

Otterhound Club

Summer 2022 newsletter



Who's who

Your Club officers and committee members

President - Robin Bell-Irving
Vice President - Hilary Gilpin (co-opted)
Chairman - Bill Shorthose (co-opted)
Vice Chairman - vacant
Treasurer - Trevor Chenery (co-opted)
Secretary - David Porter

Committee Members:

Judith Ashworth
Ian Brotchie
Daryl Brotchie (co-opted)
Rae Ganna
Tom Hacking
Caroline Harris (co-opted)
Vera Lyons
Sara Porter

The club also has three sub-committees, as follows:

Health

Judith Ashworth
Rae Ganna
Nicki Eagles

Rescue

Rae Ganna
Sara Porter
Helen Hacking
Maria Lerego
Sam Lewis

Judges

Hilary Gilpin
Judith Ashworth
Rae Ganna
Pam Marston-
Pollock
Helen Wayman

An important message from David Porter, your Club secretary:

There will be an Special General Meeting following the Championship show on 25th September 2022 at the Village Hall, Francis Road, Baginton, Nr Coventry, CV8 3AA.

Please inform the Secretary if your contact details have changed.

A contribution from Caroline Harris, a Club member since 2017 and the new Events Co-ordinator.

Caroline has two Otterhounds (PCOH SieBie and Olphae Dawn) and a 10-year old (and mad) Goldendoodle.

I have been co-opted on to the new committee with the remit of being the Events Co-Ordinator. It is the intention of the committee organise more events throughout the UK involving the Hounds and of course yourselves. So, with this in mind I would like to propose the first 'get-together' be on Sunday 7th August at Wendover Woods (see link below). There are accessible toilet facilities, a café, car parking (cost involved) and numerous other activities for 4 legged and 2 legged persons of all ages! The idea is to have a walk with the Hounds on leads for as long and far as you like. Meet back together for a picnic and socialising. If we could meet at midday and it is entirely up to you how long you wish to stay. You are welcome to bring more friends and family. If you know anyone who has owned, wants to own or just loves dogs bring them along.

The underlining theme to this event (and all future events) is for you the membership to tell us what kind of activities you would like us to look at putting on. I have had suggestions of barn hunts, agility to name a couple. The club will be celebrating the 45th anniversary next year and the committee want to know what you think should part of the celebration weekend in September 2023. Many of you would have been at the 40th anniversary which was a great success so let's make next year even better.

My big idea is that there are at least 4 Club organised events a year beside the Club shows and Discover Dogs. Ideally an event in Scotland, Wales, and 2 events in England which will be representative of either north / south or east / west whichever you the membership feel it is right.

Remember the committee is here working for you the membership and we want to build a strong working partnership ensuring our hounds are always at the centre of the everything we do.

Planned events so far

2022

Sunday 7th August Meet up at Wendover Woods

(www.forestryengland.uk/wendover-woods).

Sunday 25th September Otterhound Club Championship show.

15th – 16th October Discover Dogs, ExCel London

2023

9th – 12th March Discover Dogs, Crufts

April Open Otterhound Club Show

September 45th Club Anniversary

Caroline Harris

Contact details – 07854936112 or cazhaz@hotmail.com

Veterinary surgeon Will Lazenby poses the following questions for consideration:

1 Can I ask if anyone has had an Otterhound which has had some combination of the following symptoms and what the diagnosis/ outcome was? Was a definite diagnosis made? Older hound, possibly drinking /urinating more, weight loss, weakness, collapse, lethargy, anorexia, vomiting, panting, anxiety, restlessness, diarrhoea, abdominal distention, hind limb swelling, nose bleed, high blood pressure, seizures or acute blindness.

2. Why do Otterhounds know how to position themselves in the most awkward places? Hafflinn has learned that if he lies in a certain place at work he blocks three doorways at once. Probably in case I sneak off without taking him. For the same reason he is often sitting right behind me when I turn around. My mobility has been pretty dreadful for a while and getting around at work or at home takes a bit of planning and involves, crutches, grab bars, a trolley, various strategically placed pieces of furniture and a 12kg bag of dog food (don't ask!). Last week I arrived home from work, attended to the needs of the resident OH then started to make my dinner. Unfortunately, a rather enthusiastic attempt to peel potatoes and I lost my balance, grabbed for the trolley , which was the only thing I could reach and it of course started to shoot across the kitchen.

I braced myself for the inevitable fall and it came to a juddering halt. Stopped by a large, furry body lying a few feet from me. Even then he, thankfully, never got up. Crisis averted. I will never again tell him to get out of the way as he is in the road as he certainly saved me from a nasty fall!

Tara Johnson's celebrates her pups' first birthday in [Dayze's Dozen Birthday Beach Meet Up](#)

With 12 siblings in homes all across the country, celebrating a 1st birthday together took a bit of organisation. But Dayze (Blue Fairy's Ticket To Ride To Concara's Olphae) is the proud mum to some pups who are used to travelling the length and breadth of the country, and with the generosity of some very kind owners that were happy to host the meet up, we decided to head for the south coast on Saturday 11th June 2022.

The weather was warm but with plenty of water available and some shady spots in the garden, 7 Olphae D litter pups all had a fabulous time getting reacquainted after the last meet up in January (which was muddy & cold!).

Humans enjoyed catching up in person rather than the usual Whatsapp group messaging, relishing in the opportunity to enhance friendships that have formed, share stories about show successes, training progress and various adventures & escapades, and continuing to support each other in our journeys in owning an Otterhound.

Once the tide was low enough and lunch had been enjoyed, we took a short walk to the nearby beach. With recall still being a work in progress, there were a few long lines in attendance (we all obviously favour yellow!) but as the beach was very quiet we

were brave and dropped them in order to give all the pups an opportunity to really stretch their legs and enjoy the sea.

It was certainly quite a sight to see them all romping and having fun together, along with their mum, and aside from a short jaunt across the beach to investigate a game of cricket that was taking place, the recall was generally pretty good...!

We calmed things down for the return journey, with a slightly more sniffy stroll back to the house and the all important event of the cake....liver cake that is, complete with a '1' candle and a rendition of 'happy birthday'. Each pup enjoyed a slice of cake, some waiting more politely than others ;)

With some very tired pups all snoozing the evening away, the humans were already making plans for the next meet up, so here's to next time Olphae D Litter and plenty more Otterhound mayhem to look forward to!



Regular contributor, Nikki Eagles, has sent in this idea to use a dehydrator for making tasty dog treats.

I have a simple dehydrator and I mostly make dried meat treats but there are no limits (apart from your level of squeamishness). People dehydrate fruit and vegetables, make their own supplements with herbs and flowers, small fish, mussels and all manner of bits of offal like pizzles (Way out of my comfort zone). Yes it is a bit fiddly but you know exactly what your dog is eating and for those with allergies or restricted diets, it can be worth it.

There are loads of groups online for dehydrators and dehydrated dog treats with recipes and advice.

If I bought another dehydrator it would be a rear fan model - this means there is no chance of anything dropping onto the fan and causing the motor to burn out. Mine has the fan at the bottom - I have to be careful to put the meat around the edges. Sizes and prices vary wildly and I started out with a cheap one which is still going strong.

I partially defrost the meat as it is easier to cut into thin slices that way, trim off any fatty bits as the fat does not dry well and place it onto silicone sheets until it is partially dry and i can peel it off easily. This keeps the trays cleaner and easier to wash. It is important to allow plenty of space for the air to circulate

between the trays. I generally dry at 70C (155F) - sometimes I put it down to 40C (105F) overnight. or switch it off overnight for safety. There can be a smell whilst drying - I will not repeat the drying tripe experiment - so some people do it in a garage or outhouse.

I freeze my dried treats to ensure they stay fresh but they will keep for a few days in an airtight jar.

The next level up from plain dried meat is to make treats and you can make biscuit type dough recipes and dry instead of baking but my favourite is to make a mixture of meat mince or tuna, pumpkin or sweet potato and oats or flour whizzed up in a food processor and use a jerky gun to make strips of treats and dry those.

Safety - It is recommended to freeze all meat for 7 days prior to dehydration to kill parasites especially for wild caught meat or non-human grade. For your own safety when touching the treats, a blast in the oven before and/ or after drying will ensure pathogens particularly salmonella are killed.

Exhibition stand gurus, Daryl & Ian Brotchie, have submitted a full report on Discover Dogs 2022.

Thursday

3 hounds (all males) and 6 owners available on first day, which was a reduced number due to illness and coming into season. However, being the first day this was not one of the busiest days and therefore adequate cover. Gael, Nancy and Karmen from the Otterhound Club of America paid us a special visit.

Friday – Hound day

4 hounds {3 male and 1 female) and 7 owners. This was a busy day for our booth as many members visited us after showing. The numbers worked perfectly in terms of experienced hounds and new members with hounds.

Saturday

4+ hounds (2 male, 2 female - Best Puppy, Rudie, also took a brief bow!) with 6 owners. Very busy day with a big increase in children.

Sunday

5 hounds (2 female, 3 male) - with an age range of 8 months to 10 years - and 9 owners. A busy day but not as busy as

previous Sundays. A complete mixture of ages and serious / non-serious enquiries from the public.

We made contact with somewhere in excess of 35 people asking if they would bring their hound(s) to DD. The objective was to ensure a mix of male & female hounds and hounds from as many breeders as possible. In fact, we had representatives from every breeder!

Owners who had never been involved in DD jumped at the chance to show off their hounds while others declined having spent many years supporting DD and glad of a reprieve. Some felt that their hounds were past the hurley burley of such a long and busy day.

It is important that each day has a good balance of male and female, experience and not so experienced, whilst also accommodating owners preferred days due to work and other social commitments – not an easy task at all! Six new couples joined the team this year and all expressed their wish to be considered for the next DD as they had enjoyed themselves so much and felt very welcomed by the club. Ian and I were on hand every day, along with other experienced DD owners to field any unusual queries, but all went very smoothly. The enthusiasm was incredible and we had the bonus of many owners and hounds who had been competing on Friday (Hound Day), calling in to see us before heading home. It really gave everyone a lift and a feeling of working together for the club.

The new display boards were much clearer and easier to read from a distance. The £232 received from the Kennel Club can hopefully be used to update our leaflets in time for DD at Excel in October. We posted photos on Facebook of the hounds and owners on duty each day which, judging by the number of comments from home - and abroad – went down a storm.

We didn't win the prize for Best Booth this year as it was awarded to the Greyhound Trust – but, rest assured, we will be back! The 3m x3m single booth does make it difficult, with our rather large hounds, to highlight our 'Vulnerable' status but, as one of our Vulnerable Native Breed colleagues said "Perhaps we would get more TV coverage if we VNBs joined together with a Flyball team or do heel work to music – that would get us on the telly!!!

By the way 1 - we have sent Maureen Parker our old display boards and various other material as she has volunteered to do the Dog Lovers Show in Aberdeen and Glasgow in March / April. We have also managed to get her more help for both shows from 3 other club members and wish her every success. Perhaps the committee would like to send a message of support to Maureen?

By the way 2 - we donated the daily 'goody bags' of food and treats from Royal Canin to a local chap who is doing his 2nd trip to the Ukraine border tomorrow, this time driving a mobile medical bus but filled with other urgently-needed supplies.

