

The newsletter of Knowle Dog Training Club  
[www.kdtc.org.uk](http://www.kdtc.org.uk)



## 30 year Anniversary

Hi everyone and welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter.

By the time you receive this newsletter the Club will have celebrated its 30 year anniversary. We do hope you were able to join us in our celebrations in the clubhouse on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Many things have changed in 30 years not least in how we now train our dogs. Then it was by the use of force and compulsion; no use of tit-bits! Today it is by much gentler and positive reinforcement training with the dogs actively praised for performing correctly. So much better for dogs, handlers and instructors.

But it is not just the training methods that have changed. Long standing members will remember the old, cold and draughty Nissan style hut which served as the clubhouse. Nothing like the modern facilities we enjoy today. Please do remember that tea and coffee is available free of charge in the clubhouse after your training (or before it!) although you will have to make it yourselves.

Most importantly the club has enjoyed 30 years of success because of the continued support of you, the members. If you didn't turn up each week, rain or shine, there would be no purpose for the club. We look forward to your continued support for the next 30 years. (See page 6 for some photographs of the day)

### Inside This Issue

30 year anniversary	1
Web site	1
Stage Results	2
Kennel Club Good Citizens Award	2
Cricket Club	2
Birmingham Dog's Home	3
Meet the instructors	3
Why does my dog bark	4
Famous Dogs	5
30 year anniversary photographs	6

## Web site

One of our instructor's (Sarah) husband has redesigned and built a new web site for the club. This can be found at:  
[www.kdtc.org.uk](http://www.kdtc.org.uk)

The site is still being developed but contains information about the club. We are also adding brief details, together with photographs, of all our instructors. Please give it a visit and let us know what you think of the site

### Articles available for order from the Clubhouse

Dog Carrying Harness (to help get your dog in and out of your car)	£14.95
Boot Bag	£10.00
Wellie Bag	£12.95

## Stage Test Results

### Basic

Paul Thornton and Trojan  
 Sarah Spence and Harvey  
 Anne Weston and Frankie  
 Joan McCulloch and Oki  
 Pat Gilbert and Millie  
 Barry Miller and Kizzie  
 Josie Freedman and Perry  
 Josie Freedman and Hannah  
 Christine Worrall and Millie  
 Paris Taylor and Sky  
 Serena Eccles and Honey  
 Adrian Gardner and Blue  
 Angela Rutter and Brewster  
 Bev Szal and Indy

### Stage 1

Jean Campbell and Freddie  
 Sylvia Eccles and Tom  
 Dave Cotton and Rockett  
 Paul Thornton and Trojan  
 Anne Weston and Frankie  
 Pat Gilbert and Millie  
 Paris Taylor and Sky

### Stage 2B

Chris Coe and Eisha  
 Pam Brown and George  
 Sandra Bettam and Jem

### Stage 2A

Paris Taylor and Sky

### Stage 3A

John Coley and Zak

## Kennel Club Good Citizens Award

Congratulations to those who passed their Good Citizens Award.

### Bronze Award

Pat Gilbert and Millie  
 Jackie Ledbrook and Rosie  
 Amy Carroll and Abi  
 Paris Taylor and Sky  
 Adrian Gardner and Blue  
 Elizabeth Roche and Murphy

### Gold Award

Valerie Simmons and Jasmine  
 John Coley and Zak  
 Terry Balhatchet and Beau  
 Chris Coe and Eisha  
 Sandra Betham and Whisper  
 Sylvia Eccles and Tom

We hope to run a Silver Award in September/October. If anyone would like details of this please see Pat or Paul Thornton any Sunday morning

## Cricket Club

We do of course enjoy the facilities of Knowle Village Cricket Club on whose ground we train and whose clubhouse we have the use of. With the approach of the cricket season the fence surrounding the cricket square has been removed but can we please remind members that you **MUST NOT** walk across the cricket square. If you are unsure as to just where the square begins or ends just ask any of our instructors.

With the start of the cricket season we also need to ensure that lessons end on time at 1:15pm as cricket matches are played on a Sunday afternoon. We know some of our instructors do get a bit forgetful about time and if they are over-running please feel free to remind them of the time.

## Birmingham Dog's Home

The guest speaker at our presentation evening on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2008 was Alayna Warner from The Birmingham Dog's Home. We presented Alayna with a cheque for £700, raised through a raffle held on the evening and the proceeds from our Rally Day, together with donations of food and blankets. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our donation.

In addition to walking, with his dogs, he is studying for a history degree with the Open University, undertakes family history research, is an avid collector of anything and everything (cigarette cards, RSPB pin badges and whisky bottle "outers" gratefully received!), builds model lorries and is renowned for his rubbish taste in music.

In addition being involved with the club he is also Chairman for the Midlands Area of his company's pensioner's association, secretary of the local Open University Students Association, a member of a genealogy society and has just taken responsibility for the club's newsletter.

## Meet the instructors Part 3 - Paul Robinson



Paul has been a club member since 1985 and an instructor since 1991. A true Brummie born in Dudley Road Hospital (he refuses to accept the change of name to City Hospital) he was brought up in Birchfield (by Lozells and Handsworth). He subsequently moved away from Birmingham and worked in various parts of the UK before returning to Solihull. He took early retirement from work in 2006 which has allowed him to concentrate on his (many) hobbies.

He joined the club with his second Old English Sheepdog, Sophie, and since then he and his wife have owned a further Old English Sheepdog, a Newfoundland and their current dogs a Norwegian Elkhound and Italian Spinone.

However in addition to the dogs they have actually owned at one stage or another they have been foster parents to a Labrador, Bernese Mountain Dog, Cocker Spaniel and German Shepherd.

For the past number of years Paul has been the principal instructor for our very successful puppy class. This has built up from small beginnings some years ago to be one of our most popular classes.

### Doggie Proverb

He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion

# Training Tips

## Why does my dog bark?

It is perfectly normal for dogs to bark. Some, such as the guarding breeds and terriers, were bred to be noisy. Others, like gundogs, were bred to be quiet.

Most dog owners expect their pets to draw attention to people at the door or react to strange noises.

Before trying to control inappropriate barking it is important to recognise that it could be the result of a psychological problem. Some dogs bark through fear of being left alone, extreme territorial behaviour or a phobia about certain sounds or situations.

If you want to correctly identify the cause of the problem you may need the expert help of a behaviourist. (Your Vet may be able to recommend one).

Dogs may bark out of excitement, boredom or just for the hell of it. You can train the "Speak" and "Quiet" commands but before starting make sure you and your family are not inadvertently encouraging noisy behaviour by your everyday management of the dog.

Consider the following points:

- Do not regularly leave your dogs alone for long periods
- Do not leave your dog for long periods in the garden unsupervised as this will encourage territorial barking
- Give your dog plenty of exercise by playing and training him before leaving him
- When you have to leave him provide a range of toys to combat boredom
- Do not respond to attention seeking barking. Ignore it. Some dogs bark to be let out into the garden or ask for their dinner. If this proves successful it will be repeated whenever the dog wants something.

When your dog is barking do not join in by shouting. He may well misinterpret your actions and welcome your supporting noise

- When your dog is barking do not stroke and talk to him in an attempt to settle him. He will think you have praised him.
- If he is barking at something visual, physically turn him away from it and the moment he quietens handle and praise him.

## Barking to Order

What makes your dog bark? It could be

- Tormenting him with his dinner
- Tying his lead to a fence and appearing to walk off
- The front door bell
- Teasing him with a toy.

Once you have discovered what makes him bark, you can put the information to good use - you can make him bark to order.

Start the dog barking by reproducing the situation you know works - the stimulus. Repeat three or four times and after each successful bark reward him - a toy, titbit or praise.

Repeat these sessions until you are confident you can instantly start him barking.

## Teaching to Speak

- Choose a command "Speak" or "Bark".
- Produce the stimulus and as the dog starts barking command the dog to "speak".
- Timing is crucial if the dog is to associate the command with barking. The command needs to coincide exactly with the dogs barking. Then reward as before.
- After the command is given vary the number of barks before the reward is given and encourage the dog to continue barking until the reward is given. This can be a bit noisy!!

## Teaching the "Quiet" command

- Again choose an appropriate command - "Quiet" is good.
- You will have probably discovered that when you have been rewarding your dog for barking he has gone quiet - it is difficult to bark with a toy or food in your mouth.
- Command the dog to "Speak" and after five or six barks suddenly, with conviction, command the dog to be "Quiet". At the same time pretend you are about to reward him for barking and he should stop instantly. Quickly and enthusiastically reward him.
- Command the dog to "Speak" and repeat the "Quiet" command, again rewarding as before.
- After several days of training the "Quiet" command should become as consistent as the "Speak" command.
- It is now necessary to consolidate your training, sometimes rewarding the "Speak" and at other times rewarding the "Quiet" command.
- As with any other training if your dog starts to become inconsistent, return to the beginning of the training programme.

# Famous Dogs

An informal series of articles on famous dogs.

## Jean "the Vitagraph Dog" and Strongheart

No longer dogs that many people remember but Jean and Strongheart were two of the earliest canine film stars that paved the way for more famous stars such as Rin Tin Tin and Lassie.



Around 1907, Maine resident and aspiring writer Laurence Trimble moved to New York City with his dog, Jean. An article he sold to a local magazine paved the way for the two of them to visit Vitagraph Studios to do a story on film making. Trimble and his pet just happened to be on the set at a time when the company needed a dog to play opposite Florence Turner ("the Vitagraph Girl"). As a result, dog and master were asked to stay and both became members of the Vitagraph stock company. Jean became quite popular and was soon known as "the Vitagraph Dog", starring in her own films along with "the Vitagraph Girl" all directed by Larry Trimble.

Between 1910 and 1913 Jean starred in some eighteen films with titles such as, *Jean and the Calico Doll*, *Jean and the Waif*, and *Jean Goes Fishing*.

In 1913 Trimble, Turner, and Jean left Vitagraph and started up Turner Films, Ltd. in England. World War I interrupted most of their work and, in 1916, Trimble returned to the states. That same year, Jean died.



Strongheart was the screen name of Etzel von Oeringen (October 1, 1917-June 24, 1929), a German shepherd. After being trained in Germany as a police dog, he was brought to the United States by Larry Trimble. He appeared in several movies, including a 1925 adaptation of *White Fang*. Some of these pictures were highly successful, and did much to encourage the popularity of the breed, but most have been lost.

Strongheart and his mate, Lady Jule, had many offspring and their line survives to this day. In 1929, while filming a movie, Strongheart accidentally fell against hot studio lights and was burned. These burns caused a tumor to form and Strongheart died as a result of it.

Larry Trimble eventually retired from film making at age 40 and became a trainer of guide dogs for the blind.

# 30 year Anniversary Photographs



Cutting the cake



Chris Davis, Chairman KDTC



John Richmond, Chairman KVCC, presenting Chris Davis, Chairman KDTC, with a gift to mark KDTC's 30 years



Knowle Dog Training Club  
Hampton Road  
Knowle  
Solihull  
B93 ONX



Ann Allen, Joint Secretary, and our longest serving member and instructor with glass bowl presented to KDTC by KVCC

Classes every Sunday	
Puppy Class	11:15-12:00
Beginners Course	11:00-12:00
Advanced Training	12:15-13:15
Agility	11:00-12:00

Details from Joint-Secretaries  
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