



DBKC NEWS!

Merry Christmas!



Seasons Greetings!

It's hard to believe that the end of the year is almost here and 2014 is around the corner.

Whatever fun you have planned over the festive season, don't forget your furry friends. If you have any funny photos or video of your pets over the Christmas period, please share them with us. You can email them to newsletter@delmonkennels.com or upload direct to our Facebook page.

In this months edition we learn all about a rare breed of cat called The Peterbald. We learn about Halitosis in Vets Corner and also explore the topic of pets who are either Fussy Eaters, or who are real Greedy Guts! In our house we have one of each so know what a challenge it can sometimes be.

Have a great Christmas & see you in the New Year!

Tracy Whelan



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Companion Dog Training

It is always important to teach obedience to your dog, sits and stays etc., but how many of us think about how to make our dog our companion and our best friend. Dogs show us unconditional love, and trust us, whatever we do - but what do we really know about them? Do you have a new puppy or an older dog? What do you know about it? How are you going to communicate? What language does it speak?

What we would really like is some feedback from you by answering the following questions and sending them to newsletter@delmonkennels.com

- Name 5 things in order of importance, that your dog would choose to play with given a free choice.
- Name 5 foods in order of preference, that your dog would like to eat if given a free choice.
- Which of these forms of physical attention does your dog like most? Place them in order of preference: stroking, cuddling, patting, tummy tickling, scratching.
- Name 5 places your dog would choose to go if a free choice was given and what would he choose to do when he arrived there.
- Which words or phrases start your dog's tail wagging happily and which words or phrases cause a tail lowered, ears back, looking sorry for itself expression!

We'll gather the answers and reveal some interesting points about your relationship with your dog in our next edition.



Monthly Breed Profile The Peterbald

This month we're taking a look at a rare breed of cat called the Peterbald. Although it's not very well known, the Peterbald is an elegant Russian cat with a unique coat. It is a relatively new breed developed in 1994 when a breeder in St. Petersburg, Russia crossed a Don Sphynx Cat and an Oriental Shorthair. What resulted was a lovely cat that comes in three different hair types.

They are available with a velvety, fuzzy coat called velour, or completely hairless referred to as nude or a fine wiry texture called brush. Within the hairless variety you can also find cats that have no whiskers or eyebrows and whose skin has an unusual sticky feel! The brush variety are often patchy and often turn completely bald over time. So if you're considering a Peterbald, you need to fully understand what kind of variety you want as if you get the wrong one, you could end up with a hairless cat over time.

The Peterbald is a medium sized cat with a body shape similar to an oriental shorthair cat, however the Peterbald is generally more muscular with long and lovely bodylines. They also have the triangular shaped face that is often

associated with Siamese and are highly intelligent, active and athletic, and friendly and curious. They love affection and are very playful. They are good with other cats and dogs and also good with children and love just sitting with you whilst you stroke them. They are known to be a vocal cat who gives the impression they are talking back to you! They also have webbed front feet which means they are fairly dexterous and can pick up and manipulate toys.

They need careful bathing to ensure that oils don't build up on the skin and cause irritation, and in this part of the world you also need to be careful as they can get sunburnt easily. They are also very susceptible to cold temperatures so with air conditioning on during the hot summer months you would also need to ensure that they have a warm place to lie with a cosy blanket. If you live in a colder climates you could also consider using cat sweaters to help regularize their body temperature.

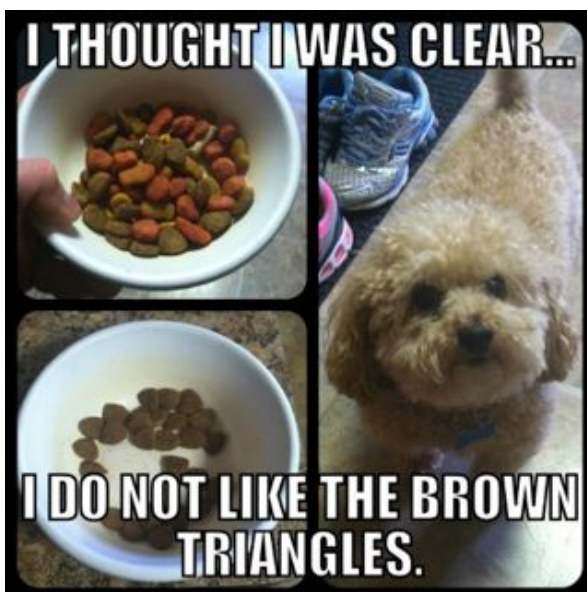
Next month we're back to dogs and will be looking at the Great Dane. If you have any questions or breed suggestions for future issues please send them to newsletter@delmonkennels.com

Ask Pauline

Do you have a dog who is picky with their food? Do they eat a little bit and walk away? Or do you have the alternate problem of a dog that gobbles their food too quickly and always wants more? Generally dogs can fall into 2 categories; dogs that live to eat, and dogs that eat to live and most owners can easily identify which of these categories their dog falls into.

In this month's Ask Pauline we're going to look at the topics of 'fussy eaters and greedy guts' and some tips and ideas of what we can do about it. Lets start by looking at fussy eaters and what constitutes a fussy eater. If you struggle to get your dog to eat on a regular basis and he won't consume his food at least once a day, then you are dealing with a picky eater. If your dog has always been a picky eater yet still maintains a consistent weight and a healthy coat, then there is less need for concern. However if he starts losing weight this is cause for concern and could be an indication of an underlying medical issue, or even an intolerance to certain foods, so you should consult your vet.

If there is no medical reason for the fussiness, you should also consider what your dog eats throughout the day. Does he get fed table scraps or lots of treats? If so, you need to recognize that for your dog, getting human food is often more tasty and interesting than dog food and this could be encouraging fussiness. So if this is a factor in your house, you may want to consider stopping it. At this point, you should also consider adopting more of a 'tough love' approach.



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

Ask Pauline!

When you feed your dog prepare his food and give it to him. If after 10-15 minutes he hasn't eaten it, remove it and dispose of it. Explain to family members that the dog is not to be given any treats, snacks or human food and why. You may need to repeat this exercise over the next few days, however your dog should start to eat. Make sure you exercise him well to also ensure he is hungry and will want his food.

Now let's look at the opposite end of the spectrum a dog who lives to eat and who will eat anything and everything, and will generally eat it as fast as he can! You may also find this kind of dog is also a real scavenger. They may pick things up when you're out for a walk or even try knocking over bins to get at what's inside. If you have young children in your family you should also be watchful as these dogs have been known to take food from a small child's hand and you do not want to allow this to happen. If needed, shut the dog away from children whilst they eat.

If your dog is a scavenger and tries to get into your bin you should ensure you have a bin with a strong lid and if necessary, consider keeping the bin in a cupboard to stop them getting at it. You may also want to think about changing their feeding routine and spread it out to encourage them to eat slower and eat throughout the day. For instance you could divide their food into several smaller portions. You could also hide the food and encourage them to find it. You can also buy special feeding bowls to slow them down or can simulate this by putting tennis balls in their bowl for them to eat around.

If you have any questions send them to newsletter@delmonkennels.com

Vets Corner

This month in Vets Corner we're going to look at the topic of Halitosis. Let's start by looking at what Halitosis is. It's the medical term used to describe an offensive odour that comes from the mouth. We all know that dogs often have a touch of bad breath and that this can be related to the fact that they can't brush their teeth, however Halitosis is more than this. So let's look at what the causes might be and what you can do about it.

One of the key causes of Halitosis can be periodontal disease which is a disease resulting from bacteria in the mouth which is often related to plaque. Therefore, checking your dogs teeth on a regular basis is important to monitor any build up. If you notice plaque increasing it might be time to book your pet in for a dental check and a teeth clean. Your vet can also check for any cavities at this time as bacteria can gather in cavities and can lead to pain and other issues in the future. Small animal breeds and short nosed, flat-faced breeds are prone to periodontal and mouth diseases as their teeth are close together, so keep an extra vigilant eye on them, especially if they are having trouble eating.

As well as dental disease, Halitosis may also be caused by some metabolic disorders such as diabetes, respiratory problems, inflammation of the sinuses and gastrointestinal problems. If your dog is a 'potty mouth', eats offensive foods or scavenges food from bins, then this too will make their breath smell bad. The key thing to remember is that Halitosis is a red flag that something is wrong and it should be checked out by your vet.



When you visit your vet he will examine your dog and ask a series of questions about your dogs diet, oral hygiene, general health and his behavior. He may also conduct some tests to ascertain what bacteria there are or whether your dog has any fungal infections.

So you've had a diagnosis of Halitosis, so now let's look at treatment. If your diagnosis is related to periodontal disease, then treatment will include cleaning and polishing the teeth, or in some circumstances may also include the extraction of teeth to stop the spread. You may also be given medication to control the bacteria. However, if your dog's Halitosis is caused by diabetes or some of the other problems mentioned above then your vet will treat the underlying cause of the problem, and not just the bad breath.

If the cause however is related to eating offensive items, eating faeces or scavenging, you will need to remain observant of your dogs activities and behaviours and take action to stop it. On an ongoing basis, it's also worth brushing your dogs teeth when you can to keep them clean and using hard chews, dental chews or raw carrots to limit the return of plaque.

If you have any questions on this topic or any other vet related topics, drop us a line at newsletter@delmonkennels.com.



Periodontal Disease

Travel Corner



For all you pets and owners looking to relocate down under, from 2014 you'll be pleased to learn Australia has reduced its quarantine period from 30 to 10 days in line with New Zealand.

Pet arrival by flight to Bahrain, after what may appear to be a tiring process, tends not to visually affect the canine & feline members of the family. Nevertheless last month we suggested going easy with food, drink & playtime for a few days to see how your pet is settling and slowly moving on to normality during the week following arrival.

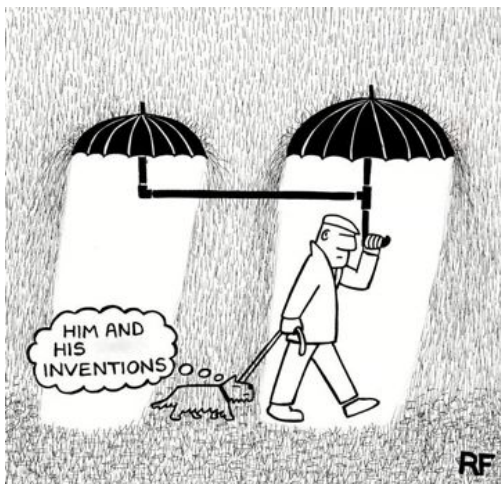
Pets do sense safety & comfort through sight, smell and familiar sound so watch for signs of increased separation anxiety, constant barking & possible territory marking or prolonged hiding, not eating, losing fur or unusual aggression.

Our suggested tips will certainly comfort your pet and hopefully relieve some of your post arrival anxiety too. Try confining your pet to a single room with a few favourite items (bedding/tuggy/chew bone) and checking frequently with encouraging soft tones particularly if the 'noisy' movers are around and

remember, a carefully opened door will avoid a sudden escape too. Be consistent and follow previous playtime, exercise and feed routines. Slow introduction to each room or area works better than a guided tour of your new location. We suggest leashed walking outside whilst investigating the neighborhood & remember to register your pets details to a local vet who maintains records.

If you have any questions for Travel Corner please send them to newsletter@delmonkennels.com and we will answer them in our next edition.

A person who has never owned a dog has missed a wonderful part of life



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