

Rushwood

Luxury Boarding Kennels & Cattery



Winter
2010

Issue 23

People Who Know How To Care

WELCOME to the Winter 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 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

Don't go Crackers over Christmas

Giving your pets special food treats may seem like a nice way to include them in the festivities but you may be harming their health. Strange foods can trigger a food intolerance reaction in your pet causing painful pancreatitis or skin problems.

Top Tips

Make sure left overs are away somewhere out of reach.

Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure.

Don't leave toys lying around, they can be chewed and ingested especially the small parts.

Remove plastic bags, tinsel, balloons and other sharp objects that can be dangerous if swallowed.

Keep houseplants out of reach as many that we have around at Christmas time are toxic including poinsettias and mistletoe.

Beware of chocolate. Theobromine contained in human chocolate causes poisoning in dogs that can be lethal if ingested in large enough quantities.

Christmas trees themselves can be a tempting hazard for our feline friends, the urge to climb too strong to resist. This can cause them to become entangled in lights and tinsel and also to cut themselves on broken



baubles.

Tempting presents under the tree are irresistible to a dog's sensitive nose; place presents carefully as they may contain something harmful to your pet.

Children and pets

It is commonplace for children and pets to form a close bond and for the relationship to bring real benefits with a child becoming more outgoing and confident.

Children will develop an appreciation of nature and respect for creatures great and small. It can help develop empathy and gives them the ability to be gentle and caring. Both children and pets require unconditional love and attention and the pet can also act as a companion and sounding board that doesn't pass judgement!!

Any pet can offer these crucial developmental aids. Dogs and cats are the obvious choice, but small animals such as rabbits and even birds can also offer invaluable support.

Important issues to remember are not to leave child and pet unattended, maintain regular parasite control and vet checks and always demonstrate to a child how to stroke gently and

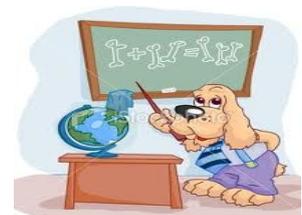


correctly. The above is not exhaustive and veterinary advice should be sought if in doubt.

Dog Lessons

As written by The Dog.

1. Don't leave home without your ID
2. If you stare at someone long enough eventually you will get what you want.
3. Be direct with people; let them know exactly how you feel by piddling on their shoes.
4. Be aware of when to hold your tongue and when to use it.
5. Leave room in your schedule for a good nap.
6. Always give people a friendly greeting. A cold nose in the crotch is most effective.
7. When you do something wrong always take responsibility (as soon as you are dragged shamefully out from under the bed).
8. If it is not wet and sloppy it is not a real kiss.



Dogs in Winter

Dogs don't like being cold any more than we do.

It is important to provide a warm bed in a draft free area. If your dog is old or just sensitive to the cold there are coats or fleeces for when your pet is exposed to those chilling temperatures.

Clean fresh drinking water must

always be available. This may mean bringing all water inside or just making sure it is regularly checked for ice as even when broken this can cut a dogs tongue and cause a lot of discomfort.

Make sure that any open fires are adequately protected from pets getting too

close. Water

and ice can pose a huge threat to over eager dogs ploughing across an apparently frozen over pond.

The ice may not be as thick as it looks and if a dog falls through the ice into the freezing water below it can be fatal. Always keep dogs away from these risks and keep them on a lead if necessary.

Snow is another hazard that looks inviting for some dogs. As it covers objects including sharp ones meaning your dog may run over them and cut its foot. Keep a first aid kit handy and check paws after each



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Housing your rabbit over winter



It is important to make any repairs to your rabbits home and make sure it's water tight. This prevents bedding getting wet and bunnies getting cold.

Hutches should be raised up off the ground to prevent the base from becoming damp. A brick in each corner will suffice if it doesn't have legs.

Covering the whole hutch with an old blanket or tarpaulin will help keep the heat in and the weather out. During the day leave the front open to ventilate and at night cover the majority of the hutch leaving a smaller area open.



Rabbits need a warm, snug bed area. This should be the equivalent of a box with an entrance hole. Often hutches have a bed area divided from the main hutch. Provide extra bedding, and a thicker layer of the litter you usually use for the floor.

If possible move the hutch into a shed or garage to help keep it warm. Do not put in a garage that you also use for your car as the fumes pose a health hazard.



walk. Snow can also become impacted between pads and form balls of ice which are uncomfortable and can cause sores. Wash any ice crystals away with warm water to help dissolve them and dry off thoroughly. This also helps to rinse off any salt, grit or other ice melting chemicals that have been used on roads or footpaths to prevent irritation or the dog licking it off as these chemicals can cause problems.

Trimming hair between the pads and around them helps to prevent the build up of compacted ice.

Longer coated dogs may also gather up ice balls in their coats, especially under their bellies. Dogs may also become disorientated as they lose their sense of smell and direction in snow which can result in a lost dog. Keep your dog close at all times.



Older dogs are less able to deal with cold weather as it becomes more difficult to regulate body temperature as age increases. The cold can aggravate physical conditions such as arthritis. It will also take an old dog longer to warm up when moved between areas differing in temperature.

Keep oldies warm indoors and take all precaution's when they are outside, coats and extra heating are the best ways to do this.



From all of us here at Rushwood we wish you and your pets a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to seeing you again in 2011.

Santa Paws

is coming to Rushwood!!

If your pet is staying with us here at Rushwood over the holidays, do not despair, Santa Paws will make a visit!!



If your dog or cat has presents to open on Christmas day the staff here will help them unwrap their goodies and share in the festive spirit.



Although pets are welcome here all over the Christmas holiday, our office hours do change.

Christmas Eve **9-11am**
 Christmas Day **CLOSED**
 Boxing Day **CLOSED**
 December 27th **3-5pm**
 December 28th **3-5pm**
 December 29th and 30th **9-5**
 New Years Eve **9-11 am**
 New Years Day **CLOSED**
 January 2nd **3-5pm**
 January 3rd **3-5pm**

