

# Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Spring 2010

Issue 20

*WELCOME to the Spring 2010 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*

## **NOT JUST BIG BONED- Pets and the ever growing problem of obesity.**



In our current nation of ever increasing levels of obesity in humans; it seems that our pets's size is also on the up. This is causing huge problems for veterinary surgeons with the increase of obesity related medical conditions.

It is reported that up to 50% of British pets suffer from obesity. These seriously high levels mean that we are literally killing our pets with kindness.

Being overweight isn't limited to just dogs and cats either, there is an ever increasing high number of small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters developing serious problems due to their oversized bodies.

For any animal, including us humans, obesity causes more than just being out of puff.

Pets that carry too much weight can suffer from low energy levels, osteoarthritis, heart problems, diabetes and high blood pressure. What's more, research shows that obese pets can live on average

two years less than their slimmer counterparts. Some owners shower their pets with titbits to show their love for them. Your pet relies on you for their food and exercise so it is your job to ensure their lifestyle is a combination of a balanced, nutritious diet and the right amount of exercise. Pets will also pile on the pounds if fed scraps from the table.

Ways to help your pet stay slim and active include carefully monitored exercise routine—this is both good for your pet and yourself.



Try to avoid scavenging opportunities, leave food well out of reach and protect dustbins from sensitive noses.

Try to play with your pet to increase activity levels in an enjoyable manner.

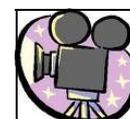
Most importantly, carefully measure your pets daily food intake and use a good quality low calorie diet.

## **How to take your own pet snaps !**

Now that the spring is arriving it's time to start thinking of taking those beautiful pictures of your pets in the garden or out on walks. You don't have to be a professional to take good quality pet pictures, here's some tips to help you capture those special moments on film.

Start off by choosing a place to shoot in good daylight, but avoiding direct sunlight. Try to avoid using flash photography where possible. Try to

avoid artificial lighting indoors, pick a spot near a window. Use zoom features where possible, the further from the camera your pet is the more relaxed it will be. Do be patient, give your pet time to adjust to its surroundings. Try to shoot in context, it's favourite spot, activity or at rest and at play. Lastly if help is needed, rope in an extra pair of hands to help your pet focus, and don't forget the rewards!!!



## Poisonous Flowers

Now we are heading towards the spring time and flowers are coming into full bloom, there is a real risk for pets ingesting certain plants which are poisonous to them.

Those more common to come across are  
 Amaryllis  
 Crocus  
 Lilly (esp to cats)  
 Buttercup  
 Chrysanthemum  
 Daffodil (bulb)  
 Foxglove  
 Hyacinth (bulb)  
 Primrose  
 And Tulip (bulb).

If you suspect that your pet has ingested one of these common flowers then immediately contact your veterinary surgeon for advice on what to do next.



## Jerky Birthday Cake For Pups

1 1/2 cups flour  
 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
 1/2 cup soft butter  
 1/2 cup corn oil  
 1 jar beef baby food  
 4 eggs  
 2 - 3 strips beef jerky  
 Pre-heat oven to 220 (gas7).  
 Grease loaf tin. Cream butter, add corn oil, babyfood and eggs and mix til smooth.

Mix dry ingredients into beef mix til smooth, crumble beef jerky and fold into batter. Pour mix into loaf tin. Bake for 1 hour 10 minutes. Leave on wire rack to cool for 15 minutes then frost with cream cheese and crumble beef jerky and sprinkle

## Top Training Tips



Give every action a name. **Keep repeating** it whilst the action is taking place.



**Be consistent** and patient. It sometimes takes hours to teach a new command or action.



**Always reward** the good behaviour. Use toys to excite or food to calm.



**Never punish.** Obedience training is always

reward based, never fear based.



If things aren't going well, **just stop** and try again later.



**Make it fun** for both of you. Vary the routines, be unpredictable and exciting.



Show **lots of excitement** and both of you run around like a mad thing when your dog has done well!!!



## FUN FUR- RY FACTS - - BUNNY'S



Did you know?.....

Rabbits can jump up to three foot (and sometimes even higher)

A rabbit can actually purr, similar to a cat. Bunnies have 28 teeth each (they also continue to grow for the whole of the life of the rabbit)

A baby bunny is called a kitten.

Rabbits can see what is behind them, without moving their head!!!

Baby rabbits are born blind and with no fur.

All rabbits have a blind spot right in front of their face.

A male rabbit is known as a buck, and a female rabbit is known as a doe.

Wild rabbits can run at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour—fast!!!

Rabbits thump their feet to warn others of danger.

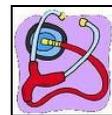
Bunnies sweat—but only in one place, that is under the pads on their feet.



## Poultry Keeping. An increasingly popular hobby.

Amazingly, poultry keeping is incredibly easy. Most backyard birds are hybrids, made specifically to be prolific layers and hardy birds perfectly suited to an urban back garden. They are excellent at pest control and actually need very little space. Your hard work will be rewarded every morning with a batch of freshly laid eggs. Plus you get lots of ready made excellent fertiliser. The equipment required is minimal; a hen house of suitable size to the number of birds, a run (unless they are to free range over the whole garden), water drinker and feeder, grit, bedding and of course some good quality food. Then away you go!!! (of course you need the girls first!!)

## Vets Versus Doctors



Is your vets advice more trustworthy than your doctors?

According to studies, 40% of the British public would rather trust the advice given by their veterinary practitioner than that of their family doctor. The younger generation are the least trusting with a resounding majority of those aged between 16 and 24 putting less trust in their doctor than their vet. This research also showed that despite the economic downturn, it isn't price that primarily determines our choice of vet. Key factors are the vets manner, how friendly their staff are and good recommendation from family and friends.