



DBKC NEWS!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



It's hard to believe that March is already upon us! I hope you've been making the most of the nice weather. Time is flying fast and it's been a busy first quarter for us. The new training programme is well

underway with 5 groups already doing Stage 1, a Stage 2 group will start shortly, and we already have a list for upcoming courses.

Have a great March!



Tracy Whelan

B D Saman Kumara Vijepala, or Saman as he's known, has been in Bahrain for 10 years, and has worked at Delmon Kennels for 2 years. Saman is our driver and can often be seen shuttling pets to and from the kennels in the van. He also works with Tim at Delmon Pets Relocators, so often visits the airport to pick up and drop off those pets that are arriving into, or leaving Bahrain.

Get to Know Us

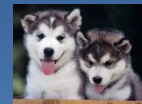
Saman is from Sri Lanka, has a daughter called Risha, and in his spare time he likes to play cricket. He likes working with, and playing with, the dogs in his care, which is what he likes most about working at the kennels. He's proud of his achievements and most of all is proud that he's finished his house in Sri Lanka.



ISSUE 5 / MARCH 2013

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Ask Pauline – this month's topic is Part 2 of our article about stopping your dog from digging!

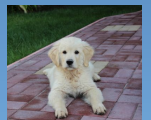


Monthly Breed Focus – This month we focus on the Husky. Find out more about this gorgeous breed on pages 2 & 3.



This edition's Vets Corner focuses on obesity in pets

Puppy Progress – This month is all about establishing a good feeding routine for your puppy



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

'Time spent with a cat is never wasted'



Monthly Breed Profile Huskies

This beautiful breed is surprisingly popular in Bahrain, despite the summer heat. So let's find out more about them.

The Siberian Husky is believed to have originated among the Chukchi, a tribe of Siberian nomads. In 1908 they were imported to Alaska to be used as sled dogs during the gold rush and huskies pulling sleds are the iconic pictures we always see. It's important to remember though that these are working dogs and this determines their exercise needs.

The breed is generally medium sized and possesses power and athleticism, together with an amazing ability to learn. Many people fall in love with the look of this breed, but don't fully understand the type of dog they are taking on and how challenging they can be!

Huskies are intelligent, independent, curious and affectionate with everyone and therefore they don't make good guard dogs. Although they are

intelligent, they are often very difficult to train. They need an owner who is confident and assertive and who will set rules and deliver consistency. They are pack animals and need to know that their owner is clearly the leader of their pack.

They are also known as escape artists and will wander away given the chance. Therefore you need a secure garden for them. They are great diggers, so if you have a fence around your garden, make sure it is sunk well into the ground!

It's good practice to always keep them on a lead when outside your garden, as their natural curiosity and love of chasing things can take over, and before you know it, they can be gone.

Huskies are great dogs for active and energetic families and make great jogging companions. If jogging isn't your thing though, don't worry!

..... continued on page 3

Ask Pauline

Last month we started answering the question 'how do I stop my dog digging in the garden?' and we looked at the reasons why your dog may be digging. The most common reason a dog digs in the garden is because they are bored! So, let's look at what you can do occupy them and use their time in the garden more constructively.

Let's break it down into a couple of parts; activities to keep your dog occupied whilst on their own and activities for them to do whilst interacting with you.

If your dog is going to be on his own in the garden for a short time, it's important to give him something to do. You could use rawhide chews to occupy him, you could hide treats around your garden for him to find and then enjoy, or you could give him something like a puzzle toy that dispenses treats or a toy stuffed with food. Notice how each suggestion has a 'reward' for your dog for

spending time on his own doing a positive activity. During this time, you shouldn't forget your dog! Watch him through the window, or check on him regularly. This way if he gets distracted and starts digging, you can redirect the negative behaviour back to the positive activity.

If you are going to be with your dog and interacting with him, you can be a bit more creative! You could create simple agility jumps for him with plant pots and bamboo sticks, you could play hide and seek where you hide in the garden and he has to find you, you could play fetch with a favourite toy or you could use large bowls or hula hoops to make other agility type games. Alternatively, purpose made agility equipment is freely available and is relatively inexpensive if you'd prefer to buy some.

If you have a question for next months Ask Pauline, please send it to newsletter@delmonkennels.com



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

Ask Pauline!

Breed Profile continued!

You should however exercise them for roughly 1 hour a day, more if you can, especially during the cooler weather. Making sure they don't overheat during the summer is essential, so exercise should be limited. Indoor treadmills are great solutions for them during the hot summer.

They have a beautiful coat and when kept in colder climates they are low shedders. However in warmer climates they will shed more often and should be brushed at least once a week and daily during the shedding period. They also can do something called 'blow their coat' which means they drop large amounts of hair all at once. During this time you must brush daily and this could last up to 3 weeks. All this shedding means that you will be great friends with your vacuum cleaner!

Huskies rarely bark, but have been known to howl if bored, or if not exercised enough. Puppies should be given early exposure to many different people, sights, sounds and experiences and should be socialised with other dogs. This will help ensure you end up with a well-rounded dog.

So this beautiful breed can make a great pet, as long you exercise them thoroughly, challenge their minds with training, understanding their difficult traits and make it clear that you are the pack leader.

Next month we'll take a look at the cat breed the Persian.

Puppy Progress

It's often difficult once you bring your puppy home to know when you should feed them and how this relates to their toileting. So this month we're going to look at this topic.

When your puppy is less than 6 months old, they are growing rapidly and therefore it's necessary best to feed them 3 meals a day; early morning, lunchtime, and around 5pm. When you give them their food, if they don't eat all of it, remove it after 10-15 minutes. You want them to know when feeding time is, and for them to be hungry when food is provided. You can of course use treats as rewards between meals as required. Over time, you should reduce the number of meals to two, and then, depending on the dog, when they are full grown you may even reduce them to one meal a day. Although food shouldn't be made available all day, it is very important that water is always available. This is even more important if you are feeding dry food and during the warmer weather. If you dropped a couple of pieces of dry food into a glass of water you'd be amazed at how much they can absorb! Another option is to dampen the dry food before giving it to your dog. This helps them digest it better.

So should you feed dry or wet food? The answer to this question is it's really up to you. Either way, you should ensure that the food you give your puppy has all the necessary calories and nutrition to help them grow and give them energy. Buy the best you can afford.

Should you give your puppy meat? Healthy and balanced is the important thing to remember. Too much meat in a dog's diet can lead to excess energy, which could turn into aggression if not handled properly. So, find a food that meets all your puppies needs.

After eating, your puppy will digest his food and typically go to the toilet within an hour. This isn't an exact science, so watch your puppy for the first few days and see what routine they follow. Once you know, you can manage the toileting routine better and ensure you have fewer accidents around the home.

Next month we're going to meet the families and get to know what names they have given the puppies.



WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?!



Suggestions by email to:
newsletter@delmonkennels.com

The best will win a voucher for a free swim.

Entries by the 23rd March 2013 to
newsletter@delmonkennels.com

Judges decisions are final!

The winner from last month was
Angela Rawson who said:

Cat : There's never anything on
TV these days

Dog - Which way is Down
Under?!

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

Where did that breed come from?

Match each country with the breed that originated there.
Use the hints below to help you.



AUSTRALIA	CHINA	EGYPT	ENGLAND	GERMANY
SCOTLAND	IRELAND	TURKEY	HOLLAND	
MEXICO	SWITZERLAND	UNITED STATES	CANADA	

1. **Saint Bernard**
CLUE: This country is famous for its skiing. _____
2. **Boston Terrier**
CLUE: Named after a famous city in this country. _____
3. **Bulldog**
CLUE: Official mascot of this country, where "tea time" is a national tradition _____
4. **Chihuahua**
CLUE: This country is a neighbor to the US, south of Texas. _____
5. **Keeshond**
CLUE: This country is famous for its tulips and wooden shoes. _____
6. **Rottweiler**
CLUE: This country, once divided into East and West, reunited. _____
7. **Pharaoh Hound**
CLUE: This breed got its name from the former kings of this country. _____
8. **Shih Tzu**
CLUE: This breed existed when the Tang Dynasty ruled this Asian country. _____
9. **Silky Terrier**
CLUE: This country is called "the land down under." _____
10. **Gordon Setter**
CLUE: Bagpipes make you think of this country. _____
11. **Anatolian Shepherd Dog**
CLUE: This country has the same name as a large bird _____
12. **Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever**
CLUE: This country borders the US to the North. _____
13. **Kerry Blue Terrier**
CLUE: People celebrate this country on St. Patrick's Day. _____

Answers: 1. Switzerland 2. United States 3. England 4. Mexico 5. Holland 6. Germany 7. Egypt
8. China 9. Australia 10. Scotland 11. Turkey 12. China 13. Canada

Vets Corner

Like in humans, obesity is often commonplace in pets, and like in humans, it's not good for them or healthy. This month we'll look at the reasons for obesity and what you can do about it.

Simply put, obesity occurs because the amount of calories being eaten, are in excess of the amount of calories being expended via exercise. And like in humans, carrying excess weight can lead to health problems in our pets. Some examples being; diabetes, joint problems, heart disease, high blood pressure and breathing difficulties. Whether your pet is neutered can influence obesity, but is not an excuse for it.

So how do you know if your pet is obese? Start by looking at them and running your hands along their body. You should be able to see and feel the outline of their ribs. They

should also have a defined waist and it should be clearly visible when you look down on them from above. And finally, their belly should be tucked up when viewed from the side.

So if your pet needs to lose a few pounds, how do you go about this? Start by finding a smaller measure to measure out their food, and if they continue to gain weight, find an even smaller one. You also need to increase the amount of exercise they are getting. So for dogs this means more walks and games of fetch and for cats it means finding something they like to chase, for example, a feather on a stick, and playing with them more.

If you're not sure if your pet is obese, consult your vet. They often run obesity management clinics to help owners understand more about this important topic.



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

Properly trained, man can be a dog's best friend!



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