

# Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Winter  
2006

Issue 8

WELCOME to the Winter 2006 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

## A Crystal Garden ...

**Microscopes** are used, within veterinary practice, in the investigation of urinary disease.

Dogs and cats presenting with a blockage of the bladder or recurrent cystitis are often found to have abnormalities in the make-up of the urine. These blockages must be removed as soon as possible to

*It is essential that blockages are treated as soon as possible*

prevent permanent kidney damage. As part of the diagnostic investigation a urine sample will be spun sending any sediment to the bottom of



## Flea Facts



**Here are some facts about fleas that will get you itching nicely.**

- Cat fleas are more active at dusk
- Female fleas hatch before males
- Female fleas feed more often and for longer than males
- Fleas jumps or 34cm have been recorded
- 230 fleas could consume ten per cent of a kittens

the test tube. The sediment is examined under a microscope where minute crystals of various types may be found. These crystals irritate the lining of the bladder causing cystitis and can clump together causing an obstruction. Further laboratory tests may be required to confirm the diagnosis and ensure that the right treatment is given.

There are many ways of treating this condition nowadays in addition to and as well as the initial removal of the blockage and may diets which adjust the concentration of the stone/crystal forming mineral and/or the Ph of the urine so making it more difficult for crystals/stones to form.

If you are concerned about your pet please consult your vet.

blood in one day

- Fewer eggs are produced at dusk and dawn.
- Cat flea larvae feed on flea faeces, eggs and injured vae
- It takes 2.5 times more insecticide to kill a larvae than an adult.
- Fleas may emerge from cocoons four weeks after insecticide and IGR application
- Cat fleas leaving the host will be dead in four days

Happy scratching!



## Winter Wrap

Winters here again and as the feastive season approaches please keep all chocolate away from your pets. Pet chocolate is the only safe option it still puts on weight the same as any other treats.

Baubles and such like present other hazards such as choking and blockages. For small pets check that their hutches are dry and draught free and that they have plenty of bedding with plenty of unfrozen drinking water. In extreme weather cover the housing with a blanket at night but always making sure that there is sufficient ventilation or alternately, place the hutch in an out building or bring the pet indoors.

Fleas are a year round problem so regular treatmet is the only solution.

Everyone at Rushwood wishes all our clients both human and furry a very Merry Christmas.

**Lessons Learned From the Dog**



1. *Don't leave home without your ID*
2. *If you stare at someone long enough eventually you will get what you want.*
3. *Be direct with people; let them know exactly how you feel by piddling on their shoes.*
4. *Be aware of when to hold your tongue and when to use it.*
5. *Leave room in your schedule for a good nap.*
6. *Always give people a friendly greeting. A cold nose in the crotch is most effective.*
7. *When you do something wrong always take responsibility (as soon as you are dragged shamefully out from under the bed).*
8. *If it is not wet and sloppy it is not a real kiss.*

**RUSHWOOD NEWS**

*Paws on the Park was a get success, again, with over £1000 being raised for Rapid UK. A big thank you to everyone who contributed.*

*We would like to wish all our clients a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year*

**Hip Dysplasia**

Hip dysplasia (HD) is a common but misunderstood defect. It is a deformity of the hip joint that is not present at birth but develops as the bones grow.

Due to the looseness in the ball and socket joint the cartilage covering the bone becomes eroded causing pain. The body tries to heal the defect and stabilise the joint resulting in severe arthritis which restricts movement and the dog shows clinical signs ie chronic lameness and reluctance to rise.

**Helpful Hints**

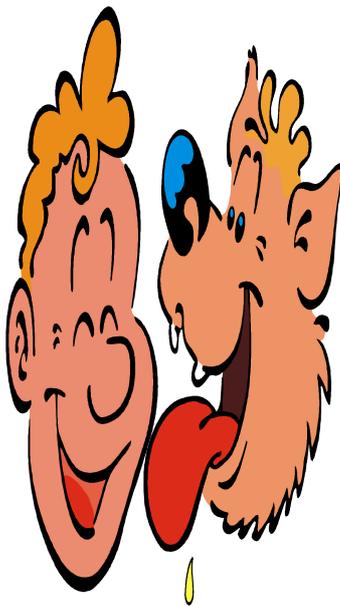
**Hip dysplasia is a common but misunderstood defect involving a deformity of the hip joint.**

Most breeds of dog can be affected. The causes of HD are described as polygenic and multifactorial. The condition is inherited with many genes being involved. It is also known that the expression of polygenic controlled problems can be affected by things such as being over weight, nutrition and use of supplements. Diagnosis requires an x-ray with treatment involving either conservative management or surgery. The former involves attention to weight, growth rate, diet, exercise and the use of painkillers. - all of which mean that individuals can enjoy a reasonable quality of life. With regards to surgery



each individual case must be assessed on its merits as there are several techniques that can be used. Due to the polygenic nature of HD control programmes are unlikely to result in eradication however they will and have drastically reduced the number of severely affected pedigree dogs but do remember cross breeds can also be affected.

If you have any concerns or would like further information please consult your vet.



**Childs Play**

It is commonplace for children and animals to form a close bond and the relationship can bring real benefits with the child becoming more outward going and confident. Children can develop an appreciation of nature and acquire empathy and the ability to be gentle and caring. A child and a pet both require unconditional love and attention with a pet also acting as a companion and a non-judgemental sounding board. We, as parents, often report, with amusement, our children's conversation with their

pets. However there are a few guidelines which should be followed such as a small child and pet should never be left together unsupervised, animals should be held and touched gently with children being encouraged to develop a quiet attitude, regular veterinary check ups and worming etc are a must. The above is not an exhaustive list and veterinary guidance should always be sought if in doubt.

**Fascinating Fact — Cats in Ancient Egypt were valued for their mysterious qualities. They thought that cats captured the sun in their eyes and preserved it till morning so explaining their impressive night vision.**

**Rabbit Behaviour**

Rabbits are one of the most popular pets in the UK and mainly communicate by smell, body postures and a few discreet sounds. Here are a few observations to start you off understanding your furry friend.

1. Lying down alert eyes wide open and responding

to the environment whilst remaining relatively inactive—relaxed.

2. Arched back, ears back, eyes fixed, tail extended possibly along with grunting—tense stiff and aggressive
3. Full rear, forepaws clear of the floor—alert, inquisitive and investigative

4. Sitting down back to the observer—alert and aloof

These are only a few of the postures that make up the normal range of rabbit behaviour—let us know what you observe.