

# Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Autumn  
2006

Issue 7

WELCOME to the Autumn 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

## Sweet Little Mysteries ...

**There** is no question that cats are extraordinary creatures but could there be more to our felines than meets the eye.

According to a recent article many cat owners think that their cats have supernatural powers. Of course there are other people who dismiss this suggestion as fanciful. Try

*Try these tests to see if you and your feline are psychically attuned*

these tests and see if you and your cat are psychically attuned.

Think treats — wait until your



## Fireworks Night



**Don't wait until just a few days before bonfire night if you need advice on the best way to deal with what can be a fun night for us but a very distressing one for our pets.**

If your vet advises sedatives please visit the practice as soon as possible as the effects can be variable in their effects and test doses may be necessary. It may be inadvisable to give older animals or ones with heart conditions seda-

cat is fast asleep, then take a food bowl to anywhere he or she does not usually eat. Visualise his favourite food, thinking about what it looks like, smells and tastes like. Now get a friend to wake the cat. If he rushes to his usual dining area you may have been communicating with him telepathically!

Think Home - - when your cat is out roaming, repeat his name silently in your head and make a note of how long it takes for him or her to come in. Don't do this at meal times, as he might just be responding to his or her tummy! But if your cat often responds quickly to your silent, random calls, perhaps your inner voice is speaking feline.

Let us know!



## Autumn Alert

With the coming of Autumn please do not relax your vigilance against fleas and ticks. Harvest mites are another parasite that is seen at this time of year and tends to be picked up from the long grass. All these parasites can be really itchy—please contact your vet for advice on how to protect your pet.

This is also the time that tortoises are going into hibernation. They should have their weight recorded and a general check before they do. Rabbit and other animal hutches need checked for damp and placed in a sheltered site out of the wind. Older pets tend to feel their joints more at this time of year—keep them nice and warm but ensure that they do not snuggle too close to a radiator or burns can result. In the same way make sure that poisons such as antifreeze are kept well away as they can result in kidney failure and death

**Around this time of Year**



*Hibernation usually occurs when the temperatures drops below 9°C and a minimum weight for hibernation is 450g (1lb). Hedgehogs often choose sites such as bonfires and hedges in which to hibernate so please check before lighting or working on them. Hedgehogs will emerge from hibernation if the weather is very mild. Any hedgehog that does not roll into a ball when approached or is out and about in day light is often ill, injured or may be a late baby. If you see a hedgehog who has no apparent injury please do not immediately disturb it. Instead put down some food (tinned pedigree chum, meaty household scraps, chicken carcasses, soft fruit, non salted nuts, soaked dog biscuits or bread (not in milk) and watch for 24hrs. If after this it is still around then it may be a late baby that is too small to hibernate. Maggots are usually only seen on very sick or injured hedgehogs. Most hedgehogs naturally carry fleas and these only become a problem if the hedgehog is ill.*

**RUSHWOOD NEWS**

*Opening times for Christmas/ New Year are as follows Christmas and News Years Eve's open 9-11am. Christmas, Boxing and New Years Day closed.*

**Golden Oldies**

**Like us all our dogs and cats are living longer with advances in veterinary health-care and nutrition.**

However with advancing years organs may not function as effectively resulting in a wide range of age related diseases.

These can commonly include : impaired hearing and vision, arthritis, kidney, liver and heart disease, weight gain, incontinence, mental confusion and dental problems to name a few. However, regu-

**Helpful Hints**  
**With advancing years organs may not function as effectively resulting in a wide range of age related diseases involving the heart, liver and kidney.**

lar health checks are a good method of looking after your pet as they get older. With these checks potential problems are often picked up at an early stage meaning that treatment can be started sooner and thereby hopefully ensuring a better quality of life. A health check should consist of a full physical examination and, maybe, a blood and urine tests. X-rays may be taken if thought appropriate.

Happily having identified any problems there are now more and better treatments available to ensure the health of your pet. Changes to you animals



diet can also make a real impact to many of the conditions mentioned.

Many vets now run special clinics for older pets. For more information please talk to your vet.



**Keeping Your Guinea Pig Fit**

These enchanting animals originally came from the grasslands of South America and are very popular as pets. They are by nature grazing animals and require large amounts of grass, hay and fresh fruit and vegetables together with a commercially prepared food. Vitamin C is an essential daily requirement. Regular check ups are also essential as in common with other rodents their teeth grow continuously and can become overgrown making feeding difficult. Additionally nails may also become overgrown

and require clipping. Skin problems can also occur with the most common being a burrowing mange mite which causes intense irritation and areas of reddened sore skin.

Exercise as for any animal is essential but devising suitable toys for you guinea pig can be challenging as they are naturally lazy. Pet shops can offer a range of interesting toys.

**Fascinating Fact — A dogs sense of smell is about 1000 times better than a persons. A blood hound can distinguish and identify several scents at the same time.**

**Party Time!!**

**A salutary tale which will hopefully remind us that as the festive season draws near that we need to take special precautions with regards to our pets.**

A seven month old cat with a reputation for being a party

goer was presented a vets shortly before Christmas.

There was a short length of tinsel protruding from his bottom. Although everyone agreed that it was a "smart bit of kit" it had to go. During

surgery a piece of tinsel over two foot long was removed from the cats gut.

Please remember to keep all Christmas decorations and especially chocolate out of reach.