

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Summer
2009

Issue 17

WELCOME to the Summer 2009 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 Furrries
- 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 This Summer

With the coming of the warmer months your pets will want to enjoy the warmer weather but also stay 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

Guinea Pigs and Vit C

Unlike most mammals guinea pigs cannot make vitamin C within their body and there fore must receive a supply on a daily basis.

Vitamin C is required for healthy muscles, blood vessels, bones, cartilage, teeth and gums. It is also involved in digestion and the absorption of iron, and is thought to have a role in immunity.

Symptoms of clinical deficiency include loss of weight/appetite, swollen painful joints, lethargy, weakness, rough coat and bleeding of

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 furrries 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.

gums and internal organs. These symptoms of deficiency can appear within a few weeks. The requirement for vitamin C varies according to age, sex, pregnancy, diet and environment.

A lot of diets now contain vitamin C, although some brands are better than others. Vitamin C added to drinking water is not a reliable method of supplementation.

If you are concerned regarding your guinea pigs intake of vitamin C then please contact your vet.



Doggy Days Out

The summer holidays are quickly approaching, making it a great time to enjoy the sun with your canine companion.

There are always lots of fun dogs shows on during the warmer months. These can range from fly-ball to agility to companion dog shows so whether its competing or just watching, these events can provide hours of doggy entertainment.

There are some beautiful and fascinating walks in the local area. A picnic for you and your furry friend can be a nice way to enjoy the great outdoors and relax. Trying new walks in the area is a terrific way to get fit and have a good day out for

Moving House with Your Cat

G.S.D. 2000 Companion Dog Show

Rushwood is sponsoring G.S.D. 2000 Companion Dog Show again, this year, which will be held on Sunday 6th September at The Plant Centre, Uckington, Cheltenham. The money raised will be going towards rescued German Shepherds.

As well as pedigree classes there will be fun competitions including Best Child Handler, Waggiest Tail, Dog Most Like It's Owner and The Dog The Judge Would Most Like To Take Home, to name just a few. Fun obedience and fun agility will also be taking place.

Attractions will include tombola, raffle, stalls, pet photographs and much more. Refreshments will be available and hopefully some nice weather will make this a great day out for everyone.

Entries cost £1 per class and there are prizes for all classes. Pick up a leaflet or ask a member of staff for entry details. You can also find more information on www.gsd2000.com



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 and introducing him/her back into the new house once everything has been unpacked.

Cats adapt to their new environments at their own different speeds. The time taken to adapt depends on the cat's temperament and life 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 also 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 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 ven-



ture 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.

Dental Health for Pets!

Dental care, is essential to extend a pet's life span and ensure good quality of life. Just like humans, pets need daily dental care.

It is best to start as a puppy or kitten, but it is never too late to begin. However, any tartar must be removed first by a veterinary surgeon, allowing you to start your home care with tartar-free teeth.

The daily brushing procedure should be enjoyable for both you and your pet, with many pets enjoying the added attention, and owners looking forward to the close quality time.

All you need is a pet toothbrush and some pet toothpaste. Most pets accept brushing if they are introduced in a calm, patient way. The best way is

as follows:

Day 1: Gently pet and scratch the muzzle, slowly lifting the lip for about 30 seconds. Reward

with praise and a treat at the end of the session.

Day 2: Repeat as above and gently run your finger and a small amount of toothpaste over the pet's teeth for 30-45 seconds. Reward with a treat and praise.

Day 3: Repeat day 2 adding 15 seconds to running your finger over

your pet's teeth. Reward as before.

Day 4: If all is going well, run your fingers over the teeth and then gently insert the brush,

running over the teeth for 30 seconds. Reward as before.

Day 5: Repeat as for day 4 increasing the time by 30 seconds.

Day 6: Repeat as day 5 and gently rub your pet's teeth.

Day 7: If you feel that your pet is accepting the brushing well, gradually increase the brushing time until you spend at least one minute on each side of the mouth.

Helpful Hints

Be patient and give lots of praise/treats

Always put a small amount of paste on your finger or brush

Make it fun. Stop at once if there are any signs of aggression.

Do not use human toothpaste—it can cause tummy problems.

If at any time the pet resists, stop and wait until the next day. If you are experiencing any problems, please contact your vet for advice.