

The Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain Magazine

Winter 2022



Your Committee

President Jeff Horswell

Sara Hawkswell

Chair Eion Flint

email: sara@dynamicdogs.uk

email: sandytrail@btinternet.com

Tel: 07960 953925

Tel: 01751 432599

Pat and David Wescott

Vice-Chair Carl Stretton

email: p.d.wescott@btinternet.com

email: carl.stretton@btinternet.com

Tel: 01484 865363

Tel: 07563 581281

Katie Robson

Secretary Rebecca Robson

email: k8t.lou.klr@gmail.com

email: bexerob@aol.com

Angie Fieldsend

Tel: 07940 851622

email: angie@brandycarr.co.uk

Treasurer James Gosnold

Tel: 07762 416812

email: shiningtor.psd@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

Tel: 07790 095355

20th March 2023

Health Representative Vicky Wilford

Send by email to

email: v.wilford464@btinternet.com

carl.stretton@btinternet.com

Tel: 01775 750500

Copyright of information and articles included in this newsletter remains with the club and/or the

Committee Members:

author. Reproduction by any means is not allowed without written approval of the author.

Shane Flint

Disclaimer

email: sandytrail@btinternet.com

Tel: 01751 432599

The magazine contains articles and information provided by members and non-members of the PSD Club of GB. The club wishes to make it known that the inclusion of material in this magazine does not necessarily indicate approval or reflect the opinions of the club

Vikki Lucas

email: shiningtor.psd@gmail.com

Tel: 07790 095355

From the Editor



Well a remarkable thing has happened!

Having competed in KC Agility shows for over 30 years the Stretton clan broke their duck and took place in a Championship Breed show.

We entered the Midlands Counties Championship show held at the Stafford Showground at the end of October. As a veteran camper at Agility shows I was really pleasantly surprised with how friendly everyone was, with many people taking the time to help Teresa and myself get to the right place at the right time. You'll have to read Teresa's article on page 28 to see how we got on.

On behalf of the Club I would like to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Regards

Carl

Contents

From the Chair	4
Bits and Bobs from the Secretary	6
Breed Records Supplement	7
Around the Show Ring	8
Blue	11
Can you help	15
Regionale d'Olhain	16
Vet's Corner	20
Remembering	23
What a year	24
Discover Dogs (Excel Centre)	26
First timers	28
Another case for Inspector Song	31
Our day at Discover Dogs	32
Well done	34
Calendar	36

From the Chair

I hope this our last magazine of the year finds you all well and enjoying life with your little Bergers. It's been a funny old year. Activities and events have definitely opened up and it's been great getting out to show and compete with the dogs. However, whilst Covid restrictions and worries may have dropped into the background, the national turmoil in the world of politics, rising inflation and costs going through the roof have all had a dampening effect on people's confidence with reduced numbers and participation in Canine activities right across the board. Personally speaking whilst I did get the dogs out to about 8 or 9 UK shows that is about 40% less than I would have done pre Covid and I know that is the same for many of my canine friends and contacts. Show Societies have definitely had to adapt to make shows financially viable and I just wonder how the next couple of years will actually pan out?

From the Club's perspective we continue to plan and organise activities as best we can. A few things to draw to your attention.

1. Club AGM.

This will take place on Saturday 25th February at 12 noon and will be an online meeting via the Zoom App. This format has proved very successful over the last couple of years with numbers of members participating at around the 20-22 mark. The vast majority of our Club members do have internet access and therefore we do feel this is a cost effective and accessible format that enhances participation in what is an important but typically only an hour and a half meeting. We hope you all agree.

2. Club Calendar 2023

Our calendar has gone to print and availability will be limited.

Calendars will be sent out mid December and be with you in time for Xmas. The Calendar is packed full of great pictures, please support the club on this important fund raiser and ensure you have your daily "Pyrenean fix" on display throughout next year. Contact Rebecca Robson Club Secretary to confirm your order on bexerob@aol.com Details also on the club website and Facebook page. Don't miss out, remember when they are gone they are gone.

3 Membership Renewals

In difficult circumstances we are pleased that we managed to keep our membership numbers stable in 2022 and I would just thank everyone for renewing their memberships this year. We look forward to keeping your support for the breed in the year ahead. Further details are in the Secretaries section of this magazine but we are asking that you consider setting up a standing order for your annual membership subscription which greatly reduces administration and uncertainty on this important item of Club income.

4. Discover Dogs at Crufts

As usual we will be manning the Breed Stand across all 4 days of Crufts from 9th - 12th March 2023. We are currently coordinating details for Discover Dogs with the KC and whilst we will be approaching regular members that support us on the breed stand we are very happy to hear from any other members that feel they would like to come along and help out on any of the days. Please contact myself or Rebecca Robson (contact details in the inside cover of this magazine)

5. Annual Club Breed Open Show

Once again we will be holding our annual Club Show in conjunction with the Catalan Sheepdog Club of GB on the 9th April 2023 at Bearley Village Hall just north of Stratford Upon Avon. Please do get this date in your diaries as we would love to see as many club members as possible come along for a great day out. This year's show was a great success, the Spring sun shone all day, we had 37 PSD entered in the show with another 6 or 7 just coming along to socialise and have some fun.

Full details and schedules will be available on the Club Website and Facebook page towards the end of January. Hope to see you all there.

We are busy planning a number of other events to offer you next year. Do watch the Website and Club Facebook page for details in the coming weeks.

In the meantime I would just like to wish everyone a joyous and relaxing Xmas and a very happy and successful New Year with your little Bergers.

Eion Flint
Chair

Bits and Bobs from the Secretary

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will take place at 12 Noon on Saturday 25th February 2023. Due to the increase in fuel costs and still the risk of Covid, we are once again going to hold a virtual AGM via zoom to keep all members and committee as safe as possible. The AGM will follow the normal format with reports from the Chair and Treasurer.

Carl Stretton, Sara Hawkswell, Vicky Wilford and Pat Wescott are required to stand down as committee members but are eligible for re-election without nomination. All are willing to stand again. Katie Robson is required to stand down as a committee member and does not wish to stand again, thus creating a vacancy on committee.

The Secretary and Treasurer are required to stand down annually but are eligible for re-election without nomination. I (Rebecca Robson) am willing to stand again as Secretary, James Gosnold is resigning from the position of Treasurer thus creating a vacancy for the role.

Nominations for anyone wishing to stand as Secretary, Treasurer or Committee member must be accompanied by a Proposer and a Secunder and sent to the Secretary by 27th January 2023.

Applicants need to have been a member of the club for at least a year to be eligible for election to the committee or an office. Nominations will be accepted by email provided they are signed electronically.

Any items to be included on the Agenda should be signed, accompanied by a Proposer and Secunder and received by the Secretary by 27th January 2023.

Membership Renewals

In accordance with the Constitution and Rules, membership should be renewed by the 31st January 2023. If you have not renewed your membership by then, you are deemed to no longer be a member of the Club.

Please support your Club by renewing your membership by the end of January. A Membership renewal form is included in this Magazine. Payment can be made by Standing Order, Bank Transfer or by cheque. Standing Order is the Club's preferred payment method; we would ask members to consider this method of payment which reduces the administration around this important element of our annual income. We greatly appreciate your help in this regard.

Annual Points Competition

If you have been competing with your dogs this year, please send your points by 1st February 2023. A Trophy is awarded to the dogs with the most points in each discipline and Certificates of Achievement are awarded to second & third.

Please visit the downloads section on the club's website to download a copy of the relevant club Points Competition forms: <https://www.pyreneansheepdogclub.com/downloads-docs>.

Best wishes and every success in 2023. Rebecca Robson, Secretary

Breed Records Supplement

Pyrenean Sheepdog Smooth Face (IMP)

NEW REGISTRATIONS 7 Litter 2

Mrs T Stretton, 16/05/20c-EM, Jedi Knight Joverly Blue A Pas De Loup Sur L'astazou - Notterts Al Fa Black Beauty AZ1 (18/10/15, 1/3)

Notterts Char LY Arlecchino (A.I), b, c, Blue Merle

Notterts Char LY Blazing Sun (A.I), b, c, Fawn

Notterts Char LY Chaplin (A.I), d, c, Black

Mrs V Wilford, 24/06/16, Jester of Nobel's Kingdom at Cavonscourt (IKC) AZ1 - Iffa Noire Des Forges Thor at Cavonscourt (IKC) AZ1 (02/04/13, 2/5) Cavonscourt Magic Jade, d, c, Merle

Cavonscourt Midas Touch, d, c, Fawn

Cavonscourt Minstrel Boy, d, c, Blue Merle Cavonscourt Mirren, d, c, Black

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP (6)

Cavonscourt Magic Jade, AZ2, From Mrs V Wilford to Miss D Deuchar
Cavonscourt Mirren, AZ2, From Mrs V Wilford to Mrs P McGeoch

Notterts Al Fa Ace De Pique, AZ1. From Mrs T Stretton to Mrs A Atkins
Notterts Char LY Arlecchino (A.I), AZ2. From Mrs T Stretton to Mesdames S Cooper & T Stretton

Notterts Char Ly Blazing Sun (A.I), AZ2. From Mrs T Stretton to Mrs A Coogan

Notterts Char Ly Chaplin (A.I), AZ2. From Mrs T Stretton to Ms G Botto

CANCELLATIONS (1)

Cavonscourt Midas Touch AZ1 Registration Cancelled

Joint KC/BVA Hip Dysplasia Scheme **Pyrenean Sheepdog Long Haired**
Selkie Des Haies De Chiens Verts at Shiningtor AY3 RH 7/ LH 7 Total 14 (17/06/22)

Pyrenean Sheepdog Smooth Faced: Iffa Noire Des Forges De Thor at Cavonscourt (IKC) AZ1 RH 5/ LH 6 Total 11 (16/06/15)

Joint KC/BVA Elbow Dysplasia Scheme

Pyrenean Sheepdog Long Haired: Selkie Des Haies De Chiens Verts at Shiningtor AY3 - 0 (17/06/22)

AROUND THE SHOW RING

I can't believe that Xmas is upon us already with just a few weeks left to get organised and to be honest I am just starting to panic. On the show front Scottish Working and Pastoral Breeds Show at the beginning of November was in effect the last Champ Show offering breed classes for 2022. Eion made the trip up to Edinburgh with Blue and Gasti and it was nice to see Sara and Alister Hawkswell with Smidge (Sandytrail Angélique) also entered. The full results for all the shows through August, September, October and November are summarised at the end of this article. Numbers attending Champ shows offering breed classes was down in the second half of the year with people being more selective given the cost of entries and travel. However, I would just like to thank all those that did manage to get along and make sure that the breed was represented.

Just a few to highlight. Well done to Rebecca Robson and Hera (BOB at Darlington), Jeannie Gwilliam and Twist (BOB AT South Wales), Sara Hawkswell and Smidge Reserve Best Bitch in a very competitive entry of 18 dogs in the AVNSC competition at SKC). Also not forgetting my husband Eion with Blue, who managed to win BOB at 4 Shows.

On the PSD (Smooth Faced) front massive congratulations to Teresa Stretton and Pan (Notterts Bra Vo Pan Pan Pan) who was entered in the Import Breed Register classes at Midland Counties Champ Show. Teresa and Pan took a nice 1st in the Post Graduate class as well as 1st in the Special Beginners Class. They are now qualified to compete at Crufts, next year, Well done to them.

Finally I would just like add a few comments about the Nationale D'Elevage organised by the RACP (the French breed club) and held each year in September down in the Pyrenees at Argeles Gazost. We regularly report on the event each year in this magazine and I am sure club members will be familiar with what takes place. We booked an 8 day trip this year giving us a few days either side of the main Competition weekend to meet up with friends and enjoy the beautiful mountains. The British contingent attending this year was much reduced with only ourselves (me, my husband Eion and son Dan and 3 of our PSD Blue, Gasti, and Madge) and Chris and Liz Lewis with their PSD Geordi present.

The event really kicks off on the Friday when we meet up with all our friends from the Belgian Club up in the Mountains at Lac D'Estaing for a super walk and lunch. There were in excess of 50 people and their PSD taking part this year. A full weekend followed with a Championnat de France Agility Competition, A full International Championship Showing competition, Herding Instinct and Temperament testing and much more. It was so special meeting up with so many people at this very special international gathering but especially with all our Belgian friends many of whom have been members and supporters of our own UK Club for many years.

The highlight of our trip was to be invited to join the Belgian group along with Chris and Liz Lewis for a fantastic evening meal in one of the local restaurants on the Sunday evening after the competitions were over. We actually had a table for 18 people, the food and company were excellent and much merriment was had by all. The dogs didn't do too badly as well with some brilliant results over the weekend. Results for all our Club members are also listed below. Can't wait until next year. In the meantime here's wishing everyone a Merry Xmas. Hopefully catch up with some of you in 2023. Shane Flint
Sandytrail Pyrenean Sheepdogs

August 2022

Bournemouth Canine Assoc (Judge: S Bennett, 3 entries)

Best of Breed/Best Bitch/Best Veteran: Flint's, Bel Fin Ch Sandytrail Ensorcélé

Best Dog: Flint's, Sandytrail Sorcerer

Res Best Dog: Flint's, Gastibelza de L' Oustaou de Padel

Welsh Kennel Club (Judge: J Peak 3 Entries)

Best of Breed/Bitch/Veteran: Flint's, Bel Fin Ch Sandytrail Ensorcélé

Best Dog: Flint's, Sandytrail Sorcerer

Res Best Dog: Flint's, Gastibelza de L' Oustaou de Padel

September 2022

City of Birmingham (Judge: D Smith, 2 entries)

Best of Breed/Best Bitch: Flint's, Bel Fin Ch Sandytrail Ensorcélé

Res Best Bitch: Flint's Entre Nous Romance Sans Paroles

Darlington Dog Show Society (Judge: I Blackshaw, 1 entry)

Best of Breed/Best Bitch: Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit

October 2022

South Wales Kennel Assoc (Judge: K Young, 1 entry)

Best of Breed/Bitch: Gwilliam's Ready or Not du Pic D'Espade of Amienko

Scottish Kennel Club (Judge: G Gillanders)

AVNSC Classes (18 entries, 5 abs)

Res Best Bitch: Hawkswell's, Sandytrail Angélique

Midland Counties (Judge: I McManus)

AV Pastoral Import Breed Register Classes (22 entries, 10 abs)

1st Post Grad Dog - Stretton's Bra Vo Pan Pan Pan (Smooth Faced PSD)

Best Spec Beginner - Stretton's Bra Vo Pan Pan Pan (Smooth Faced PSD)

November 2022

Working and Pastoral Breeds of Scotland (Judge B Croft, 3 entries)

Best of Breed/Best Bitch: Robson's, Bel Fin Ch Sandytrail Ensorcélé

Res Best Bitch: Hawkswell's, Sandytrail Angélique

Best Dog: Flint's, Gastibelza de L' Oustaou de Padel

International Shows (Club Members Results)

RACP National D'Elevage (Argeles-Gazost Sep 2022)

Champion Male (Judge D Schwartz 2 entries)

1st Excellent - Flint's Bel Fin CH Gastibelza de L'Oustaou de Padel

Veteran Male (Judge B Dugue 3 entries)

3rd Excellent - Lewis's Geordi de L'Oustaou de Padel

Jeune Female (Judge B Dugue 20 entries)

Excellent - Vlerick and Van Pelts Soleil d'Estive du Chalet des Pyrenees

Open Female (Judge A Pécoult 38 entries)

Excellent/Final 7 shortlist - Flint's Sandytrail Magie Noire

Working Female (Judge A Pécoult 3 entries)

2nd Exc- Vlerick and Van Pelt's CH Jolie Joyeuse de L'Oustaou de Padel

Champion Female (Judge A Pécoult 8 entries)

3rd Excellent - Flint's Bel Fin Ch Sandytrail Ensorcélé

Excellent - Vercoutere's CH Pommelle de L'Oustaou de Padel

Veteran Female (B Dugue 8 entries)



“Blue”

Sandytrail Ensorcélé



I don't normally write about any of my dogs on a individual basis in the magazine but I feel it is time to share a little bit more about a very special girl that we bred and own and who has been flying the flag for the breed in the Show Ring, both here in the UK and also internationally for the last nine and a half years. The decision to write something was really triggered by her latest results at the Working and Pastoral Breeds Champ Show up in Edinburgh at the beginning of November. Blue won Best of Breed under judge Barry Croft but went on to take Group 2 in the Pastoral Group final under the KC's top all rounder judge Frank Kane, which was a tremendous achievement for a rare breed. It was also fitting that Barry Croft gave her the BOB at this latest show as he was the first to judge her at the start of her career at Sunderland Open Show when he gave her BOB at the age of 7 months beating her father.



She went on to win the Puppy group and was also placed Group 4 in the adult competition that day. A real sign of things to come.

We have recently been tidying up our dog office at home where we keep all our paperwork, trophies, rosettes etc and it has been interesting to add up what all our dogs have been winning over the years. Whilst a number of our dogs have had a lot of great results I would just like to share Blue's achievements over the years, which has been exceptional.

Blue holds 42 UK Best of Breed titles, She has won Best of Breed 3 times at Crufts in 2016, 2018 and also this year 2022 at the age of 9 years. Winning BOB entitles dogs



to go on and compete in the Pastoral Group where at UK Championship shows there are typically 30 or so BOB winners all competing for one of the coveted top 4 places. Over the years Blue has been a consistent top performer in the Pastoral group competition regularly reaching the final 8 shortlist

but has also gone on to win 9 Group places over the years.

In the Our Dogs Top dog Competition Blue has won Top Pyrenean Sheepdog Puppy title and the Top Pyrenean Sheepdog title on 3 occasions. She has held the Top Brood Bitch title 4 times which is especially gratifying as points for this come from her various progeny that are also out competing and winning top honours at shows.



Blue also has an outstanding track record Internationally. She is a Belgian and Finnish Champion. She has won 7 Best of Breeds and holds in excess of 14 Champion Certificates (CAC and CACIB) from shows in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Finland. It is particularly pleasing that

she has won a number of her championship certificates (CAC's) at the National Breed Club shows of Belgium and Finland where competition was particularly strong with large entries. Blue has been a consistent performer at the RACP'S



Nationale and Regionale D'Elevage competitions in France where she has held the Intermediate Female title and the Champion Female titles twice. 4 of her CAC and CACIB'S have been won at French Championship Shows including the Championnat de France.

Whilst I could go on I had better stop there. As is probably evident my passion for this little dog is clearly huge. Blue is one of those "once in a lifetime" dogs that come along very rarely and it has been and still is a privilege to own and live with her. For those that don't know her I have included a few photos of her from the last 9 years. She will be 10 in February but shows no signs of slowing down and remains in top condition.

She will continue to fly the flag for the breed from the veteran classes and when she is ready she will hopefully take a long and deserved retirement.



Eion Flint

Sandytrail Pyrenean sheepdogs

Can you help?

A call for budding Editors



Having edited the magazine for 5 years I am looking to stand aside after the next edition in March 2023.

If you would be interested in taking on this important role that spreads the Pyrie word amongst our member community please get in touch.

Full training and a proper handover will be given along with any support needed on future editions of our brilliant magazine.

Carl Stretton

Regionale d'Olhain

The RACP Regionale d'Elevage

Parc d'Olhain October 2022

The venue for this Regionale Breed Show for the RACP Club is the Parc d'Olhain which is situated about 1hr 20 minutes from the North East coast of France, and is well signed posted and easily accessed from main routes.

The Chateau d'Olhain was built in the middle ages and is surrounded by a moat, it is the most amazingly picturesque French Castle and has been



scheduled as an historic monument since 1989.

It is surrounded by huge parklands and woods, that contain a Golf Course, Parcours Course to name just two of the number of various activities on offer, and also has a large cafe and meeting halls.

All sorts of Shows, Horse, Running, Cycling etc., events happen throughout the year, the park is run by the local department (council) and is free to access and is very popular with families.

It is a fabulous venue for the Regionale d'Elevage, it is normally a biennial event, but it was a welcome return after a four year break because of the COVID Pandemic.

The weather was excellent - a cold start (I had frost on my car windscreen) but it then turned into a blue sky and sun day.

Sadly the view that can be had from 'La Plaine' at the top of the parc where the show was held, down onto the Chateau and moat below did not reveal itself for most of the day as it stayed misty in the vallee below.

Back on La Plaine it was an extremely enjoyable and successful day in the sun.

A nice moment was after Lunch, before the show continued, all the different Breeds of the French Pyrenean Dogs were called to gather together in the Ring de Honor.

It showed the differences between the dogs and it was a unique moment to take part in.

My male Midas was 1st Excellent in Face Rase Classe Ouverte Male and reserve best dog.

My female Iffa was 1st Face Rase Classe Champion Female - and Best Female - then becoming Best Opposite Sex

So a very good day for me.

It was also a good day for two Belgium members of the Club who had crossed the border to attend the day. Their long haired Berger des Pyrenees were successful in their classes and gave a good show in the 'Ring de Honor'

Eddy Van Pelt et Veerle Vlerick's Ch Jolie-Joyeuse de l'Oustaou de Padel was 1st Excellent in the Female Classe Travail (Work Class).

Maire-Anne Vercutere's Ch Pommelle de l'Oustaou de Padel was 1st Excellent in Female Champion Classe.

Her Ch Lorelei du Pic de Pioulou was given Excellent in the Veteran Class but was beaten by Hinano du Moulin d'Ebene, who looked to be in the form of her life, as she flowed round the Ring. Hinano was given long haired Best of Breed - and then Best in Show. She did look fabulous as she completed her victory trip round the Ring of Honor.

A big thank you to the Committee and members of the RACP whose commitment to continue to make this Regionale d'Elevage happen is very much appreciated.

Thank you to Lynn who took photographs and lent me her camera to take more, and helped with the logistics of having two dogs in the ring one after the other.

Vicky Wilford

RACP Regionale Parc d'Olhain October 9th 2022 -

Berger des Pyrenees - results

Face Rase - Male- judge M. Norbert

Gainche

Classe Baby

1st TP. - Teddy du Champ d'Onix

Classe Jeune

1st Ex. Soltice des Monts de Nord - Best Male

- Best of Breed *

2nd TB. Sydney on the Rocks des Monts de Nord

3rd TB. Sazou du Champ d'Onix



Classe Overte

1st Ex. Cavrancourt Midas Touch

2nd Ex. Merlin des Forges de Thor

3rd Ex Nils de l'Oree des Sapins



Face Rase - Females- Judge Mme Anne-Marie Class

Classe Overte

1st Ex. Thenis des Forges de Thor

2nd Ex. Racing Show des Forges de Thor

3rd Ex. Pierre Noire des Monts du Nord

4th Ex. Lucrece de la Patonniere

Classe Champion

1st Ex. Iffa Noire des Forges de

Thor - Best Female - Best

Opposite Sex *

Poil Long - Male- Judge M. Norbert Gainche

Classe Jeune



1st Ex. Scooby du Coteau d'Oli

Classe Intermedieate

1st Ex. River Black du Moulin d'Ebene

Classe Overte

1st Ex. Raelsan de la Mesta Pastores -

Best Male - Best Opposite Sex *

2nd Ex. Napoleon des Plaines de Tigny

3rd Ex. Nikos des Forges de Thor



Face Rase - Females- Judge Mme Anne-Marie Class

Classe Jeune

1st Ex. Sorrow Mea de la Mesta Pastores

2nd Ex. Soleil d'Estive du Chalet des Pyrenees

Classe Overte

1st. Reine Lagherta de la Mesta Pastores

2nd Ex. Porche Blue Christal des Forges de Thor

3rd Ex. Nina Blue de Moulin d'Ebene

4th Ex. Noumea du Moulin d'Ebene

Classe Travail

1st Ex. Ch. Jolie-Joyeuse de l'Oustaou de Padel

Classe Champion

1st Ex. Ch. Pommelle de
l'Oustaou de Padel

Classe Veteran

1st Ex. Hinano du Moulin
d'Ebene - Best Female - Best of
Breed -* Best in Show *

2nd Ex. Ch. Lorelei du Pic de
Pioulou



CORNER

VET

Some thoughts on spays... Tabi was spayed in early November so (unsurprisingly!) I've been thinking about spays a lot recently these are just some thoughts...

1. Dogs are amazing. Their resilience in general, but especially to surgical procedures, literally astonishes me every day
2. BUT just because they are resilient doesn't mean we should take this for granted. And I think this is really true of spays - which are so normalised in our culture. Just because something is *routine* does not mean it is *minor*. At the end of the day, a spay is still abdominal surgery.
3. I think a spay presents lots of 'firsts' to many dogs, and is often carried out when dogs are prepubescent or adolescent (and, therefore, still hugely impressionable behaviourally) so I wonder if we could/should do more as owners and vets to prepare or support them? for example...
 - a. working on them being ok with restraint, or finding an alternative: I feel like lots of girly dogs come in to be spayed when they've previously had puppy vacs done and maybe not a lot else. Then all of a sudden we want to place an i/v or give a pre-med injection in the muscle and maybe some of them aren't comfortable with this type of handling? Tabi definitely isn't ok with restraint from strangers, so about 2yrs ago we taught her to cooperate with i/v placement using a tourniquet with Alex just holding her leg up for me. We practised this again in the run up to her spay and placed the i/v between us at home (obvs helps I am a vet!). I have also taught owners to hold their dogs for i/vs, or had dogs learn to sit without restraint for intramuscular injections - but this all takes some training and cooperation/preparation between vet and owner. I did also give her some calming medication very early that

morning to help her feel relaxed with the whole procedure. Pre-appointment meds are very useful and under-used IMO

- b. being away from the owner: some dogs really struggle being kennelled at the vets. It's worth working on this (or at least identifying it as a problem!) ahead of time so we can all do something about it. At my practice we are very lucky to have a garden room and different styles of kennel to give dogs more or less privacy as they prefer - and try to facilitate owners of nervous dogs being present as early in the dog's recovery as possible where necessary. yes - I got to cheat here because I was with her as she went to sleep and when she woke up.
- c. post surgical pain/discomfort: There is lots we vets do to mitigate this but I still don't think we should kid ourselves that a spay is pain-free. Lots of dogs seem to sail through but, knowing that Tabi is quite sensitive to discomfort (read - has been known to have a crisis if a big leaf sticks to her I made sure we managed her pain as much as we could - 3 days of anti-acids prior to surgery to guard against the effects of reflux under GA (quite common with abdominal surgeries) - anti-emetic injection as part of her premed (some spays feel a bit sick on recovery which delays them starting to eat etc. I didn't want to risk adding this problem into the mix) - local anaesthetic use in the procedure (block pain where you can) - a follow up opioid pain killer injection after surgery as well as typical 'to go home with' pain relief (please be reassured that all of this is given either as standard, or when identified as necessary, to any patient)
- d. a suit or cone to protect the incision. Well, no way Tabi would wear a buster collar/cone. So - a suit for us. But I bought this in advance of the procedure and did some 'happy sessions' with her wearing the suit whilst we did nice things, like clicker training or toy play, before her op. Wearing a suit might not phase some dogs, but actually I reckon many people would be surprised by how many dogs freeze or shut down when a surgical suit is put on them post-op. And it's such an easy thing to condition - so why not do it?
- e. restricted exercise post op: Lots of spays go well, and then the dog feels great soon after, and then they overexercise.... and you can get post-op complications resulting in pain, the need for

prolonged rest, or even repeat surgery (or all of the above!). So it's worth thinking about this in advance.

Yesterday afternoon I set up some scent work for the other dogs, and then asked Tabi if she wanted to play too. It involved minimal motion so I felt she was safe to take part - and she was

super up for it and seemed really cheered by having had something to do. Today maybe we will do some static tricks or maybe I will make her a 'scent box' from a walk off the farm. I am lucky that my work have let me use holiday and vary my hours so that I can be with her a lot of the time in these first few days post op



All of this to say that most dogs cope really well with being spayed - but I don't think this means we should take it for granted, especially for some of our more sensitive pets/patients.

If this all sounds like overkill to you then I am more than happy to be branded 'that' owner, or for people to think that she is a 'princess' because, actually, I am pleased that we've maybe over-prepared. Her recovery is going very well - and perhaps it would have without any prep too - but I think some of the above helped make it less stressful for her.

I definitely believe in the motto 'fail to prepare, prepare to fail

(ps. if/when to spay is a whole other debate - but I will also say that I got really lucky with the timing, as it transpired she was brewing a pyometra so we got off lightly catching that before it became caused her an issue!

Bea Newman
Taken from social media post with kind permission

Lest we forget

It was good to see two of our Pyries showing their respects on Remembrance Day.

The Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain remember those who gave their lives in Service of our Country



Club Dog Walk and Agility Training Day

Unfortunately the Agility training day and club dog walk scheduled for the 8th and 9th of October had to be cancelled due to low numbers and illness.

Future events will be organised for next year and posted on the club Facebook page

What a year

I am hugely proud of Ace's achievements this season. The main ones are:- qualifying for both the Crufts Large G3-5 ABC semis due on Sunday 16th Oct at Discover Dogs, plus the KC Agility Stakes Large ABC G5-7 semis which are now due to be held on 30th October at Easton College in Norwich. It was my ultimate goal to qualify for just the Large Crufts 3-5 ABC, so I made a list of all the qualifying shows that weren't a million miles away and we were lucky enough to get consistently placed in the top 5 in most of them and somehow managed to climb to the top of the leader board which was hugely exciting!



Then we managed a few 1st places here and there at a few shows over the summer and Ace progressed to G5, hence why we tried our arm at the KC Agility Stakes C5-7 at Empingham DTC thinking that we wouldn't stand a chance against so many highly experienced grade 5 to 7 ABC dogs, but was hopeful of maybe a nice steady clear and daring to dream that we might sneak into the top 10 to qualify. However Ace decided that he really liked the tricky trappy course and went for it and brought home a first place! To say I was gobsmacked was an understatement! It truly was our lucky day and totally unexpected! So as if all that excitement wasn't enough, we decided to go to a show last weekend, mainly to support one of my lovely customers who has just started competing with her amazing G2 dog, plus I thought it would be nice to just have one last weekend away in the caravan with the dogs for the season before packing it down for the winter.

I had absolutely no expectations of Ace as I had set myself a goal of trying to win out if G5 next season as we still required 2 more wins, but I didn't want to rush him as I was really enjoying the 4,5 classes and was already more than satisfied with what we had achieved together already this year, but again Ace had other ideas and was super accurate on all 6 of his runs over the weekend gaining 2 very respectable unplaced clears, 2 x 2nd places and 2 x 1st places meaning that he progressed up to G6! It has taken



me all week to finally come down from Cloud 9 as I am so unbelievably proud of my amazing boy! Ace has totally surpassed all my expectations. I really couldn't ask for more from him! The love and trust he has for me and I for him is unbreakable. I thank Teresa & Carl and my lucky stars everyday for Ace. He has taught me that anything is possible when you have a dog that is 100% devoted to you. He is my soul mate and I cannot imagine my life without Ace in it.

Alisa Atkins.

Congratulations Alisa and Ace. We look forward to hearing how you got on at Discover dogs and the KC semi's in the spring magazine.

DISCOVER DOGS

London Excel Centre



Really busy weekend at Discover Dogs down in London but managed to fit it in with a long weekend stay with my son, Dan. I had a

bit of a glitch with my phone, managed to sort it out today when I got home. All the dogs were brilliant and did a great job for the breed. Massive thanks to all our human helpers and their little Bergers.

Eion Flint



Day One: Saturday 15th Oct

Attendees: Long Haired:

Blue (Eion Flint)

Suzie (Roy Norman)

Smooth Faced:

Pan (Carl and Teresa Stretton)

It was good to see both stands well manned and well attended by what seemed like a never ending stream of people wanting to get to know our funny little dogs.



Day Two Sunday 16th Oct

Attendees: Long Haired:

Blue (Eion Flint)

Scrumpy (Julie and John Farrar)

Babette (Iain Titterington/Jill Wanless)

Smooth Faced:

Finn (Carl and Teresa Stretton)

Raven and Nevar (Sally and Dana Cooper)

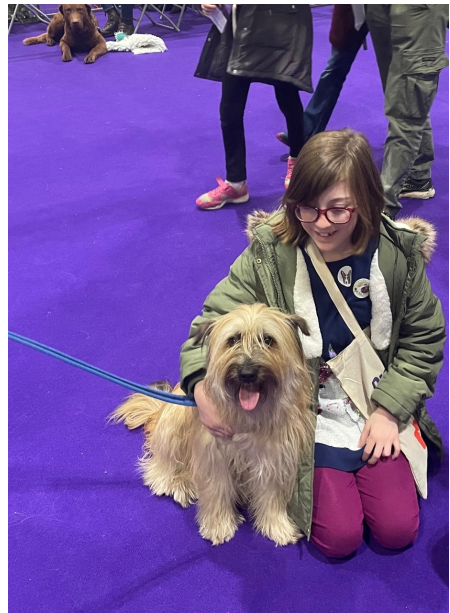
Ace (Alisa Atkins)

The dogs really gave their all but the visitors had to take me at my word late in the day when I was trying to

convince them that the dogs were full of energy and never stopped—as Finn was absolutely crashed out after several hours of meeting and greeting and was lying flat out at my feet!

If any of you are wondering whether you should give it a try please give it a go—get in touch—we are looking for volunteers to help man the stand at Crufts next March.

Carl Stretton



First timers

With the Pyrenean Sheepdog Smooth Faced now being

a recognised KC breed I thought I had better have a chat with Vicky Wilford to find a nice local show to enter Panther in. As with agility shows the breed show calendar seems to have a show on every weekend and also as agility some are Championship shows some Open and others breed specific all something that is all new to me and is a bit overwhelming when it comes to reading the schedules and making sure I have entered into the correct classes, registering online with Fosse data did help but I was still convinced I had entered the wrong classes. Anyway, we are based in the Midlands which seem to have some lovely venues where lots of dog disciplines use and I thought it would be a good idea to combine a camping trip with the motorhome and a breed show. Vicky came to my rescue and gave me a short list of shows that have the Any Variety Imported Breed register classes, these are the only classes we can enter at the moment. The Showgrounds seem to be excellent venues and so we choose the Midlands County Canine Society show at Stafford Showground at the end of October, I duly entered online I had two classes on the Friday I could enter, Post graduate and Special beginners this being pastoral day on this 4 day championship show.

I downloaded the camping passes, bar codes with my entries on and a map of the showground a week before the show. I emailed Fosse data as I was a little concerned as I had no camping pitch number or could see no camping area indicated on the map where we would be camped. Was this going to be a good idea 3 days camping at the end of October with 4 dogs for a few minutes in a breed ring. Fosse data reassured me that it would be OK just turn up at the showground and the security would help us out, oh dear having seen the organisation that goes into camping at agility shows I was dreading "just turning up" mid-way through Day 1 of the show.

Anyway, an easy journey up the M6 and we were greeted by security and was directed to Just find a space with the other caravans' and motorhomes. Carl filled up the water while I did a recce of the camping area and after chatting with a few campers (some had been there since the Tuesday) I felt happy with our slot which overlooked the camping area of approx. 100 caravans and set up camp. Who needs a 10x 10m camping slot with a pre obtained number which is all marked out on the ground, this was easy, hassle free and so friendly.

We decided to have a look around the indoor arenas after we had sorted the motorhome fed the dogs etc. It was already dark but the venue still had the doors open so we found the Best in Show ring where the schedule had said our classes would be as we where first in the ring at 9am. What I did not expect was all the effort the show organisers had gone to inside the Bingley Hall. It was after all Halloween weekend and the halls were decked out with beautiful orange, purple and blue flowers and the main ring also was blue carpeted and a much bigger ring to strut your stuff. The best in Show winners had a banner for every year which hung around the halls and the top veranda in the hall had plenty of doggy related stalls. Although it was 9pm there were people hoovering the carpets putting out the ring cards for the pastoral day in the benching and generally it looked like the show had some amazing helpers.



I collected my catalogue at 8am sharp from the chief steward the next morning and I was in the ring with 4 white Shepherds according to the listings, it seemed really



odd to see my name and Panther's in a formal Breed catalogue but also very proud, it has been a long time coming from picking up the wonderful Jetty way back in Dec 2011 to now being able to show his son as a UK recognised Breed.

Panther wasn't very keen on the benching area but settled really well around the best in show ring while we waited for our turn.

The Judge Anne Miller arrived and the ring stewards started to get the ring organised, a lovely owner of a white shepherd gave me the nod that it was time to go in, I hesitated as I thought I would let the shepherds go in first and so I could at least watch them, but oh no the 3 Shepherds had not turned up so it was Panther and I straight in. I gave the judge a quick I am really sorry its my first time and she was lovely very aware of the wary nature of the



breed but Panther seemed to like her and she was able to go over him pretty well. My stride pattern was totally rubbish but we gave it our best and he was awarded 1st place. Panther just loved it in the ring and by the time he had been in and out for the special beginners and then the overall he thought this is great mum and I get biscuits, so I was very pleased with him. I on the other hand need plenty more practise to help him show himself off a bit more.

What I hadn't realised was that all the special beginner winners qualified for an overall class just before the Best of Show group final in the evening. Our judge in the evening pre judged us in another ring before we where all introduced individually before the panel in the main ring. It was lovely to get this opportunity and show of the breed at this fantastic show. We were not placed but I felt we gave it our best with plenty more to learn.

We stayed at the venue for a couple of nights camping which was great with plenty of space to exercise the dogs but most of all everyone we spoke to where really friendly and they also had 3 cafes' serving all day breakfast and a farm shop. A great weekend to start our little bit of breed showing and we now have the opportunity to strut our stuff at CRUFTS 2023. Well Done, Panther Notterts Bra Vo Pan Pan Pan you are a star. So if you fancy starting to do a bit of showing of our wonderful breed I would thoroughly recommend the Midlands County Canine Society show.

Teresa Stretton

Another case for Inspector Song



I could have sworn
my newsletter had
arrived

this reading lark is
so tiring



SCRUMPY!!, why's my
newsletter hidden
under your bed?!



What will be the next case for Inspector Song to solve?

Find out in the next exciting episode of:

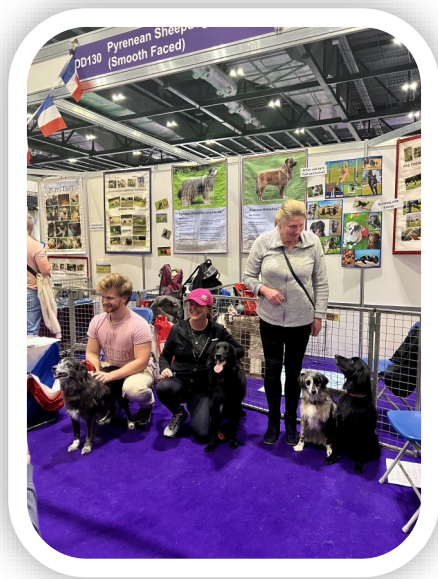
Another case for Inspector Song

Our Day at Discover Dogs 2022

By Raven and Nevar

We knew we were going somewhere because mum gave us a brush and packed a rucksack with lots of pots of treats,

Sunday morning, we were up early and our breakfast bowls seemed rather empty but mum said something about having lots of treats throughout the day.



We got put in Dana's car, a sure sign it's not agility training or a show and most probably not cannicross or a walk because we left the other dogs at home.

We slept for the whole journey and when we woke up, we were parked next to Teresa and Carl. After the humans had had a little chat off we all went.

We were at a place called EXCEL Centre in London. In we went, luckily, they chose the stairs and not the lift because

we were not keen on the lift the last time.

Once we were inside, we knew exactly where we were.... we had done this twice before!

Carl showed us where the PSD stand was, and we got settled in.

It was nice and quiet to begin with but that soon changed! As the day got going it got very busy. So many people wanting to stroke us and wanting to



talk to Mum and Dana. Lots of questions (some rather silly ones!). Later in the morning we had a visit from Ace and Skye, our relatives. They were very lucky and got to play agility in the ABC finals.

Finn came to talk to the people while we went for a toilet break and Mum and Dana got some lunch.

Two ladies from the KC came to visit the stand to talk about the Pyries, luckily Adam was there with Finn because I don't think we would have liked her following us with

that big camera. Finn performed so well for the camera. Mum said she has tried to find the footage but can't, if anyone knows where to look, please let her know!

After lunch Finn went back for a rest and it was down to us to look pretty and be sociable.

We left DD about 16:30, we were both very tired and crashed out in the car on the way home.

Mum said she was super proud to own such beautiful dogs and be able to show them off to the public. She also said she was proud of us for being so well behaved.

We are hoping we will be invited back to do another DD because we quite enjoy it (after all it is the only place where we are fed treats all day!).

Sally Cooper



Well done

Tabi and Benne win grade
2 Agility taking them to
grade 3



Happy 15th Birthday AST!



Panther qualifies at
Midland Counties Canine Society
show for CRUFTS 2023

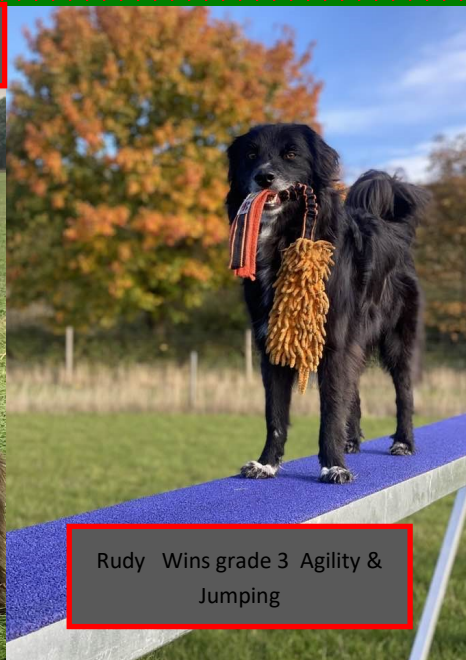


Raven achieves his second win in grade 6
agility . Nevar wins the steeple chase.

Pixie Wins into grade 6



Rudy Wins grade 3 Agility & Jumping



Odie achieves his first puppy walk rosette at Ringcraft training
Congratulations



Skye wins into Grade 6

Congratulations
David Anderson

Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of GB Calendar 2023



Now Available for Order
Delivery in time for Xmas
Still amazing Price £10 inc P&P
Email: bexerob@aol.com



The Committee of the PSD Club of GB

wish you

a



Merry Christmas

& a Happy New Year