

I.D.T.C

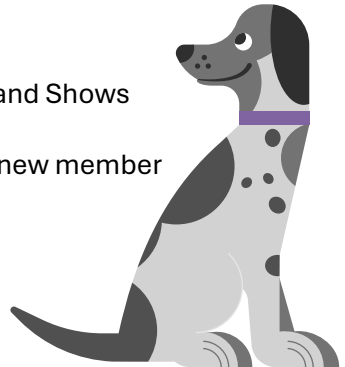
Newsletter

2024



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IDTC email addresses:

President president@idtc.co.uk
Trainers committee: headtrainer@idtc.co.uk
General Committee: secretary@idtc.co.uk
Treasurer: treasurer@idtc.co.uk
Back copies of our annual newsletter can be found on
our website: www.idtc.co.uk



A message from your President

Hi,

Sara Sarre

Let me introduce myself - my name is Sara Sarre and I was delighted (and a bit surprised) to be appointed IDTC President at the recent EGM in March 2024. I have been a member of the club for over 25 years being a handler, Trainer and Head Trainer. I feel so proud to be part of the dog club. The club helped enhance my passion for dogs by giving me activities and sports to do with them, as well as the social aspect of finding new friends with a similar love of our furry friends.

I see my role as leading the Committee, Trainers and Members to help the club become a 'Centre of Excellence' for dog training. I will do this through offering my support, guidance, knowledge, experience and positive energy. I will ensure the General Committee, use the Trainers and Members ideas to create a strategy to lead the club forward with training opportunities, social events, competitions and more. I am passionate to ensure this is followed through and that our members are the heart of our club.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Georgie Le Breton and all the members of General committee for their service and continued support of the club.

My very special thanks to all the trainers – who all volunteer their time and expertise to the club.

Thanks to you, as members, you are the club and I hope that I can help lead the club forward to keep getting better and better.

I'm always open for ideas, comments, questions, queries or concerns. I Hope to see you all soon at events and classes.



Please contact President@idtc.co.uk

EVENTS AND CLUB INFORMATION: -

Classes:

Agility: Classes Saturday mornings, Thurs. 12th September Pre-Agility Courses (for all dogs new to agility and under 1yr) - 7pm- 7.45pm

Pet Dog Training: Start back week of Monday 9th September 2024

SEE CLASS SCHEDULE for all details on the different types of classes available. (Class information, members eligibility and trainers involved all included). Any additional information needed please check the Club website at: <https://idtc.co.uk> or contact email: secretary@idtc.co.uk

Please note that courses must be pre-booked via the Book a Course page.

Class fees will remain at £5 per class and £4 per class for juniors and OAP

Membership renewal: 2024 / 2025:

Due now for all members (unless you joined from 1st June 2024).

Membership form can be found online on our website -

<https://idtc.co.uk>



Renewing your membership prior to the AGM will ensure you avoid any proposed increase in subscriptions.

Up-coming dates:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Friday 27th September 2024 - Club room 7.00 pm



BUBBLES AND NIBBLES at 6:30pm – Also a chance to win a free bottle of Prosecco!

Well worth coming and contributing to your club

Come and support your club

NEWS – Constitution and Vaccinations

Did you know the IDTC is a charity registered in Guernsey (CH68).

To bring the IDTC in line with the new charities laws, alongside other charities and non-for-profit organisations locally, we have updated our constitution – if you would like to comment on the constitution it will be agreed at the AGM, please send any questions or queries to the Secretary at least 2 weeks before the AGM if you would like to change or amend anything within. Secretary@IDTC.co.uk

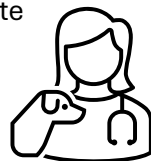
The Club also has a new Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics and set of Rules – when you renew your membership for September 2024, please be aware you will be agreeing to abide by these – so read them carefully.

Our vaccination policy has changed as of September 2024. All puppies must have had their initial vaccination course and will be able to come to the club 2 weeks after the last injection.

We still strongly advise members to vaccinate annually but this will not be a requirement to enter the club.

IDTC are also working with Vets 4 Pets and Isabelle Vets to offer a more reasonably priced Titre test, so that if members choose not to vaccinate, they will be able to test to see if their dog has adequate immunity.

Please be aware there has recently been a potential case of Lepto locally. Do your homework and find out more about vaccinations before making a decision.



Trevor and Mandy Haynes

Happy Retirement from being the Clubs caretakers

Words could never express the General Committee's and Club as a whole, gratitude to this couple who have so diligently and thoughtfully kept our clubroom not only clean and tidy but all the many other ways they supported the running of the club. All the jobs they just did because they saw they needed doing, always working longer, harder, with such care for the club. We hope that they both stay active members of the club and that they enjoy their retirement from being the custodians of the club.



THANK YOU x



Obedience Shows:

4th and 5th October 2024- Limit and Open Show

6th and 7th December 2024- Limit Show

Feb 2025 Dog of the Year - DOTY (Date to be confirmed)

1st and 2nd March 2025 – Limit Show

2nd and 3rd May 2025 – Limit and Open Show



Agility Show:

Guernsey Agility – 12th
and 13th October 2024



More dates:

More dates up-coming –
keep an eye on the IDTC
Facebook and

Website. Would you like to see Multi- Rallies, Rally or any other
types of competitions?

Contact: Headtrainer@idtc.co.uk or President@idtc.co.uk



General Committee 2023 – 2024:

President:	Sara Sarre
Vice President:	Rita Marquand
Secretary:	Gwen Davies
Treasurer:	Sue Gamblin
Head Trainer:	Karen Seward
General Committee:	Terry Buckley
	Claire Burns
	Karen Le Prevost
	Sue Loveridge
	Sam Preece



DOG WALKS - National Trust of Guernsey

Rebecca Brehaut

Did you know National Trust Guernsey are dog-friendly? They have some beautiful areas where we can walk with our dogs and they encourage responsible dog walkers. If you look up www.nationaltrust.gg and hit the Walks tab, you'll see a list of all their land and walks, how to get to them, even where you can park.

The Trust has some beautiful land across the Island, these include areas of coastline and countryside, where you can wonder along cliff paths, through lovely fields, and enjoy beautiful views, all while exercising yourself and your dog. Jerbourg is worth exploring and there is a lovely field for them to run loose. Corbiere is a great walk too and you can go right along to Le Goufre, but my favourite place is Pleinmont, where there are fields, pathways, streams, shaded areas, and just simply stunning views.

In 2017 I took a gorgeous photo of my boy Clark. It was a rainy day and he just stood beautifully on the stone marking the start of Trust Land at Pleinmont. I sent the photo to The Trust and they loved it so much they made Clark their cover star for the Autumn 2017 newsletter, and named him Clark Ranger. When out if we notice anything damaged or anything that needs attention, then Clark lets them know. It's great to feel involved and to know you may have helped a little whilst out on your dog walk.

If you get a photo of your dog whilst out along any of the trust's lovely walking areas, then send it in to them through Messenger or by email (admin@nationaltrust.gg). They would love to see them and you never know you may get a mention on the trusts Facebook page or feature in a future publication. You can look up National Trust Guernsey on Facebook, or their website, where you can find all information about their cause and if you wanted to become a member.



Just remember there may be areas where it would be safer to keep the dogs on a lead but there are plenty of areas where they can enjoy the freedom of being loose, and always take a poo bag and pick up. Bins are located near a lot of these walks, so there's no excuse not to.



Oh! And watch out in the nice sunny weather in case people are out on a picnic, you wouldn't want your dog pinching their lunch!

Favourite Walks

Ali Hamon

We have 9 long haired daschunds, all are named after great F1 drivers. Kimi, Button, Sebastian, Bianchi, Stirling, LeClerc, Schui, Verstappen and Lando who is no 9, My mum also has 2 smooth haired daschund's called Rattzzie and Senna, so sometimes there's 11.

We like to walk where it is quiet, if possible, especially if we take them all out together as we are a large pack in number, even if not in size! But generally, I take them out in 2 or 3 lots.

As we live near Vale Church we sometimes walk around the graveyard,



at the back, there are lots of nice sniffy areas where bunnies and other creatures reside, they love that and then head towards Ladies Bay.

We love walking Pembroke when the beach restrictions are lifted, and it always opens for dogs on Kimis' birthday in October, so try to go there on that day as he loves swimming, most of them will swim or paddle, and it's great to watch.

Another favourite is near the rifle range, at L'Ancrese, as there's a good space to let them run off lead, and good visibility for me to see if anyone is approaching so I can then put them back on their leads.



Lando (the new addition)



IDTC DISPLAY - Forest School Fate:

On the 21st June members put on a display for Forest Primary School where handlers and dogs demonstrated heal work to music, safe and sound and gave an agility display on a mini course. Showing some of the skills learnt at the Club. The event went well and was enjoyed by both the participants and audience.



RECIPES - Dog Treats:

Rebecca Brehaut

Have you ever looked at the vast array of dog treats available and thought where did it all start! In one word, 'SPRATTS'

In the mid 1800's a man named James Spratt, an electrician, created a dog biscuit which he called 'meat cake', I've read he made it for his own dog who use to go to work with him. It consisted of wheat, beetroot, vegetables and beef blood, umm sounds yummy!!!



I'm not too sure where his inspiration came from. I have read a couple of explanations, it's either believed that Mr Spratt observed stray and malnourished dogs eating hardtack, a type of dense biscuit or cracker, which were left by sailors on the docks of Liverpool, or; he was offered a ship biscuit for his canine companion and was shocked at the terrible quality, either way he must've been a dog lover, and it turns out there were



a lot of dog lovers who also wanted this meat cake for their dogs.

From that Spratt's became the world's first large scale manufacturer of dog biscuits and in 1876

Spratt's became a registered trademark, he then diversified his business into other canine related products.

Interestingly, in that same year - 1876 a man named Charles Crufts, upon leaving college, joined Spratts as an apprentice, being very ambitious he soon worked his way up and ultimately left Spratt's and this is how the now world-famous dog show came to be.

In the 1950's Spratts was sold on and as we all now know the Pet Food Industry is a multimillion-pound business.

I'm not suggesting we are all going to start baking dog treats to that level, but it is nice to occasionally bake your own, well, the house may not smell amazing whilst doing so, depending on your ingredients, but it is fun and

the dogs, 'usually' enjoy the results, so here are some recipes some of our members have passed on for you to try out, if you have any of your own for inclusion in future newsletters please send them on.



It is important to remember to make sure your dogs are not allergic to any of the ingredients used, if so, you could try different variations, i.e. changing chicken for beef etc., just always check before using any ingredient and if you are not sure just don't use it.

So, Ready, Steady, Bake.

Liver Cake - Clark & Bonnies favourite training treats

Rebecca Brehaut

1lb LIVER
8oz WHOLEMEAL or PLAIN FLOUR
2 EGGS

Place all ingredients in the liquidizer, I would chop the liver into small pieces first - be prepared to get messy! Use greaseproof paper on a flat baking tray & spread out evenly.

Bake at 180c for about 20 minutes

You don't want it to rise too much as it is easier to keep it solid and not so crumbly. You can add anything dog friendly to the mix but you don't want the mix too sloppy before baking. Once cooked cut into blocks or tiny pieces and if not using straight away this is fine to freeze, it defrosts nice and quickly ready for training class.



Homemade Honey Dog Biscuits - Marmite & Otis's Favourite

Mandy Haynes

150g whole wheat flour
150g porridge oats
30g butter or you could substitute with a banana if you don't want your dog to have butter
2 tablespoons honey
2 eggs
100ml milk
Pre heat oven to 200 degrees.



Mix Flour, oats & baking powder together. Cut the butter, or mash the banana if you're using that instead, add it with the honey, eggs & milk, then knead together, if too dry you can add a little water to the mix.

Cover baking tray with baking sheet.

Roll out the dough about 1cm thick, cut out biscuit shapes, any shape you like, but we have done round ones, place on baking sheet, leaving a gap between each biscuit, then bake for 15-20 minutes, turn off the heat and allow biscuits to dry out for 2 hours in the oven.



Crossword Competition – Win a Prize

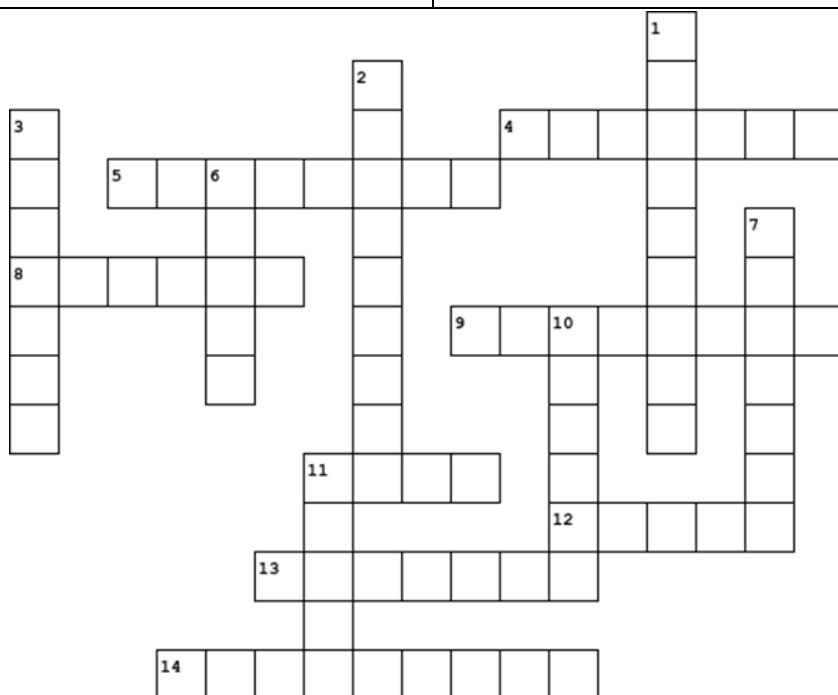
Animal Antics

Across

4. Which dog breed yodels instead of barks?
5. Another name for German shepherd?
8. A group of puppies?
9. What you would get with cocker spaniel & poodle parents?
11. Through which body part does a dog sweat most?
12. How many eyelids does a dog have?
13. Founder of first dog treats?
14. Fastest breed of dog?

Down

1. What breed of dog is Scooby Doo (5,4)?
2. The smallest recognised breed of dog?
3. Popular active dog sport?
6. What is a dogs most powerful sense?
7. What breed of dog features as a playing piece in the original monopoly set aka?
10. World famous dog show held in the UK?
11. Name of a baby dog?



The crossword prize



Pukka Tukka have generously donated the prize for this competition. The company pride themselves on having a large choice of high-quality raw food and natural treats for pets and are based on Island.



Completed crossword entries can either be email to: president@idtc.co.uk or dropped in at the club room in an envelope marked "Competition Entry" please also ensure your name and contact details are showing.

All entries need to be submitted before the closing date on 15th September, 2024 and the winner will be announced at the AGM on the 27th September.

SOME MEMBERS SUCCESS - Congratulations



On achieving the Bronze Good Citizen Award:



on achieving the Silver Good Citizen Award:



On achieving the 10 step basic obedience certificates



Channel Island Dog of the Year – Jersey Feb 24

Jane Le Maitre

A team of twelve dedicated members from the IDTC showcased their skills at the prestigious Channel Islands Dog of the Year Show (CIDOTY) in Jersey on the weekend of February 17th and 18th. This event featured a series of competitive obedience competitions, breed shows and agility, drawing competitors across the Channel Islands based on their results in 2023.

While Guernsey Kennel Club members celebrated their own successes in the breed shows, IDTC members who had qualified to compete through success in obedience competitions in Guernsey and Jersey in 2023 were invited to participate in the CIDOTY's highly competitive obedience classes. Whilst not all those invited to participate were able to attend, those who did had a very successful weekend.



Class C – Pat Hitchon and Phizz; Sandra Collins and Teal



Class A - Karen Le Prevost and Max

Competitive obedience, often compared to “dressage for dogs,” requires participants to demonstrate precision, obedience, style, and speed. Originally developed to assess working dogs, it has evolved into a popular global sport with varying

difficulty levels from Beginner to Novice, and then Classes A,

B, and C—the latter being the most challenging.

The competitions included a range of exercises varying in difficulty in each of the classes. Heelwork required dogs to walk closely to their handlers, executing right, left, and about turns, and in the higher classes, fast and slow paces and all on a single command. Dogs also had to retrieve unfamiliar articles selected by the judge and respond instantly to command to drop down when sent away. Additionally, dogs were expected to use their keen sense of smell to retrieve a particular scented cloth from a lineup, adding an increased element of challenge.

Guernsey’s handlers displayed exceptional skills and strong bonds with their dogs, securing four out of the ten trophies awarded for first and second places across various classes. Notable achievements included Sandra Collins and her Border Collie, Teal, winning first place in Class C, while Pat Hitchon and Border Collie, Phizz, secured the reserve spot in the same category. Karen Le Prevost and her Australian Labradoodle, Max, achieved the Reserve Class A position, and Jane Le Maitre with her Golden Retriever, Tango, claimed the top spot in the Beginners category.



Jane Le Maitre and Tango



*Rita Marquand
and Tweedy*

The successful weekend concluded with a celebratory meal at the Ambassadeur Hotel before the team returned to Guernsey on the Condor ferry on Sunday afternoon. These victories highlight the growing recognition of competitive obedience as an exciting and challenging canine sport, illustrated by the fact that over 21,000 competitors participated in this discipline alone at Crufts in 2024.

Obedience is just one of the many sports supported by the IDTC. Many dogs also take part in agility, scent work, and trick-training, all of which stem from fundamental dog training. Congratulations to all our winners for their outstanding achievements at CIDOTY 2023.

Anyone interested in competing, or simply training their dog to do more is welcome to join an IDTC training class. The Club offers classes at all levels from Puppies right through and they are not all about competition. Many classes are just aimed at life-skills and just enjoying time with your dog. Please speak to a Club Trainer or use the contact form on our website if you have any questions. Everyone is welcome!

*Jenny Batiste and
Ellie*



Sam Preece and Amigo



*Jackie Mauger and
Milo*



*Terry Buckley
and Zen*

Over the Rainbow Bridge



*If there ever comes a day when we cannot be
together keep me in your heart and I will stay there forever*

A.A. Milne - Winnie the Pooh



Esme (Patois Corbette) - 31.10.2009 - 12.01.2024

A life well lived - this gorgeous girl has been a joy to live with, rekindled my interest in breed showing, started my love of the breed leaving behind 3 generations & together we started on our obedience journey. & what a journey! So many placings & wins including CI Novice Obedience Dog of the Year 2013 & numerous placings including competing in the UK working Tests A & B. Esme used her brain & devised many alternatives to my plans much to the amusement of all.

Gwen Davies



Kelso

29th April 2012 – 16th March 2023

My very special boy always.

Jayne Steward



*Roo (Rufus Hafan
Robinson)*

18th May 2018, Dahab,

Egypt - 10th June 2024, St Peter Port, Guernsey

A loved family member who was as sensitive as he was exuberant. A heart full of joy that gained his angel wings way too soon. Roo is missed by his whole family here and in Wales. Special mention to his favourite ladies, Belle and Daisy Bear, who each have one of his toys. Keep doing the retrieve your way, little bean! It was the best. Nos da cariad. Love, Tân, Tess, Nelson, Seren, Mamgu, Auntie Jane, and me. Xx



*"... what we have enjoyed, we can never lose ...
all that we love deeply becomes a part of us."*

Helen Keller



STORY FROM DIFFERENT VIEWS:

Why I joined the club – long standing member

Val Dowding

I started at the I.D.T.C in 1965 with our poodle Trixie which I enjoyed, but then expecting our 2nd baby I felt it was becoming too much, she was a very well-behaved little dog. It wasn't until 1984 that our 3rd daughter Carolyn, then 11 years old, wanted a puppy, so we got Gemma our cockerpoo, before they were famous! We told her that as we would not have disobedient children, we certainly would not have a naughty dog in the house. In 1988 I joined the club with Carolyn to help her train her dog. That all worked very well, doing training, tricks, obedience shows and agility, never actually winning a first but won almost all the fun trophies. It was when Carolyn was 16 and left for college in Cornwall to do her NNEB course that I became more involved with the club, as I wanted to keep up with Gemma's training. Sadly, we lost Gemma at 9 years old.



Shortly after joining, I decided that I wanted a puppy for myself to train and hearing of a Border Collie who at 3 months old had already had three homes and with my husband saying "she is Newcastle colours" (and comes ready trained) decided to get her, that was my Jess, well I soon found out they do not come ready trained and she was quite hard work!

Without the clubs help and encouragement I probably would have tried to rehome her again, but we did make it and won through the lower obedience classes. Jess really was a beautiful dog and a joy to own after the initial difficult start.

I was asked if I would like to become trophy



steward a job I took on for the club and did it for a number of years, until our granddaughter Claire took over from me. Claire used to come to club with me as a little girl, then later with her Harvey now sadly missed, she also helps in the club. Julie (Claire's mum) is doing some scoring at shows so quite a family affair.

I also managed to encourage Frank (my husband) to become a steward for the shows which he did for quite a while.



My next puppy in 1998 was Knoska the first of my 3 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, the breed is very quick to learn but can be stubborn at times, in fact the letter that came with Knoska, from the breeder, said "don't forget to keep being firm, they are very willful, but wonderful when trained" words that I keep myself referring to. As Knoska was getting older - along came Nara quickly nicknamed Naughty Nara as because if she decides she doesn't want to do something then she won't do it. Now at 14 years old is retired, maybe

the veteran class if she is up to it.



I am proud to say that we have achieved gold in all the Good Citizen's test with all my dogs. Hattie the latest of my Polish Lowland Sheepdogs and the one I am working with now. We enjoy our training classes and enter shows with varying success, but enjoy participating. We are looking

forward to going to Jersey for shows and have even been invited for the Dog of the Year held in Jersey.

All our dogs have been family pets first, the training for obedience was always to help make them good dogs around people and other dogs just to be Good Citizens.

I have been a trainer which I have enjoyed and hope to continue as an assistant for the foreseeable future.

Why I joined the club - New Member

Siân Merrien

I'm Siân and I train my 2-year-old Sprocker Spaniel, Fleur. We first joined the Club in 2022 when Fleur was a puppy and I was adamant that

it was just for the 6-week puppy course and that would be it. Well, we completed the 6-week course and that's when Terry spotted us and we're still here now. I love training Fleur because it builds such a good bond between us and also helps Fleur exercise her mind with all the different exercises and challenges that we do.

I would never have imagined that we would be where we are today. After completing the puppy course, we started with the Basic Obedience test and after months of trying I thought we would never complete the number 10 because Fleur couldn't keep her waggle butt still for the 'sit stay'. But with the help of the trainers and being persistent we finally passed number 10 and before I knew it went on to passing her Bronze and Silver Good Citizen as well. We also like to compete in the competitions and she surprises me every time.

Sometimes good, sometimes bad but I know she's always trying her best to do well for me and I come home proud of her every time.



I love the bond that we get from practicing and going to training together. Our favourite thing that we like doing at the club is our Christmas party (Fleur especially loves it when we play retrieve with a sausage). I would like to thank all of the trainers for all of their hard work and dedication that they put in to the club and especially thanks to Terry, if it wasn't for her support and encouragement, I don't think we would be where we are today.

Why did we come to club? – New Member

Fran Hafan

Roo was found by the owner of a rescue centre in Dahab. Stolen from his mother as a young puppy, he was discovered being stoned in a bin in the market. Luckily, he was quickly rescued and



brought to Heathrow in November 2019 at just 18 months old. Tân and I went to meet him; he was the size of a Shetland pony! I learned he hadn't eaten for over 24 hours, so his first meal during the 7-hour trip back to St Davids was a BP garage chicken sandwich.

I gave Roo three months to decompress, learn Welsh, and get through the waiting list to join the dog club. But on the night of what should have been his first class, the world changed: we were all locked down for the first time during COVID-19. Roo happily learned from his big brother Tân, copying every annoying bad habit with delight. The boys formed a wonderful



friendship. By the time all the lockdowns were over, life was busy, and Tân's health had significantly deteriorated in September 2021, taking my attention. We moved to Guernsey in August 2023, ready for an exciting adventure. Tân was to slow down and relax in the sunshine!

I thought about Roo and realized that at some point, it would just be the two of us. Even though I only rescued Tân at 3 years old, our bond is incredibly strong. Roo was loved and a friend, but I didn't feel I had given him the one-

to-one attention to build a better bond. It was time to try out the dog club. I joked that we'd be expelled in week one, so I playfully asked Roo if he wanted to go to school. Week after week, Bill and Karen were patient. Hannah and Bailey were in the same boat, sharing a class to overcome their anxiety. Bailey is flying now, and Hannah, you must be proud.



Roo tried his best, and we were both learning. He learned boundaries and loved practicing in the kitchen on winter nights. I was fascinated by how he related to the activities and wanted to do them, and how my actions impacted him – “the lead is an aerial.” We entered the shows because



everyone else was going, and I was curious. Roo loved it and took his efforts to another level. I didn't recognize the dog walking next to me, actually listening. He was having fun, and his confidence grew, which is what I wanted from the club, along with joining a like-minded community of people. I felt our bond growing, and I knew we'd be okay in the future. I learned to only use the

word "school" when we were actually going to the club. He would go from sloth to excited bouncing bean within seconds. Roo loved the club. Yes, the tense of this piece has changed because, if you don't know, our gorgeous boy passed away on June 10th, 2024. The hole in all our hearts is massive and not even close to healing. I am not able to be around the club yet; it's nothing personal. I would love to be there, but without Roo, it is a step too far. I just see his big happy face in the room, doing something goofy. Surely, that says a lot about how much we appreciated all your friendship and guidance. The training room was Roo's happy place, so the tears are too close to the surface. The veterinary and nursing team involved in his care all commented on his good nature throughout difficult treatment when he would have felt terrible. But that was Roo; every day, he was pure joy.



BREED HIGHLIGHT - Miniature Schnauzers



Chantal Fallaize and Rosemary Bougeard

Schnauzers originated in Germany in the 19th Century as working dogs and they were used to assist farmers with herding, ratting and guarding property. They are an excellent “watch dog “and you will never need a doorbell!!!

Schnauzers fur is double coated with a wiry exterior and soft undercoat, and they are also hypo allergenic. As they are none molting dogs, they need to be trimmed every 6 to 8 weeks. There is a certain Schnauzer cut, with a longer beard and a skirt round the stomach however this is normally reserved for show dogs. Generally, most schnauzers now have a much shorter cut but still highlighting their beard and eyebrows, which is synonymous with the Schnauzer and its personality – although it can make them look like old wise men!

Miniature Schnauzers generally weigh in the region of 5/10 kilos and in either of the four colours- black; black and silver; salt and pepper or white. The most common appear to be salt and pepper. They have an expected lifespan of 12 to 14 years.

Schnauzers are extremely intelligent and willing to please, although at times a little willful! They are however easy to train. They are very alert and have incredible hearing – they can hear the postman before he turns the corner!

They love to be by the side of their owner and are extremely loyal. If left for just two minutes on their own, they welcome you as if you have been away for months - even if you have only been to put out the dustbin! Though happy to sit by you throughout the day, they are also energetic and extremely happy to go on long walks especially if there are plenty of areas for them to sniff!

They can be quite aloof with strangers but once they get to know you, they are your friend forever. They are also generally friendly with other dogs and enjoy a good chase especially on the beach.



Although the Miniature Schnauzer breed is considered very healthy, they are unfortunately prone to digestive problems such as pancreatitis and colitis. For this reason, they are best kept on a low-fat diet and careful not to overfeed.

Why did I choose my Miniature Schnauzer Piper?

My first family pet was a Bichon Frise and I decided that when I had another dog, I wished to have a different breed, type and appearance – which especially did not molt!

I looked to see if there were any Schnauzer breeders in Guernsey, but sadly there were not. I then joined the Houzer Schnauzer Charity Facebook page, (not closed), where I was told that a Schnauzer had been rescued from a puppy farm and was heavily pregnant and that the puppies were due in the next couple of weeks. I contacted the Charity and after many questions and checking, they kindly agreed to put me on their waiting list. On 13th May 2019 five girls and one boy were born and I was given the first choice on which I would like. I chose the puppy with the red collar – who I then named Piper and who has become my close companion and best friend.



Before acquiring Piper, I had experienced some long bouts of hospitalization and due to medical reasons, I was unable to work but I always knew that I wanted to put something back into the community but wasn't sure what. When Piper was 18 months old, I was told about WAG and their therapy dogs who visited schools, residential homes, hospitals etc.

I therefore enquired about Piper joining WAG and had an initial meeting with the Charity. After an assessment, which Piper passed, we were allocated a residential home that we visited regularly over a three-year period and where we became good friends with many of the residents. We have also done playscheme and office visits and some charity events which have always been well attended and always loved by everyone who meets the dogs.



Due to my medical condition, I have some physical restrictions and I therefore investigated having Piper trained as an assistance dog as she has always been very good at taking commands and very attuned with me. I realised quickly that I was unable to get Piper trained through the UK and found Paws For Support (PFS) in Guernsey.

After meeting all medical requirements and Piper obtaining necessary veterinary checks, we commenced our journey on Piper becoming an Assistance Dog. We joined the PFS Assistance Dogs Group in June 2023. I have been extremely lucky to meet an incredible group of people and their dogs and to have the most amazing trainers who support each and every one of us in training



both our dogs, and us, to the reach the highest of standards in order to Qualify as a registered Assistance Dog.

Piper is my most loyal and most loved best mate. We go everywhere together, especially now she is training to be my Assistance Dog.

She also calmed me down recently whilst having a filling at the dentist and even had a visit with me to the doctors! Most recently, I had a two week stay in hospital and after obtaining the proper authority, Piper was able to visit me in my room and her visits were the highlight of my day.

Piper loves playing with other dogs, and I have made so many new friends with dogs, especially friends with schnauzers and we all meet up on a regular basis for a walk and a coffee! I would be so lost without my best mate – she knows when I am feeling low and need that extra bit of comfort. She also behaves so well when we are out in shops, restaurants etc. and accompanies me absolutely everywhere! Most of all, I love watching her running around with her friends on the beach.



AGILITY - IDTC Agility Weekend: June 1st-2nd

Jane Le Maitre

The first weekend of June saw a sunny celebration for the Island Dog Training Club (IDTC) as members gathered for a much-anticipated return to outdoor agility training. This section of the Club has faced challenges in recent years, seeking an outdoor training area with the necessary planning permissions.

The event took place at IDTC's new training venue at Le Friquet Garden Centre, set to become a hub for dog training across various disciplines. At the time of writing this article, work has begun on installing permanent fencing and a storage facility and it is hoped that the venue



will also host shows, competitions, and other dog-training events in the future. For this weekend, agility trainers set up temporary fencing to create a safe and secure training environment to enable handlers and their dogs to train with confidence and in safety.

This fun workshop was designed to encourage both experienced and novice handlers to learn and improve on some

of the basic skills needed for agility. Handlers and their dogs took turns navigating different sections of an agility course, mastering obstacles like the dog-walk, seesaw, and the ever-challenging weaves. Sessions also focused on improving dogs' recall, focus, and engagement—essential skills for any dog sport, especially agility. Some participants



experienced outdoor agility for the first time, discovering how different it is compared to running a course indoors.



Club Trainers Sara Sarre, Martina De La Mare, and Jo Ouseley, assisted by Simon De La Mare, Hanna Young, and Jane Le Maitre, guided handlers through various skills and training exercises. The day included a course-walking session, offering methods for memorizing obstacle order and considering different handling options. The event culminated with participants running their dogs over the entire course, with rosettes awarded for clear rounds and other notable

achievements.

The weekend was a resounding success, sparking interest in taking part in local competitions. Many handlers in the Club already compete in Jersey and the UK, and in the past, some have also qualified to compete at Crufts.

Looking ahead, once the new venue is fully fenced, outdoor agility classes are expected to resume in September 2024 for as long as the weather holds out. The Club also plans to host its own agility shows once again in the future, potentially enabling members to qualify for the Channel Island Dog of the Year Show held annually in Jersey.

If you are interested in joining our agility classes, please speak to a Club Trainer or use the contact form on our website, or send an enquiry to Secretary@idtc.co.uk. Everyone is welcome!



Pet Dog Class Training



Registrar..... Membership Matters

Jane Le Maitre

 Hello!

I am currently the Club's Registrar and therefore responsible for maintaining membership records for the Club. As we reach the start of another Club year, it would be hugely appreciated if Members could use the online facility to join or renew their membership which can all be done via this link <https://idtc.co.uk/become-a-member/>

Alternatively, and knowing that not everyone is happy to use online facilities, if you wish to use a paper form, there is a supply in the Clubroom, or a Membership form can be downloaded and then printed out from the following link: <https://idtc.co.uk/documents/> Please ensure that you enclose the correct subscription amount. Remember, Membership subscriptions are unlikely to go down, but if paid before the AGM you can pay at the existing rates set out on the Cub website for 2023/24 and avoid any increase that might go through at the AGM.

If you move during the year, please email me to update your address and any other contact details; particularly important when the Club is arranging to send out the annual newsletter and papers for the Annual General Meeting which takes place in September.

Any enquiries on membership matters please ask your Trainer in the first instance, and / or email me at registrar@idtc.co.uk Happy to help!

Your Club Needs You – Sub committees

Members Supporting and running their club

Maintenance – Alan, Simon, Bill,

These guys oversee and organise any works needed to the clubroom. This clubroom is an extremely valuable resource that must be looked after. We thank them for already addressing so many issues and we are very lucky to have these guys giving up their time for the club. If you have a trade or skill e.g. electrician, carpenter, fitter, plaster etc. or are just very handy at odd jobs and you think you might be able to off an hour here or there please let the General Committee know. If members notice anything regarding the maintenance sub committee's attention, please let the General Committee know via secretary@idtc.co.uk (Please do not approach the sub-committee directly.)



Gardening – Karen, Sue, Madeliene, Jenny

These green fingered members have teamed up to look after the grounds at the clubroom and what a fabulous job they are doing.



Weeding, tidying and general up keep of the curtilage of the clubroom. If



you also have green fingers and can offer an hour here or there, please contact president@idtc.co.uk



Newsletter - Jane, Rebecca, Hanna

Amazing work by these guys collating content, from highlighting members successes, sharing thoughts, feelings and information, to creating puzzles/ quizzes/ competitions for interaction and keeping up with current knowledge. Lots of new ideas as well as some of the old favourites. Would you like to hear from the club more often? Would you like this by email or more newsletters? We need to know? Contact President@idtc.co.uk

Fundraising /Social Events – Rita, Rebecca, Karen, Jenny

Brand new but with lots to come from this sub-committee. We want the club to have a more social feel and offer our members events to mix with other like-minded people with and without their dogs. We will be also organising fundraisers for things the club needs like a new kitchen, new agility equipment etc.

Hopefully you will all join us for **Bubbles and Nibbles before the AGM to launch these events - 6.30pm – at the Clubroom - Friday 27th September (AGM starting at 7pm).** Give ideas and get involved – contact president@idtc.co.uk



Media / Marketing – Sam, Jane, Eva, Annie

This sub-committee needs more help. If you have IT or Marketing knowledge, we would value your input and ask you get in touch with General Committee and get involved. After the General Committee have finalised the 5-year plan, which they will create using all the members and trainers feedback, the direction of this group will be more established. This is a new group who will initial be looking at our website and social media, how we can better advertise and promote the club's classes and events. Are you techie, can you help?

Contact president@idtc.co.uk for more information or to ask any questions.



Appeals committee required

With our new and updated constitution, we will be looking for members to stand on the IDTC appeals committee. At the AGM we will need to elect an appeals committee of 5 fully paid-up members. There is no determination on length of term and each year at AGM a show of hands will appoint the appeals panel.

This process will mean that if a member feels that a decision made by General Committee was unjustified, they have an option to appeal against any sanctions or actions imposed.

The appeals members will need to hear the facts about the case and using the club's rules and codes of conduct, determine if the general committee's decision was appropriate, therefore up holding it or quashing or reduce the level of sanction. They will have the final say in all matters, unless the event/incident happened at a Kennel Club registered event or show. At which point the Appellant will be able to approach the Guernsey Kennel Club for a final decision.

These members will need to be good listeners, be able to look at all the facts, use professionalism, fairness and be nonjudgmental but have an ability to be a decision maker.

If the appeals members are related, cohabit or are in any other way compromised. They will step down from that case and someone else will be appointed which will be agreed by both the General Committee and the appellant. If a decision on a choice of member cannot be reached the Guernsey Kennel Club will be asked to appoint someone.

If you would like further information on this role, please contact president@idtc.co.uk



COMPETITION - Where are we?

Anne Blondel and Poacher
out and about ..

*Answer will be shown on the IDTC
Website - After the AGM.*



Outdoor Training Venue for the Island Dog Training Club at Le Friquet Garden Centre

Le Friquet Garden Centre has become the new home for the Island Dog Training Club's outdoor training sessions. This all started 18 months ago as a hopeful conversation with the Blue Diamond Group (which has been extremely supportive right from the start), but it could only go ahead if we could obtain the relevant planning permissions. After tireless work permission was finally granted on 9 February 2024.



The field will be available for use from April 1 to September 30, with specific hours for weekends and weekdays.

Corbets Fencing Contractors are currently installing the fencing. A booking system will be in place for Trainers, Members and other dog-training entities in due course.

We are very pleased to report that Agility (and other outdoor dog-training activities) are now back at the Island Dog Training Club!