



DBKC NEWS!

Deaf Pet Awareness Week



During September Deaf Pet Awareness Week will be held. It is planned for the last week in September and is designed to help owners understand what is involved in owning a deaf pet.

You might think owning a deaf pet is difficult, however it might not be as big of a challenge as you think. In this month's Ask Pauline we look at this topic in a bit more detail.

This month we also learn about the Afghan Hound in Breed

Profile and we learn about Feline Aids in Vets Corner.

We also share another relocation story and find out about Tango's new life in the UK.

Those of you who follow our Facebook page will also have seen that Pauline was recently made a member of the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers (IMDT).

This involved a lot of hard work on Pauline's behalf including

ISSUE 23 / SEPTEMBER 2014

Contents

Ask Pauline – this month we look at the topic of how to identify and train a deaf dog



Monthly Breed Focus – This month we find out about the Afghan Hound

This month, Vets Corner looks at the topic of Feline Aids



sitting exams! We find out more about the IMDT, and it's founder Steve Mann, below.

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

Tracy Whelan



Institute of Modern Dog Trainers



Founded in 1999 by Steve Mann, the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers is one of the UK's leading bodies and independent course providers for Dog Trainers and Behaviourists.

Their key aims include training dogs professional, with honesty and integrity and they strongly believe in force-free, reward based training.

If you watch UKTV you've probably already seen Steve in action as he's well known in the UK as a dog expert and has been a judge on a number of dog training programmes.

A quick trip to You Tube will show more about Steve and the programmes he's appeared in. You'll also see his skills and approach in action together with his well known sense of humour!

The other EXCITING NEWS is that Steve will be coming to Bahrain on the 5th and 6th December 2014. Over the weekend he will run courses and an evening seminar.

Further information about the upcoming events will be communicated over the coming months together with details of how to register and buy tickets.



Monthly Breed Profile Afghan Hound

The Afghan Hound is one of those breeds that is instantly recognizable. They are often seen in the show ring and are essentially the aristocrats of the dog world. They carry themselves with dignity and poise and have an amazing, long, flowing coat and in this month's Breed Profile we'll find out more about them.

The Afghan didn't become known in the western world until the early 1800's and the history of the breed before that time is a bit unclear. Some think that the Afghan is a descendant of the Saluki and you can see some similarities between them. Afghans were originally developed for chasing prey in the mountainous regions of Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, and at times they also acted as guards for tribes and livestock. They are however a sight hound and this was their primary job. As a result, they are very fast off-leash so when you're out and about, keep them on a lead.

Although they appear quite aloof, Afghans can be playful and clownish and are just as happy playing with their family, as they are lounging around the home. Because of their breed type, they do require a lot of exercise and love to run and jump. Therefore, apartment living is not for an Afghan. For them to be happy you need to have a secure outside space for them.

Afghans are a tall breed and can grow as tall as 28 inches at the shoulder and have an average lifespan of 13 years. They are however lean, and managing their weight is important so that strain is not put on their bones. It's difficult to see how lean they are sometimes because of their beautiful coat, so keeping their weight steady is important. They come in a variety of colours and patterns and the long, fine hair is shiny and silky to the touch. Some say their hair is similar to human hair. As a result, grooming is very important and will require a lot of time and effort from the owner. If you haven't the time to invest in daily brushing, then don't get an Afghan!

Afghans are generally healthy, but can suffer ear infections as a result of their ears hanging down. Weekly ear cleaning is recommended to help prevent infections. They can also suffer from allergies and bloat, so you should keep a good eye on them and if in any doubt, seek the advice of a vet.

As they do have a tendency for being shy and standoffish, they need extensive exposure to people, sights and sounds as otherwise their natural caution and shyness can become excessive and difficult to live with.

If you have any questions, drop us a line at newsletter@delmonkennels.com

Ask Pauline

In this month's Ask Pauline we're going to explore the topic of deafness. You may think it's difficult for deaf dogs, however the majority of deaf animals think of themselves as completely normal and it's the owners who have more of an issue with it. We're going to start by looking at what causes deafness and then what you can do about it.

Deafness, or hearing loss, can occur in any dog and can be temporary or permanent and can be partial or total. As dogs age, you may notice their hearing change, similar to humans who can also experience hearing loss with age. Temporary deafness can be caused by a wax build up or related to hair blockages. Keeping your dogs ears clean and blockage free is an important part of dog ownership.

The following are signs that indicate your dog may be suffering from some form of hearing loss:

- They don't know you're in the room until you physically touch them
- They turn the wrong way when you call them
- They show no response to outside stimuli, ie. Doorbell ringing or other dogs barking
- They shake their head
- They show no response when given familiar vocal commands
- They bark excessively
- They scratch at their ears or they appear itchy and painful
- The ears smell or there is a discharge

If you have concerns about your dogs hearing, consult your vet and they will check the ears for blockages and conduct some simple tests. If your dog is deaf, you will still be able to communicate with them, you will just need to do it in a different way. You will also need to make sure they cannot get outside on their own as they



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

Ask Pauline!



cannot hear any danger approaching, so have a secure fenced area for them. If your dog is out walking with you, you can notify other owners in advance that your dog is deaf by using a collar or harness that has the words "Deaf Dog" written on it. This can be useful for other owners walking dogs.

Many people think training a deaf dog is difficult, however it's often easier than you think. The dog can't hear any distractions nearby so will focus on you more easily. Instead of using verbal commands, use hand signals for each action you want the dog to learn. It doesn't matter what the hand signals are, as long you're consistent with them the dog will learn.

If you have children in your home, you also need to make sure they know not to startle the dog if it's been asleep or lying quietly. Any startled dog could bite, so if they're lying on their bed, bump it slightly to wake them up, or stomp your foot to create a vibration. You could also stand nearby until the dog's nose picks up your scent. Give a treat and lots of love once they are fully awake so they associate waking up with good things.

If you have a deaf dog and would like help with training, give us call on 17694066 or drop us an email to newsletter@delmonkennels.com

Vets Corner

In this month's Vets Corner we're going to look at the topic of Feline Aids. The word Aids can often strike fear into an owner's heart, but let's find out more about it and what it actually means for an infected cat.

Everyone has heard of HIV. It stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and essentially means that your immune system will progressively fail until something like a simple cold can become life threatening. FIV, or Feline Immunodeficiency Virus has some similarities to HIV in that it relates to the immune system, but cats with FIV can live for many years without experiencing fatal symptoms. One important point to make is that humans cannot catch FIV from an infected cat, so they pose no risk to you and your family.

FIV can be transmitted from cat to cat, however it requires the transfer of blood or saliva and is not transmittable through the air. It is also not transmitted through the act of mating. The most common way FIV is transferred from cat to cat is through biting. When an infected cat bites an uninfected cat the virus is transmitted through the saliva into the other cats blood. Very occasionally a kitten may catch FIV from the mother, either in utero, or via infected milk but this is rare.

FIV can infect all cats from domesticated cats to lions, tigers, pumas and cheetahs. It is mostly found in males due to their tendency to be more aggressive and also as a result of their likelihood to roam. Feral cats are even more at risk and FIV can spread easily amongst a wild cat population.

FIV can only be diagnosed by a vet conducting a blood test. It is possible to get incorrect results from the test so your vet make use a couple of different types of test to get a definitive result. The other thing to take into consideration is the timeframe since exposure as it can take several weeks before it is identifiable via a blood test. Your vet will advise you if additional testing is required.



*The best doctor in the world is a vet.
He can't ask his patients what's wrong – he just has to know!*

So let's take a look at the symptoms you may see if your cat becomes infected with FIV. The symptoms can be diverse owing to the decreased immune system so vigilance is key:

- a) Recurrent minor illnesses, especially respiratory, gastrointestinal or dehydration related
- b) Enlarged lymph nodes
- c) Inflammation of the gums and mouth
- d) Eye disease, including inflammation of the moist tissues of the eye and inflammation of the cornea
- e) Long term kidney issues
- f) Persistent diarrhea
- g) Nervous system abnormalities, and possible
- h) Fever & wasting, or even cancer

Owners often want to know what they can do to prevent their cat catching FIV. If you have a tom cat, neutering will help reduce roaming and aggression which will limit the likelihood of him getting bitten by an infected cat. Also, keep your cats away from feral cats by providing them with a secure garden.

Multiple cat households that have one cat with FIV can live in harmony together without FIV spreading, as long as there is no fighting and subsequent biting. They can share water and food bowls and even groom each other without it being transmitted to one of the others.

If you have concerns that your cat may have FIV, contact your vet who will discuss your cats history with you and determine what tests are required. And if you have a cat with FIV remember that they can still lead a good and relatively normal life.

Where are they now?

Tango started life as a rescue dog in Bahrain. She was initially at the BSPCA and was lucky enough to be sponsored by Conrad who supported her whilst she was at Delmon Kennels learning social and life skills. She was then adopted by Kevin & Bridget Smith and taken to the UK. She arrived on the 23rd October 2011 after travelling initially to Heathrow Airport and then onward by train via Guildford and New Milton station.

She settled in straight away and now lives with us in Milford on Sea, which is right at the bottom of the United Kingdom overlooking the Isle of Wight. Coincidentally, we now live next door but one to Pauline's dad John, and Frances.

She enjoys daily walks along the cliff-top at Milford or over the farmers fields in Keyhaven and along the sea wall. Tango is a very good dog and has an extremely nice nature. She does bark when anyone is around but would not bite anyone, thank goodness!

Although she's very obedient, she could still do with some more of Pauline's training! She has a serious interest in grey squirrels and all types of pigeons, and also the black cat in the house opposite! However, she is a wonderful dog and we wouldn't be without her.



Thanks to Pauline and Tim for sending us such a good friend, and to Conrad for giving her an opportunity for a different life.

If you have a relocation story that you'd like to share with us, drop an email telling us your story to newsletter@delmonkennels.com together with a photo of your dog enjoying their new home.



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