



DBKC NEWS!



Welcome to the March Newsletter!

Crufts starts on the 6th March and is a real celebration of everything doggy related. Show dogs, agility dogs, training, dancing and all sorts of activities take place. For more information check out the crufts website or search on YouTube to watch.

Last month's newsletter contained our Dog Jobs Wordsearch Competition.

Many congratulations to Deborah Champion for winning We hope Rinky enjoys his mud bath!

This month we find out about the Springer Spaniel in Breed Profile and about Kidney Stones in Vets Corner. And in this month's Ask Pauline, we find out about Playing with our Dogs. Enjoy, and see you next month!

Tracy Whelan



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DAILY TRAINING ACTIVITIES!

From Sunday 9th February we will be running the following Daily Training Activities. Why not come along and try something different with your dog! Each activity is 1 hour duration and costs 7 BD. You don't need to book, just come along.

Throughout January & February we have been running training activities between 9-10am Sunday to Thursday.

They cover a mixture of new obedience techniques, together with fun activities for you and your dog.

If you'd like to take part, just come along, booking isn't required.





Monthly Breed Profile Springer Spaniel

In this month's Breed Profile we're going to take a look at the English Springer Spaniel. The history of this breed is thought to have originated in Spain and dogs similar looking to today's Springer Spaniel are depicted in artwork from the 16th and 17th century. Before guns, spaniel dogs were used to flush gamebirds and other small animals by driving them into the open and then during the 19th century dogs started to be classified by their hunting use rather than their breed. Therefore, the smaller dogs would be used to hunt woodcock and were therefore called Cockers and the larger dogs would be used to flush game and were called Springers. They were first classified by the English Kennel Club in 1902 and since then have grown from strength to strength as one of the most popular breeds.

These intelligent, sturdy and robust dogs are such good working dogs that they are often seen in various walks of life; from sniffer dogs, to gun dogs to great family pets. They are a medium sized dog that come in a variety of colours, and they enjoy as much exercise as you can give them. They are built to spend long periods of time working and hunting, so have boundless energy. However, if you don't exercise them enough, they can be a handful to live with. Whatever activity you do with them needs to exercise both their body and their mind, so agility and tracking activities are great for them.

The typical Springer is friendly, eager to please, quick to learn

and willing to obey. Socialising your Springer early on is very important to ensure they don't become timid or aggressive. Springers do well with children and other pets, especially if they are brought up with them from puppyhood.

Springers don't respond well to being left home alone for long periods of time as they will become miserable and can develop nuisance barking. Separation anxiety is quite common. Companionship can be provided by having another pet, but human attention and interaction is really what they need. It's therefore important to consider if your family lifestyle is suitable for them. They don't make good guard dogs, even though they may initially bark, they will settle down quickly and just want to be petted!

Springers are generally healthy, but depending on the quality of the breeder, they can suffer from Hip Dysplasia and eye issues. Any Springers suffering from these issues shouldn't be bred further to limit the genetic spread of the diseases. Because of the shape of the ears, infections are common. They can be prevented by keeping the ears clean and dry so regular attention is necessary.

So if you're looking for a high energy, enthusiastic and loving companion, the Springer Spaniel might be the dog for you!

Ask Pauline

How many of you regularly play with your dog? And if you do, do you see it as a pleasure, or a bit of a chore? Well did you know that playing with your dog is engaging for both of you, it can build trust, develop your relationship, teach your dog self control and it can also make exercise fun. In this month's Ask Pauline we find out more about how to play with your dog and how to teach them the right way to play.

One key thing to remember is that dogs are not self-motivating with regards to constructive play. If you leave toys lying around, they will often end up just destructively chewing them and this doesn't teach your dog anything positive! Therefore, in order to make your toys 'valuable' to your dog, you shouldn't leave them lying around and your dog shouldn't have access to them 24 hours a day. Having a toy box that you keep them in is a good way to increase the 'value' of them and it can be a great way to encourage interest and excitement at playtime.

The other thing that is good to do is to have set times for play. We're probably all guilty of giving our dog a toy and expecting them to just go off and 'entertain' themselves for a period of time. However as we mentioned earlier, dogs don't self motivate, so having set play times means that both you and your dog are focused on the learning and fun aspects of play. It also means that you can choose an appropriate toy, depending on what you want to work on with your dog. For instance, if you want to work on 'fetch', a tennis ball or a frisbee would work well. If you want to work on teaching 'leave' or 'release' you could use a tuggy, or rope toy.

A visit to a pet store will sometimes leave you bewildered due to the large array of toys that are available. When choosing a toy, choose something robust and something of an appropriate size for your dog. Balls that are too small can be dangerous for larger dogs and soft toys can be destroyed in a matter of minutes!



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

Ask Pauline!



If you're not sure what toys your dog likes, why not buy a selection and put them on the ground in front of your dog and see which ones they initially choose. If your dog shows no, or little, interest in toys you will need to work extra hard with them to encourage interest and excitement. The best way to do this is to spend a few minutes, several times throughout the day playing, and then stop the play before your dog gets bored and wanders off. You essentially want to encourage the interest and excitement and then leave the dog 'wanting more'. If you keep doing this, your dog will come to love playtime because they get access to valuable toys at that time, and more importantly, they get your 100% attention.

The other thing you should try and do is tailor your play to the type of breed of dog. Golden Retrievers and Spaniels particularly love fetch/retrieval games, whereas terriers love games that involve them seeking/finding something. Kids love treasure hunts, and so will your dog! So why not hide a toy for them to find. Toys can be made extra smelly by rubbing your dogs scent on them, by dabbing food on them, or even by using things like chicken or beef stock on them. The only limit is your imagination, so get creative, have fun and play with your dog!

Vets Corner

In this month's Vets Corner we're going to take a closer look at the topic of Bladder & Kidney Stones. Both cats and dogs can suffer from this and it can be very painful. Therefore, understanding how and why they form and what steps you can take to prevent them is very important.

Let's start by saying that the kidney and bladder stones that pets get are very similar to the ones found in humans, and most of the stones are formed as a result of an excess of mineral salts that are found in our bodies. Although we don't know exactly why some dogs form them and some don't, diet is a factor and can be a method for managing the formation of them. Hydration levels are also a factor, as dehydration increases the concentration of minerals within the urine and therefore can increase stone formation. The dog breeds more commonly affected are Yorkshire Terriers, Miniature Poodles, Dalmatians and English Bulldogs, but all breeds can suffer from this so you should be on the look out for symptoms.

The most common signs of stones are blood in the urine, painful urination, agitation and straining. The pet may also attempt to urinate frequently with no apparent success. If they do successfully urinate the quantity of urine is small. They may also show signs of pain whilst walking and may walk in a slightly crouched position. If your pet shows any of these signs you should make an appointment with your vet as soon as possible for a proper diagnosis.



As part of the diagnosis the vet will conduct a thorough physical examination, do a urinalysis test and may also conduct an x-ray or an ultrasound to see if they can see the stones and the location of them. You can see the stone in the x-ray below.

Depending on what the stones are made of and the size of them, the treatment will vary. You can see some of the different types of stone in the photo at the bottom on the left. Your vet may suggest a course of treatment designed to try and dissolve them, may try and break them up using sound waves, or in some cases surgery may be required.

Your vet is also likely to encourage a dietary change to a reduced protein diet so that less ammonia is formed in the urine. He will also want your pet to drink more water to dilute the urine further and will talk to you about how to do this.

Once your pet has suffered from stones, there is often a tendency for them to reoccur. Therefore, routine monitoring is essential and your vet may recommend an ultrasound and urine check every 6 months.

Has your pet suffered from this? Are there any tips or suggestions that you could share with our readers? If so, please write to us at newsletter@delmonkennels.com and we will share them in a future edition.



Tracking & Searching Activities

Over the next couple of months we're going to start to introduce activities looking at the topics of Tracking and Searching.

Tracking is described as getting your dog to start to follow a particular scent, whereas Searching is giving your dog a scent and asking them to go and find it.

Did you know, humans have around 5 million scent glands, whereas dogs have somewhere between 125 – 300 million, depending on the breed type! Therefore your dogs have a much more sophisticated sense of smell than you.



However, how often do you really test or exercise your dogs sense of smell? Do you hide treats in various places and ask them to find them? Or, is the most exercise your dogs nose gets is when out for a walk?

Tracking & Searching activities will be coming soon, so keep an eye out for them and why not come along. It's good to do something challenging and different and learn a fun new skill!

*Which breed has won 'Best in Show' at Crufts the most often?
The Cocker Spaniel*



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