



DBKC NEWS!

National Walk Your Dog Week! 1st - 7th October



Welcome to the October 2014 edition of DBKC News! It's hard to believe that this is our 24th edition. Time has gone so fast!

Over the last 2 years we've looked at a huge variety of topics, yet there are still so many for us to cover in future editions. If you have only recently started to read us, why not check out our older editions which are available on our website on the "News" page.

If you have any feedback about the newsletter, or suggestions for

articles, please do let us know so that we can continue to make it informative and useful.

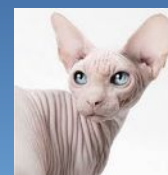
In this month's edition we find out more about the beautiful Sphynx hairless cat, we learn about Canine Epilepsy in Vets Corner and we find out more about the Dynamic Duo's visit in December!!

The first week in October also marks National Walk your Dog Week and as the weather is slowly cooling, why not get out

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and about and give your dog some nice long walks. Alternatively, you could also contact the BSPCA and be a volunteer dog walker.

We hope you enjoy our 24th edition.

Tracy Whelan



News!

DOGGY DNA!

Did you know that DNA testing is now available to dog owners in Bahrain? Have you ever wanted to know what breeds your 'mixed breed' dog has in its DNA? Nonie Coutts vets is now offering DNA breed testing.

In September, our editor Tracy Whelan submitted her 3 dogs for DNA testing and is now awaiting the results. We'll share them with you in our next edition so you can see the type of information that you get, together with understanding more about how this information is beneficial to you in choosing appropriate exercise and training activities.

TRAINING RESTARTS!

The weather is slowly changing and training activities are restarting. So, if your dog has had a relaxed and lazy summer and you want to reinvigorate your routine or revitalize your relationship, why not consider one of our many training programmes.

Saturday afternoon 'fun obedience' is a good starting point. Classes are now running at 4.30pm every Saturday at a cost of 7 BD. Pauline has a lot of new ideas which will challenge both owners and dogs, so be prepared! Dates for our structured training programmes will be announced shortly.



Monthly Breed Profile Sphynx Cat

We've all heard the saying 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder' and it really is true in relation to this month's Breed Profile cat, the Sphynx. Without knowing anything about them they are often called ugly, however under the unusual exterior is a cat full of character and warmth. Let's find out more.

Even though it belongs to the 'hairless' group of cats, the Sphynx isn't totally naked. Their body is covered in a soft down and has a texture that is similar to the skin on a peach, or a chamois leather. Lovely to stroke! This does mean though that they are very susceptible to sun burn and have little protection should other cats become aggressive. Therefore, the Sphynx is best suited to being an indoor cat.

Young Sphynx cats are very wrinkly as you can see from the photos above! As they grow bigger they essentially 'grow into their skin' so the wrinkles lessen. They can also be found in all sorts of colours and patterns.

Despite the lack of hair, it is important to groom them. For regular furry cats, body oils are absorbed by the fur, but as the Sphynx is lacking in that attribute they are not able to keep body oils in balance and need regular baths to remove the build up of body oil. If they are not bathed regularly it

can lead to skin problems and you may even see oil spots on your cats bed, or your furniture!

Sphynx cats tend to have higher metabolisms as their bodies have to work extra hard to keep them warm. Therefore they will generally eat more than regular cats. As a result, they often develop a 'pot belly', but this is a characteristic of the breed and is nothing to worry about.

Temperament wise they love attention and will often do anything for a laugh and to be a show-off. They are high energy cats and are acrobatic, great at balancing and can even perch on their humans shoulders! Some Sphynx owners talk about their 'dog like' characteristics and intelligence. Their friendliness makes them easy to handle and they will often follow their humans around the home, or come running to greet you when you return.

They dislike being ignored and therefore if you think a Sphynx might be the cat for you, you need to ensure they are an active part of your family and get all the love and attention they need.

Next month we're back to dogs and will be looking at a well known breed in Bahrain, the Saluki.

Ask Pauline

Hands up if you've ever bundled the dogs in the car and moved off without them being fully secured? And, hands up if you've ever had a dog jump from the hatchback area over the back seats and visit you 'in the front'? In the past I've been guilty of both and most other dog owners are too. So, in this month's Ask Pauline we're going to look at this topic in more depth.

The two key things to consider are:

- Is your dog secured in the car? and,
- Do they have good car manners?

When I was a child our family dog used to love going in the car. She'd run backwards and forwards across the back seat and hang her head out of the window! However, regardless of how much fun this was for her, it was ultimately a distraction for the driver, and for other drivers around you. When you're in the car, you need to be 100% focused on the road and other cars and not worrying what your dog is doing! It's even more important here due to the inconsistent skills of many drivers!

If the worst should happen and you should have an accident, your dog will be understandably stressed and possibly injured and that could also become an issue for the emergency services. Having your dog restrained and secure is the way forward and there are a number of options available. They include:

- Specially designed seat belts/harnesses
- Dog Guards, and
- Crates
- Or, you could simply tie their lead to something

If you don't use any of these, please do consider choosing one for both your safety and your dogs.

Please also make sure your dog rides in either the back seat, or the boot area. Owners of small dogs often think that it's safe enough for them to sit on the passenger seat or even on the driver's knee. However, if there is an accident and if the air bag is deployed, it could cause serious injury to the animal.



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

Ask Pauline!

So what do we mean by car manners? If your dog has good car manners they:

- Will sit, or lie down, quietly
- Will not bark excitedly, aggressively, or excessively
- Will not urinate in the car
- Will not chew your seats or slobber all over your windows!
- Will get in the car easily and calmly
- Will wait for you to get out of the car and give the command for them to come

Some dogs do suffer from motion sickness in the car and therefore if your dog is one of these, they should never be punished for vomiting in the car.

Based on the list above, does your dog have good car manners, or do you need to do some work on this? If you need to do some work, the sooner you start the better. All dogs need to be familiar with the car, even if they don't go in it very often, because you never know when those unexpected vet visits will be required.

If you've got any tips and suggestions of things you've done to make car journeys safer and easier, why not email us at newsletter@delmonkennels.com and we will share them.



Vets Corner

In this month's Vets Corner we're going to look at the topic of Canine Epilepsy. Watching a dog have a seizure, or a fit, can be quite distressing for the owner, so let's find out more about it.

Epilepsy is a disorder associated with abnormal electrical activity in the brain that can cause the sufferer to have sudden, uncontrolled physical attacks which may, or may not, lead to unconsciousness.

Seizures can often occur for unknown reasons and therefore if your dog has one, you should see your vet. They will carry out a number of tests to try and determine the cause. If your dog has suffered a head injury of any description, be sure to tell your vet as it may be related.

Certain dog breeds are more prone to suffer from epilepsy and these include

- Beagles
- Keeshond
- Dachshunds
- Golden Retriever
- Cocker Spaniels, and
- Shetland Sheepdog

Seizures themselves can occur at any time and have a couple of stages. Prior to the seizure your dog may behave differently, they may appear frightened or dazed, may hide from you or do the opposite and appear overly clingy. If your dog suffers regularly from seizures you will start to be able to identify the symptoms prior to the seizure occurring.

Once the seizure begins, the dog will often fall onto its side



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

become stiff, chomp it's jaws and paddle its limbs. You may also see profuse salivation, urination and/or defecation. The seizure will generally last between 30 and 90 seconds.

Once the seizure has 'finished' your dog will be disoriented and may appear 'spaced out'. Monitor them during this time and keep track of how long it takes for them to fully return to a normal state.

Your vet will ask you to keep a diary of when the seizures occur and how long they last. This will help them determine whether your dog is suffering from epilepsy and whether medication is required. For irregular seizures that have long periods of time between them, it is unlikely that seizure medication will be prescribed.

If your vet prescribes seizure medication remember that it is designed to reduce the number of seizures, not stop them completely. It can have side effects and therefore it will only be prescribed if the seizures are frequent. Any animals taking seizure medication will also require regular blood tests to monitor blood levels.

Our top tips for dealing with seizures are:

- Be aware of the 'pre seizure' symptoms
- Keep your dog quiet and calm
- Keep other pets away from them
- Don't over fuss them
- Write down details about the seizure for your vet
- Allow them time to recover in a quiet environment

Please remember that it is important to consult your vet if you have any concerns regarding your pet.

The Dynamic Duo!

If you google the term 'dynamic duo' you will either be presented with a photo of Batman & Robin, or a professional wrestling team! Well our dynamic duo is neither of these things. They are in fact Steve Mann & Nando Brown from the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers and they will be in Bahrain on the 5th & 6th December. Whether they come dressed as Batman & Robin is yet to be seen, but if Del Boy and Rodney can do it, Steve and Nando should be able to!

Festivities will start on Friday the 5th with Nando Brown's Trick Training Course. This is a hands on experience for a small number of dog lovers to learn how to teach their dogs a number of different tricks. Don't worry if you don't get a place as a participant, because spectator tickets are available for you to 'watch and learn' the others in action and then practice with your dog at home.

The course will be held at Delmon Kennels, will run for 3 hours and tickets are now on sale at the Kennels.

The fun continues on the evening of Saturday the 6th December at the Dilmun Club. An Evening with Steve Mann will start at 7.30 pm and after a lovely dinner, Steve

will talk to us about a dog related topic. The topic title remains a secret at the moment, but rest assured it will be informative, interesting and knowing Steve, it will also be very entertaining!

Tickets for this event are also now on sale, available from the Kennels.



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