



Newsletter 1 2013

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2013!

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Your new newsletter.

I'd better introduce myself - Sandra Mateus.

Accepted on committee January 2013, put to work straight away on the newsletter!

Mountain Dog owned since 1988, by Bernese.

I'm taking over from Amy for a bit whilst she's otherwise occupied.

I should be very grateful if you have any contributions to email them to me at sandradmateus@hotmail.com.

I can't compile the entire contents without help!

More news from the Secretary in her report.

"Remember the committee is here to serve you, the members and to work towards recognition, protection and general care of the breed. Apart from that to listen to your ideas and hopefully put them into practice so keep them coming :)"

Club News in Brief

Main thing is AGM 21st April. This is combined with the Funday, so don't miss it.

Application for kennel Club recognition is now well on the way.

Hopefully more news about that soon.

Please send in any photos or any articles!

I'm keen to make a Veterans page as well as a Puppy one.



Rehoming is Rewarding

We first came across the Estrela Mountain Dog in 2007. We had just lost one of our beloved dogs that we had bought back from the Canary Islands with us and decided to go to Discover Dogs at Crufts to find a new friend for our other dog Meg. We were walking down one of the Isles and almost fell over Quinn, and that was it, our hearts were lost.

Marcia had recently had a litter, well to be correct Mappie had recently had a litter of puppies, and we arranged to go and see them. Needless to say by the time we left we had given one a new home and we named her Ella. Unfortunately life with Ella has not been plain sailing. Before she was 2 years old she was diagnosed with Addisons disease and is now on fourteen tablets a day and a couple of years ago she tore her cruciate ligament. None of this however put us off the breed, in fact the way she behaved at the vets and the way she never complained no matter what she went through endeared us even more. We often talked about having another, as most of you will agree once you get the bug one Estrela is never enough!! . So, when Marcia said there were three boys, living in dreadful conditions, all looking for a new home the temptation was too much. We talked of having all three and then discussed having just one, no matter what we said we just could not come to a decision but told Marcia we were considering all three. The day before the AGM in May, I discovered I had a health problem which was going to limit my abilities for a while, but even so we still said we might take the three of them. As they were in such a desperate state we said if needed, we would definitely take all three on a temporary basis.

Time passed and still we could not make up our minds, then in June I got a frantic email from Marcia saying could we help, she had had a phone call and the RSPCA were going in and could she get the Estrelas out. Without question we said yes we would take them. Marcia felt that they would probably be better, due to the way they were, if they were split up so we looked at the pictures on the website and asked if we could have 'that one'; and that is how we got Brodie. Brodie, previous name Sumo, which he didn't know and we didn't like, came into our world on Wednesday 27th June, and even though it hasn't been an easy journey, we haven't looked back. Marcia and Heather delivered him to us about 1 o'clock and when Heather opened the back of the car you could smell him before you could see him. Out jumped this filthy, bedraggled, very sad looking and frightened Estrela, we took one look and both said "why didn't we take them all earlier", we couldn't believe that anyone could let such beautiful dogs get into such a pitiful state. We were lucky in that we used to keep hens and still had the large shed and run so we put him in there to calm and settle down for a while, after all being taken away from the only home he had ever known must have been a traumatic experience and he no longer had his brothers with him either.

We started to groom him about 2pm and at 5pm we gave up, went into town, we got some clippers, came home and shaved him. We filled a large dog food bag with about 2 kgs of hair, clumps of mud and even larger clumps of poo. After this we bathed him and as we didn't know how he would be with the girls or how they would be with him, and as he had no 'social' training we put him back up the hen-pen. My dad had made him a kennel and he had plenty of warm blankets in it so we thought he would be OK.

It was a very restless night I was sure he wouldn't be there in the morning but I needn't have worried. At 5am I was up there and still cowering as far back in his kennel as he could get was a very frightened Estrela. Then came the next worry, he wouldn't eat, we tried all sorts and the emails were going back and forth but Marcia said not to worry and she was right. He finally started tucking into his food on Friday morning but would only come out of his kennel when we weren't there. We didn't push him, just spent as much time as we could work up there chatting to him but not approaching him.

On the Sunday my husband, Tom, decided to put a lead on him and walk him round the garden, after climbing into the back of the kennel to get the lead on, and a tug of war to get him out, he eventually spent half an hour walking as good as gold round the garden. We did this four or five times a day and eventually to our great joy he walked round by our side off the lead. It was so sad to see such a beautiful dog so frightened, if you lifted your hand he dropped to the ground like a lead balloon, if a pigeon flapped its wings he bolted. One Sunday afternoon I was sat in the garden with him on his lead and my husband moved to do something and Brodie just took off, the lead ripping through my hand cutting three fingers wide open, but he just ran to his favoured spot and sat waiting for us to go and get him. After about two weeks it got that he was waiting for us and our 'girls' to go up to see him, then he started barking when we left him. He had spent the first week outside, in the pen and kennel all the time but then he decided that he wanted our attention and started barking and howling at one and two in the morning so we started putting him in the shed at night, we didn't like doing this, seeing what he had come from, but he was dry, warm, clean and above all safe. This became our routine, he spent all day outside and all night inside, when the weather was bad we would put him inside so as to keep him dry and clean, so that this wasn't too unfair on him my dad made a second wire door for the shed so that he could be shut in but he could still see out and have the fresh air. At the beginning of August we thought we would try him in the house as he seemed to get on so well with the 'girls'. We started by having him in in the day but would still put him back out at night bearing in mind he had had no house training either. This went on for about a week and that was it, Brodie was fully integrated into the family, he was now a full time house dog!, although this meant very light sleep for me as I was constantly listening out for him. He really was ever so good, the first week or so went without a single accident or hitch. One Friday I had bought a six pack of Mars bars and without thinking my husband just put them on the bookcase, in the early hours I heard something and went downstairs to investigate, the waste paper basket had been emptied and I don't know why I looked but the Mars were missing, on closer inspection there was just a tiny bit of wrapper on his bed, our new darling boy had not only taken them but had eaten all six wrappers as well !!! I cleaned up and took all three outside then made a drink; while I was sat at the table I thought 'what's that white by his bed' he hadn't just had the Mars but had also destroyed the ADSL broadband filter as well. So the next day we made a wooden box to screw on the wall to cover the electric sockets, the phone socket and the **new** ADSL filter. Brodie soon found his voice and soon learnt that if he barked one of us went running! So this started a spell of being woken at 5am with him demanding to go out. In the eight months he has been in the house the only other destruction we have had has been a tassel off one of the arm covers and he has chewed the bottom of the newel post on the stairs and we have only had five 'accidents' so all in all we are really proud of our boy who was without any training at all. He is now settling in very nicely, he has made under the stairs his home, although he is still extremely nervous, our most touching moment was when he first barked to protect 'his' home, we then knew he felt he belonged. He joins Meg and Ella waiting to see what tit-bits are coming from our plates, and looks for his biscuit each time he comes back into the house. He has started to show is cheeky side now, I put some French stick on the table the other night to have with our meal, when I came back in with the plates the bread had gone, I thought my husband had hidden it messing about, but no, Brodie had helped himself, the evidence was the crumbs on his bed!. We thought twice about putting the Christmas tree up wondering if he would confuse it with the trees outside and cock his leg but he was very well behaved and didn't even bother with the baubles. He even coped with the comings and goings of friends and relations, barking when they first arrived then coming out to say hello before settling down and going back to sleep. We are lucky in that we have a very large garden and I am afraid to say therefore our dogs don't get walked, our lanes are busy with few footpaths, so they just get free run in the safety of the garden.

Brodie loves his runs and plays quite happily with Meg and Ella although we do have to keep an eye on him, he is quite boisterous and sometimes is too rough for them. He is so full of energy he regularly is out for two hours plus and you never see him stop moving, the garden looks like a ~4 ~race track!, and he has adored the snow we have recently had, running round doing a snow plough impression, face covered in the 'white stuff'

It has taken some time but he now wags his tail on a regular basis and is always waiting to meet me, tail wagging when I come down in the mornings. He still won't go and help himself to a drink, we have to keep taking it to him, we have tried ignoring him but no matter how thirsty he gets he just won't go and get one, and yet we hear him drinking in the night, I am sure he will get there in his own time. He has already come such a long way, he has gone from a quivering wreck to a handsome characterful boy. He constantly wants to play, bounding up to us, barking and running away again. He still thinks 'come' means run in the opposite direction, and he hasn't a clue what any other commands are but we love him dearly, and we are quite sure he is pretty fond of us too. He has such a wonderful nature, you can do anything with him and he never complains, he's even well behaved at the vets. He loves cuddles and we are quite sure he is going to become a wonderful companion for many years to come. We are just letting everything move at his pace and with the help of Meg and Ella he is making fantastic progress

Taking on a dog the size of Brodie that has no social training what so ever isn't something we would recommend everyone to try, although there have been no major problems he has been hard work but we wouldn't be without him., and as I said at the very start-Re-homing is rewarding.

Submitted by Jen and Tom Rankin



Dognapping on the Rise

Below are some tips for protecting your pet.



1. KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON YOUR PET WHEN NOT ON A LEASH. THIS INCLUDES YOUR YARD, PARKS, ETC.
2. DON'T LEAVE YOUR DOG IN AN UNATTENDED CAR.
3. DON'T TIE YOUR DOG OUTSIDE OF STORES OR OTHER PUBLIC PLACES.
4. CONSIDER MICROCHIPPING YOUR PET FOR TRACKING PURPOSES.



Secretary's Report

The last few months have proven to be a far from happy time for me. Firstly I lost my darling Tani, Quin's mum, she was 10.5 yrs old and her body was failing her so I made the ultimate decision. She was a funny girl who was not very confident with people or other dogs but adored her family. Shortly thereafter I lost my beautiful Portuguese boy Jaydee as a result of him having been poisoned at Crufts, brain bleeds caused rare but quite dramatic changes in his wonderful temperament. These dogs never leave you, they are in your heart and will always be safe and close there. At the end of last year my elder daughter became very ill and we are still on the path to defeat that one but I am sure she will be back at Club events soon. So it has been a very long few months.

On a brighter note the Club has continued to flourish and ended our first full year with a very healthy membership and lots to look forward to. The AGM & Fun Day were great and I am looking forward to the 2013 one and the picnic was it's usual success. The only slightly sad bit was that once again we had very little interest in an Xmas event so maybe we can approach it differently this year. We shall once more hold the picnic and pray for the weather we enjoyed at the first one, it is a really nice day out with the dogs.

As far as 2013 is concerned memberships are coming in well and we have several new members. There is a lot of interest in the breed recently from Portuguese people living here so it is wonderful to have those from the breeds homeland join us. There is also quite an influx of youngsters arriving from Portugal as well which can only be fabulous for our gene pool.

The Committee has various things in the discussion stage and we will keep you up to date as ideas develop. The application for Kennel Club recognition has been somewhat hampered by my dreadful year in 2012 and is near to completion but the Committee felt that at this stage it would be a good thing to delay submission so that we could get another AGM under our belt which gives us a little more longevity. I hope that we shall see lots of you at the Fun Day and if you need any information please contact me.

I look forward to seeing lots of you very soon

Marcia

Wallingford Picnic Sept 2012

Memories Of The Day



Featuring Marnie, Pedro, Alfie and Archie.

Wallingford Picnic Sept 2012

More Photos



Featuring Marnie, Guia, & Rusty. Apologies if I don't know the others names. Just make yourself known to me at AGM! I will be snapping photos of all of the Estrelas and will attempt to become acquainted with them all.

How to get involved

Present Committee Members February 2013

President: Carla Molinari (Portugal)

Chairman: Heather Jeremiah

Treasurer: Eddie Mateus

Secretary: Marcia Dovey

Committee:

Sylvia Cox

Hugh Cox

Linda Tirebuck

Jason Frater

Julie Pine

Sandra Mateus

Jen Rankin

Other positions:

Rescue & Health Co-ordinator: Heather Jeremiah

heatherjeremiah@hotmail.co.uk

Newsletter : Sandra Mateus

sandradmateus@hotmail.com

Club Shop: Heather Jeremiah

The club relies on input from its members. Stories, photos, and articles which you think others may find interesting can be emailed to the Secretary,

Mrs Marcia Dovey

Ty-Fry Farm, Mynyddislwyn, Blackwood, Gwent, NP12 2BA

Tel: 01495 224401 (Home) or 07807 274709 (Mobile)

Email: sturtmoor@sky.com

Please contact any member of the committee should you want to be more involved with the club. Any help gratefully accepted

**Your Invitation To
The**



AGM

21st April 2013
Bearley Village Hall
Bearley
Stratford-Upon-Avon
CV37 0SB

1100 AGM

1200 noon Arrive for Fun Day

1300 Lunch (must be ordered)

1400 pm Fun & Games

1630 Finish

**Everyone is welcome to the lunch & Fun Day,
other breeds of dogs also welcome. You do
not need to be a member to attend.**



**Make sure you complete the form if you want food!
Email Marcia or Sandra for a form.**

Puppy Introductions



Introducing D'Serra de
Terras D'Cister
Serra - born 28/9/12
Owned by Eddie and
Sandra Mateus
Bred by Francisco Silva at
Canil De Terras D'Cister,
Alcobaça Portugal



We would love to receive pictures of all sorts, Puppies, Veterans, and a Remembrance page for those we've loved and lost

Puppy Introductions

Introducing 3 gorgeous pups, bred by Marcia Dovey, Sturtmoor Kennels
Affectionately named **Wally Walrus**, **Quinley** and **Poppy**
Aided and abetted by Heather Jeremiah



Wally



Quinley



Poppy

Do Not Forget About The Estrela Shop

When you have a dog, it's lovely to receive items for birthdays and Christmas that relate to your dog.

Why not have a look at what the Estrela Club shop has to offer.

Details from Heather Jeremiah



More of this on

<https://www.facebook.com/OffTheLeashDailyDogCartoons>

or

<http://rupertfawcettsdoggyblog.tumblr.com/>

1974

DOG OF PORTUGAL'S MOUNTAINS

by Roger F. Pye

Running in a south-westerly direction from the ancient marcher town of Guarda, and cutting the country virtually in two unequal parts, there rises up the great mountain range called the Serra da Estrêla (the Portuguese serra, like the Spanish sierra, simply means a range), which reaches 6,540 feet at its highest point, making it the loftiest mountain in Portugal. The Serra is rocky, inhospitable and sparsely inhabited, and snow often lies on its higher tops for much of the year in marked contrast to the sweltering plains below in summer, when the grass at the foot of the mountains is parched and withered, and the plentiful pasturage on the upper plateau drew to it the flocks in need of sustenance.

To protect him and his flock from the wolves which abounded in the hills, and from the depredations of lawless men, the mountain shepherd required the support of large, hardy and valiant dogs. The large herd dog of mastiff type is probably one of the oldest kinds of dog evolved by man, and is to be found in many places in some local form. In Portugal it is found represented by the Serra da Estrêla dog in the mountain range of the same name, just referred to, and the Rafeiro do Alentejo, used on the plains of the latter province, south of the Tagus.

The Serra shepherd would frequently be contracted by a farmer or group of farmers to take the flocks into the mountains, his recompense being partly in cash and partly in livestock; normally about five percent of the flock. The flocks would be assembled about 1st March, duly marked and handed over to the care of the shepherd. At this time of year the upper snows would have started to melt and the mountain pasture to appear. The shepherd remained in the Serra for anything up to seven months until the first snows of Autumn, in all weathers (and a thunderstorm in the Serra is no joke), sleeping in the open or under the most primitive shelter, carrying a week's provisions at a time, which he replenished by periodical encounters with some member of his family charged with the duty of taking fresh supplies to the appointed rendezvous. In all this solitary existence his dogs were at once his guardians and his companions, sleeping with him, eating with him their frugal diet of coarse bread and whey, and constantly on the alert for marauders, whether two or four footed. To protect them against the latter they customarily wore heavy iron collars with spikes, which caused them much discomfort and provided a natural habitat for fleas. In encounters with wolves the dogs would work as a team, generally playing a defensive role until their adversaries had worn themselves down, and then passing over to the attack and pursuit.

Apologies for quality of scanned copy, if you would like a pdf copy for easier reading just ask and I will email you a copy

All this pattern is now much changed. All over the country there has been a steady drift by the peasant away from the land, and in the Serra the young people are no longer willing to devote themselves to the hard lonely life of the mountain shepherd. The flocks are now much diminished, the wolves reduced to a mere remnant (although there was a report ^{a couple of} ~~last year~~ ^{'80} of a wolf being killed by a dog in the Serra), and the Serra dog's age old occupation has in consequence almost gone.

There are two varieties of Serra dog: the long-haired and the short-haired. Previously the former was to be found mainly on the southern side of the Serra, while the short-haired variety was generally confined to the northern side. Of late however the long-hair has largely ousted the short-hair, and is to be found throughout the region, albeit in reduced numbers. A few years ago it had become difficult to find a typical specimen in the Beiras (the range lies partly in each of the three provinces of Beira Alta, Beira Baixa and Beira Litoral). There had been little effort among the farmers to keep the breed pure and, as there was little demand for the dogs in the Serra itself, most of them were bought up and sold as guard dogs for estates where, deprived of the freedom and close human contact to which they had for centuries been accustomed, many of them have turned savage and morose, in complete variance with the breed's true character. Of late, however, one or two rustic enthusiasts have taken up breeding in the vicinity of Guarda and Gouveia, but there is a good deal of indiscriminate inbreeding indulged in, which has left its mark on the breed, mainly in the shape of bad heads. *Portuguese publications, moreover, are notoriously unreliable.*

Outside the Beiras there has been a very small number of enthusiasts breeding and showing in a modest way, ~~of whom~~ ^{among} the most successful have ¹⁸ been Sr. Azeredo Lobo, of the Rocaredo affix, who has bred six of the ¹⁵ fifteen Portuguese long-hair champions made up to date, and Dr. Canceleda de Abreu, of the Bairaada affix, who has bred three, but both of these gentlemen appear to have given up breeding. Of the remaining six ⁹ champions, ~~three~~ ^{three} have been bred by the writer, ^(Paper #13) two by Sr. Nogueira of Guarda, ^(Barragem and São João's affix) and one by Eng. Kamalho of Oporto. ^(Caldas affix) The Portuguese, however, are not very interested in dogs in general, and in their own national breeds hardly at all so that, now that the Serra has become largely redundant in his mountain home, his future is not promising, despite provisions made in June 1972 by the ^{government established in 1974} ~~Ministry of Agriculture~~ for breeding at its own stations at Guarda or Castelo Branco, for it seems fruitless to ensure a supply in the present absence of any real local demand.

It might indeed be fair to say that only a foreign demand can save this magnificent old breed from degeneration and near extinction, and in this connection it is perhaps of interest to note that a Serra bitch in whelp has recently entered this country, and awaits the birth of her litter in mid-May at a quarantine kennel in Middlesex. These will be the first Portuguese Mountain Dogs ever to have been born in Britain, and upon

how they are received may well hang the fate of the breed.

This is now
best history
of event.

Euro Page



Estrelas Belonging to
Sietske Christan - Luchsinger
Holland. Breeder of Menna



We welcome Pictures of Euro or even further afield Estrelas!
Perhaps we need a map!



Estrelas Remembered

The page dedicated to those we've loved and lost



Tani
Quin's mum
2002 - 2012
My beautiful, funny girl,
so loving and sweet. You
are always in my heart
XXXXXXXXXX



Jaydee, Joao Da Varanda
Dos Pastores At Sturtmoor
bred by Nuno Costa who was
so tragically lost in a
terrible car crash, a great
loss to the breed.
Jaydee was a very sweet
and gentle dog but after he
was poisoned at Crufts in
2011 he had brain bleeds
which occasionally affected
his moods. He sadly became
a little too unstable and I
had to make one of the
hardest decisions of my life,
he wasn't even 3 yrs old.

I can never forgive that someone took my beautiful boy from me. Just wait at Rainbow Bridge Baby.

How Old Is Your Dog?



The Outer brown coloured ring applies to extra large breeds!

Dog Health websites

http://www.aht.org.uk/cms-display/sci_clinsigns.html

<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/thyroid.html>

http://www.petwave.com/Dogs/Dog-Health-Center/Digestive-Disorders/Bloat_GDV/Causes.aspx

<http://www.petwave.com/Dogs/Dog-Health-Center/Skin-Disorders/Hot-Spots.aspx>

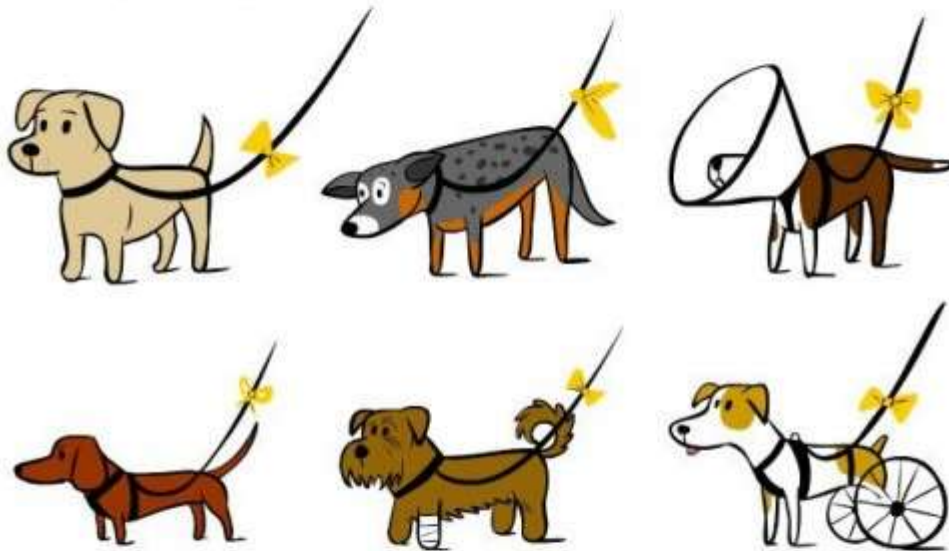
<http://www.pethealthnetwork.com/dog-health/addisons-disease-dogs>

Yellow Ribbon Dog Scheme

<http://www.spacedogs.org.uk/>

THE **YELLOW DOG** PROJECT.com

If you see a dog with a **YELLOW RIBBON** or something yellow on the leash, **this is a dog who needs some space**. Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way.



There are many reasons why a dog may need space:

HEALTH ISSUES

IN TRAINING

BEING REHABILITATED

SCARED OR REACTIVE AROUND OTHER DOGS

THANK YOU!

Those of us who own these dogs appreciate your help and respect!



Illustrated by Lili Chin www.doggiedrawings.net