

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery

People Who Know How To Care



Winter
2007

Issue 12

WELCOME to the winter 2007 issue of our Newsletter - designed to keep you up to date with Kennel and Cattery 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

Winter Care For Your Pets

Winters cold air brings many concerns for responsible pet owners. Keep the following precautions in mind:

- Don't leave your pet out in the cold for long periods of time.



- Adequate shelter is a neces-

sity. Keep your pets warm and away from drafts. Make sure there is plenty of blankets and bedding for them.

- Feed your dog extra calories if it spends a lot of time outdoors or is working. It takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperature regulated.
- When you've been walking, clean and dry off pads/paws. This helps to prevent cracked and dry pads, a little petroleum jelly may soften the pads and prevent further cracking. Salt and road chemicals can also burn pads, and they don't do the digestive tract any good either when licked off paws.
- Antifreeze is poisonous to our pets, although it tastes and smells good it can be lethal.

- Holly and mistletoe are also pet poisons. Make sure they are kept out of reach.
- Tinsel is dangerous. If ingested it may block the intestines or obstruct circulation.
- The holiday season can be a stressful time for pets with the excitement of the festive season, so try to keep to a normal schedule.

Enjoy the festive season and make sure it is enjoyable for your pets too!



would use three to four times this amount.

Critics of the idea have raised commercial, legislative and ethical objections.

The idea of blood donation in animals may be something we'll hear more of in the future.

Pet Blood Bank

Leading UK vets say a national blood bank is needed to save the lives of sick and injured dogs and cats.

The blood would be used for emergency trauma cases and



during complex operations such as heart surgery, hip replace-

ments and radiotherapy. Other surgical procedures for dogs and occasionally cats include cancer operations, heart valve replacement and heart valve repair. Mr Dan Brockman, an expert in cardiothoracic surgery, said "it should be possible to create a central blood banking facility so that blood could be extracted, stored and moved to where it was needed".

Large dogs of 25kg and above with a calm disposition are suitable donors. The dog is made to lie down, has a needle placed in a vein in its neck and 400ml blood is collected over the

RUSHWOOD NEWS

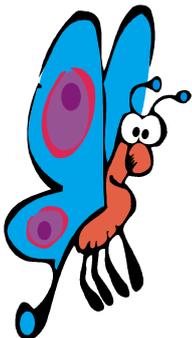
Did you know:

The following are poisonous for dogs-

- Chocolate and caffeine
- Mushrooms
- Onion and garlic
- Grapes and raisins
- Alcoholic beverages
- Cat food
- Human vitamin supplements
- Raw fish
- Raw eggs
- Tobacco
- Fat trimmings
- Potato and rhubarb



Everyone at Rushwood would like to wish all our clients, both human and furry, an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you again soon in 2008.



Appetite Loss In Cats And Dogs

Generally speaking good appetite is associated with good health and loss of appetite with illness or injury. Outlined below are some factors to why pets sometimes go off their food.

Smell- food selection is initiated by smell perception. Puppies have a well-developed sense of smell at birth but in kittens it takes about 3 weeks to develop. Smell perception can be modulated by factors inherent in the individual, different dog breeds for example.

Taste - this can be influenced by the animals hormonal status, age and health.

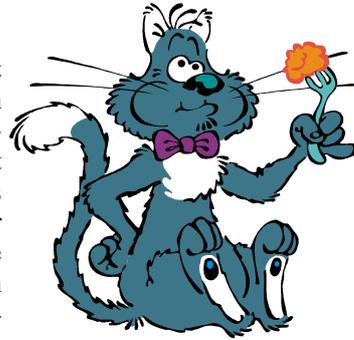
Some diseases such as hypothyroidism and diabetes can affect taste. Acquired preferences for taste can be the result of copying (of the bitch or queen) and early feeding experiences.

Environment - this can have a profound effect on a pet's appetite. Fear or dominance may result in p s e u d o - a n o r e x i a .

The addition of another animal, a new baby, a house move, feelings of neglect or simply a change in diet may

lead to reduced appetite. Cats may show a preference for china or plastic bowls rather than stainless steel, and shallow bowls that do not stimulate their whiskers may be preferred. Relationships with owners can influence the types of food chosen and the number of meals given.

If you are concerned that your pet has lost his or her appetite without any obvious sudden changes in lifestyle please consult your vet who will be able to advise.



Introducing Your Dog To The Family

Introducing a new pet to the family is always an exciting time, but there are some considerations to take into account.

When introducing your dog to the children, even if used to children, a new dog will not be used to yours and will need time to get to know them. Help prevent your dog feeling overwhelmed by encouraging him to approach the children rather the other way round. This prevents feelings of threat with the dog being less likely to snap. In the same way dogs do not always appreciate being hugged unless they are famil-

iar with it from an early age. If you are re-homing a dog, you will need to slowly find out what he will accept. Supervise constantly to ensure there is no unacceptable behaviour from either your dog or child.

Children have to learn not to tease or bully the dog, and the dog has to learn not to jump up, be too boisterous or nip them during play. Some dogs, such as collies, have a have a strong herding instinct and may nip at children's ankles, causing them to squeal and run away. This excites the dog and encourages it to do more. This type

of behaviour needs to be stopped before it becomes a habit

With regard to meeting other dogs in the home it is best to introduce on neutral territory. Taking both dogs out for a long walk together will help as they will get to know each other as they walk. Before allowing them in to the house remove anything they are likely to fight over, such as toys and bones and ignore the dogs until they settle.

Did you know
50,000 dogs are stolen each year. Dog kidnapping is big business with owners only having a slim chance of being re-united. Keeping gates secure and micro-chipping and neutering are your best defence.

A Bunny's Social Life

In the wild rabbits live in large groups, so a single rabbit is a lonely rabbit.

A compatible pair is best and neutering them will prevent unwanted litters or fighting.



All rabbits are different, some like to be handled, others do not. Animals that are correctly/regularly handled from an early age will enjoy the experience.