

## Conformation & Movement and Breed Seminar on October 10<sup>th</sup> by Shelley Franks

I really wasn't sure if travelling over 2 hours to a venue I had never been to before, such an early start and having only the company of the sat nav, was really such a good idea. However, once I arrived I knew I'd made the right decision. A welcome smile and a hot cuppa were waiting. The team was very friendly, and with extra help getting the seats out, we were ready for the morning's session. Christina Chapman took centre stage for an excellent conformation and movement talk. I've known Christina since the 1970's and she hasn't changed, with her excellent manner and ability to get everyone involved. A really interesting session with the aid of photos and skeletons we could see how the correct movement should be seen from all angles. We also had a helpful assistant by way of a live dog, to allow us to see muscle and coat. When judging, faults can be hidden by the handler and Christina showed how being gentle but firm while judging the dog can reveal these areas. It is therefore always helpful to use your hands as your guide. A mid morning break allowed time to speak to others, having badges with our names was a good idea, I'm sure I am not alone when I say peoples names never stay in my memory for very long!

Back to learning and for this session Christina had us all up and doing the silly walks. It was a really good way to show us how construction of the body frame makes a big difference to movement. We had pantomime cows, high kicking hackney steps. It was great fun and much laughter had by all.

Lunch followed, which was really tasty, and more hot drinks. Lewknor village hall is an excellent venue with such a good kitchen, large indoor space and plenty of parking and all the outside space for dog walking.

Our afternoon session was the Eurasier Breed Seminar and our speaker was our own Brigitte Mordan-Grimm. Brigitte has a lovely speaking voice. I couldn't believe that this was her first solo performance on these seminars. She was very informative, provided plenty of slides and allowed us time for questions and answers through her talk. In no time we had nearly reached the end of our training day. The last part was for us to write a critique on a head shot photo and a standing photo, these were passed to Brigitte and she promised to provide feedback by e-mail to us.

Last cuppa of the day and we then all started our journeys homeward bound. My sat nav didn't let me down and I was back home safely in 2 hours 10 minutes.

Thank you for a really great day.



Feedback on the day: *'Spellbinding presentation given on Eurasier breed & breed standard. Highlight for me was seeing images of the actual dogs who were the first ancestors of the breed, tall compared to those we see in their respective breed classes today, and well balanced with functional muzzles almost already looking like Eurasiers!'*