

AYLESTONE BULLDOGUE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER- Volume 4, Issue 5 **NEWSLETTER 29, AUTUMN 2013**

COMMITTEE: President: *James Clarke*

Secretary: *Jenny Byrne*, Scottish Secretary: *Matthew Coull*,

Technical Director: *Gareth Norman*

Webmaster: *James Bhatt*, Public Relations: *Gita Bhatt*, Treasurer: *Calvin Clarke*

Committee Members: *Vi Byrne, Pearl Swann, Joanne Smart*

Telephone: 0116 2442313 (England), 07745204994 (Scotland).

Web: www.aylestonebulldog.com

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All good wishes to members celebrating Diwali. We also hope everyone will have a happy and safe Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes Night.

Editorial

The Aylestone website is being repaired and until it is there is a small site with contact information and information on health, pups, breed standard and why we have had problems.

The main problem was that around April the website disappeared completely and it turned out that the back-up was corrupt. It had file content and images but no data so that the files and images could be matched up. Aargh!! The current site cannot have photos or content uploaded by Members but the new site, which will appear in a few weeks, will have this facility. Unfortunately it means that all the previous images and content is lost – gone (possibly eaten by the hamsters mentioned by the Webmaster!).

If all that was not catastrophic enough one day Jenny went to prepare some pedigrees and could not find the database (actually, she could not find anything including plays and stories by Jim and herself). It had all gone. The Webmaster instigated searches and eventually found everything but banned any use of this data until he had investigated why it had gone AWOL. So all pedigrees and registrations had to be checked manually on the paper record and typed in separately. The back-up discs could not be used either (and were three months behind the computer anyway) since the more use, the more damage to files. The issue has now been resolved but the entire computer system has to be re-configured, not something Jenny will contemplate until after the end of her exam marking in November. Fingers crossed nothing else goes wrong.

The disappearance of the computer data did highlight one issue about both registration forms and pedigree registration. An email address or phone number is vital for quick contact when problems happen – so the forms will be amended to emphasise the importance of giving this information.

Meanwhile, away from computers, we await a storm – hatches are battened down!

Committee News

The Webmaster is working hard sorting out the website. Jenny is catching up with outstanding registrations – all requested pedigrees have now gone out.



Health and Behaviour

1. Diwali, Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes/Bonfire Night

Seasonal warnings. Diwali is 2nd November and will involve bonfires and fireworks. Hallowe'en is, of course, 31st October and Bonfire Night is 5th November. However, be aware that fireworks and bonfires are likely from around 30th October and all over the week-end of 2nd and 3rd November as well as on 5th November. Advice is the same whatever the celebration. Keep animals inside, draw the curtains, turn up the TV or radio or music system so that the noise from fireworks is disguised. Give a late, heavy meal so that your dog (or cat) feels sleepy. Make sure they are comfortable. If they want to be with you then so be it. If they want to be in their special place then make sure they are warm and snug and as quiet as possible. Dogs in kennels usually react quite well to fireworks, but again, a late, heavy meal will make them sleepy. In extreme cases of nervousness vets have a battery of calming remedies that can be either given to a dog or cat or used in a diffuser to keep them calm. If this is going to be a problem consult your vet in good time.

2. Use of hay to keep pups warm

A major problem in winter is keeping puppies warm – at 85F/20C in the first few days and then at 75F thereafter. Although warm bedding is good, sometimes it can cause a problem by rucking up so that pups get caught in or under it. Carpet stretched out in the whelping bed so that pups cannot get under it is an excellent solution, but as the pups get older they still need to stay warm. Hay can be used effectively to keep older pups warm and cosy. However, it is difficult to use with young pups if a farrowing rail is also being used as care must be taken to make sure it is

not compacting under the rails and so allowing pups that get behind mum to be squashed. Better not used with very young pups, but definitely snug for those over 3 weeks.

3. Eggshells as a calcium source

It is not well-known that eggshells can be a good source of calcium for the nursing bitch. Save eggshells from cooking and then bake them in the oven whilst cooking a meal. When they are cool crush them – a jar or tin is good for this – and put them on a bitch's food. They provide the calcium she needs to produce milk and also will help with her coat.



Completed Matings

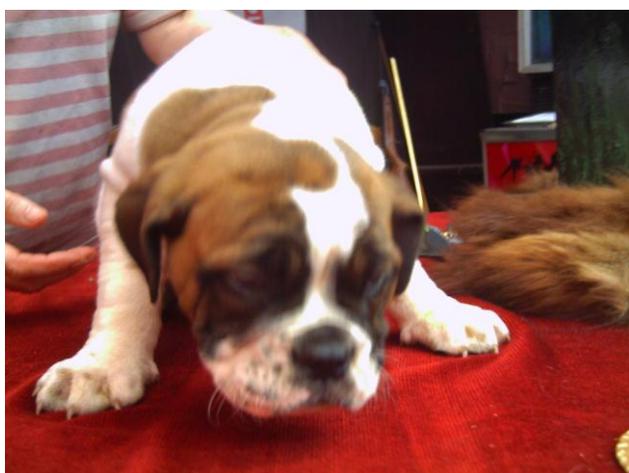
Daughter of Isis was mated with C-Jay Cassidy.

New Pup News

Jim Clarke had puppies from Douce and Bosun – Lady Medusa of Aylestone and Brosza's Boy of Aylestone. All have gone to family homes. Jim also had pups with Ambrosia – Aylestone's The Jasmine Duchess Georgiana – and Maverick – C-Jay Cassidy at Aylestone. Sadly all five pups died soon after birth. Rodgers pups – with Bam Bam Rainbowbelle of Aylestone and Rainbow Jubilee the Dragonlord of Aylestone. Burr pups - with Greengairs Airdrie Duchess and Brilliant Topaz. O'Toole pups – Seal's Boadicea of Aylestone and O'Toole's Mighty Thor of Aylestone.

All available pups can be found on Facebook.

Meet the Aylestones



This is A. Princess Julietta a pup from Bright White Zinnia at Aylestone and C-Jay Cassidy at Aylestone, bred by J. Clarke. Zinnia was bred by D. Ingrey and T. Prentice, and C-Jay was bred by Mandy Connor.

Aylestone's Princess Julietta.

Poem
Autumn Walk

Dappled dawn driving through the windows,
Sprightly rising while the dew still lies.
Fly upon the wings of morning silent
Across wet grass, the sun red seeing
Through mist of trees still deep in night.

Run, joy coursing in the veins,
And sing with birds sweet chorusing the dawn.
None leap so well as this
In solitude. Nor any sing so early in the day.

Run swift, the scent of days' returning
Seek in tree, and grass and flower.
Four legs pump swift and wander over green,
To seek for blisses unknown to all but you.

At eveningtide then sleep, warm and replete,
The milk of love and joy on mind and soul.
To dream of dawn and walks on dewy grass,
With friends beloved, in dawn's clear light,
Where scent and smell lead on to joys unspent.



New strain of bulldogs evolved from the Aylestone line

Jim Clarke has been working on producing a black bulldog – something he had experimented with when on Shetland but abandoned as he concentrated on the Aylestone. He now has the first generation of Rockhill Imperial Bulldogs available. They are in a variety of colours but only pups which are black or blue, or black or blue flowered will be able to breed into the Rockhill line. Non-standard pups will be able to breed

as Old Tyme Bulldogs. The pups are on Facebook and can also be seen (with breed standard and background to breeding) at the Rockhill Imperial WebPages at:

live@rockhill-imperial.aylestonebulldog.com

Jim Clarke's Autobiography

Jim took a year off from breeding Aylestones in order to write his autobiography of his life in the Shetland Isles. Called The Ratscape Chronicles – The Autobiographical Ramblings of an Outcast, it will be available on Amazon in both a full colour and a black and white version in time for Christmas. The stories are hilarious, the pictures, mainly of the animal characters, are intriguing and there is also a modicum of poetry interspersing the text.

News by telephone

We have just learnt the great news that Vandal, The Vandal at Aylestone, is still alive and is now approaching his SIXTEENTH birthday. He lives in most of the time but sometimes gets claustrophobic and likes to go out to sleep in his heated kennel. He is a bit arthritic but otherwise well. Bravo Vandal!

Call for pictures, poems and stories

We would love to receive pictures of dogs and puppies for the newsletter, and poems and stories about dogs by Members.

Endpiece

Newsletters come by email. To get them by Royal Mail ring 0116 2442313 or write to Jenny at 541 Aylestone Road, Leicester, LE2 8TD.

