



# DBKC NEWS!

## World Pet Memorial Day



Did you know that June 12 is World Pet Memorial Day? It's a day to celebrate and remember the lives of all the pets we have come into contact with and to consider the reasons we choose to bring animals into our lives.

Without doubt pets have a positive affect on human mood and health. Doesn't petting a warm, purring cat, or watching a clumsy puppy frolic cheer you up?

When we're at our lowest, pets

can brighten our day. Videos of crazy cat antics and websites full of cute animal photos are abundant for a reason ..... they make us happy! So take some time this month to remember pets that are no longer with us and to treasure those that we still have.

In this months newsletter we found out about the Munchkin Cat (too cute!), we talk about preparing for Ramadan & also tell you about a new upcoming training course.

### ISSUE 20 / JUNE 2014

#### Contents

Ask Pauline – this month we look at preparing your maid to look after your pet during your summer vacation



Monthly Breed Focus – This month we find out about The Munchkin

This month, Vets Corner looks at the topic of Parvovirus



And finally, in Vets Corner, we learn about a very serious illness, Parvovirus. Protecting against it is so important as it can be a killer, so make sure your pet gets their annual vaccinations.

If you have any questions or feedback, please email us at [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com)

**Tracy Whelan**



## Manners at Home

How many of you have dogs that could be better behaved at home? Have you ever had visitors to your home and find yourself embarrassed at your dog's behaviour?

Over the last couple of years the majority of our training options have focused on skills your dogs require when they are outside of your home. However, it is equally as important that your dog knows how to behave at home, especially when you have visitors and also when there is food around!

Starting in early June we are running a [NEW](#) 4 week course that focuses on the key skills your dog requires to be a calm and obedient member of your household.

The areas we will focus on are:

- Food Manners
- Staying off the couch & beds
- Behaviour around children and children's toys
- Front Door Etiquette
- Your dog & their relationship with your maid/gardener
- Saying Goodbye

These courses will be limited to 4 people per group and will be held indoors. For more information or to register, contact us on 17694066 or by email to [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com)



## Monthly Breed Profile The Munchkin

Although this cat is reminiscent of those battery operated toy cats you see in toy stores, the Munchkin is a relatively new breed increasing in popularity.

The origins of the Munchkin are the subject of much debate, but it is thought it was first seen in the 1940's. It didn't however rise in popularity until the 1980's when it started to become more known and more available.

The Munchkin is characterized by its very short legs which are caused by a naturally occurring genetic mutation. The legs are often slightly longer at the back end, creating a slight rise from the shoulder to the rump. Although it was thought this would cause spinal issues, as yet it hasn't been an issue in this breed. The breed was only formally recognised in the late 1990's.

This is a cat of character. Don't let their size make you think that they are limited in what they can do. They are energetic, extroverted and ready and willing to play with children, other cats and also dogs. They also have high intelligence so are capable of learning tricks and playing with puzzle toys.

The short legs don't stop them jumping! It may take them a

little longer to reach where they want to go, but they are determined and will get there eventually!

The Munchkin is available in a variety of colours and also in short and long-haired varieties. They have a soft and plush coat and need regular brushing. Regular nail trimming and ear cleaning is also necessary. Males typically grow to between 3-4 kilos with Females being a bit smaller.

This breed is also known as being a bit of a magpie, taking small, shiny objects and hiding them to play with later. Therefore be careful where you leave valuables!

If you would like a Munchkin you will need to go to a reputable breeder and kittens are usually not removed from the mother until they are between 14-16 weeks old. You should also ask the breeder for written confirmation of the family history and health.

We're not aware of any Munchkin's in Bahrain, so if you know of anyone that has one, or you have one, please do let us know.

Next month we're back to dogs and will be looking at the Jack Russell.

## Ask Pauline

In this month's Ask Pauline we're going to look at the things you need to consider if you are going away for the summer and leaving your pet with your maid.

One important thing to remember is that your maid has a number of duties, and looking after your pets will probably not be at the top of the list! We often see situations where maids are given pet responsibilities and although they feed them and ensure they toilet, they don't always give your pet the other things that you would give them.

Imagine that you've been working with your dog for several months teaching them how to behave and giving them plenty of exercise and now you're not there to set the rules and ensure the boundaries are not breached. You also may not allow your pet in certain parts of the house, or on the couch, however when you're not around, who can say what they will be allowed to do!

The key questions to consider are:

- What type, and how much **exercise** do you want your pet to get? Easy if you have a cat, not so easy if you have a high energy dog!
- How do you want them to deal with any **separation anxiety** the pet may have because you're not there?
- What **training skills** do you want your maid to practice whilst you're away? Maybe you could set them a challenge to teach your pet a new trick over the summer!
- What is the maximum length of time they can leave the pet **alone** for?
- What **feeding routine** do you want them to follow?
- What **toileting routine** do you want them to follow?



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

*Ask Pauline!*

- What should they do in the event of an **emergency**?

Once you have answered the key questions you need to consider how equipped your maid is to meet your requirements. You could just not worry about it and enjoy your vacation, however, when you're back you're going to have to invest time and energy into fixing any issues that have arisen, so why not invest that time and energy now, before you go.

You may need to do some training with your maid in the run up to your departure. You may want to write down the 'Pet Rules' and fix them to the fridge. You may want to ask your maid to take responsibility for the pet 10 days before you go, and supervise to ensure everything goes how you want it to go.

If you are lucky enough to be 110% happy that your maid fully understands the rules you set for your pet and is also capable of ensuring they will be adhered to, then that's great. Enjoy your vacation!

However, if you're not so sure, or if your maid is new, take some time before you leave to make a contingency plan in case it doesn't work out. This may involve asking a friend to check on them regularly to make sure all is well.

On the run up to summer we are also considering running a course specifically for maids that have pet care duties to ensure that they understand what is expected of them and that they interact with your pet in the right way. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact us on 17694066 or by email to [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com)

If you don't have a full time maid or have decided to put your pet into a boarding facility, then **book early!** All boarding facilities in Bahrain book up quickly for the summer months and you don't want your summer plans to fall through as a result of lack of planning.

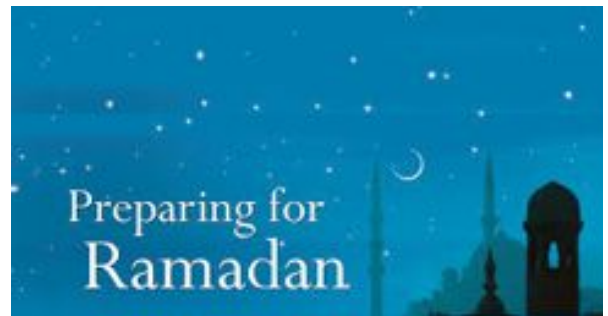
## How will Ramadan affect your pet?

The Holy Month of Ramadan starts at the end of June and runs for 30 days. If you are fasting during this time you may want to consider what affect this will have on your pets.

During Ramadan, work timings change, your daily routine will change and you will likely be out in the evenings breaking your fast and meeting with family and friends.

Before Ramadan arrives take some time to think about these changes and what it may mean to your pets feeding and exercise routines. Will you have more time in the morning or afternoon, but less time during the night? If so, think about implementing the changes before Ramadan starts. Once Ramadan is here, and if you are fasting, your body will usually take a few days to adjust to your new routine. To help smooth this, make the adjustments to your pets routine a few days before yours so you are not juggling two sets of changes at one time.

If your pet will be kept outside during this time, make sure they have a good supply of fresh water and a cool, shady spot for protection. If you have an outside kennel with an air conditioner, even better! And if you have a maid, a gardener or a dog handler to help look after your pet, that would be great too. See this month's Ask Pauline for some tips on ensuring they know what your rules and expectations are.



If you're an expat working shorter hours during Ramadan why not use this time to do something constructive with your pet. You could reinforce any training you've been doing, take the time to learn something new, or just have fun playing with your pet!

However, if you need some help during the Holy Month, why not consider boarding your pet or booking a series of Play Days. This way you don't need to worry about them and can focus on the importance of Ramadan instead.

Whatever you decide, if there's anything we can help with, give us a call or drop us an email to [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com). Ramadan Kareem!

## Vets Corner

In this month's Vets Corner we're going to look at the topic of Parvovirus. When our dogs get their annual vaccinations they are protected against it, but what exactly is it and how important is it that we vaccinate against it?

Parvovirus is a highly contagious viral illness that affects dogs. It was first described in the 1970's and fully spread across the world within 2 years. It killed thousands of dogs before an effective vaccine was developed. It can affect all breeds of dog, including wild, stray and desert dogs.

It can affect dogs of all ages, but most cases occur in puppies between 6 – 20 weeks old. This is one of the reasons why puppies should not mix with other dogs until they have received their vaccinations.

Parvovirus is spread from dog to dog by direct, or indirect, contact with infected faeces. The graphic on the next page shows the infection cycle. The disease can also be carried on a dog's fur and feet, collars and leashes and even your shoes and clothes if you walk through a contaminated area.

The other scary fact is that the virus can live in the ground for many years so spotting it can be incredibly difficult. Parvovirus does exist in Bahrain and therefore the only real protection against it is vaccination.

Dogs that catch Parvovirus will show symptoms within 3 – 7 days and the symptoms include depression, lethargy, severe vomiting, fever and diarrhea, which usually contains blood. As a result of the vomiting and the diarrhea the dog will be dehydrated and susceptible to secondary infections. If your dog exhibits any of these symptoms, you should get them to a vet ASAP.

Parvovirus sufferers require hospital admission and treatment includes intravenous fluids and medications to control the vomiting and diarrhea. Puppies and dogs shouldn't eat or drink until the vomiting has stopped. The Parvovirus itself doesn't cause death, but it can cause a number of secondary infections including septicemia and other bacterial infections, which are usually the cause of death.

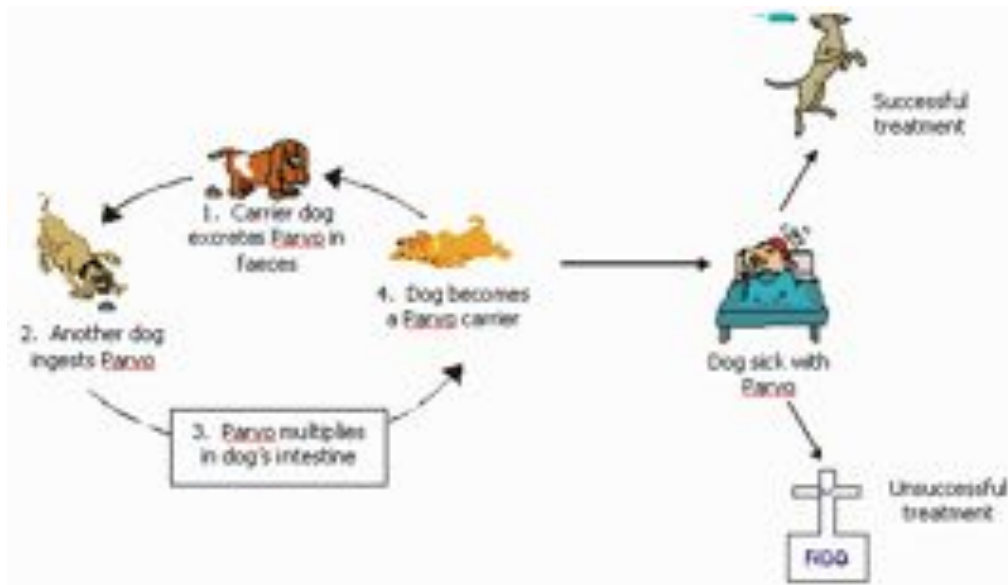
Parvo does appear to be more prevalent in certain breed types. Studies have shown that Doberman's and Rottweiler's appear to acquire the infection more readily and experience more severe symptoms. The reason for this is not known. So if you have one of these breeds vaccinations are vital.

Whether a dog with Parvo survives will mainly depend on the actual strain of the virus, the age of the dog and the strength of its immune system, together with how quickly it

is diagnosed and treatment starts.

Preventing Parvo is difficult. The best things you can do is maintain good hygiene, be vigilant for any symptoms, don't let your dogs mix with unvaccinated dogs and make sure you get your dogs vaccinated on an annual basis.

If you have any questions regarding Parvo, drop us an email to [newsletter@delmonkennels.com](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@delmonkennels.com)



Delmon Boarding Kennels