

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Spring
2008

Issue 13

WELCOME to the Spring 2008 issue of our Newsletter - designed to keep you up to date with Kennel news and any other topical issues

Kennel and Cattery Facilities

- Large, Modern, Heated Kennels & Chalets
- Stimulating Caring Environment
- One-to-One Attention
- Boarding for Pets with Special Needs
- Day-time Creche
- Boarding for Small Furries
- Fully Qualified and Experienced Staff
- Collection & Delivery Service
- Open 7 Days a Week
- Rural Location

Office Hours

Monday to Friday

9 am to 5 pm

Sunday

3 pm to 5 pm

Bank Holidays

3 pm to 5 pm

Office Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

The Trick Is In The Click

Clicker training involves giving a click and treat whenever your pet is doing something you want.

Your pet will understand that a click means 'that's right'. When animals are rewarded for good behaviour they are more likely to repeat it.

Why use a clicker?

Think of the click as making a specific action as it occurs - like taking a snapshot of exactly what you want. Although verbal praise is very important to your relationship with your pet, it conveys your emotions so your mood will influence how you sound, making your voice inconsistent. .By the time you have praised

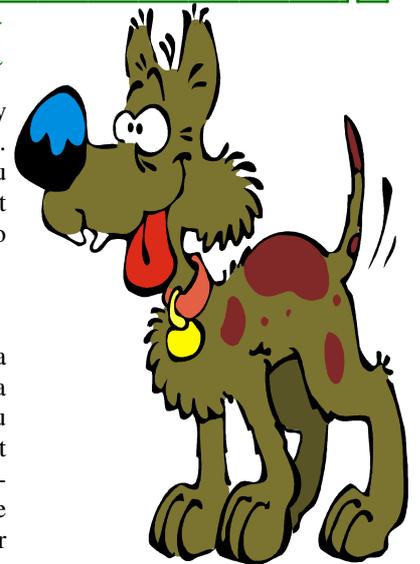
your pet he may have already moved on to something else. So by using the clicker you give a quick, clear, consistent and specific audible signal to your pet.

Getting started

To begin training start in a quiet area where you and your pet can concentrate. Have your clicker and treats ready. With your pet beside

you, click once then immediately give a treat (don't point the clicker at your pet or click too close to ears). Repeat a few times until your pet becomes alert to the sound of the click and looks to you for a treat. Now your pet has made the

You will find that your pet willingly and enthusiastically participates in training sessions.



association between the click and treat you can begin to practice your skills.

Cats motto...

No matter what you have done wrong, always try to make it look like the dog did it.

Did you know...

Some animals such as horses and birds, unlike us, take dust baths to keep clean.

Feline Environmental Enrichment

Environmental enrichment-a concept that involves changing the environment in order to improve a cats well being.

By physically stimulating their environment, be it at home or an outdoor run, welfare can be improved through behavioural changes by increasing positive utilisation of the environment and providing more behavioural choice.

Feline-specific enrichment can benefit the cat in a number of ways, for example, appropriate enrichment can reduce negative states such as distress, anxiety and boredom. These states can be the underlying issue for problematic behaviour.

Environmental enrichments can additionally increase behaviours that the owner would or is likely to find desirable and/or

behaviours that are likely to promote positive welfare of the cat e.g. play, exploration and social behaviour.



Kong Recipes

Kongs are great for stuffing, but stuffed kongs should only be given randomly. Ensure they are cleaned thoroughly after use and reduce bowl feeding appropriately. Kongs can be hidden inside and out—the hunt is great fun and rewarding but un-stuffing can be messy. Please make sure that any food does not get onto any ropes attached to the toys. Here are a few simple recipes to start you off.

Simple

Smear peanut butter on the inside of your kong toy

Fruit salad

Apple (no pips or core), carrot chunks 1/4 banana

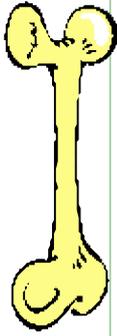
This recipe is really good for the dog who is conscious of his/her waistline.

Cheese It

Mix cheese with food nuggets, stand kong in cup and microwave till cheese melts. Let it cool. Cheese can also be melted into the grooves of a dental kong.

Kongsicles

Put dab peanut butter in small end of kong to plug it. Place it upside down in a cup. Fill it full of chicken broth or fruit juice and freeze—recommended for outside use.



Feeding Tips For Dental Health

Dental disease is a common problem in cats and dogs, affecting around one in three pets.

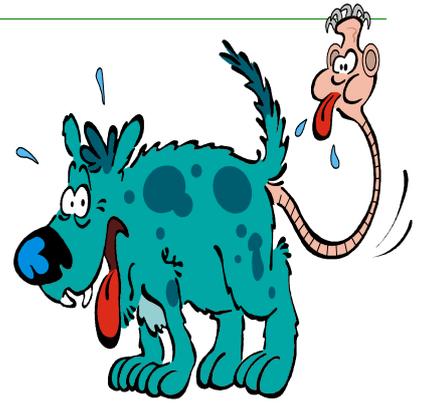
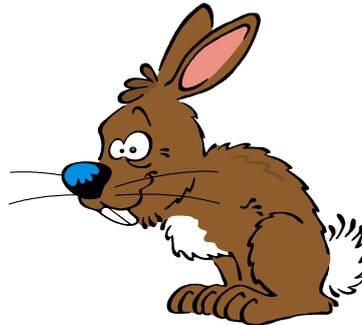
Plaque build up on teeth is invisible but can lead to gum disease and infection, in turn allowing bacteria to enter the bloodstream, resulting in damage to internal organs, such as the kidneys or heart. Early problems often go unnoticed but appropriate treatment can produce marked improvements.

Reduce plaque build up by feeding correctly. Soft food can accelerate dental disease, whereas active crunching can keep plaque down. Adding water to dry food reduces the dental benefits, so always offer food and water in separate bowls. Be

prepared for your pet to take longer in clearing its plate of dry foodchewing takes longer but is good for the teeth and digestion too.

Rabbits and guinea pigs also benefit from a good gnaw as well as a balanced diet. So give lots of hay and vegetables as well as a complete mix and make sure there is a clean bowl before topping up.

Help your pet to give dental disease the brush off!



Did you know...

When you give your pet a wormer, its only job is to kill any worms present at that time.

This means that wormers need to be repeated periodically to keep your pet (and the environment) worm free. Using regular flea control can also help keep worms under control.

Please ask your vet for advice on the most effective forms of worm and flea control for your pet.

Animals And Water Therapy

Hydrotherapy can be used in conjunction with other therapy's, to help a pet recover from surgery, injury, or to strengthen muscles to improve fitness levels. It works by using gentle exercise in warm water, to target specific conditions.

The following shows how hydrotherapy can be of

benefit to your pet:

- Increase the flexibility of joints
- Strengthen muscles and help prevent wastage
- Help with weight loss
- Encourage cardiovascular fitness and improve circulation

Hydrotherapy can be used in a

variety of cases:

- After surgery eg cruciate ligament repair
- Degenerative disease such as hip dysplasia
- Back or neck problems
- Paralysed or weak limbs

If you think your pet may benefit from hydrotherapy speak to your vet.

Ear Problems

Ear problems, seen in pets, often involve the external ear canal and a condition called otitis externa.

Symptoms include an itchy and painful ear which is sometimes accompanied by a

discharge. Underlying causes are varied and can include ear mites, a foreign body such as a grass seed and localised inflammation of the skin lining.

The condition is often exacerbated by fungal or bacterial infections along with

self trauma.

Cocker Spaniels and Retrievers are two main breeds susceptible to ear problems.

If you see any of these symptoms please contact your vet.

