



Four Paws One Direction

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**Much
more
than
just
a dog
training
club**

As the new academic year begins...

...you find me ready to launch my new Autumn and Winter Term schedule of classes on the world (or at least the Radstock/Bath area!)! The Summer re-launch went well, and the outdoor Active Dog classes proved a great success, with some fabulous dogs and their lovely owners enjoying the chance to work together in the sun. As the weather turns rather more autumnal, the outdoor classes will now move indoors, and I'm pleased to announce the launch of our indoor Winter Active Dog classes; these will run at the Shoscombe Village Hall on Thursday evenings, with a choice of time slots, and will include some equipment work on our matted floor surface, as well as some scent games and some fun obedience-type activities. So if you're looking to give your dog something to do on those wet days when walking seems less fun, why not come and join in and give your dog a mental and physical workout in the dry amongst friends?!

The new Puppy Academy: 'Infants' courses have started well, and have proven so popular I'm struggling to keep up with demand!! Always a nice problem to have! So keep sending those puppies my way... I really appreciate all the referrals you guys and gals give out - it's true what they say, a happy customer is the best form of advertising! So huge thanks to you all for your support.

And finally, I received my certification through from the course on Preparing to Teach Adult Learners that I did earlier in the year. So I am proud to be one of only a few dog trainers to hold a qualification in teaching people as well as dogs!

Wishing you all a cosy, warm Autumn! Love and Wags, Shelley, Finn and Whirli



Training services now available:

Puppy Academy: Getting a young pup off to the best start possible is very important to its future development. We offer an 8 week 'Puppy Academy: Infants' course and follow on 'Junior' classes.

Junior classes: For older pups or those in need of a little training 'top up'. Tuesdays, 8.30pm. £7/week.

Active Dog classes: These classes have been designed to keep you and your dog mentally and physically active for an hour a week, learning some new skills, including some obedience-type games, some equipment-based tasks, and some fun nosework. Thursday evenings at Shoscombe, 6.30pm or 7.30pm. £7/week

NEW! Foundation/Beginners Agility weekly classes: Designed to teach the essential handling, focus and obstacle skills required for those who may be interested in going on to future agility training and/or competition. Saturday mornings, 11.15am, from 15th October. Indoor or outdoor, weather dependent! Open to dogs from 12 weeks of age—all exercises tailored to the age of the dog. Low impact. £7/week

Reliable Recall workshops: One-off workshops to give you the knowledge and tools to improve your dog's recall or 'coming when called' skills. Next: Saturday 24th September, 3.00-5.00pm, Shoscombe. £18.

Also Available: 1-to-1 training, Dog walking, New Puppy Home Visits.

Contact us for further details of any of these services.



Picnic and Fun Show Report

Bank Holiday Monday 29th August saw us hold an impromptu 'end of summer' picnic and fun dog show at our new training venue in Shoscombe. It always seemed a little risky running the gauntlet of Bank Holiday weather, but the rain held off and the sun shone briefly on what was a very pleasant afternoon! Everyone brought a plate of food with them to share in the communal picnic, and we ended up with a fantastic spread of delicious food, with plenty to go around!

There were 5 Novelty classes to enter, which were judged by Shoscombe resident, Village Chairperson and Bath Cats & Dogs Home Volunteer Sue Baillie. The results were as follows:

Most Perfect Puppy:

- 1st—Elaine and Dexter (Bulldog)
- 2nd—Becky & Lyra (Weim. x Ridgeback)
- 3rd—Jan & Pimms (Duck Tolling Retriever)
- 4th—Nicola & Maggie (crossbreed)
- 5th—Evie & Ted (Cocker Spaniel)

Most Handsome Hound:

- 1st—Derek & Jack (Border Collie)
- 2nd—Sam & Roman (Lab x GSD)
- 3rd—Alicia & Jasper (Cocker Spaniel)
- 4th—John & Charlie (Flat Coat Retriever)
- 5th—Jacky & Ben (Springer x Cocker Spaniel)

Most Gorgeous Girly:

- 1st—Jacky & Heidi (White GSD x Cocker)
- 2nd—Pip & Lexi (Collie x)
- 3rd—Jan & Ruby (Spaniel)
- 4th—Sarah & Bess (Trailhound)
- 5th—Margi & Daisy (Coker Spaniel)

Best Brace:

- 1st—Buster & Tuula
- 2nd—Finn & Jack
- 3rd—Pimms & Lexi
- 4th—Molly & Jess
- 5th—Kasha & Jasper

Best Trick:

- 1st—Jan & Lexi (a multitude of tricks!)
- 2nd—Kay & Dazzle ('handstand')
- 3rd—Derek & Jack (various tricks)
- 4th—Katie & Buster ('I'll shoot you dead!')
- 5th—Margi & Daisy (the elephant waltz)

There was also a 'Have a go' Tunnelers course for everyone to enjoy, with even the youngest pups in attendance able to join in.

And the Scurry Run proved popular, with some participants getting very competitive against each other, whilst others were aiming to keep improving their own times.

Scurry Run Results:

- 1st—Shelley & Whilri in 5.31 secs
- 2nd—Derek & Jack in 5.34 secs
- 3rd—Jacky & Ben in 5.37 secs
- 4th—Kay & Dazzle in 5.63 secs
- 5th—Katie & Tuula in 5.65 secs

An additional well done to Jo, Evie & Ted and Michelle, Alicia & Jasper for their efforts to beat their own times, with both knocking at least 5 seconds off their original times!

Thanks to everyone who came to join us and made it such a great afternoon. We hope to repeat it all again next year!

Congratulations...

Huge congratulations to Katie and her lovely little Cockerpoo Tuula for the fantastic success they have had at their first few Agility competitions. At their very first show they came 4th in one class, and had a beautiful clear round in another to WIN the Beginners Steeplechase class. They then followed up this fantastic success with a 1st and 2nd place at their next show, giving them enough points to win up to the Novice level at only their second competition! And to prove they were up to the challenge of Novice, they gained another two fluid clear rounds at their next show, coming 2nd and 4th. What a fantastic start to their competitive career, and proof that the foundation work put into the earlier stages of training pays off in a dog that clearly knows its job and a partnership built for success.

Four Paws One Direction
Shelley Jennings
14 Vale View
Radstock
BA3 3QD

Phone: 01761 433259 / 07837 196667
E-mail: fourpawsonedirection@hotmail.co.uk

Visit our website at www.fourpawsonedirection.co.uk
Blog - <http://fourpawsonedirection.blogspot.com/>
Or look us up on Facebook!

