



DBKC NEWS!

World Animal Day



Did you know, that this month on the 4th of October we celebrate World Animal Day?

The mission of the day can be summed up in 4 key points:

- * **To celebrate animal life in all it's forms**
- * **To celebrate humankind's relationship with animals**
- * **To acknowledge the diverse roles that animals play in our lives**

*** To acknowledge and be thankful for the way in which animals enrich our lives**

So what ever you have planned for that day, take a few minutes to think about the animals in your home, or around you and acknowledge their contribution.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

Tracy Whelan



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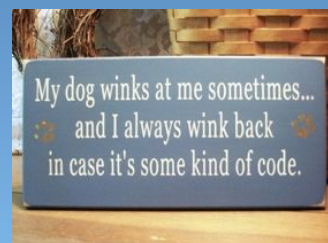
Ask Pauline – this months topic is about mediating the relationship between your child and your dog



Monthly Breed Focus – This month we focus on the Bengal Cat



Vets Corner this month looks at the topic of Home Remedies



Travel Corner

New Information - You may be pleased to read that pets originating from non-rabies clear countries arriving to Bahrain by air and road, from Saudi, are now "rabies screen tested" immediately after clearance. This now avoids the comparatively lengthy process & delay of transferring pets to the Government's Quarantine Facility at Hamala where overnight, and sometimes, weekend boarding was needed.

This month we give the Quarantine Vets & Technicians a hearty

"Thank You" for efficiently managing & improving their Border Protection processes. Rabies screen tests are now included as part of the clearance process following arrival at the Airport, Causeway & Mina Salman Port.

Have you ever thought that a travelling pet may suffer from jet lag? In our experience, 10 out of 10 pets arrive with a facial expression suggesting "I don't really mind where I am". So, maybe we should just try a bit of TLC to help them settle in.



Monthly Breed Profile

Bengal Cat

This month we're looking at the Bengal Cat. This is a breed of domestic cat that was originally bred in the USA and was created by crossing a domestic cat with the wild Asian Leopard cat. Its heritage can clearly be seen in its beautiful markings. However, don't be fooled into thinking that Bengals are part wild. Over many years of selective breeding the breed is now most definitely a domestic cat with a unique personality.

The Bengal is a large, sleek and very muscular cat with its hind-quarters slightly higher than its shoulders. This makes for an active and energetic cat that is quick to jump and somersault when playing. There are a number of different colours and patterns, but they predominantly come in either black/brown or snow/white and either have spots or more of a marbled pattern to their coat. An additional unique characteristic of the Bengal colour is that some cats have a 'glitter' effect over their coat as if each hair were tipped with gold dust. This is highly desirable and should be looked for if you are considering buying a Bengal. Another characteristic of their colouring that is desirable is that the underside of the cat should be lighter coloured. This can be likened to the white tummies of the Asian Leopard Cats from which the Bengal was originally bred.

The personality of the Bengal can be summed up as intelligent,

lively and interactive and the kind of cat you can build a genuine two-way relationship with. They are not aloof or dull, so before getting a Bengal you should consider whether they are the right fit for your family. Although they are active and will encourage you to play and interact with them, they are at times huge softies and will love nothing more than just to cuddle up with you!

Bengals are known for being vocal and will definitely let you know when they want your attention, however they won't constantly commentate on your life like a Siamese would. The other great thing about Bengals is that they're not afraid of water. They will happily paddle in water bowls or even put their paws in glasses of water if left unattended! You should be careful not to leave the toilet seat up, or a running bath unattended when you have a Bengal in the house as they could accidentally hurt themselves.

All in all, Bengals are a beautiful cat filled with character that would be a loving and affectionate addition to any home.

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

Ask Pauline

So you've got a dog and you have children. If this is you, you may have noticed that the relationship between kids and their dogs is not always smooth and that at times, you are required to mediate! The challenges can vary from

- Excessive attention or constantly pestering the dog,
- Children losing interest in it,
- Your child feeling jealous of the attention you give to your dog
- Your dog chasing your children

In this month's Ask Pauline we're going to take a closer look at these issues and look at some practical ideas and suggestions to help you tackle them. When a family first get a dog there is generally a lot of excitement and interest in spending time together, however over time this can wane as the family learns how much hard work is involved in bringing up a well balanced, well socialised and well trained dog. So if you have any of these issues, or you want to prevent them, read on.

Excessive attention or pestering

All dogs need quiet time away from family members. They get some of this at night-time, but they also need time during the day. Some dogs are more tolerant of children and the energy they bring, but others are less tolerant. So, if you bring a dog into your home you will need to supervise interactions between

your children and the dog to understand where the 'limits' are. As dogs age, they can also become less tolerant and older dogs can develop joint pains which they may express by being grumpy or growling. Help your children understand that everyone needs 'quiet time' where they relax and rest and your dog is no different. When he is lying quiet, leave him that way and if he is asleep remember the saying 'let sleeping dogs lie'.

No longer interested

This can mostly happen for one of two reasons; the dog is no longer a puppy and therefore not seen as fun, cute and

cuddly anymore, or your children have grown up and are no longer interested in taking an active role with your dog. If this happens you need to find ways for your children to interact with your dog in a different way. For instance older children can start to attend dog training classes as a way of working with your pet, teenagers can also be encouraged to walk the dog with his friends and if they have dogs too, then it's not likely to be seen as a chore. Some children like the responsibility of feeding the dog, so if it's possible, delegate this to them. As long as they interact on some level with your pet, it will help maintain the relationship until the phase passes.

Jealousy

Certainly if you get a puppy, children can feel that they are getting less attention from you, the parent. Puppies are hard work! It's like having a new baby in your family. If you were to have a new baby in your family, you would supervise your children with the new addition to ensure that they were being gentle and that they knew how to interact and hold the baby appropriately. This is exactly the same if you introduce a puppy to your family. Whilst the jealous behaviour continues, ignore it as much as possible using distraction techniques and encourage your child to take an active part in constructive play and training with your dog, and when they do, give the child lots of positive praise to reinforce the non jealous behaviour.

Dogs chasing children

Although at the beginning children may see this as a fun game, it can encourage excessively boisterous play and in the worst situations, could bring out aggressiveness in your dog. If you notice your dog doing this, the first step is to get your children to start to behave differently. Instead of running away, which will encourage the dog to chase, encourage the child to stand very still and quiet and 'act like a tree'. If there's nothing to chase, the dog will stop and you can then direct the play into something more constructive.



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

Ask Pauline!



Vets Corner

This month in Vets Corner we're going to look at the topic of Home Remedies. We are often asked if there is anything pet owners can do at home to save a trip to the vets, and on occasions, and for certain issues, there are. However, if you are unsure what is wrong with your pet or they have an acute illness you should always contact your vet immediately.

So let's look at some common issues and look at what you can do for your pet at home.

A common question we are often asked is 'can I do anything to help my puppy when they are teething'?

The answer is Yes! and there are a couple of options available. Ice cubes or chipped ice to chew on will help with the pain of teething. Alternatively, use an old towel, dampen it and pop it in the freezer for a while to get really cold. Wring any excess water from it and then give to your dog. Chewing on the cold towel will help give relief. Both of these options help cool and numb the gums and may save a household item from a chewing session!

Let's now look at a common illness in older dogs; arthritis. Arthritis is the inflammation of a joint, or joints and can be very painful. Moving becomes difficult and joints are stiff. Swimming can help as the water supports the weight of the dog, however you can also use heat therapy as well. There are a number of heat pads on the market, but we would recommend you don't use these as getting an appropriate level of heat can be difficult to achieve with them.

Therefore it's best to fill a hot water bottle with warm water, NOT hot water. Place a towel on your pet and place the bottle filled with warm water on top of the towel on the painful joint. The warmth will help ease the pain in the joint. A pet's skin can be very sensitive to heat, so don't forget to use the towel as otherwise you could end up burning your pet. Apply the heat treatment twice a day, morning and evening, to help give your pet relief.

Does your dog suffer from bad breath? We will



look at this topic in more detail in an upcoming issue, but as a quick home remedy, give your dog a raw carrot as a treat to help scour away plaque and scrape the teeth. You can of course buy treats that do the same thing, however carrots have the added benefit of helping them maintain a balanced diet.

And finally, does your dog suffer from hot spots? A hot spot is an inflamed spot on their body where they scratch, bite, chew or lick until the spot gets bald and painful. If they do, did you know that washing that spot with strong brewed tea can help. You need to use black or green tea only, not flavoured. The tannic acid in the tea helps heal the inflammation. Brew the tea and leave to thoroughly cool and then using cotton wool, dab the tea onto the hot spot several times during the day.

Next month we're going to look at the topic of The Raw Food Diet. If anyone follows this diet with your dog, or has tried it in the past, please get in touch as we'd like to get your feedback and include in our article.

If you have any questions, please contact us at newsletter@delmonkennels.com



Dogs looking for new homes



We currently have a number of dogs looking for new, forever homes. If you are looking for a dog why not get in touch and come and see if any of them are a match for your family. To help prepare them for their new homes they will put through their paces in a 3 week Basic Obedience Course starting on Thursday 3rd October!



*What dog loves to take bubble baths?
A Shampoodle!*



Feedback & Suggestions

If you have any feedback, suggestions for articles, or questions for Ask Pauline, please write to us at newsletter@delmonkennels.com



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