



Winter's tails

BY STUART WINTER Follow him on twitter: @birdman or email stuart.winter@express.co.uk

Your beloved pooch could be a superstar

THE GREATEST dog show in the world is its climax tonight with military fanfare, popping champagne corks and the crowning of the supreme champion.

Watching the Best in Show strutting triumphantly on the famous green "dogwalk" is a moment but the triumphant scenes should also be an inspiration for animal lovers everywhere, even if their pet is best practices into everyday routine makes for a happy, healthy pooch.

One only has to look back at the jubilant scenes last year when Ricky the black standard poodle and his delightful handler Jason were crowned Best in Show to see all the positives that come from a man and his best friend working as a team.

In my mind, I spoke to Crufts organisers, the Kennel Club, for ideas of how owners whose dogs have a less distinguished pedigree can enter the show ring.

Firstly, remember that not all dog shows are an exclusive entry to the elite. Shows are very welcome at many of the major dog events and, indeed, the Crufts circuit is open to all. It is on these humble stages in the lead-up to the highest level of Friday's Scruffs competition, which I had the honour of judging.

Speaking to the experts it soon became clear that there are a number of the techniques used on

but does wonders for its wellbeing and health. A healthy dog, skinnier and with essential signs on any show judges' checklist. Providing your dog with a regular exercise routine fit for a pet active and increase your dog's fitness. It is a good idea to ask your vet to give them the equivalent of a doggie MOT and ensure all vaccinations are up to date.

There are plenty of events to make your debut, from village fairs and school fairs to Scruffs, Crufts and many other dog events at crossroads at Crufts.

A S.A. SPOKESMAN for the Kennel Club says to the dog world that the dog is not just a pet, it is a friend, dog showing is a good way to go. Dog shows are a way to meet other dog owners and friendly, but nonetheless competitive, environment.

"Show dogs are, above all else, naturally and physically pleasing them, stimulated in all aspects of their life will ensure they perform well when competing at a show."

make new friends, try something new and, best of all, spend more time with your four-legged friend. The dog show will be the next best thing to Best in Show at Crufts."

For brilliant ideas on how to dog visit: thekennelclub.org.uk



CHAMPION: Jason Lynn with his 2014 Crufts-winning pet Ricky

important for a pet to feel at ease when other animals are around. It will benefit from thinking like a show competitor.

To start, dogs that compete in dog events and, indeed, the Crufts circuit, are open to all. It is on these humble stages in the lead-up to the highest level of Friday's Scruffs competition, which I had the honour of judging.

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CHAS'S ALLOTMENT

WELL, it's nice to be back and I'm well looking forward to the year ahead. Got some good gigs coming up with some nice festivals and me and Jean are planning to go to the States.

Morgan is in the best of health. Spring is having a go at making itself known but it ain't quite here yet. But it is the days getting longer that finally heralds it and that will always be my plan to have fresh tracks throughout the year.

Small has been floating around the kitchen for most of the winter and I've still got a few left on the allotment. It's winter like Kent cherries in the summer. I like all this sort of thing. For of luck to the future. In it I read how pea

I imagine to have eating better. Someone gave us some peaches last week, don't

know where they were from but they didn't taste all that great.

Carrying on digging. I've noticed that some spinach beet that went to seed has a patch of it and let it carry on. Also there are a few clumps here and there that have overwintered and look fine so I'll spring will be very welcome.

I was in America early on in the year and wherever I go in the world I like to say something on how the peaches like to grow. I've been to the Harris Farmers Almanac 2015. Old Time Ways To Grow And Use Fruit And Vegetables in America. In the same Harris Farmers Almanac, it said, "For Richard's Almanac, it said, "I like all this sort of thing. For of luck to the future. In it I read how pea

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