



DBKC NEWS!

Holiday Edition!

A pet is for life, not just for Christmas



Welcome to the second edition of DBKC News!

Holiday time is almost upon us with National Day, Christmas and New Year all happening this month. If you haven't made your boarding bookings yet, please do so asap.

This month we've launched our new "Get to Know Us" segment, and over the next year you will get to meet all the team.

We received some fantastic

entries for the calendar competition, and the 2013 calendar will be ready soon!

We also have some dogs looking for new, forever homes, so if you can adopt or foster, please let us know.

Have a great holiday season and see you in the New Year!



Tracy Whelan

Get To Know Us

This month we focus on finding out more about Suranga Manoj. Suranga has been in Bahrain for 6 years and has been working at Delmon Kennels for 5 and a half of that. He is the supervisor of the team looking after the dogs and cats on a daily basis. He's from Sri Lanka, was born in 1984 and is 28 years old.

He's married and has a daughter. In his spare time

Suranga is an active 'Tweeter' and loves cricket. He's great at his job and has a wonderfully calm and patient manner with the dogs & cats at the kennels.

We asked him what he loved most about working with dogs and he said grooming them, and as you can see from the photo, he's good at it too!



ISSUE 2 – DECEMBER 2012

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And, Vet's Corner looks at the importance of Vaccinations.

Also, don't forget to have a go at the 'What are they saying' photos on page 5!

"Dogs have owners, cats have staff!"

Ask Pauline

This month's Ask Pauline question comes from one of our readers. The question is "is it safe for pets to drink the tap water in Bahrain?"

In order to answer this question we need to look at the type of water we have in Bahrain and what it is made up of. The tap water in Bahrain is hard, desalinated water, and therefore it does have increased levels of sodium. The average levels here are 309.4 mg per litre of water.

This average exceeds the drinking water standard as recommended by the World Health Organisation who specify a limit of 200 mg per litre of water.

People that are new to Bahrain often notice the difference in the water when showering and some can even suffer from dry skin for a few months until they adapt to the different water.

As a result of the hardness and the sodium levels, the tap water is unsuitable for people to drink and therefore is not suitable for your pet either.

Instead, where possible, give your pet bottled, sweet or filtered water.

If you have a question for next month's AskPauline, please send it to newsletter@delmonkennels.com



What you know you know, what you don't know, you.....

Ask Pauline!

Puppy Progress

Mum & Pups @ 2 weeks old



Our puppies are now 6 weeks old and are growing quickly, as you can see from the photos. This month we'll talk about the key development stages from birth to 6 weeks.

Birth - 2 weeks

During the first 2 weeks the puppies are completely reliant on mum for everything. They cannot see or hear at this stage, however they can use their sense of smell and touch which helps them find mum to feed. During this time, they spend almost 90% of the time sleeping! By the time they are 2 weeks old they have started crawling around, using their front legs to essentially drag the rest of their little bodies around.

Happiness is a warm puppy.

Dad



Puppy @ 2 weeks old



Puppies @ 3 weeks old



Puppies @ 6 weeks old



2 weeks – 4 weeks

From 2 weeks, great changes start to happen. Their eyes and ears start to open and they get a better sense of the world they live in. They start to expand their own vocabulary from grunts and mews to yelps, whines and barks. At this point, they can also start to be handled. Handling them is an important part of their development as it gets them ready for developing a good and positive relationship with humans in the future. Around the 21 day mark they would typically start to walk, and that's when all the fun begins, especially if mum has a large litter!

Puppies also begin to go from total dependence on mum, to a bit of independence. They start to play with their litter mates, learn about their environment and may even begin sampling food from mum's bowl. Puppy teeth start to grow and it will take until week 6 for them to have all their baby teeth.

They are now also able to control their need to go to the toilet and you see them start to move away from their sleeping quarters to potty.

4 weeks – 6 weeks

From 4 weeks, mum's milk production begins to slow down. This happens around a time that the puppies energy needs increase, and is therefore when weaning starts and they sample solid food in earnest.

Continued socialisation with their litter mates and humans is very important during this phase and up until 3 months old they should be given as many opportunities to experience new things as they possibly can. Reputable dog breeders will start introducing them to new sounds, for instance the vacuum cleaner, so they get used to them and are not afraid.

During this time, they should not mix with other dogs as they have not yet been vaccinated and it could put them at risk. You should also keep them indoors only during this time.

Next month we'll look at the next stages of development and look at vaccinations and when they will be ready to go to new families.

If you have any specific puppy related questions, please write to us at newsletter@delmonkennels.com



Monthly Breed Profile

Scottish Fold

In last month's edition we said we would look at the Miniature Schnauzer this month. However, as a result of feedback from the first edition we are also going to use this item to look at the different cat breeds and will alternate between dogs and cats. So this month, we will start with our first cat breed, The Scottish Fold.

The Scottish Fold is a breed with a gene mutation that makes its ear cartilage contain a fold, which causes the ears to bend down and forward towards the front of their head. Originally called lop-eared, the breed name changed to Scottish Fold in the 1960's.

When born, the kittens have straight ears that begin to fold in at three weeks. Despite the shape, they function just like the ears of a regular cat.

The Scottish Fold is an intelligent and sweet tempered cat. They are loyal and tend to bond to one person in the household. They are not however a clingy or demanding breed. They also adjust to other animals within a household extremely well so could be a good

choice for families with other pets.

Although mostly healthy, there are some breed lines that carry genetic deformities that affect the skeleton of the cat. Therefore potential buyers should be wary and ask for the pedigree of a kitten before purchasing.

You can get both short haired and long haired Scottish Folds, and in a number of different colours. To care for your Scottish Fold, you should undertake regular brushing, especially if they are long haired, to reduce the likelihood of the coat getting matted. Regular cleaning around the ears is also important as they can get additional wax build up because of the shape.

We aren't aware of any Scottish Fold's in Bahrain, so if you know of any, please let us know and send us a photo.

Next month we'll look at the dog breed the Miniature Schnauzer.

A DOG'S RULES FOR CHRISTMAS!

Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual and they will appreciate long comforting dog leans.

They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.

Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers!!

They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know: -

- Don't pee on the tree
- Don't drink water from the container that holds the tree
- Mind your tail when you are near the tree
- If there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, don't rip them open
- Don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree

Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part: -

- Not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans
- Don't eat off the buffet table!
- Beg for goodies subtly
- Be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa
- Don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach

Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be important:

- Observe all the rules for trees that may be in other people's houses
- Respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house
- Tolerate children
- Turn on your charm big time!

A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night. DON'T BITE HIM!!



WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?!



Suggestions by email to:

newsletter@delmonkennels.com

The best will win a voucher for a free swim.

Entries by the 19th December 2012. Judges decisions are final!

The winner from last month is Eleana Zachariades. She said the pets were saying

Dog – "Look, I took a bath under the water sprinkler! May I please have a treat?"

Cat – "Your curtains will pay for this...!"

If you have any photos that can be used for future editions, please send them to newsletter@delmonkennels.com

Vet's Corner

This month's Vets Corner focuses on the importance of vaccinations.

Both cats and dogs should be vaccinated to protect them from a number of diseases, some of which can be life threatening.

The vaccines for dogs are distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and leptospirosis. You should however consult with your vet regarding this.

For cats the vaccines are feline calici, rhinotracheitis and panleukopenia. It is known as the Tri-cat vaccination and all 3 are given in one injection.

As with human vaccinations, a small amount of the virus is given to the animal and this triggers the animal's

immune system to build antibodies.

Both puppies & kittens should be vaccinated at 8 weeks with booster shots as recommended by your vet.

Annual booster injections must be given to ensure your pet continues to have the necessary protection. It's also important that your pet's Vet Book is kept up to date showing what vaccines they have had and when.

So, if your pet hasn't been vaccinated or you're due for annual boosters, consult with your vet to get the necessary treatment.



The best doctor in the world is a vet. He can't ask his patients what's wrong – he just has to know.

Cats Motto: No matter what you've done wrong, always try and make it look as if the dog did it!

New for 2013!



PETS LOVE CHRISTMAS BECAUSE THEY GET TO WEAR ALL OF THEIR FAVOURITE OUTFITS.

From January 2013 we're launching a new "Dog Training Programme". It will consist of 4 modules lasting 6 weeks each.

During the modules your dog will learn all the key obedience skills so that you can be confident that they will behave themselves when you need them to!

The four modules are mysteriously called Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 and Stage 4! Regular attendees of the Saturday Group Training can sign up for a 'Fast Track' option.

For more information or to express an interest, drop us an email at newsletter@delmonkennels.com

Feedback & Suggestions

If you have any feedback, suggestions for articles, or questions for Ask Pauline, please write to us at

newsletter@delmonkennels.com



Delmon Boarding Kennels