

Spring/Summer 2010



Lucky Number 3

Can you believe I am starting my third year of trading? I certainly can't! Business continues to grow and thanks for that, as always, goes to my wonderful hosts. I continue to support the local Hearing Dogs branch (remember to collect used stamps), who are holding their annual Summer Fete on Sunday 6th June at their base in Saunderton. It's normally blessed with hot, sunny weather and all dogs are welcome. There's lots to see and do, with displays in the main ring, doggy related stalls and exhibitions and, of course, a beer tent. Please contact your local Dog Listener, Hanne Grice, if the article (left) has stirred an interest in helping you understand your dog's behaviour.

The Lassie Effect™

Hanne Grice (above) is a certified dog behaviour specialist from Berkhamsted. She says, "I help owners with problem dogs. Most owners understand their dog's breed, yet understanding his behaviour can often be misinterpreted, leading to problems.

Although man and dog have been together for thousands of years, we forget his ancestor is the wolf. The DNA of a wolf compared to a domestic dog differs by just 1%; the same difference separating one human race to another. So, while your dog looks harmless, he has the mindset of a wolf.

Art, literature and entertainment has greatly influenced our thinking, leading to the anthropomorphism of dogs, I call this 'The Lassie Effect'™. Lassie was a Collie with the heart of a lion and navigational skills of a pigeon. Lassie made you believe he could think, plan, sympathise, know right from wrong, remember complicated facts and seek revenge. When Lassie appeared to be

studying a situation, he was actually watching his trainer wave a rag. Humans find it easier to relate to a situation when we project our own emotions onto our dogs. If a dog chews his owner's shoes when alone, the owner may shout at the dog when he returns, the dog may lower his body, slinking away and the owner thinks his dog learns from the telling off. Some may believe the dog destroyed the shoes out of resentment or boredom, which is why he looks and acts 'guilty'. However, he may be anxious and the chewing action releases endorphins that calm him down, this feeling of comfort is rewarding. When the owner returns, the dog acts in a submissive manner to avoid punishment. Yet, the owner misinterprets the dog's attempt at communicating "please don't hurt me" to mean "I know I've done wrong". So, the problem behaviour continues."

Find out more by visiting www.doglistener.tv



Top Dollar

A Tibetan Mastiff (example above) holds the title of 'Most Expensive Canine' after being sold in China for a whopping \$582,000!

The owner, Ms. Wang, travelled to northwest China to purchase the 18-month old dog, named Yangtze River Number Two. Yangtze came home to a celebrity welcome at the airport, where he was greeted by hordes of dog lovers before being whisked away in a fleet of 30 black Mercedes cars.

A family in Florida previously held the record, paying \$155,000 for a Labrador named Lancelot Encore, cloned from their deceased dog, Lancelot.