

SUMMER 2020

PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG

The Newsletter of the Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain



So is your dog a star
Calling owners near
And far for photos
For the Calendar
2021

Please email:
bexerob@aol.com

Of you with your dogs
in action OR in-action
Let's have fun !

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Shane Flint

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The newsletter 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 newsletter does not necessarily indicate approval or reflect the opinions of the club

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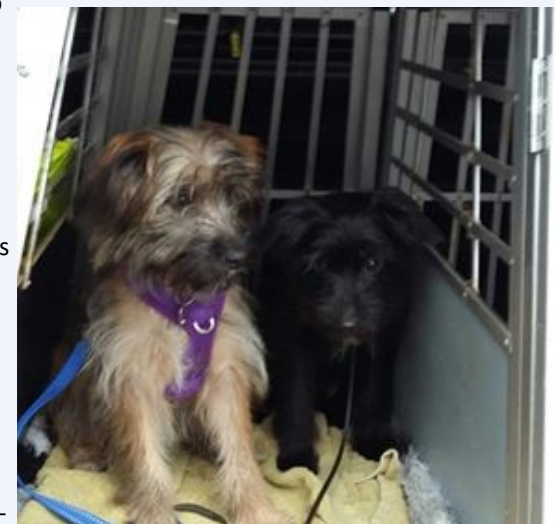
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If your dog is car sick then try travelling them in a different part of the car. Moving their crate from the boot on to the back seat (ensuring it is secured) can make the journey less bumpy.

If your dog is happy in the car when stationary have someone sit near to them interacting with them while making short journeys. This can distract them.

If your dog is anxious or stressed in any way as soon as they get into the car then you need to give them the choice whether to get in or not. If necessary set up a step or similar so they can choose to get in and start playing games around the car/boot. Get them taking treats off the step/car until they are brave enough to step in. Build on this 'til they are keen to get into the car.

If your dog is happy travelling with you but not happy with being left in the car then you may need to work on having your dog settle in your absence more generally. Until your dog is happy settling in your car on your drive don't leave them in the car elsewhere. Work on building up time alone first.



Most dogs that show signs of distress (car sickness, panting whining etc) are finding the journey stressful. First check they are happy in the car – go back to basics and practise letting them spend time in the car, having snacks etc. Only travel if you really have to until they are settled.

If your dog is reacting to things out of the window (barking at cyclists etc) then cover their crate so they can't see out. If they have to travel in a harness put up blinds on the windows.

If your dog is barking in the car due to excitement chances are that they have learnt that car journeys lead to exciting things. You need to start taking short trips and going nowhere. Go places and then letting your dogs settle in the car and come back home again. Take your dog on a lead walk from home rather than driving somewhere for a run. Try and avoid having a routine where the dog goes on a journey to the same place every day. You need to make car journeys less fun!

Sara Hawkswell

Training your dog to love the car

Get your dogs used to his travelling position without moving the car. That means training them to be comfortable in their crate or wearing the harness and sitting secured in position.

Settle your dog into position and sit in the car talking to them – offer them treats. Get the dog to relax and settle. You can feed them their meals in the car, read them stories and sing. A stationary car is a great place to spend time with your dog.

If your dog is shaking, whining or showing any signs of stress you need to stick with this stage. Your dog should want to get in the car as it is a safe, happy place.

Only at this point do you start the car engine – now we get the dog comfy and relaxed again.

Each step could take a few short sessions or mean spending 10 minutes, three times a day for two weeks getting your dog to relax.

Try not to take your dog out in the car until they are happy and enjoying being in the car with the engine running for short periods.

Start off with very short trips to interesting non-stressful places (not the vet!!). For your first journeys this might mean going for a 5 minute drive coming home and playing great games when you get home.

Build up to longer journeys very slowly.

Take frequent short journeys rather than long journeys.

Recognise that different roads have different noises and movement to your dogs. Make sure you gradually take them on bumpy tracks, motorways and everything in between.

Get them used to being in the car in busy traffic when they will see lorries and motorcyclists etc out of the window.

Be prepared – bottle of water, kitchen roll, wet wipes and dry bedding are essential just in case of sickness or accidents.

Having problems with your dog in the car?

If your dog is car sick then please visit your vet to check there is nothing physically wrong with the dog. Some dogs are sick as puppies but cope better when their inner ear function is better developed. Your vet might prescribe some form of travel sickness tablets. Use these when you have to travel but continue a programme of desensitising your dog to the car. Medication is just a short term fix.

From the Editor

Those of you who have been working from home since March will know that the most used phrase so far this year is “sorry—I was on mute”

But the other new term we have had to learn is “lockdown”

This term is also prevalent in this issue of the Newsletter—but interestingly it is used in a positive context along the lines of new things we have tried while unable to go to shows and have discovered that there is actually more to life.

I think it also makes us realise that our little friends are above all adaptable and as long as they get something to throw themselves into they will wag their tails and smile (or am I the only one who thinks a Pyrie can smile?)

I hope this issue finds you and yours safe; please be nice to those around who are trying their best to cope in strange times and I hope to see you all again soon.

Regards Carl

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From the Chair

Hopefully this summer's edition of the club magazine finds you keeping well and

safe in these unprecedented times. Covid 19 has certainly changed life as we knew it and if like me you just want to get back to how things were, I fear that we are all going to be disappointed, at least for some considerable time. From your committee's perspective it has been a frustrating time as, having had a difficult year in 2019, we had planned a fairly full programme of activities for members which unfortunately have all had to be cancelled although we have been fortunate getting back deposits and booking fees where these had been made, so no financial impact. However, Government and Kennel Club guidance continues to effectively shut down Shows and Canine competitive activity across the board.

September normally sees a good contingent of Club members making their way down to the Pyrenees with their dogs to attend the Nationale d'Elevage, organised by the R.A.C.P the French breed club for Pyrenean breeds. This year's Nationale has been on and off several times in recent weeks but the latest position at time of writing is that the event is back on, although with the recent UK announcement re-introducing a 14 Day quarantine period for all returnees from France I fear that the UK contingent and many of the other International attendees may be missing this year. I wish the organisers well in these difficult times and can't wait to get back there with the dogs next year. We had booked a lovely farmhouse up in the mountains this year and was very much going to be our annual holiday but we have had to write this off, however that is life at the moment and health definitely comes first. In terms of looking forward, your committee are in the process of planning events for next year and hopefully you should see details of these in the Autumn on the Clubs website as well as the Club's Facebook Group page (and also in the winter edition of the magazine). Whilst the Committee have not been able to meet physically this year we do have a secure Committee Page on Facebook where we are able to continue to progress club business and deal with the many ongoing matters that the normal running of the club entails.

Just a couple of things to highlight at this time. First a date for your diaries. We have booked the 6th June 2021 for our Club Show and Annual Funday. This will be at our normal venue at Bearley Village Hall just north of Stratford Upon Avon. Secondly, we are planning a calendar for 2021 and Rebecca Robson will be organising this. An advert with the details is included in this magazine asking for photos from members. I know Rebecca has some really great creative ideas for this project. She is particularly interested in getting some photos of dogs with their humans but if you are too shy then don't worry as any pic that you think shows off your little Berger is also welcome. So please do make every effort to email her your photos for consideration to bexerob@aol.com. (deadline mid-October)

Take Care and stay safe.

Eion Flint

soft crate will offer the dog little or no protection in the event of an accident.

Dog guards can be fitted behind rear seats but make sure they are secured to the vehicle and do not rely on suction cups and pressure to stay in place or your dog may easily get out in the event of an accident. Similarly in many small cars the boot is low and is designed to crumple in the event of an accident. Your dog may be safer in a crate on the back seat.

Dogs should never travel loose in a car or sitting on your knee. In an emergency if you have to travel with a dog and you have no harness, crate or dog guard travel with the dog secured in the footwell with a lead and collar at a passengers feet.

Your dog needs a cool breeze and shade while travelling. When you are moving your air conditioning may suffice and tinted windows can be effective. Otherwise you will need to have a window open and use mesh sun shields on the window. Make sure you carry plenty of water and stop regularly to allow your dogs to stretch their legs, drink (some dogs won't drink while the vehicle is moving) and toilet.



When leaving your dog in the car you must think very carefully. DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS.

Only leave your dog in the car if you can ensure they are safe from being stolen and will be out of the sun with plenty of ventilation and water. You can make a car or van a great shelter for dogs by having windows open but secured with grills, ventlocks fitted so you can leave you boot ajar, have silver sheeting covering windows, air flow fans or air conditioning units.

My dogs love their crates in the car and van – it is one of their safe spaces and they are more than happy to chill out in there. This means I can travel confidently with them knowing they are safe and happy.

Travelling with your dog

For most people travelling in the car is one of those skills that they need their dog to learn and quickly. For some dogs its no problem and you can just pop them in and off you go - for other it can be more complicated.

If you get a new dog or puppy its best to start at the beginning and train them to love being in and going out in the car. Hopefully if you buy a puppy from a good breeder they will have already had your puppy in the car lots of times and even taken them on a few trial journeys (as well as the obvious vet trip for their health check).

First and foremost when you are travelling your dog in the car they must be safe and secured.

In the UK the Highway code states:

"When in a vehicle make sure dogs or other

animals are suitably restrained so they cannot distract you while you are driving or injure you, or themselves, if you stop quickly. A seat belt harness, pet carrier, dog cage or dog guard are ways of restraining animals in cars."

If you are caught driving with a loose dog you may be fined for driving without due care and attention and you should note that if accidents happen and there is an unrestrained dog your insurance may not be valid.

Your dog needs to travel somewhere that is safe and comfortable. For safety that means the dog must be secured either in a fixed down crate, behind a dog guard or on the seat wearing a harness. For most dogs the best place is in a crate as dogs can't get as comfortable in a harness and may get tangled. If you are using a harness please make sure it is suitable for car travel not a walking harness) and it should have been crash tested.

Crates are great but should be crash tested and fitted out with your car's crumple zone. If you have a larger car or a van then crates that are fitted into the vehicle are excellent. If you are using a loose crate make sure they are always fixed down. A



In the News



Our Dogs Magazine features the Pyrenean Sheepdog in their May



2020 edition

Read the full article here or from the same link on the Club FB page.

https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname&edid=59339964-449b-43e5-97c4-1e0f06f211f6&fbclid=IwAR2vNma3Wr0ardoP_rxRjBlhJUCArhpgP3JjIkhm3ouNxMBZc-2VVm00vdw Well done all for producing such an informative article.

Well Done Ludo (and Penny Varnes) for passing Level One in Scentwork



The Dogs in Lockdown

I guess lockdown has been at the centre of all our lives for the last 5 or 6 months or so and in thinking about what to write for the summer magazine there weren't too many topics to choose from.

Our Spring and Summer have been totally absorbed with life at home given that I have been required to stay "shielded" at home on Doctors' orders and with eight little Bergers to look after, life was definitely going to be different. Our normal routines with the dogs involve 3-4 good trips out in the van with the dogs either up into the local Dalby forest or over to the coast at Filey for beach walking, both about a, 30, minute drive from home. In between these trips the dogs also get a 3 to 4 miles lead walk around the local country lanes.

We are very lucky in that we live in a very small village just of the edge of the North York Moors, it is very rural and very scenic but walking around the immediate area doesn't allow for any free running with the dogs (certainly not for a pack of eight Pyreneans), hence the trips out. It is only since July that restrictions lifted locally to go further afield with the dogs but to be honest our local area has become inundated with tourists and visitors and with the need to shield we have decided not to join the fray.

Normally, most weekends would see us away with the dogs at Shows here in the UK or abroad or for longer trips away in the caravan but of course all of this came to a grinding halt back in March. So, what would we do with ourselves? Well I know it sounds a bit obvious but we have really enjoyed staying at home. We have really learned to appreciate where we live and to fully spend time with all the dogs around us, we have been pleasantly surprised just how chilled out they have been. We are very fortunate to have a very large garden (about 2 acres) so there is plenty of space for the dogs but embarrassingly, over the last 5-6 years we have let the garden fall into a very poor state. Working away from home and most weekends competing with the dogs meant that the garden was badly neglected.

With the great Spring weather, we have really got stuck into the garden as a major project or should I say my wife Shane has got really stuck in. She has been a real inspiration ripping out ten feet high brambles, digging out nettles, painting fences and hauling loads off to be burnt. I have been doing my share as well but to be honest I wouldn't have got started if Shane hadn't shown the drive and motivation. In amongst all of this the dogs have been with us from dawn till dusk most days, just enjoying being out with us and of course getting up to all sorts of mischief. Typical of the breed they just want to be with you and it has been great to see all of their individual personalities and the way they buddy up with each other. I have attached a few photos to give a little snapshot of life in lockdown here at Sandytrail.

Eion Flint
Sandytrail Pyrenean Sheepdogs

Geordi's view of lockdown

Life has been rather different in our house during the last few months. In early March I heard Liz and Chris talking about something called a virus. I heard more about it when Crufts was on, as some people didn't go to Crufts because they were afraid they might catch the virus. I was pleased that Liz and Chris took me as I love meeting and greeting my public when I'm on the breed stand.

Not long after that we were told by the government that we could only go out for essential things, but fortunately I was still able to go for my walk every day. Otherwise we had to stay at home. I thought it was strange that Liz didn't take me to any agility shows or training. In fact I didn't go out in the car at all. I must say that it was very nice having Liz and Chris at home with me all the time.

After a few weeks, Liz put me in the car and I was really excited when we arrived at Yvonne's house to do some one to one training. There was just Liz, Yvonne and me in Yvonne's field so it was quite safe. I really enjoyed being back at training and worked really well. We had three sessions and then because we live in Leicester, we went into extended lockdown and we weren't allowed to travel outside the city.

I was very disappointed when I heard Liz and Chris saying that we wouldn't be able to go to France in May. I enjoy going to our house in France. We also weren't able to go to the Régionale d'Elevage, which is organised by my breeders André and Agnès Audibert. This meant that I wasn't able to see my Belgian friends either.

Going to the vet was a different experience too. I had to go for my booster injections at the beginning of July. When we arrived outside the vet's, Liz had to phone to say that we had arrived and my favourite vet Maria came out to take me in. I was surprised that Liz didn't come in with me, but I was a good boy for Maria. Two weeks later I had to go back to the vet for my rabies jab. This time when Maria came out to get me I didn't want to get out of the car and she had to lift me out!

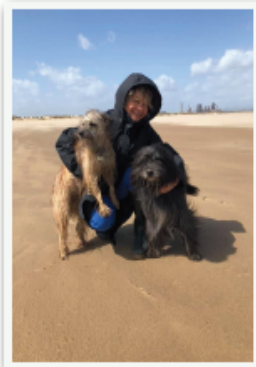
The lockdown in Leicester has been eased a bit now and I have heard Liz say that we will be going to club training on Sunday and to Yvonne's for one to one training next week, which I'm really pleased about. It's good that life seems to be returning to normal. I am hoping that we will be able to go to France in September but we'll have to see how things go. I think that maybe life may not be quite the same again, but as long as I can go for my walk and some agility, I will be happy.

Furloughed from my Dream Job

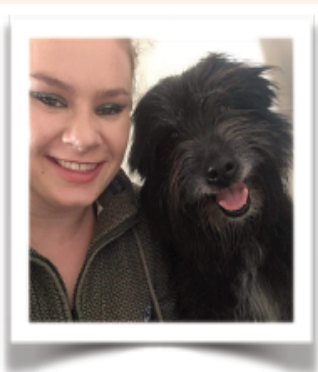
I have worked in a canine hydrotherapy centre for 4 years. I did voluntary work for 2 years and became employed in January of last year. I love my job and passed my canine hydrotherapy assistants course very quickly after that. The dogs that come in each week are adorable and I see their improvement which is extremely rewarding.

Being furloughed was terrible for me as I worried about all the dogs that were missing treatments. My own dog Brutus who is nearly 11 had been going for treadmill sessions so I could do a case study on him. He was in great shape and very toned. Not being able to maintain his fitness routine was very noticeable after 8 weeks and he seemed to be slowing down and was stiff going up and down stairs. I think he had tweaked something charging up and down the garden after the neighbours. As soon as lock down eased I took him to the doggy chiropractor and she recommended hydrotherapy in tandem with her

treatment. I was still furloughed and my heart sank, but I had a brain wave. I took Brutus to Redcar beach, the main car park was still closed but I managed to park close by. I took him paddling in the sea for short spells and as the weeks went by he got stronger and lighter on his feet. At the beach I felt liberated with the wind in my face and not a sole in sight, except mum. In the last two weeks I have started Saturdays back at work and its fantastic. Keep safe and well everyone.



Katie Robson



Around the

SHOW RING

Well unfortunately Covid 19 has well and truly put paid to life as we know it, and that is certainly true if your passion is exhibiting your little PSD in the show ring, with all Championship dog shows since Crufts at the beginning of March, cancelled. It is such a shame, no catching up with old friends and making new and having lots of social time for dogs and humans although I know this is true whatever your competitive activity.

I feel especially for any new puppies and their owners out there, they have really missed out competing in the puppy classes as this is always such a fun time for the owners and when pups really learn the foundations of exhibiting as well as socialising in general. Hopefully they will all be back next year in the junior classes.

Alongside this one disappointment, there is the problem of what is happening about Crufts for next year. Unlike any other types of show, Crufts is only open to those exhibits that have pre-qualified in the relevant competitions in the previous year. A good number of dogs that did well at this year's Crufts will automatically qualify for 2021 but the vast majority won't have. Although the KC have announced that they plan to run Crufts 2021, they have yet to set out what the rules for entering are and with no qualifying shows this year, there is a lot of pressure on the KC to clarify the position. Who knows? Like everything else with Covid 19 around we will just have to wait and see.

With so little action in the show scene I thought I would share an article that I wrote for Our Dogs newspaper back in May. This was part of a much bigger feature showcasing the Pyrenean sheepdog. I was asked to write something on Judging the Breed and it reflects my own thoughts on what I look for. I know showing isn't everybody's cup of tea but we have all gone out of our way to find and own what is a unique rare breed and If you are really interested in the breed you may find some of the contents interesting. I feel there is always something to learn.

Shane Flint (Mrs)

Sandytrail Pyrenean Sheepdogs

but I hate the fact that putting a muzzle on an already stressed dog often makes their distress greater. I have also met several anxious dogs who are comfortable wearing a muzzle. In these cases, the excellent preparation by their owner allows all of us to relax, take things very gently, and improve the experience for everyone. You can see in the top photo how the chin rest has formed part of the foundation for Tabi's muzzle training.

I hope that you are all keeping well, and that your dogs are fit and healthy too.

Hopefully, unplanned visits to the vet will be few and far between for us all over the coming months, but perhaps having more time at home gives many of us an opportunity to spend a few minutes helping our dogs to be as prepared as possible, even for the unexpected.

Bea Newman

3) Muzzle training:

I sometimes feel that there is a little bit of stigma associated with teaching a dog to wear a muzzle, but I truly believe it is a skill every dog should have.

Tabi is not a dog who naturally finds close handling and examination very easy, but I have so far never had to use her muzzle outside of a training context (I'm sure it helps that her vet is also her owner!), but we still practise with it regularly.



As a vet, I have sadly seen many exceptionally friendly dogs pushed by pain and panic to the point that they will bite.

For their safety, and ours, being able to use a muzzle in these situations is crucial –

Judging the Pyrenean Sheepdog (Long Haired)

In writing an article for this feature on judging the breed I have consciously set out to not make it just a trawl through the breed standard. It goes without saying however that if you are going to judge any breed then doing your research and education, which includes a thorough knowledge of the breed standard, is critical. However, the Pyrenean Sheepdog, as a rare breed really needs you to go further and understand the nuances and breed specific features if the best exhibits, true to type, are to be rewarded.

The first thing to appreciate are the working origins of the breed. It is so important not to treat all sheep dog breeds in the same way. Why does the breed exist? What was it valued for? What has shaped the creation of the breed (terrain, type of sheep, type of farming)? How does it work? How does all this relate to the construction, working gait and character of the breed? If you can't answer these questions then I would argue that you are unlikely to appreciate the uniqueness of the rare breed in front of you.

Secondly the first thing I look for is that first impression I get when the dogs enter the ring. I don't wait until they are all in place I want to see them as they come in, reacting to what's going on (other exhibitors, stewards, things outside the ring that may have caught their attention). I am looking for that energy, wariness, alertness and complete focus on everything going on around them. Pyrenean Sheepdogs are rarely static exhibits, they are always on guard with a certain amount of distrust of anything strange or different along with a liveliness that gives this little dog a character like no other. In the presence of their handler, they are at their best when showing themselves off, attention and focus always on the outside, frequently repositioning themselves when something new takes their attention. Beware the downbeat, inward focused, low energy exhibits.

Thirdly, there are a number of important proportions in the breed standard that really define the profile and envelope within which the rest of the breed description sits. These are:

Length of body is greater than the height at the withers.

Whilst the standard does not indicate any specific ratio it is definitely rectangular in shape, never getting close to square or “cobby”. This length effectively comes from length of rib with short loin. The lung capacity of the Pyrenean is obtained principally from length of rib with moderate depth/ width of rib.

Skull is as long as it is wide

Muzzle is shorter than skull in a ratio of 2:3 (historically defined as 1/3rd :

2/3rd). The skull dimensions along with the skull to muzzle ratio define the triangular shape of the head when viewed from above and which with the other head features is said to give the head a look of a “brown bear”.

Distance from elbow to ground is greater than half the height at the withers.

Again whilst no specific ratio is defined, the length of foreleg is fairly long. This foreleg length is critical to the unique “ground shaving” movement and exceptional reach of the breed when in full flow.

So outside of this backdrop what are the main breed specific features that I recommend you focus on when looking for excellent breed typical exhibits?

Primarily, the head features are critical. Heads are important for most breeds but with approximately 20 separate statements within the breed standard to describe the PSD head features then serious study of the head is a must. Interestingly, French judging systems for the breed back in the 1950's were based on points scoring with more than 40% of the points available allocated to the head features. I don't want to list all the head features in this short article but to me the following are key. As a minimum you need to find the correct head shape (Triangular) and skull and muzzle ratios. Ears should accentuate the width of the triangular head shape and are placed on top of the head, not too close. They should never be heavy or low set to the sides. Ears should be mobile and alert with the top third/half folding over to the front or side (never prick ears). Must have black pigmentation on eye lids and rims, lips, nose and inside mouths irrespective of coat colour. Expressive dark brown almond shaped eyes (wall eye OK in a merle)

Secondly, the focus needs to be on gait and movement. The PSD still retains all it's working qualities and its natural working gait is the trot. The trot itself can be a gentle slow pace (normally used when the flock are moving along requiring limited intervention) and a high tempo vigorous trot that shows full extension when really driving the flock often over long distances. When you see the typical movement of the Pyrenean in the ring you will never forget it. It is a “ground skimming” action that is characterised by a strong rear drive with exceptional front reach that comes from the harmony of the shoulder and rear angulations plus the balance between the longer foreleg and the angulation and matching length of the rear stifle bone (second thigh).

1) Sit/stand on an object:

I am often surprised by how many dogs are afraid of getting on the weighing scales. Weighing the dog is generally the first thing we do, on our way to the consult room, so if it causes the dog stress it sets a bad tone for the rest of the visit.



From what I have seen of Pyreneans, most of them seem to love climbing on objects and different surfaces so I expect it may not be a common sticking point for us, but still it is a simple thing to practise.

2) Chin Rest:



If I could pick only one trick or behaviour to have my clients teach their dogs I think this would be it. I use a chin rest for all sorts with Tabi. We shaped her offering to put her chin in my hand and she understands that she can move away from the chin rest if she is uncomfortable. This allows her to consent to handling or indicate that she isn't happy in a stress-free way. It is great for examining the face,

helping a dog stay still for injections/other handling, and it is useful foundation behaviour for other skills.

A Vet's Perspective

Hi, my name is Bea and I am a first time Pyrenean Sheepdog owner.

Tabi (Sandytrail Chimène) joined my family almost two years ago. It has been such a pleasure having her in my life, learning about the breed, and getting to know many of you along the way.



I qualified as a vet in 2017 and have been invited to write a regular vet's perspective article for the club newsletter. I am very pleased to contribute, and would love to hear from anyone who has a topic they might like me to address.

For this first piece, I wanted to start with something practical and not too technical!

During these difficult last few months, my practice (like many others) has not been able to let owners accompany their pets into the building. Most dogs have coped very well with this, but it has got me thinking about a few simple things that we, as owners, could practise with our dogs to help their vet visits run smoothly throughout the pandemic and beyond. I won't go into how to train these – I know most of you are more experienced owners and trainers than I am – but here are 3 things I would love owners to practise with their dogs:

Thirdly you need to focus on coat. The coat originated on this little breed to stay out all day and night in the mountains and to withstand all weathers. It is dense, repellent and never thin. The coat is a double coat and is a mixture of harsher "goat" type hair with a thick soft "sheep's wool" type of undercoat, typically distributed in the rear half to one third of the dog and always over the rump and thighs. The combination of "goat" and "sheep's wool" combine naturally as the dog matures to form layers of natural felted cords /dreadlocks called 'Cadenettes in France. Cadenettes can form on the front legs up to the elbow but for the most part the coat over the head and forequarters is a single coat of the harsher "goats" hair type. It is not clear why this differentiation in coat exists but the little sheepdog has to work in really harsh rocky terrain and the most plausible explanation is that the coat evolved that way as the dog was required to remain agile and unrestricted in its work in jumping and navigating the rocks and crags. The natural felts can be groomed out by removing the thick "sheep's wool" undercoat but over-grooming does soften the coat. Even in a groomed dog the coat should have an unkept natural look with layers and texture in the coat. Beware the over groomed look.

There is also a semi-long version of the coat that has shorter hair all round and is in the main a single coat with only lighter fringing on the legs. The texture is the "goat's hair" type and it is a dense and a harsh working coat that requires little maintenance and is distinctly different from the full long hair coat. Beware of exhibits with short coats that are soft, wispy or thin as these should not be confused as semi-longs. They are more likely to be just poor coated or over groomed long coats.

In conclusion, the essence of judging the breed is to have an eye for correct breed type.

Whilst there is much more included in the breed standard, for me the points I have set out in this article focus on the things that are important in getting at the very essence of 'breed Type. The correct head structure when combined with the unique, distrustful but ever vigilant character traits of the Pyrenean generate an expression that is like no other and together form the foundation for typical breed type. The ground shaving working movement and the unique working coat when combined with the correct head and expression, for my eye, completes the picture.

*Shane Flint (Mrs)
Sandytrail Pyrenean Sheepdogs*

Tales of a little sheep dog

During the last few months I've been busy carrying on with training Neon to work sheep. Training a young Pyrenean has its challenges. Mostly with Neon it's trying to work with his enthusiasm whilst exercising some control. It is hard to replicate the natural environment of the Pyrenees where a dog would live with the flock day to day and so wouldn't see having access to sheep as particularly exciting. I'm lucky as I am able to train several times a week but even then it's not the same as living alongside the flock as the breed has done traditionally.



download it today
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can discover in
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and

really open up
your walking
routes whether at
home or as a day
out.

PS I am sure there
are other alterna-

tives out there just as good but I would recommend this app for its ease of use and great details all without getting a paper map out. It made our lockdown interesting with the family choosing a new route each week to try and of the course the picnics were great!

<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/52.93625,-3.98090,8>

Teresa Stretton



KC BREED RECORDS SUPPLEMENT

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

NORLYGHT RIVERSONG, AW4 from Mr C.J.& Mrs P.M. Such To Mrs JA & Mr J Farrar

NORYLGHT SATU JUTA, AQ3 from Mr C.J.& Mrs P.M. Such To Mrs C Batt



Lockdown Walkabouts

Our lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic back in March of this year saw us as a family reunited with Adam returning from University to continue his year 1 medicine course virtually while sitting at the kitchen table. Not the end of his first year at University that he had envisaged but he settled into it really well and was very structured in his learning approach. With the prospect of puppies on the way and all our weekend agility shows cancelled we had some extra time on our hands during April and early May. We live in rural Cambridgeshire and we have our regular dog walking routes depending on the time of year and weather conditions and regular is just that we have not really looked at any new walking routes for many years. The enforced isolation gave us a good opportunity to do a bit of map reading and find some different routes from the house which we could navigate at least some of the way off lead with a couple of dogs and ourselves in tow.

We have a few Ordnance Survey maps at home so out they came and we started planning some routes of between 2-4 hours in length. We found some lovely bridle paths that we had been past many times before and never realised where they went. One of the greatest pleasures was getting off the beaten tracks and finding out the names of many of our woods and the beautiful wild flowers and birds which seemed to be in abundance this year - or had we just made the time to appreciate them.

After several great new routes found in our local area, I discovered OS Maps as an app for my iPhone free registered on a 7-day free trial or you can pay £3.99 a month ideal for holidays or for premium £29.99 a year. What a fantastic app this is. It is really easy to use, with great detail and you can save your routes. It tells you exactly where you are, how far you have walked and you can upload for others to see and use your route as well. So why not

Nevertheless I am happy to report that after a lot of dedication Neon now has a stop and is able to flank in both directions. These skills are essentially the building blocks necessary to move sheep around with any degree of control.

It's also important to have sheep that are used to dogs to train on. A lot of the sheep that we have in the UK are quite flighty. That works fine with a Border Collie as they are able to work at a distance from the flock - think of that classic mile and a half outrun you might see on 'One man and his dog'. But Pyreneans work differently and instead keep close to the sheep and handler. So flighty sheep would be no good as they'd be too unsettled and you'd just get lots of running and chasing. Native breeds that tend to group to the handler, such as Hebrideans, are therefore ideal training sheep to use. Even so I have worked a lot on making Neon keep a bit of space from them.

The behaviour of the sheep are a good litmus test as to how well your dog is working - the key is to keep everything calm and controlled. What you don't want is a dog running as fast as it can round and round the sheep in circles because all that does is upset the sheep and you'll not be able to do anything with them as they'll be focused on trying to escape - and you'd be surprised the height a sheep can jump out of a field when it's bent on escaping! So I've also been working on Neon keeping to a nice slow tempo as he's going round the sheep - think of that beautiful gait we see in our dogs in the show ring and you'll know what I mean.

The real test of all our homework came when some of this year's lambs were introduced into the training field a few weeks ago. After a couple of sessions Neon was back to being able to work calmly and in control and stopping when asked and balancing the sheep to me nicely. I even caught one of the sheep grazing during a session and that's when you know you have happy sheep. The next challenge will be to see if he can progress to working a bigger group in a bigger field. I'll let you know how we get on.

Vikki Lucas

Every year the Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain organises a display and mans (and dogs) the Pyrenean Sheepdog (Long-haired) stand at the Kennel Club's Discover Dogs events at Crufts (March) and Excel (November).

The aim is to help visitors meet and understand the breed. We rely on club members and member's dogs come and greet visitors. Its hard work and as we normally do a total of 6 days each year we need a big team of helpers. Sadly there will be no Discover Dogs this autumn but we are already planning for Crufts 2021.

Generally we like to have 2 dogs and 2 people on the stand at all times – and really half a day is plenty for both dog and handler. So ideally we need 4 dogs and 4 people each day. This gives dogs a break and allows the people to wander around the event.

What is it like helping put on Discover Dogs?

First and foremost we need fit and healthy KC registered dogs in good condition that are excellent ambassadors for the breed. They should be breed typical and need to have the confidence and personality to cope with the job. They will need to get on well with the other dogs on the stand and the people helping out.

It really is a job – the dogs need to be able to cope with greeting thousands of people each day. On the day the dogs will be expected to spend time either in the pen on the stand or out front on their lead. The whole world passes by the stand so the dogs mustn't be fazed by lots of children, crying babies, wheel-chairs, balloons, candy floss in their face etc. Equally there will be lots of dogs visiting the stand so your dog needs to be tolerant of all every possible breed of dog suddenly wandering into their space. Dogs



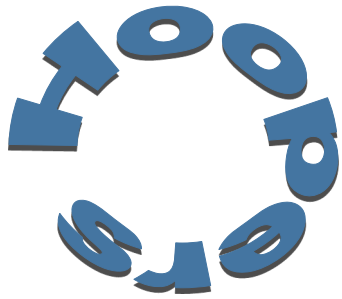
At the start I must confess that I didn't find it all that exciting. Tabi and I both love to run, ideally together. I found it difficult to enthuse about a sport where the aim was for me to remain relatively static whilst she ran without me. However, we are enjoying it more and more!

Hoopers certainly presents different challenges to agility, and whilst I still feel the two sports complement one another, I am definitely starting to appreciate and enjoy Hoopers in its own right.

We still need to work more on our forward focus and independent handling, but it is coming on leaps and bounds. Tabi has started to have lots of fun, and some success, competing and I feel glad that we have discovered this new hobby to enjoy alongside (and, realistically, probably beyond!) our agility.

Bea Newman

(Photos by Sean Cameron Photographic)



When I was looking for a Pyrenean puppy I knew that my dog would first and foremost be my friend and companion. But I also hoped to have a dog who would enjoy training and an active lifestyle.

Agility, specifically, was something I knew I wanted to do with my Pyrenean and a few months into starting agility with Tabi my

club started offering Hoopers classes too.

Hoopers is a relatively new dog sport. Courses are flowing and made primarily of hoops for the dogs to run through, with tunnels, barrels and target mats in some classes.

Initially, I saw Hoopers as a stepping-stone in our agility journey. Distance handling is rewarded with points in Hoopers and I could see that it would encourage Tabi to learn to work away from me and gain independence.



that do tricks and give cuddles soon become stars of the stand – expect your dog to have its photo taken over and over again.

Some of the people visiting will not be dog people so expect people sticking their hand over the pen, bending down and staring the dog in the face. It is likely to be noisy – there will be displays and demonstrations happening in nearby rings. It can get hot for the dogs – there are opportunities to pop outside for a pee and a bit of fresh air but this is just on the back roads of the display halls so not exactly a re-freshing break.

It no picnic for the people either – you are on duty to answer all sorts of questions about the breed from people wanting to know about health issues, grooming requirements to simple question like do they ever bark (!! Yes I know!!). Many of the people will never have heard of the breed so you will be expected to run out a quick explanation over and over again. We get many overseas visitors so English may not be their first language (no requirement for helpers to be fluent in other languages though!).

Do you want to get involved?

We are always looking for new recruits to the PSD Discover Dogs team. Some members don't have a dog that is suitable for working the stand but they come and help out – we have a few “professional” dogs who will happily stay with other people on the stand. Equally we have people with great dogs who aren't so keen on talking to people – we will pair you up with experienced people so you aren't left on your own. We also need help the night before to build the stand and break down at the end of the event.

Parking tickets are provided and we share out a small amount of money to help people cover the costs of food and drink for the day but otherwise being part of the team in an honorary role. We do have fun, make new friends and meet lots of interesting people.

If you'd like to join the Discover Dogs crew then let me know. Hopefully we'll be back in action in 2021

Sara Hawkswell

Against all odds - part 2

Well what can I say, the 2020 rollercoaster just

keeps on rolling!

In my last report I left off wondering whether our attempts to salvage something out of the wreckage that COVID-19 had made of our endeavours to breed another litter of Face Rase PSD and to try and establish a viable population in the UK.

The readers will recall that I left you, and ourselves unsure whether our efforts to Artificially Inseminate our bitch Jess using the



wonderful Italian stud dog Jedi in the middle of lockdown in both countries had been successful.



Trips to our Vets car park (and no further) as well as our trusted scanner Sam (you can't be too sure!) had confirmed that something was in there! - success!! Although anyone who has bred a litter will attest that the moment

of euphoria only leads to many more moments of anxiety.

The fateful Saturday arrived, Jess took to her whelping box and after a while out popped our lovely Harlequin bitch (we called her Harli at first). After a worrying hour with nothing more happening Teresa opted to book her into the emergency clinic at our well trusted Vets. Luca performed an ultrasound and came back out to the car park (!) to say there were two heartbeats and he was going to do a Caesarean section. After a nervous wait our two bouncing boys, Sandy (Fawn) and (black) Jaguar joined their sister much to our relief. To say that this, our third litter (but the first to be born in the Summer) was



a joy is an understatement. I don't know if it was just because each of them looked so different but at every stage they seemed to have different personalities. None of

them was more dominant or submissive. Jaguar would normally start off the mischief, Sandy would bide his time and take over



when Jaguar ran out of steam and Harli was at times more lady-like and at other times would be leading the charge. We were so happy to find great homes for these three which definitely helped cushion the blow of parting when it came to it. All of the owners have previously had Pyries including one that has had a pup from us before—it just goes to show that owning a Pyr-

enean is more of a lifetime passion than a passing fancy—this breed really do get under your skin so to speak. The Stretton household is quieter now, we are right down to four Face Rase and our abidingly tolerant remaining Border Collie. We are really loving watching the three Char Ly pups take over their new owners lives via the wonders of video clips on social media as the three Notterts Char Ly pups, now renamed Nevar (Harli), Luca (Sandy) and Rudy (Jaguar) take this wonderful breed forwards



Carl Stretton