

Dylan's Story

Dylan, previously known as Sid, is an orange and white PBGV. He was returned to Vivien Phillips at the age of three years looking a little like a miniature sheep that was due to be sheared. She was told that he had no behavioural problems, well I suppose he didn't if I'd had no intention of grooming or handling him – ever, or being in the same room while he was eating or playing with a toy.



Dylan was going to be sharing a house with two adults, another PBGV, a GBGV and a Leonberger, so he had a shock coming. Firstly his coat had to be tackled, his rear end had sores with caked on faeces and around his face was tightly matted with dreadlocks. It took a week of stripping and chopping while Dylan wore a muzzle and a lead. When he was finally tangle free, I started daily brushing with

rewards, quickly he learned that being groomed really isn't so bad. He also got his ears, feet, tail and mouth touched daily with rewards and within two weeks he had learned his left foot from his right foot and was happy to give me the appropriate paw. His food bowl was, and still is, routinely held while he eats. I didn't have to tackle the toy guarding problem, our GBGV gave him a severe talking to within the first week and from that day on he hasn't guarded or humped toys, I don't know what she said to him!



Dylan quickly bonded with Elsa, the Leonberger, they are of similar age and despite their size and weight difference, about 30 kilos, they play constantly.

After two weeks, it was time for Dylan to have his first big day out. He went to a local fete and even entered the fun dog show, getting a second for Best Rescue and a second in the obedience class, that was after only about three training classes and some practise at home, I can't help suspecting he's done some obedience training in the past. As you can see from the photos, he's also pretty sociable with other dogs, most of the time, anyway.

The pictures below show Dylan at his dog training class doing a two minute stay with his class mates.



Big days out for Dylan are now becoming a common occurrence, he regularly attends fun dog shows and fairs, etc. In the photo, above left, he accompanied his big sister, who is a PAT dog, on a Pets As Therapy awareness day at a Companion Dog Show.

Six weeks on and I got up one morning to find Dylan having his ears being cleaned by his human dad, admittedly he was being held by a finger in his collar and was shivering and shaking a bit. This may not seem much of an achievement for the average dog but considering Dylan couldn't even have an ear flap touched six weeks previously without trying to remove a part of the offending human's anatomy, this really is a mountain climbed.

Dylan is in the centre of this picture having just finished a heelwork to music display at The Dover Horticultural & Pet Show, a large event held in Dover every summer. He also got a fourth in the Sporting Class of the dog show despite growling at the judge – at least he didn't bite her!!



Dylan, Elsa and their friend, Harvey, came second in the 'Best Family' class in this photo.



Dylan seems to enjoy living in the country, he's learned to chase rabbits and not to chase alpacas and he loves to play & dig in the mud with his sisters – well, he is a hound!





Dylan has now got his Kennel Club Good Citizens Bronze Award, quite an achievement considering it involves handling and grooming the dog, the obedience part was a doddle.

I entered Dylan into the obedience class at another Companion Dog Show and he came second again, only to be beaten by his Golden Retriever friend, Freddie, who has got his Kennel Club Gold Award and is in the advanced class at the training club, so that wasn't surprising. The obedience had been going all day with a large number of entries, so he really had done well.



The winners have just received their rosettes.



Here's Dylan enjoying a bone without even guarding it, this would have been a miracle not so long ago.

Dylan's come a long way in just a few weeks. We've still got a way to go and it hasn't all been plain sailing, there were times when I wondered why I'd bothered, but he's finally turning into a sweet, lovable little dog and you never know, maybe one day he'll be a PAT dog like his big sister! Meanwhile, he continues to do his best at everything and is a much loved member of our family now and worth the hard work.



We've now had Dylan for five months and his big sister was going to Discover Dogs at Earls Court so we decided to take Dylan as well. We made him a member of the Kennel Club's Companion Dog Club and entered him in the Waggiest Tail and Most Appealing Look, nothing too challenging that may get him stressed, just going to London and being at Earls Court for the day could prove to be stressful enough. As you can see though from the pictures, Dylan was definitely not stressed and

thoroughly enjoyed the train ride and making new friends.



Here's Dylan at dog training, he's just small enough to sneak into the small dog class which he rather likes because he's got a bit of a fetish for toy and miniature female poodles.



Dylan even supports charities now, as well. He's doing a sponsored walk for the Pilgrims Hospices here, proudly wearing his Hospice t-shirt. He raised quite a bit of money for them.

December 2010 and nearly Christmas, Dylan passed his Kennel Club Good Citizens Silver Award, this entailed him being handled by a stranger, something that not so long ago was just a dream but as he's now a reformed character, he accepted this readily. Of course we mustn't forget his successful two minute stay and recall, as well as other exercises.

