



The Annual Otterhound fun day was held on Sunday 4th September. The weather was kind and we all enjoyed a hot sunny late summer day. We had a super turnout with around fifty people and forty five Otterhounds and their four legged friends arriving to join in.

Held as always in Warwickshire, this year's event was in aid of the Otterhound Trust. Sincere thanks are extended to the generous sponsors for the day: Royal Canin, Mikki, Trust Pet Ltd and Agfa who provided goody bags as prizes for each of the games and fun classes. We met at noon and proceedings were opened by singing Happy Birthday to Paul Seier Sorensen (Vice President of the Otterhound Club), a game effort by all and our melodic hounds tried not to grimace too much.

Games quickly got under way commencing with the Puppy Sausage trail, designed to encourage young noses to follow a scent, it comprised mainly of handlers pointing enthusiastic at each sausage and the young hounds studying them quizzically, however, we had a result: 1st Quintus, 2nd Grace, 3rd Sergeant and 4th Quaver.

Next was Apple bobbing, a paddling pool had been set up for hot hounds to drink and cool off in, first though we floated some apples and biscuits in it and invited the hounds to retrieve them, a clear winner emerged with Sergeant who was the only one to pick an apple out.

With the momentum of the day well under way we followed on with the egg and spoon race, one of my highlights of the day. Anyone who succeeds in running up and down a field with an Otterhound in one hand and an egg balanced on a spoon in the other deserves maximum respect, our winner was Graham with Oscar.

Having worked up an appetite we broke for lunch, our kind thanks to Sandra and Barry who once again donned their pinnies and fed us all, whilst we munched on our hot dogs (no pun intended) the quiz papers were handed out and everyone put their thinking caps on.

Games got going again after lunch with the bangers and bun race, it was particularly cruel to run it straight after lunch but it wasn't intentional (honest!). For those of you who have not competed in this before (and I have), a bun is given to each competitor on the start line, they run up the field eating the bun (with Otterhound of course) and collect a sausage at the other end. Haring back down the field they stop a couple of feet short of the finish line, jaws working nineteen to the dozen as they gamely try to be the first to finish their mouthful and cross the line. Our congratulations go to Zack's handler (sorry I don't have your name). It is hilarious and everyone enters into the spirit.

Having caught everyone's attention we then moved onto the timed recall, the audience gathered, Otterhounds are not renowned for considering returning to their handler a priority! The most impressive Otterhound time went to Hamish who galloped in 4.50 seconds to Les' outstretched arms then skirted round him and went to Angela, he still got first prize – at least he went to one of his owners! The funniest one in my book was Mike and Alfie, I held Alfie while Mike went to the recall point, with stop watch set I released Alfie whilst Mike started calling and waving his arms above his head, jumping up and down to attract Alfie's attention. Alfie's nose went down and he set off a right angles following a particularly interesting scent which happened to cross the recall line Mike picked his dog up in 25.31 seconds (or was it minutes?). The slowest time went to Sable who managed to eek it out for 31 seconds. Fastest time overall was Lotte, the whippet, who did it in 3.59 seconds and took great delight in showing us all how it really should be done.

Fun showing classes were then held and our sincere thanks to our judge, Helen Wayman. Results and photos are below.

Whilst the unruly brigade were indulging in games Good Citizen training was taking place in the garden by Paul Seier Sorensen, all pupils paid attention because they passed when judged by Erica Hyde later in the day. Our congratulations to Les and Merry, Simon and Mac, Nikki and Laurel. (pic below)

Also presented on the day were the results of the photo competition, everyone was invited to enter before the event. Organised by Rae Ganna categories included: Most Appealing Puppy, humorous, action and others such as best caption. The judging took place before the event and the results were beautifully displayed on boards by Rae for us all to look at during the afternoon. Prizes for the photo competition and the quiz were announced whilst we enjoyed cream teas kindly arranged by Maria and Graham.

Also running throughout the day was a massive tombola stall with numerous prizes which we all dipped into during the day.

At the close of the event we had raised over £250 for The Otterhound Trust and had a great laugh in the process. We must pause for a moment and remember solemnly that with only 11 registrations in 2004 our beautiful, funny hounds really are in trouble, however, with the goodwill and camaraderie shown at the fun day to build on there is hope. It is often said that you should have a good sense of humour to own an Otterhound, well we have and I sincerely thank all present for a truly wonderful time.

Heather Lonsdale

PS sincere apologise to anyone who helped and has not been acknowledged here your efforts are equally appreciated.

Pet most like their owner	
1 st	Jack Rogers and Gypsy
2 nd	Sarah and Oscar
3 rd	Shauna Turnbull and Quaver
4 th	Meg and Sable
5 th	Vicky and Nellie

Waggiest tail	
1 st	Simon and Poacher
2 nd	Maria and Quintus
3 rd	Amanda and Digger
4 th	Graham and Oscar
5 th	Rae and Gracie

Most appealing (12 entries)	
1 st	Meg and Sable
2 nd	Tom and Maude
3 rd	Mike and Alfie
4 th	Sarah and Angus
5 th	Graham and Quaver

Best Rescue (4 entries)	
1 st	Faith and Tarka
2 nd	Charlie and Gypsy
3 rd	Graham and Oscar
4 th	Alan and Topic

Golden Oldies	
1 st	Val and Lotte
2 nd	Paul and Manny
3 rd	Alan and Topic
4 th	Carol and Harry
=5 th	Rae and Nellie
=5 th	Tom and Maude

Junior Handling		
	Age	
1 st	9	Charlie and Lotte
2 nd	16	Fran and Quaver
3 rd	9	Sheona and Sargeant
4 th	6	Jimmy and Poacher

Good Citizen Passes	
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Les and Merry
Simon and Mac
Nicky and Laurel



Results of the Photo competition



On your marks for the egg and spoon race



Buns aloft for the Bangers and Bun race



Best rescue
L to R
Oscar, Topic, Tarka and Gypsy



Good Citizen passes: L to R Les Biscombe and Merry, Simon Clark and Mac, Nicky Clark and Laurel



Jack Rogers and Gypsy winners of the Dog most like the owner competition