head giving soft expression, good front assembly and nice angulation front and rear, well set tail, moved well and easily, 3rd Badby's Braemist Willow Catkin, Res. Watson's Kentee Innes **O** - 1st Foreman's Hartshead Misty Swansong, Lovely balanced bitch, beautiful clean flowing lines throughout, just needs muscle, good head, kind eyes, nice front, good depth, lovely topline, well set tail, short coupled and nice turn of stifle, moved well with great coverage, 2nd Allen's Ebony Gleam of Darillens, very pretty lady, dripping in coat, lovely front, good shoulders, super depth, and nice turn of stifle, a very happy bitch in lovely condition who moved steadily, 3rd Summers' Shargleam Jenny Wren of Abercairny Res. Carroll's Wizardwood Stormy Water at Jasker **V** - 1st Ebony Gleam of D. (BVIS), 2nd Wensley's Stownsley Purdy, Nice bitch with sweet expression, good shoulders, elbows well into body, good depth, short coupled and lovely turn of stifle, moved well, 3rd Donnelly's Eskmill Intrigue, Res. White's Rievaulx Chapel at Whiteabbey **Sp. Liver** - 1st Jury's Verdant Lotus at Torwood, sweet expression, good reach of neck and topline with well set tail, moved very freely and happily.

FIONA MCKINLAY

Junior handling Ages 7 -11- 1st Kate Watson, 2nd Isabelle Nowicki **Ages 12-16** 1st Kelly Holland, 2nd Beverley Callander, 3rd Samantha Moulton, Res. Rosemary Thornton, VHC Katie Burroughs

Judge: Alison Carroll

**Funday to be held at Hillside Farm, Utkinton, Cheshire
Saturday 20th September 1997**

The funday will incorporate all our usual activities. It would be appreciated if you could complete the entry form as soon as you know you are going to attend in order that catering can be arranged.

The venue is once more being arranged for us by kind permission of Mrs. Hazel Moors. Some of you will remember the excellent day we had there back in October 1995. If you require a map to the venue, please indicate so on the entry form. The venue will be sign posted on the day lies north of Tarporley off the A49.

Photographic Competition Entry Form

Name:

Address:

.....

Number of Entries @ 50 pence per entry

FUN DAY - Sunday 13th July - Sandhills Farm, Crathorne, Yarm

Name:

Address:

.....

..... Adults @ £3.00 each, Children @ £1.50 each, Dogs @ £1.00 each

Total enclosed for photographic competition and/or fun day £

Please send Entry Form, Photographs, SAE and cheque (made payable to NEFRA) to
The Honorary Secretary, Mrs. S Kitching, Sandhills Farm, Crathorne, Yarm, Cleveland
TS15 0AD

MYSTIC MAGGIE

Are you one of those people who can't resist reading your horoscope in the newspaper. But what about our dogs? How do the following fit your dog?

Aquarius (21 Jan - 19 Feb) Aquarius dogs like their own company and are usually well behaved when out with their master. Once they know they are being observed they are likely to misbehave. In training, they respond to praise rather than criticism.

Pisces (20 Feb - 20 Mar) These dogs possess a childlike charm but a lack of sustained concentration can make them difficult to train. They have a natural affinity with water (don't all Flatcoats!). They sense if their owners are ill or unhappy and will endeavour to console them.

Aries (21 Mar - 20 Apr) These are uncomplicated and good-natured but are prone to retain their puppy habits into adulthood. They also like the sound of their own voice. Everything is in a rush, hurtling about trying to fill every moment to the brim.

Taurus (21 Apr - 21 May) These are gentle loving and pensive dogs. They are also determined to the point of obstinacy and will chew a squeaky toy until they have made sure they have killed the squeak. They crave a peaceful and harmonious routine.

Gemini (22 May - 21 Jun) These dogs are easily bored and love human company. Although quick to learn, they have a short attention span and easily get bored. They are inquisitive dogs on a permanent quest to discover the meaning of life. They do however need plenty of sleep.

Cancer (22 Jun - 23 Jul) Intelligent and anxious to learn, these dogs are easy to train but they can have a stubborn streak which has to be overcome. Male or female, they tend to have maternal instincts towards puppies and children. Outwardly easy going, they will vehemently defend their home and family if threatened.

Leo (24 Jul - 23 Aug) Leo dogs expect to take the starring role in any household. They have big hearts and are generous with their affection. Although outwardly brave, underneath they are "softies" and howl at the merest pinprick from a vet's needle.

Virgo (24 Aug - 23 Sep) Virgo dogs are gentle and sensitive. They can be finicky about their food but are meticulous in their personal habits and are house trained from an early age. They tend to be extremely intelligent and their education comes largely from watching and listening.

Libra (24 Sep - 23 Oct) Libra dogs are extremely sociable and have a natural ability to make friends with both humans and other animals. They are inclined to love all members of the family equally but when faced with over-boisterous children are likely to beat a retreat.

Scorpio (24 Oct - 22 Nov) These dogs tend to have a dignified air and are adept at hiding their emotions. Their incisive minds and affectionate natures make them warm companions and they have enormous energy for doing the things they like and very little for those they dislike.

Sagittarius (23 Nov - 21 Dec) These dogs are boisterous and happy-go-lucky. Likely to bound up the strangers in pastel suits with their muddy paws (but they mean well). They enjoy car travel but don't like being left to guard the vehicle. They are instantly repentant when scolded for any "accidental" damage they may have caused.

Capricorn (22 Dec - 20 Jan) These dogs are not particularly adventurous but possess a strong sense of responsibility when it comes to guarding the home. They need lots of human contact to stimulate their clever minds. They thrive on encouragement and it is vital to them that they feel appreciated by their family.

Notes from the Secretary

Are you breeding a litter this year? If so, do let me know. I have many enquires from people interested in buying a Flatcoat and will always pass on details of any litters available. It is, however, up to the breeder to check the suitability of the purchaser.

The Association is compiling a photo album of all our past events. If you have any photos you think would be appropriate for inclusion, please pass them onto to myself. The album will be on view at various of our events as a reminder of the many successful events and the various milestones since the start of the Association.

A note from Alex MacCallum to say he has moved to 25 Victoria House, Victoria Road, Gateshead, NE8 2SZ. Tel. 01914 601986

Many thanks to Mrs. Wells for her donation to the Association for the help we gave in selling her last litter.

Sandra Kitching

Pat Appleyard (Uskelf)

I started showing many years ago with Golden Retrievers; I still have one Golden and have been Chairman of the Yorkshire Golden Retriever Club for the past four years and am the Yorkshire delegate for the Golden Retriever Breed Council.

I bought my first Flatcoat from Denise and Neil Jury in 1981 and Bonnie proved an excellent foundation bitch:- she gave us two lovely litters (both by Sh. Ch. Maybrian Trail Blazer). Sadly, Bonnie died in her prime of lymphosarcoma at only 5 ½ years of age. From her litters, I kept Uskelf Bracken (who won her way into the K.C. stud book many times over) and Uskelf Cassandra who was also an excellent brood bitch producing Uskelf Dillon (J. W.) and Uskelf Georgia.

In 15 years of Flatcoats we have had just 5 litters, breeding mainly to keep one for ourselves and aiming to produce sound and sensible all-round Flatcoats.

I work as a fund raiser for a national charity, which is hard work, but as I work from home is very convenient for the dogs!! I have many other interests including running the village youth club, etc. but the dogs always come first!

T A I L E N D E R S

Future Dates for your Diary

Fun Day, Sunday 13th July - Entries will be closing shortly for this event. It promises to be a good day with an agility team giving a demonstration with a chance to try your dog if you wish later. There will also be a few tips on obedience training, a trimming demonstration, scurry and plenty of fun games (can your dog retrieve a sausage in its entirety!) Copy entry form is enclosed. Please do your best to support this event.

Working Test, Sunday 9th August - Entry Form enclosed with last issue (any queries to Liz Geoghegan).

Fun Day, Saturday 20th September - a similar day to the above but to be held in the west. Details and entry form enclosed

Annual Dinner, Saturday 25th October - proposed venue - Old Golf House Hotel, Outlane, Huddersfield. The secretary would be grateful if members could indicate their intention to attend the above to her as soon as possible as the final decision on venue and the cost of the meal will be dependent on the numbers attending. This year the format will be slightly changed from previously. It is the intention to have an after dinner speaker, hopefully followed by an open discussion with questions and answers. The usual quiz and raffle will also take place.

Seminar Sunday 23rd November - To be held at Ashbrook Equine Hospital, Near Knutsford, Details in Autumn Newsletter.

Tips of the Tail

- When training a young dog, remember that the way to a dog's heart is through it's stomach. As praise for a task well done, give your puppy a small tasty morsel, hopefully he will remember more easily when next asked to repeat the routine.

- Ticks picked up by dogs can be a particular problem in spring and autumn. If not dealt with properly they can cause serious infections. Do not try to remove the tick by pulling it off the body. If the tick is completely covered with petroleum jelly, it will be unable to draw air in through its body and will drop off the dog on its own accord.

The Newsletter sub committee would greatly appreciate your "Letters to the Editor" or tips for the above section. These will be included in future newsletters as and when space is available.

Items received from members and included in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Association.

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