

## Junior-camp 2007



Friday – Sunday (June 24.) the first junior-camp in DKK8 were held. (DKK8 is the local department of The Danish KennelClub).

9 young dog-lovers joined the camp.

The camp started in the middle of the afternoon on Friday. The young handlers and there dogs were to live in tents in our forest, called the Hundred Acre Wood. In the next 48 hours they and there dog should not be separated.

The rules:



- You and your dog is together all the time
- The dog is your responsibility
- You and you dog don't leave anything in the forest

We started tenting in the Hundred Acre Wood and then took off for a little walk. The dogs could get acquainted and the instructors could get to learn

the handlers and there dogs.



Next we tried using the dogs as search-dogs. We made tracks and the dogs were testet. A small wind was blowing, and I was quite clear to see, that the dog followed the fragrance and not the track on the ground.

The next thing was feeding the dogs and the humans and afterwards we took a walk to the Bay of Sose. The leash was

removed and the dogs were allowed to run free.

We returned to the camp, build a fire, tried singing and talked about dogs, until bedtime in the tents.

Everyone was tired and entered there tents for a good nights sleep.

One dog did not like it and went howling. After a short time, we found somewhere else the dog could sleep, and the handler was left in the tent.

The grown-ups had an evaluation before entering there tents.





After breakfast, Saturday, we took a walk to Lisbeth's place 2½ miles away. A nice little walk. We meet a local dog, who became very surprised. Luckily Lisbeth knew the dog so no problems occurred.

At Lisbeth's place there is a fine agility-track. The dogs were split into 3 groups, each with an instructor, and then the show began. A fine demonstration of Agility, everyone tried out all the different obstacles.

We had a break, then one of the obedience trainers came to show us the noble art of click-



training. We started by training the adults. Without using words the young handlers should click the instructor to build figures out of lego-briks.



After this experience in seeing the world from the dogs perspective, we started training the dogs.

Lunch – a needed break for handlers and dogs.

The dogs were placed in new surroundings, doing new things, surrounded by new people and dogs – they needed a break. 9 dogs were lying in a row, while there handlers had lunch, not a

single sound was heard.



After lunch one of our vets came by to tell us about the dogs and how to take care and discover illness.

Is the dog ill, what can you do, when do you have to visit the vet.

The handlers tried to take the temperature, drip the eyes and listened to the heart.

Afterwards question hour about dogs and dog-problems.

We used cars to return to the camp, everyone was tired.

Back in the camp all of the handlers and there dogs disappeared into there tents – they needed a rest – alone.

The dinner were made on the grill. The grill and the food were on the ground, all of the dogs were lying around, but no one were tempted, they all slept sweetly beside there owners.





After dinner we left for the Bay of Sose. Tonight is Midsummer Night, in Denmark we light a huge fire and sends the witches away to Bloksbjerg ( Brocken in Germany).

The fire was arrange by some cottage-owners in the area, and they had a bit of a surprice when we arrived along with a bunch of dogs.

The wood were wet. To start the fire on of the cottage-owners poured petrol on the fire – it went of with a big bang. One of the dogs went off in the opposite direction into a cornfield. We now had the opportunity to practice how to make a scared dog come back to the owner. The

dog came back, we left for the camp, and made our own little fire.

Sunday morning we showed eachother wich tricks our dogs were able to do. Then packing the tents and a final walk in the wood before the handlers were picked up by there parents.

Evaluation – what did we learn?

We learned that young people is very responsibil. They lived with there dogs for 48 hours. We had prepared fences and cages if the handlers needed a break – we did not have to use it. No dogs were left alone, no handler drank a drop of water before the dog, first feed the dog then feed yourself.

The dogs were checked for ticks, and the ticks were removed. The dogs “left-owers” were collected and placed in the garbage-bin.



We saw young people not panicking when the dogs – naturaly – had to test each other. 9 dogs – 3 males and 6 bitches – had to put eachother on a test.

We had been afraid we would run out of activities, but living in tents and being together all the time, was pretty hard to both handlers and dogs. They needed long breaks.

48 hours was a suitable time. The first evening and night were used for socializing – between humans and

between dogs – and making yourself comfortable in the tent. The next evening were cozy. Sunday we all were tiered.

Will we try again? I hope.

