

# DBKC NEWS!



March 2015

In this month's newsletter we update you on how the Nose Work courses have been going, find out about Sarah Clarke's liver treats and how they are helping in the fight against cancer, and we also find out about Giardia in Vets Corner. Enjoy!

## The 'Sniff Off Challenge!'

Last month we launched our new Nose Work courses and what a fun, fab time we have had over the last few weeks. All attendees have been amazed at the skills of their dogs and how focused they can be when looking for food or a favourite toy.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February we held a 'Sniff Off' with 3 of our most promising sniffers, and Max! Pauline really challenged us all and created a sniffers paradise in the pound. I suspected it would be a real challenge when I spotted Suranga burying something when I arrived!

We started off indoors with a couple of challenges for the dogs to find food. Everyone did well, so we rapidly progressed outdoors and then it became really hard!

Some of the highlights of the evening were: Libby for the fastest find of a buried tennis ball; Max for deciding to pee on his buried tennis ball because he couldn't be bothered to find it; Tucker for finding everything, including both his and Max's buried balls; and Kiki for the most graceful and specific indication when she found what she was looking for.

Lesley and Tucker 'the Nose' were voted the winner, so a huge 'Well Done' to them. If you'd like to sign up for the next Nose Work course please call us on 17694066.

## Sarah's Treats

Many of you will have met chocolate Labrador Baloo and his mum Sarah Clarke at various training classes at the Kennels. Baloo is helping his mum to raise funds to fight breast, ovarian and cervical cancers by selling his home made, seriously scrumptious, liver training treats.

Available in bags of 250g (frozen) for BD1.5 each, please place your order by sending an email to [balooandduba@gmail.com](mailto:balooandduba@gmail.com) - 1 bag is sufficient for 4 or 5 training sessions depending on the size of the dog. All proceeds to Women v Cancer Cycle Africa Challenge. And Baloo says that no dog has ever refused these treats, even the "my dog won't eat treats" dogs! Please do support this worthy cause.



## Vets Corner

In this edition of Vets Corner we're going to find out about a relatively common disease called Giardia.

The first thing to note is that Giardia isn't a worm or a virus but is in fact a parasite that affects the intestinal tract. Another key thing to note is that the parasite can be transmitted to humans and we'll look at ways to avoid this later on.

So how does a pet get infected? Infection occurs when a pet comes into direct, or indirect, contact with the parasite. The parasite is shed in the faeces of infected animals so your pet could pick up the infection by simply sniffing or ingesting contaminated faeces, soil or water. So next time you're out walking and your dog wants to smell a large pile of 'poo' you might be better keeping them away. The parasite can survive in the environment for quite some time as long as conditions permit, especially in cool and moist areas.

Once inside a pet's intestine the parasites move around and attach themselves to the walls of the intestine where they start to reproduce and then end up being expelled by the pet in their faeces and the cycle of passing the infection on reoccurs.



So if your pet gets infected, what are the symptoms? In a lot of cases there are few obvious signs that your pet is infected. However, if symptoms are visible they will often occur in younger dogs and can either come on suddenly, or be temporary or intermittent, or in extreme cases can be chronic and ongoing. The most common symptom exhibited is diarrhea and it will look frothy, greasy, have excessive mucus and a strong, awful smell.

If you think your dog may be suffering from Giardia you need to consult your vet. The parasite is microscopic so you won't be able to see it if you examine your pet's faeces. To get a definitive diagnosis your vet will conduct a special fecal test.

If the diagnosis is positive and your dog does have Giardia then your vet will prescribe medication to treat it. If your dog does suffer from diarrhea you must observe them for signs of dehydration and if they show any signs, you should take them back to the vet as if they become very dehydrated they are at risk.

During this time you need to rethink your hygiene routine as the Giardia parasite is zoonotic which means that it can be passed from your dog to you or other members of your family. Therefore, it is essential that you keep the environment clean and pick up all faeces immediately. If you have multiple pets in your home you are best to keep them separate during this time. An infected pet simply licking another pet may allow the infection to spread.

After the course of medication is finished your vet will conduct another test to see if your dog is clear of Giardia, or whether additional treatment is required.

You can take steps to prevent your dog catching Giardia. The best ways are to avoid walking your pet where others have pooped and don't allow them to drink from unknown outdoor water sources including puddles or ponds.

