

# EMDC UK NEWSLETTER



Hello everyone and welcome to the December issue...

I hope you all enjoyed the August issue and that you enjoyed all the articles.

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Firstly I would like to wish everyone a happy new year and all the best for 2016.

I hope you all had a good festive holiday period.

Since the August issue we have all been looking forward to the main Estrela Event in Portugal which is the Monográfica, and there will be more on this further in the newsletter.

We had our picnic and it was very nice to see everyone that came. It was a very nice sunny day which we all took advantage of. We are now looking forward to Crufts in March and the AGM in May.



My Zuki is still in Portugal and still enjoying himself. He has been participating in a few shows in Portugal and Spain where he has been doing well, however we are not pushing him too much as it was a big adjustment to be there for so long. But as long as his enjoying it he will continue to show. He still loves to meet new people and has been staying frequently with a friend of ours who is also his handler, they have been having a fantastic time together



and he now seems to understand commands in English, Portuguese and French which just goes to show how versatile this breed is. I am looking forward to his return in March.



I hope you enjoy the articles I have gathered for you in this issue and also some new bits of general information which is always good for us to know.

I look forward to seeing some of you at Crufts 2016.



Don't forget to contribute any articles or photos to the newsletter at [anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk)



## NEW PUPPY ARRIVALS

This page will be dedicated to all new puppies. We want to hear about any new puppies being born in the UK or puppies arriving from outside the UK.

Please send in any new puppy stories to me at [anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk) we all love to see a puppy face :)

TARA DA QUINTA DO GANHÃO & EROS DA QUINTA DO GANHÃO  
OWNER LUIS RAMOS

### Q1: *The first time you saw an Estrela?*

My name is Luis Ramos and I am originally from Seia, Portugal. I have known the breed since I was a child.

In my family we have a disabled child who was bitten by a dog and would panic every time they would see a dog or a dog was near by. One day we met an Estrela Mountain Dog breeder who helped to recuperate the child. With a lot of patience, at the 4th visit the child was able to walk into a kennel with more than 10 dogs inside. This was an incredible achievement and very emotional for all. This is when my passion for this breed started. Not only are they guard dogs and pets but they are also very gentle and docile, with an extraordinary patience. After this experience I was in love with the breed.



### Q2: *The chosen breeder...*

After many years of being in love with the breed, in 2012

I finally had the appropriate conditions to be able to have my first Estrela. Because I was already living in the UK I searched on the internet for breeders in Portugal, and I found one who had puppies available for the date I was able to bring a puppy to the UK. Francisco Silva from Canil Terras D'Cister. From him I brought my first Estrela a bitch called Estrela.e in 2012. In 2013 I was not able to resist it and I brought another Estrela from him this time a dog called Tuga.

I participated in a show in Portugal where I met a few breeders, specially Silvia Capitão from Canil Quinta do Ganhão. It was from her that I brought two puppies with me in 2015, a bitch called Tara and a dog called Eros.



Eros da Quinta do Ganhão



Tara da Quinta do Ganhão

## BREEDER'S PAGE

A new introduction to the newsletter is the breeder's page. In every issue I will try to get an article about past and present Estrela breeders both from Portugal and from the UK.

### CANIL VALE DO JUIZ SEIA – PORTUGAL



#### **Q1: Who are you and where do you live?**

My name is Edgar Dolgner, i am 45 years old and i live in Aldeia de S. Miguel – Seia, very close to Serra da Estrela.

#### **Q2: Why did you name your kennel "Vale do Juiz"?**

My kennel is called Vale do Juiz by virtue of it being located in a small valley of that name , and is also the place where I live.



#### **Q3: When did you get your first Estrela?**

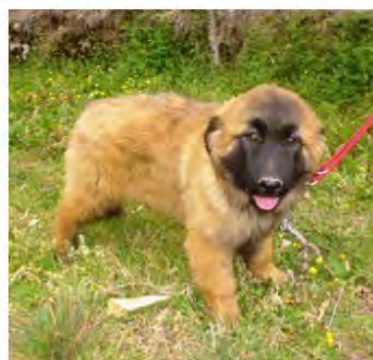
My first Estrela Mountain Dog was acquired in 1996 and for being the first I called it Rucky. That year I got 4 more dogs. Among which were Dara and L'Car-do of Montes Hermínios, dogs who were instrumental in the successful breeding of my kennel .



#### **Q4: Why did you take an Estrela?**

There is no canine breed in the world that has two things that I really appreciate in the breed :

The sweet expression of their look and the calm and quiet character (sometimes ...).





**Q5: How about your children and the Estrela's? (If you have any)**

The Estrelas are indeed excellent with children, and in about 20 years of breeding, never has an Estrela caused me problems with my children or any child, whether in my kennel or at shows.



**Q6: How long do you breed Estrelas?**

I have been breeding Estrelas for about 20 years without any interruption. I hope to continue to have the necessary passion to be able to continue to breed for at least another 20 years .....



**Q7: The perfect Estrela. How does it look?**

The perfect Estrela is well built, with good craniofacial proportions and body, and with good bone structure... . Ultimately it would be a set of good qualities altogether. Once we have a morphologically perfect dog, good character is also very crucial, however if the character which is so characteristic of this breed is missing, it is as if we don't have a dog.

**Q8: What things are important, in your opinion, in breeding Estrela's?**

As with everything in life, it is imperative to have common sense and be balanced in breeding. Always making sure to preserve the breeding of healthy animals, i.e. with lines of good longevity and general health.



For more information about Canil Vale to Juiz please contact Mr Edgar Dolgner on this email [valedo-juiz@gmail.com](mailto:valedo-juiz@gmail.com)

## CLUB NEWS &amp; ARTICLES

**Secretary's Report:**

May I firstly wish all our members and their Estrela a very Happy New Year from the Committee of the EMDC(UK).

This has been quite a quiet year as far as the club goes but the one memorable event was the sad passing of Hugh Cox (Clerafora Estrelas) and all our thoughts are with Sylvia and the family.

As usual Rescue has been quite active and as we have had no UK Rescue dogs we have helped to put UK owners in contact with the Portuguese Rescue people and so far 4 of the dogs from Sn Antonio who were living in very poor conditions have now arrived in the UK and are happily settled in their new homes. I am hoping that at least some of them will attend the AGM for members to meet. Having made donations towards their rescue it is lovely to know that such kind people have given them secure homes. It is hoped that another bitch will be coming over in the next few weeks.

The Kennel Club application for Registration of our Club has been put on hold as the puppy registrations in 2015 have been very low so I am sure that the Kennel Club wouldn't consider us at the moment. Things are pretty much ready to go so as soon as things look up we will apply.

The weather has been so atrocious that I am sure many of our Estrela will have preferred to be couch potatoes than face the awful weather. I am loath to let my dogs get too wet as they are becoming older and I don't think that it does them any good. I just pray that we can have a calm and dry spell before long. I hope that none of you have been caught up in the dreadful flooding or suffered any structural damage from the high winds.

I hope that we will see many of you at the AGM in May where we have planned another BBQ for your lunch.

I hope that luck will shine on you throughout 2016

Marcia

**The Estrela Club Shop:**

We have a wide range of Estrela related items for sale. Some of the items we have are Polo shirts, T-shirts, Sweat Shirts for adults and kids. We also have The Estrela Mountain Dog Book, Clocks, Notepads, Key rings and many, many more items.

Some items may be out of stock so please get in touch and we can send you an item list with prices and an order form. All of the club items can also be bought at all club events. Please email me at [anaritauk@hotmail.com](mailto:anaritauk@hotmail.com) and I can pass an item list with an order form to fill out and pass on to Marcia.

**The Estrela Cross Stich Shop:**

Sandra Mateus was kind enough to have made a few items for the 40th Anniversary AGM /Fun day back in May. There are still a few Cross stitch pieces still available. These are handmade One-offs from her own design and will not be repeated. All proceeds go to the Estrela Rescue Fund.

If you would like a price list and an order form again please email me at [anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk) and I can pass these to you.



## CLUB EVENTS



Join us for our  
AGM & Fun Day

**The Estrela Mountain Dog Club UK  
AGM and Fun Day**

**22nd May 2016**  
Bearley Village Hall  
Bearley  
Stratford-Upon-Avon  
CV37 0SB



**ON THE DAY:**

- 11.00am - AGM will start
- 12.00pm - Arrival for fun day (all welcome)
- 13.00pm - BBQ lunch will be served (pre-order required)
- 14.00pm - Fun Dog Show (all welcome to participate)
- 15.00pm - Games (humans play silly games while the dogs watch)
- 16.30pm - End of EMDC UK AGM & Fun Day



Everyone is welcome for the lunch, fun dog show and games. All breeds welcome to attend. Participation in the fun dog show and games is highly recommended :-)

Free Parking available

Food orders will be sent out by Marcia very soon

## XXV EXPOSIÇÃO CANINA MONOGRÁFICA DO CÃO DA SERRA DA ESTRELA - 21ST NOVEMBER 2015

I was very lucky to have been able to attend the monográfica in November. It was very good to see many old and new friends and to see a big number of dogs entered with a total of more or less 80 dogs short and long hair. It was a very long day because of the big number of dogs entered and we didn't have a break for lunch until 4pm, we then finished close to almost 8pm. However I have to say that all dogs behaved very well and were very patient considering this was indoor and together with a food fair which was happening in the same pavilion on that day. We had some spectators but not many. I would love to include all 230 photos but I believe we would need a 100 page newsletter, so instead I have select a few to include here for all to see. It was also nice to see that we had some visitors from the UK attend and we hope that in 2016 more of you will come for the monográfica.

This year the monografica was organised by the Associação Portuguesa do Cão da Serra da Estrela and it took place in the Feira Internacional de Lisboa - Parque das Nações on the 21st November 2015.

The judge for the day was Mrs Ilona Ostenk-Schenk from Holland, the C.P.C delegate for the day was Mr Rui Martins, the stewards for the day were Mrs Helena Costa and Mr João Costa, and the Vet for the day was Dr Mário Ginja.

### Preparations, preparations and more preparations....





Let the judging begin....



**Baby Class - Male** - 1st: Copper do Casal do Lethes.



**Baby Class - Female** - 1st: Morgana da Quinta Moinhos das Almas, 2nd: Maria da Fonte da Ponta da Pinta.



**Puppy Class - Male** - 1st: Gaio do Vale do Juiz, 2nd: C'Hulk da Casa Redonda, 3rd: Quietos do Cabeço do Seixo, 4th: Cashmir da Quinta da Liria.



**Puppy Class - Female** - 1st: Rainha da Casa de Lôas, 2nd: Party da Ponta da Pinta, 3rd: Salsa do Vale do Juiz, 4th Maya da Casa das Thuyas.



**Junior Class - Male** - 1st: Mastim do Cabeço do Seixo, 2nd: Eris do Sítio da Casa do Canastro, 3rd: Aldebaran da Quinta Moinhos das Almas, 4th: Afonso da Casa Redonda.



**Intermediate Class - Male** - 1st: Belchior do Casal do Lethes, 2nd: Mimo da Quinta da Liria, 3rd: Amor Meu de Santo Quintino.



**Open Class - Male** - 1st: Bisconde do Casal do Lethes, 2nd: Onix da Casa de Lôas, 3rd: Konde do Vale do Juiz, 4th: Simba da Varanda dos Pastores.



**Veteran Class - Male** - 1st: Trovão II, 2nd: Eragon da Casa de Lôas, 3rd: Smach da Casa das Thuyas.





**Junior Class - Female** - 1st: Quikka da Casa de Lóas,  
2nd: B'Pandora da Casa Redonda, 3rd M'Pipa do  
Cabeço do Seixo, 4th: Pipa da Casa das Thuyas.



**Open Class - Female** - 1st: Nikita da Casa de Lóas,  
2nd: Q'Lucy da Quinta do Espinhal, 3rd: Qusca da Casa  
Redonda.



**Intermediate Class - Female** - 1st: Thera da Ponta da  
Pinta, 2nd: Yasmin da Casa Redonda.



**Veterans Class - Female** - 1st: Mesopotania da Ponta  
da Pinta, 2nd: H'Orquidea dos Montes Herminios.

I hope you enjoy viewing some of the photos from the day. There was a few classes I missed because I was out getting some of our dogs ready or our friends dogs or I was caught up chatting away, I have to say it isn't easy being photographer at these events as there's always so much do to in between.

If anyone would like any further information about any of the winners here in these photos please do get in touch with me as I do have a catalogue and know most of the exhibitors, or know someone who knows one of them. My email is [anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk)

### A VISIT TO PORTUGAL BY MICHELLE MENDES

When Dave and I decided to get an Estrela Mountain Dog as company, we had no idea she would give us so much more. We have met so many wonderful people and made friends in several different countries. Theia's litter mates' owners in North Carolina and Holland, many lovely fans of the breed in the UK, and, of course, the Portuguese breeders and true ambassadors of the breed.



We were lucky enough to spend some of our summer days in Portugal this year. Without much planning, we ended up visiting and staying over in the houses of a few of the most reputable and respected breeders of Estrelas in Portugal: Esperança Dias (Quinta da Líria); Suzette da Mota Veiga (Quinta de São Fernando); and Pedro Silva (Canil Casa das Thuyas).

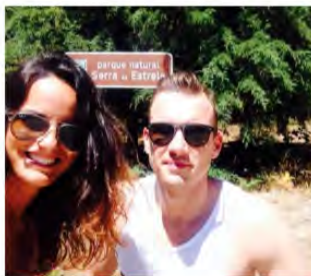


We were warmly welcomed by all of them and learned so much about the breed! Their advice, patience, dedication to the breed and hospitality were natural and genuine. We'll never forget our visit to these amazing quintas and how they all made us feel as part of their family. They're always available to give us guidance and answer any questions we have and this makes our lives, and consequently Theia's life, a lot easier!



It goes without saying Portugal's natural beauty, the wine, food and seafood, and the affordable prices also make it a fantastic holiday destination. The Estrelas are a bonus!

Michelle, Dave and Theia





## SUPPORTING DETECTION AND PROTECTION DOGS – RHINO DOGS

I have come across this leaflet while I was at my vet surgery with my dog Jake. I found it quite interesting how dogs continue to surprise us in how helpful they are to us in many different kinds of jobs. As you may have heard lately there has been a huge increase in Rhino Poaching in South African and the Wilderness Foundation Africa has been working very hard in trying to stop this from happening. Prince Harry has recently been to visit one of the reservations and has joined the fight to save the Rhino. The Wilderness Foundation is always coming up with new projects such as the Rhino Dogs in order to help their fight to continue to be successful.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.wildernessfoundation.co.za/projects/forever-wild-rhino-protection-initiative>

<http://www.wildernessfoundation.co.za/blog/posts/prince-harry-joins-fight-to-protect-rhino>

### Supporting Detection & Protection Dogs

As pet owners we understand the need to socialise and train our puppies to become happy, confident adult dogs. Dogs have extraordinary abilities and with specialised intensive training can become skilled in many different ways, from leading the blind, helping the disabled and serving on the front line, to even detecting cancer and epilepsy.



In South Africa, dogs are now also being trained to help fight the war against rhino poaching, and are proving to be a very valuable deterrent in the arsenal against poachers.

With rhino poaching increasing by nearly 3,000% since 2007, the need to combat the trade in rhino horn has never been greater.

The Wilderness Foundation has reported several recent arrests, made possible only due to these skillful canines.



Detection and Protection Dogs, as the name suggests, play two extremely important roles:

#### • *Detection*

Dogs are trained to sniff out contraband such as rhino horn, ivory and animal skins being smuggled through airports and seaports. These trained dogs and their handlers boast 90% accuracy in detecting rhino horn in luggage and shipments.

#### • *Protection*

The trained canines are used as security dogs to guard specific areas with their handlers. In particular they patrol one of South Africa's most important black rhino breeding populations located in the Eastern Cape.

Donations are needed for projects like these to help with the costs of ongoing training for dogs and handlers, veterinary treatment and the purchasing of vital equipment.

**A few facts about Rhino Poaching:**

- Rhinos had a population of approximately 500.000 in Africa and Asia in the early 20th century.
- All 5 remaining Rhino species are on the IUCN red list of threatened species and the Western Black Rhino being one species which has already been declared as extinct.
- There will be more Rhino deaths than birth in 2016-2018 in Africa meaning that in the very near future all Rhino species could be extinct.
- In 2014 in South Africa a staggering 1,215 Rhinos were killed by poachers, equating to 1 every 8 hours.
- In 2014 there were 386 Rhino poaching arrests.

**The work these dogs are now being trained to do will be vital in helping to bring Rhino poaching down.**

**HOW DO DOGS ADD VALUE TO ANTI-POACHING ACTIVITIES?**

Dogs act as an early warning and safety barrier for the rangers and handlers. It seems as if the poachers are becoming more heavily armed and there are situations where some poachers even carry hand grenades with them. While the poachers cut the horn on the downed rhino the rest of the group lays an ambush in case the field rangers come upon them. This is where the value of a well trained dog is immeasurable. A handler and dog have to have an incredible bond so that the handler would note any warning sign that a dog gives whilst walking or tracking. For example my dog will lift his tail when he has a strong scent, he will lift his ear if there are animals near by and the hair on his back raises if there are people close by. Something that is often overlooked is that anti-rhino poaching is often conducted in big five areas and the warning that the dogs provide is immensely valuable to the safety of the field rangers.

In situations where there is contact the dog can go forward and distract the poachers giving the field rangers an advantage. The early warning and scent tracking ability of the dogs give us an edge at night which is mostly when poachers are active in the field.

Dogs are also more effective in following tracks and are less susceptible to anti-tracking decoys as they follow the scent straight through.

In conclusion like most things, dogs are not infallible, but they can be an effective part of a multi-faceted defence (trained field rangers, appropriate equipment, dogs, communication, intelligence and support).

**RHINO DOGS WILL BE TRAINED TO SPECIALISE IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING FIELDS:**

**Human Scent Tracking:** Locating poachers by following their spoor in the bush.

**Protection:** A dog can be taught to protect and defend his handler and those around him. Handlers are taught when its safe (and appropriate) to send a dog in. The safety of the dog is of utmost importance.

**Detection of ammunitions:** Poachers often stash their weapons, especially if there is a chance of being arrested. Locating these weapons is vital to linking the poachers to an incident, or the weapon / poachers to any previous incidents.

**Rhino horn detection:** This is useful when horns could have been stashed for a later pick-up, or to detect horns during road blocks or at reserve security check points.



## CHANGES TO THE DANGEROUS DOGS ACT 1991 CAME TO ACTION IN JUNE 2015

**Follow my lead**  
Promoting responsible dog ownership

**Every Dog owner Must Read This!**

Dog owners warned of jail threat if their pets jump up in their own homes to greet visitors  
*Source: The Mail on Sunday*

Changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, that came into force early June 2015, means owners will be liable if dogs are 'dangerously out of control' on any private property. Previously the law applied to only public places.

- Previous laws only protected people against attacks in public places
- New rules make owners liable even on private property
- Owners can be prosecuted even if a person(s) feels threatened by a dog
- Dogs that refuse to return to owner (recall) when called are now deemed 'out of control'

Allowing your dog to intimidate (or injure) a person is now punishable, with the penalty being up to 5 years in prison, an increase from the previous maximum of 2 years. A substantial fine and damages could also be imposed.

contact Paul  
t: 07831 562009  
e: paul@my-lead.co.uk  
www.my-lead.co.uk

A tired dog is a happy dog 🐾

## Follow my lead

Promoting responsible dog ownership

Every Dog owner  
Must Read This!



**Dog owners could now face prosecution if their pet jumps up at visitors in their own home.**

If your dog jumps up at visitors in your home, or jumps up at strangers in the park, and does not return on recall, you could be liable for prosecution. N.B. The new act states that a dog does not have to bite to be deemed dangerous - a person can simply feel that the dog may injure them.

The new rules: designed to protect postmen/visitors mean every owner will need to reassess their dog's behaviour, according to the National Animal Welfare Trust, stating: "This change in legislation should be a 'wake-up' call to all dog owners to ensure their dogs are under control when they open their door, otherwise they risk committing a criminal offence".

**Follow my lead** offers a range of services, including one-to-one 'hands on' dog training service. Our training focuses on the psychology of the dog, encouraging owners to combine practical, effective and motivational methods of training.

If you have any concerns about any aspect of your dog's behaviour we can help. Please contact Paul to discuss in more detail.



contact Paul

t: 07831 562009

e: paul@my-lead.co.uk

www.my-lead.co.uk

A tired dog is a happy dog 



BE DOG SMART



# BE DOG SMART!

10 easy tips to remind kids  
how to stay safe around dogs

**B**eware of disturbing dogs that are eating or sleeping

**E**ven if for fun, don't ever tease a dog please

**D**on't approach a dog with no owner around

**O**nly stroke a dog when the owner says 'Yes, you can.'

**G**et the dog to sniff your hand first, then stroke gently

**S**trange dog approaching? Stand still, look away, cross your arms

**M**ove calmly and quietly around any dog

**A**ll that hugging and kissing - you might like it, dogs don't!

**R**emember all dogs have teeth

**T**reat dogs with respect and they will respect you!



# BE SAFE AROUND DOGS

Dogs Trust are offering FREE dog safety workshops for parents and children to ensure we can all live together safely and happily at home and in the community!

If you would like to arrange a 'Be Dog Smart' workshop at your local school, library, community centre or other suitable location visit [www.bedogsmart.org.uk](http://www.bedogsmart.org.uk)

We also offer a comprehensive 'Be Dog Smart' guide which you can download for FREE. Its packed with helpful tips and hints about kids interaction with dogs.

From in-depth information about dogs' cues and signals, to advice on how to prepare your dog for a new baby and what to do if your child is scared of dogs - this booklet will provide lots of useful material for the whole family!

To download our 'Be Dog Smart' guide, please visit [www.bedogsmart.org.uk](http://www.bedogsmart.org.uk)





**WINTER HAZARDS***Winter hazards***Icy lakes and ponds**

When walking your dog in the winter, make sure they keep away from frozen lakes and ponds or keep them on a lead when near water. Thin ice may break due to your dog's weight. Never attempt to jump in and rescue them.

**Being seen**

Winter walks can mean dark walks. If you are walking in the dark with your pet, be sure it's not only you that wears reflective clothing.

**Grit on paws**

De-icing products such as road salt and grit are the biggest potential dangers to your pet's paws. Where possible, avoid walking your dog over gritted surfaces. If your pet has come into contact with grit, make sure you wipe their paws when they return home.

**Anti-freeze poisoning**

The smell and taste of anti-freeze products is irresistible to pets but it's incredibly poisonous. Look out for stumbling, unsteady gait or vomiting as these are vital signs that suggest your pet has anti-freeze poisoning and you must get them to your vet as soon as possible.

**Hypothermia**

Hypothermia can be a serious, life threatening condition. To prevent your beloved companion from ever getting it, pay close attention to weather forecasts and limit their outside activities. If your pet is shivering, bring them inside where it is warm and dry and if you suspect your pet is suffering from the cold, seek further advice from your vet.

### FUN PAGES

#### DOG CARTOONS



#### CELEBRITIES AND THEIR DOGS





## THE CLUB AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### Present committee Members 2015

President: Carla Molinari (Portugal)  
Chairman: Heather Jeremiah  
Treasurer: Ana Rita Vidal  
Secretary: Marcia Dovey

### Committee:

Sylvia Cox  
Pedro Silva  
Jen Rankin  
Luis Ramos

### Other positions:

Rescue & Health Co-ordinator: Heather Jeremiah  
Contact: heatherjeremiah@hotmail.com

Newsletter: Ana Rita Vidal  
Contact: anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk

Club Shop: Marcia Dovey  
Contact: sturtmoor@sky.com  
Tlf: 0780 727 4709 (Mobile)  
Address: 50 Beech Grove  
Oakdale  
Gwent  
NP12 ONB

You are welcome to contact us at any time if you would like to be more involved with the club.  
Any help is very much appreciated.

We also want you to feel you can contribute to the newsletters with stories, experiences, photos, articles etc. We want to hear from you :)

**Next Issue coming to you in April.....**