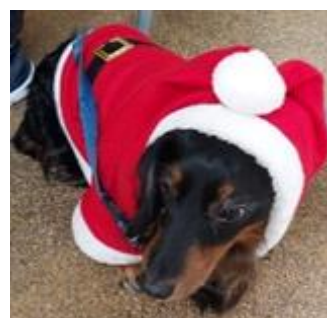


# I.D.T.C Christmas Bulletin 2024



## Contents:

2. IDTC President Choice Award
3. Paws for Protection
4. Hoopers
5. Party night: 9<sup>th</sup> December
6. Grooming
7. Party night: 10<sup>th</sup> December
8. Keeping Dogs' Safe at Christmas
10. Party night: 11<sup>th</sup> December
10. Fun Quiz on dog breeds
11. President's message



*Classes start back the week of:-*

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS



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Back copies of our annual newsletter and bulletin can be found on our website:

[www.idtc.co.uk](http://www.idtc.co.uk)





## IDTC President Choice Award 2024:

*Sara Sarre*

As president I was asked to present a trophy, I asked for direction on what it was for and it seems it is totally at my discretion.

I thought long and hard about what I would like celebrate with this trophy. The club as a whole is very important to me and it is the reason I stayed a member for all these years and took on the honour of being the president. Many people have given so much for this club over the years and the person I have chosen is no exception to that.

Their dedication and commitment to the club is evident in the many roles they have taken on within the club, from starting as a junior handler with a challenging dog to becoming a Trainer, joining the General Committee and now heading up our Media and Marketing Sub Committee. Alongside this they always promote the club in a positive light and are passionate about training both of their dogs to the highest standard.



*President's Choice: Sam Preece  
Cairo and Amigo*



Thank you, Sam Preece with Amigo and Cairo, for all you do for the Island Dog Training Club and I would like to present you with the 2024 Presidents Choice Trophy.





*Stephanie Stefani*

## Paws for Protection:

Paws Protection Project is a new Guernsey based charity created primarily for the promotion and education of animal welfare, with some rescue also included. We are barking mad for the purr-suit of happiness and believe that all animals deserve to be treated with kindness.

We have created a website that will contain a wealth of information on many aspects of animal welfare for owners of all different kinds of animals and pets that is free for everyone to access. In order to try to ensure that animals and pets are happy and healthy, their human caretakers need to have access to and understand information on many different aspects of pet care including food and nutrition, shelter and housing, medical and veterinary care, handling, exercise, grooming, and behaviour. By having this knowledge, pet owners can ensure that their pets live their best lives which ultimately creates a happy environment for both the pets and their human caretakers. This also means that children should have the opportunity to be educated on the basics of animal welfare so that they can understand not only what animals need for a happy life, but also how to behave around animals, how to pet and handle them, and how to approach them.

We are also keen to assist with the rehoming of animals, whether it be for home-to-home rehoming or finding loving homes for rescue dogs that need to be given a second chance in life through no fault of their own. There are many rescue dogs that need help and we want to help wherever we can, always keeping in mind that saving one dog won't change the world, but for that one dog the world will change forever.

Animals make the best companions as they do not judge, they love unconditionally, are always ready to listen and will keep all your secrets, making them very special. Therefore we, as a society, need to practice the basic art of kindness, understand that kindness is cool and that it costs nothing. Animals don't have a voice and if humans want to have animals in their lives, then we need to ensure we all know how to treat our furry, scaly or feathered friends well.

Paws Protection Project is here to provide assistance in animal welfare to everyone and we encourage you to visit our website at [www.pawsprotectionproject.gg](http://www.pawsprotectionproject.gg) or find us on Facebook and Instagram. Our Resources section is being updated with new information all the time but if there is anything you can't find then please contact us by emailing: [hi@pawsprotectionproject.gg](mailto:hi@pawsprotectionproject.gg) and we will be happy to help.



We are grateful for the support of the IDTC and its members, and thank you for all your great work with dogs of all different breeds.

We hope that we can be of assistance to the community and please remember, in a world where you can be anything, be kind.





## Hoopers:

*Megan Burns*

Hoopers is an exciting and rapidly growing dog sport, not only on the island but across the world. It incorporates elements of agility but is designed to be more accessible to dogs of different breeds, ages, and abilities. The sport involves a series of hoops, tunnels, and barrels, through which the dog must navigate the course.

Like agility, the goal is for the dog to follow their handler's cues while completing the course as quickly and accurately as possible. However, one key difference in hoopers is that the handler's role is to guide the dog through the course with minimal movement and distance handling.



Challenges are set by the judge and may include "distance boxes" where the handler must remain in an area, or lines they must stay behind. If these challenges are successfully completed, points are awarded. While prizes are given for individual classes, the ultimate aim is for handlers to accumulate as many points as possible, enabling their dog to progress through increasingly difficult levels.

Hoopers is an incredibly inclusive sport for both dogs and handlers. The emphasis on distance means handlers with mobility issues can participate without the need to run around a course, which can be difficult to achieve in agility. Dogs over 15 months old can begin competing in hoopers, as it is a lower-impact sport compared to agility or flyball, and the courses are designed to flow without sharp turns. This makes it an ideal sport for dogs who may retire from agility but still want to continue competing in a similar format. Additionally, dogs who may not be structurally suited to agility, such as those with long backs and short legs, or dogs that are physically disabled or heavier-set, can also enjoy hoopers.

For agility dogs, hoopers is an excellent addition to training. Agility dogs tend to pick it up very quickly and can usually complete a basic course within just a couple of training sessions. Hoopers helps fine-tune handling skills, encourages independence, improves listening, enhances motivation and speed, and reinforces key agility skills such as forward drive, turning towards and away from the handler, and learning when



to accelerate or decelerate. In fact, all but one of the dogs I have introduced to hoopers (my retired agility dog, Pickle) have enjoyed it much more than agility.

So, what hoopers opportunities are there on the island? After gradually introducing hoopers to the island around five years ago, I have established a local organisation called **Guernsey Canine Hoopers**. This independent organisation aims to guide those training in hoopers and will be able to host workshops and competitions in the future. A Facebook group has been set up where you can read the rules of hoopers and learn more about the organisation. Feel free to request to join if you are interested.



In terms of training, I run my own group sessions approximately once a month, and I am always happy to be invited to run workshops. I hope to expand this in 2026, with the aim of hosting competitions by then!

*Photos are of Liz Lillington's Elsa, George Lillington's Pip, and my Code.*



## Party night on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December,

Costume contest winner was Alexander and Ash (left) with their homemade sheep outfit.



## Grooming:



*Michelle Botes*

Here at Waggle Wash, we have lots of doodle clients, which is mostly due to them having high maintenance coats. This is definitely something to consider when choosing this particular breed.

They come in a variety of shapes, colours & sizes and have a distinctive woolly, mostly curly coat which is inherited from the poodle.

They're known for their adorable looks and loving temperament, making them appealing dogs to own. However, whilst doodles are some of the cutest, cuddliest and fluffiest dogs out there, it comes with a price - grooming!

Due to their high maintenance coats, they require regular grooming, and we would suggest every 6 - 8 weeks. It will cost in the region of £50 to £85, depending on the size of the dog, and the condition of their coat, as they can be prone to matting.

Mats are extremely uncomfortable for your dog as they cut off the air flow in the hair, and that can cause irritation and sores. Even mild matting can be painful, but in severe cases, matting can cut off circulation to your dog's skin and cause hematomas.

Doodles often have dense coats, so overheating can also be a serious concern for dogs with thick fur. By grooming them regularly, especially in the warmer months, you can help them stay cool, reducing the risk of heat related issues.

As groomers we often get asked what tools are recommended to keep doodles tangle free in between trips to the salon.

We recommend two main tools to invest in, which are a slicker brush and a metal comb. If used correctly and regularly, they will act as your magic wand to maintaining a fluffy coat.

There are a lot of videos online, showing how to master the 'line brushing technique'. This method works best for dogs with long, thick coats, and is a way of gently untangling their fur, whilst brushing out loose hairs from their undercoats.

Your doodle puppy should have its first groom at around 4-6 months. This will entail a bath, nail trim and clean-up of some key areas, such as the feet, face and private areas. The first visit will help to acclimate them to

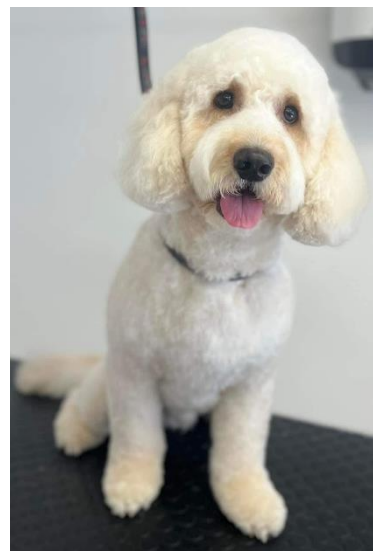




the grooming environment, without requiring them to stand still for a full groom.

It's also important to brush puppies at home, as it can take your puppy some getting used to. A top tip is to pop them onto a high surface whilst they're calm. This will not be known to them as their 'play zone' and often teaches them that it isn't a game.

And last but not least, doodles are higher maintenance because unlike other breeds, their fur will keep growing if not groomed, and will turn into a curly mess nightmare.



We do not recommend allowing that to happen!



## Party night on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December





## Keeping your dogs' safe at Christmas

*Rebecca Brehaut*



Christmas, for most of us is a time for fun, meeting up with friends, family & loved ones, playing games & sharing festive food and drinks, but even though our dogs are at the top of our list of loved ones, we need to know that sharing certain human foods with them can make them very ill and could even be fatal.

It is recorded that in December, dogs are 75 percent more likely to be treated by a vet for eating food that is poisonous to them, compared to the rest of the year, so it's important to know what festive foods to keep away from your dog.



These include:

Chocolate  
Christmas cake,  
mince pies,  
Christmas pudding  
Sage and onion stuffing  
Alcohol  
Other foods, such as certain nuts, blue cheese, fatty and salty foods etc.

It can just take seconds for them to eat something they shouldn't, resulting in a hefty vet bill or as said above even worse, here's a few tips to help reduce the risk over this festive season.



When decorating the tree don't hang tempting chocolates on the branches, or place boxes of wrapped up chocolates under the tree, they will sniff them out, wrapped up or not! Or gifts that may contain batteries or be sharp, causing injury, if they were to be chewed up and swallowed.

Don't leave advent calendars in reach of their paws, even if they just ate the packaging and left the chocolates that could cause a dangerous blockage in their gut and mean a trip to the vet.

Also, certain festive plants which are not usually in your home can cause varying degrees of stomach upset if eaten by a curious dog, such as poinsettia, holly, mistletoe and ivy.

Signs to look out for -

Sometimes signs of poisoning or blockages may not show up immediately, but they can include being sick, having diarrhoea or abdominal pain and they may appear sleepy, dull, weak, off their food and sometimes they may have rapid breathing.

If you notice any of these, or if you know your dog has eaten something that they shouldn't, then contact your vet and take their advice, even if your dog is showing no signs of discomfort straight away please still contact your vet, as sometimes it may take a day or so to show signs of sickness.

Please also remember that amidst all of the celebrations our dogs may become a bit overwhelmed, what with more visitors, some of whom may be unfamiliar to them, excited and noisy children, crackers banging, exciting unwrapping of presents, different sounds and different smells.

So, try to keep to their routine as much as you can, take them out on their usual walks and keep their meal times the same, ensure they can retreat and settle in their usual spot if and when they want to. And, If you wish to give your dog a treat this Christmas, or at any time, whether that's food or a new toy, ensure that it is something dog friendly, personally I would also avoid anything with an annoying squeak in it. 😂



We hope you have a Pawsome time





## Party night on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Costume contest winner was Liza and Robyn, with Annie and Dylan as the runner up



Can you guess the 12 breeds of dog from the emojis below?

|  |    |  |    |
|--|----|--|----|
|  | 1  |  | 2  |
|  | 3  |  | 4  |
|  | 5  |  | 6  |
|  | 7  |  | 8  |
|  | 9  |  | 10 |
|  | 11 |  | 12 |

Hope you have fun guessing and the answers will be posted on-line after the holidays!  
(The answers will be posted on the IDTC website and Facebook pages, and put up in the clubroom in the new year)



## IDTC President message:

Sara Sarre

Christmas has snuck up on me, we have the decs up and my tree is barriered off to keep the presents safe! I'm looking forward to a few days of fun with family, friends and of course the dogs.

I want to say a massive THANK YOU to everyone who continues to support the Island Dog Training Club in being a member and joining class as well as contributing to the day-to-day running and all the new initiatives.

Each and every one of you are extremely valuable and even if you think the help you give is small, PLEASE remember we need you and together we make the club the success it is.

*(If you want to find out how you could get more involved, please message me – we will always welcome more help!)*

Special thanks to all the General Committee and Trainers who work tirelessly. I hope that you all have a well-earned break and come back fighting fit in 2025 for another amazing club year.

What will this new year bring? *We are open to suggestions so please keep them coming.*

Stay safe and enjoy yourselves and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

