



DBKC NEWS!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Happy National Day & Merry Christmas! The holiday season is upon us and before we know it we'll be welcoming in 2015.

Whatever plans you have for the festive season have fun and enjoy. The Kennels will be full and whilst you're off enjoying yourselves, your pets will be too!

Before you go though, don't forget the Nando Brown & Steve Mann events that are happening on the 5th and 6th December. Tickets are still available and they promise to

be informative, lively & fun events, so don't miss out.

In this month's edition of DBKC News we focus a bit more on cats. We find out about the Delmun Cat in Breed Profile, we learn all about Cat Flu in Vets Corner and we understand whether cats and dogs are really friends, or enemies in Ask Pauline.

We have also launched a new Photo Competition starting now, with photos being posted

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This month, Vets Corner looks at the topic of Cat Flu



on our Facebook page in January. See below for more information and how to enter.

Enjoy the holidays and see you next month.

Tracy Whelan



January Photo Competition

The 2015 Calendars have recently been printed and are in the process of being distributed. If you come to the Kennels, don't forget to pick up your copy. They will also be available at the Steve Mann events and if you'd like to participate in our photo competition, you'll need one!

All you need to do is be photographed with a copy of the 2015 Calendar. Simple! A number of you may travel over the Christmas and New Year period and it would be great to see the calendars reaching far and wide or being photographed in iconic places, or even with celebrities! From our previous competitions we know you're a creative bunch of people, and we look forward to seeing what you come up with. Prizes to be announced, but they will relate to our 10 Year Anniversary which we celebrate next year.





Monthly Breed Profile Delmun Cat

In this month's Breed Profile we're back to looking at cats and thought we'd see 2014 out by looking at a Bahraini breed of cat, the Delmun Cat. In 2006 the government named the Delmun Cat the national cat breed in Bahrain, and there are a number of enthusiasts who got together to ensure the survival of this breed, so let's find out more about it.

As you can see from the photos the Delmun cat is a lithe and quite tall cat reaching an average of 12-13 inches at the shoulder. It is a naturally spotted tabby cat that can be found in a variety of colours. They can even be found in all white, however they are very rare.

They are naturally quite lithe and can have boney shoulders with a loose coat. They have a lovely intelligent face which is more of a wedge shape. They are excellent hunters and can live quite happily without any human intervention. In the wild they hunt lizards and vermin and have also been seen climbing trees to get into birds nests.

Living in a climate with extremely hot temperatures means that the Delmun Cat has adapted to drinking very little water. Therefore, they are often semi dehydrated which could also help explain their loose coat appearance. It also

has an impact on the frequency that they breed. The Delmun Cat will typically only breed once or twice a year and stay with their young until they mature at around 5 months. The kittens often have a 'bat' look with large ears that they eventually grown into! Although they don't like to be cuddled and aren't overly affectionate, they have been known to sit and wait for their owners when they go out to work.

One other unusual feature of the Delmun cat is their webbed feet and their resistance to some feline diseases. Unfortunately the Delmun cat breed has been in danger as other cat breeds have come to Bahrain and interbreeding has occurred. The interbreeding has led to offspring not being as resistant to the heat or disease, resulting in shorter lifespans.

There are however Delmun Cat enthusiasts who are working on keeping the breed alive. The Cat Society of Bahrain and Pet Animals (CSPCA) have created a registration and evaluation system for Delmun Cats and are focused on ensuring that healthy specimens of the breed remain in Bahrain in the future.

Next month we're back to dogs and will be looking at The Whippet.

Ask Pauline

The old saying ‘fighting like cats and dogs’ often leads people to believe that cats and dogs are enemies and can’t live in harmony together. However, there are many owners out there who have both cats and dogs under the same roof who will tell you it’s not true and they can be great friends. So in this month’s Ask Pauline we look at this topic in more detail and give you some tips and suggestions to make the relationship between your cat and dog a successful one.

In their evolutionary past dogs were predators. Although today’s domesticated dog has changed through the domestication process, some individuals can still be successful hunters and almost any small mammal can trigger this predatory response, including cats. The majority of us grew up seeing Tom chase Jerry and Spike chase Tom. It’s a stereotype based on what happens in nature and if you want this to be different in your home you need to try and ‘match’ cats and dogs and then supervise their interactions until both understand the rules.

So what do we mean by ‘match’ them. Lets start by looking at energy and personality. For instance, if you have an older cat who doesn’t like to play and who only wants to sleep, introducing a lively puppy into your home may not be the best idea! The puppy will want to play and will still be learning the difference between rough play and gentle play and an older, less active cat is unlikely to tolerate this. If you have a younger, bold and more playful cat then a puppy or a young dog may be a great addition to your family.

Also consider what breed of dog you have. If you have a dog with a strong prey drive, for example terriers, they will need to be very well trained and well exercised if you plan on leaving them at home with a cat for periods of time. Do everything you can to make the relationship a success. Don’t set them up to fail.

Before introducing them training your dog is essential. You must be confident that they understand and listen to commands such as sit, stay, leave it and gentle. If they are not fully trained, this is your starting point. Once this is done you can start the introduction process. It’s important that this isn’t rushed and that it is managed properly. If



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

Ask Pauline!

during the introduction process one of the animals feels threatened it may be difficult to change this in the future.

It’s always good to help both animals get used to the scent of the other. For instance you could use a towel or a blanket to stroke each animal and then place it in the other animals bed. Don’t feel you need to rush the introduction process. Take a few days to let the new pet get used to the smells of their new home before the initial meeting. You can also use a crate or cat carrier as part of the introduction as this can act as a safe space for the cat.

Carefully manage the initial meeting. Don’t allow the dog to be too forward or pushy and if they show any signs of aggression or desire to chase the cat you must correct them immediately. If your dog remains calm in the presence of the cat reward them with praise or a treat. When the time is right to let them meet face to face, ensure the cat has a safe/high spot to start from and that they have an escape route if they feel it is needed.

Over time they will find places to sleep and routines that allow them to live together peacefully whilst gradually becoming used to each other and accepting of each other. However, don’t leave them unattended until you are confident that they are safe together.

And finally, once your dog and cat have accepted each other don’t forget that this doesn’t mean they will accept all other dogs and cats. Strange dogs in your home will not necessarily be accepted by your cat and your dog may still attempt to chase stray cats whilst out walking!

If you have any questions on this topic or any other tips and ideas that we can share, please write to us at newsletter@delmonkennels.com

Vets Corner

In this month's Vets Corner we're going to look at the topic of Cat Flu. Cat Flu is one of the diseases that annual vaccinations are designed to prevent and we've all heard of it, but do we really know what it is?

Cat Flu is a common illness that affects the upper respiratory tract of cats. It can be caused by a number of infectious agents and can be life threatening. It is generally caught either in a viral form, or a bacterial form and the vaccinations given will not be 100% effective against every form of the disease. Even with this being the case, it is important to vaccinate against it.

Once a cat is infected they shed particles of the disease in nasal and eye discharges and in saliva and these particles can survive in the general environment for up to a week. This means cats don't actually need to come face to face with a sufferer to catch it. If an infected cat leaves particles on feeding bowls, toys, or even on the owners clothing these can be picked up by other cats who will subsequently then become sick.

The other fact to bear in mind is that some healthy cats can actually be carriers of the disease. They will show no, or very mild, symptoms yet can still infect other cats. If you have a cat with cat flu or your cat is a carrier, you need to isolate them from other cats.

The most common symptoms include:

- Coughing or loss of voice
- Sneezing
- Lethargy
- Lack of Appetite



The best doctor in the world is a vet.

He can't ask his patients what's wrong – he just has to know

- Runny Eyes
- Runny Nose
- Fever/High Temperature
- Dribbling
- Pneumonia

As you can see from the photo below, the eyes can become very red and sore and if untreated it can cause lasting damage to the eye and in the worst case, the loss of one or both, eyes.

If you suspect your cat may have cat flu it's important to see your vet. To make a definitive diagnosis they will take swabs and conduct tests. There is no cure for cat flu so they will prescribe treatment of the symptoms and you will need to nurse your cat through the illness. If your cat is severely ill they may require intravenous fluids to combat dehydration.

To nurse them through it you will need to:

- Keep them quiet, warm and comfortable
- Minimise Stress
- Remove discharge from eyes and nose
- Relieve nasal congestion
- Encourage appetite with warm, sloppy, strong smelling food
- Hand feed if required
- Administer eye ointments
- Give prescribed medication

The majority of cats will recover, but it may take several weeks. If your cat does get cat flu, take immediate action to see your vet. An even better way is to take steps to prevent them catching it by vaccinating them on an annual basis.

Steve & Nando



Delmon Boarding Kennels
Presents



An Evening with **Steve Mann**

20/-
including dinner

on Saturday 6th December, 7:30 pm
at The Dilmun Club

Steve is a professional dog trainer & behaviourist (IMDT) & regularly appears on 'Who Let The Dogs Out', 'The Underdog Show', 'Loose Women' and 'BBC Breakfast'.



Trick Training

Watch & Learn
with Nando Brown (IMDT)

adults **10/-** child **5/-** on Friday 5th December, 2:00 pm
at Delmon Boarding Kennels, Barbar

Tickets available from: **Delmon Boarding Kennels**
Tel: 17694066 - 39717609

This month on the 5th & 6th December Steve Mann and Nando Brown from the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers will be Bahrain conducting two separate events.

On Friday 5th December, Nando will put a group of 10 dogs and owners through their paces in a course entitled 'Trick Training!' It starts at 2pm at the Kennels and will be an afternoon of challenging fun for both owners and dogs! Tickets to come along and watch and learn are still available and I'm sure after they learn the tricks we'll see some demonstrations too. Teaching your dog tricks is a great way to keep them challenged and active. Did you know that your dog is capable of learning one new thing every day? So, why not come and learn some new tricks and techniques to try with them.

On Saturday the 6th December, Steve will be speaking at a dinner event held at the Dilmun Club in Saar. The topic is 'K9 Body Language' and is designed to help you understand your dog better so that your relationship and communication is more effective.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to see and hear two professional trainers and behaviourists in action, whilst supporting a local initiative. Tickets are available from Delmon Kennels or the Dilmun Club. Call 17694066 to book your tickets now and we'll even deliver them to you!

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