

EAST MIDLANDS

STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

Empress 'Chat' - Spring 2009

Dear Members – here is the first edition of our newsletter – hope you enjoy it!!

The new Empress makes it's debut!!

After a great deal of discussion and deliberation your Officers and Committee have taken the decision to discontinue the annual EMpress magazine. Instead you will receive three updates each year to be sent out with the schedule for the forthcoming show – so the Winter version will come out with the schedule for the May show – the Summer with the Champ show and our Autumn/Winter Empress *Chat* will accompany your Christmas card, the schedule for the Limit Show and the new year Dogman's Diary So a bumper bundle to look forward to!!

We hope you will find this new arrangement much more timely! We will still be pleased to receive news, views, articles and anecdotes so please don't be shy and send anything you want to be included in the next Empress 'Chat' to me as soon as possible.

Dogman's Diary - 2009 show planner

You will find a new Dogman's Diary enclosed with this newsletter. This replaces the one sent out in December. Unfortunately there were several discrepancies in the original ... thanks to those people who drew our attention to the errors. So we've printed a new version has been printed for our members. Hope you find it useful for the rest of the year!

Forget 'Confused.com'! – come to www.emsbtc.com!

In the past couple of years members and exhibitors have increasingly come to expect that breed information is up to the minute so most clubs are now concentrating on using their web sites as a way to share information. The EMSBTC recognises the need to offer members opportunities to catch up with show results, advertise new arrivals, stud dogs and affix/kennel details and the need to keep abreast of new ways to communicate with them. If you have recently visited our website www.emsbtc.com you will have noticed there has been a great improvement. We are adding more information and links almost daily – so don't delay, 'click' today!

'Dogdom' Fights Back through the Kennel Club

Most people engaged in breeding and showing pedigree dogs will be aware of the adverse publicity that followed the BBC programme highlighting health issues with various breeds and poor breeding practices which was aired last year. Since then the Kennel Club have been very active, producing a new General Code of Ethics which every Club has had to adopt. It is up to us to demonstrate that we take our responsibility to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier very seriously and to that end the East Midlands have submitted to the Kennel Club some amendments to the new Code of Ethics; this seeks a higher level of commitment from members to ensure that any dog in their ownership or care is properly cared for and that good breeding practices are followed. Every member signing an application or renewal form will be deemed to have agreed to adhere to this Code of Ethics and commit to it for the good of the breed.

Additionally the Kennel Club has:

- ❖ Introduced the 'Fit for Function, Fit for Life' campaign placing great emphasis on ensuring that canine health is top of the agenda when it comes to showing, judging and breeding pedigree dogs.
- ❖ Reviewed the Standard for every recognised pedigree Breed. Fortunately, apart from the recognised conditions for which testing has already been developed, our beloved Stafford is generally sound and our own Standard remains unchanged – good news for everyone involved in this wonderful breed!
- ❖ Requested that every breed club nominates a Health representative; our own nominee is Maureen Ward.

EMSBTC Limited Show – 25th January 2009

Our Limited Show took place at the usual venue on what dawned a cold, wet and dreary day, attracting a respectable entry of 62 dogs totalling 79 entries. Your Committee worked hard to cater to the needs of the members – lots of warm smiles, hot coffee and appetising bacon rolls!! The atmosphere was friendly and the EMSBTC officers and Committee extend their thanks to all exhibitors and spectators for making it another enjoyable and successful event - with special thanks for being so generous when it came to the raffles!! The judge's critique was on the website almost before the doors had shut behind us(!) and is reproduced on the website www.emsbtc.com for those who have not already seen it.

EMSBTC Open show – 3^d May 2009

We are looking forward to our next Open Show which will be held at our usual venue at Asfordby Amateur Sports Club near Melton Mowbray, Leics. If you would like to sponsor a class (at £5 per class) to cover rosettes etc. please ring me asap; your donation will be acknowledged in our catalogue and you could advertise your affix or dedicate your donation to a lost but still loved Staffie. This will be our last show we at this venue. Our 2010 Limited Show begins our ***Diamond Jubilee*** year at Tomlinson's, Markfield – only a short distance (and one turn!) from J22 of the M1. From all accounts this is a great venue, easily accessible and with plenty of parking and offering good quality refreshments ... always a must! We are looking forward to welcoming you there in January 2010.

EMSBT Health Survey

The EMSBTC has long been proactive in promoting the health of the Stafford – and you will find enclosed a **Health Survey** which we hope you will take the time to complete for your own dogs and return to me or Maureen. You can post separately, include with your entry for the Open Show or simply place into the box on the Club Stall at a future show. All information will be treated confidentially and could help us to identify any health issues, gather data and look at ways to tackle them going forward. ***Go on – join us in the campaign protect the Stafford for the future!***

◇ The EMSBTC Diamond Jubilee Year – 2010 ◇

Your Officers and Committee are planning ahead to make our Diamond Jubilee (2010) a **real 'gem' of a year!** Again, there will be opportunities for sponsorship and we would be very grateful for any support you can offer. A sub-committee is busily planning ways to make the Championship show next year a very special event watch future issues for more news!!

The 2009 Annual General Meeting took place on 1st February – with the first snowfall of the winter gently drifting down outside! We are pleased to advise that the same Officers and Committee were re-elected for another year. However, we are always on the look out for willing hands so if you would like to become a 'Friend of the EMSBTC' – or even join our good natured and willing Committee – please give me a call on 01909 518552.

Well, I think that's about it for now. I look forward to seeing many of you at the May Open Show by when, hopefully, we will be enjoying warmer temperatures and some sunshine and many of us will be planning summer holidays and long evenings in the garden with a long, cool drink. If you have any queries or questions, please give me a call.

Yours,

Janet

Janet Higgins

Hon Secretary