



DBKC NEWS!

Happy Easter!



Welcome to April's edition of DBKC News! Whatever you have planned for the Easter Holidays we hope you have fun and if you over indulge on chocolate, you can always work it off by taking your dog for an extra long walk!

In Ask Pauline this month we take a closer look at the different dog breed groups and find out more about which breed fits into which group. This is quite topical with Crufts having just completed it's

Best in Show judging and with the Bahrain Canine Association recently completing it's judging at the Maa'ree event held last weekend.

In this month's Breed Profile we find out about the Burmese cat. If you're looking for an affectionate cat with personality then the Burmese could be for you. Find out more on page 2.

And finally in Vets Corner we are looking at the common cat

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issue of Hairballs. Sounds disgusting, but an important topic!

Happy reading. If you have any questions or feedback, please write to us at newsletter@delmonkennels.com

Tracy Whelan



Get To Know Us

A new member of the Delmon Kennels team joined us recently and we thought it a good time to introduce him to you. His full name is K H Jastin Alwis, but is known as Alwis.

Alwis is from Polonnaruwa in Sri Lanka, which is in the centre of the country. He is married and has 3 sons, 18 years, 13 years and 8 years old.

He's been in Bahrain for 2 years and 5 months, but has only been at Delmon Kennels for a couple of months. As well as caring for the animals, Alwis is a skilled carpenter

and has recently been making and maintaining some of the equipment used in training and agility.



He enjoys working with the dogs and playing with them, but in his spare time he loves watching sports on the television, especially cricket!

When asked what his biggest achievement was in his life so far, he said he was most proud of his 3 sons. When we then asked him what he would like to achieve in the future he said 'no debt, a peaceful life and a good retirement'.



Monthly Breed Profile Burmese Cat

This month we're looking at the Burmese Cat. As you can see from the photos they are a beautiful looking cat with large golden eyes.

They are available in four main colour groups; Sable, Champagne, Blue and Platinum. In the photos above we show the Sable, the Champagne and the Blue. Even though they are beautiful looking, they are a solid, athletic and muscular cat. They are often described as a 'brick wrapped in silk' because they are surprisingly heavy as a result of their muscularity. Their coat is satiny silky and they are a short haired cat. They don't shed a large amount, but do benefit from regular grooming to remove dead hair and to distribute the skin oils. A bath is rarely needed.

The matriarch of the modern Burmese was a small dark brown cat named Wong Mau. She was thought to have been brought back by a sailor when he returned from his travels. When she first arrived Wong Mau was thought to be a Siamese with a chocolate coloured coat, however over time she was linked to cats that existed in Thailand and Burma and is now classed as the matriarch of both the Burmese and the Tonkinese, which is a cross between a Burmese and a Siamese!

Burmese are wonderfully affectionate cats. They crave human company and are the ultimate companions. If you are going to be out for several hours at a time, you should consider getting two Burmese to keep each other company. They do not do well when left on their own or confined.

When selecting a kitten bear in mind that they are slow to mature which makes them look smaller for their age than other breeds. Kittens should be between 3-4 months old before going to their new home. As a result of the slow maturation process kittens less than 3 months of age are not physically or socially mature enough to leave their mothers. They also don't reach their full adult colouring until they are approximately 1 year old.

Burmese have a playful personality and can be taught tricks, including fetch! They are also capable of jumping onto a human's shoulder directly from the floor, so unsuspecting visitors should be warned!

Burmese live long lives, age gracefully and usually enjoy good health until the end of their lives. Developing white whiskers is usually the only indication of advancing years!

Ask Pauline

This month in Ask Pauline, we're going to find out more about the different breed groups. There are a number of Kennel Clubs around the world that are responsible for setting standards regarding breed quality and although they may use different terminology, the breed groups are essentially the same. They are:

- Gundog/Sporting Group
- Hound Group
- Pastoral/Herding Group
- Terrier Group
- Toy Group
- Utility/Non-Sporting Group
- Working Group

You may on occasions see another group mentioned, which is the Miscellaneous Group. When a new breed is under consideration to be added, it will temporarily go into the Miscellaneous Group whilst the assessment process is being undertaken. Once it is completed and the breed is formally accepted, it will move into one of the 7 groups mentioned above.

Now we'll take a closer look at the seven groups, the purpose of them and understand the breeds that fit into each group.

Gundog/Sporting Group

The purpose of this group of dogs is to hunt, flush out prey from hiding spots and then retrieve them once they have been shot. The group name sums up well what they have mainly been used for over the years and we've all seen photos of dogs working alongside humans in a hunting capacity. Once trained this is a highly skilled group of dogs that are able to retrieve from both land and water without damaging the item retrieved. The most well known dogs in this group are Spaniels, Retrievers, Pointers and Setters.



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

Ask Pauline!

Hound Group

The purpose of the Hound Group is to essentially track prey whilst out hunting. They have good stamina and will track prey using either Sight or Scent and therefore, this group can be split into two.

Sight Hounds are capable of keeping fast moving prey in their sight and being able to overpower it with their speed and agility. They can detect motion quickly due to exceptional vision and this coupled with their long legs, lean and wiry bodies and flexibility means they can run at speed and catch fast moving prey. The most well known dogs in this group are Greyhounds, Afghans and Saluki's.

Scent Hounds on the other hand are generally regarded as having the most sensitive noses all dogs in the canine world. Because scent hounds track by smell, rather than vision, they don't need to be as agile and lean as sight hounds. They are highly skilled and are able to track scent across water and even when that scent is several days old, they are still able to follow it. The most well known dogs in the group are Beagles, Blood Hounds and Dachshunds.

Pastoral/Herding Group

Historically Herding dogs were bred to assist humans with the movement of livestock, especially sheep, cattle and goats. Herding dogs that are kept as household pets never cross paths with livestock, yet they still have the herding instinct and you may therefore see them herding their owners and especially any children in the family. Some of the skills in this group are speed, ability to multi-task, the confidence to get close to nip heels, barking, and a non-aggressive eye. Some examples of dogs in this group are Australian Shepherds, Border Collies, Sheep Dogs, Corgis and German Shepherds.

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Utility/Non-Sporting Group

This group is a combination of different breeds and in its simplest form is the group for breeds that don't fit into any of the other categories! There are a range of different sizes in the group and the most well known breeds in this group are Poodle, Dalmation, Bull Dog, French Bulldog, Chow Chow, Schnauzer, Akita and Shih Tzu.

Working Group

The dogs that feature in this group due vary across the world as different Kennel Clubs do have different views on what constitutes a working dog. However for our purposes, the best way to sum up this group is dogs that have been bred for guarding, pulling or rescuing. The most well known dogs in this group are the Husky, the Great Dane, the Mastiff, the Doberman, the Boxer and the St. Bernard.

Terrier Group

Terriers were originally bred to hunt and kill vermin, especially mice, rats, rabbits, stoats and weasels. Therefore terriers are known to be fearless and courageous and have a streak of tenacity and stubbornness that is often hard to overcome. Terriers come in a variety of sizes, but don't think that the small ones are any less fearless than the large ones! They are equally

focused. The most well known dogs in this group are the Jack Russell, the Fox Terrier, the Border Terrier and the West Highland Terrier.

Toy Group

This group is a mixture of different things, often the smallest dogs are put into the Toy Group, but they are also known in some countries as the Companion Group. Some of the dogs in the Toy Group are ancient lap dogs, and some are small versions of hunting dogs bred down in size for a particular kind of work, or just to create a pet of a convenient size. The most popular breeds in this group are Chihuahua, Maltese, Yorkshire Terrier, Pekingese, Pugs and King Charles Spaniel.

If you're thinking of getting a dog it's worth understanding more about the group that your preferred breed fits into. It tells you about their characteristics and gives you tips and ideas about how best to engage their brains and how to motivate them. You can then use this information to tailor training and exercise approaches.

If you have any questions regarding the breed groups, or you have a question you would like us to answer in Ask Pauline, please drop us an email to newsletter@delmonkennels.com

Vets Corner

If you're a cat owner, at some point you're likely to need to know about Hairballs. Unless your cat is hairless, it's a common problem that can have serious consequences. And if your cat is one of the long hair breeds, it's even more important that you understand this topic.

So let's start by looking at what a hairball is. Although it sounds really disgusting, a hairball is a long tube shaped mass of hair. Cats are fastidious at grooming themselves and when they groom, tiny hook-like structures on the tongue catch the loose and dead hair which the cat then swallows.

Swallowing hair is a normal occurrence and a cat's digestive system is able to handle it. The swallowed hair is normally passed through the digestive tract and exits in the faeces. However, if it doesn't all pass through and some hair stays in the stomach it can form a hairball.

If your cat has formed a hairball it will try to remove it. It does this by vomiting it up. It can be quite disturbing to watch your cat do this. It may look like they have a hacking



cough or that they are retching. Shortly after, the hairball will be vomited up. Because the hairball is coming up through the narrow esophagus the mass of hair will be longer and more tubular in shape rather than round.

However if your cat is retching and hacking but doesn't produce a hairball, or has a lack of appetite, constipation or diarrhea then this could indicate that

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your cat has a hairball blockage. In this instance it's important that you see your vet as soon as possible.

Although you can't stop your cat from forming hairballs there are steps that you can take to reduce the number of hairballs that form.

The first thing you can do is to groom your cat regularly. The more fur you remove from your cat, the less they will ingest. Daily brushing can be very effective and as an added benefit, it can develop the relationship between you and your cat as she gets 100% of your attention at that time. If you have a long hair cat breed then it is even more important that you groom daily.

Another thing you can do is to increase the fibre in their diet to help them go to the toilet more easily. There are a number of manufactured pet foods on the market that are a 'hairball formula'. They are designed to be higher in fibre, to improve the health of your cats coat and to minimize the amount of shedding.

Be mindful though that these foods are also likely to contain mild laxatives to help the hair pass through the digestive tract quicker. Bear in mind that these foods do not reduce or stop the formation of hairballs in all cats, so don't rely on this method alone.

Another thing that's good to do is to keep your cat active and to encourage exercise. Some cats suffer from compulsive grooming and this means they ingest higher levels of hair than normal. Encouraging play with new and interesting toys is a good distraction technique.

So, when your cat coughs up a hairball don't be alarmed. However do think about the above tips and see what changes you can make to minimize the reoccurrence.

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

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