

Wiltshire Wet Leos

Newsletter



Letter from the Heads of Group

Issue 3 Spring 2012



Well we certainly have had some cold weather the last few weeks, after such a mild December only to be hit with blustering winds and rain in early January which gave way to sunshine lulling us into a false sense of summer is around the corner, and then hit by freezing temperatures and snow. Lets hope the mild weather comes back and that we have some sunshine to heat up the lake!

I expect like us you have the dates placed in your diaries and you are starting to count down the weeks or even days till our first session! Remember that the lake is cold from the winter months, so make sure you bring warm clothes to change into and ensure you stay warm during your session! A wind sheet jacket is always useful to help keep out the cold. If you don't have a winter wetsuit a rash vest or something similar under your wetsuit may help stave off the cold.

We hope you are enjoying these newsletters, but they are a little one way at the moment, we had hoped for some contributions from the group as yet we have had hardly any feedback. It can be anything a picture, a success story or a funny story something that would be nice to share with the rest of the group. Please send in your contributions for the Summer 2012 issue to Bonnie.Hopkins@wiltshirewetleos.co.uk.

Preseason Meal

To help kick start the year we are organising a Preseason Meal!



We are only a small group so it is important that you come along and support this event. It's a chance to get together with our clothes on and to talk about the plans for the year ahead. It's also an opportunity for you to get time with the heads of group to discuss what you want to achieve from WWL this year and what we can do to help you to achieve it.

On booking places for the meal, please send £5 deposit per person £10 per family to Emma cheques made payable to Wiltshire Wet Leos stating the number of people. Confirmation and deposit required by the 15th March. As soon as we have a copy of the actual menu we will email this out to the group.

Where: The Old George Inn, Clarks Hay South Cerney, GL7 5UA.

When: 31st March 2012 @ 12 noon.

For more information about the venue and sample menus please refer to their website: www.oldgeorgeinn.co.uk

Directions: From A419/A417 take the Spine Road (B4696) as if you are going to the CSC. At the first cross roads instead of turning left onto Cerney Wick lane, turn right onto Station Road signposted South Cerney.

Continue on this road until you arrive at the village, turn right at the memorial which is also on the right hand side. The Old George is 300 yards on the right.

News Letter Spot Light

WWL Web Site

The WWL site is now back up and running, we have a new format and made



some changes to the content.

Have a look and lets us know what you think! www.wiltshirewetleos.co.uk

If you have any pictures or items to include in the website then please email them to Bonnie. In addition to the website we have created a few email accounts for you to contact the heads of group by they are:

Bonnie.Hopkins@wiltshirewetleos.co.uk

Fiona.Parry@wiltshirewetleos.co.uk

Emma.Field@wiltshirewetleos.co.uk

Going forward please use these email accounts to contact us.



Pop Quiz—Answers issue 2

How many did you get right?

1. Strongheart.
2. Dogue de Bordeaux.
3. Toto.
4. The Call of the Wild: Dog of the Yukon.
5. Baden-Württemberg.
6. The Irish Wolf Hound.
7. Old English Mastiff.
8. Rhodesian Ridgeback.
9. Chow Chow.
10. German Shepherd.



Scramble Quiz—issue 3

Can you unscramble the words below?

1. Bonegelerr
2. Catwuresure
3. Aidsratguru.
4. Luddnfonanwe
5. Eslotswlhwrtireie
6. Clfartwrno
7. Brosdaatr
8. Wvobawe
9. Hotvae
10. Oyulfibe



It's a Boy!

Announcing the arrival of a little brother for Bear

Proud parents with new baby Boris!



Bear and Dad ready to go to work!



We are looking forward to Boris joining in the fun with us this season!

“Ginky” has arrived!

Well life in the Parry household is never straight forward! Is she going? Is she not? And yes Fiona has, she driven all the way over to collect her new baby!



Ginky is now safely home with the rest of the family and made her debut at the Valentines Party where she came in second in the puppy class and in the sausage contest! Well done Ginky!!



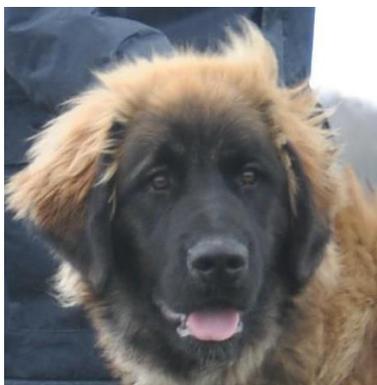
A temporary addition to the family is Ginky's mum “Buffy” who also survived Fiona's driving skills and is vacationing at the Parry's residence waiting for her human mum to be repatriated.



We are led to believe that Anglo – French relationships were not hurt in the process. No speed limits were broken and with the aid of a diagram stuck to the front windshield Fiona managed to stay on the correct side and di-
rection when

navigating roundabouts!

After a brief 13 hr drive to get to the breeder, stopping overnight for a rest and a little 14 hr drive back home it was a doddle and Fiona is rearing to go again this time to drive to the south of France!



I wonder if Fiona's next journey will take her over the Millau Viaduct?

And Fiona was worried about the Eurotunnel!



Membership

We have received all CSC memberships for this year and the cheques have been forwarded on to the sailing club. Out of the 14 people that were offered membership only 2 did not renew their membership this has brought Groups membership down to 12. We are not accepting any new members this year, but if anyone from the 2012 list drops out then we will open their place to the next person on the waiting list. We currently have 9 people on our waiting list.

List of members for 2012:

1. Beryl Fitz-Hugh
2. Bonnie Hopkins
3. Colin Brown
4. Emma Field
5. Fiona Parry
6. Lesley Garoufalakis
7. Margaret Rooke
8. Penny Tagoe
9. Rob Hall
10. Rob Stallard
11. Sharon Springle
12. Yvonne Hazelgrove

Just a reminder that Dog subs and forms are due in by 15th March!



Retrieve equipment drive

We are looking for retrieve article donations.



Some items are being put out of commission as they are no longer suitable and we want to try and expand on the different items we currently have.

If you have a toy or article that you think would be good to use and are willing to donate it to the Group please bring it along to the next training session, or even the pre-season meal. The article must be safe and suitable for water retrieves. It would be nice to find some more unusual objects to practice with.

Thank you in advance for your donations.



It would be nice to receive items which are different from our normal selection to help get the dogs used to different textures and items.

Preparation at home

You don't have to wait till our first training session, start by putting in the ground work at home getting the basics right and then moving the exercise gradually to different environments will help you to achieve better results. Don't assume that because the dog will do it at home that they will automatically transfer the knowledge to another environment especially water. But by having the basis there to build on it will help you and your dog get the most out of our training sessions.

Remember to breakdown the exercises; most of the exercises we do at WWL require the dog to do several behaviours a simple retrieve contains 5 behaviours that need to be taught separately and slowly built up to one exercise.

When initially teaching an exercise try and do it in a place with limited or no distractions, then move the exercise to new places. For example teach the exercise indoors away from any other distractions. Once the behaviour is consistent, then look to moving out to the garden, slowly going where there are more and more distractions, but sometimes going back to the easier places. The most important thing is that the exercise is fun and that dog is working happily for you. To achieve this use positive reinforcement and keep your sessions short leaving the dog wanting to do more.

One exercise which you can practice at home, and which many of the group struggle with is the retrieve. Remember the retrieve is a combination of exercises that needs to be broken down.

The Retrieve

If you are having issues with the retrieve try to work out why, don't assume that the dog is just not cooperating e.g. :

1. The dog does not want to hold the item—how many times have you told your dog off for having something in its mouth so why are you surprised that they don't want to hold something for you now.

Think about how you can make holding something a positive experience.
2. The dog does not want to give the item up—how often does giving up the toy mean game over / no reward, or by not giving the item up the dog is rewarded by your attention or even better a game of chase!

Think about how you interact with your dog for example what is the reward for the dog providing you the item? You could swap the toy for another toy of the same value, or perhaps a treat.