

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Autumn
2009

Issue 18

WELCOME to the Autumn 2009 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 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

Frightening Fireworks!

As the leaves start to fall and the nights darken, the firework season begins to loom.

What started as one night of festive bonfires and fireworks has turned into weeks of noisy parties. Great fun for us but not so great for our pets. So what can we do to help our furry friends through the loud bangs and whizzes of Guy Fawkes night.

Acting normally around your pet will help to make them think that there is nothing to be fearful about. Worrying will only increase your pets stress

levels as there are highly tuned to our moods. By relaxing you will provide a calming presence for your pet

Allow your pet to hide but do not curl up with them or fuss, as this only reinforces their fearful behaviour. Closing the curtains and turning up the telly or radio will help block out the flashes and noise.

Make sure if your pet is frightened of fireworks that they are kept indoors. Cats often become lost after being frightened away by fireworks, so make sure your

It is natural to want to reassure your pet but this only reinforces their fearful behaviour

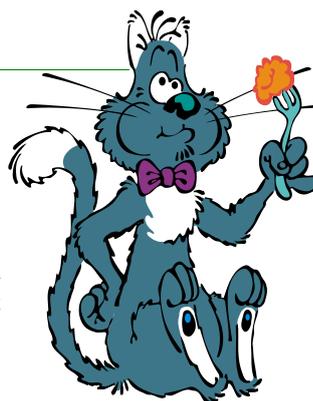


feline friend is indoors and that cat flaps and windows are kept closed.

If your pet becomes really distressed during this period then there are solutions such as calming pheromones, desensitising training and drugs that can be used to help relax pets, however it is also advisable to speak to your vet first as they will know what will work best for your pet.

Watch Those Calories!!

- One slice of buttered toast to a cocker spaniel is the equivalent of 2 bags of crisps for a human
- Half a tin of salmon for a cat is the same as its owner having two doughnuts
- One sausage eaten by a Staffie equals one and half chocolate bars to a person
- Giving a chocolate digestive to a Jack Russell is like its owner having a portion of chips
- A saucer of cream for a cat is a meal of burger and chips for a human



Hyperthyroidism! Surprisingly common in older cats?

The thyroid gland consists of 2 tiny lobes situated at the base of the neck. These lobes produce thyroid hormone which regulates the rate of metabolism.

Excess production of thyroid hormone is termed **hyperthyroidism** and is a relatively common condition in cats over 8 years of age. Affected cats tend to burn up energy too rapidly and lose weight despite an often ravenous appetite. A variety of other signs may also be seen including hyperactivity, vomiting and diarrhoea.

However, the good news is that in most cases, hypothyroidism in cats can be very successfully treated.



Dog Theft!

Dog theft in the UK is on the increase with over half of the missing pets never being recovered .

Here are some practical tips for safe guarding your dog.

Never leave your dog tied up outside a shop or house.

Make sure your dog is micro chipped and/or wearing some form of i/d.

It is recommended not to put your dogs name on the tag as this can aid potentials thieves who can then call your dog over by its name.

Make sure your garden is secure and that any back gates are locked. Some people attach bells to their gates so their can hear if anyone opens it.

Vary your walks and try to go out at different times so someone can not target you and your dogs.

Be wary of strangers asking lots of questions about your dog, especially if they don't have dog with them. This may be harmless curiosity or someone scouting out your dog as a potential steal.

Take pictures of yourself with your dog and keep all records regarding your pet, as if required this may help prove ownership if your dog is stolen.

Remember once a dog is stolen it can be moved miles away from home, therefore prevention is the best course of action. If you suspect your dog has been stolen call the local authorities straight away

Cutting the cost of pet ownership

The Blue Cross reported 3 times more animals being given up for rehoming in the first four months of 2009 and financial difficulty as the major reason.

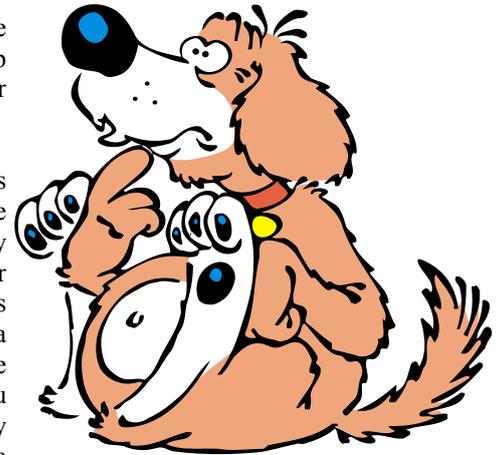
There are obvious ways in which we can cut the cost of treating our pets, but what about those unavoidable costs. Food, training and vet treatments are all regular cost that can not be cut from the finances. However with some careful planning and budgeting owning a pet doesn't have to be so expensive.

Initial costs of vaccinating , neutering and insuring your pet may seem a pain but these can be vital to reducing spending in the future. The cost of looking after a litter or treating a disease that could have been prevented will definitely outweigh the price of a preventable measure. Insurance

companies offer a wide range of deals so shop around for the best offer and service.

Buying food in bulk is another way to save those pennies. Many shops and brands offer discounts for bulk buys or multi purchases. If a friend's dog eats the same food then you could always bulk buy together or barter for a better price. It is not always advisable to swap your dogs food as this can lead to upset tummies, however looking for a cheaper alternative is also a way to cut down on the unavoidable cost of food.

We all love to spoil our pets with treats, toys, beds and fancy collars but these can be considered as unnecessary spending. Using your dogs normal food to reward or fill a toy removes the need for other goodies. Using some food that



you normally keep in your own cupboard such as peanut butter or carrots (in correct quantities) can be just as rewarding as branded treats.

Making toys or bedding for any pet is a great way to have fun and save money. Toilet roll tubes for hamsters, feathers tied to string for cats or that old jumper given as bedding for your dog all helps reduce your spending without leaving your pets feeling hard done by!

Hibernating Hedgehogs

It is around this time of year as the temperature drops that hedgehogs go in to hibernation ready for winter.

Hibernation in hedgehogs usually occurs when temperatures drop below 9°C and a weight of over 450g (1lb) has been attained . Hedgehogs often choose sites such as bonfires in which to hibernate so please check before lighting them. Hedges are also a favourite hibernation spot for these critters.

Some hedgehogs can emerge from hibernation if the weather is very mild, there-



fore you may still see them around this time of year. 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.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a hedgehog then you can call the RSPCA or a local wildlife sanctuary.