

# Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Summer  
2005

Issue 2

*WELCOME to the Summer 2005 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 Furies
- 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*

## *Staying Cool*

**With the coming of the warmer months your pets will want to enjoy the warmer weather but also stay fit and healthy.**

Dogs can easily become overheated if left in cars, even with

*Never leave a dog or any other pet in a car on a hot day*

windows open. A dog or any other animal should never be left in a car on a hot day. Dogs are also affected by grass seeds, usually encountered whilst out on walks. They work their way into pads or become trapped in ears causing severe head shaking.

Cats are great sunbathers—nothing wrong in that unless your cat has white ears and/or nose. Cats with white ears and/or nose are prone to sunburn which can lead to localised skin cancer of the ear tips. This risk can be reduced by keeping them out of the sun or applying sun block. Any abnormal skin changes should be checked immediately by your vet.

This time of year sees an increase in the number of cases of fly strike — an often fatal occurrence. Rabbits and other small furries should be checked twice daily to ensure fur is clean, dry and not matted. If you see any signs of maggots please contact your vet immediately.

## *Are you Restrained?*



**Findings of a recent MORI survey revealed that 2.5 million people do not restrain their pets whilst driving.**

In a 30mph impact crash, a medium sized unsecured dog, weighting 25kg, would be thrown with a force of 3 tonnes, sustaining severe injury to itself and that of any driver

or passenger. Dogs should travel restrained by a harness, dog guard or cage. No dog should be able to climb or hang its head out of the window. This distracts other drivers and can hurt his/her eyes or worse!

Please remember that you are responsible for your dog's behaviour and safety.



## *Paws on the Park 2005 - a fantastic day out*

Rushwood is co-sponsoring Paws on the Park again, this year which will be held on Sunday 7th August at Burrows Playing Fields, Leckhampton. The money raised will be going to the Cinnamon Trust.

Attractions will include the Ugly Duckling Sheep Dog Display, dog competitions, face painting, local charity stalls, refreshments and much more. It is also hoped that a heat for the Kennel Clubs Scruffs Competition be held. Last year over 120 dogs entered the competitions which included best condition, dog with the waggiest tail, best trick etc Registration for competitions is from 11am with the fun starting at 12 noon. To enter your dog costs £1 per class.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

**Dog Dictionary**  
The Dog's View



**Garbage Can:** A container your neighbours put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try and push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones and mouldy crusts of bread.

**Sofas:** Are to dogs like napkins are to people. After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa to wipe your whiskers clean.

**Lean:** Every good dogs response to the command "sit" especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Very effective before black tie events.

**Deafness:** Affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then lying down or running in the opposite direction.

**RUSHWOOD NEWS**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Lindsey. Lindsey who s joining Rushwood to help Julia in the office on two days of the week has two dogs of her own – Hermon and Leo. She has a very diverse background . We hope that she will be very happy here.

**Date For Your Diary**  
Paws on the Park 7th August

**Moving House with Your Cat**

Moving house can be stressful for both you and your cat. Cats are creatures of habit and very territorial, bonding with their area. When moving home some felines can be left feeling very vulnerable.

However, there are various steps that you can take to ease the situation. It may be wise to put your cat in a cattery before the packing begins, introducing him/her back into the new house once everything has been unpacked.

Allow your cat to adapt to its new environment at its own speed. The time taken to adapt depends on the cat's temperament, its experiences etc. A safe haven should be provided, keeping him/her in a cat carrier in a quiet place

for a few hours after arrival. Put a cat litter tray nearby with food and water positioned near the entrance to the carrier. It is essential to ensure that all doors and windows are closed before releasing the cat from the carrier. Allow the cat to explore new surroundings slowly—

some will explore immediately, whilst others will take a few days. Some may go into hiding for a number of days—this is a very common response to new situations. Feline facial pheromones, used in a spray form, can help in settling. These are natural

substances that a cat leaves when it rubs its head on objects. These familiarisation marks provide feelings of security for the cat. As your cat becomes more confident, he or she can be allowed to explore other areas around the house, but make sure

**Helpful Hints**

Allow your cat to explore the new surroundings inside first for a few weeks before allowing him/her to venture into the outside world for increasing periods of time.



that everyone is aware of the importance of not allowing him/her to escape into the outside world. It is advisable to keep your cat indoors for at least three weeks before allowing him/her to venture outdoors. The best time to let your cat out is shortly before a mealtime. Open the door and leave it open so that the cat can easily get back inside if required. When he/she has been in the garden for a short while call him/her back with his/her favourite food. If the first venture was successful then you can increase the time out for a slightly longer period each day before calling back in for food. Before long the cat will be enjoying its new home as much as you are.



Can't I leave you two alone for five minutes?!

**Neutering Your Rabbit**

Adult rabbits, upon reaching sexual maturity, can become aggressive towards humans and other animals.

An aggressive rabbit may bite, chew, spray urine and/or attack other animals. Female rabbits may engage in nest building and, if kept outside, dig extensive deep runs which require peripheral underground fencing to prevent

escape. Neutering should stop this behaviour approximately 2 months post-op.

Rabbits can be neutered any-time after 4 months of age.

**Fascinating Fact—A woodpecker hammers its beak an amazing 15 times a second, twice the speed of a machine gun. At this rate its head reaches a speed of up to 1,300mph. To avoid concussion, its beak and brain are extremely well cushioned.**

**Poisons Reminder**

Summer is here so please remember that some items in the house and garden are poisonous to your pets.

These items include slug bait which, if ingested in quantity, can be a killer. Cocoa mulch

is also very attractive and, like chocolate, contains theobromine—a substance which is very toxic and a potential killer. Lawn fertiliser can cause nasty tummy upsets if your dog/cat eats the treated grass. In the case of any suspected

poisoning please contact your vets, taking any suspected poisoning packaging/labelling and any vomit to aid identification along with a note of any symptoms, however slight.