

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Spring
2009

Issue 16

WELCOME to the Spring 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 Crèche
- 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



As we all look forward to longer days and warmer weather, here are some important Spring-time tips.

The lambing season is now in full swing and even though the idea of little lambs bouncing round is very picturesque, it can cause temptation for

Did you know that over 30% of dogs, cats and rabbits in the UK are clinically obese?

Keeping your pet at its optimum weight is a steady balance of energy input (food) and energy output (exercise). Usually a combination of too much food and too little exercise is to blame. There are many health risks for overweight pets such as heart disease, diabetes, arthritis and even behavioural problems so keeping your pet trim is important.

Using a food chart can really help to make sure you and any one else in the home are feeding your pet properly. Most food bags will have a rough guide to suggest how much to feed. This amount will be based on the size and activity level of your pet. Once you have worked out the right

Rushwood Spring Watch

dogs out on walks. Keeping your dog on the lead round livestock may sound obvious but it is the most effective way of preventing accidents.

Other wildlife may begin to emerge around this time of year so be aware of baby birds and active hedgehogs in your garden.

Flowering plants such as daffodils and foxgloves are poisonous to dogs therefore make

sure your pet can't reach any bulbs or flowers. Also be aware of any gardening materials such as cocoa mulch that are also harmful if ingested.

With all this in mind, we hope you and your pets have a happy and healthy Spring.



Fat Fighters!!

quantity for your pet then stick to measured amounts. Remember to make allowances for any treats that are given throughout the day.

Make sure that you cut out any secret titbits given under the table. Sneaking food to your pets is not only bad for their waistlines but can also encourage scavenging behaviour. The big softies in the family are the favourite targets for podgy pets so make sure that everyone in the house is sticking to the rules. Cats can be harder to monitor with regards to their eating habits. Try to make sure that your feline friend isn't scavenging in your bin or even going round neighbours to get that extra meal.

Exercise is essential for any pet but especially dogs. Anything from extending the length of the

usual routine walk to fun play-time with that favourite toy will allow your furry friend to burn off some excess energy. Scattering food so your pet has to work for those tasty morsels also provides good exercise. Remember to keep any activity varied and motivating so your pet doesn't lose interest.

We all love to spoil our pets with treats but be careful that your faithful friend is not piling on the pounds. Everything in moderation is the key to a healthy and happy relationship! If you are worried about your pet's weight then it is best to seek your vet's advice.

Physwizz at Rushwood!!!

As some of you will know, Julia has been studying Veterinary Physiotherapy in conjunction with the National Association of Veterinary Physiotherapists (NAVVP). We are pleased to report that she has successfully passed her exams and is now fully qualified. This means that as long as you have a vet referral, Julia can treat an array of conditions ranging from arthritis to nerve damage on a range of animals. Visits can take place at home, at Rushwood or at your stables. We can also provide in-patient facilities should it be required.

Now she is qualified, Julia has set up Physwhizz, a new and exciting physiotherapy business under which she will be practicing. Physwhizz is now accessible through Rushwood Kennels and a website will be up and running soon so watch this space.

If you have any queries about how veterinary physiotherapy can help your pet then please don't hesitate to contact us or your vet.

Puppy Socialisation

It is very important that puppies learn to meet new people and experience new surroundings.

The more things encountered by your puppy the better adjusted he/she will be in later life. Little or no socialisation can result in fear and/or aggression as well as other behavioural problems.

Puppies have a sensitive period between 12-16 weeks, in which anything new is readily accepted. It is during this time that the best socialisation occurs.

However socialisation isn't just about experiencing the new. It is about making positive associations with these encounters. Treats and favourite toys can be used to reward correct behaviour and reduce anxiety.

Puppy parties and training classes are a great way to get your pet to meet new people, spend time with other dogs and most of all have fun.

Some vets hold puppy parties and most will be able to tell you of any happening in the surrounding area.

Good socialisation should result in a friendly, well adjusted dog that copes well in most situations



Fascinating Fact!!

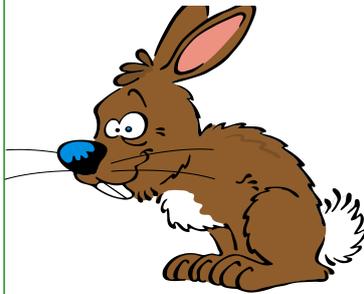
Of all the many dog breeds the five most popular are;

- Labrador Retriever
- Golden Retriever
- German Shepard
- Cocker Spaniel
- Boxer

(2007 Petplan Census)

Rabbit Care

Having a rabbit as a pet is great fun but here are a few tips for keeping your furry friend a happy and healthy bunny.



Rabbits can catch illnesses like any other pet so it is important that they are vaccinated. This will help reduce the risk of your rabbit contracting Viral Haemorrhagic Disease and/or Myxomatosis.

Rabbits have continuously growing teeth so dental care is essential. Lots of wood chews, the correct diet with plenty of hay/grass and regular checks up with the vet

will help control this issue.

It is always a good idea to get your rabbit neutered. Not only will this protect against unwanted litters but can also reduce aggression, urine spraying and digging.

In hot weather usually brings about a increased risk of fly strike so be vigilante. If you suspect anything then contact your vet.

How we entertain our cats!

Here are some of the ways we keep our cats busy whilst they are with us. Try these ideas at home and tell us how you get on.

Cats love to discover new places to hide so overturned plastic beds, boxes with holes and scratch posts with hidey holes are ideal. This gives the cat chance to explore but also offers some-

where to keep out the way when they have had enough.

Scratch posts are always popular with cats as they allow your pet to exhibit a natural behaviour. Untreated apple tree branches are suitable for desheathing.

There are lots of great cat toys on the market and some of the best are battery oper-

ated. These provide entertainment for cat and owners alike! Our favourites are wiggling paper bags, mice and buzzing bugs in a jar.

A litter tray half filled with water and a couple of ping pong balls can provide lots of fun for more adventurous cats.

Try these out and have fun!