

# WAGGING TAILS

Issue 21

Summer 2001

## NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION Officers and Committee Members

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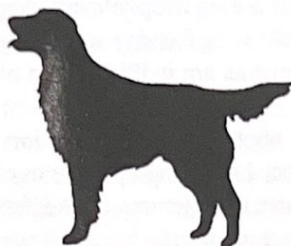
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#### Thoughts from the Secretary's Table

It seems quite incredible that our last NEFRA event was the Show last November and the only other time some of us met were at the AGM in March.

At last it has been possible to arrange a programme for the second half of the year. Details appear in this Wagging Tails and will also be in the October issue.

The Foot & Mouth epidemic has been a tragedy for so many people that I suppose our inability to hold events comes very low on the scale. We look forward to the return of 'normal times' when we can put on the events that you, and I am sure your dogs will enjoy.

Our first outing is a Training Day on July 29th - not a lot of notice I'm afraid but we do hope you will make it a bumper outing despite many dogs being very rusty due to a lack of training facilities. The following Sunday we are having a Working Test at the same venue. Details of these events are in this edition of Wagging Tails.

Thank you to all who entered the photographic competition. Overall we received 177 entries from which we had to select 14 photographs for our 2002 calendar. Two extra photographs were selected to be used as pictures on notelets. A list of the winning photographs is in this issue of Wagging Tails.

Please read the flyer that is enclosed with this issue advertising several events for September and October and I would encourage you to attend at least one of these functions if you are able.

Any ideas for future events? It is very hard to keep being original, so please get in touch. There might be a brilliant suggestion lurking somewhere.

Here's to a busy and enjoyable Summer and Autumn.

Regards Audrey

#### Litter Recorder

The litter recorder asks that if possible, will you please let her know when all your puppies have been sold. This helps to keep the information up to date and avoids disappointing potential buyers. The committee would also like to say thank you for all the recent donations sent for our help in selling your litters.

Brenda Adams

#### Flatcoat heaven

A long, cold, wet winter gave way to a cold but promising spring. Crufts loomed, there were working tests to prepare for - then 'Foot and Mouth'. Too dreadful to contemplate but a reality. Suddenly - no shows, working tests cancelled, even favourite walks were lost. My dogs and I went from leisurely strolls over Cannock Chase twice a day to road walking plus an occasional romp (them not me!) on the playing fields. It was wet too. My wellies started to develop flippers and dogs became accustomed to being hosed down and dried before re-entering the house.

I'm still not sure why I thought of it but I remembered a few years back visiting a caravan site in Oxfordshire. It was dog friendly (well behaved children were tolerated) with lots of walks. Would it be open? A quick phone call. 'Yes' as it was an arable farm. I mentioned it my friend Joyce Harris and we decided to book for the Spring bank holiday. Crufts paled into insignificance as we planned our holiday.

Cass had seen it all before and took up residence in the car (she was not to be left behind!). The others just knew something was happening. It was a gloriously sunny day if a bit windy as we pulled up beside the Harris caravan. The awnings went up hastily and we constructed a windbreak fence between them. The dogs were released, 7 Flatcoats (11 months to 6 years) bounced around in glee. Surprisingly they settled quickly into caravan life and learned to wait for zips to be opened before rushing in or out. We had a couple of escapees (they went visiting the dogs next door - 3 other Flatcoats!) They checked out each other's breakfasts and teas and swapped toys. The weather was wonderful and we walked and walked (first walk at 5.30 am.). We were soon well known (the people with the black dogs and one brown one). 7 dogs (9 one day when Sue Peake brought hers for the day) are hard to miss. The dogs regained the sparkle they had lost. They ran free, played and swam in the river, chased rabbits (they'd all been trained to distinguish between hares and rabbits of course!) and had fun.

This is a lovely quiet farm site. It has all the usual facilities, (showers, toilets etc.) and is beautifully maintained. Electric points are available and there is a separate campsite. The walks are wide mown areas around all of the fields (about 3 miles in all.) There are benches, poo bags and bins on all of the walks. The river is small and safe and easily accessible, but there are a couple of muddy ditches as we discovered on the first walk when Sam turned into a liver Flatcoat! There is even a small copse in which to hide 'blinds'. Almost everyone had dogs; all were well behaved and quiet.

Flatcoat heaven YES! People heaven definitely!

by Kate Perry (Casanjay)



### My first Flatcoat Showdog - Wizardwood Orlando (Storm)

For over thirty years Joyce and I had always been involved with obedience shows and more lately working trials, and when we lost one of our Flatcoats in November 1994 at the age of twelve, we were given the name of Peter and Audrey Forster as being one of the few breeders having a litter of puppies available. At that time we were only interested in looking for a suitable working dog to continue with our hobby of working trials. We first met Storm at the age of six weeks, and Audrey was quite intrigued by this person who rattled keys and threw things for the puppies rather than felt over the dogs and looked at their teeth etc. but Storm passed his 'test' with flying colours and we duly collected him two weeks later. As one would expect, flatcoats are great at tracking and searching and Storm was no exception, but unfortunately because of an accident, he became rather apprehensive of the jumps and although I eventually got his confidence back over a period of several months, this was all lost again following an infection in one of his front legs and it looked more and more that working trials were not for him.

In the spring of 1996 we ventured down to one of the Flatcoat fun days at Bootle, where Audrey saw him for the first time since he had left the nest. She was immediately impressed by him and asked if I had ever thought about showing him, and after using him to demonstrate how a show dog should be groomed she even persuaded me to enter Storm in the show ring where he came away with third place. Our first real show was the NEFRA open show at Normanton in November 1996 where, much to Audrey's embarrassment he got kicked out, but we had already got the bug and decided that we would keep trying. During 1997 we started with one or two local open shows and then progressed to our first championship show held by the Scottish Kennel Club and much to our delight we came away with a VHC. This was followed by Darlington where Storm was too fascinated by the judge's beard and got thrown out.

Our first real success was shortly after at Driffeld where, not only did he get 2nd place in post graduate under Jenny Donnelly but then came the realization that we had qualified for Crufts for 1998 - something way beyond our wildest dreams. And even better was to come when we got placed 3rd on those green carpets at Crufts, and the show ring was becoming more and more attractive.

The year 1999 was quite successful with four 2nd places and one 1st place in limit and we were now in the studbook - another great landmark, but I began to wonder how much better Storm might have done with a more experienced handler. This was really brought home to me at the Scottish

Flatcoat open show in October last year when Jenny Donnelly was watching with Joyce while Storm and I were going through our paces. After the class Joyce called me across and invited Jenny to tell me all the things I was doing wrong - which included the wrong colour of clothing, the wrong position for handling the dog, the

wrong pocket for the dog treats etc. etc., but it was all said very constructively and I can never thank Jenny enough for her advice.

After a winter of putting the new handling into practice our first championship show for 2001 was at Manchester in February where we were lucky enough to come away with a first in Limit but we had still not quite mastered how to keep Storm on his toes right through to the end of the show as he does tend to sag as the day progresses. The dreaded foot and mouth disease then came in and as we were in the middle of the worst infected area all showing had to stop. Shortly after I was also diagnosed with a hernia which required treatment and we now had to plan when to have the operation without getting into the way of Crufts - the show of the year where one dreams of at least getting into the cut and perhaps even getting placed.

On the day we arrived early and quickly found that my 'managers' had already been making plans for me and had decided that, because of my hernia, I must have a runner and after much discussion Sue Pingree was the chosen one, and obviously the choice was a good one because the new team came away with a first in limit. What a day that was and many thanks to Sue for her help.

The following week was the Flatcoated Retriever Championship Show at Coventry - another very nice venue with carpeted rings, and as Sue had already agreed to act as runner again, I was all set for an enjoyable and relaxing day. How wrong that proved to be. Being the major Flatcoat show of the year the entries are quite large and when Storm was again placed first in Limit I could hardly believe my luck - and not only did we get a rosette and a cup but prize money as well. But the managers were already keeping me under control and advised me to get Storm back in the car for a rest, as the day was not yet over.

Then came the line up for the best dog and the C.C. with each winning dog being individually welcomed into the ring, and the main thought in my mind as to how I could keep Storm on his toes for just a little while longer. Although my attention was mainly on Storm I could still see that some of the junior winners had already been thanked and asked to leave the ring, and after what seemed an eternity I could just see out of the corner of my eye that the judge was coming in our direction - was it towards us or the dog next to me? I could hardly believe it - Storm had finally got his first ticket, and at the Flatcoat Championship show as well. It was just too good to be true and I will always treasure that moment. And then to come away with the best in show was just icing on the cake.

Shortly after this I had my hernia operation and obviously I could not drive up to the Scottish Flatcoat Championship show at Irvine, but once again help was at hand and Sheena Wells provided the transport with Storm laid out on the rear seats, and Claire had already agreed to be Storm's runner. Again in my dreams I had thought how great it would be to repeat our recent success in Scotland and although the classes were not as large one does not really expect to be so lucky. However, once again Storm

was on his best form and his 'purple patch' was to continue - with his second C.C. and another best in show.

What a month this has been. None of our success would have been possible without all the advice, encouragement and help that we have received - many thanks to you all. We have made so many friends over the last four years and have never for one moment regretted the day when Audrey Forster suggested that we have a go at entering Storm in the show ring.

**Robert Slack**

#### Hunting of Mammals with Dogs

The Kennel Club via their Field Trial Committee through the General Committee have decided to oppose the "hunting of mammals with dogs" government bill and will produce placards for use in the next Countryside Alliance March. These placards will read "Against the Bill - in the interest of Dog Ownership"

Things must be serious; we all know what it takes to get the K.C. to move on anything. They say that the Bill as currently drafted contains a number of clauses that, in relation to dogs generally, pose immense threats. For example if any dog - worker, family pet or show dog - while off the lead chooses, as dogs often do, and flatcoats regularly do, to go off in pursuit of a wild animal - then the owner can be guilty of a statutory offence. No defence against this is defined by statute and the owner would be liable to the full consequences of the legislation, (we all know what happened with over zealous policemen, and an active general public regarding some dogs and the D.D.A.) including forfeiture and destruction of the dog and even a life ban from keeping dogs.

In the light of this the K.C. hope that all those who have the interests of dogs in mind will lend their support to this action irrespective of their views on the politics of the issue and whether or not they agree with hunting in general or with foxhunting in particular.

The Bill as currently worded is impractical, unworkable and would be disastrous for dogs and dog owners. It would potentially turn some of them into criminals because of their dog's actions - even those who don't support hunting.

**Denise Jury**

#### NEFRA Items for sale

The foot and mouth crisis has severely curtailed our social events and activities, not to mention our fundraising, so for all you shopaholics out there here are the items we have available for sale. Please send your order together with a cheque made payable to the Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association to Mrs S.J. Wells, Ravensdale, 2 Albert Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5HT.

		Cost	P & P
Sweatshirts	Printed (S & M)	£15.50	£2.00
	Printed (L & XL)	£16.00	£2.00
Sweatshirts	Embroidered	£17.00	£2.00
Polo Shirts		£15.00	£1.00
Ties	Green, blue, maroon	£10.00	50p
Metal Club badges		£2.50	30p
Ring Clips		£3.20	50p
Car Stickers		£1.25	30p
Pens		50p	20p
Flatcoat Cards (no message)	Pack of 6	£3.20	£1.00
	Pack of 4	£2.40	£1.00
Training Equipment			
Dummies (1lb)		£3.00	£1.60
Puppy Dummies		£2.00	50p
Rope Leads	Green or Black	£4.50	50p
Leather Slip Leads		£8.50	50p
Whistles		£2.50	30p
Lanyards		£1.00	30p

•Did you know that NEFRA has produced its own 'How to raise your new puppy' booklet full of useful tips and ideas for new (and not so new) owners of Flatcoat puppies. Ideal for giving to a new owner when they collect their puppy from you. Available from Mrs S.J. Wells, Ravensdale, 2 Albert Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5HT at a cost of £1.00 plus 30p p&p per booklet.

•Missed out on previous issues of **Wagging Tales**? Order your back copies from Mrs. A Forster, Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Leek, Staffs. ST13 7HA. Tel: 01538 383946 at £1.50 per edition



#### Flatcoats in trouble with the law!!!!!!

Hands up all of you who saw the Flatcoat at Crufts being escorted by the police on gundog day. What had the dog done? Was it a major crime I hear you say? Had the dog just licked once too often and was being escorted off to the clink?

No, none of the above, nor had he escaped from his bench and tried to make a break for it, the dog was none other than Benvellian Highlander or better known as Police Dog Connor who is handled by Pc Doug Marshall of the Leicestershire Police.

I caught up with Doug at the Flatcoat Open Show at Markfield where he willingly gave in to my interview technique and confessed all.

Doug has been on the Dog Section for nine years and as well as his main working dog, a six year old GSD, he has had for the last four years a specialist drugs dog. Doug has owned Connor, now three years old, since he was a small puppy and he entered active service two years ago when his old drugs dog was retired. There is also a further pet Flatcoat, Meeko aged 6 years, in the household but it is Connor who keeps them all licked into shape.

Unlike the Flatcoats used by Strathclyde Police Connor is trained as an active drugs dog as opposed to a passive drugs dog. The difference between the two being whereas the Flatcoats used by Strathclyde Police tend to make friends with everybody and then sit and smile at the people who are carrying controlled substances, Connor is trained to search rooms, building and vehicles in order to find hidden articles. Initially both Doug and Connor had to successfully complete a six-week training course and he was then licensed (to lick!) by the Home Office. Training for both is on going and as well as having to do twelve training days a year they have to be re-licensed every year by the Home Office.

Connor was initially trained to find a tennis ball, which was to become a big reward for him (no food treats for him). Once he had got the idea of finding the tennis ball it was then used to hold the controlled substance, usually a strong smelling one like cannabis. The next stage was for Connor to find the controlled substance by scratching to indicate the area and then the tennis ball was given as a reward. Connor has been trained to indicate all drugs Class A, Class B, misused tablets and even money that has been handled by a drug user.

Once Connor had been successfully trained to find all types of drugs he was then trained to find all components of a firearm. Even if the firearm has been broken down into its component parts Connor can still find them, even a small spring from the trigger.

I asked Doug what was the most rewarding part of his job when working with Connor and he felt it was when Connor had managed to find a small amount of drugs (no bigger than the size of a finger nail) in a three-bedroom house. He also felt that with Connor he had got the best of all worlds, not only had he a truly faithful companion but he had a dog that never seems to run out of stamina, he will work for over an hour searching and not giving up, with the enthusiasm that is required in finding drugs.

I asked Doug what was the hardest thing to cope with handling a Flatcoat on which he laughed and said at work Connor was brilliant but he was a totally different dog off duty citing the example when out on a walk if he manages to get a ball he will not come back with it. When involved in the search of a property for controlled substances, before Connor is let loose someone has to go in first and remove all ash trays and ornaments to a safe tail free height with coffee tables being the worst thing ever as Connor's constantly wagging tail sends things flying if they are not bolted or stuck down. I laughed, as I am sure like me you have been in the same position before.

As and when Connor retires (about eight years old) he will return to being a household pet with Doug and his family. Doug also told me that his force have just purchased another Flatcoat called Bill, a twelve weeks old Heronfleet puppy (as we all know once licked by a Flatcoat you always want another) and he will start his training in January 2002. I am sure we all wish Bill luck in his training.

As a foot note if anyone would like to have one of their puppies join the Leicestershire Police as a drugs dog or would like to sponsor Bill through his training course they can contact Doug Marshall at work in the Dog Section on 0116 2482378.

At this point I released Doug from my interrogation and let him rejoin the fun of the show.

Kathryn Trevor

#### STOP PRESS!

Subject to duty commitments Pc Doug Marshall and Police Dog Connor will be joining us at our fun day on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2001 at Woodford, Cheshire where they will be giving a demonstration of their skills. Hopefully afterwards there will be an opportunity to meet Connor face to face and ask Doug some questions about his training and experiences.

### The Art of Rolling by Inca (the Flatcoat)

The art of rolling is rather like a fine wine, it is to be enjoyed and savoured, not hurried down in one mouthful. It is a skill that is partly natural and partly acquired. I have been lucky in my choice of boss, in that she has allowed, although not encouraged, me to work on the rolling skill with which I have been naturally endowed. I therefore find myself in the enviable position of considering myself to be an authority on rolling. I am in fact considering applying to the Kennel Club to grant rolling championship status, as I am sure I would be one of the first to gain my RTCH (Rolling Trials Champion).

I have been asked by NEFRA to highlight some of my major rolling triumphs. Therefore in no specific order here are 10 chosen delights of rolling.

- FRUSTRATING** - The most frustration caused by a roll was when competing in a Working Trials UD open stake. All had gone rather well and qualifying was imminent and the last exercise was the 10 minutes down stay. With so long to think, what is a girl to do except have a good roll after 8 minutes, stand up shake, and then lie back down again!

- FUNNIEST** - The funniest roll ever happened on a walk alongside the River Trent. My spot was chosen with care as being on a rather lush patch of grass, unfortunately it was a little too close to the river bank and in mid roll I found myself rolling down the bank and into the Trent. I was rather wet on emerging back into view. My boss was bent double with laughter, as were the fellow walkers.

- DISGUSTING** - I have always found cow manure to cause the most disgusted comments from human species. The manure of choice should be fresh, wet, grass fed manure for sheer spreadability.

- REVOLTING** - Whilst on the cliffs at Scarborough, I happened upon a dead crow. I emerged from the roll with crow gizzards across my shoulders, and I proudly wore this badge for the remainder of the walk.

- NAUGHTIEST** - In typical Flatcoat fashion I have perfected the art of "borrowing" other dog's toys and rolling on them. With any luck the other dog forgets the toy and the trophy is mine.

- EMBARRASING** - The greatest embarrassment my rolling antics have caused was in the Junior Handling semi-finals at Richmond Championship show. The young person on the other end of the lead thought she was doing very well until it came to our turn to be examined.

To say I was grass surfing around the ring is probably an understatement, however my head did have a green tinge at the end of the day.

- SMELLIEST** - If I can brag a bit at this category, my forte is finding the most stagnant, festering water. To emerge from such a pool is a very satisfying achievement. This is of course how I earned my "pet" name Stinky Inky.

- GREEN** - Used as the colour, not environmental issues. As a very young puppy and not in full control of my rolling technique, I was practising on goose poo in our local park. I was not aware of the slippery effect goose poo has on Flatcoat fur, and I slithered into the "lake" which at the time was full of green algae. I was green from nose to tail.

- M.F.M.** - This is of course Master of Fox Muck. No list of rolling would be complete without a good covering of fox muck. It is preferable when out walking with the bosses' new boyfriend, and travelling in his very clean yellow car.

- MARTINI** - As the advert says "Anytime, Anyplace, Anywhere"

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### Jasper, (17.12.91 - 05.06.01) Kenjo Black Mark - Hartshead Misty Dawn

When the time came it was hard to let you go,  
My constant companion, always by my side.  
We've walked for miles across woods and hills,  
Enjoying the ever changing countryside.

I'm left with memories, your joy in water,  
Your brown eyes glowing with love for everyone,  
How I miss you lovely head on my knee,  
Goodbye my treasure, my special one.

Jasper was put to sleep to relieve his suffering from leukaemia. Our new puppy, Teal, will help to ease our grieving.

Gill Griffin



## Why Agility?

By June Moore

Zoë is my first Flatcoat. I had Curlycoats before and a Golden during my childhood, so I misguidedly thought I knew Retrievers. As time went by I realised that this exuberant, happy puppy kept the same demeanour through the years. After attending the puppy and obedience classes at the local Dog Club ending with the Kennel Clubs 'Good Citizens Gold Award' (which was a feat in itself as food refusal was part of the test!!!) I decided that competing in working tests was the way forward. It couldn't be that difficult to train a retriever to retrieve surely!!! I had never tried to train a Gundog before, and unfortunately made many fundamental mistakes, so after reading the books watching the videos and having the help of experienced trainers we are now improving in training at least. But in the 'tests' on new open ground with fresh scents you would think that she had never heard a whistle or seen a hand signal in her life before. I think a little more training is needed! But hopefully we'll get there in the end.

So what was I to do with this very willing two year old? At our dog club the two other disciplines are flyball and agility. I tried both just to give her something to occupy her mind. She had no trouble with the hurdles and box in flyball, but it all went sour when an over enthusiastic Shepherd cross decided he wanted the ball that she was returning with and it aggressively bowled her over- that was it, the flyball career had ended

She enjoyed Agility from the beginning. The jumps were no problem, the 'contact equipment' needed a little more encouragement. The first time over the A-frame, I had to crawl up the far side and call to her - she suddenly decided it must be alright if I was up there and came up with such gusto that I had to retreat, with speed ending up under a licking Flatcoat, she thought it was a great game and never looked back. As the months passed she grew more confident with all the equipment, and we gradually got drawn into the odd competition- then a few more and still more and before I realised what was happening I was getting up at 5.30 a.m., most weekends, to get to the venues to walk the courses before the 8.30 start. At these competitions we meet the other Flatcoats and owners that compete regularly, and in true flatcoats style they recognise each other through the 'sea' of collies and make a B-line for each other. Its lovely to see other breeds apart from collies and collie X's but as one of the fastest breeds they will always predominate. The only time that collies can be beaten is on the more complicated courses when their speed and over enthusiasm often causes them to make mistakes.

Unfortunately with this dreadful Foot & Mouth, up to now most of the competitions have been cancelled, but last year we competed regularly, so I submitted our points for the 'Flatcoated Retriever Society's Agility Trophy' and to my great surprise Zoë had the most points and we won.

It was a wonderful ending to an enjoyable year.

## Photographic Competition 2001

Due to the cancellation of our fun day this years competition was judged by Mr N Holland who is the contract manager of the company that produce our calendar.

We had a fantastic entry of 177 photographs all of which deserved to win. Unfortunately there can only be one calendar.

Overall Winner (Front Cover)	Helen Ladley
January	Les and Val Scarlett
February	Ken and Sandra Rees
March	Sean Taylor
April	Norma Thompson
May	Jenny and Hugh Donnelly
June	Dorothy Brooks
July	Marianne Street
August	Roz Townsend
September	Heather Parry
October	Anne Barnett
November	Mandy Romeo-Dieste
December	Ken and Sandra Rees
Information Page	Hayley Watson
Notelets	Keith Aldred
Notelets	Mandy Romeo-Dieste

Calendars will be available towards the end of the year, hopefully by the Fun Day at Woodford on 7<sup>th</sup> October at a cost of £5.50 per calendar. Price and launch date for the notelets has yet to be decided. Further details of how you can obtain your own copy will appear in the next issue of Wagging Tails.

### Presidents Cup

Due to an unforeseen problem whilst transferring data on the computer for the presidents cup results I unfortunately lost WINDYHOLLOWS TUMBLING TED. (How could anyone lose the Teddy bear?) My apologies to Pat & Nicki Colson, WINDYHOLLOWS TUMBLING TED actually finished in joint 4<sup>th</sup> place with 42 points. Six months into the year the top ten dogs for this years Presidents Cup are as follows in alphabetical order;

	Position	Points
BRAIDWYNN BERIET	4	22
Ch BRAIDWYNN BONNIE LAD	1	33
BRANCHALWOOD STRATHYBAY	2	29
CULMQUILL BLESS 'EM ALL	3	23
CULMQUILL IT'S A LOVELY DAY	10	12
Sh Ch ELMSTOCK WILDTHYME	7	18
GAYPLUME PURE STYLE	8	13
WINDYHOLLOWS NELLY MOSER	4	22
WINDYHOLLOWS TUMBLING TED	8	13
WIZARDWOOD ORLANDO	4	22

Val Orme

### BASIC RULES FOR DOGS WHO HAVE A HOUSE TO RUN

1. If you have to throw up, get into a chair quickly, if you can't manage that in time, get to an oriental rug (or any good rug will do)
2. Always accompany guests to the bathroom. It is not necessary to do anything just sit and stare.
3. Do not allow closed doors in any room. To get a door opened, stand on your hind legs and hammer with your forepaws.
4. When supervising cooking, stand behind the left foot of the cook, where you will be stepped on, picked up and consoled with food.
5. When a door is opened, use it. When you've ordered an outside door opened it is important to stand halfway out and think about several things. It is especially important during cold weather, rain, snow, or the mosquito season.
6. Begin people training early. Humans need to know the basic rules. They can be taught if you start early and are consistent.

### A Laymans Short Look At Foot and Mouth

Although I am a member of the NEFRA Committee, the following is a purely personal view and not the view of the committee.

I was as shocked as anyone when I first heard of the foot and mouth outbreak, but I thought, it shouldn't affect me too badly, but how wrong I was. Within no time at all, the council closed all the footpaths in the area. Living in the countryside, this affected exercising the dogs, in other-words, nil.

But worse was to follow. Soon there were no cattle to be seen in the vicinity, despite living in between about 3 dairy farms. How odd that seemed. Then the outbreak came close to home with outbreaks in East Staffordshire. Still apart from lack of free running exercise for the dogs, it didn't really seem to affect us fully. Then came the news of Crufts being postponed, Newark showground being closed down, Malvern closed, other show venues not allowing shows at their premises, etc. It suddenly hit home, how bad the outbreak was. No shows, no working tests, no picking-up.

What made it worse was, listening to a local farmer being interviewed on local radio, one of the farmers who had been hit. What a story he told. All his livestock, slaughtered, his son, who was at boarding school, not being allowed onto the farm when he had a holiday from school, friends and neighbours doing the shopping for them and leaving it at the end of the drive for them to pick up, decisions about which animals to slaughter first, his wife and daughter had favourite calves and lambs, they were slaughtered first without his wife or daughter knowing. And lastly, not being allowed to restock the farm for about 6 months after the last outbreak of the disease. What a nightmare he had to go through, along with hundred of other farmers up and down the country, and there I was whingeing about no shows and no free exercise.

It made me stop and think how lucky we were to own animals that are not readily affected by such a disease, that they have to be put down in their thousands, that we would not be able to have dogs for about 6 months after the last case and that we don't rely on them for a living. But as I write this, or type it, to be exact, things appear to be getting back to normal, slowly. Unfortunately it will take sometime before full normality returns.

But until then, I just think - There but for the Grace of God.....

Steve Jubb



## **T** Future Dates for your Diary

**A** Training Day – 29<sup>th</sup> July – to be near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire  
**I** Working Test – 5<sup>th</sup> August - to be held near Ollerton Nottinghamshire  
**L** Cold Game Test – Late September – to be arranged  
Fun Day - 7<sup>th</sup> October at Woodford, Cheshire further details to follow  
Seminar- 20<sup>th</sup> October at Kirk Deighton 10am start  
Open Show - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November - be held at Staveley, Chesterfield

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### **Forthcoming Open shows in our area**

Schedules for the following shows can be obtained from the respective secretaries.

**E** Matlock & District Canine Society - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August  
**N** Judge Mr G Lambert (4 classes) Sec. Mrs S.J. Monaghan Tel 0115 9278415  
**D** Rugeley & District Canine Society - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Judge Mrs P Quarterman Sec Mr D Gordon Tel 01782 564087

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### **Achievements**

**E** Congratulations to Lynholme Hazel of Suskum owned by Kim Adams and handled by David Bellamy who won the Best Game Keeper Award at Crufts

**R** The Newsletter sub committee would greatly appreciate your 'Letters to the Editor'. These will be included in future newsletters as and when space is available. Please send them to Mrs. K Trevor at the address below or e-mail to [trevorsilk@ntlworld.com](mailto:trevorsilk@ntlworld.com). Items received from members and included in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Association.

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