

Newsletter 2 2013

Highlights

This Issue

Life With Guia

P5

Estrela Picnics in
Pictures

P3

Invitation to the
AGM

P11

Monografica

- Some Photos

P16

Regular Features

Secretary Report

P2

How You Can Get
Involved

P10

Estrela Shop

P12

Merry Christmas 2013



!!!!!! URGENT APPEAL !!!!!

Two Estrela mountain dogs aged 8 and 6, Kimber and Kira are currently in need of a permanent home, preferably together but any home for either is also an option. This situation has arisen due to bereavement.

They do not like cats, but other than that they are loving Estrelas.

A fund has been set up on Facebook in order to try and help with kennel costs and can be found on the EMDC Facebook page.

We realise that this is a busy but also expensive time of year, but every £1 donated helps in an attempt to try and prevent these dogs being put to sleep.

Further info from Marcia or Heather on the numbers /email on Page 10

Donations can also be made on the web following this link.

<http://www.gofundme.com/5us1rw>



Kimber

Kira



Remember your club subscriptions for 2014 are due to reach us by End January.

Thanks to those who have sent things in for inclusion in this newsletter. I should be very grateful if you have any contributions to email them to me at sandradmateus@hotmail.com.

Club News in Brief

Merry Christmas to all our EMDC members

Main thing is AGM 18th April 2014 April. This is the nearest date we can get to the 40th anniversary of the introduction of the Estrela to the UK.

Hopefully, more news will be forthcoming about that soon.

Please remember to send in any photos or any articles!

Secretary's Report

As another year comes to a close may I wish you all a fabulous Christmas and a super New Year. The EMDC has finished the year with 80 members which is slightly up on last year so we are doing well. Since the last newsletter we have had two picnics which were both a great success and the dogs really love to get in the river and cause chaos. The turn out for our events is fabulous and I must thank you all for your continued support.

On 14th May 2014 the Estrela will have been resident in the UK for 40 yrs so we hope to make the AGM and Fun Day a celebration of that fact. We hope to hold the event on 18th May at Bearley but I will have to confirm this date shortly but please put it in your diary.

The slow trickle of new dogs arriving from abroad is continuing which is huge boost for the breed in the UK. We have lots more blood lines to choose from and some super males to use at stud. If you are considering breeding then please contact us and we will help in every way possible as we badly need new breeders. There is a steady interest in pups and the club will always assist members in selling their pups if possible.

As a club we are here to protect and promote the breed and this can take many forms. We have had a few more dogs that have needed re-homing and the club works very hard to settle these dogs in suitable homes and we can never thank the wonderful people that take these unfortunate dogs enough.

This just leaves me to once more wish you all a very merry Christmas and a fabulous 2014.

Marcia

Estrela Draw Winners

Date	Number	Winners' Name
25th May	43	Rhoss Jeremiah
29th June	04	Simon Westcott
27th July	37	No Winner
31st August	48	Dianne Mowbray
28th September	31	No Winner
26th October	09	Mia Jeremiah
30th November	15	Keira Kinsey
Christmas Draw		
7th December 3 rd Prize	25	Jen Rankin
14 th December 2 nd Prize		
21 st December 1 st Prize		

At time of publication, draw not made.

Estrela Picnic 23rd June 2013

Serra & Hubble the Bernese



Ian & Lollie



Ully & Missy



Anya



Wallingford 2nd Picnic Sept 2013



The Terras D' Cister Team!
Estrela.e, Tuga And D' Serra

Alfie & Archie



Brodie & Ella



Ully



Pedro



How Much Do you Want an Estrela?

" Simon & Carol were determined to have an Estrela pup from me and if taking Menna and I to Portugal was the only way to get one they were ready to go. Guia was supposed to be a more laid back puppy, how wrong I was but Simon actually adores Guia in the true sense of the word and I think that she tends to take advantage. Carol has been a tower of strength with Guia and very long suffering for which I thank her. This piece is written as it is and I hope that it will encourage any owners who may be feeling that they are doing things quite right a ray of hope. I do hope you enjoy Simon's honest account of their lives."

Life with Guia

I guess I've always felt a very special bond with Guia because, in a way, I was responsible for her conception four and a half years ago. We'd met Marcia a few times in the year before Guia was born, and I'd determined that I absolutely had to have one of Menna's puppies – should she have any. Carol, my wife, wasn't anything like as keen and she regularly reminded me of the drawbacks of having a large dog in a small urban house just outside of London. To me, there was something very special about the Estrela Mountain Dog that I needed to experience first-hand. We'd had to say goodbye to our beloved Bouvier des Flandres when his heart condition got too much for him, and I had a very large dog-shaped hole in my life that needed something very special to fill. I'd seen Estrelas many years ago, both in the UK and in Portugal, and I was hooked. One last visit to Discover Dogs so that Carol might find something 'more suitable' led me to guiding her craftily to all sorts of stands to see breeds that I knew wouldn't be right for one reason or another. My last bit of navigation through the aisles took us to the Estrela stand, where I knew Marcia would be. Her warmth and deep passion for Estrelas shone through. So we spent a lot of time chatting with her and making a fuss of Quin.

That was it. Job done. We were getting an Estrela!

The problem was, we weren't able to get one. The first suitor good enough for Menna died a few days before she came into season. The reserve dog, Marcia then discovered, had been killed in a road accident a couple of months earlier. So that was that. We'd have to wait for Menna's next season. In the meantime Marcia had researched potential sires in Portugal, and had found the magnificent 'H'Argos' (pronounced 'Argoosh') at the Montes Herminios kennel in Gouveia. All was set for Marcia to take Menna out there to be mated, but this time Menna came into season a month early and Marcia couldn't make arrangements to get her there in time. That's where I stepped in, and told Marcia that we would drive her and Menna out to Portugal. Menna was successfully mated, and so that's why I feel partly responsible for the litter.



Looking back on it, I now realise that Guia missed her littler siblings terribly. She was headstrong right from the start. The only way to stop her digging the lawn was to stand on the patch she wanted to ruin. We barricaded the garden gate and reinforced the fencing to keep her in, but after one careless slip-up with the gate I had to rugby-tackle Guia to prevent her from getting into the road. A rugby tackle in shorts on gravel. Ouch! We took her out as soon as we could, and at first she seemed keen to stay with us. However once her confidence increased, her sole interest was to go and meet other dogs. Any dog. However far away it was. So our walks were a nightmare, as we were determined not to keep her on the lead. She needed freedom. We needed patience and stamina that we didn't always have.

Training classes were a nightmare in a different way. Guia wasn't interested in anything except the other dogs. She'd take herself as far away from me as her leash would permit, and take no notice of any commands. She wasn't interested in treats, and reacted no better to firmness than she did to gentle persuasion. Added to this, she was developing a little spark of aggression to other dogs that we feared might develop into something more significant. Our fears were fully justified.

The first hint that she was prepared to use her weight and size was after an encounter with a large male Beauceron/GSD cross in our local park. He got a little aggressive with Guia, who was by now nearly one year old. She gave him as good as he got. Next time we met, he snarled at her, and that was it. He became Mortal Enemy Number One, and Guia went berserk each time he came within several hundred metres. Freddie's owner complained to me that his dog was intimidated by Guia and he ended up taking avoidance measures.

Next came Guia's first actual victim. Murphy was a greyhound who just wouldn't leave her alone. He ran and snapped at her. She tried running away from him, but of course she wasn't quick enough so she turned and went for him - all too effectively. Murphy ended up with a huge gash in his chest that required several stitches and the application of my cheque book.

To be fair, his owner did recognise that Murphy had started it, so we shared the vet's bill 50/50.

Deciding to keep away from the park where these encounters took place, we started walking further afield. Big mistake, as Guia then discovered sheep. Her first encounter was entirely my fault, and not hers. I was convinced that there was no flock in a particular field, so I let Guia off for a run on the virgin snow. What a fantastic sight - a lithe and beautiful Estrela running at full speed across an undulating field in fresh snow! Except in one of the dips was a large flock of sheep, which she scattered and then drove across a cattle grid into a neighbouring field. The farmer came out, not best pleased, and made it clear that he would have shot Guia if he'd had a gun to hand. He was somewhat placated the next day by an expensive bottle of whisky, but it had been a very close shave.

The next incident followed a few months later, when Guia ran away from Carol and jumped an electric fence to get into a field full of sheep. The sheep panicked, broke out of the field and ended up on a main road blocking the morning traffic. The incident featured in the Watford Observer, but luckily only our closest friends knew that Guia was the culprit. Someone had told the local council that an Akita was responsible, a rumour that we were very happy to spread.





Visits to the vet were a nightmare. She wouldn't let anyone near her, let alone examine her. The veterinary practice was convinced that with a little 'de-sensitising' treatment, they'd bring her round to being a happy patient. So for several months we made frequent visits so that she could be fed bits of chicken at great expense. Of course it made absolutely no difference at all to anything but my wallet.

Carol was by this time at her wits end. I was too, but I couldn't admit it to her. Our dog was clearly becoming a nightmare. Having owned a large breed before, we had thought that we understood dogs well. But living with Guia was like living with a wild animal. She wasn't even affectionate. She was happy to take food and lodging from us, but the price was mayhem wherever we went. Should we hand her back to Marcia, and admit defeat? What would happen to her if we did? Guia was both

aggressive and unfriendly. She was too old to become a proper flock guardian, and we were convinced that we'd been cruel in taking a dog out of its natural working environment and trying to make it a pet. It was our fault, not hers. In particular it was my fault for persuading Carol that an Estrela Mountain Dog could exist within the M25. So why should we dump our problem onto somebody else? After a weekend of agonising, we decided that she was going to stay. However difficult she was, she was ours. As with raising our children, we'd played our part in making her what she was. We'd simply have to live with the consequences.

We'd long realised that once off the lead, Guia was totally out of control. We'd tried recalling her during hours of training with treats and a whistle. But what Guia wanted to do was always more stimulating to her than treats, so she simply ignored us. The answer was something by which I could control her once she was off the lead. This next bit will come as news to Marcia but our salvation, and eventually Guia's, came with the arrival of an electric collar. Quite simply, it gave us the control we needed. She soon realised that if she ignored a recall command, she got a 'bleep'. Ignore that and she got a sharp reminder. Nothing painful, but enough to attract her attention. At last, we had the upper hand. We used it carefully and with great consideration to Guia, but it was our 'nuclear option' should Guia attack another dog. We began to feel more confident, just as Guia was getting even less tolerant of dogs that didn't show her the respect she thought she deserved.

Behind this intolerance though, was her affection for the dogs that she did trust and would play with. Rusty, her gorgeous brother, she simply adores to this day.



When they meet, it's just a joy to watch. But he lives a fair distance away, unfortunately. We did try coordinating holidays with Lilian and Iain, Rusty's owners, so that the two dogs could be together in a wonderful doggy hotel that we found. Unfortunately the two of them were expelled for excessive barking, so an abrupt end was put to that idea.

Although we felt like pariahs, there were those who would risk walking with us in the woods because their dogs played with Guia and could handle her. A lovely English Bull Terrier named Saxon was one of her first friends. He put up with her moods and ignored her grumpiness. He trotted along in her shadow, making an incongruous pair, and even intervened physically if he thought she was too aggressive to any dogs. Other walkers in the woods then realised that their dogs could be safe with Guia too, and we began making friends with both humans and their dogs. Long walks are a great way of getting to know people well, and our group of friends began increasing rapidly. At last, Guia was proving to be an asset rather than a liability. It was becoming a pleasure to take her out for a walk, something to be savoured and not dreaded. So four and a half years later, Guia seems to have accepted that life with Carol and Simon isn't too bad after all. She may not be in the 'Sierras', but life in Watford is pretty good really. She's even got her own 4x4, which a friend very kindly donated as her dog wagon. We love watching Guia running through the woods, playing with friends and chasing a few deer every so often. There are still dogs that she really doesn't like, but their owners know that and we seem to arrange our walks for mutual avoidance. I can now pretty much tell which dogs she's likely to take objection to, and generally they are the ones who aren't pack orientated. But if they don't show any aggression to her, then she's fine. Every so often we get examples of how far we and Guia have come together. Last weekend, we were walking on a beautiful country estate not far from here. We entered a field, and I could see sheep in the far side of it. She just glanced at them and then went through, off the lead. Yes, our Guia was off the lead in a field of sheep! Earlier this week we met a pack of about twelve huskies in the woods. Guia knows the pack, but I'd always kept her away from them. This time we were on a narrow patch, confined by wire fencing. Many of them went rushing up to Guia who just stood there and let them sniff her, her ears pinned back and eyes slanted. That would have been a certain fight a couple of years ago, but this time she gave a couple of the too-familiar younger ones a little rumble from deep in her throat and that was that.



It's often said that you get out of life what you put into it. Guia has been the most demanding, infuriating, worrying, and difficult dog that we've ever known. But when she licks your face until it feels raw, or greets you with that lift of the lips and baring of teeth in submission and pleasure, you know that you've made a strong bond with a very special animal indeed. She's in every sense of the words a 'proper dog', and she makes you feel that you know what dogs thousands of years ago must have been like. Guia gives me immense pleasure and I absolutely adore her. Carol is beginning to feel the same

way too, but as she puts it, "I know what Diana felt like. There are three in our marriage too". Oh, and with Guia in the car there's no need to fear road rage incidents either. Just last week I remonstrated with someone for their inconsiderate driving. Guia was clearly visible in the back of the car. "Sorry mate", said the young driver from his lowered car, "I wasn't concentrating. I won't do it again". Much better than being sworn at. Thanks Guia!

Footnote:

Guia's kennel name is Sturtmoor Neve da Montanha. She was born on 22nd May 2009 to Menna (Karabas Likande Lamenna Letta at Sturtmoor) as one of the Sturtmoor 'N' litter. Her father is H'Argos Dos Montes Herminios.

Kennel Cough

Kennel Cough - it is rife at the moment. It seems to be striking throughout UK and can make dogs very ill and even kill them on occasion. If anyone's dog starts to cough with quite a barking cough get them to the vet, this disease needs treatment usually.

- Kennel cough is highly infectious and is easily spread wherever there are many dogs in one place, such as in kennels or at dog shows.
- Kennel cough is spread from minute droplets in the air which are inhaled, or from direct contact. As well as being infectious during the incubation period of around 10 days, the disease can still be spread for anything up to 10 weeks after coughing has ceased.
- There is recent evidence to suggest that it can be passed from dog to cat and vice versa.
- The symptoms are sneezing (in the early stages), a cough and nasal discharges. In severe cases there may be a loss of appetite.
- Kennel cough could be compared to human 'flu' in that whilst it is very unpleasant, it is rarely fatal.
- Recovery from symptoms is usually complete in two to three weeks.

However, severe cases in puppies, older dogs and giant breeds may lead to pneumonia if the condition is not treated, and could lead to death.

<http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/az/k/kennelcough/#.Uq7hnvtbboo>

“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 :)”

How to get involved

Present Committee Members December 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

50 Beech Grove

Oakdale

Gwent

NP12 ONB

Tel: 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



A G M

18th May 2014

Bearley Village Hall
Bearley
Stratford-Upon-Avon
CV37 0SB

1100 AGM

1200 noon Arrive for Celebrations 40 years of Estrelas in the UK

1300 Lunch (must be ordered)

1400 pm Fun & Games

1630 Finish

Everyone is welcome to the lunch & Celebration 40, 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

Some Club members have taken custody of new puppies this year.
As of time of publication we haven't had any photos sent in.

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

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

For 2014 it is my intention to make and sell a limited number cards and small items featuring my own cross stitch designs depicting a series of scenes of dog and shepherd.

All Proceeds to Estrela Rescue.

They will be on sale at the AGM only.



More of this on

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

or

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



Dog Recipes

Sweet Potatoes Chews For Your Dog

What you'll need:

1. Large sweet potatoes
2. Mandoline or sharp knife
3. Cutting Board
4. Baking Sheets
5. Aid of your choosing for greasing the pans
6. Oven

Preparation:

Preheat oven to lowest setting; ours went all the way down to 175 degrees. Meanwhile, slice one top off sweet potatoes to make for easier balancing when slicing. Carefully cut thick lengthwise slices of the sweet potato using a sharp knife or mandoline, about 1/3 inch thick for larger chews (we went with the crinkle cut setting on our mandoline and chose to leave the skin on). Trust me, you want them thick — when dehydrating, the slices are going to lose the majority of their thickness.

Grease your baking sheets and arrange slices on flat surface of pans. Place pans on top racks inside oven and let them do their thing...for a loooooong time.

We let ours slowly cook and dehydrate over a period of about 8 hours, give or take. The higher your heat setting, the less amount of time you will need, though the lower the setting and longer the time, the better the overall outcome.

You can take your dehydrated chips out of the oven when they have reached your desired doneness; less amount of time for softer/chewier treats and a longer amount of time for dryer and tougher treats. We opted for longer and turned our oven off when they were almost fully dry to the touch. They were still a tad moist and pliable at that point so we just let them sit in the oven turned off overnight — the next morning they were perfect.

<http://www.17apart.com/2012/02/how-to-make-sweet-potato-dog-chew.html?spref=fb>

Beef Muffins

Ingredients

- 1 pound lean chopped beef
- 1 cup thawed frozen peas and carrots
- ½ cup cooked brown rice
- 2 eggs



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees . Generously grease 1 jumbo six-cup muffin tin. In a large bowl, using your hands, mix all of the ingredients thoroughly.
2. Fill each muffin cup with the meat mixture and bake until well browned, about 40 minutes. (You can wrap and refrigerate the cooked muttloaves for up to 3 days or freeze them for up to 2 months.)

Dog Biscuits

Ingredients

- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ¼ cups whole-wheat flour
- 1 ¼ cups cornmeal
- 4 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- ½ cup toasted wheat germ
- ½ cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- 1 ½ sticks (¾ cup) cold unsalted butter, cut into
tablespoon pieces
- 1 cup plus 1 tablespoon water
- ½ cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- ½ cup chopped fresh mint leaves
- 1 large egg



Special equipment: a pastry or bench scraper; a dog-biscuit cookie cutter*

preparation

- Pulse flours, cornmeal, oats, wheat germ, brown sugar, baking powder, and salt in a food processor until combined. Add butter and pulse until mixture resembles coarse meal with pea-size butter lumps. Add 1 cup water and pulse until a coarse, dense dough forms.
- Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead in parsley and mint until well distributed. Gather, then halve dough with scraper. Form into 2 balls and flatten each into a 6-inch disk.
- Put oven racks in upper and lower thirds of oven and preheat oven to 350°F. Grease 2 large baking sheets.
- Roll out 1 disk of dough into a round (1/3 inch thick) on a well-floured surface with a well-floured rolling pin. (If dough becomes too soft to roll out, wrap in plastic and chill until firm.) Cut out as many biscuits as possible and arrange about ¼ inch apart on 1 baking sheet.
- Gather scraps and reroll, then cut out more biscuits. Repeat with remaining dough, using other baking sheet.
- Whisk together egg and 1 tablespoon water.
- Brush biscuits with egg wash and bake, switching position of sheets halfway through, until tops are golden brown, about 35 minutes total.
- Turn off oven and dry biscuits in oven overnight.

Thanks to Amy Kinsey for sending these to me!

Dog Health Websites

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

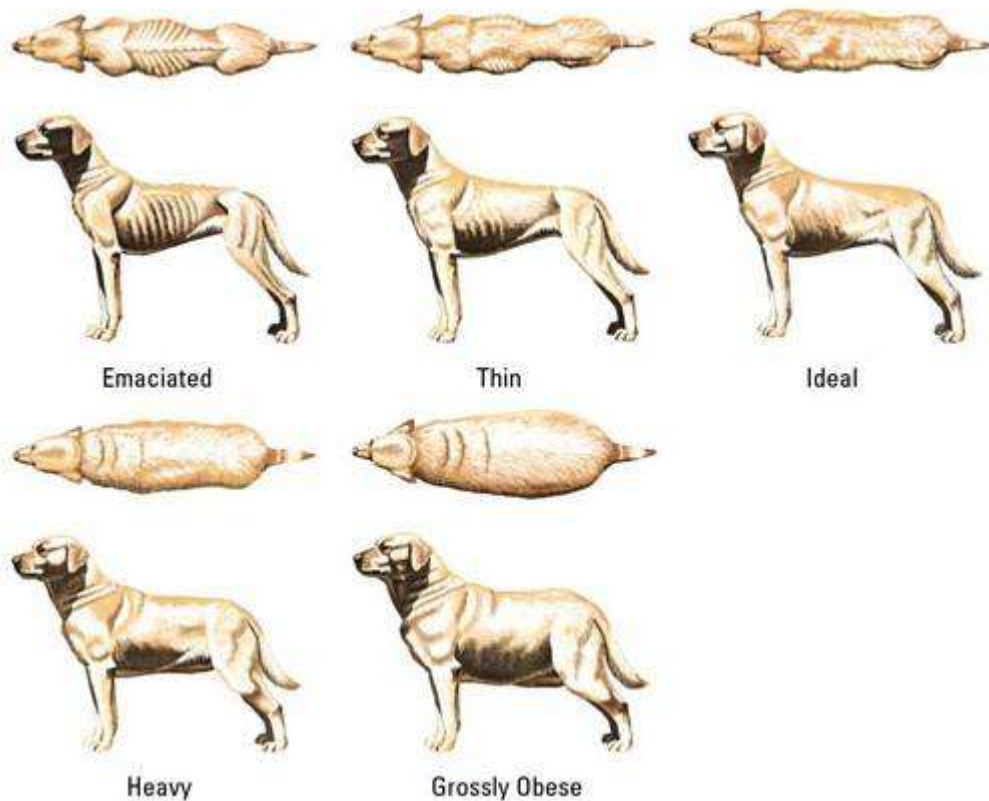
<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/thyroid.html>

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>

How to tell if your dog is underweight or overweight



Thanks To Amy Kinsey for the graphic above

And Finally

Trip to Monografica 2013 Vila Nova Da Gaia Portugal 26th October 2013

I'll let my photos do the talking.

If you have the opportunity to attend, do it. You won't be sorry!



More From the Monografica

