

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery



Autumn
2008

Issue 14

People Who Know How To Care

WELCOME to the Autumn 2008 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

What is Veterinary Physiotherapy?

Physiotherapy is the means to treat and rehabilitate patients that are suffering and/or recovering from illness, disease, injury or surgery. It is a holistic therapy that does not just treat the problem but also takes into account the animal's behaviour, environment and lifestyle.

Physiotherapy involves a range of techniques and tools that aim to restore/help mobility of joints, improve muscle tone, aid fitness and to help manage both acute and chronic pain. Techniques that can be used include massage, prescriptive exercise, heat/cold therapy as well as tools such as hydrotherapy, TENS, phototherapy, ultra sound and pulse magnetic therapy. A combination of the above is often used, rather than just one individual treatment.

Physiotherapy can be used to treat a range of conditions including arthritis, hip dysphasia, orthopaedic conditions, fractures, obesity and muscular problems. It is also useful for work-

ing animals such as agility dogs or event horses, that have a higher activity level often helping to prevent injury.

Before any treatment can begin, every animal must be referred from the vet and have a full assessment which involves a full history and observing the patient's current physical ability. A qualified veterinary physiotherapist should be able to provide specialist guidance, individual treatment and practical management advice.



Autumn Alerts!!

Fireworks can be very distressing for most pets. There are a number of ways to help your pet during this period. If your vet advises sedatives please visit the practice as soon as possible as the effects can be variable and test doses may be necessary. Sedatives may not be suitable for all pets and it is always best to talk with your vet about all the options as there are various remedies on the market using pheromones.

Other ways to help pets during fireworks can be done by

yourself at home. Loud background noise, a den, a walk and meal can help allay a dog's fear of noises. Try to avoid comforting your dog as this will only serve to reward fearful behaviour. Distraction with games or a favourite toy may help. If you are unsure of the best way to help your pet during this period please contact your vet for advice.

Autumn Care—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. Rabbits and other small 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 not snuggled to close to radiators or burns can result.

**Around
this
time of
Year**



Hibernation in Hedgehogs usually occurs when temperatures drop below 9°C and a minimum weight of 450g (1lb) has been attained. Hedgehogs often choose sites such as bonfires and hedges in which to hibernate - please check before lighting/working on them. Hedgehogs can 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 the day 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, 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. Most hedgehogs naturally carry fleas which only become a problem if the hedgehog is ill and likewise maggots are only seen on the sick or injured.

RUSHWOOD NEWS

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

Specific Diets

We all know how important it is to eat the right diet and the same applies for our pets. Like us, animals have different nutritional requirements throughout their life.

Advances in pet nutrition have provided some reasons why our pets live longer and healthier lives. There are a huge range of diets available that are designed to offer different levels of nutrients and energy for each life stage.

Growing puppies and kittens will require higher levels of energy, proteins and essential fatty acids than mature animals. Much older pets will need a diet that is de-

signed to provide nutrients that reduce the burden on the internal organs such as the kidneys.

Even adult foods are formulated for specific breeds and types of dogs. Giants breeds such as Great Danes and Newfoundlands, need diets that provide higher levels of energy but also supply minerals and antioxidants that help with joints. Working dogs need extra energy to support their active lifestyle and specific proteins that aid the body during strenuous exercise.

If you are unsure of your dog's dietary requirements please ask your vet.



Can Animals Sense Earthquakes?

The first anecdotal report of animals anticipating earthquakes was in 373 B.C., by Greek historians. It was recorded that animals including rats, snakes and weasels left the city of Helice just days before a quake ruined the city. Across the centuries other similar accounts of animals predicting earthquakes have appeared. Species such as catfish, chickens, dogs and even bees have all shown a

change in behavior days before a tremor.

Numerous pet owners across the World have claimed to have seen their pets displaying unusual behaviors such as whining, restlessness and scratching at doors, a few days before an earthquake occurred. But precisely what animals sense, if they feel anything at all, is a mystery. There are a number of

theories behind these reports including that animals feel the earth vibrate before humans and that they can detect electrical changes in the air. With all these claims it is understandable that researchers around the world continue to pursue the idea.

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.

Grooming

Grooming your dog will also give you a chance to have a close look for any bites, stings, ticks, cuts and grass seeds that may get picked up on walks. Regular grooming will also aid circulation and improve muscle tone, which is beneficial to your pet's health and well-being.



It is always essential to keep your dogs coat in good condition.

Regular grooming will not only help your dog look his or her best but gives you a chance to have some hands on and one to one bonding with your best friend. Enjoy!