

Going Green (10th Aug 2008)

Well, here we are amongst another 750+ caravans on the East of England show ground at the Kennel Club international festival - again!

The one thing about caravans is that they comply with the current thoughts regarding 'going green'. I mean, everything as to be carted to and from somewhere else. The water has to be brought from the odd tap which are provided around the site using a rolling barrel. The waste also has to be carted off - usually in the opposite direction.

Power comes via little bottles of gas, so we have hot water (including a shower!), heating and cooking. Lighting and electrical power (water pumps and TV) are courtesy of a 'leisure battery'.

So, where does the green bit come from?

Everything has to be carried, so you have to make decisions on what to bring (or is that take) as we might as well be in the middle of nowhere, but surrounded by loads of other strange people from all over the world as this is the largest international agility competition open to all breeds of dog anywhere.

We arrived on the Thursday afternoon with the forecast promising an assortment of various grades of wetness. Thursday was overcast but dry, Friday was overcast and damp, Saturday morning was sunny which gave the solar panels a chance to charge the battery - slowly. Needless to say, the rain returned in the afternoon and electric power saving is now the order of the day as without electricity, we have no pumps and thus no water.

Overnight, the rain and wind battered the 'van, but Sunday brought clear blue skies and lovely battery charging weather. This is our last day and as I sit writing this, I've just spotted a lady in her wheelchair 'walking' her course. Her dog does as well as those able bodied competitors. The technique is to set your dog up, drive to the ring centre and just guide your dog round - easy, if don't have to do it!

How did we do? Just the usual mix of clear rounds (good dogs) and elimination's (bad handler) this time.