

BOUVNEWS

WINTER '15/16



national bouvier club

www.nationalbouvier.co.uk



national bouvier club

So far the planned activities are the AGM and Club Limit Show in March, a lovely walk in the beautiful hills in Lancashire with an enticing dog friendly pub at the end for a spot of lunch and chat, Spring/Summer. May Bank Holiday (1st one I believe) sees us back at David & Di's farm in the glorious Shropshire countryside & a joint venture with the Welfare & Rescue group to be held in Scotland or just back over the English border. The Southern event will be in June or September near Windsor at my place. Date depends on the dryness or otherwise of the Spring as my parking paddock gets very wet.

Happy New Year & welcome to this bumper edition of your club's newsletter to keep you up to date with all the exciting happenings in our world of Bouviers.

Sammy our computer wizard has been posting on the internet updates during the past 12 months & wonderful video clips of our various events. We realised that some of our members didn't have use of a computer so we decided to issue a hard copy for everyone to enjoy. Sammy will be looking for photographs of your bouvs and stories for his next online newsletter due out in the spring

We started a "facebook" page during the year which now has over 250 members from the world over. Do go look for us and join in the fun, reading about other bouvs and their antics!

We have held 4 events this year spread out all over the country and you can read about them later in this magazine. We put on these events for all members & friends so please come along & support our fundraising efforts for bouvs in distress and at the same time you and your bouv/s are guaranteed a fabulous time.

We didn't have time to fit in the Southern event in '15 so that is a priority for '16.

Membership is now due for 2016. Don't forget this £10 fee (yes only £10 per family) contributes to our rescue fund as well as a passport to all the fun and frolics we hold during the year. None of your committee take any sort of remuneration so all of your £10s are put to very good use. Please re-join to keep our club buoyant.

To make it really easy to part with your money here are a few ways to pay:

BANK TRANSFER: Sort Code is 30-17-80 Account No-22130660. Reference your name please.

PAYPAL: Go to website for instructions.

STANDING ORDER: Speak to your bank

CHEQUES to Marj Eastham, 10 Anenome Dr., Helmshore, Rossendale, Lancs BB4 6NJ.



IMPORTANT! Can we ask you all to send an email to Marj just to say hi with your name so we have an up to date email address for you all. gregoryfoldbouvier@sky.com



Pros & cons of neutering too early

My wife & I recently took in a new member to our family, Bella. We've had her for 3 months and are in love. She is 6 mths old now & I've heard different answers when it comes to the spaying timeline. I'd like your opinion - when would you recommend to spay a bouvier? Thanks.

This was a thread on facebook recently which caught my eye and thought it could make interesting reading.

Nancy Villwock: I was just discussing this with my trainer this week. It's good to wait until they are fully grown so their growth plates are closed. Personally I would wait until she's at least one and until two if you can. Far longer than most would recommend, I know.

Susan Upcraft: I agree, minimum one.

Wendy Partner: I personally think all these are far too young.

Tammy Lewis: I spayed my Stella at 8 months. I felt pressured by the vet and didn't know any better, the vet said to have it done before the 1st heat. It wasn't until I was at dog training with another bouvier that I learned I should have waited.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER STUDY SUGGESTS NEUTERING AFFECTS DOG'S HEALTH: Neutering & the age at which a dog is neutered may affect the animal's risk for developing certain cancers & joint diseases, according to this new study of Golden Retrievers by a team of researchers at the Uni of California, Davis. The study which examined the health records of 759 golden retrievers

found a surprising doubling of hip dysplasia among male dogs neutered before one year of age. The study results indicate that dog owners and service-dog trainers should carefully consider when to have their male or female dogs neutered.

Benjamin Hart, a distinguished professor emeritus in the UC Davis School of Vet Medicine says "it is important to remember however that because different dog breeds have different vulnerabilities to various diseases, the effects of early or late neutering also may vary from breed to breed".

While results of the new study are revealing, Hart said the relationship between neutering & disease-risk remains a complex issue. For example, the increased evidence of joint diseases among early-neutered dogs is likely a combination of the effect of neutering on the young dog's growth plates as well as the increase in weight on the joints that is commonly seen in neutered dogs.

Dog owners in the USA are overwhelmingly choosing to neuter their dogs, in large part to prevent pet overpopulation, or avoid unwanted behaviour. In the US, surgical neutering - known as spaying in females - is usually done when the dog is less than one year old.

In Europe, however, neutering is generally avoided by owners and trainers and not promoted by animal health authorities. Hart said. During the past decade, some studies have indicated that neutering can have several adverse health effects for certain dog breeds. Those studies examine individual diseases using data drawn from one breed or pooled from several.

Against that backdrop, Hart and colleagues launched their study, using a single hospital database. The study was designed to examine the effects of neutering on the risks of several diseases in the same breed, distinguishing between male and female and between early or late neutering and non-neutering. The researchers chose to focus on the golden retriever because it is one of the most popular breeds in the US and Europe and is vulnerable to various

cancers and joint disorders. The breed is also favoured for service work.

The research team reviewed the records of female and male golden retrievers, ranging in age from 1 - 8 years that had been examined at the William Pritchard Vet Hospital for two joint disorders and three cancers: hip dysplasia neutered before 12 months or neutered late, after 12 months.

Joint disorders and cancers are of particular interest because neutering removes the male dog's testes and the female's ovaries, interrupting production of certain hormones that play key roles in important body processes such as closure of bone plates and regulation of the estrous cycle in female dogs.

The study revealed that, for all five diseases analyzed, the disease rates were significantly higher in both males and females that were neutered early or late compared with intact (non-neutered) dogs. Specifically early neutering was associated with an increase in the occurrence of hip dysplasia, cranial cruciate ligament tear and lymphosarcoma in males and of cranial cruciate ligament tears in females. Late neutering was associated with the subsequent occurrence of mast cell tumours and hemangiosarcoma in females.

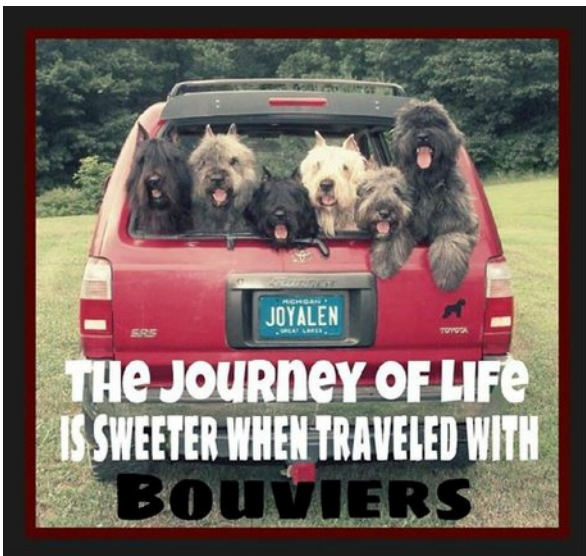
In most areas the findings were consistent with earlier studies, suggesting similar increases in disease risks. The new study, however, was the first to specifically report on increased risk of late neutering for mast cell tumours and hemangiosarcoma.

Furthermore, the new study showed a surprising 100 % increase, or doubling of the incidence of hip dysplasia Among early neutered males. Earlier studies had reported a 17% increase. Among all neutered dogs compared to non-neutered dogs, indicating the importance of the new study in making gender and age-of-neutering comparisons.

Lynette Richards Hirsch: Those are a few of the articles I send to my puppy people to help them make an educated decision. Since I am a breeder I never spay early.

Mine are usually 6 or 7 when I do. Maybe the reason I've never owned a Bouvier with cruciate problems and I've only had 1 Bouv with cancer in 25 years. A few of my Bouv grooming clients that were done early at 1 year have had cruciate ligament surgery and several died too young from cancer. I would wait as long as you can to spay.

I have changed my opinion on this over the years. I used to think that 6 months was OK/ but after grooming many Bouviers over the years that were spayed young I changed my mind. They grow up looking odd. Much taller than their littermates that were done later and lankier with a very narrow head and the chest never drops to the front feet tend to splay out. This is the case with every dog I've groomed that was done early. They just don't have the hormones to fill out properly when done at a young age. Imagine a human child that was spayed before puberty. They would look odd. I have found that breeder vets know these things regarding large breeds. Most vets do not.



WEBSITES

Suggested by your committee

With thanks to Ann-Marie for compiling it



ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES

DORWEST – www.dorwest.com

DOREEN PAIGE – www.doreenpaige.com

BOARDING/PET SITTERS/DOG WALKERS/DAY CARE

HUNTINGFORD KENNELS & CATTERY, Gloucestershire –

www.huntingfordkennels.co.uk

PAWSTRETCHERS DOGGY DAYCARE, Bristol – www.pawstretchers.co.uk

CHEMIST/PHARMACIES

CANINE CHEMIST – www.hyperdrug.co.uk

VET-MEDIC – www.vet-medic.com

DISINFECTANT/CLEANING PRODUCTS

ANIMAL HEALTH COMPANY – www.animal-health.co.uk

MEDIMARK INTERNATIONAL (Marketing) LTD – www.medicchem.co.uk

SAFE 4 – www.safe4disinfectant.co.uk

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

EUKANUBA – www.eukanuba.co.uk

ROYAL CANIN – www.royalcanin.co.uk

JAMES WELL BELOVED – www.jameswellbeloved.com

FISH 4 DOGS – www.fish4.co.uk

GROOMING

PETCETERA – www.petcetera.co.uk

DIAMOND EDGE LTD – www.diamondedgeltld.com

GROOMERS – www.groomers-online.com

HEAD COLLARS/COLLARS & LEADS

DOGOMATIC – www.dogmatic.org.uk

ESSENJAY – www.essenjayleathersupplies.co.uk

INSURANCE COMPANIES

PET PLAN – www.petplan.co.uk

CLIVERTON – www.cliverton.co.uk

PURELY PETS – www.purelypetsinsurance.co.uk

NEWSPAPERS/MAGAZINES

OUR DOGS NEWSPAPER – www.ourdogs.co.uk

DOG WORLD NEWSPAPER – www.dogworld.co.uk

KENNEL & CATTERY MANAGEMENT – www.kennelandcattery.com

SHOW NEWS/RESULTS

FOSSedata – www.fossedata.co.uk

HIGHAM PRESS – www.highampress.co.uk

CANINE INFORMATION DIRECTORY – www.cidweb.co.uk

SKIN PROBLEMS

NEEM OIL – www.ekoneem.com

SKINCURE – www.bobgrass.co.uk

VETERINARY PRACTICES

THE ROWE VET GROUP, GLOUCESTERSHIRE/BRISTOL – www.rowevetgroup.com

VALE VETS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE – www.valevets.co.uk

WHOLESALERS

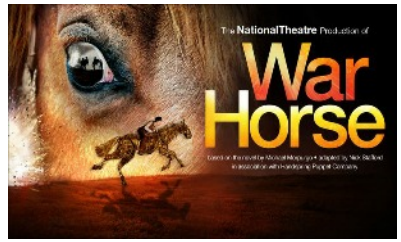
BEST PETS – www.best-pets.co.uk

Please feel free to
send in additions
when you too find a
great supplier





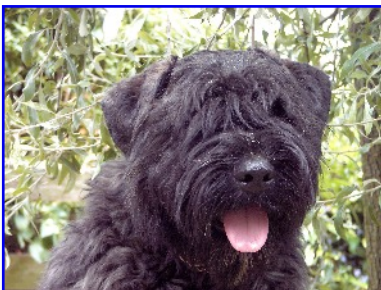
Your Bouvier Photos



How to "wear" a Bouvier!



Great photo of Carole Spalding-Regan's girl



Annapolis Valley Home to final resting site of War Horse Dog

1919 Lt Colonel Charles Bent returned from the war in Europe to Paradise in the Annapolis valley, but he did not return home alone. Along with bent came Bruno, a large Belgian Sheepdog and a splendid horse named Fritz. Most probably a bouvier.

The 1st WW was the last war that saw the extensive use of horses in warfare. Horses were essential to pull heavy guns, transport weapons and supplies, carry the wounded and dying to hospital and mount cavalry charges.

During the 1st WW 2.5 million horses were treated by vets and deemed unable to return to work - their fate therefore uncertain. The fact that Fritz survived the war was a major achievement. To be re-located to America was incomprehensible.

Not to go into too much detail the owner of the horse was killed. Charles Bent took over command of the 15th and inherited the horse and the battalion mascot, the Belgian dog, Bruno.



In March 1919 as Canadian forces demobed and headed home, Bent managed to persuade someone that Fritz and Bruno should return to Canada with him. So it was that Fritz the war horse lived out his retirement days on a farm in Paradise. When he died he was laid to rest next to his canine companion, Bruno. A beautiful and fitting end to the stories of a horse and a dog who followed men to war and beyond.

National Bouvier Club AGM and Limited Show

Your club's AGM had a great turnout in April this year, held at Cawley village hall near Coventry. It is a lovely hall and grounds and as well as the AGM followed by our 1st Limit Show many of the non exhibitors enjoyed a great social day out with their Bouvs. Think the Lancashire pie and mushy peas will make many return poste haste !!The date for 2016 is the 10th April.

Our Judge for the show was Mrs Liz Dunhill who is an extremely experienced judge and exhibitor showing Rotties under the Fantasa affix and more recently Shiba Inu . She is now joined in "the team" with her very clever daughter Michaela.

"Thank you to the committee for a most enjoyable day, the quality of exhibits, was super to see , even those in pet trim,sound in mind and body, giving the owners so much joy, thank you for bringing your beautiful dogs, a very well run show , by an enthusiastic committee, and enjoyed helping you all with you show craft to get the best from your dogs".

Junior dog:1st - Fiona Lambert's Liskport Lord Trust - Smart well proportioned young male, 15 months. Good head needing to develop in fore face, good bite, well placed ears, topline good, good coat and trim, well carried tail on move, a little close in rear, needs to develop with maturity.

Post Grad Dog: 1st Terri Carter 's Paddington Quinn - 2.10 years, male of good bone and proportions, and well off for bone. Good masculine head, dark eye, neat well placed ears, good fore face and dentition. Head not in full furnishings, good body with well carried tail, and strong short back, good shoulder and hindquarters to match, giving ex balanced action in profile, would like a denser undercoat.

2nd David Jones' Avice Senza - 6 years male of good type,not quite the balance in outline or construction of the winner, good head ears a little high set, good bite and fill to for face and strong muzzle.

Dark eye, ex pigment, decent head furnishings, needing more leg coat to complete, but good coat, well carried tail, moved well as his angles would allow.

Limit : 1st Lyn Bell 's Kanix Nautilus -Small/ med sized male of ex type and balance, super head, broad skull and well placed ears, dark eye, good strength to muzzle and fore face, good bite,super head furnishings,loved his outline and compact body, ex front and shoulder and good rear to balance, ex top line and tail set , would like more density to coat, for perfection, moved extremely well all ways , a quality male , my **Res Best Dog**.

Open: 1st F Lambert's Lisport Lord of the Rings - 15 month, med large male, of ex type and balance , very impressive youngster. masculine head correct for his age, well carried ears, ex back skull, good muzzle two portions, and ex bite and dentition, dark eye, good neck and shoulder, firm top line and well carried tail, short compact body. Still needing to drop more with maturity in chest, straight front, well let down hocks, and well muscled quarters. Super dense coat, has a sound action always, ex in profile.He is a stunning young male, pleased to award him **Best Dog and BIS**.

Veteran Dog:1st Campbell Wilson's Carasline Lunar Eclipse - 11 yr old male in super condition for his age, very sound construction, and lovely head and expression, still with good mouth, and super sound action, credit to his owners, enjoying his time to shine.

Puppy Bitch: 1st Margo Campbell Wilson's, Avice Grace - 10 mth, pretty bitch of super type, well placed ears dark eye well carried ears, super cobby body and good construction,for age if juvenile front. ex coat, and well carried tail, has an "if" that I forgave today, at a limited show. Super character really enjoyed herself. **Best Puppy in Show**.



Junior Bitch: 1st Fiona Lambert's Liskport Lady Luck -15 month old med sized of good type. Feminine yet strong head, well placed ears, good bite and pigmentation, good shoulder and front, moderate rear, cobby body, still needing to fill the frame with maturity,super coat, well carried tail, moved soundly with good extension .

Post Grad Bitch: 1st Madeline Lloyd's Teamted Barbara - 2 yr old med sized female of ex type, pleasing head , well placed ears, would like a little more fore face , good clean skull, strong neck, good shoulder and well boned front, strong back, a little flat in croup, giving tight curt to tail, ex body strong rear, super character , moved well all ways. Ex coat and condition,

2nd Steve & Helen Dallow's Kanix Nixie Smaller 4 year old female of ex type and balance, feminine head, well placed ears, dark eye. A little narrow in under jaw , good shoulder, would like more length to leg for perfection, ex rear, moved very well in profile, in ex muscle tone and condition.

Limit :1st Geoff Evans' Avice American Dream - 2 yrs old med sized female, of ex type,still with more to come. Loved her head and expression, well placed ears, dark eye, well filed foreface and good bite, good front, and rear angulation, well carried tail, decent coat, in fine muscular condition, ex mover would like to see her when she matures on a grass ring , lovely bitch.

2nd Howe's Alsadie Kansas at Ladakhpass - 6 yr old very mature stocky girl of good proportions, very strong head, dark eye, a little heavy in ear,. Good shoulder but a little heavy making her wide in front, balanced hindquarters, moved ok .Preferred head and movement of winner.

Open 1st Fiona Lambert 's Kanix Phoebe - 2 yrs med sized short coupled female, with ex coat and type, super strong but feminine head, dark eye good bite strong under jaw, ex shoulder and front, strong top line and well carried tail balanced rear with well let down hocks, short loin, good chest and ribs, loved her type and compact shape, moved well to take **Best Bitch & Res BIS..**

2nd Dallow's Achleit Gofannan - 2 yr small/ med female of good type and character, a little narrower all through than the winner,

Feminine head matching body type, well placed ears, dark eye, good bite, would like more strength to stop and fore face. Straight front, and balanced rear, short compact shape,ex pigment, in decent coat, moves a little close in rear, but good account of herself in profile.

Veteran Bitch: 1st :Ann-Marie Wardle's Tierman Amabel - What a super girl she is at 11 yrs old, just loved her! Med sized , ex head well carried and set ears, good stop and fore face, ex mouth, strong under jaw, super pigment and expression. Strong neck, firm back, short coupled ex rear, in superb condition and coat, moved well all ways, defied her age, owner must be so proud to see her go **Best Veteran in Show.** Credit to you .

2nd Crockart Kanix Madre -Another super girl in ex condition for her. Age, feminine head, well placed ears, med eye, well placed shoulder and topline great for age, well balanced girl, moved well, for her age, credit to her owner, super character .

3 rd - Toddy Hamilton Gould's Souldern Zonda



Madeline & Barbara

Winning the Welfare Cup

Thank you Liz for such a detailed critique on our dogs - we so appreciate it - the standard critique is to 2nd place so sorry if you have missed out x



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RESCUE NEWS

Our Rescue Co-ordinator is Margo Campbell-Wilson and she has been working hard with the independent Welfare and Rescue Group headed by Andy Collins.

Margo



We as a club make a donation to this independent club from all our welfare fund raising events and at the same time we have to top up our own welfare pot for any specific national welfare disaster.

Many members helped to bring poor Rags back from Spain where Grace Tompkins has given him a forever home - we are so grateful Grace. He is making progress albeit gradually but things are looking good for Rags' new life. Thank you all for your contributions.

The independent group and our national club are hoping to hold a combined **FUN DAY** up North !

We have so many members in both groups up in the north of our country we are hoping to have a rally either in Scotland or just over the border in Cumbria. [Watch this space !!](#)



Rags when he was 1st rescued in Spain and now



They've just got to be Bouvs !



The Great North West Walk **The Peak Party**

The Bouvier Walk on Sunday 17th May was a resounding success so thanks to Geoff and Marj for organising it all for the national bouvier club. . The route passed such lovely countryside and wildlife, from young lambs to baby ducklings all the dogs had something to keep them interested and they were all so well behaved. The exact venue was in the Pendley Witch Country in Lancashire and wandering past quaint cottages with witches sitting outside their doors all added to the fun and uniqueness.

Meeting up in the village park car park with tea rooms at 11.00 16 Bouvs and assorted other breeds all jumped out of the back of cars for the obligatory photo call in case we lost some of them on the moors! The route on a well made path took us through some spectacular scenery including a couple of reservoirs on a circular tour.

All the dogs negotiated the turnstile gates except John Mackenzie's Neil who had to be carried over – what a woos! Weather wise it was pretty blustery but the rain held off and on returning to the car park the dogs had a well-deserved drink and then we all retired to the local dog friendly hostelry for a spot of late lunch by the roaring fire and by late afternoon we all departed with calls to make it an annual affair.

Geoff Evans' Dream carried the welfare pot around the route in her knapsack and we are delighted to say we made around £100 for welfare. A great day with super company and I'll certainly be there next year.

The club held an extremely successful welfare fund raising weekend "The Peak Party" over 18/19 July. Caravans and motorhomes arrived at Throstle Farm from the previous Wednesday as many were looking forward to the hospitality of Lyndon and Pat Evans who throw open their beautiful farm with outstanding views to our band of bouvier lovers every year.

Activities were planned from mid morning on the Saturday and kicked off with a Treasure Hunt down the lane into the village, past the pub (some dallied there for a while !) into the woods, past the old lido with some of its columns still standing and over the moors. Thank you Rob and Martin for organising this.

The BBQ was fired up and as more people arrived and set up camp, friendships were forged by the 2 and 4 legged amongst us. Our very own Dirty Beards entertained us over lunch with a sing –a-long (Thanks Sammy and Phil).

The all new Rabbit Run proved a great success and prizes donated by Fish for Dogs were appreciated. The agility course was attempted by many and failed by mine !

With some of the visitor's staying at local hotels we started our evening entertainment earlier than norm and pots of pate and crisps were spread out around the wood fire pit for us all to nibble on whilst the boys got on with the cooking. The dogs all mingled around our feet without an angry word and the hosts' little Eddie had a ball, he thinks he is a Bouv now. As darkness approached Margo delighted us all with arias from various operas and with her fabulous voice resounding around the hills it was a wonderful ending to a fun filled day.

Sunday dawned with the weather being rather unkind but later in the morning the sun broke through. We all wrapped up warmly against the brisk wind and sat around watching Margo's training club go through their paces. We all learned a new skill by watching all these different breeds do their obedience routine in formation – very impressive. A fun dog show judged by hosts, Pat and Lyndon was then enjoyed and great to see classes of 10 – 12



dogs all fighting it out for the pretty rosettes. Tony Crowther had dropped by with prizes from the independent Bouvier Welfare and a cup for the Best Bouvier. The last class of the day was the best rabbit chaser and the collies certainly beat our bouvs at that game! I unfortunately had to head for home half way through the afternoon but left behind a happy crowd chatting over afternoon tea and cakes. It was nice to see, not only the regulars at this event but lots of new faces who have assured us they will be back for more at our next event on bank holiday weekend in Shropshire.



BOUVIER RALLY - Bank Holiday Weekend

Such an enjoyable event we seem to extend it a little every year. This year a good crowd were all hooked up and tucked in for a very sociable evenings under the barn's twinkling lights on Friday with delicious fayre prepared by Shirley Hockenhill. I don't know if I preferred the curry/rice to the bolognese/pasta but had to keep trying them to make up my mind!!

Geoff and his helpers had been on site to do the last minute dressing that David and Di had run out of time for, most of the food was prepped for Saturday and Sunday and the games and order of play were all sorted out after supper.

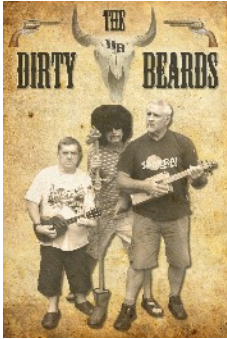
Saturday was a busy day with many new faces turning up as well as the old stalwarts (delighted to see you all again). Bacon Butties were on demand first thing and the



the "kitchen" did a roaring trade all day. Lunch was a help yourself with honesty box with loads of freshly made sandwiches and this ran into afternoon tea with delicious carrot cake and muffins. Loads of new pups and owners arrived and enjoyed, for some, their first ever outing in the big wide world. They had a great time meeting and greeting the older girls and boys and will be back next year when they are all grown up.

BOUVIER RALLY cont...

All the usual fun and games were available, rabbit run, sausage racing, agility course and beginners Rally obedience and during afternoon tea we had a grooming demo and an informal chat, answering questions on training and feeding etc. It was then down time to get ready for the evening's entertainment where we had our very own Dirty Beards in concert.



**Our very
own band**

**Sammy, Phil
& special
guest Rob**

The Barn Entertainment zone upped a gear and some very classy strobe lighting got everyone in the mood for the evening fun. A couple of songs from the Dirty Beards prior to dinner were enjoyed by the ever increasing party sitting around enjoying drinks and nibbles. The BBQs were going full blast with a varied menu from chicken in tikka marinade, to BBQ pork, lamb kebabs and lamb steaks in Rally special marinade (only 'cause I can't remember what I threw in – but it was yummy). Loads of different salads were on offer as well as 3 types of gateau – no one went away hungry!

During dessert Margo's quiz was attempted. I say attempted as I found it really hard !! The winning team were awarded with bars of chocolate to keep them from feeling peckish as the night progressed. The Auction started and once again we were delighted with the range and quality of the items. Over £250 was made within half an hour and we again must be thankful to our wonderful auctioneer Sammy Lloyd.

Lights dimmed and the Dirty Beards took centre stage and we all sang, tapped our feet and thoroughly enjoyed all the popular numbers performed by Sammy and his uku-

lele and Phil with his Newfoundland Giggle Stick. Not one Bouvier was harmed during our enjoyment of the evening!

Sunday morning dawned with the smell of frying bacon emulating from the barn kitchen at 9.00 o'clock. Thank you to all the committee who took it in turns to rise early and get the urn on and the bacon sizzlin' on all 3 mornings. Much appreciated.

There was a busy programme of events planned as well as the Fun Dog Show organised by Chriss Howe. It is always difficult to anticipate just how many exhibitors will turn up so freshly made sandwiches were quickly put together so no one could go hungry.

It was unfortunate that the hugely popular steam fare is held on the same bank holiday weekend as the surrounding roads were so busy. Some of our day visitors took over an hour to travel the last 3 miles so were in dire need of a cup of tea and the dogs a good run around the farm's many dog friendly areas. I believe David even moved his sheep to another field to give the Bouvs more free running space!



The fiercely competitive knock-out sausage race was fought out and won by John MacKenzie I believe with Neil. Steve and Helen nearly had a marital fall-out with Steve even diving for the line to beat Helen and Iona! The Rally competition was won as usual by Margo and Thane. The Rabbit Run was a great success with much laughter watching the owners sprinting over the straw bales encouraging their dogs to greater speed. I think Chriss was greatly peeved that Kansas was beaten by Harvey who, although only having one eye, doesn't let that stop him speeding to victory.

We were delighted to have back Janet Garrett from Janet's Puppy Skool coming along prior to the dog show to demonstrate new disciplines to learn with your Bouv – Loads of Bouvs took part and it was a highly successful time, enjoyed by all.



Thank you Janet & John, hope to see you back next year.

We were delighted to have Stuart Key of Minorlees Llasso Apsos judging our Fun Show and he certainly made it "fun" for everyone – thanks so much. His BIS was a lovely Scottie with Eve's Bouvier in Reserve. A cup had been donated by Tony Crowther on behalf of Bouvier Welfare for BIS and a lovely gift for RBIS. Sweets, donated by Chriss were given out to all the kids participating and super national rosettes were adorning all the dogs' leads walking around with their proud owners.

Afternoon tea again was taken whilst a grooming demo and practise for those who wanted to have a go on their own dogs was enjoyed. After the last muffin was devoured we all started to get ready for the evening's entertainment.

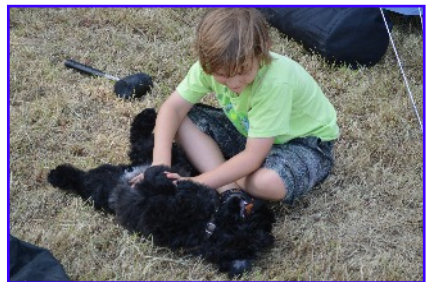


Because of the very popular Dirty Beards performance the previous evening, where we had about a dozen local friends of Margaret joining us, we had to send Malcolm to Sainsbury for an emergency top up of pork and lamb for the BBQ. The boys did a fabulous job of getting all of the food ready at the same time so we could all eat together. Fresh salads had been prepared by the girls, gateaux and cream and choice of wines and soft drinks washed down a delicious meal. We were now eagerly awaiting our diva Margo to perform and wow she is fabulous. Her voice carries all the way to the

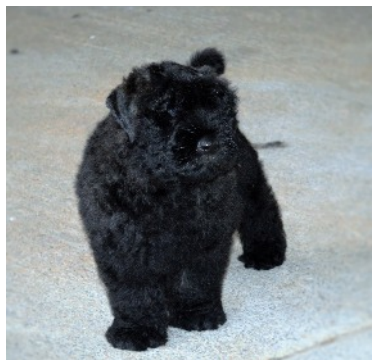
pub about 1/2 mile away and apparently the customers come out into the car park to hear her sing! Margo excelled herself this year giving us all a little insight into the story of each opera she was singing an aria from. At the break we enjoyed another quiz, more pictorial this time and I think I'd made it relatively easy – well it always is when you know the answers! Margo continued after the break and later the karaoke kicked off. Bouviers are so bomb proof they slept at our feet during all the ... going to say noise but that was after Margo had finished!

Monday morning dawned and this was an unplanned day with impromptu grooming and obedience lessons going on. Rod and Martin took charge of the banking and we were absolutely amazed at the generosity of everyone so the welfare pot is looking healthy.

Lots of hugs and fond farewells to all our fellow rallyers ensued with the stragglers enjoying a bowl of pasta before also giving thanks to Margaret, Dave's Mum, David and Di for their hospitality once again and starting the trek home, tired but happy.



Terri & Malcolm's new Avic puppy





Kibble may actually digest quicker than Raw !

As raw feeders, we've all heard the ominous warning to "never mix kibble and raw because kibble digests slower than raw." Where did this sage piece of advice originate, and is there any truth to it? Why are dogs so commonly advised to suffer through a "detox phase" consisting of raging diarrhea and vomiting, if they could be slowly transitioned from kibble to raw in the same manner that is recommended to switch between kibble varieties? The Raw Feeding Community decided to put this myth to the test, and the results of our "experiment" may surprise you...

The Usual Advice

Scanning the top holistic and raw feeding groups and forums, one will find the same advice and explanation listed time and time again. A search of "switching from kibble to raw" on the Dogs Naturally website brings up the follow information:

"I recommend you feed dry or canned food separately from dehydrated or raw meals because they digest at different rates." (1)

The first time I came across this tip, I remember thinking to myself, "Why does this matter?", so I read on. This statement is usually followed up with an explanation along the lines of, "raw food digests faster than kibble and mixing them together will cause raw food to sit in the stomach too long. This makes the body more likely to contract bacteria from the raw food."

Does raw really digest faster than kibble? We posted a thread asking the members of The Raw Feeding Community how long it

takes kibble to digest, and received some interesting, although extremely inconsistent, answers. Some claimed kibble took as little as 2 to 3 hours to digest, yet there were a surprising amount of answers that claimed kibble took as much as 16 to 18 hours!

However, even if the digestion rates of kibble and raw differ, this explanation still doesn't make much sense from a scientific standpoint. That just isn't how the digestive system works; especially the short, acidic digestive system of a carnivore. And isn't part of the argument for raw feeding that our carnivore's bodies are designed to handle the large amounts of bacteria associated with consuming raw animal products? What about raw food would make it more likely to digest faster than kibble? Why would gastrointestinal transit time affect bacterial susceptibility? We know that candy goes through the body faster than a strawberry; aren't manufactured products supposed to digest more quickly than their raw, uncooked counterparts?

Many people have successfully fed raw and kibble together for years without issue. In fact, feeding raw and kibble together is very common for sled dog teams (here is a cool video of what an Iditarod sled team is fed during the race). It seems to be only relatively recent advise to avoid this kind of feeding. Why should owners be advised to avoid mixing the two? Wouldn't some raw be better than no raw at all? The Raw Feeding Community decided to find out where this advice could've possibly originated from, and if there were any amount of truth to it.

Our Test Dog

For our experiment, we used a 16 month old, intact male, raw fed borzoi who was weaned to partial raw and has been kept on a raw diet throughout his life (prey model raw with occasional supplements). A barium series was performed on December 18, 2014 feeding a kibble meal, and on December 27, 2014 feeding a raw meal. Barium is a radiopaque liquid which can be mixed with food and used to enhance visibility of the gastrointestinal tract on X-ray.

The Kibble Used

For the kibble study, 2 cups of Science Diet Large Breed Adult kibble was mixed with ½ cup of Science Diet I/D canned and 20mls of barium liquid. Approximately 1 ½ cups of kibble and ½ can of food were consumed over a span of 5 minutes. Thirty minutes later, cranial (top half of the GI tract) and caudal (bottom half of the GI tract) abdominal and lateral (laying on the side) abdominal radiographs were performed. Radiographs were repeated at 1hr, 2hrs, 3hrs, and 4hrs until the stomach was empty (2).

The Raw Used For the raw meal, 1 cup of bison and green tripe grind (3), 1 cup of chicken gizzards, and 1 chicken drumstick mixed with 20mls of liquid barium were offered over 5 minutes. Approximately ½ of the meal was consumed (including only ½ of the drumstick.) Thirty minutes post-feeding, cranial and caudal abdominal and lateral abdominal radiographs were performed. Radiographs were repeated at 1hr, 2hrs, 3hrs, 4hrs, and 5hrs until the stomach was empty.

Results Going into this case study, I expected raw to digest more quickly than kibble, simply because I expected there to be some shred of truth to all of the information provided by knowledgeable raw feeders. I personally hypothesized that there would not be a significant (greater than 3 hour) difference between the time it took the food to move from the stomach into the large intestines.

Discussion In conclusion, the raw meal appears to have digested slightly slower than the kibble diet. When you really think about it, it makes total sense – and it is great news for our dogs, and for us raw feeders! Here is why:

The first reason is obvious – this means that little credence can be given to the claim that mixing raw and kibble is harmful to your pet because raw sits in the stomach longer. Rarely, a dog does not tolerate a mixed kibble and raw meal, but it has nothing to do with

digestion rates. Any kind of sudden diet change typically results in digestive upset; it is not exclusive to feeding raw and kibble together.

Also worth mentioning is the bone fragment that stayed behind *more than* 5 hours after feeding, implying that whole bone takes much longer still to digest. This implies that raw meaty bones will take even longer to digest than the ground raw with bone that was used in this experiment. This makes sense, as a whole bone will obviously take more time to break down than ground bone, which was already broken down before the dog ate it. The ground raw that this dog ate also only contained 10% bone, while the chicken drumstick would have a much higher bone content.

By mixing raw and kibble during the transition period, your dog is less likely to experience the diarrhea and vomiting associated with “detox.” It is commonly recommended to slowly transition (over a period of 10-14 days) between kibble brands. I personally recommend doing the same with raw to avoid causing diarrhea. What many call “detox” is a normal reaction to a sudden change in diet (dietary intolerance). The pH and flora of the stomach change when a dog is fed a raw diet, so slowly transitioning gives the body time to adjust. The way I recommend transitioning is to slowly start with small pieces of raw (chicken is often best) while decreasing the amount of kibble over a period of two weeks. After your pet is fully transitioned onto raw, you may then begin adding more components (organs and other proteins) to the diet. You can see our beginner files on The Raw Feeding Community facebook group for more information.

If food remains in the intestines longer, more water is absorbed, thus leading to the beloved small raw feces. The reason for big voluminous kibble feces is because there is so much left undigested and unused.

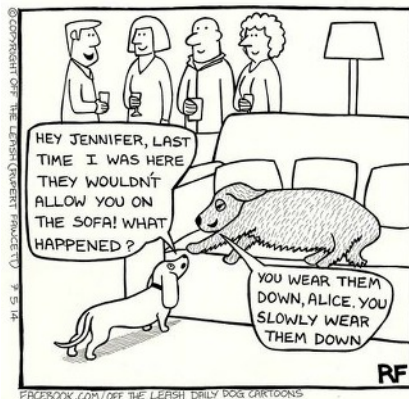
Most importantly, remaining in the GI tract for longer periods of time means that the body is able to absorb and utilize more nutrients from the food. Why do raw fed dogs often have shinier coats, less skin issues, and seem to experience a decreased incidence of disease? Because their bodies are better able to utilize the good stuff in raw! Not only do they get the benefit of taking up the maximum amount of nutrients, studies have shown that eating whole foods burn more calories which in turn leads to a fitter animal .

Although one animal is by no means enough to declare conclusively that raw digests slower than kibble in every instance, the results strongly suggest that the broad blanket statement that “raw digests faster than kibble” is false. And even if one does digest quicker than the other, it would still have no effect on whether or not they would be safe to feed together.

By conducting this experiment and publishing these results, all we mean to do is encourage people to question everything they are told online, and look for proof rather than anecdotal evidence.

There is an unfortunate lack of peer reviewed studies when it comes to raw diets. A lot of what is claimed online tends to be simply hear-say or anecdotal evidence. As raw feeders, we should strive to always continue learning more about what we are feeding our pets, even if what we are learning happens to go against the grain of what most

raw feeding Facebook groups preach.



Bovus on the sofa are one thing but



Think Bunty should be washing your rear-end Madders !!



My First Bouvier des Flandres



Blue – how can you mention his name without smiling ... those that met him over the 6 years that he lived with my family will remember his great size and personality and his gentle ways and temperament. Anyone fortunate enough to see him perform at the NEC or Earls Court will remember his intelligence and ability and contrary to the myth that men can't multi task will know that this gorgeous man could! No matter how he was concentrating – he could do everything whilst wagging his tail non-stop at 100 mph!

It was a privilege to share our lives with Blue – one that came to us via Friends of Bouvier Rescue. I won't go into the long story of how and why I had details of Blue but suffice to say that with 2 weeks holiday at home coming up in 2 weeks I was hoping that I could collect him at the very start of my holiday. He had already been rehomed from his original owner once and had been returned after only 3 days when I made contact; so the owner was adamant that if I didn't take him quickly he would be going to a dealer whom she had already approached and who wanted to take him that weekend. Pam Bono was amazing and smoothed the waters with the lady, assuring her that I would not back out if she would just hang on to Blue for 2 weeks. I was taking him unseen as he was such a long way away and my fear before I met him was that he might eat a Shih Tzu or two but Pam came to the rescue and told me not to worry, if things didn't work out I would be able to take him back to her kennel.

I phoned the lady every day of the two weeks and kept her talking to ensure that she was not changing her mind and that he was safely waiting for me as I was for him. When the day that was to change my life forever dawned I was so excited and a little worried that my 3 Shih Tzu's might have their noses put out of joint. I hadn't had a big dog in the house since before my children were born when I used to have Danes –

would I manage – would he like it with us – would his big brain need more stimulation than I was able to give.....

Picture the scene – a rough unfenced car park on the side of a road 3 hours away, half way between us both. As we pulled up, I saw in the distance a black dog jumping out of a car. I looked over and from 10 feet away gulped saying those immortal words – oh John he's lovely!

We got out of the car and walked towards the young girl who was holding the lead and the lady busying herself with a bag.....Blue looked up. Our eyes met and a four and half year old male Bouvier and a 40 something woman floated across an unknown hotel car park towards each other like something out of a film and jumped into each other's hearts – never ever to jump out.

The rest I've written about over and over again during those fabulous 6 years and will go on talking about him for the rest of my life, but I thought you might like to know just a very few of the highlights..

- Performed in the Gold Team at Earls Court so magnificently asked to do it at Crufts
- I asked the KC for permission to show a castrated dog to get him used to noise
- There were 2 in the class at the Champ show so he qualified to be shown at Crufts!
- Performed in the Gold Team at Crufts
- My rehomed boy got a 'First' at Crufts!
- Asked again at the age of nearly 9 to join the Gold Team to demonstrate at Earls Court

- Passed Bronze and Silver KCGCDS on the same day
- Passed his Gold months later when I could find a test
- This lead to him being invited to join the elite KC Gold Demo Team
- This lead to him appearing on BBC TV in a live broadcast on 'clever dogs'
- This lead to him appearing in several newspapers including a feature in Dog Monthly
- Performed in the Gold Team at Earls Court so magnificently asked to do it at Crufts
- I asked the KC for permission to show a castrated dog to get him used to noise
- There were 2 in the class at the Champ show so he qualified to be shown at Crufts!
- Performed in the Gold Team at Crufts
- My rehomed boy got a 'First' at Crufts!
- Asked again at the age of nearly 9 to join the Gold Team to demonstrate at Earls Court
- Same year he beat 60 other dogs to become the RSPCA's Dog of the Year for this area
- Went forward to the nation-wide final and came 6th in the whole Country!!!!

There were of course many more sides to Blue – his hospital visiting, his prowess on the agility course, his famed ability to communicate and calm those frightened of dogs, his sheer presence – oh Blue what a lot I learned from you – how my heart aches that you could not stay with me forever – but you are in my head and my heart and your legacy lives on and on .

Janet Garrett



Who goes thereArran & Iona on guard !!



We see you Barbara !



Contact Janet at Janet's Puppy Skool, Swindon for training classes

www.janetspuppyskool.co.uk



Dogs & The Law-

Ann-Marie Wardle

In this ever changing society, it is very hard to keep up with new rules & regulations. How many of us actually know our rights and the laws surrounding dog ownership?

I recently attended a seminar on this very subject and was horrified to discover just how easy it could be to fall foul of the law. There is very little to protect the dog & its owner when cases come to court and more often than not the dog is found guilty BEFORE being proved INNOCENT!

Did you know?.....

*If someone (i.e a Burglar) trespassed into your garden whilst your dog was out running and they were bitten or felt threatened by **your** dog on **your** land, **they** could have a case to prosecute **you** for having a dog dangerously out of control, regardless of the fact they shouldn't be there in the first place!*

*You only have a slightly better chance of winning a case if the crime was actually committed **inside** your home.*

If you were out walking your dog and it jumped up to greet someone, If that person felt threatened by the dog, they could haul you in front of the courts for having a dog dangerously out of control. They need not be attacked, bitten or scratched, just frightened!

*Your dog must carry identity in the form of a collar & tag bearing **your** Name & Address regardless of whether it is microchipped or tattooed, if it is on a highway or in a place of public resort.*

*From April 2016 **ALL** dogs in England (and most likely Wales) must be microchipped from the age of 8 weeks of age (12 weeks if registered working dogs) even if they are tattooed. Failure to do so can result in a fine of £500. It is the responsibility of the keeper of the animal to ensure this is done and the details are kept up-to-date, failure to do so can result in a fine of £500.*

From February 2015 Breeders are no longer allowed to microchip their own puppies and all dogs being microchipped must be done by a person who has had the relevant training i.e Veterinary Surgeon, Veterinary nurse etc. If you are aware of a microchip migrating, you must report it to Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). It is an offence not to!

There are many more issues surrounding dogs and the law. Look out for a seminar near you to learn more, check out www.doglaw.co.uk .



Sammy would love your news, views and photographs for his next on-line mag due out in the spring

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Any complaints about this mag - see above !



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