

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Summer
2011

Issue 25

WELCOME to the Summer 2011 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

Animal Heroes

Many animals have special gifts. Some have natural instincts, others are trained for different purposes; either way they do some pretty amazing things. Dogs are the most commonly used animal in both prevention and detection work, but also for use in medical purposes for assistance.

The police and military use a large number of different dogs all trained for different purposes. Some, usually German shepherds, are used as multi-purpose dogs; they are capable of protection and detection work both tracking and holding criminals. Others, such as springer spaniels, are used for detection work; they are trained find scents of certain objects in any location, these scents can include drugs,



explosives, firearms and even money.

Dogs such as border collies are



used by mountain rescue teams as search and rescue dogs

trained to seek out people lost and injured in difficult terrain. Dogs such as Labradors can be used for medical purposes as assistance dogs for the blind and even for detecting epileptic fits before they occur to prevent injury. All of these dogs are pretty amazing and have very important jobs to do that would take a much larger number of people a lot longer to do.

It is not only animals that have undergone intense training that can become heroes; there are some fantastic stories of family pets doing some very heroic things.



There have been stories of cats waking their owners during a burglary or fire and even dialling 999 in an emergency. Cats are very capable of detecting fits and other non-symptomatic problems before they occur and have saved many lives this way.

Many dogs have saved families when sleeping by alerting them to carbon monoxide, fire and flooding. They are also told of saving many lives by seeking help when their family member is trapped sometimes seriously injured and leading rescuers to their location.

There are even heroic rabbits, alerting owners to fire by scratching frantically at bedroom doors.

The important thing is never to underestimate what your pet is capable of, one day they may just save your life.



Dogs on the beach

Now the warmer weather has arrived we start to think about those lovely long summer days spent on the beach with our dogs.

However, some beaches prohibit dogs for all or part of the year, some allow dogs on parts of them and others are completely open to dogs. In order to find out where you can



take your dogs, contact the local authority. Each beach will have clear signs informing dog owners of any restrictions involving their four legged friends. Although the restrictions may not be agreed with, it is important to remember that they are in place for a



reason.

Dogs may be banned for certain times of the year when the beaches become crowded, this is for the safety and comfort of everyone. Even when using a dog friendly beach, make sure that you keep your dogs under control or on a lead and clear up any mess immediately. Following these simple steps you and your family can enjoy a fun day on the beach.



Allergies in pets

Allergies in pets are quite a common occurrence.

Hay fever can affect as many as 1 in 3 dogs and cats during the seasonal changes in pollen numbers. The symptoms of hay fever are very similar to those in humans watery eyes and sneezing; but the most common symptom for our pets is generalised itching which may precede a rash affecting most commonly the face and feet. The constant scratching may lead to skin infections. Symptoms can be controlled by medication your vet can recommend.



Another common allergy suffered by our pets is food intolerance. This is a reaction to certain ingredients contained in our pets diet, usually protein based. This reaction triggers inflammatory

mechanisms causing a wide range of symptoms including itching, licking, chewing, ear infections, skin complaints and digestive upset. Diagnosis is by using an exclusion diet and slowly adding in other typical ingredients for a reaction to occur. Treatment is usually by careful monitoring of your pets diet for the rest of its life.

Flea allergies are also commonplace. This is caused by a reaction to flea saliva



which triggers an inflammatory reaction in the skin and itching leads to infections in the skin. There is no cure for this so prevention is a must.

One of the more difficult allergies to manage that our pets may suffer from is an environmental allergy. This is a reaction to airborne substances and things like house dust mites. Symptoms can include itching,



especially around the face, feet and belly; this can cause hotspots and skin or ear problems and effects pets all year round. Serum tests can be carried out to locate the exact cause for the reaction.

The best way to manage this allergy is to remove the source from the environment as far as possible. Immunotherapy is also a treatment option along with medication and bathing regularly in medicated shampoo.



Any suspected allergy should be assessed by your vet and then the correct treatment can be used. Allergies can be very uncomfortable for your pet and cause some quite severe symptoms, regular checking of the skin and ears is vital and also watching for any behavioural changes such as scratching and reluctance to walk which may be due to sore feet.

Can all dogs swim??

There are certain things we assume dogs know by instinct. Sniffing, for instance, sometimes in embarrassing places. Barking too and begging for food scraps are also things that seem to be downloaded onto a dogs internal computers at the factory!!



Then, there is swimming. It seems so much of an integral part of being a dog that we have even named a stroke after

them—the doggie paddle—so it would be assumed that it is another thing that every dog is born knowing how to do.

It turns out that this assumption is incorrect. Yes, there are the natural born swimmers; such as retrievers, new-foundlands and spaniels that are



bred to be good in the water and have powerful limbs to aid in movement through the currents. But, there are breeds; such as greyhounds, bulldogs and basset hounds, that swim with great difficulty and sometimes not at all. These dogs can sometimes be taught to swim, but, as with humans, there are



some which are just not capable.

If your dog is one of those good swimmers, it is likely that they are happier in the water than they are on dry land. There are important things to remember though when allowing your dog to swim in unknown waters. They will not be aware of the strength of currents in fast flowing rivers or in the sea and they may get swept away very quickly. It is also possible for them to swim out too far and get lost, so always check the conditions before allowing your dog to go in for a dip. Some dogs may be happier just watching and taking in the sun!!



Which breed is best to change a light bulb???

Border Collie: I'll do it. Then I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.

Rottweiler: Make me!

Lab: Oh, me, me! Pleeeease let me change the light bulb! Can I? Huh?Huh?

Dachshund: You know I can't reach the stupid light!

Jack Russell: I'll just pop it in while I'm bouncing off the walls

Greyhound: It isn't moving, who cares?

Mastiff: Do it yourself, I'm not afraid of the dark...

Boxer: Who needs light? I can still play with my toys in the dark.

Pointer: I see it, there it is, there, right there!!

Chihuahua: Yo quiero llevarse bombilla?

Australian Shepherd: First, I'll put all the bulbs in a little circle....

Basset Hound: Zzzzzzzz...

Poodle: I'll just blow in the border collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.

Golden retriever: The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a light bulb?

