

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Spring 2005

Issue 1

WELCOME to the Spring 2005 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

Paws on the Park—a great day out

This was held in August when the air was warm and flowers blooming.

The event is organised annually by Cheltenham Borough Council to promote and fund responsible pet ownership.

Paws on the Park is organised by Cheltenham Borough Council and held to promote responsible pet ownership

The event was largely sponsored this year by Rushwood and Vets on the Park. We also donated the prizes for the dog

Poominating Issues

It seems that like the UK most countries have issues re dogs fouling pavements and other public areas.

I read an article recently about how the Germans have come up with the idea of all dogs having a number plate (how this is fixed or seen after dark sends the mind into overdrive) where the number of any dog fouling can be reported to the local authorities and the owner prosecuted. The Americans have gone one better, creating a whole new industry with a

show. There were many different organisations providing information on a wide range of issues relating to health and otherwise. The Crufts style competitions were enthusiastically supported with prizes for the waggiest tail, best six legs etc. We are proud to say that one of our clients (well the dog anyway) won "best condition".

The event raised £480.00 which the Mayor presented to Dogs for the Disabled at a ceremony on the 8th December 2004.

It was lovely to see so many of you there and we would like to thank you for your support in making it such an enjoyable day.



trade body (have a look on the internet).

On a serious note, cleaning up faeces along with regular worming and flea control, minimises worm re-infection and the risk of Toxocara cysts and toxoplasmosis in people. Both of these diseases are serious, although rare. In addition, the avoidance of feeding raw offal/unsterilised pet food is also essential in the fight against worms.



Guinea Pigs & Vitamin C

Unlike most mammals guinea pigs cannot make vitamin C within their body and therefore must receive a supply on a daily basis. Vitamin C is required for healthy muscles, blood vessels, bones, cartilage, teeth and gums. It is also involved in digestion and the absorption of iron, and is thought to have a role in immunity. Symptoms of clinical deficiency include loss of weight/appetite, swollen painful joints, lethargy, weakness, rough coat and bleeding of gums and internal organs. These symptoms of deficiency can appear within a few weeks. The requirement for vitamin C varies according to age, sex, pregnancy, diet and environment. A lot of diets now contain vitamin C, although some brands are better than others. Vitamin C added to drinking water is not a reliable method of supplementation.

From late Spring fledglings, seemingly abandoned, are often seen. Most do, however, have parents and are just waiting for them to return with food - any intervention by us can spoil the bird's best chance of survival.



If the fledgling is in danger it can be moved to a safe place as close as possible to its original site (in order for its parents to find it easily), otherwise it should be left alone. If you are certain that the parents are not returning, then help could be given and in this case you should contact your local wildlife centre, RSPCA or veterinary surgery for advice.

RUSHWOOD NEWS

All of you who know Karen will, I am sure, be pleased to hear and to congratulate her and her husband Ken on the birth of their baby girl, Charlotte Elizabeth, on the 11th April 2005.

We have recently welcomed a new member of staff to the Rushwood Team. Lisa has a BSc Animal Science degree from Hartpury which she says has given her a greater appreciation of the importance of animal needs and welfare. Her interests include horse riding and dog agility. We hope that she will enjoy her time here.

Brushing Your Pet's Teeth

Dental care, is essential to extend a pet's life span and ensure good quality of life. Just like humans, pets need daily dental care.

It is best to start as a puppy or kitten, but it is never too late to begin. However, any tartar must be removed first by a veterinary surgeon, allowing you to start your home care with tartar-free teeth and maximising your efforts

The daily brushing procedure should be enjoyable for both you and your pet, with many pets enjoying the added attention, and owners looking forward to the close quality time.

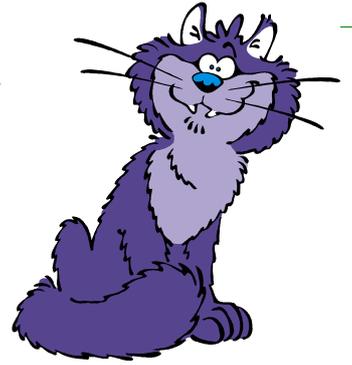
All you need is a pet toothbrush and some pet toothpaste. Most pets accept brushing if they are introduced in a calm, patient way. The best way is as follows:

Day 1: Gently pet and scratch the muzzle, slowly lifting the lip for about 30 seconds. Reward with praise and a treat at the end of the session.

Day 2: Repeat as above and gently run your finger and a small amount of toothpaste over the pet's teeth for 30-45 seconds. Reward with a treat and praise.

Day 3: Repeat day 2 adding 15 seconds to running your finger over your pet's teeth. Reward as before.

Day 4: If all is going well, run your fingers over the teeth and



then gently insert the brush, running over the teeth for 30 seconds. Reward as before.

Day 5: Repeat as for day 4 increasing the time by 30 seconds.

Day 6: Repeat as day 5 and gently rub your pet's teeth.

Day 7: If you feel that your pet is accepting the brushing well, gradually increase the brushing time until you spend at least one minute on each side of the mouth.

If at any time the pet resists, stop and wait until the next day.

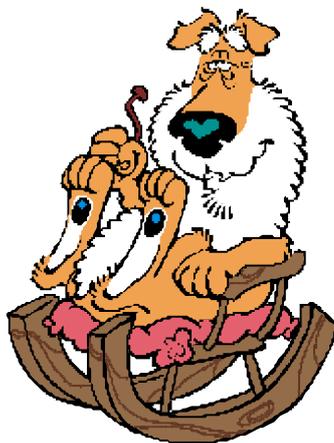
If you are experiencing any problems, please contact your vet or veterinary practice for further advice, where they will be pleased to assist you.

Helpful Hints

Be patient and give lots of praise/treats Always put a small amount of paste on your finger or brush Make it fun.

Stop at once if there are any signs of aggression.

Do not use human toothpaste—it can cause tummy problems



Do Dogs Dream?

If, you look at your dog while its sleeping, sometimes you will see its eyes move and twitch, its legs paddle or even make a noise. Humans do this too (well maybe not paddle our legs but we do make movements) and we definitely dream.

This makes researchers almost positive that dogs have dreams too. But guess what

no one knows for sure, nor what dogs dream about.

Maybe the next time Charlie or Polly wake up from a nice snooze and a dream, you can ask him or her. Let us know.

Feline Leukaemia Virus

Did you know that infection with Feline Leukaemia Virus (FeLV) is now the commonest infectious cause of premature death in cats in the UK.

Whilst the virus does, on oc-

casions, cause true leukaemia the effects are, in many cases, more commonly seen on the cat's immune system, leaving the animal exposed to infections that a healthy cat would normally recover from. Vaccination against FeLV is

Monkeying Around—A signalman on a frigate in the Persian Gulf in the 1960's brought a monkey on board in gross defiance of the ship's standing orders. At the disciplinary hearing the signal man was asked why he had done so. Came the reply "Staff shortage, Sir"

available and can be given at the same time as the yearly booster for flu and enteritis. Your vet is the best person to advise you on the pro's and con's of vaccination.