



DOG BLOG

The blog of Mullenscote Dog Training Centre

Issue 1 - March 2012

Gundogs do it for Me!

"I just can't believe that it's that time already, March 2012 means we're on the road again, the first Country Show this year is at Thoresby Park, Nottinghamshire on the 17/18th. For all sorts of reasons this last twelve months has seen me spend much more of my time back working with the dogs and people associated with them, I've never been so happy! Its so easy to get so involved with the day to day bump and grind that you forget to do things that float your boat. I am really privileged to be running some fantastic dogs at the moment, I'm told that to keep life good you should do one thing that scares you every day.... My daily scare is to undo the Kennel Door on my Black Cocker Link, as gundog trainers we like to feel that we are in control when working a dog, walking behind Link gives me a Buzz that only a Gundog Handler will understand, the Beast runs a very fine line somewhere between being a Hunting Machine and a Black Devil, a momentary lapse in concentration on my part and the little B-gger is away, on the days when I manage to stay with him I'm left feeling that I've had my daily brush with danger.



March Dog Blog

This is the first of our New Style blogs that include links straight into the Mullenscote site. The launch of the new web site along with its Sister site www.lainsshootingschool.co.uk has taken huge amounts of work mostly from people that are much more intelligent than I am. With regular video, photo and information updates we hope to keep the site exciting, interesting and informative, I really hope you like it?

Click on this link <http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/masterclasses.html> and you can see the amazing Richard Curtis in action during a Masterclass held at Mullenscote last month. We intend to run Masterclasses through-out the year, we'll keep you informed with the dates for the next one.

Mullenscote Dog Training Centre
Proudly announces our
New!
Training Club Membership

Annual Membership includes
Free access to Training Centre Facilities
Free access to Rabbit and Bird Pen
10% Discount on all Training Sessions and Courses
10% Discount on Dog Food
Free Exclusive Club Membership Badge and Car Sticker

Cost £48 per Annum

To enjoy this fantastic package

Call 01264 889467

New Course Dates Announced

For details of our next Bronze, Silver and Gold training courses click on this link.

<http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/courses.html>

Photographs of the successes of the latest training course are on our gallery

<http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/gallery.html>

Beating a Retreat (Part Two)

Last time we talked about the problems we can get into when working a dog in a beating line. Getting the dog on the lead and ensuring that he is responsive to the whistle and voice commands will be time well spent and assuming this has been done properly we can move onto the next stage of training.

Now you have the dog really listening to you the next step will be to encourage the dog to hunt for a ball or a dummy, use light cover that enables both you and the dog to move about freely. If you are really struggling to keep the dog close then a confined area will be needed to help you maintain control. If you can find a small patch of cover with clearly defined edges to it then this will often help to keep the dog in the area as he has no desire to hunt ground that won't hold game. The definition of small is always tricky but a circle that is 8-10 metres in diameter would be perfect. Keep the dog close, dropping dummies around your feet as he turns his back on you, recall him back and encourage the dog to find the dummy, this exercise starts to get the dog thinking that he is going to find things around you rather thirty yards in front.

In a perfect world you will work towards teaching the dog to hunt a pattern and each time you double pip him on the whistle he will turn back towards to you and quarter back in towards your feet, as he polishes your boots you cast him in the opposite direction moving a pace or two forward as you do before another double pip and a repeat of the exercise. Creating this 'Boot Polisher' requires lots of time, lots of patience and a fair degree of skill. Creating this behaviour is much easier to do when starting out with a puppy than trying to establish in a dog that has grown up with his own agenda.

The dog should turn when you pip your whistle, if he ignores you instantly drop the tone of your voice and head out after him. Insist he makes the turn and repeat your whistle command whilst reversing back to your original position as he comes into your feet re-cast him and off we go again. The highly trained dog will adopt this hunting pattern with little or no whistle from the handler, this will only happen if you repeat this exercise in a positive way, time after time. There is no substitute for watching a good handler and their dog going through this exercise, it is a delight to watch and there is so much to learn.

This is the first of this new style blog, please don't hesitate to let me know what you think of it.

Keep Training



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