

## **Breed Awareness Day – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The Coton de Tulear Club of the United Kingdom held a Breed Appreciation Day on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November near Oxford. This was the third such event for the club in 2023.

12 people booked in for the day which was open to anyone interested in the breed. The group consisted of owners of Cotons of many years; owners who have had Cotons for less time and one attendee looking to have a Coton and didn't live too far away so took the opportunity to join us for the day. Other attendees were judges who came to listen to the presentation and take the Multiple-Choice Examination as part of the requirements of the Royal Kennel Club Judges Education Programme.

As is customary, the day was fuelled by coffee, biscuits and cake in the breaks and lunch was also provided.

The morning session consisted of a presentation on the Breed Standard with two adult Cotons being placed on the table for a live demonstration of the specific breed points. Pluto and Elvis Coton took it all in their stride with the aid of a few treats.

The attendees were given copies of the Standard to refer to and had a chance to get up close and personal with the dogs to enhance their learning.

Eight attendees opted to take the Multiple-Choice Exam which consists of 20 questions. The options in the answers are very closely aligned so candidates do have to prove they have absorbed the morning presentation. It's a case of no phones, no additional papers, no talking while sitting the "exam" with some commenting it was a scary reminder of school times long gone!

The scary bit over we moved to have lunch together while papers were marked and results shared.

The afternoon session offered a period of group mentoring with more Cotons joining us for checking over and comparisons, while other attendees sampled the lovely cakes and scones which arrived courtesy of two additional local Coton owners.

Feedback on the day and from the forms completed indicated the mix of fun and seriousness worked well and the demonstration of an owner irritated with a judge undoing all their good grooming and presentation to get to the body of the dog for a correct examination on the table raised a laugh all round!

The committee would like to thank the attendees and volunteers who made the day such a success.

Look out for further BAD dates in 2024.