

# Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Spring  
2011

Issue 24

WELCOME to the Spring 2011 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

## Pack the Perfect Doggy Picnic



Picnics are fun for the whole family, including your dog. It certainly can be the case if your dogs are well behaved, angelic and never beg for those left over sausages (about 1% of the dog population then!). The other 99% can still go to a picnic with a little forethought and a watchful eye. Here are some simple steps to help you bring along your dogs without ruining everyone's fun. Make sure that your dogs have had ample exercise before sitting them down and expecting them to behave. If dogs have too much energy they will get bored very quickly. If your dogs do begin to misbehave, try having a game with them for a while or taking them for a walk to stimulate their minds a little. Never banish misbehaving dogs to a hot car, this could be fatal. Bring special dog



## Worms

Although the threat of worms is present all year, warmer weather seems to bring an increase in these parasites. The two most common types of worms that dogs are susceptible to are roundworm and tapeworm.

Roundworm are transmissible to humans through infected soil where eggs lie dormant for years. Dogs become infected by ingesting other infected animals or from infected soil.

Tapeworm is another common parasite caused by the ingestion of infected fleas. Humans are susceptible to these worms but they cannot be transmitted directly.

The most common symptoms of a worm infestation are dull coat, pot belly appearance, low energy, diarrhoea, vomiting and a change in appetite level. If worms are suspected and as a preventative measure all pets should be routine-

treats. Everyone else is getting yummy picnic foods so bring a good supply of healthy treats for your dogs to enjoy with you such as cheese or chicken, that way they are less inclined to try to eat people food. Be especially careful where small children are concerned; an over-eager dog after that piece of cake could hurt children's fingers by snatching at the food.

Set up a dog zone, picking a shady spot away from the activities where your dogs can lie down and won't get in the way. Put down a blanket and toys to keep them amused.

Treat you dogs when they are good, rewarding the good behaviour is more constructive than punishing the bad. Make sure you find time to play with the dogs and make them feel a part of the fun, that way they are likely to enjoy themselves and good behaviour is sure to follow at every picnic time.



## Grass seeds

Despite the size of a grass seed they can cause some severe problems depending on where they lodge.

Common places to find them are between the toes, in ears, nostrils and even eyes.

If left untreated, an imbedded grass seed can lead to problems such as loss of an eye, ear infections, ruptured ear drums and the formation of an abscess; in itself leading to blood poisoning.

Treatment can be tricky often requiring an anaesthetic to explore and locate the seed by tracking its course under the skin.

There is no protection against grass seeds other than prevention. Preventing your pet from going through long dry grass or anywhere that seeds can be found and checking your dogs coat thoroughly after each walk to remove any seeds found are the best ways to try to prevent any problems.

Don't forget to check between the toes and in the eyes and ears.

## How well do you know your cat?

Cat body language is commonly misunderstood and can lead to inharmonious households. Cats wag their tails when in a stage of internal conflict. For example, she wants to go outside but it is raining; as soon as a decision is made the tail will stop wagging. Cats knead with their paws when they are happy, but can purr when feeling any intense emotion, be that pleasure or pain. If your cats tail is quivering when near you, this is the greatest expression of love your cat can give you. A cat will almost never meow at another cat; this noise is reserved for humans. Cats are very agile animals, a falling cat will always right itself in a precise order. First the head will rotate, then the spine will twist and the rear legs will align, then the cat will arch its back to lessen



the impact of the landing. Our domestic cats are the only feline species able to hold its tail vertically whilst walking. All others hold theirs horizontally or between their legs. When walking, cats alongside camels and giraffes, are the only animals to move both left legs then both right legs. This ensures speed agility and silence. The silence of a cats movement is all important when stalking prey, they are alongside the most successful hunters in the mammal world, prey is hunted and killed based on movement, but at an early age the prey may not be recognised as food; this is a behaviour learned from mothers.



Food is especially important to a cat.

They need quite a high percentage of protein to survive, they need five times more protein in their diet than a dog. If a cat misses one meal, a trip to the vets may be required.

Most domestic cats love their sleep. Cats are the sleepest of all mammals. They spend around 16 hours a day asleep and are more active in the evenings. Even when awake, around 30% of their time is spent grooming.



Did you know that the nose pad on a cat is a rigid pattern that is as unique and individual as a human fingerprint? Cats have 290 bones, 517 muscles and 32 teeth when adults. The heart rate of a cat is twice as fast as a humans.

With over 500 million domestic cats in the world it is no wonder more and more is being found out about these intriguing creatures. With the oldest recorded cat being "Puss", a 36 year old; cats can be a delightful companion for many happy years.

## The test of fitness - Obesity

Pet obesity is currently one of the top health concerns for our pets, a quick assessment of optimal body weight could be the start to lengthening your pets life. Working with your vet to rule out other medical issues is the first step. While some drugs or conditions can cause a pet to become overweight, more often than not obesity is caused by overfeeding and lack of exercise. When working with your vet, you can devise a healthier diet and lifestyle for your pet.



Here are some tips to look for to help you tell if your pet tips the scales. When viewed from above your pets back should show some gentle curves: a gentle dip after the ribs and a gradual slope to the base of the tail. When viewed from the side you should see a slight tucked up area just in front of the hind legs. If your pet has a long coat then you may benefit from gently running your hands over them



to feel these natural curves. With gentle fingertip pressure you should be able to feel your pets ribs, if you can only feel a cushioned body wall then your pet is carrying too much weight.

A pet who is allowed free feeding is more likely to become overweight than one that has set mealtimes and a strict quantity of food.

Carrying extra bodyweight will make exercise difficult for your pet and can also cause joint problems and pressure on the heart and lungs. A lack of exercise can also be the cause of obesity.

An overweight animal is more likely to suffer with heat stress in the warm summer months. Fat is a great insulator and doesn't allow your pet to expel heat which can cause heat stroke.

Any surgery on an overweight pet is



**Over 50% of British dogs are overweight - is yours one of them?**

deemed higher risk. Drugs are absorbed into the fat layers which means that more of the drug is required to induce anaesthesia than would be used on a pet of normal weight and therefore they take longer to wear off.

All of these problems can be prevented and if already there can be improved with a careful diet plan and exercise.

Working closely with your vet and sticking to any agreed changes is very important. A dogs dietary needs vary considerably dependant upon their activity level and metabolism. A working dog will need a lot more food than an older dog who is not exercised.

