

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Winter
2005

Issue 4

WELCOME to the Winter 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 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

Winter Worries

As the season of festive cheer approaches it is very important to keep all edible presents away from your pets.

Chocolate contains theobromine, harmless to people, but not to dogs. If eaten in large

It is advisable to keep all edible presents away from the pets

enough quantities it can be fatal (particularly the Belgian dark type). Pet chocolate is the only safe option, but remember this still puts weight on and is bad for their teeth.



Most people do not question the importance of booking their car in for a regular MOT/service, or for a health check with the doctor.

In the same way our pets also need regular check-ups, either six monthly or yearly, dependant upon the age of the pet.

In the same way too many treats can cause tummy upsets and weight gain. Chicken, turkey or chop bones should never be given as they can become lodged in the intestines, stomach or throat. Small objects such as Christmas baubles can also cause blockages. For small pets check that they have plenty of bedding and that their hutches are dry and draught free. Ensure that drinking water is not frozen. In extreme cold cover the housing with a blanket at night (ensuring that there is enough ventilation), place the hutch in an outbuilding or bring your pet indoors.

Fleas are still a problem, with year round treatment being the only feasible option.

The Importance of Regular Health Checks

Vets are there not only for emergencies but also to play a vital role in preventative health care for our pets, with check ups providing the opportunity to catch any issues in the early stages. They also provide the opportunity for you to pick your vet's brains about anything that you feel is significant. For animals already on medication the health check provides the opportunity to monitor the condition and medication, and also to discuss new treatments/drugs. To find out more about health checks please contact your vet.



The Dog Rules (According to the Dog)

I had to smile wryly when I read this recently.

1. The dog is not allowed in the house.
2. Okay, the dog is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.
3. The dog is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off the furniture.
4. The dog can get on the old furniture only.
5. Fine, the dog is allowed on all the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.
6. Okay, the dog is allowed on the bed, but only by invitation.
7. The dog can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but not under the covers.
8. The dog can sleep under the covers by invitation only.
9. The dog can sleep under the covers every night.
10. Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the dog.

DIY Dog Treats

Instead of buying treats to fill your dogs stocking this Christmas, how about making some:

You will need

- 550g buckwheat flour
- 1 beef stock cube
- 350ml water
- 7gm sachet of fast acting yeast
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 packet of dog chocolate drops
- Cookie cutter

Method

Put flour and yeast into large bowl and mix.
 Crumble stock cube into a measuring jug adding 175ml boiling water—top up with 175ml cold water. Pour liquid into the flour/yeast—mix till ingredients bind together. Place mixture onto a floured surface—knead for 5 minutes.
 Split the dough into 2 - rolling out to 1/2 inch thick.
 Use cutter to cut out shapes, place on baking tray brushing with beaten egg.
 Place in preheated oven 180°C, 350°F, GM4 for 25 minutes. Turn treats over and brush other side with egg baking for further 10 minutes.
 Place treats on rack and whilst warm place choc drops on top. Cool, store in air tight container.



RUSHWOOD NEWS

Julia, David and all the Rushwood staff would like to wish you and your pets a very Merry Christmas.

All of you who know Rea will be pleased to hear and to congratulate to her and Jeff on the birth of their baby boy, Ruben Jay, weighing 8lb 4oz born on 9th December 2005.

Kidney Disease

Most of our cats and dogs are lucky enough to have normal kidney function, but for some kidney disease can be a problem, particularly as they grow older.

Dogs and cats have two kidneys, with each one being comprised of a cortex, medulla and pelvis. The cortex and the medulla contain nephrons which filter the blood carried to the kidney by the renal artery removing protein breakdown products, excess salts and water.

These are concentrated to become urine which collects in the pelvis before passing through the ureters into the bladder. With

age, a number of the nephrons disappear and are not replaced. Other factors such as toxins and infections can also destroy nephrons.

The kidneys do have excess filtering capacity so that any visible signs of kidney disease are not usually seen until two-thirds of the nephrons have been destroyed. At this point the kidneys start to lose their ability to concentrate urine, which results in large amounts of urine being passed and an increased thirst.

As the filtering capacity fails toxic waste products will accumulate in the blood, resulting in symptoms such as a **loss of appetite, weight loss, poor coat**

condition, apathy and weakness. Regular health checks allow for the detection of kidney disease before symptoms are visible. Although kidney disease cannot be cured there are new forms of medication and special diets that can make a significant difference.

If you are concerned in any way about your pet or would like to ask further questions please contact your veterinary surgery.

Helpful Hints
 Look for the following symptoms:

- Increased thirst
- Passing larger quantities of urine
- More frequent urination
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Poor coat condition
- Apathy
- Weakness

The Naming of Cats—a tongue in cheek look



Cats are very sensitive to their names, so it is important to have the right name or even 2 or 3 to suit their mood. The most common cause of “interesting” cat names is those allowed to be assigned by children. Perfectly sensible people find themselves shouting the name down the garden as the cat will not respond to a faint mumble. Some people assign names that are con-

nected to the cat’s breed, whether it be real or imagined. One gentleman decided he had a South American Racing cat and a Nubian Desert cat and named them accordingly. He said that working out the breed was entertaining and involved careful observation both of physical appearance and character. But whatever you end up naming your cat, have fun choosing.

Microchipping the safest way home

How would you feel if your pet strayed, became lost or worse still was stolen!

This is an everyday occur-

rence and if an animal cannot be identified it cannot be returned. The solution is a microchip inserted under the skin. The procedure is simple

and forms a permanent method of identification. We often think of microchipping in regard to dogs but it is also useful in cats, horses etc.

Amazing Animal Fact:

Rabbits are big on personal hygiene . A rabbit spends nearly a fifth of its day grooming—about 3 hours in human terms.