



Newsletter March 2015

Registered Charity Number: 1067495

Patrons: David C. Fletcher B. Vet. Med. MRCVS, Maureen S Fletcher, Michael Bingham

Christmas shopping LRK Style

We had a busy few weeks before Christmas with our stands selling our goods. Chiddingstone was amazing we will be there again this year. Quexpark was brilliant and yet again we will be there this year and Smarden was superb.. well supported.

All in all we took over £1,000, so thank you for all your support and help.

Sponsored Walk at Bewl

+++ !!! +++ CHANGE OF DATE +++ !!! +++

Third time lucky! Sorry all, we have had to change the date again, but this time we are sticking to it. Saturday, May 16 @ Bewl Water. Sponsorship entries are on the website. We realise that not everyone is comfortable asking friends and family for sponsorship so we would suggest that everyone aims to raise at least £10 and pays the entrance fee of £2 per human and then if you would like to raise more money you can seek further sponsorship.

We are very fortunate that the Cranbrook and Tunbridge Wells offices of residential agent Savills has joined us and will be helping us to get more of you out there with your dogs.

Thank you Savills for coming on board!

+++ !!! +++ CHANGE OF DATE +++ !!! +++



 **Sponsored Walk** * * * * *

Help set a record and be a part of the largest official gathering of Labradors in Kent

Saturday 16 May 2015 supported by 

BEWL WATER COUNTRY PARK, TN3 8JH

Registration at 9.30am
Photo opportunity at 10.15am
(All breeds of dog welcome!)

Registration and Sponsorship forms available
from our website
www.labrescuekent.co.uk

Helpers needed!

We urgently need more people to help out We are a voluntary organisation and sometimes we do not have enough people to help. It can be something quite small, like putting up posters in your local post office to emailing all your friends about an upcoming event. It could be an hour's help or a day's help.

Please do call and let us know what you can offer in terms of time and skills. It doesn't matter if you think you only have an hour or so, we are more than happy to get you involved. We will be delighted to hear from you. Please make 2015 the year you help LRK.

Please, if you or anyone you know might be able to help us in any way have a chat to Maggie on 01580 720408.

Get fit with your hound!

Here's hoping that you haven't given up on your January resolutions! If you need a little reminder here are some tips to getting fit with your dog!

Walk everyday with your dog. Twice a day is best. Play with your dog. Throwing a Frisbee is good exercise for both of you.

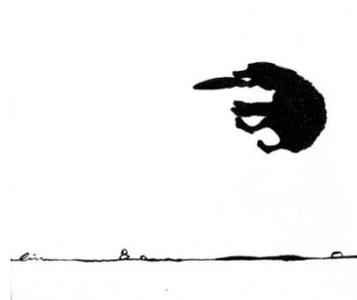
Take your dog to agility training. You will both benefit.

Remember to drink water when you are thirsty! Follow your dog's example.

Remember to give your dog a healthy snack .. carrots are good and the same for you too!

And finally join us at our Sponsored Walk on Saturday, 16th May at Bewl Water.

Keep having fun with your dog.



Natural remedies for your dogs - by Mick Bingham

When our dogs become unwell, we immediately consult our veterinary surgeon, who diagnoses the condition and prescribes the appropriate treatment. In almost all cases the treatment involves the use of modern drugs and modern treatments.

There are however, alternative methods of treatment and sometimes they prove to be equally effective, so I have listed some of the alternative treatments that could be used. These treatments are carried out by professionally qualified practitioners. Remember it is advisable and courteous to discuss alternative methods of treatment with your vet before making a decision.

ACUPUNCTURE - The use of special needles inserted in classic acupuncture points to treat the disease or condition.

ACUPRESSURE - Pressure applied with fingers to specific points on the animals body.

OSTEOPATHY - Manipulation of the dogs anatomy, joint pains.

CHIROPRACTIC - Manipulation and palpation to relevant joints and muscles.

HERBAL REMEDIES - For those of us who dislike long term use of modern drugs, there is the alternative of herbal remedies. Some veterinary practices can prescribe homeopathic remedies, if a vet in that practice has trained in the use of them.

REMEMBER - CONSULT YOUR OWN VET BEFORE TRYING THEM.

If you would like to know more about alternative treatments, I would recommend a book entitled "Natural Dog Care" by Dr Bruce Fogle, a well known practising vet.

Would you like your Lab Rescue Dog to be one of the stars of our 2016 LRK calendar?

Some of you may have purchased our 2015 LRK calendar and if so, THANK YOU SO MUCH! For the 2016 calendar we'd really like to have one of our adopted dogs on each page with a little summary about them. You may like to submit a picture of a current dog, or you may want to tell everyone about a wonderful rescue dog who is no longer with you, but who gave you so much joy. To give you an idea of what we need we've put a couple of examples below. We're not sure about the amount of space we will have on the calendars for wording yet so we may have to change text sent in slightly, but here's the kind of thing we are thinking of:

Jiff - Jiff was rescued in the autumn of 2011 after being left in kennels for a year after his owners did not go back for him. He was in a terrible state and had obviously been hit and kicked. He was very unsure of certain people, but thanks to our perseverance, the little boy who was afraid of his own shadow is now only afraid of missing out!

Boycie - Boycie was given up for adoption at 5 months old after his owners couldn't cope with his boisterousness! Sadly he died shortly before his 4th birthday due to a heart condition, but this gorgeous boy lived his life to the full and was the inspiration for the LRK Loose Change for Lab tins so his legacy lives on.

So, if you are interested in helping us, we need images with the following specifications:

- The images can be either landscape or portrait
- The images must have been taken on a camera that is a minimum of 8 mega pixel camera
- You must submit the original image, it can't have been cropped.

Depending on the number of submissions we get, we may not be able to use all of the images this year, but we will let you know the situation as we want to have a spread of young and old dogs, plus yellow, black and chocolate images. Also, it may be

that we can use the image on our website as we love to have updates on how our dogs are doing.

The deadline for getting images to us is 31st March 2015. The reason for this is that we would like to produce the calendar ready for sale at our Stockbury summer event on Sunday 28th June 2015. Images and text needs to be sent to calendars@labrescuekent.co.uk

Thank you for your support with this worthwhile project.

Save the date - Reunion Day

Where - Stockbury

When - 28 June 2015

If you would like to have a stand or to help out let us know. 01580 720408

Easter presents

With Easter coming up soon don't forget that we have our wonderful cashmere scarves for sale, which would make a very special present.

Then we have our Sophie Allport China, not only do we have Labrador mugs but also chicken mugs - ideal for an Easter gift.. Buy a mug fill it with eggs, wrap in cellophane and hey presto a superb present.

Check them out on our website or call Caroline on 01435 882683.



LRK Out and About

We will be at the following events: -

18th April - Penshurst point to point
 20th June - Shadoxhurst Dog Show
 28th June - Reunion Day
 September and November - Chiddingstone
 November - Quex Park
 October - Smarden
 November - Ashford School

Dog Tales

Ace Arrives

Three months ago LRK helped us to adopt a Labrador. His name was Ace and he was then 15 months old. We wanted to update you on how he has been getting on and how he has settled in to his new home.

He arrived as an absolute whirlwind; it quickly became clear that he had almost no obedience training at all! He spent the first week and a half very unsettled; he howled in the early hours wanting us to get up, thieved anything and everything left at nose height, pulled like a train on the lead and seemingly never needed sleep - a typical Labrador puppy! He also had issues with some aggression which, as we got to know him, we realised was his inability to control his excitement on walks.

However, he is now much more settled and an absolute pleasure to own. We worked hard with him on bite inhibition, and as he began to realise that his walks were regular and didn't need to be so vehemently guarded, his lead behaviour settled. We introduced him to his new friends Barney and Rowan, who he sees every few weeks for a run in the fields. Again, it took him time and socialisation to learn how to interact and play properly but he now loves spending time racing around with 'the boys'.

His obedience is vastly improved and he will now sit, stay, lie down, shake paws, play fetch and come

when he is called. He goes to a socialisation class every Saturday morning where he is working on his training but also socialising with other dogs and learning some basic agility.



Ace and friends

It is so wonderful to see a dog who was quite unsettled and mixed up; lacking in stability and consistency, now settled, calm and happy. He is a wonderful, loving dog and we adore him. It is incredibly rewarding to have offered a stable home to such a lovely dog and we wanted to say thank you for bringing him in to our lives.

Kind Regards, Carly and Ed



A settled Ace

Bert and Ernie - formerly known as Bonzo and Elvis

We wanted to adopt two Labradors together, Maggie came for a home check, approved us and then we were emailed a picture of Bonzo, 6 and Elvis, 4, two gorgeous boys who could not be without each other. We went to visit them on a sunny May bank holiday weekend 2009 and lo and behold we fell head over heels in love with these two beautiful bundles of energy that came bounding over to us with big happy faces as if they'd known as all their lives. We set about taking them home that day and have never looked back - one of the best and happiest days of all our lives. We decided to re-christen them Bert and Ernie. They were greeted by two not so happy cats who hid under the bed, Buzz giving Ernie a tap on the nose as he stuck his head towards them to say hello (it wasn't long till they were all good friends though). They explored the whole house and garden and settled in to their new home with great ease. The next day we decided to take them to the seaside, this was a particularly memorable adventure as poor Bert (who clearly hadn't experienced the seaside before) decided to drink sea water and on the way back, was rather sick.

June 2011, brought about the arrival of our son, who they have accepted and protected (and endured the occasion 'horsey ride') for the past 3 years. He loves them both often giving them cuddles and 'check ups' with his doctors set. They have also accepted the arrival of Woody the cat who we got as a 3 month old kitten and decided Ernie was to be his 'mummy' and still prefers the dogs company to the other cats often curling up with them.

They haven't always been such perfect angels though, Ernie has chewed and destroyed three couches, numerous plants, blinds, etc etc. but he has perfected the puppy dog eyes look and is always forgiven eventually. Bert will always greet you with the happiest, waggiest tail ever, he has even won first prize for the dog with the waggiest tail for 4 years at the Labrador Rescue reunion day.

They both have their own individual personality, Ernie loves playing ball in the park and will sulk if it's raining and it's just a walk around the block, is a

sneaky cake eater (will wait till you go out of the room then creep over and swipe a cake. He even managed to open a lock tight box full of rock buns once and ate the entire contents, and also a cake that was wrapped in a bag within a handbag; very pleased with himself indeed at his expert cake sniffing out skills and his sneakery! He has even perfected creeping upstairs too making himself comfortable on a newly made bed. Bert hates getting his feet wet and will only paddle in the sea, whilst Ernie will be a dot in the distance. Bert is a mummy's boy and a little bit nervous, Ernie is completely laid back. Though they couldn't be without each other, Ernie sleeps with his head on Bert, uses Bert as his pillow. They are both typical Labradors - Bert loves his food and Ernie loves his swimming and will jump in every occasion he can (including our son's paddling pool and muddy bogs of course..)



They have got great compliments from the dog kennels they have stayed in, one said they were like two big cuddly teddy bears and they wished all the dogs in kennels were like them. Another said that they 'counselled' another Labrador who was in the kennel opposite them, who'd recently lost his friend, back to happiness, the kennel owner described them as being "like two old gentlemen in smoking jackets". Ernie used his counselling skills again recently, by keeping a bereft Buzz company when we recently lost our 26 year old cat Tango, his best friend. Bert and Ernie both missed him too.

We are both volunteers for LRK, so Bert and Ernie often get taken to shows, so they are quite well known amongst Labrador Rescue Kent circles, even

once being interviewed at Tonbridge Farmers Market, gaining them a place in a YouTube video!

In the five and a half years of having Bert and Ernie, it has most certainly been an honour and an absolute pleasure to have given a home to the two best dogs we could have ever hoped and wished for, with the biggest hearts and smiles to match.

Ken and Yasmin



Millie

When we first contacted Margaret in 1998 my husband specified a black boy. After several attempts from her to find us the right Labrador she rang one night to say she had found the perfect one for us - but there was a slight problem, well two really - she was golden! Andy said absolutely no! But Margaret persuaded us to see her on the Saturday.

Upon walking through our front door "Milligan" as she was officially named, trotted in as if butter would not melt in her mouth and promptly sat and waited to be introduced. Andy took her on a tour of our house and she did exactly as he said. Even to the extent of waiting at the bottom of the stairs whilst he went up them before being called. Margaret also told us we would be her third home even though she

was only 8 months old! Well, first impressions worked and she stayed.

Little did we know that she would go through the terrible two's, destroying a corner of the concrete wall in the utility room as well as 'teething' on the dining room furniture!! After a while we thought she needed a friend so Margaret found us Oscar sandy coloured but much bigger although roughly the same age. Unfortunately, Oscar took over and played too roughly with Millie and did not listen to me when taking them for walks, in fact a walk was more of an arduous task than a pleasant experience as they took me! After two weeks we asked Margaret if she could find Oscar a home with a man to look after him because he would only listen to Andy and overpowered Millie. We know he went to a farmer and was having a wale of a time!

Millie started to settle down a bit after that but it took lots of training in the fields trying to get her to come back when she was let off the lead! It finally dawned on me that each morning she needed a minimum of 20 minutes walk. Because any time I was late up and needed to hurry back to get to work she would always play around, dashing left right and centre as if she was propelled by a rocket! Then one time I lost her in some woods. I didn't know the woods at the time and was worried about entering them for fear of getting lost. She had seen another lady and her Bloodhound walking there, so she went to find them! I took the outer path and was shouting to the owner 'Mrs Russell have you seen Millie? She's just shot off!' Mrs Russell promptly called back saying she was with them and everything was alright - well it was for her of course. That was when I was told about a small plastic bag (freezer bag is ideal) with treats in. Every time I wanted to call her back all I had to do was rustle the bag and low and behold she was there by my side! Wonderful Mrs Russell! Of course I trained Millie after that with the bag but then sometimes didn't give her a treat, just in case she got too comfortable! It worked.

We wanted to go on holiday to the Norfolk Broads one year but didn't know what to do with Millie. The boats on the Broads take dogs. So why not we said.

Millie loved it. Wonderful smells, new people who fussed all the time, lots of walks and fresh air too. Oh and the water. We were careful not to let her too near the edge of the boat as we were worried she would jump overboard. Millie had a tendency to splash and splash but generally liked to feel the bottom of the riverbeds. Unfortunately, we were walking by a slope one time and I wasn't paying much attention. Millie was on the long lead and she darted to the left! Yes, the water's edge was calling. Luckily, the day was sunny and she dried off. Wet doggy smell is not the best in a confined space!!!

Millie coped with my two step children Richard then 7 and Thomas then 5. It was Tom she took to the most as he was small enough to walk around the house with his arm around her neck and her face poking through. She was so gentle it was unbelievable. Tom and I went for a walk across the golf course one day and in a field on the other side we let her off. She did her normal thing of going mad then ran towards Tom and promptly knocked him over! I was worried she had hurt Tom and was going to tell her off but Tom got up, dusted himself down and just laughed!

We took Millie to the pub one Sunday to introduce her to other people and see how she would behave in public places. At first she was a little worried with lots of people around but soon got used to it when they all took notice of her and fussed over her. When she got given her own bowl of drink she calmed down a lot. When we got home that day she zonked out by the radiator and fell asleep snoring! It wasn't until we went back into the pub sometime later that we were told the water had a little beer in it! No wonder she lapped it all up!

We are so lucky here in Lamberhurst as wherever you go there are wonderful walks within seconds. We got to know lots even walking over Scotney Castle grounds and coming back covered in mud! Which reminds me of another day when I took her over the playing fields. Round the edges are ditches and yes you can guess what's coming. One

was smelly, wet and muddy - Millie found it!! She got the hose treatment when we got home. Needless to say, she never liked the hose after that!

In the Summertime Millie would always lie outside on the grass in the blazing sun until we told her to go in because she was too hot! It never seemed to bother her at all. Frosty days in Autumn walking out first thing with the sun glistening on the ground would always emphasise the smells and Millie would go mad sniffing at everything. Come Winter with the snow she would run into a pile of snow with her nose and snuffle underneath it!

Two years ago we thought we had lost Millie as she suffered a stroke. It was horrible to see her wobbling and not walking properly. The vets were marvellous and gave her medication which sorted her out. Being an aging lady she also needed Metacam for her back legs too. Sadly, though on 9th September 2014 we had to say goodbye. This was the most heart-wrenching time we have both ever experienced. She has left such a hole now and the house seems so empty, even though you never knew she was there because she would very rarely bark. Millie was 15 years and 4 months old which was a very good age for a Labrador and we gave her a wonderful, loving, fun home and life. We miss her terribly but would have not had such great times without her.



From Kattrina & Andy Evan