



# ESSC SE Branch Newsletter

## Home Corner...

Hello again to all our Branch members – all the committee hope that you are keeping well and managing to keep safe and sane during the lockdown. This newsletter brings our best wishes to you and to your dogs – please do keep in touch with us.

### 2020 Meetings to come:

Your committee is working hard to get our meetings up and running as soon and as safely as possible. Please keep an eye on your email and our website for news.

<https://www.essc-southeast.co.uk/>

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## Training During Lockdown An Update...

Last issue I spoke about how myself and Quinn have been working on our trick dog titles with Trick Dog UK. Since then I am very pleased to say we have achieved all 5 titles within the space of 1 month which is exceptionally fast! I couldn't be more proud of my gorgeous girl!

Our next target is to gain our Canine Conditioning Titles which we have already started our training for. The titles focus on five areas the dog can improve on:

- Flexibility
- Balance
- Stamina
- Coordination
- Strength.



Lilian Mettan-Ure

## Crufts is back on TV!

Following the success of the Crufts television programmes in March, Channel 4 have released five extra episodes.

Some of you may have seen the episodes that were shown in June/July and can still be watched on catch up via All 4.

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/crufts>

## PETS AS THERAPY – Part 1

Hello there,

Poppy (on the left) and I, Bella, with our owner, Margaret, are members of Pets as Therapy (PAT), a UK charity founded in 1983. PAT provides therapeutic visits to schools, hospitals, care homes, universities and other establishments where there would be benefits from Pets as Therapy visits. Currently over 4,500 dogs and 108 cats carry out PAT visits in the UK.



### Bella's Story

Poppy visits a Children's Hospital and a Care Home and I am part of the Reading to the Dog scheme which started 12 years ago. Some children are reluctant to read to their classmates. When they come to read to me, it gives them confidence as I am not judgemental, and they look forward to my weekly visits. I have been visiting a lovely, friendly, small rural school every Tuesday morning for 9 years. I believe I am the longest serving Reading dog in the country.

The children come one at a time to read to me. It is great fun, and I enjoy it. When the children are reading, I sit in the middle. Margaret has a chat with each child, and we talk about what the children's pets have been doing during the past week. The children show me their book and we go through the reading practise with the younger children before starting their book. They always have their arm around me and when the children come to a difficult word, I get a lot of stroking, but I don't mind that, it is lovely.

When children first come to read to me, some are very quiet, and shy; sitting in a relaxed atmosphere with their arm around me boosts their confidence with reading. Some books have bold highlighted texts which is where they need to change the tone of their voice in order for them to have a better understanding of the text. I could also fall asleep if there is not a change of voice tone. The children know who they follow and are always ready with their book and reading record. After the session 'I' write in the reading record book how well they read and often put a smiley sticker next to my name. The children love it and the last child of the morning always gives me a doggy biscuit before I go home.

When we finish the school is just starting lunch break. There are lots of children wanting to say hello to me, so I usually wait to enjoy the 'hello Bella's ' until all is calm and we can leave.

For an extra treat at the end of term Poppy also attends, so the children have two dogs listening to their reading. In your next Newsletter Poppy will tell you what she does as a PAT dog.

Love 🐾 Bella 🐾

## MDR1 Gene Mutation

I had never heard of this serious problem until my Laddie (below) was diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma and was tested prior to receiving chemotherapy at the RVC some years ago. Luckily, he was tested very speedily but his positive diagnosis meant the oncology department there was stretched in planning his treatment.

Dogs can be born with various genetic mutations that impact their health. One of these is the MDR1 gene mutation. The MDR1 (multi-drug resistance-1) gene is responsible for the production of P-glycoprotein, which is normally responsible for transporting certain drugs out of the brain. The MDR1 gene mutation is found in many herding breeds, some sighthound breeds and many mixed-breed dogs. Sadly not all Vets realise that Shelties are susceptible so it may be up to you to ask them to check your dog or their treatment, or to arrange testing to ensure any treatments will be safe.

When dogs have a mutation in the MDR1 gene, it inhibits their ability to remove certain drugs from the brain and can lead up to a buildup of toxins; they may have severe adverse reactions to some common drugs, including seizures, tremors, disorientation, blindness, lack of muscle control or even death.

### Affected Dogs may be sensitive to:

Antibiotics such as erythromycin and rifampin  
Anti-cancer drugs such as doxorubicin, vinblastine and vincristine  
Anti-diarrheal drugs such as loperamide (Imodium®)  
Certain parasite-control products such as ivermectin (in high doses), milbemycin, moxidectin and selamectin  
Pain medications such as butorphanol  
Tranquilizers/sedatives such as acepromazine

It's important to note that when given at the recommended dose, the medications used in monthly heartworm preventives are at levels safe enough even for dogs with the MDR1 mutation. Several companies offer DNA testing for MDR1 gene mutations which are easy and painless, being carried out with a mouth swab.



## Advice from the Kennel Club

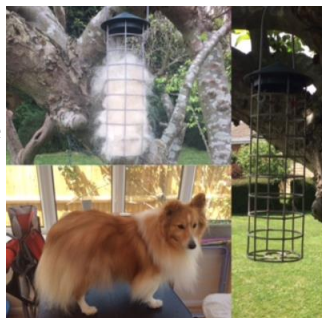
'After a period of being with your dog all the time, such as holidays or during 'lockdown', it can be a great wrench for both you and your dog to have to be apart. You will need to start preparing before the big day comes if you can.

It may be that your dog came to you during your time away from work – so now it's time for them to learn it is okay to be alone.' The full article of sensible advice can be found on the Kennel Club website at: [https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/getting-a-dog-or-puppy/general-advice-about-caring-for-your-new-puppy-or-dog/how-to-get-my-dog-used-to-being-on-their-own-again/?dm\\_i=52XO.83F1.3AHCSB.VVDC.1](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/getting-a-dog-or-puppy/general-advice-about-caring-for-your-new-puppy-or-dog/how-to-get-my-dog-used-to-being-on-their-own-again/?dm_i=52XO.83F1.3AHCSB.VVDC.1)



## Cynophobia during Lockdown

During the lockdown, Eve Marin has kept her dogs 'virtually' in touch with the cynophobia children she supports. Here's a note and a picture she sent them.

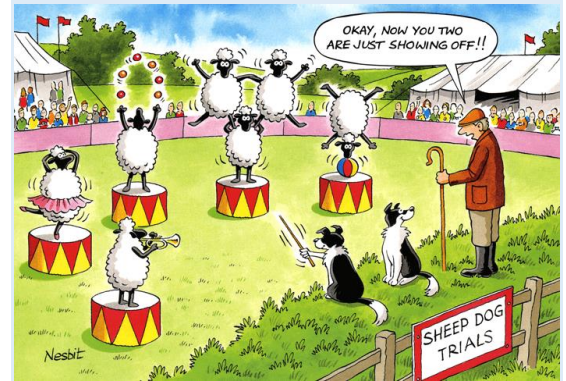


 Eve Martin ▶ Kent Cynophobia Assistance Group  
Posted by Eve Martin  
1 hr · 🌐

Good morning everyone hope you are all safe and well. Leo is feeling rather proud. No doubt you will all remember how very soft his coat is, well I filled a bird feeder with with some of the undercoat I had groomed out and hung it on a tree in the garden. About 2 weeks later it was empty the birds having pecked away at it to line their nests. Leo is so pleased to have given the baby birds a warm bed. Love and visual cuddles to all his young friends



## Amusing Image!



## Quiz Answers...

Answers from the last newsletter's quiz:

1. North West
2. Maria was sent to teach one daughter who was recovering from Scarlet Fever
3. Waterloo
4. Bee
5. 1851
6. Heartbeat
7. Princess Charlotte
8. Scotland
9. George V
10. Eiffel Tower

## A very old image...



This image of Denise's mum and her first dog was taken 97 years ago! If you have any images of your first dogs please send them in.

## In Memoriam

We are sure you will be sad to hear that June Best's Dolly Blue died on 18 May 2020 after a short illness. Dolly won the Veteran Companion of the Year at our last meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

