

TAKE THE LEAD IN TRAINING SESSION

NEWS IN BRIEF

BIG BID TO KEEP QUIET

GALWAY COUNTY Council has received 14 submissions requesting that The Quiet Man cottage in Connemara be added to the Record of Protected Structures. The cottage, which is located in Tiernakill South in Maam, appeared in the world famous 1952 film as the marital home of a couple played by John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. One submission contains an online petition with over 8,300 signatures.



DOG DAY AFTERNOON The training classes at DSPCA, Mount Sion Road, Rathlarnham



Also (left) trainer Kim with little Taylor (centre) and Geraldine with Ritchie and Penny

"We had Reuben first. When we got Penny, Reuben didn't take to her, but now they're the best of mates. We want to get one set of puppies out of them before we get them neutered - we hope to get a litter of Spandoodles!"

Trainer Helen O'Dwyer advised all the owners whose dogs were pulling to keep the lead short. "The lead should not be too long. When the dog pulls just keep your hand steady and wait for the dog to return. Then reward the dog with a treat."

Alex pointed out: "Shouting at the dog or pulling him is negative and negative commands don't work. Positive commands work, so ask him to sit and he'll have something to do."

Alex's own dog is a Neapolitan Mastiff - and his best friend is Alex's son Lorcan (4). Showing me a photo of the little lad with the massive dog, Alex said: "This kind of dog looks intimidating, but he's gentle. He's just a big teddy bear! I had the same kind of dog when I was a little boy."

Married to an Irish woman, Alex worked with the Carabinieri (Italian military police) in Turin as a dog handler before moving to Ireland.

While it's best to bring dogs for train-

ing when they are puppies, Alex says it's never too late to teach an old dog new tricks. Whether you need to put manners on your bold dog or just learn how to communicate with your loyal companion, the courses are a grrrrr-eat idea.

King of Paws Dog-Training Academy has indoor and outdoor classes with up to 10 dogs and their owners.

Seminar

They run the classes midweek on weekends and also do evening classes. Their courses include Puppy Playdates, Junior and Senior Puppy, Good Dog (for adult dogs), Agility and the Dog Club. €135 for five weeks and a seminar; seven hours total. Check out www.kingofpaws.com or www.dspca.ie.

To see Alex training a puppy, check out link: <http://kingofpaws.com/alex-petrilli-dog-trainer-dspca-discusses-training-dog-socializing-puppy/>

Meanwhile, dog-psychologist Nanci Creedon is running courses for owners in Cork. As Ireland's only certified dog behaviour consultant, Nanci Creedon can solve all doggie problems. Check out creedonsdoggiedaycare.com, or ring 021-4966700 / 085-8268738.

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