



Four Paws One Direction

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Positive Training for Positive People

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As Summer begins, the next phase starts...

It's been a while since the last Newsletter, but we certainly haven't been idle in that time! On the 11th of May we officially opened the doors to our brand new dedicated Canine Education and Activity Centre in Radstock! It's a cosy little space, with the added benefit that it's all ours!! We've laid foam flooring tiles to provide a cushioned surface for indoor activities, and have expanded our range of equipment for use. We will be phasing in classes over the next few months, with the Centre launching full time from August. Details of current and planned classes can be found on page 4. I'm personally very excited about this new venture, and very proud of our efforts so far. So watch this space for exciting developments!

In the meanwhile we are still also looking for an indoor agility venue for the winter so that these classes can move out of the cold, wet field, so any suggestions for possible sites are most welcome - ideally what we're after is an indoor equestrian centre we can hire or a large barn, as unfortunately our new Centre is not large enough to accommodate full scale agility. So keep your eyes peeled!

After the success of last year, we will be holding our Fun Dog Show again at Camerton on Sunday the 25th of July, so put the date in your diary now! All profits will be split between our chosen charities this year which are Bath Cats & Dogs Home and the Oldies Club. I am currently collecting Raffle prizes and would be

grateful for any donations - they don't have to be big or expensive items, and preferably doggy themed - toys, biscuits, leads, doggy themed socks/mugs/notepads etc. All items gratefully received!



Love and Wags, Shelley & Finn x

Dates for your Diary...

Here are a few dates for upcoming local events. If you know of any you think others may be interested in, just let us know and we'll print them in the next edition.

- 6th June - **Roman Lodge Horse & Dog Show**, Lansdown - details on <http://romanlodge-horseshow.co.uk/default.aspx>
- 19th June - **Leigh on Mendip Village Day & Fun Dog Show** - details on <http://www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk/>
- 25th July - **FOUR PAWS ONE DIRECTION FUN DOG SHOW**, Camerton Village Hall & Playing Fields. Details will be on our website soon!
- 31st July - **Companion Dog Show**, Overhill Kennels, Pensford, entries from 12 noon.

Congratulations and Well Done...



As always, there have been some fab dogs and fab owners making some wonderful progress. Particular congratulations go to the following:

Puppy Lifeskills course Graduates:

Debbie & Casey, Kathryn & Millie, Caroline & Marmite, Sarah & Maggie, Rachel & Blue, Ben & Amy, Julie & Ripple, Maddy & Tiffin, Louise & Lola, Tricia & Portia, Kirsty & Hewston, Norah & Sabre, Jane, Paul & Storm, Lucy & Hector, Susan & Roxy, Hollie & Cassie, Louise & Florrie, Kerry & Tucker, Shelley & Theo, Carl & George.

Emerald Lifeskills Assessment Passes

Maddy & Tiffin, Sandra & Quincey, Debbie & Casey, Katie & Tuula, Sue & Maisie, Courtney & Dougal.

Ruby Lifeskills Assessment Passes

Congratulations to the following who have

now passed their Emerald and Ruby Lifeskills assessments:

Pamela & Chika, Laura, Shaun & Mongo, Ali & Gyp, Katie & Marley, Richard & Bella.

Phil & Meg

Congratulations to Phil and Meg who got a Clear Round in the Nursery Agility class at their very first agility show in December, and gained another Clear Round at a competition on the 22nd of May. Well done!

And Finally...

A big 'well done' and 'thank you' to everyone who attended any of our classes at Tunley over the last 2 years; you helped us get where we are today and made all this possible! And we've made some wonderful friends along the way, so thanks to you all!!

Walk For Blood



22 year old Ryan Watts, son of Jennie and Philip who attend our classes, will be walking the South West Coast Path of Great Britain with Springer Spaniel Meg to raise awareness of the importance of blood donation. Sadly Ryan's Grandmother passed away last year after a two year battle with leukemia during which time she was given many blood transfusions. Ryan and his family will be forever grateful to the donors who made this possible, but despite the generosity of the registered donors there is still a need for more to come forwards. So on August the 31st Ryan and Meg will be setting out from Poole to walk the 630 miles to Minehead Harbour, intending to arrive there on the 30th of September. The aim of the walk is to raise awareness of the importance of blood donation and how easily it can be done rather than to raise money - what the blood service needs is donors! You can follow Ryan and Meg's preparations and progress on their blog at <http://walkforblood.blogspot.com> or look up the 'Walk For Blood' group on Facebook.

The adventures of Finn & Willow



Mum and I have been quite busy with Mr Finn and Willow the Wisp over the last few months, continuing their education and ours! Taking them out, working with them and learning something new is always an enjoyable and valuable experience for all of us. And here's a quick highlight of our recent adventures:

The first agility show of the year for us was on Valentine's Day, and Mr Finn gained his first ever Clear Round, coming 4th in his class. Willow also did really well, coming 2nd in her class and gaining enough points to move up a level from Beginners to Novice Steeplechase.

The second agility competition of the year was in March at Newbury, and Mr Finn gained another Clear Round, this time coming 3rd in his class! And Willow proved she was up to the challenge of the Novice level classes by gaining Clear Rounds in her first attempts at Novice!

April and May saw us making several trips up to the Learning About Dogs barn to do some workshops with UK clicker training expert Kay Laurence. For the first venture Sarah and Izzy joined us for a 'Border Collie Rehab' day aimed at helping us to understand their natural instincts and behaviours more, and to provide us with coping strategies. The day was excellent, all three dogs were brilliantly behaved, and by the end of the day we'd been promoted from the Rehab classes to the 'normal' ones!! Our next trip up was to do an 'Energy' workshop aimed at finding ways to connect with our dogs through movement and shared activity. The day was thoroughly enjoyable and the dogs were exhausted by the end!!

You can read more about these events and can follow our adventures by checking out our blog at <http://fourpawsonedirection.blogspot.com>



Book Review...

by Kay Jennings

Agility Right From The Start – Eva Bertilsson & Emilie Johnson Vegh

This is a brand new book published by Karen Pryor Clicker-training, and what a book! If you can only buy one agility book, this is the one to get! Detailed, clear and concise, it explains learning theory and operant conditioning, foundation skills for both dog and handler (and why they are not only a necessary pre-requisite for agility training but why they are an ongoing, lifelong part of training), and breaks everything down into easily-managed bites, explaining why each exercise is important and where it fits in the grand scheme of things. It covers reinforcement and play, confidence-building through proprioception skills and learning to go under, over, around and through things; it explains handling systems and how to integrate them into your training from the beginning and how to stay consistent within them; it covers teaching the obstacles using operant conditioning to develop independent performance and lots of drive and enthusiasm; and it puts it all together into sequences using the handling and manoeuvres learned at earlier steps. Just the best agility book I've read to date! My favourite quote so far: "Foundation training is not just something you do *before* you start training agility "for real". Foundation training *is* agility training! Well-executed, foundation training is agility at its best."

There are even a few videos illustrating some of the exercises on the authors' website -

<http://www.agilityrightfromthestart.com/exercises.html>

Available from www.positiveanimalsolutions.co.uk £29.99 + p&p

Train Your Dog Like A Pro – Jean Donaldson

The latest offering from this respected behaviourist and dog trainer, this book sets out to help the pet owner teach their dog basic good manners in a positive, fun way, providing a step-by-step guide to each exercise and its development through several stages of competence. It's easy to follow, explaining clearly each step of the process, when and where to reward, how to build up duration, how and when to add a cue and how to decide when to push on to the next step.

Donaldson's aim with this book is to demystify the training process, to help dog owners understand that training takes time and effort on their part and to encourage them to put in the number of repetitions necessary to develop solid behaviours, and to provide a failsafe guide to attaining the end results dog owners would like from their pets.

As she says: "...loving *dogs* and loving *training* are two different things. Trainer types find the actual time spent training intrinsically rewarding – they love and are fascinated by the *process*. Nontrainer types, if they do attempt to train, are doing so to obtain the *product*, the end result. The process is often boring, frustrating or mystifying to these folks."

There is a 2 ½ hour DVD included, which shows how to train each exercise as well as some of the pitfalls along the way.

Available from Amazon for £11.89, from the Book Depository or Positive Animal Solutions.

Kilmersdon Village Day & Fun Dog Show

Bank Holiday Monday brought with it Kilmersdon's annual Village Day, and once again the weather was pleasant and the events laid on very popular. Amongst other activities and stalls there was a fun Dog Show which proved a big draw. Lynne and Belinda brought with



The display team consisted of Lynne and IRR dog Lola, Ian and IRR dog Sammy, Jennie & Percy, Philip & Meg, and Gill & Lexi, while

them a stall to raise money for Irish Retriever Rescue, the non-profit rescue organisation they're heavily involved in, and during the judge's lunch break we were invited to put on a display in the ring to raise awareness for IRR (and keep the masses entertained!).

I hogged the PA to do the commentary! This wasn't intended to be a formal display, just some lovely pet dogs showing off some of their tricks, but the routine Lynne had organised was brilliant, and the dogs were all little stars! Huge praise and congratulations must go to Lynne for planning the display, and to all the team members for their efforts in rehearsal and on the day. A particular shout out goes to Percy who didn't put a single foot wrong and won a lot of new fans!! Once they'd shown off their best tricks, the dogs did a 'meet and greet' with the children, and thoroughly enjoyed all the adulation they received! A fab display and a great day all round! Well done all! More info on IRR at www.irishretrieverrescue.com.



The Four Paws One Direction Canine Education & Activity Centre now open in Radstock!!!

Puppy Lifeskills: 6 week course using positive reinforcement to make training fun. The course covers socialisation, coming when called, walking on a loose lead, stays, handling and much more. £40 for 6 weeks, includes handouts.

Junior Activities: For those who have graduated from the Puppy Lifeskills course, or for older pups. These classes are an enjoyable mix of basic obedience, games and safe pieces of equipment. You will also be able to work through the Emerald Lifeskills Assessment whilst having fun. £7 per class or £24 for 4 classes (to be taken within a 5 week period).

Puppy Pre-Agility Workshops: For those who might like to do some agility training when your dogs are old enough, these workshops will provide your puppy with the essential foundation skills that will make later training easier. Using the latest training techniques used by top UK and US agility trainers, the workshops will focus on teaching your pup balance, coordination and body awareness, as well as looking at motivation, start line stays, handling and introducing basic jumping skills using 'jump bumps'. All exercises are safe, low impact and tailored to the age and developmental stage of the pup. A series of fortnightly 1 hour workshops. Suitable for pups from 12 weeks of age who have completed the Puppy Lifeskills course or similar. £8 per workshop or £28 for 4.

Graduate Dogs: Suitable for those who have passed the Emerald Lifeskills Assessment in the Junior class. Work through the Ruby Lifeskills assessment whilst continuing with the fun and games. £7 per class or £24 for 4 classes.

Adult Dog Training Top Ups: For adult dogs needing a little training 'top up', these sessions will look at walking on a loose lead, coming when called and other basic obedience lessons, with the opportunity to discuss any problems. £10 per 75 minute session, with a maximum of 4 dogs in a session.

Calming Classes: For dogs who find it over-arousing or stressful to be near other dogs, these sessions will use counterconditioning and desensitisation methods as well as proprioception building exercises to reduce reactivity. (Please note these classes do not deal with aggression cases) Coming soon.



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Four Paws One Direction Online -

Don't forget to keep an eye on our website for news updates and details of new courses. And we're also online in several other formats, so take a look!

You can find us on YouTube, where we have a collection of agility video clips plus a few other things at:

[www.http://www.youtube.com/user/](http://www.youtube.com/user/fourpawsonedirection?gl=GB&hl=en-GB)

[fourpawsonedirection?gl=GB&hl=en-GB](http://www.youtube.com/user/fourpawsonedirection?gl=GB&hl=en-GB)

We're also on Facebook, so if you have an account, why not join the 'Friends of Four Paws One Direction' Group?

And Finn and I have our own blog page, where you can read about our latest escapades, so have a peek via:

<http://fourpawsonedirection.blogspot.com/>