

WAGGING TAILS

Issue 7

Winter 1997

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THE CONTINUING TALE OF RIV — THE FLATCOAT SENT TO PRISON

On the morning that we had yesterday here, Riv came to meet his handler, Mr. [unclear] and was introduced to the training regime of a prison search dog. The story begins.

Things changed when, at work, three two instructors came to see him working. There was the problem of something being hidden in one of 5 rooms and Riv had to indicate where. That the instructor followed Riv and one watching him, we worked together. The end result was that we had enough to destroy the building. Riv became a long haired Lab again and I came just what I needed. We did get a second chance, after the two instructors left on their own. Riv was still about Flatcoats, and Riv had no problem finding the service. Who he wanted? The dog was to me known, most probably handling deficiency. By now Riv was becoming convinced that he would hardly indicate at all when he "hit" something. He knew it was there and he seemed to get onto the next job. We had to take a step back and get him adjusting really again.

After a few more days of hard work, Riv and me, we were back on form. The end of the fourth week brought two assessments, one individual and one team assessment. The two tests are given and there are no second chances if a mistake is made. These search dogs are licensed by the police in the assessment must be 100% in every way. As the deadline approached we had a practice day, the best being to search a diamond shaped. A total of 55 rooms and just maybe something hidden. Two substances had been hidden but the mood amongst the team was grim. Riv and one other dog had found both hides and although we had a good day it was difficult to tell our spirits.

The assessments began the following day and we all thought we could do better. The parting words from our instructor just before we began the tests were "Trust your dogs". How true those words were, and with this in mind we set off on a fresh January morning to complete our assessments.

Out of the van, dogs off the lead for an empty and then wait to see who is called first "Officer Stephenson and Riv the Flatcoat". First on, not really what I wanted but best to get it over with, and at least Riv is still a Flatcoat!

On our own, we had to search a total of 22 rooms and again, there may be something hidden. Riv was at his best. Into the rooms and wanting to be out again very quickly. It is easy to convince oneself that the dog had not checked the room properly and send him round again, thus convincing the dog that he has missed something. What was it the instructor had said "Trust your dog" O.K., that is what I did. Within 15 minutes, the fastest time of all the teams, although time is not a factor, we had cleared the building and found a hidden revolver and ammunition in two separate places. At the end I gave the all clear and was asked by the instructor if I was sure. I said yes. The reply... "Then I'm pleased to say that you have both passed". Riv knew he had done well and launched himself at my face. I ran out of the building with him wrapped round my shoulders and his nose on my face, the happiest team in the Service.

NO MORE GOING TO BREED A LITTER - FIRST CHOOSE A STUD BOY

you have the perfect bitch - she's everything the breed standard says. Why don't I think judges are stupid? Why do other people come down against her? They're no chance, still do all these bad judges are biased and give up their friends or dogs bred out all day and days in their white pages. All judges are biased and judge the wrong end of the stick etc.

So - to breed with your bitch - every dog and bitch has faults. There's no need to tell everybody, just note her faults. Are her legs O.G. - perhaps not but they're still below the breed average. What about her eyes, her coat, etc. Your well bred bitch must be bred with a view to produce the best of her potential and eliminate any faults. From a good quality bitch you will be unlikely to produce "best in show" pups.

If you have a line-bred bitch, it is as well to stay in the line. If you have to out cross, choose a dog which seems to correct your bitch's worst faults and is himself line-bred. To line breed, look at your bitch's grandparents and see their dominant features which have carried through to your bitch. Do you want these features? If you do and wish to "set" them, use a dog displaying them. With the line breeding you are stamping dominant features (in character as well as looks) - good and bad. So beware - two wrongs don't make a right. Be aware of both good and bad features. It is no use breeding for one or two good points and introducing at the same time many bad points.

The dogs must complement each other. Don't double up on bad points such as poor temperament, construction faults and lack of working ability. Rather concentrate on setting desired points. People about to breed their bitch and who are inexperienced would be wise to ask help from breeders familiar with their blood lines and with a depth of knowledge in the breed and your lines in particular.

Remember, distance dilutes good points as well as bad. Four or five generations back carry down but not as strongly as two or three generations back. The better your bitch, the harder to choose a stud dog. A pedigree with no line breeding will give a variety of type in a litter - not always bad individually. But a litter like peas in a pod is better collectively. Line breeding makes the roll of the dice less chancy.

FLATCOATS ARE BETTER THAN WOMEN BECAUSE.....

We didn't have much response but here are some of the comments we received:

- they will run through a muddy field without complaining
- they don't complain that you are driving too fast
- they want to be near you even if you are not shaved and washed
- they don't correct your stories
- they don't expect you to remember every date in your relationship and why it is significant
- they don't mind stopping for a pint at the pub
- they don't mind watching sport on TV

Notes from the Secretary

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Happy New Year.

Are you breeding a litter this year? If so, do let me know. I have many enquiries 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. Many thanks to Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Stephani and Mrs. Hilton for their generous donations to the Association for the help we gave in selling their litters.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 15th March 1998, sees our third annual general meeting. It will be held again at the Auctioneer Restaurant, Brighouse. A bar will be open during the lunch interval and it will be possible to purchase coffee and sandwiches.

It is the turn of Vice Chairman and Secretary to stand for re-election. Both myself and Gary Whiting are willing to stand for office again. Any other nominations should reach me by 15th February 1998 at the latest, with nominees and seconders, both of whom must be fully paid members, and a letter from the candidate indicating their willingness to stand for the office. Both candidate and nominee or seconder must attend the meeting in person and will be expected to give the meeting a short introduction of themselves.

The committee members who are standing for re-election are Mrs. D. Jury, Mrs. V. Orme and Mrs. S. Wells. In addition, we have a vacancy following the resignation of Mrs. P. Appleyard. Again, nominations, details as above, should reach me before 15th February 1998 in order that they can be included in the notice of meeting.

If any member wishes to put an item on the agenda of the meeting for discussion, I must receive written notice of this, again before 15th February 1998, in order that it can be included in the notice of meeting. Only topics on the agenda can be discussed at the meeting.

It has been decided that an annual draw will be made at the meeting, with three prizes of £20, £10 and £5. Each member who is fully paid as at 31st December 1997 will be allotted a number from the membership list (allocated alphabetically). In order to claim the prize, however, the member must be present at the meeting. Any prize money not claimed will be carried forward to the next meeting, and so on, up to a maximum first prize of £100. If at this point, if the prize has not been claimed, the money will be donated to a charity.

Sandra Kitching

OPEN SHOW - 16TH NOVEMBER 1997

DOGS - JUDGE - Becky Johnson (Downstream)

It was a great honour to be asked to judge dogs as a last minute replacement for Mrs. Jackie Lane, who was sadly unable to fulfil her appointment. I should like to thank the Officers and Committee for their wonderful hospitality, the exhibitors for the very sporting way they accepted the change of judge and my stewards, Bob Allen and Gary Whiting, for their hard work.

Class 1 - Minor Puppy - 1st Tate's Blackwood Douglas Fir: 7 mth puppy. Well grown. Pleasing head with kind eye and good length of muzzle. Excellent expression. At present enduring the leggy stage. Good forequarters and feet. Correct tailset. Moved OK (RBPIS). 2nd B. Douglas Fir **Class 3 - Junior** - 1st Foster's Abercairny Wild Rumour: A lovely young dog. Well moulded head with good eye and kind expression. Correct length of muzzle. Excellent reach of neck into well set shoulders. Good turn of stifle with well let down hocks. He just needs to strengthen through his hind quarters which will come as he matures. Nonetheless a dog with a great deal of quality. Shown in excellent condition (RBD), 2nd Moul't's Capeldewi Merman, 3rd Jury's Windstock Zebedee From Torwood, Res. G. Owenreagh. **Class 4 - Special Yearling** - 1st A. Wild Rumour, 2nd Hargreaves' Forgeway Park Royal, 3rd C. Merman, Res. Hughes' Coalport Cosworth **Class 5 - Novice** - 1st C. Merman: 2nd in a good junior class. 14 mth old dog. Very good head - correctly moulded with kind expression. Level topline with correct tailset. Good bone with tight feet. Moved OK, 2nd G. Owenreagh, 3rd Melrose's Torwood Pride of Place. **Class 6 - Graduate** - 1st A. Wild Rumour, 2nd F. Park Royal, 3rd Cross' Hartshead Sir Lancelot, Res. Churchard's Cleovine Water Wagtail. **Class 7 - Post Graduate** - 1st Eaton's Hazelmere Benjamin: This dog has really come on since his junior days. Very pleasing head with kind expression. Good reach of neck. Correct through forequarters and upper arm. Level topline with good tailset. Showed raciness without weediness. In hard condition - moved well. 2nd Townsend's Steeplehouse Chipper, 3rd Allen's Darillens Wings of Song, Res. H. Sir Lancelot **Class 8 - Limit** - 1st Egginton's Riversflight Marling to Pajanbeck. I have always admired this dog from the ringside and on going over him was not disappointed. Excellently moulded head with correct fill-in beneath the eyes. Softest expression with good length of muzzle. Small well set ears. Good through forequarters to level topline and correct tailset. He has excellent bone with the tightest feet. Strong through his second thigh with let down hocks which powered him around the ring with drive. Presented in good hard condition. BD and in agreement with my co-judge BIS. Well done. 2nd Jury's Heronsflight Herald for Torwood, 3rd Hughes' Heronsflight Haste, Res. Joyce's Stranfaer Trooper **Class 9 - Open** - 1st Miller's Tiger Moth at Keepersend: Another lovely dog with pleasing head and expression. Good reach of neck and well set shoulders. Level topline and correct tail set. Good bone and feet. Moved well with drive. 2nd Geoghegan's Shargleam Black Lark, 3rd Colson's Windyholme Flanigan, Res. Hargreaves' Wolfhill Touch of Guinness

DOGS (Cont.)

Class 10 - Veteran - 1st Allen's Clowbeck Black Drake at Darillens: This lovely old dog is nearly 11 and certainly does not look it. Pleasing head and expression. Strong through the body with level topline and very good tailset. Powerful hindquarters with good bone and feet. Moved with drive and purpose that put many others to shame. 2nd Showell's Cleovine Meadow Foxtail, 3rd Bellamy's Hasweth Inego Jones, Res. Wells' Gilduffe Fiach. **Class 11 - Special Liver** - 1st W. Touch of Guinness: Placed 4th in a good open class. Good head with kind expression. Super reach of neck with good forequarters. Level topline. Strong hindquarters. Moved with drive.

BITCHES - JUDGE - Patsy Hollings

Wonderful hospitality and food greeted me at the third Open Show of the society. Quality bitches and sportsmanship whilst I judged. Becky, my co-judge, impressed me and we agreed throughout in the final decisions. Both Best Dog and Best Bitch displayed strength, quality and type. Interestingly, the points of the exhibits which swayed me towards Best In Show were leaning towards an all rounder's view - overall balance, maturity and finish - whilst Becky was more drawn to the finer breed points, a specialist view, as both were of good type and quality. We therefore agreed on Becky's Best Dog - Egginton's Riversflight Marling to Pajanbeck for Best In Show. Reserve Best In Show was Showell's Shargleam Reflection of Cleovine, the bitch. However, Reserve BD - Foster's 17mth Abercairny Wild Rumour impressed me greatly.

Best Puppy was the bitch. Brook's Gilduffe Fane of Castlerock. A very nice youngster to go over in immaculate condition. We both preferred the puppy dog's hind action today but the bitch filled the eye and her superb handling finished the picture to snatch the top award.

I have always thought this a real lasting breed so I was not surprised to find the Veterans so fit and active. Not many grey hairs here. The bitch took Best Veteran on her free, lively, active movement.

The Brace class was won by Jubb's even sound happy bitches, who went so well together you could have driven them in harness.

Class 12 - Minor Puppy - 1st Whittaker's Bramatha Beat the Blues, 8 mth with good bones, legs and tight feet. Lovely to go over. Moved true from well muscled quarters of good width. 2nd Tate's White Lodge Willow, 3rd Jubb's Wizardwood Tawny Thistle at Katzenjammer, Res. Sparkes' Georgeous Lady **Class 13 - Puppy** - 1st Brook's Gilduffe Fane of Castlerock, 10 mth who had maturity and balance together with sympathetic handling which clinched her the class and BPIS. I loved her temperament with her correct lashing tail which is a pleasure to see. 2nd Wells' Gilduffe Shannagh, 3rd B. Beat the Blues, Res. White Lodge Willow **Class 14 - Junior** - 1st Perry's Blithdale Lesha, 2 very smart bitches and both appealed. 2 was a big full coated flashy bitch but I took the class on her femininity and type. Very sound to go over. Lovely head and expression. Strong clean neck into neat shoulder, well sprung rib and strong loin. Good feet. Positive movement. 2nd Fox's Perfect Pickle

BITCHES (cont.)

Class 15 - Special Yearling - 1st Bunting's Mossdew Satin Doll. Headed a really nice class. What a sound, honest bitch. Lovely head and dark expressive eye, with good length of fore face and filling. Super bone, legs and feet. Well bodied, ribs leading well back. Strong, wide, well muscled hindquarters with correct angulation fore and aft. Used her tail well standing and with her good driving movement. A bitch with a future (RBB) 2nd Whittaker's Bramatha Northern Dancer. This lady has good stock and this is a quality bitch, just lost out on movement today. 3rd Egginton's Riversflight Qishon to Pajanbeck, Res. B. Lesha **Class 16 - Novice - 1st** Perfect Pickle. This is a lovely bitch who will do well when she is in the grown up classes as she looks big for a youngster but if she has finished growing she will be fine. 2nd Bellamy's Grenor Gypsy Princess **Class 17 - Graduate 1st** Joyce's Suskim Swallowtail of Stranfaer. Again a class of good bitches. 1st was such a grand bitch to go over. Sound and well constructed all through. Excellent tight feet and balanced bone. Clean elegant lines. Moved soundly. 2nd Miller's Keepersend Oh So Smart. Also a lovely bitch, I just preferred 1 over the 2nd. 3rd Whiting's Clowbeck Peacock Fly of Spenbeck, Res. Goulette's Steeplehouse Teazel **Class 18 - Post Graduate - 1st** Branston's Delaneige Winter Wren. Lovely solid, strong, feminine bitch. Beautiful balanced head, correct proportions, good filling and excellent expression. Clean elegant flowing lines, well set, well used tail. Free active, positive movement. 2nd Barnett's Steeplehouse Tess. Another that had elegance. A clean outline and sound positive movement - preferred bone and expression of 1. 3rd Staff's Hollywebbryn A Pioneer Lady of Chancalot, Res. Allen's Darillens Gypsy Queen **Class 19 - Limit - 1st** Colson's Windyhollows Gypsy Moth. 1st three super bitches. I was really impressed with this sound honest bitch who combined substance with femininity. Clean lines all through. Excellent bone, well laid shoulders with good length of upper arm, moved positively with drive. 2nd Watson's Kentee Innes, 3rd Jubb's Torwood Lovely Lily at Katzenjammer, Res. Jones' Shargleam Legend of Benvellyn **Class 20 - Open - 1st** Showell's Shargleam Reflection of Cleovine. A real quality exhibit in first class order. Classic Flatcoat outline. Balanced head length proportions. Clean strong elegant neck flowing into well laid shoulders. Good depth and width of forechest, quality bone. Stands square on good legs. Lively and animated movement. Picture finished with full, black, glossy coat. (BB & RBIS), 2nd Jubb's Hasweth Evangeline at Katzenjammer, 3rd Branston's Cleovine Irish Lace at Delaneige, Res. Miller's Smarty Party at Loxdale **Class 21 - Veteran - 1st** Jubb's Torwood Bizzy Lizzy Back to Hasweth (BVIS), 2nd Barnett's Annbecks Katie 3rd Watson's Torwood Bizzie Bee, Res. Allen's Ebony Gleam of Darillens **Class 22 - Special Liver - 1st** Showell's Blithdale Tawny Willow, had to win on soundness and maturity but at the in-between stage in body and coat. Very sound movement. 2nd Fox's Wizardwood Tawny Ramin, 3rd B. Beat the Blues, Res. W. Tawny Thistle at Katzenjammer.

MEDICAL PA

Medical terms
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"TTIS" - very
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"EAMIA" -
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So this goes

- HYPER
 - HYPO
 - TACH
 - BRAD
- "PATH"

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MEDICAL PAGE - UNDERSTANDING MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

Medical terminology is a language (speak-erend) for medical professionals to converse in among each other - it isn't that difficult if it is broken down into parts, the parts are already together

"ITIS" - very common - means an inflamed tissue so arth~~ITIS~~ means inflammation of the joints, bronch~~ITIS~~ means inflammation of the airways

"-EMIA" - means in the blood so glyc~~EMIA~~ means blood glucose. But "HEMA" is a prefix means of the blood so HE~~MA~~tology is a study of blood.

So this goes on:

- HYPER - High as in HYPERactive
- HYPO - Low as in HYPOthermia
- TACHY - faster than normal
- BRADY - slower than normal

"PATH" is also used as a prefix or suffix and means diseased.

So, if your doctor or vet tells you the blood tests show evidence of HYPERCHOLESTEROLEMIA, don't panic. It means that there is a high cholesterol level in the blood. If in doubt - ask him to spell it!!!!

FLATCOATS AND PANCREATITIS

Given the flatcoat's ability to eat everything and anything, pancreatitis is a real danger. The pancreas is near the stomach and secretes many metabolic hormones including digestive enzymes. Dietary indiscretions can cause damage to the pancreas. Signs of pancreatitis vary depending on severity, ranging from mild indisposition to severe vomiting and diarrhoea that may contain blood. As these signs are non specific and typical of gastrointestinal conditions, it is important to treat them seriously and watch the dog carefully.

In mild cases, treatment can be as simple as withholding food and water for 24 hours (easier said than done with a flatcoat). More serious cases require a stay at the vets, intravenous fluids and other medications. The dangers of pancreatitis should not be underestimated as, although not common, it can lead to death.

As flatcoats tend to maintain acceptable appetites even when not 100%, mild cases often go undetected. This poses problems as repeated minor damage to the pancreas over the years can accumulate to the point where the pancreas no longer functions properly. The best way to prevent this is to monitor your flatcoat's diet and prevent access to inappropriate edibles.

RECENT EVENTS

The Association has been having a busy time since our last newsletter.

The first event was the annual dinner dance held at the Old Golf House. Although not attended by as many members as the committee had hoped for, it is fair to say that "a good time was had by all!". We decided on no disco this year (are we all getting old?) but were entertained by a quiz of two parts - the first on Flatcoats, the second on general items with some very interesting celebrities to identify. We also had an open discussion on various aspects of the breed and problems encountered. Our president, George Lancaster, was presented with gifts to mark his 80th birthday earlier in the week and Mavis, his wife, was presented with a floral arrangement following her recent stay in hospital for hip replacement surgery.

The second event was the open show at Normanton. We had another good entry. Thanks go to all of our members for your continued support. The judges' critiques form our centre spread this issue.

The third event was the health seminar held at Ashbrook Equine Hospital. The day started with our chairman, Peter Forster, speaking on locomotion and lameness and was followed by Ms A. Tattersall who explained about ultrasonic pregnancy detection with a practical demonstration on a Jack Russell in whelp. In the afternoon, Mr. M. Windsor told us how chiropractic treatment can be used for dogs and again we had a practical demonstration on a flatcoat. The owner, and anyone who saw the dog, would have sworn the dog to be sound. Mr. Windsor, however, could tell by examination that one of the bones in the spine was slightly out, probably as a result of the dog's work, and was able to administer corrective treatment quite painlessly. Mr. A. Scott gave us an introduction to homeopathy which gave us all something to consider and finally, Mr. M. Venables gave a talk on behavioural problems in dogs. He started by commenting that he had never come across such problems in Flatcoats however. Our thanks go to the hospital and vets who gave of their facilities and time freely, the comment being that they believe that education is very important in animal ownership. The committee would also like to thank Terry and Nancy Hargreaves for all their efforts in bringing this event together.

Our final event was a visit to Earl's Court, London to "man" a stand offering information about the Association and Flatcoats generally and the chance to sell some of the Association's goods. Some of you may have seen the motley crew, of Bob Kitching, Gary and Elaine Whiting, Steve Jubb with his dogs (Kath managed to escape!) and Pat White pictured in Dog World. The weekend was a success, if a little tiring for all involved, with many people visiting the stand. Autographed sets of our cards were obtained from Rolf Harris and Peter Perves and these will be raffled at our events next year.

DENISE JURY - How I got into Flatcoats

I got into dogs and Flatcoats in particular like many other people. I was expecting our first daughter, we moved house to a country area and I gave up work, so what better time to have a dog? We already had small pets and horses. The decision made, now especially with children - so we looked in the local paper. We fancied a Golden. They were so pretty and off we went to view. Well, even we could see some were not as well cared for or reared as we would have wished. Some parents bore very little resemblance to the type of dog I was looking for. Temperament, size and general quality were very mixed.

The last on the list just said "Retrievers" - no colour - no breed. So off we went and this black mob came over the hill to meet us. They were enchanting, just like normal Flatcoat pups, outgoing but very friendly and full of fun and activity - but they were black. So we came away - after all, we wanted a yellow one. At the end of the drive, Neil stopped and said he wasn't looking any further. We either had one of them or nothing. So back we went, closed our eyes and picked a bitch - or did we have the first to come us. Whatever, we went home clutching "Ebony Reliance", daughter of Ch. Waveman for 8 guineas. We had a pedigree, a registration form and stopped to buy food on the way home.

The saga doesn't stop there. How did we get from one eight week puppy to the mob we have today?

Well, pup settled in, Helen came along and life went on placidly for three years. But we knew we had an exceptional dog and thought "wouldn't it be nice to have another like her!" So we sent off her transfer and a list of questions to the Kennel Club. We knew she was a Flatcoat but we also knew Goldens sold better. We also knew they had large litters - 8 to 12 pups - and if we kept one, even two, that left 6 to 10 pups to move on. (It doesn't take a degree in maths to see that) so we wondered, if we mated her to a Golden.....?

Yes came back from the Kennel Club, they would be interbred retrievers (they didn't tell us and we didn't know that first crosses with a black are always black). But the Kennel Club did give us Nancy Laughton's address as Flatcoat secretary. So we wrote to her and she gave us Colin Wells and Joan Pettifer as likely stud dog owners. We went to see Colin who had no dogs other than the sire of ours but he passed us onto Joan Pettifer who had "Pegasus of Luda".

We contacted her. Pegasus was 5 and had never been used so expert guidance arrived at Joan's as we did and the mating duly took place and we had 8 pups - 3 bitches and 5 dogs. We kept a bitch "Nimrod Reliance", Joan had a bitch and a dog and a bitch were sold to a gamekeeper.

That left 4 dogs and at 6 months we still had 3 dogs. We took them to a championship show, in those days there was a column to tick if you wanted to sell the dog. We sold the dog and got a first with the bitch - two dogs left and our own bitch. Eventually they went to owners who still have Flatcoats today.

T A I L E N D E R S

Future Dates for your District

Annual General Meeting, Sunday, 15th March 1998 - The Auctioneer Restaurant, Brighouse, West Yorkshire. As well as the usual business, we will be presenting the President's Cup for the first time.

Open Working Test, Sunday, 22nd March 1998 - This test will be open to non members as well as members. Entry form enclosed. Additional entry forms can be obtained from Liz Geoghegan on 01772-812709.

Fourth Open Show, Saturday, 2nd May 1998 - To be held at Worsall, North Yorkshire. Schedules will be sent out with a future newsletter.

Tips of the Tail

- If your pup tends to reach you and drop the retrieve, or even throw it at you, keep your hand under the retrieve or the chin while you scratch its chest. You can then catch the dropped object before it reaches the ground and a bad habit is not started or encouraged. When you collect the object from the dog's mouth before it reaches the ground, give a lot of praise and your dog will soon hold onto it for fuss and attention. If your dog throws it at you - before he reaches you, turn and walk quickly away from him and try to take the retrieve on the walk or run. Most dogs don't drop things on the move.

- To get a puppy to come to you, you must be more exciting than the alternative. An easy way to be more exciting is to have food. A "titbit" - however small - is better than nothing. Your pup will soon come when you call just to see if you have anything and it will forgive you if you occasionally forget. By then answering to its name is a natural response and a few words of praise or a pat on the head is sufficient acknowledgement for an older dog.

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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