



# HOUND SCHOOL

## Summer Newsletter



Pennie Clayton-Dog training, behaviour and Bowen therapy for dogs and their owners

07910 720961 [www.horseandhoundschool.co.uk](http://www.horseandhoundschool.co.uk) spring/summer 2011

Summer has come very early, after a very long winter. The weather has a big affect on dogs as well as us. Wellbeing is increased in the better weather and with the long nights come lovely long evenings in which to walk our dogs. Dogs enjoy walking at different times of the day, don't always feel that you have got to walk with other dogs because your dog will appreciate spending quality time with you just sauntering along, sniffing and finding out all about what other dogs and wildlife have been in the area before him. The garden is also another source of enjoyment for your dog; use your garden as a play and brainwork area for your dog. Very cheap "toys" can be bought at places like Ikea see above which treats can be hidden in, and if your dog loves a paddle you can also purchase cheap paddling pools which can be used to drop treats into as well and therefore make this type of game a bit more of a challenge for him. Exploring lovely leafy walks will also be very welcome to your dog on a hot day, make sure however much you feel he needs to walk to burn off some energy that you avoid the very hottest times of the day as dogs can very quickly become dehydrated and suffer from heatstroke, be aware as you will not get very little warning if heatstroke takes hold on a hot day.

If you need to walk on a hot day do follow the rules;



- Take plenty of water with you for both yourself and your dog
- Walk in the shade
- There are some fantastic "cool coats" you can buy which you drape over your dog once they are thoroughly wet, these will keep your dogs temperature down and help him to stay cool. This is especially important if you have a small dog, a greyhound or a short nosed breed of dog, these types of dogs have very bad temperature regulation and need lots of help. You can improvise these type of coats by using a wet towel
  - If the worst does happen get him to the car/home as quickly as possible and call the vet.
  - Be on the lookout for poisonous snakes during the spring too.

### Holidays with your dog

**Holidays are fun with your dog. Many dogs love camping and this can make a lovely weekend or a longer holiday in the countryside or by the seaside. The very best campsites provide walks on the site itself or if these are not provided they is always somewhere very close to stretch your dogs legs. You may also want to combine a doggy event with a holiday too. There are lots of dog events throughout the summer where it makes a change to combine an event with a long weekend away with your dog. In my experience dogs love camping and love nothing more than to sleep under canvas! Camping provides a good solution as it is often difficult to find cottages that take more than one dog and a few B+B's do take dogs but they may not be where you were planning to go.**

**Try to camp away from busy areas of the campsite as this may disturb your dog, and wind breaks are essential so that you can all get some peace from people and other dogs passing by. My dogs always have their own sleeping bags when we go away otherwise I spend all my time fighting over the best sleeping bag! Some dogs can get very cold at night too so make sure you have a cosy coat for just in case. The Camping and Caravanning Club have lovely campsites and you do not have to be a member to book. A recommended campsite is on Fakenham racecourse about 10 miles from the North Norfolk coast, it is a well run campsite which rarely gets busy and there is plenty of room for dogs and is in a lovely setting.**



**These are just a few pictures of my dogs enjoying their holidays under canvas!**



Windbreaks are very useful!

It is important though to stake your claim for the bed!

### *DOG GAMES (see the pictures at the top of the first page!)*

*The summer is such a great time to build a bond with your dog. You do not have to spend lots of money investing in dog toys although there are some fantastic ones on the market. The most cost effective way to entertain your dog and to build a better bond is to collect all the cardboard boxes you use and to keep all the loo roll tubes instead of throwing them out. Boxes and loo roll tubes are fantastic to hide treats in. They can be hidden in the garden and if your dog is new to these kind of games go out with your dog and show him how to get the treats out and once he has the knack you can start to hide the tubes and boxes so your dog can search for them.*

*If you would like to know more about activating your dogs abilities and need some ideas for the outdoors there is a monthly dog activity class held at the Hawley Pavilion come and teach your dog (and yourself) some new skill. Next classes are on 16<sup>th</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July*

### Forthcoming events

Recall workshop-this course devotes two weeks to your dogs recall. If your dog is not keen to come back when called these 2 lessons will help you to resolve what techniques are useful to bring your dog back to your side. This class is especially helpful for recently rehomed greyhounds that have little or no bond with a new owner and all workshops combine both theory and practical work.

Hawley Pavilion fun dog show and fete to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Classes start at about 12.30 and include best puppy, best rescue dog, scruffiest dog, shining condition and melting expression. For more details see the Horse and Hound School facebook page which can be accessed via the home page of [www.horseandhoundschool.co.uk](http://www.horseandhoundschool.co.uk). All classes £1.50 and entries will be taken in the ring.

### **DOG AMBASSADORS**

**During summer we are out more with our dogs and we become more visible. There has been much speculation in the news about potential new dangerous dog laws and regulations; and the politicians are talking about implementing more stringent laws. It is now more important than ever to be a considerate and careful dog owner. Your dog may well be gentle and well trained, but now more than ever it is really important that our attitude towards people and other dogs is really thoughtful.**

**Many dogs have had bad experiences with other dogs; and some people are afraid of dogs of all sizes and types. Some people just don't like dogs - and these people need educating. By keeping our dogs on leads and being polite around them we can enlighten many of these people. If we all take extra care and are responsible we can win people around. Always put your dog on a lead when you are having coffee at a cafe in a park, and watch that your dog doesn't beg from other customers as you sit drinking your coffee - it is amazing how little we have to do to win the respect of non dog people; don't forget your dog is your responsibility and under your care.**