

The Labrador Retriever Show Gundog Training Day

3rd May 2008

Report written by Alison Scutcher (Winsleywood Labradors)



"The Labrador Retriever Club held its annual Show Gundog Training Day on Saturday 3rd May 2008 by kind permission of Mrs & Mrs Wise. Thanks must go to Mr & Mrs Wise for hosting the event and also to The Labrador Retriever Club for organising such a lovely day. Our trainer was Peter Cole (Elmbrook) who was very sympathetic and patient had an excellent attitude towards show dogs and made everyone feel like their dog was capable no matter what level of experience handlers and dogs had.

The day started with a basic walking to heel exercise where helpful tips were given to improve our dogs' responses, quite often it is the most minor adjustments in training that make all of the difference. We then went onto a steadiness exercise by getting the dogs to sit and wait. These exercises were good preparatory work and helped the dogs concentrate. We soon moved onto retrieving which all of the dogs enjoyed starting with some basic marked retrieves. Next we were to concentrate on preparing the dogs to go back and this involved an exercise where by a dummy was thrown and the dogs and handlers walked back 5 paces. The idea was that the dogs remembered that a dummy had been thrown and have the confidence to go "back". Next were the Water retrieves – needless to say every dog succeeded here!! Just before lunch we used a track to start training for some blind retrieves. This was certainly a fraction more challenging but again everyone succeeded.

After lunch the training stepped up a gear as we were told we were going to be marked us on two exercises. First test was a retrieve over water down a steep incline into a deep water filled ditch which involved a 3 meter swim to the other side then a climb up the bank on the other side where the dummy a was. Not an easy task for any dog that had not done this kind of training but most made the exercise a success even if they needed to help their dogs. Then the second test was a walk up with a mark into long grass, this was excellent experience for all the dogs as challenged steadiness and marking. We finished the afternoon with some "direction" training and although quite advanced all the dogs succeeded and it gave everyone the basics of what exercises they could take way and practice.

All of us that took part thoroughly enjoyed the day."