

# Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Summer  
2006

Issue 6

*WELCOME to the Summer 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 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

## Sun ... Heat... Danger ...

**With** the coming of the warmer months there are a few pointers that will ensure that we all stay "cool" for summer .

Animals can easily become overheated if left in cars, even with windows open. A dog or any other animal should never be left in a car on a hot day. Always allow your pets access

*Never leave a dog or any other pet in a*

to a cool shady area with a plentiful supply of water. Closed conservatories, in particular, can reach oven like temperatures. Shaded areas should also be provided for rabbit and guinea pig hutches.

The amount of time that an animal sun-bathes should always be regulated. White eared cats may need to have sun block applied to help prevent ear cancer. Exercise for both pets and humans alike is always better in the cooler morning or evening air.

Rabbits and other small furrries should be checked for fly strike twice daily to ensure fur is clean, dry and not matted. If you see any signs of maggots contact your vet immediately.

Vigilance is also required to check ears and coats for grass seeds and other nibbly things. Please ask your vet for advice.

## A Tale From the Hinddustan Times



**A diamond merchant in Western India whose cow swallowed a small bag of diamonds laboured for three days to get the animal to pass dung in order to recover the stones.**

He was able to retrieve 310 of the 1722 diamonds by dissecting the dung with his bare hands. Apparently the cow

ate the bag after it was left in a haystack. Mr Dilubhai Rajput said that he had not wanted to kill the cow as this would have angered animal lovers so he tried another way. He assured the reporter that he was sure that within the week he would have recovered the rest of the stones.

Aren't animals great!



## Food for Thought

Modern vaccines, advances in veterinary medicine and improvements in pet nutrition provide some of the reasons that our pets live longer.

There is a huge range of life style diets now available . Animals require different levels of nutrients and energy at different stages of their lives and these diets are tailored to provide this.

Young animals need higher levels of proteins and fatty acids whilst mature cats and dogs do not require these nutrients at such a high level. With older dogs and cats diets are formulated to reduce the burden on organs such as the liver and kidneys which may not be functioning quite so well. Feeding your pet the correct life stage diet can make a huge difference to their health. Please ask your vet for further information.

**Around this time of Year**



At this time of year one of our most distinctive native mammals, the badger, can be seen. They are a member of the weasel family with the boars ranging in weight from 9 to 16kg and the sows from 6 to 14kg. Badgers live in communal burrows which have often been occupied for generations. Cubs are generally born in February with one to four in a litter. The cubs do not usually venture out till May.

Badgers are omnivores eating anything from earthworms (probably their mainstay throughout the year) to berries

In the past they have been hunted for sport and it is now an offence to kill or injure a badger or interfere with its sett.

**RUSHWOOD NEWS**

Paws on the Park will be taking place on the 6th August. at Burrows Playing Field.

We are co-sponsoring it and hoping to raise money for Rapid UK. Attractions include fun dog competitions, Game Goer Country Display and a puppet theatre, to name but a few.

It was a great success last year and we look forward to seeing you all there.

**Spondylosis**

**Spondylosis is a condition affecting the vertebrae.**

Vertebrae are the building blocks that form the spine and run from the head to the tail. There are various types of vertebrae ranging from the cervical vertebrae in the neck region to the sacral vertebrae which then join up to the cogygeal vertebrae which make up to tail. The individual vertebrae in each section are joined by vertebral discs and synovial joints. The joint, like any other joint, can be affected by

**Helpful Hints**  
**Spondylosis is often seen in larger breeds, over weight dogs and/or dogs that lead a very active lifestyle. Boxers are particularly prone.**

arthritis which in its turn causes pain and, sometimes, inflexibility of the spine. However, changes can also affect the lower vertebrae where bony outgrowths can be seen from two adjoining vertebrae. These boney outgrowths can lead to a total bridge formation resulting in inflexibility and sometimes pain. Often, no clinical signs are seen and the finding is incidental when he dog is x-rayed for another reason. Severe cases can put pressure on the spinal chord and/or several vertebrae may also be involved and, in these cases, clinical signs can be seen.



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For more information please talk to your vet



**Hamsters**

There are many different types all with distinctive colours and markings. The bulk of their diet consists of cereals and good mixes are available. Food should be clean and dry. Plastic bowels and cages made of wood should be avoided due to their love of chewing. Many varieties of cage are available with multi level cages providing interest but care should be taken with tubes as hamsters can become stuck. Exercise is extremely important and any wheels must have a solid floor and be big enough so the hamster

does not have to bend its back . Treats can be hidden to encourage foraging. Always handle a hamster when it is fully awake and allow it to sniff you before picking up by cupping in the palms of two hands. Hamsters can suffer from a variety of illnesses ranging from diarrhoea, constipation, wet tail to overgrown nails and teeth. Please consult your vet if you have any worries.

**Fascinating Fact — The domestication of cats begun more than 5000 years ago in Africa where wildcats were attracted to stores of grain and helped to control vermin.**

**The Budgie with Vertigo**

**A fireman was greeted with a comical scene when he had to climb a 30 foot tree to rescue a budgie after hours of fruitless coaching by its 11 year old owner, who had failed to lure the bird from its perch.**

the tree as the ladders were not long enough. Apparently the fireman joked that he had tried to get the bird on to his finger but the budgie was having none of it so he grabbed it and the bird savaged him all the way down. A sub officer said that the call was one of the

The fire fighter had to climb

more unusual call outs. The operator who took the call did not want to put the call over the radio in case everyone laughed so she called the crew on their mobile. The lad was delighted to get his pet back.