



News Letter

Learning to enjoy your pet

Dog Walks



We have had some lovely walks this year, from The Old Crown at Messing, The Old Ship/Jolly Sailor pubs at Heybridge (both dog-friendly), The Chequers at Goldhanger, and The Discovery Centre, Great Notley. Dates for walks are in News and Events. We started Saturday Walking Club in January, as well as Sunday

walks, which have been very popular.

We are also walking at Rivenhall, Tollesbury Wick and East Mersea this year. This is a great way for dogs to have fun with other dogs off lead and for owners to chat to other owners and make new friends. Owners worried about recall—try one of our walks.



Workshops



Workshops last year for Pet Gundogs were full. We had puppies and dogs of all breeds trying their moves outdoors at Black Notley. Everyone did really well with their off-lead, recall, retrieve exercises. All the dogs managed to sit stay in the field for at least 1 minute – that is a long time for young dogs. Well done everyone.

We have also had good fun at The Rally and Flyball workshops. Dates are available for 'Get Fit with Your Dog', Rally, Tracking and more workshops on the website (News & Events).

RSPCA Danaher Open Day

RSPCA Danaher Open Day is on 24th July at the centre in Wethersfield. Try to go along and support them - enter the fun dog show.

Race for Life - Brentwood 28th May 2016

We have a Dog Star Training Team organised, please sponsor us if you haven't yet and thank you so much if you have.

Classes

Classes continue to be popular in Messing and Witham with new classes at Spring Lodge Community Centre on Monday evenings from April this year. Training is all reward-based.

The games we play to reinforce training are always fun - musical chairs, musical hats, intelligence tests, noughts and crosses, gunfight at the OK Corral to name a few!

Tia, Ellie and Emily continue to help at classes - thanks to them all.

First Aid Workshops

We held some very successful First Aid Workshops. Thanks to Anne.



Agility

Agility is back at Black Notley Vets as workshops - 3rd and 4th June; 8th and 9th July. Limited places so book soon. Other dates will be available during the summer.

Dog Trainer Course - Coming Soon

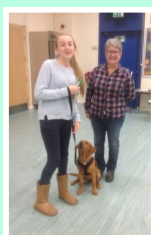
Jane is developing a course for people who want to improve their own skills as a dog trainer, or for those looking to become dog trainers themselves. This course will be CPD accredited. It is currently in the pilot stage. There are theory and practical units.

There are still far too many trainers in this area (and nationally) who think that training dogs using a mixture of reward and punishment is acceptable. It is not. Reward-based training is the only way to ensure that the dog is given a fair chance to get it right; to develop a strong bond between owner and dog; to make sure that dogs are not afraid of their owners.

This course is based on positive reinforcement of wanted behaviours, and retraining of unwanted behaviours. Rather than waiting for the dog to get it wrong and then trying to correct (for which read punish) him/her, reward-based training is about guiding and encouraging your dog to get it right.

Contact Jane if you are interested 07973 985009.

Kennel Club Good Citizen Autumn 2015



Congratulations to all the owners and dogs who achieved Bronze.

There are more assessments in June 2016.

Don't forget to keep up to date with news and events at www.athenae.co.uk or sign up to

Dog Star Training on Facebook. Contact Jane Williams on 985009 or 01621 891510
NEXT NEWSLETTER 2017