

Test Managers Report 4th October 2008
Wiltshire Wet Leo's,
Cotswold Sailing Club, Spinnaker Lake, Lake 9
Cerney Wick Lane, Cotswold Water Park,
Wiltshire.

We held our first ever Water Test Day at Wiltshire Wet Leo's, the venue was our new home the Cotswold Sailing Club, in Wiltshire. Our designated Test Manager for the day was unfortunately unable to attend due to family illness, which left us a little tight for hands, but a replacement was found and we moved the stewards around to cover the change in roles.

We had a good entry for our first test day of 11 dogs aging from the youngest at 9 months and the eldest at 6 years.

The weather sadly was not the best with very windy, freezing cold conditions and some rain.

Many thanks must go to our judges for the day, John Tyler and Midge Clayton who braved the cold conditions on our behalf, giving welcomed advice, encouragement and direction when it was needed and giving lots of confidence to our nervous novice handlers and dogs.

Everyone present took a turn to do some stewarding as we were a bit short of hands on the day and as everyone present were taking part in the actual tests I think they fulfilled their role well for novice stewards. Extra training in this area would be very welcome and something that all members have expressed a wish to do. We also had the luxury of a designated photographer for the day in my husband, Jamie Belcher, who documented our day for us to which we are very grateful for this record.

The wind caused fairly difficult conditions for the boat but our designated boatman for the day did admirably well considering. Our boatmen, Trevor Jones and Mark Cox, did very well considering the windy conditions and adjustments were made to compensate for the difficulties with the boat being pushed away from the desired test area in the lake.

Team spirit amongst the members was very good and all understood that they would need to lend a hand. In doing so all members secured their dogs in either cages or cars to be able to help on the day.

We saw some good passes in our group and out of the 11 dogs, 10 passed their A and 3 were then invited to take their B test of which 2 were passed.

The overall memories of the dogs passing on the day will be with us for a long time but 3 dogs in particular stand out for me: Echo our eldest dog member at the age of 6 years, who also suffers for latter stages of LP, did a sterling job and kept trying until she completed the tasks asked of her and was passed at A test level, this was a very special moment for her handler and owner Fiona and for the group who have watched this dog do so well despite her condition. The youngest dog of our group Gigi, at just 9 months also passing her test as such a tender age and with junior handler Charlotte who is just 9 year old, was very special thing to see and bodes well for their other tests in the future. Finally our newest member, Honey, a rescue Leonberger, who had only had 3 training sessions under her belt, showed enough promise to try her test, with her owner Kathleen aged 75year went on to pass their A level. All the passes were very special but these are the ones that stand out the most.

The group was also very proud to witness 2 of our male dogs pass their B tests which considering the small time we have been together as a group shows the dedication of them all. The team spirit came out when the dogs passed their B's as everyone stopped what they were doing, came out from their various shelters and came down to watch all three dogs do their best in the water, their was a big cheer for them all. Also after the test day by the members who sadly could not attend emailed and phoned to find out how things had gone, which was nice. The whole group considered the day to be very successful.

There was a total of 14 test in all.

A Test

Kennel Name	Call Name	DOB	Owner	Pass/ Fail
Kjalarnes Quana	Holly	30.06.06	Penny Tagoe	PASS
Coombevalley Ebony at Starlake	Gigi	01.01.06	Fiona & Charlotte Parry	PASS
Not Known	Honey	21.07.06	Kathleen Rutter	PASS
Leonius Titan	Ti	13.02.05	Becki & Jamie Belcher	PASS
Fieldshouse Class Act Of Starlake	Echo	13.07.02	Fiona & Charlotte Parry	PASS
Benjoeberg That'll Do	Zeus	18.06.06	Lesley Garoufalakis	PASS
Condalf Lonely Without You	Elsa	01.03.07	Emma Field	PASS
Clunkamoor Joy Rider	Juno	23.04.07	Trevor & Lexi Jones	PASS
Not Known	Oakley	18.08.06	Avis Hopkins	PASS
Not Known	Brinkley	15.10.06	Bonnie Hopkins	PASS

Judges: Mr John Tyler & Mrs Midge Clayton

B Test

Kennel Name	Call Name	DOB	Owner	Pass/Fail
Benjoeberg That'll Do	Zeus	18.06.06	Lesley Garoufalakis	PASS
Leonius Titan	Ti	13.02.05	Becki & Jamie Belcher	PASS

Judges: Mrs Midge Clayton & Mr John Tyler

Test Manager : Mrs Rebecca Belcher