

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery



Autumn
2005

Issue 3

People Who Know How To Care

WELCOME to the Autumn 2005 issue of our Newsletter - designed to keep you up to date with "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

Autumns Here Again

The onset of autumn can come as a relief for both owners and pet's alike.

However, do not lower your guard against fleas and ticks. Fleas are a year round problem and can be a major source of

Now is the time to prepare your tortoise and other small "furrries" for the Winter ahead

irritation. Another cause of irritation in the late summer early autumn is the Harvest mite. These larvae of the mite *Trombicula autumnalis* are active in long grasses, swarm-



The outdoor cat can enjoy hunting and exploring a changing environment—all geared to stimulate the senses, keeping both his body and brain fit.

However, many cat owners live in cities where cats are kept indoors. Indoor cats may live longer and safer lives but how can we help to create a stimulating environment? Ideally indoor cats should be kept in pairs but they will still need

ing onto passing animals and congregating on the ears, eyelids, feet and belly. They are easily identified as bright orange dots adhering tightly to the skin, where they can cause intense irritation. Your vet will be able to advise you on the best preventative treatment. Grass seeds can also still be a nuisance

As the winter months draw in it is essential to ensure that hutches are waterproof and out of direct wind, as small pets are susceptible to the cold and damp.

Now is also the time to prepare tortoises for hibernation. Your tortoise should be taken to the vet for a check up and weighing to ensure that he or she is fit and well prior to hibernation.

The Inside Story

a lot of one-to-one attention from you. Games that simulate natural hunting behaviours should be played frequently, ie chasing moving toys. If vaccinations are current, branches, rocks, cardboard boxes etc can be used to enhance the environment. Instead of presenting food on plates try feeding from a modern food dispenser where things have to be manipulated in order to get the food. A stimulating and active life is important for all cats, but even more so for ones indoors.



Paws on the Park

What a fantastic day we had—the sun shone and it was lovely to see so many of you there.

The ugly duckling sheep dog display was particularly memorable for me and it was good to see the children getting involved too. Guess the weight of the dog went well with Saskia and Lomu and the two other Newfoundland's, Breeze and Baloo, who were in our grooming display behaving in an exemplary fashion.

We managed to raise over £74.00 from our children's "lucky dip" and "Dog Treat" tombola with Paws on the Park raising a magnificent £800?? Overall for the Cinnamon Trust. The Cinnamon Trust provide a service to enable elderly and terminally ill people to keep their pets whether that means assisting in daily care or providing long term care for pets whose owners have died or moved to residential accommodation. In the latter contact can still be provided by letters and photos.

Kong Recipes

Kongs are great for stuffing, but stuffed kongs should only be given randomly. Ensure they are cleaned thoroughly after use and reduce bowl feeding appropriately. Kongs can be hidden inside and out—the hunt is great fun and rewarding but un-stuffing can be messy. Please make sure that any food does not get onto any ropes attached to the toys. Here are a few simple recipes to start you off.

Simple

Smear peanut butter on the inside of your kong toy

Fruit salad

Grapes, apple, carrot chunks 1/4 banana

This recipe is really good for the dog who is conscious of his/her waistline.

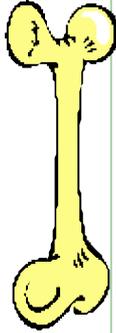
Cheese It

Mix cheese with food nuggets, stand kong in cup and microwave till cheese melts. Let it cool. Cheese can also be melted into the grooves of a dental kong.

Kongsicles

Put dab peanut butter in small end of kong to plug it. Place it upside down in a cup. Fill it full of chicken broth or fruit juice and freeze—recommended for outside use.

Watch this space for more recipes but REMEMBER to be sensitive to your dog's tummy.



Car Fear

Over coming car fear depends upon how long the problem has been going on and also how it is dealt with.

A young dog that has only experienced car travel when it left its mum, going to the vets or from a rescue centre can all lead to a dislike of car travel.

If the dog is young and the problem has not been going on for long it is probably best not to use the car for journeys at all to begin with. Offer all meals in the car whilst it is stationary, removing the dog once finished.

Helpful Hints

Be patient and give lots of praise/treats. Feed regularly in the stationery car. Make it fun for both of you by playing with toys and/or going for a walk. Don't make every journey a long one even when you are building up the journey length. Stop if there are any signs that the problem is getting worse and consult a behaviourist recommended by your vet.

enjoys its food the more positive associations with the car are already being made. The dog, if possible, should not even see the car apart from when it is fed in it.

Once the dog is happily getting in and out of the car and eating in it, very small journeys can be attempted, consisting of no more than a few minutes. Perhaps go to a favourite walk area where you both can get out and have some fun. On these journeys make sure that the dog has not just been fed or has a full stomach.

Gradually build up the distance, but take care that not every jour-



ney is longer than the last, otherwise the problem may occur again or even get worse.

For older dogs or dogs that have had the problem longer it is best to speak to your vet and be referred to a good behaviourist.

A good behaviourist will be able to counter the condition and desensitise the dog to the issues. It is always a good idea to meet with the behaviourist first, as you will have to work closely together in the future and a good relationship is essential to a positive outcome.

Rabbiting On & On About Dental Disease



Did you know that rodents such as rats, rabbits and guinea pigs have continuously growing teeth? Rabbits teeth grow at 1mm-2mm per week. One of the most common health problems in rabbits is dental disease, usually associated with overgrown teeth. Both the incisors and the cheek teeth can become overgrown, causing great pain and eating difficulties.

Tooth overgrowth occurs when the tooth-wear is less than the tooth-growth. Feeding a high fibre diet encourages tooth wear and can play a major part in prevention.

Many vets have rabbit clinics where advice can be found.

Did you know

The Basenji, a hunting dog, from central Africa, cannot bark, but makes a curious yodallying sound instead. It keeps clean by washing like a cat.

When a man meets a cow in Minnesota, USA, the law requires him to remove his hat.

If you see any of these symptoms please contact your vet.

Ear Problems

Ear problems, seen in pets, often involve the external ear canal and a condition called otitis externa.

Symptoms include an itchy and painful ear which is often accompanied by a discharge.

Underlying causes are varied and can include ear mites, a foreign body such as a grass seed and localised inflammation of the skin lining. The condition is often exacerbated by fungal and bacterial infections.