



# DBKC NEWS!

## Be Kind to Animals Week!



Did you know that in May we celebrate 'Be Kind to Animals Week'. If you can, use this month to take the opportunity to be kind to an animal and show them you care.

In this month's edition we find out about Poodles in our Breed Profile, introduce a new feature called Travel Corner and give you some tips and suggestions if you are thinking of adopting a pet.

Happy reading!

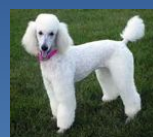
Tracy Whelan



## ISSUE 7 / MAY 2013

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Ask Pauline – this months topic is about the importance of scent.



Monthly Breed Focus – This month we focus on the Poodle.



This edition's Vets Corner focuses on how often to bath your pet.

Travel Corner – This month we introduce a new feature covering what's involved in travelling with, or relocating your pet.



## Get to Know Us

This month we're taking some time to find out more about Tharanga. To start with, he has a very impressive name! His full name is U.P. Tharanga Pushpakumara-Udawatta, luckily we know him as Tharanga as I'm not sure I could pronounce his full name!

Tharanga is from Sri Lanka and has a wife and son. He's been in Bahrain for 3 and a half years and worked for Delmon Kennels for 2 and a half.

The thing he likes best about his job is playing with the dogs and giving them a good amount of exercise. In his spare time he likes to watch television.

To date, his biggest achievement was buying land in Sri Lanka that he will use to build a house, and in the future when returning home, he wants to start a tailorshop business.





## Monthly Breed Profile

### Poodles

This month we're looking at Poodles! And as you can see from the photos above, they come in several sizes and several different colours!

The 3 main types of poodles are Standard, Miniature and Toy. The Standard being over 15 inches at the shoulder, the Miniature between 10-15 inches at the shoulder and the Toy 10 inches or below.

Poodles were originally bred to be duck retrievers. They would jump into the water and bring back the shot ducks. Therefore, they are strong and are excellent swimmers. This tells you that they are active dogs, and that they like nothing better than nice long walks and activities to keep them busy. They are also intelligent and they make great agility and flyball dogs and can also learn tricks.

As they were bred to be working dogs, you need to keep them active and keep their brains challenged. Therefore, they respond well to obedience training. If you don't keep them active and challenged, there is a chance that they will become over-excitable.

Many people that suffer from allergies have Poodles as they are classed as non-shedding. They do lose a small amount of hair, but with regular grooming it is negligible. As a result of this Poodles are often used in cross-breeding so that their non-shedding quality can be passed on. The most popular ones are Cocker-poo's (Cocker Spaniel and Poodle), Labradoodle (Labrador and Poodle) and the Goldendoodle (Golden Retriever and Poodle).

All Poodles need regular grooming to keep their coat in good condition and manageable. Poodles are also very well known for their grooming 'styles' with some interesting looks and even different colours gracing magazines and the show ring.

Poodles make great family pets, so if you're thinking of getting a dog, a Poodle might be the right dog for you.

Next month we'll be back to cats and looking at the Manx Cat. If you'd like to see a particular breed in a future edition, please email us at [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com)

## Ask Pauline



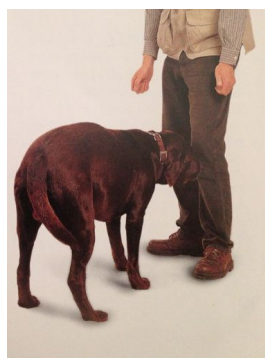
This month we're going to continue to look at dog behaviour by exploring the topic of 'Scent' and why it's so important.

The thing you must remember is that for dogs, their primary sense is the sense of smell and they use this to find out all sorts of things about people, other dogs and places. They discover more things by smelling than humans could ever discover!

The other point to consider is that scents linger, so even if you can't smell anything, your dog can. The area in a dog's nose for detecting scent is nearly 37 times larger than that in humans, which is why they are so good at it!



Because scents linger for so long, to a dog, sniffing is like watching a video of all the things that may have happened in that particular place in the past. When you come into your house, your dog will smell you and from this will be able to detect whether you've had contact with other people, other pets and especially, other dogs whilst you've been out of the home.



The sensitivity of your dogs nose can, at times, be a little embarrassing too. Especially if they want to smell visitors that come to your home. In many

instances, they will try and smell their bottom or their groin area! This is because it is entirely normal for dogs, as this is how they greet and smell each other!

Whilst out walking with your dog, they will also be keen to smell, to see what other dogs have passed by. They can often appear to have a 'fixation' to smell faeces left by other dogs! Although this may seem repellant to us, your dog can use this to discover all



urine or faeces. And you may also notice them going to the toilet on top of the urine or faeces that was left by the previous dog. This is an indication of them scent marking, and is designed to let other dogs know that they passed by and to share information about themselves.

You'll also notice that when dogs meet other dogs, smelling each other is an important part of the introduction 'ritual'.

They can find out all they need to know by smelling each other and their preference is to sniff the rear end of the other dog.

However this isn't always possible if they meet other dogs and are restrained by leads. In this instance, they would sniff each other nose to nose and whilst doing this, would avoid eye contact with each other, which would be classed as threatening behaviour.

So, next time you come home, allow your dog time to smell you! It tells him lots of information about the things you've been doing. And although you may consider him smelling other dogs faeces as not nice, allow him a few moments to gather some information about the other dog!

And finally, when dogs greet each other and have a good sniff, remember that it's similar to the custom of humans exchanging business cards!

about the other dog. They can find out how long ago the other dog was there, whether they were male or female, whether they are well or unwell, their age and what their breeding status is. Pretty amazing hey!

During walks, you may also notice your dogs 'leaving their own messages' for whoever will pass by next. They do this by leaving their own scent through their

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

*Ask Pauline!*

## A Sad Story

At the beginning of April, the Daily Tribune carried a story of Oli Bowker, a 15 year old that was diagnosed with Glandular Fever back in May 2012 and who, as a result of this illness lost the ability to move and talk. Oli has since also been diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) and also Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

To speed up his recovery his mother decided to move back to the UK leaving her job and their pets of 2 dogs and 3 cats, in Bahrain. It wasn't an easy decision to make, but for the sake of her son, felt it was the right decision. It's taken months of care and happily Oli has recently started to recover some movement. This is great news, but it can't be forgotten that Oli still has a very long way to go with his recovery.

Recently, Tony the Dogfather and Delmon Kennels helped in the process of reuniting the 2 dogs with them in the UK and this has given Oli a great boost, to have them back with him. The 3 cats however are still in Bahrain.

We would like to find a way to help reunite the cats back with the family so that they can start to build a new life in the UK and concentrate more on Oli's recovery.

The cost of relocating the cats is in the region of BD900 which includes, flights, import and export costs and all the necessary vaccinations. Funds are currently being raised to meet this cost.

If you would like to make a donation, please let us know at [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com) and we can put you in touch with the fundraiser. We've already received donations of BD300 so only have BD600 to go. Let's see if we can give this sad story, a happy ending.



## Travel Corner

With summer looming closer and closer the opportunity of traveling with your pet on vacation is a lovely thought, and is certainly achievable. Over the next few months we'll look further into this topic and understand more about what's involved and what preparations you need to take.

Two of the main golden rules when thinking about travelling with your pet is plan early &



plan well! For first time movers, working through pet travel arrangements can be stressful, so try and leave plenty of time to get ahead of the game.

In general, planning pet travel within a month of departure or arrival is fine for short haul distances, however for more distant parts of the world, planning several months in advance is advisable. Each country has its own particular pet import requirements that must be adhered to and these do regularly change. So, keep in mind that what "your friend did last year" may well not be the case this year.

As a general 'rule of thumb' many countries will require your pet's vaccinations to be at least a month

old before departure and if not already chip identified, you will need to make sure your pet is micro-chipped and preferably, before a rabies vaccine is administered.

A few suggestions: remember the whereabouts of your pet's chip implant, transfer chip details and implant date to your pets' vaccination book, ask the vet for their signature and their practice stamp and do make sure to register the micro-chip both with your vet and the chip supplier's international register too.

Next month we'll look at what else is involved in pet travel as we continue to develop this topic. If you have any Pet Travel related questions, please email [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com)



## Thinking about adopting a pet?

Every year thousands of people take the step to adopt a pet from an animal shelter. If you're thinking about adding to your family and doing something similar, here's our Guide about the things you should be thinking about before adopting and how to prepare for your new arrival!

The thought of adopting can be very exciting and the majority of people go to shelters looking for puppies or kittens. However, before even going to the shelter there are a number of questions you should ask yourself and discuss with your family.

What kind of pet do you want? Why are you getting a pet now? Are you ready to make a long term commitment to the animal? How much time do you have to exercise and play with them? Do you know how much time will be involved in looking after them, ie. feeding, training and cleaning up? Can you afford to care for the pet's health and its safety? What breed would match your lifestyle? How will you choose your pet, will the head or the heart rule?

Only once you've answered these questions and have a plan of what kind of pet you want, should you go to the shelter. If you don't, then there is a strong likelihood that you'll go gooey over the first set of big brown eyes that look at you! And that might mean you end up with a pet that that's a 'wrong fit' for your family, and nobody wants to have to return a pet to a shelter within a couple of weeks of taking it home.

So, you're at the shelter and you're looking at all the pets that are available .... how do you choose the one that's right for you?

When walking round the shelter, you

need to look for 'good signs' from the pets you see. Positive signs of a good temperament are easy to confuse with over excitement. For instance, tail wagging doesn't always mean friendliness in dogs, and barking doesn't always constitute a threat!

Good signs to look out for are, the pet's body is soft and wiggly, they have a 'soft' facial expression and they make squinty eye contact with you. If there is more than one pet in the kennel don't discount the quieter one. They may also be showing good signs, just from a distance.

Things you should avoid are pets that stand still and bark or hiss at you, pets with rigid or tense body language, pets that show their teeth or just stare at you. In the case of dogs, also discount those that 'mouth' at you when you meet them outside of the kennel. This may be meant as playful, but could become a problem in the future. Also avoid pets that completely ignore your presence.

Once you've seen a pet you like, ask to meet it outside of its kennel and see how it responds to you.

So hopefully now you've identified which pet you want to take home. Fantastic! However, before taking them home you will need to make sure you have the necessary equipment and have prepared your home for your new pet. You want to make sure that you get off to a good start, so taking time to do this is worth doing.

You want to ensure that your new pet understands that it is your home and therefore must adhere to the house rules! Limiting access to certain areas is a good way to start.

Ensure your pet has a comfortable bed and you may also want to consider getting a crate. This will help give the pet a sense of 'own space', but also help you limit where the pet goes whilst they are learning house manners!

And finally, if you're a parent and you're getting a pet for your children, don't expect them to do all the work! They will need guidance about what to do and how, and they will also need to be constantly motivated to do it once the novelty has worn off! Depending on the age of the child and the type of pet, they may also need to be supervised whilst they learn how to play with it properly.

Adopting a pet is a very rewarding experience, so if you're all organized and are now ready to do it, there are several places you can go in Bahrain. There's the BSPCA, Tony the Dogfather and we too at Delmon Kennels often have some pets looking for new homes.

If you'd like to find out more check the adoption page on our website.



## Vets Corner

This month's Vets Corner is about keeping your pet clean. The question we've been asked is 'how often should I bath my dog and what's the best way to do it?'

Before talking about dogs, let's first look at cats. Cats are well equipped to keep themselves clean, however on the odd occasion they get into something nasty, you may need to help them. If you can, use a wet sponge to clean them however if they really do need it, they can be bathed, but this should be rarely done.

Dogs on the other hand should be bathed more often. It's up to you whether you want to bath them inside your house, or outside, but make sure you are well prepared with everything to hand before you start. Taking a break to go and get the shampoo won't be easy once you are started!

Use a specially prepared dog shampoo, not a human one, and definitely not dish washing up liquid! Wet the body thoroughly and then massage the

shampoo all over the dog. Lather and make sure to rub along the legs and also the tail. You need to be careful when cleaning the head. You don't want to get soap or water into the eyes and ears as this can cause problems. So, it's best to use a damp cloth to wash around the head and face.

Rinse thoroughly to remove all the soap and towel dry. Your dog will probably help you, by shaking himself! You can further dry him by using a hairdryer on a cool setting, or you can put him outside to dry. Watch him though as he may be tempted to roll in the dust/grass! Once he's dry, brush him.

Bathing your dog too frequently will remove all the natural oils from his coat and can cause dryness and skin problems similar to dandruff. Every 1-2 weeks is a good rule of thumb.

If you have a question for Vets Corner, please send it to [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com)



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

*The way to get on with a cat is to treat it as an equal - or even better, as the superior it knows itself to be!*



"OKAY, ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR FINAL EXAM?"

## Feedback & Suggestions

If you have any feedback, suggestions for articles, or questions for Ask Pauline, please write to us at [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com)



Delmon Boarding Kennels