



# DBKC NEWS!

## Al Hijra New Year!



During November we celebrate the Al Hijra New Year! So, Happy New Year to you all.

This month we're going to find out more about a breed growing in popularity in Bahrain, the Rottweiler. We're also going to learn more about The Raw Food Diet. This controversial way of feeding your dog often causes a lot of debate, so we're going to take time to understand more about it.

Ask Pauline looks at how to get

your dog used to new sights and sounds. These can be in your home, or even outside of it.

And Tim in Travel Corner, gives us some hints and tips about helping your pets overcome jet lag.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

**Tracy Whelan**



## ISSUE 13 / NOVEMBER 2013

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Monthly Breed Focus – This month we focus on the Rottweiler



Vets Corner this month looks at the Raw Food Diet



## Travel Corner

Last month we briefly mentioned the topic of jet lag for travelling pets. If you think your pet is suffering from jet lag, here are a few tips to help them acclimatise.

More often than not, pets to Bahrain will be exchanging a cold climate for a warmer one so it's best to find a cool comfortable spot in your home for a few days. Try and minimize pet activity on those notably hot and sticky days to short bouts of fresh air early morning and late evening when the sun has gone to sleep. Oh, and don't forget to temporarily hide the tennis balls and other toys as exuberant exercise is best kept to a minimum during the first few days. Unattended dogs in cars, regardless of the temperature, is a definite no, so bear this in mind when you're out and about. During the first few days encourage slow consumption of half normal food portions and water, and if possible avoid stressful situations; new door bell sounds, noisy air con units, water delivery people, pool cleaning and visiting gardeners are just a few to keep in mind.

You'll likely know your pet very well and if they show unusual signs of discomfort or abnormal behaviour during the first 24 hours of arriving home consult your vet. Next time we suggest how to help your travelling pet adjust to a new home.



## Monthly Breed Profile Rottweiler

This month in Breed Profile we're looking at the Rottweiler. This breed seems to have been increasing in popularity in Bahrain recently, so let's take some time to find out more about them.

Rottweilers are from the working dogs group and were originally bred in Germany to drive cattle. Since then, they have also been used as police dogs and guard dogs. Because they are large and powerful dogs and have often been linked to aggressive acts, the Rottweiler's reputation is mixed. In some countries in the world, owners are even required to have extra liability insurance just to own one. There are however plenty of families who own Rottweilers who will tell you about their loyalty and gentleness. As a result of this mixed reputation, if you are looking to buy a Rottweiler, you really need to understand the history of the dog, who the parents and grandparents were and what their temperaments were like.

Rotties are big, powerful dogs with strong, muscular bodies. Males can be over 2 foot at the shoulder and can weigh up to 65kg. They are also known to be stubborn dogs and therefore, getting the right structure, rules and training in

place at a very early stage is vital. They have very powerful jaws and can pretty much chew through anything, including concrete walls, so confining them in a small, unstimulating space isn't recommended.

Owner's need to be strong minded, calm but firm and able to handle this breed's large size. Early socialisation with other dogs and children is a must if you want a Rottweiler as a family pet. They need to understand their place in the hierarchy of your family, as otherwise they can view themselves higher than any children, which is a dangerous situation. Therefore, when dogs and children are together they should always be supervised. Also, as they are working dogs, they need to be exercised well, both mentally and physically. Regular walks or even running next to you whilst you cycle, will be great exercise.

Health wise, Rotties can suffer from canine hip dysplasia and therefore understanding the genetic history of a dog prior to purchase is vital.

Next month we're back to cats and will be looking at the Peterbald.

## Ask Pauline

Experienced mums often say that to acclimatize a new baby to sights and sounds around your home, you should carry on as normal. You shouldn't stop vacuuming because the baby is asleep and you're afraid you might wake it up! You want your baby not to be scared of household noises and to actually not really hear them. If you stop doing daily things, then this could make the baby even more sensitive to noise. The same is true for a dog or puppy that is new to your home. This includes puppies, rescue dogs and even dogs relocating in from another location. Good dog breeders prepare puppies for households by exposing them at an early age to the most common sights and sounds. However, if your dog hasn't been exposed and shows any uncertainty or anxiety, you should take steps immediately and start to address this.

So, in and around your home what are some of the most common sights and sounds they may need to be familiarized with?

- The vacuum cleaner
- Hairdryers
- Dishwashers, Washing Machines & Tumble Dryers
- A ringing telephone
- Visitors to your home
- Visitors wearing glasses or with beards
- Gardeners



And outside of your home they also need to get used to:

- Cars and motorcycles
- Children playing, shouting and running around
- The sound of the Mosque (especially important if your dog is relocating in)
- Other dogs and cats, and depending on where you live, maybe horses and goats



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

*Ask Pauline!*

First things first, if the dog is new to your home find out which things you need to work on with them. Do this by walking them in and around your home on a lead and see if there are any items or noises you get a reaction to.

For instance, if you need to get them used to the vacuum cleaner, start by showing it to them, encourage them to go close to it and smell it. Encourage and praise them and be very positive. Repeat several times. Through this process they will start to learn that the item itself is not scary. If your vacuum has a long hose attachment, you may want to lie this on the floor, or simulate vacuuming. Asking family members to help you in this process is also beneficial as you can slowly work up to switching the vacuum cleaner on whilst you give encouragement and praise your dog for positive behaviour.

The same approach can be used for many other topics. The important thing is not to let your dog hide from sights or sounds that they are scared off, as avoidance could make the situation escalate. You need to be encouraging, supportive and firm in helping your dog overcome issues, and in return it will build your relationship and encourage your dog to trust you more.

If you have any experiences of helping your dog overcome fears please share them with us by writing to [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com), or tell us about them on our Facebook page. Sharing your experiences helps new dog owners who are facing the same problems now.



## Vets Corner

This month in Vets Corner we're going to look at the topic of feeding your dog raw food. There are several types of Raw Food Diet including the BARF method and the PREY method. BARF stands for Bones and Raw Food, or Biologically Appropriate Raw Food and PREY is based on the concept of eating the whole animal including the liver and other organ meat.

The basic premise of these diets is to mimic the food that would be consumed in the wild. Therefore it is made up of raw meat, bones, organ meat, raw eggs, vegetables and apples, or other fruit. Some diets also include a small element of dairy, such as yogurt.

One thing is for certain, this is a controversial feeding approach and different experts have different opinions on whether it is good or not. Regardless of this, the popularity of these types of diets is rising.

So let's have a look at some of the potential benefits of feeding Raw. Owners that have followed the approach regularly report that their dogs have shinier coats, healthier skin, cleaner teeth, higher energy levels and also smaller stools, and dogs also seem to enjoy the different types of foods and textures.

Supporters of raw food diets are against commercially produced pet food because they believe that the production process destroys and reduces nutrients and vitamins and minerals. After production, preservatives are also added which further reduces the nutritional benefit of the food. We know that the quality of commercially produced pet food can vary significantly depending on what brand you use, and how much you're prepared to spend so this should also be kept in mind when deciding what to feed your pet.

One of the key reasons supporters of raw food diets are against commercially processed food though is that often a large amount of grains are added to the food and a dog's digestive system is not able to cope with grains. Did you know that grains are often quoted as being one of the biggest sources of allergies in dogs?



So, if you were to consider changing your feeding approach, here are some things to be aware of. Food safety and hygiene is of paramount importance. If you were preparing raw food for human consumption you would need to take extra care to ensure there was no bacterial contamination and the same is true for dogs. You will never be able to remove bacteria from the raw meat you give your dog, but your dog's digestive system can cope with it. You should however ensure that you clean up thoroughly after preparing the food and ensure that their bowls are given a thorough washing to remove these bacteria.

You should also supervise feeding time if you are giving your dog bones, especially if they haven't had bones before. Bones can cause choking, blockages or chipped teeth, so choosing the right type and size of bone is important.

The BARF diet recommends the following composition:

60-80% of raw meaty bones, ie. chicken neck, chicken wings  
20-40% of fruit, vegetables, offal, meat, eggs or dairy

Before embarking on a raw food approach, you would need to ensure you have sufficient time to shop for and prepare all the food. It will definitely take longer to prepare than opening a bag of kibble, however you can prepare the food in bulk to make daily feeding easier. Cost wise, supporters of raw food say it works out cheaper than commercially produced food, however that would ultimately depend on what deal you could negotiate with suppliers and your ability to buy meat in bulk and freeze until needed.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com)

## Unique gift idea

Did you know we have an artist in our community?

Charlie Richards has been drawing for many years now having started whilst at school and had success winning several school related art challenges. Charlie returned to Bahrain 2 years ago having completed her BSc honours in Animal Behaviour and Welfare. Drawing animals and capturing their individual personalities is her real passion and she has set up a business focused on this.

Recently, Charlie also donated 2 of her framed pencil animal drawings to the BSPCA Quiz Night and also to the British Airways Flying Start worldwide children's charity. So if you're one of the lucky winners, we hope you enjoy your prizes!



Charlie takes commissions, so if you're looking for a special, different and unique gift for a friend, family member or partner for a birthday or Christmas, why not give Charlie a call on 39740496. All you need to provide is a photograph of your pet, or favourite wild animal, and she will do the rest! She can also be contacted on [charlie.richards31@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charlie.richards31@hotmail.co.uk).

*Cats will amusingly tolerate humans only until someone comes up with a tin opener that can be operated with a paw!*



"I'm telling you I'm not paranoid! Sometimes he only pretends to throw the ball just to make me look like an idiot!"



## 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)



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