

A CLEO UPDATE

Cleo our Portuguese Water Dog puppy is now 5 months old. She still has her full coat although she will be having this clipped back soon as it is so thick. She is generally very good and extremely well behaved. Yes, she has mad puppy moments when she charges around the garden with her most favourite amusement-----empty water bottles.

As part of her ongoing socialisation and general training, she goes everywhere with me. This is the only way to get her used to all situations. So, she goes out on deliveries with us, getting used to the car and being good in it. She is very good in the car, we are lucky with no sickness and no destruction ideas yet. We have her in her car harness-----these are law in Spain and I suspect it will not be long before they are here. The car harness means that at all times she is strapped on to the car seat belt. We know where she is---no jumping bean in the back, and in the event of an accident she would be firmly attached. She always has her Kong toys to give her a/ something to do and b/ security as they go everywhere with her. All my dogs, for the last 20 years, have had them and they are invaluable. Whilst out she gets to walk around different places, behave herself in restaurants and cope with traffic, noise and attention. She gets lots of attention and is slowly learning not to jump up at everyone.

Cleo is always at our shop on a Saturday, so if anyone wants to check up on her that is where she is. Being in the shop again gets her used to meeting people. She has not learnt the complete art of sleeping on her bed for 5 hours and suffers from panic when she can't see me. Only by being in this situation will she learn that I do come back-----all part of the learning curve. This week she has just disproved the claim that a PWD does not bark, as she set up big time as people came in the shop!!! That will have to stop.

Cleo is still better behaved out of class than in class where she has a definite short concentration span!! Very embarrassing. Last lesson during her recall she did a couple then decided it was much more exciting to come back via the agility tunnel!!! As for sit and stay-----boring! Laura is being very patient whilst no doubt despairing of Cleo and her Mum.

We went to the Water Trials with Cleo although she was not competing as she was still too young. It was interesting to see the fun they have swimming, retrieving and diving. They really enjoy it-----horrifying for me was the realisation that the owner has to be in the sea with them!! I suspect that means Cleo will not be

competing, not with me anyway, much too cold. Cleo's friend Izzy, a PWD of 5 days older is much further ahead with her water training than Cleo and is now competing. Cleo has only managed the bath, not the pool yet, basically my fault as the pool is still too cold!!! I can report that the trials at Olhão last Sunday were a success. There were lots of dogs, giving me a chance to find out more about the PWD. The water trials were wonderful---a joy to watch. Izzy was fantastic doing her swimming and retrieving. Well done Laura and Izzy.

I will keep you posted on her activities over the months. Cleo and the Portuguese Water Dog breed is a learning curve as we knew nothing about them. 3 months down the line I can say they are the sweetest, most loyal, loving and most intelligent dogs. Cleo is keen to try new things and conquers most with a bit of encouragement and my constant reassurance. Her retrieving is fantastic, she loves to play with our 2 year old Old English Sheepdog, she is growing well. All in all a big success.

For training classes contact Laura on 913351835 or 967362859

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Jan Cobley Paws4Pets

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