



DBKC NEWS!

Happy 2014!



Whatever fun you got up to celebrating the new year, we hope you had a great time.

The Kennels has been very busy over the Christmas period and lots of fun has been had by all. Dogs and humans alike!

In this month's DBKC News we take a closer look at the sensitive topic of what to tell your children in the event of the death of your pet.

We find out about Great Danes. This is a subject close to Pauline's

heart as she adopted a Great Dane puppy in November. Her name is Luna, she is growing at an amazing pace, and is just gorgeous!

And in Vets Corner we learn more about the topic of Growing Pains. This often manifests in medium to large sized dog breeds and is a condition that affects the long bones in the legs.

See you next month!

Tracy Whelan



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Contents

Ask Pauline – this month we look at what to tell your children in the event of the death of your pet



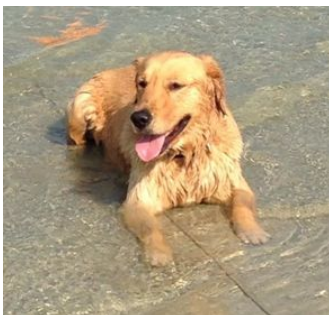
Monthly Breed Focus – This month we find out about the Great Dane

This month, Vets Corner looks at the topic of Growing Pains



Adoptions Update

Over the last couple of months we've had several dogs looking for new forever homes and we thought it worthwhile giving you a quick update on how we've been progressing.

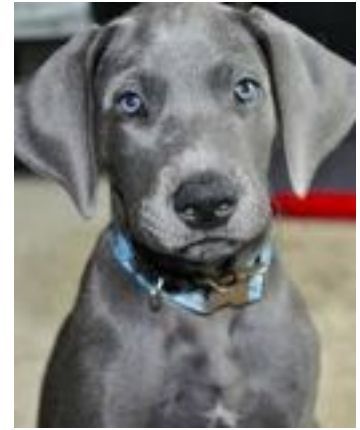


Oscar (left) has joined a family with 3 children and is loving the fun and games he gets to play. He also loves his regular trips to the beach!

We are however still looking for homes for Mayla and Toffee pictured right. If you would like more information or to come and see if they could be the dog to join your family, please give us a call on 17694066.



Luna!



Monthly Breed Profile

Great Dane

This month in Breed Profile we're going to learn about the Great Dane. The Great Dane is one of those breeds that are instantly recognizable, mostly because of their size! But, did you know that they were originally bred to hunt European wild boar? However, they wouldn't be any good at it today as the characteristics that were needed have been bred out of the modern ones. So from being a dog that was powerful, intelligent, fearless and ferocious enough to track a wily boar, we now have a large, gentle dog who generally gets along with other dogs, other animals and humans.

As puppies and young adults, Great Danes are energetic and love to run around with wild abandon and sheer glee. You often see them galloping, leaping, spinning and jumping! It is very entertaining to watch. However because of their size and strength they can often knock people over and therefore they should never be left unsupervised with small children. For adults that are nervous of dogs, a Great Dane can be overwhelming. Ensuring training starts early and that they learn the basic commands is a must to ensure any visitors to your home feel comfortable. They also have a very loud bark and tend to be protective by nature. Therefore, they shouldn't be encouraged to be overly protective if you want them as a family pet.

A fully grown male can easily weigh between 120-200 pounds and females are usually between 100-130 pounds. It is therefore vital that you learn to control your dog when they are young and teach them to walk properly on a leash. You are unlikely to be able to hold the dog by pure strength when they are fully grown! The good thing is, Great Danes are intelligent and therefore possible to train.

As with other giant dog breeds Great Danes can suffer from health issues and generally have a medium to short lifespan. The majority die around 8 years of age. Health wise they often suffer from growing pains as they are growing so fast, it puts added pressure on their bones. They can also suffer from bloat which can be life threatening.

Danes come in many different coat colours and have a short coat which is easy to maintain with regular brushing. They do shed, but not excessively and will need baths every so often.

All in all they are a beautiful breed of dog with real character that if trained early on and socialized well make a great family pet.

Ask Pauline

When pets join our families, they become special family members. They have individual characters and personalities, and they find their ways into our hearts. Therefore, the loss of a pet can be very upsetting to everyone, adults and children alike. We've all heard stories of parents wanting to protect their children from the death of a pet and rushing out to buy a new goldfish or guinea pig before the child finds out, but is this the best thing to do? And how do you answer the inevitable questions that arise when the new pet isn't identical to the one that died? Immediate replacement is also not a viable option if your family pet is a cat or a dog. So in this month's Ask Pauline we find out more about the best way to talk to children about the death of a pet to assist them through the grief process.

The most important thing is not to hide the death, or pretend that it didn't happen. For most children the death of a pet is their first encounter with death and it needs to be handled well. If the loss is explained vaguely, children can often be more confused and anxious. You do of course need to remember that children themselves are progressing through various developmental stages and depending on the age of your child they may, or may not, be able to fully understand the finality of death itself.

Children under 5 often view death as a temporary state that can be reversed. For example, they may suggest taking the animal to the doctor so that it can be made better again. From 6-8 they have generally learned that death is permanent and is not reversible and from 9-11 they understand that death will eventually happen to everyone. Depending on the age of your children you may need to tailor your conversations to meet the needs of each child. However, one key thing experts on this subject all say though is to tell the truth and don't say the pet has run away or been taken away. By doing this you give the child false hope that the pet will return in the future.



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

Ask Pauline!

If your pet is old or ill, use the opportunity to talk to your children about the illness and the possibility of your pet dying in the near future. Try and prepare them and also encourage them to enjoy the time they have with their pet. You may also reach a point where your pet needs to be 'put to sleep'. If this happens, it's best to use different terminology to explain this to a child. After all, you don't want them to associate sleeping with death, as this could lead to children being afraid to go to sleep in case the same thing happens to them. You may have older children who want to understand more about the euthanasia process and whether it will be painful to the animal. Explaining that the pet feels no pain and that this process is used when the pet won't recover will help the child understand more.

Having a special ceremony to help finalise the death process and bury your pet is a good way to bring all the family together. Children may like to bury the pet with their favourite toy, or a drawing they have done, or pictures of them together. During this time, it's important to remember the happy times. Ask each child to tell the family about their best memory of the pet and the things they liked to do together. This ensures that things end on a more positive note. This isn't the end of the process though. Over the coming weeks your children may continue to grieve. Giving them love and support, helping them understand their emotions and talking fondly of your pet is vital. And finally, don't be tempted to rush into getting another pet until you're sure that the whole family is ready to put all their energy and love into it.

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

Vets Corner

We've all heard the term 'growing pains' being applied to children and when it's used it relates to pains in the legs, the origin of which is unclear. The pains generally stop when the child enters their teenage years. Well, did you know that the same condition appears in dogs? It typically only appears in medium to large dog breeds and affects the long leg bones. In this month's Vets Corner we're going to find out more about it.

The medical term for this condition is Panosteitis and as mentioned above, it is more common in medium to large dogs. The onset of Panosteitis usually occurs between 5 – 18 months of age and is characterized by limping and lameness. However, it can occur before 5 months, so if you think your dog has developed it early, see your vet as soon as you can. During this timeframe dogs are going through a period of rapid growth and although the causes of Panosteitis is unknown, the speed of growth is thought to be a contributing factor. The condition is very painful for the dog and makes it challenging and painful for them to move around. Painful episodes typically last between 1-3 weeks but reoccur, often changing legs, until the animal outgrows the condition around 18 months old.

Although the inflammation is more common in the front legs, it can also be found in the back legs. You can see from the photo and the explanation below what it looks like. There is a cloudiness in the bone which can be seen on an x-ray. What is actually going on in the bone is complicated and involves the fatty bone marrow being replaced with fibrous tissue. Eventually,



normal cells take over and build new bone, and this is why dogs eventually 'grow out' of the issue.

In addition to the lameness, there can also be other symptoms; including fever, loss of appetite and weight loss, depression, general weakness, exercise intolerance, whimpering when moving and in extreme cases the loss of muscle mass. So, if you see any of these symptoms, consult your vet as soon as you can. Treatment usually includes a course of anti-inflammatories and rest.

On lead exercise only is also recommended to ensure that the animal doesn't get carried away and try and run and jump. Running and jumping will cause pain and slow down healing. We're often asked if swimming is helpful during the growing pain episodes. The important thing to remember is that if your vet prescribes 'rest', then it's best to limit the dog to short, on lead walks. Although swimming will support the dog and ensure no weight is on the limb, rest, really does mean rest.

Interestingly, it is found that the condition tends to occur more often in males than females, although it is not known why and it is regularly seen in German Shepherds, Great Danes, Golden Retrievers, Dobermans and Basset Hounds.

The growing pains condition cannot be prevented, so if you have a medium to large breed less than 2 years of age, be on the look out for symptoms and if they occur, consult your vet as soon as possible and start to proactively manage it.

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

Normal femur (left) compared to a femur with Panosteitis in an 11 month old male German Shepherd. The area of increased whiteness in the middle of the affected bone becomes visible several days, or longer, after the onset of lameness.



Companion Training – What the answers reveal!

In last month's edition we asked for your participation in gathering some information about your dogs and your relationship with them.

The purpose of the questions was to help us find out how much you have exposed your dogs to different situations and how well you know them. Interestingly enough, out of 800+ newsletters issued, we received 3 replies!

What we don't know is whether the small number of replies was because you didn't know the answers, or whether you were caught up in Christmas preparations and didn't find the time to complete it. However, it's an interesting result.

I personally tried to complete the questions for my dogs and although I found it easy to answer some of the questions, with others, I struggled. I spend a large amount of time each day with my dogs and the fact that I wasn't able to fully answer the questions tells me that my relationship with my dogs can be improved. It also tells me that if I knew the answers, that I would be able to influence the training of my dogs by rewarding them in different ways and by using things, or doing things, that they really love.

Companion Training is all about ensuring that your dog is

a fully fledged family member. This might sound like a stupid thing to say, because they're in your family and should therefore be part of it. However, let's look at it a slightly different way. Is your dog really a family member, or is he just lodging in your home?! Does your dog view you, his owner, as the center of his world? Does he prefer to be on his own or play with other dogs or toys above you?

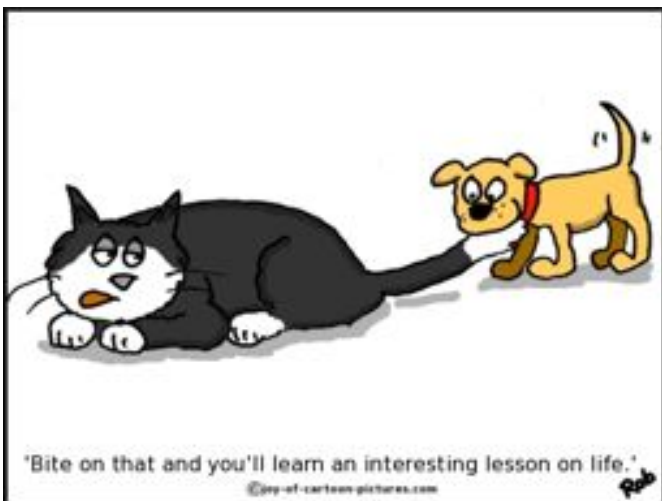
If the answers to the questions above are that your dog is a lodger that prefers to be on his own or playing with other dogs, then you have little chance of influencing his behavior and training will be more challenging.

In early 2014 we will be launching a new Companion Training course designed specifically to address these issues and work on you becoming the center of your dogs world. We're also going to look at ensuring your dog is well behaved and prepared to participate in the outside world. Integrating dogs into the outside world in Bahrain isn't always easy, however, it is possible and we're going to spend time during this course doing activities outside of the kennel environment.

So, if you'd like more information about the course, or to sign up, drop us a line at newsletter@delmonkennels.com

What do cats eat for breakfast?

Mice Crispies!



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