



DBKC NEWS!



So Valentines Day is almost upon us! A time for letting the important people in your life know you love them and that includes your pets!

In this month's edition we find out more about how to stop your dog digging in your garden, together with a full page on Ticks and Tick Fever an unpleasant but

important subject! Our puppies have progressed to the house training stage and you can also find out more about Dougal, a lovely small charcoal coloured male dog that is currently looking for a new home.

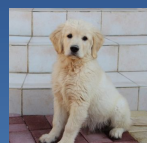


Tracy Whelan

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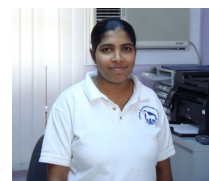
And don't forget to have a go at our What are they Saying on page 4!

"Animals are such agreeable friends – they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms"

Get To Know Us

For most people, when they arrive at Delmon Kennels, the first person they see is Sajee on reception. So this month we're going to find out more about her. Sajee's full name is H M Thaksila Herath and her husband also works at the kennels, but we'll find out more about him in a future edition. Sajee has been in Bahrain for 6 years and at Delmon Kennels for 1 year and 5 months. In August last year, she had her first child, a gorgeous little boy who is now 6 months old. His

name is Induranga Dissanayaka. In her spare time Sajee likes going out and watching movies. She enjoys working at the kennels because she can meet new people and talk to them about the services the kennels offer. Her biggest achievement has been building her own house in Sri Lanka and knowing that when her family returns there that they have a great place to live.



Ask Pauline

This month's question comes from a kennels customer who asks 'my dog has recently started digging in my garden and I need him to stop! What suggestions do you have to stop this?

In order to stop your dog from digging, you need to understand why he has started doing it. Dogs are a little like children in that they can't amuse themselves and need you to provide structure for them. Dogs are not self-motivating, so when you put them outside in the garden they will likely go to the toilet and then not know what else to do! They don't 'have a plan' for their time outside and unless they've been for a long walk and are tired, they are unlikely to enjoy just lying around. It can be boring for them!

Wild dogs often dig and hide food so that they can come back and eat it later; Dogs that are overheating have been known to dig down to cooler soil or sand and lie in the hole to help them cool down; Pregnant dogs have been known to dig in a 'nesting' manner before they give birth. If your dog is digging for none of these reasons, you

need to ask yourself why they are? Are they attention seeking? Do they know that if they dig you will come outside and stop them? Negative attention is better than being alone!

It's also worth considering why you put your dog outside and how long they are there on their own. Is it just to go to the toilet? Is it to get a break from them when they are misbehaving? Is it to burn off excess energy? It is so you don't have to walk them today? Once you understand your motivations for putting them in your garden and how you want them to behave, you can start to make a plan to amuse them during this time. Putting them outside without something to occupy them or someone to play with, is boring for them and just encourages them to get into mischief!

In next month's Ask Pauline we'll give you ideas and suggestions of how to constructively occupy your dog when he's in the garden so that he won't want to dig.



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

Ask Pauline!

2013 Dog Training Programme



On Sunday the 6th January we started the new 2013 Dog Training Programme. We have had an amazing amount of interest and are now running 5 sessions of Stage 1 on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday & 2 sessions on a Saturday morning.

During Stage 1 we learn the basics of walking to heel, standing, examining your dog, sitting and much more. In week 7 we will demonstrate these skills and if successful, will receive a certificate and a rosette, and will then be allowed to progress to Stage 2.



If you are interested in joining in on the next group for Stage 1, please let us know. Once we have a group of 6 we will arrange a date and get the next group started.

If you have any questions or would like to express an interest in joining in, please email us at newsletter@delmonkennels.com





Monthly Breed Profile

The Cornish Rex

The story of the Cornish Rex begins in 1950 in Cornwall in the UK, when a tortoiseshell cat gave birth to a litter of 5 and one of the 5 had an unusually curly coat. This kitten was the founder of the breed.

The Cornish Rex is a medium sized cat with a short coat and a slender build. They have long legs and a long and tapering tail. Although the Cornish Rex is a fine boned cat, it can be muscular and athletic and can make fast turns and high jumps. The best way to sum up a Cornish Rex is elegant, agile and very active!

They crave companionship so are ideal for families where someone is around most of the time. If you do need be away for more than a few hours a day, it is worth getting another active cat to keep them company.

The coat of a Cornish Rex is short, soft, dense and luxurious to the touch, feeling like crushed velvet. They have neat and even waves over their body and tail whilst on the head, legs and paws it is short and

plush. At birth, kittens are covered in curls and as they dry it develops into waves or ripples, making them look similar to a little lamb!

The Cornish Rex has low grooming requirements, so a regular brush will help keep the coat looking its best. As the coat is so short it doesn't offer the normal protection, so you should keep them warm and dry, and whilst the Cornish Rex is not entirely 'shed-free', it sheds less than other cat breeds.

They have also been known to learn how to open drawers and cupboards with their incredibly agile paws.

So if you're looking for an active cat that loves to be with people, the Cornish Rex could be the cat for you!

Next month we're back to dogs and will be looking at the Husky.

Puppy Progress

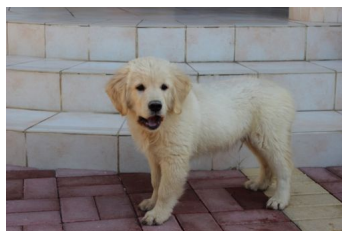
Our puppies are now all in their new homes and adapting to being away from mum. As you can see from the photos below, they continue to grow and are still as gorgeous as ever! This month we're going to look at two important topics if you have, or are thinking of getting a puppy, House Training & Crate Training.

When you bring your new puppy, or even your new dog, into your home for the first time, it is important that you don't give them the full run of your home and whip them up into a state of excitement! An excited dog may not be able to hold himself and may toilet in the wrong place, which will get you off to the wrong start. If your dog does have an accident, it's important to stay calm and not shout. Your dog doesn't speak English and therefore doesn't understand what you are saying! One of the quickest ways to toilet train is to reward your dog every time they go in the correct place and the best way to do this is with treats and with love. So a 'good girl' or a 'good boy' will go a long way to help them learn. Saying nothing and clearing up the accident if it happens, sends a signal to your dog, and they remember that if they went in the other place, they got praise and a treat! Puppies bladders are also small, so you need to be taking them outside to toilet regularly. As they grow, their bladders can hold more and you can gradually lengthen the time between toilet times.

The other important thing to do if there is an accident, is to clean it up thoroughly. You need to remove the ammonia smell as otherwise the lingering smell will encourage your dog to repeat going to the toilet in that spot. A large number of household cleaning products naturally contain ammonia, so it may clean up the mess, but they actually make the smell linger. So the best things to use are either a solution of non-biological washing powder and water, or a solution of 50% white vinegar and 50% water. Both of these will completely remove the smell and can be safely used on soft furnishings too.

Getting your puppy a crate will help define their 'own space' and can be used for them to sleep in. It's also good for them to get used to having time in their crate during the day so that you can put them in it when you need to go out. Having a crate and having their 'own space' helps a puppy understand that it does not have the free run of your home, but that it does have a safe place that it can go to. To start, your puppy may whine or bark when first put in its crate, but if you ensure there is a soft bed and maybe a chew to keep him occupied, he will slowly learn that this is a nice place to be. However, if you let your puppy out of the crate when he whines, you will undermine the positive work you have started and he will learn that all he has to do is whine to get your attention! Putting puppy in the crate for short periods of time and then building up to longer periods is also an idea to help them learn the crate is a great place to be.

Next month we'll look at establishing a good feeding routine.



The best way to get a puppy is to beg for a baby brother. They'll settle for a puppy every time!

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?!



Suggestions by email to:

newsletter@delmonkennels.com

The best will win a voucher for a free swim.

Entries by the 21st February 2013.
Judges decisions are final!

The winner from last month was
Susanne Chabara who said:

Cat - Ouch!!

Dog - Surprise ... new dentures!!

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

Vets Corner



In this month's Vets Corner we're going to look at the topic of Ticks and Tick Fever. An unpleasant topic, but an important one!

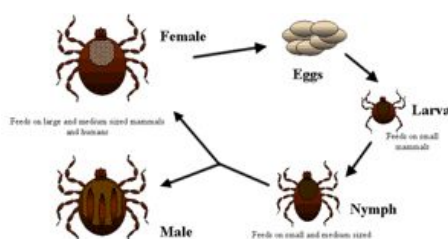
For those of you that don't know what a Tick looks like, see the picture above. This is however a large tick that has already embedded into a host and fed on blood. The head of the tick is clearly visible as the black section and the legs and the grey portion is the body that has grown as more blood has been taken. But let's start with where ticks are most commonly found and how they get on our pets.

Ticks are commonly found on farm and stray animals, so if you live anywhere near camels, sheep or goats, or there are wild dogs near you, your pets could be at risk. One in 1000 ticks in Bahrain carry a bacterial infection called Ehrlichia and if the infected tick attaches to your pet and feeds on its blood, it will pass on the infection. This infection can only be spread by direct tick to animal biting and cannot be passed from pet to pet or from pet to human. If an infected tick bit a person, they too could have the bacteria passed to them and the human form of the disease is known as Lyme disease.

So what can you do to stop your pet getting Ticks? Well the first thing is to ensure that your pet is on a monthly preventative treatment. These often come as a combined tick and flea treatment and Frontline is an example of this. Regular use of Frontline will help prevent the tick attaching to your pet to suck its blood. If it can't attach and feed, then it can't pass on the bacteria. Regular grooming is also important to ensure that if there are ticks on your pet, that

you remove them as soon as you can. It's not always easy to spot a Larva tick, because they are like small black dots, as the photo to the bottom right shows. You can also buy flea and tick shampoos to help boost protection.

So what do you do if you find a tick on your pet? If the tick is just in your pet's fur and has not attached and is not feeding on blood, then you must remove it from the fur and destroy it. Before removing any ticks (Larva or Adult), you should put on gloves. After all, you don't want the tick to attach onto you, remember you are as much at risk as your pet. Once you have gloves on, think about how you will kill it. Putting it in the bin or down the sink will not kill it. Putting it in alcohol or in washing up liquid will kill it. If the tick is not attached, you will be able to just pick it out of the fur. However if it is attached you will need to remove it and ensure that when it is removed that the head is removed too. If you just remove part of the tick it will regrow and continue to feed on the blood of your pet. You can purchase special tick removal tools to help ensure you get all parts of the tick out. But the key is to pull straight upwards with steady, even pressure. DO NOT squeeze to crush the body, as this will just encourage the tick to share its saliva and any bacteria. Each female tick is capable of laying approximately 3000 eggs! So, once you've found a tick on your pet it is vital that you continue to use the preventative treatment and continue to look for any ticks on your pet, and remove them.



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



So how do you know if your pet has Tick Fever? They could start to show symptoms including fever, nosebleeds, nose and eye discharges, loss of appetite and also weight loss. In its chronic form, the disease does result in serious illness which can affect the nervous system, eyes and kidneys and in the worst case scenario may even lead to the death of the pet. If you think your pet may have been at risk, or is showing symptoms, then you can have a Tick Fever Test at your vet. It is a simple blood test that takes a few minutes. In the event of a positive test result then a course of treatment can be started which is generally successful if started early.

If you get into the habit of regularly using the preventative treatments and regularly checking your pets for any sign of ticks, then the risk of catching Tick Fever will be substantially reduced.

Looking for a home

In mid-January, Dougal came to the kennels looking for a new home. He wasn't feeling so well at the beginning and desperately needed a haircut as Photo 1 shows! However, we looked after him and gave him time to recover, and spent the first few days getting to know him. He had a haircut towards the end of the first week and as you can see, he started to look and feel a lot better. He is a 2 year old, neutered male and is charcoal coloured, with a white chest and light grey socks. He is a cross breed, likely including some terrier. Initially he can be a little unsure around strangers. However once he knows you and is more relaxed, he is a friendly little boy and is eager to please. He has clearly done some training in the past, because he knows how to walk nicely on a lead and how to sit and stay when told. He is looking for a home that does not have young children and who will commit to groom him regularly and challenge him with new experiences and training. If you think you could be right for him and would like to meet him, contact us at Delmon Kennels on 17694066 or at newsletter@delmonkennels.com.

Photo 1



Dogs have their day, but cats have 365!



"You're kidding, right?"

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