



DBKC NEWS!

National Smile Month!



Welcome to May edition of DBKC News! And as the heading says, it's National Smile Month this month!

During the month we'd love to be able to share photos of your smiling pets via our Facebook page, so if you have any, please email them to us. The photo with the most 'likes' by the end of the month will win a Play Day.

In this month's newsletter we find out about an instantly

recognisable breed, the Dalmation in Breed Profile.

We also learn about our new Training classes and launch our Play Day Loyalty Card!

In Ask Pauline we look at separation anxiety in cats, we launch a new feature called 'Where are they now' and in Vets Corner this month we focus on excessive drinking, what could be the causes, and what to do about it.

ISSUE 19 / MAY 2014

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This month, Vets Corner looks at the topic of Excessive Drinking



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

Tracy Whelan



New Training Classes

During April we introduced 3 new training classes designed to meet the life stages that your dog goes through. They are, Puppy Class, Teenager Class and Adult Class.

The Puppy Class is specifically aimed at puppies under 8 months of age and focuses on ensuring that the relationship you build with your puppy is based on solid foundations. Getting a puppy is an exciting and exhausting time, but the sooner you start training them the easier things become. It will also ensure that your puppy develops into a wonderful and balanced lifetime companion.

Like children, dogs go through adolescence too and like children, they also need clear boundaries. This can be a

challenging time in your dogs development and to ensure that you stay on the right track, the Teenager Class will help you through these challenges and strengthen your relationship further. This course is aimed at dogs between 9 and 15 months of age.

Once adulthood is reached your dog should have attained all the key skills necessary to be a great companion for you and your family. However, don't stop now! Keep your dog challenged and stimulated with our Adult Class.

Each class is 6 weeks in length and new classes are starting now. If you'd like to enroll, call us on 17694066 or email newsletter@delmonkennels.com.



Monthly Breed Profile Dalmation

In this month's Breed Profile we're going to take a look at the Dalmation. Dalmations are one of the most recognised breeds of dog thanks to Disney and the 101 Dalmations movie, but lets find out more about them.

The Dalmation belongs in the Utility/Non Sporting group and were originally bred to run alongside horse drawn carriages. As a result of this, they have an enormous amount of stamina and energy and are not the kind of dog that likes to sit around all day with nothing to do!

The first known Dalmations were imported in 1930 by a ship owner from England who took his dogs to Dalmatia, a region on the west side of the former Yugoslavia. As a result, Dalmatia remains the first proven and accepted home of this breed.

The Dalmation is a white dog with black or brown spots. When born, puppies are completely white and the spots develop later. The spot pattern is random and can vary substantially from dog to dog. However the more defined and well distributed the spots are, the more valued the dog is to the show world.

As a result of them being an energetic dog with enormous

stamina, they have high exercise requirements. They need daily, long, brisk walks, or jogs. However the dog should be made to heel beside you, and not be allowed to be in front. The ability to exercise them off lead in a safe place is also important to add some variety into their exercise routine. If Dalmations get bored, they often get destructive and you don't want to come home to a destroyed house or garden, so also keep their mind stimulated with games and challenges.

The Dalmation needs daily brushing, because they shed all year round. An occasional bath is required, but don't bath too often as it can remove the oils from their coat. They are also thought to be blessed with dirt repellent coats because it takes a lot of dirt to make them look grubby!

Health wise, deafness is relatively high in this breed, with 10-12% of puppies being born deaf. A good quality breeder will check for deafness at 6 weeks old. Dalmations are also prone to suffer from urinary stones or urinary blockages. This is because the uric acid levels in Dalmations are generally higher than in other breed types.

So if you're looking for a fun loving, energetic dog, a Dalmation might be the dog for you!

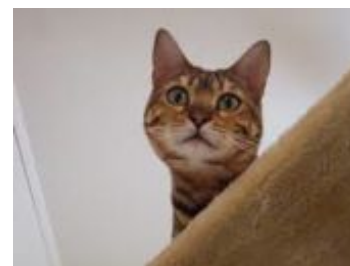
Ask Pauline

In this month's Ask Pauline we're going to look at some common problems experienced by cat owners. Did you know cats can suffer from separation anxiety too? Let's take a quick look at some common issues and some things you can do to combat this.

You may think that your cats pay little attention when you come and go from your home, but some cats can develop separation anxiety when they form a particularly strong bond with their owners. And for cats that have a strong bond, being left alone for long periods of time can cause anxiety and stress. So, keep an eye on your cats for these signs and try the following steps to ensure peace of mind in your absence.

Firstly you need to be able to recognise the signs of separation anxiety in your cat. They can range from prolonged vocalisations (just as dogs bark when they feel alone), to excessive grooming whilst you are away. Cats have even been known to urinate on personal belongings or near the front door, and that is a very clear signal to you that they're not happy! Excessive grooming can also lead to future hairball issues so is something that should be stopped.

Cats are much more sensitive to routines that affect them directly, such as mealtime routines. Be as consistent as possible with your feeding routine, location and timings.



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

Ask Pauline!

And also, don't fall behind on litter box scooping - make time in your schedule for this. Cats don't like to go to the toilet in a dirty litter box, so give them no excuse for going anywhere else in your home.

Make sure that your cat has plenty of engaging toys to enjoy whilst you are away. Cats love play - it helps limit frustration and helps your cat maintain emotional balance. You may also want to take 10 minutes to play with your cat before you leave.

Your vet can also help with separation issues, particularly if none of the above works for your cat. They may need to rule out underlying health issues or provide additional treatment for anxiety.

Where are they now?

Approximately 8 months ago Harvey, Tilly & Snickers relocated back to the UK. Here's an update on how they're doing. All three animals, Harvey (Retriever), Tilly (Shih Tzu) and Snickers (Cat) have settled into life in the UK extremely well. Tilly has become a real dog and enjoys walks in the countryside, running around the fields and meeting other dogs and people. Her best play pal is Snickers. Although he is an indoors cat at the moment, he certainly has desires about going outdoors sometime soon.

Home for all of us is a small village called Longtown, at the foot of the Black Mountains, on the Herefordshire, Monmouthshire border. It is great walking territory and there is an abundance of rivers for Harvey to swim in. Tilly avoids the water totally but can always be relied on to bark at Harvey from the bank as he swims about. Harvey is an excellent swimmer and never misses an opportunity to dive into any available water. He still isn't the most obedient dog in the world and has been known to take himself off for a swim with one of us frantically chasing after him! However he remains a very friendly and sociable dog and has loads of other dog friends he enjoys playing with. Both Harvey and Tilly are loved by everyone who meets them.

The journey back to the UK with the animals was uneventful. We travelled about 12 hours ahead of the animals and went back to collect them from Heathrow the next morning. We had a couple of hours wait as it was a



Monday morning, their busiest day, but we were prepared for that. There were no complications at all at the airport and the staff at the Animal Reception Centre couldn't have been more helpful. It felt strange being reunited with the animals in a different country. The three hour journey from the airport back home was better than we anticipated as all three animals just slept. Thanks to Tim for arranging everything.

Launch of Play Day Loyalty Card!

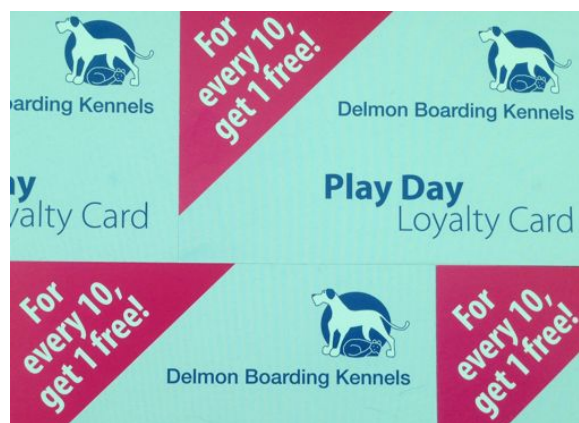
Starting 1st May 2014 we are launching a Loyalty Card for anyone using our Play Day service! For every 10 Play Days, you receive a FREE one!

Play Days are a great way to use up your dogs excess energy and give them a treat. They are also really useful for those days when you have a busy schedule. You can drop your dog at the Kennels at 8am and throughout the day our job is tiring them out!

They will have the opportunity to swim in our hydro-pool or have a go on our doggy specific Fit Fur Life Treadmill. If you would like, they also have the opportunity to socialise with other dogs during supervised playtime.

Before 6pm, pick up your bathed and tired dog and head home for a relaxing evening. Doesn't that sound good!

If you've not tried a Play Day before why not give it a go. They cost 10 BD per day. If you're considering boarding your dog in the summer, Play Days are also a really good way for them to get used to the Kennels environment and routine to ensure that when you drop them off, they bound into the Kennels looking forward to their holiday, which means you



too can holiday without any worries.

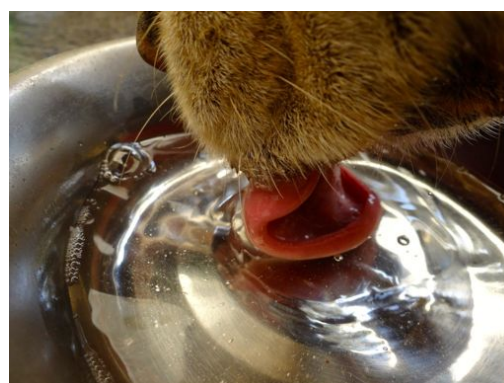
If you'd like to book a Play Day for your dog give us a call on 17694066 or email us at info@delmonkennels.com

And remember, pick up your loyalty card when you pick up your dog!

Vets Corner

Summer is rapidly approaching and your dogs may naturally start to drink more water. However, how do you know if they are just drinking a bit more to cope with the heat, or if there is a greater problem? When does an increase in drinking become excessive? In this month's Vets Corner we're going to take a look at this topic and understand a bit more about the things to look out for to help you identify if there may be something more serious increasing the need for water.

Maintaining hydration is an important aspect of your dogs instinct to survive. Water accounts for more than 60% of a dogs body weight and breathing, salivating and toileting are all responsible for significant losses of water every day. So therefore, they will take in a good amount to replace it. Warmer weather and increased exercise will of course put greater demands on them and they will likely take in even more water. As a rule of thumb, a 20 pound dog needs slightly more than 2 cups a day. If however you've noticed a steep increase in the amount they are drinking, and you've also noticed an increase in urination, then you need to pay closer attention.



Start by measuring the amount of water your dog is drinking in a 24 hour period. This will be an important piece of information to share with your vet, if that is the next step. Also bear in mind that some dogs are sloppy drinkers and if your dog is one of these, make some allowance for the water 'lost' due to this.

You should also ask yourself the following questions:

- Have you recently changed your dogs diet?
- Is your dog taking any medication?
- Does your dog have a fever or an infection?
- Is your dog dehydrated?
- Is your dog acting, or looking, sick?

The answers to the questions above may explain an increase in drinking. A change in food or a change in how you feed could be a contributing factor. For instance the new food you've changed to may have more sodium than the previous one. If you've switched from wet food to dry food that too could be a factor.

Certain medications can also increase thirst, particularly steroids and those for cardiac disease and seizure control. If your vet prescribes any medication for your dog, always ask if there are any side effects. That way, you are prepared.

Fevers and Infections can also lead to increased thirst as a result of an increased body temperature. If you are unsure of your dogs hydration levels, why not conduct a simple test. Grasp a handful of skin at the scruff of your dogs neck. Lift it up as far as it will stretch and then release it. A well hydrated dogs skin will snap briskly back into place whilst that of a dehydrated dog will return slowly to its original position, forming a 'tent' in the process. You can also take a look at their gums. Gently press on the gum until you create a light spot. Remove your finger and they

should return to the normal colour quickly. If your dog is dehydrated, you should see a vet as soon as possible.

However, if you've considered all the questions and there is no obvious explanation, then your dog may have an underlying illness. These could include:

- Diabetes
- Cushing's Syndrome
- Addison's Disease
- Liver or Kidney Disease
- Urinary Infection

You should see your vet as soon as possible. In order to determine whether your dog has an underlying illness they will conduct a number of tests.

So as we go into summer, why not develop a water bowl routine to help you be more aware of this important topic.

- Refill your dogs bowl at roughly the same time daily.
- Fill the bowl to about the same level each time.
- Pay attention to how much you put in and how much is left.

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



"Dog obedience school insults my intelligence. What I'd like to do is go to a university and get a degree."

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