

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Spring 2006

Issue 5

WELCOME to the Spring 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

The Animal Welfare Bill what it means for you

The proposed Animal Welfare Bill has far reaching effects for all those involved with animals.

To summarise, this law will be a 'Common Informers Act' meaning that anyone can bring a prosecution. One solicitor is advising his clients to keep all bills for at least three years as these records may be the key to a defence. Defra will be publishing codes of care and any failure to live up to the code will be seen as tending to show liability. Be vigilant as even if a code is introduced at

a later date ignorance is no defence. Commercial shows will have to be licensed and pet shops will ask new owners to sign that they are over 16 and understand the pets care needs. For us it means more paperwork (although we do keep good records already) especially at reception so we hope that when this bill becomes law that you will understand and bear with us. We will try to make it as painless as possible whilst complying with our legal obligations. The above is not a comprehensive review of the new act— for further information please access the defra website.

The Animal Welfare Bill will have far reaching effects for us all.

Making "Walkies" Fun

Walks start to become boring when the same familiar route is used or if you are limited to a few choices.

Why not try some of the following to make "walkies" more interesting .

Walk your route in reverse or start in the middle turning your walk into a figure of eight. Take a toy with you to have some fun on the way. This will increase interaction between you and your dog and increase the exercise your pet



gets. Walk with another dog owning friend. This increases the games you can play as well as having someone to chat to along the way. Practice obedience and control with periods of free running using exercises such as recalls, sits, stays, heel work, retrieves and downs.

Have fun but please remember to clear up faeces in order to minimise toxoplasmosis in people - a serious although rare disease.



Spring Resolutions

Winter is often a time of inactivity for our pets and like us they can become rounded. Obesity can exacerbate or cause a range of diseases such as joint disease diabetes, and heart disease to name a few.

With the coming of Spring we still need to be vigilant against fleas and other parasites. Flies, in particular, are a hazard for rabbits, as the warmer months approach. Rabbits rears become damp attracting flies who lay their eggs which develop into flesh eating maggots. During the warmer months rabbits should be inspected twice daily for maggots.

Spring often also results in a trip to the garden centre so please be aware that some of the things that we commonly use can be toxic to our pets. Metaldehyde in slug pellets is very toxic and mulches such as cocoa shell smell attractive but contains theobromine which is very poisonous to dogs. Always read the label for potential hazards. Any problems please contact the vet.



Although we talk about the Easter bunny the first baby rabbits are appearing above ground before Easter. The rabbit originally came from the



Mediterranean probably introduced by the Normans who kept them for meat and fur. It was in the 19th century that the numbers of rabbits began to increase helped by the planting of hedgerows and the control of their natural predators. Throughout the 20th century rabbits were a serious pest but disaster struck them in the 50's when myxomatosis was introduced with a devastating effect on the population. Breeding begins in January with the young being born blind and naked in a nest of dried grass and fur. At 3 weeks the kittens start appearing at the burrow entrance becoming independent within a few days. The Mammal Society estimates that 90% of rabbits die within the first 3 months falling prey to foxes, weasel, badgers, goshawks etc. It is only their legendary fertility that enables them to remain one of the commonest and frequently seen of our wild mammals.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Paws on the Park is scheduled to take place on the 5th August 2006. Please come along - it's a great day out for all the family.

A Cat-Friendly Garden

As summer arrives when creating a garden for cats) our felines will spend planted fairly close together more time in outdoors however keeping them within their own environment is an impossible task as more interest. Logs, covered in sisal, concreted into the ground at different heights can provide platforms and scratching posts. This saves more delicate plants from being shredded. The whole are can be finished with bark creating soft landings.

better than to scale walls and sneak through hedges.

A garden needs to be looked at from a cats point of view with areas of interest being created. A woodland area with plenty of shade is a must especially if you have a light coloured cat susceptible to sunburn. A variety of hardy shrubs (crucial

Designing a garden with a feline in mind can result in a happier pet, owner and ultimately happier neighbours.

With regard to plants anything that attracts insects is a bonus (although care needs to be taken

regarding stings etc). Catnip and cocksfoot can be panted ad lib. The latter grass is a favoured and essential part of their diet relieving bile and sourness. Cats go wild for cat nip rolling around on it and becoming very playful.

If you have delicate plants think about planting them in containers with stone chippings round as this minimises them being used as a toilet or scratching post.

Most of all enjoy spending time with your feline both inside and out.

Chinchillas or "little chintas"



Discovered by Spanish pioneers these active, inquisitive, lovable but shy animals require a lot of commitment. Pairs

are best and they need to be kept indoors out of droughts and sunlight in a secure roomy wire cage with a sleeping compartment. Bedding should be high quality barley straw with dust extracted shavings for the cage floor. Sand should be provided for a bath on a daily basis (never water as this may cause hypothermia).

Plenty of branches and tunnels should be provided for exercise, exploring and hiding. Hiding treats will encour-

age foraging. There are many complete diets on the market but these must be fed with hay and any changes should always be introduced slowly. Fresh drinking water should be available at all times. Chinchillas suffer from many illnesses to do with the ears, mouth, eyes and nose but can also have problems with their coat and skin too. Pneumonia (which can be fatal), constipation and diarrhoea can also be causes for concern. If you have any concerns please consult your veterinary surgeon

Fascinating Fact—The Peregrine Falcon is the worlds fastest bird of prey flying at an astonishing 200kph swooping on prey at 350kph. It also has amazing eyesight spotting a pigeon 8km away.

Veterinary Terminology

Ever wondered where some of those words come from or what they mean—well here is a brief insight into the urinary system;

Word Root: NEPHR, from Greek "nephros" meaning kidney eg

-itis ... inflammation of ... nephritis inflammation of the kidney

Word Root: UR, from the Greek "ouron" meaning urine eg

dys- ...difficulty dysuria difficulty in passing urine

Word Root: CYST, from the Greek "kystis" meaning bladder eg

-itis Inflammation of Cystitis inflammation of the bladder

pneumo- ... presence of air/gas pneumocystogram ... x-ray of the presence of air in the bladder—used as a contrast to examine the bladder for stones or abnormalities.