



Newsletter May/June '11

Dear friends,

We've had a glorious few weeks of sunshine and with summer just around the corner we've got tips on keeping your pets cool in the heat, as well as how to have a contented pet while you're on holiday. We reveal the results of our 2011 Dressed to the K9s competition plus have details of our exciting new workshops. We meet Megan Parkins - the Yankee Clipper, and have all our usual news, review and an Ellen Tozer cartoon too.

Happy reading!

Hanne x

Hot weather safety tips for your furies!

We've had a lovely few weeks of warm weather; however, while we have the luxury of changing into shorts and t-shirts, our four-legged friends aren't as lucky being stuck with their furry coat. So, we've got some top tips for you to help your four-legged to stay safe whether your out and about or at home.

- Take water bottles out with you so your pet can cool down and have a drink if needed
- Keep to shaded and wooded areas to reduce any chances of your pet overheating
- If your walks are across the hottest part of the day (lunchtime), monitor your pet while out walking. If you feel he is becoming overheated or in any discomfort, reduce the walking time. Best to avoid walks in the mid day heat and play in a shady or cooler area instead
- Ensure your pet has a shady or cool place to rest
- Avoid leaving your pet in the car. A parked car can quickly act like a furnace, leading to fatal heat stroke
- Pets with flatter faces like Boxers, Pugs, Persian cats, struggle in the heat more than others breeds/species, as they cannot pant as effectively. Pets that are over weight, or suffering from heart and lung diseases should also be kept in cool areas
- If you have a paddling/swimming pool which your pet enjoys splashing around in, make sure your pet is supervised at all times. Wash your pet after swimming to ensure any chlorine or salt from the water is off his coat. Discourage your pet from drinking the swimming pool or canal water as this contains chemicals and bacteria that can lead to an upset stomach
- Ensure your pet cannot get access to open windows. Often in the summer, veterinarian see an increase in the number of accidents and injuries caused by pets (mainly cats) falling out of open windows
- Pets with a thick coat will benefit from a good groom and cut
- Avoid long walks on tarmac/and or pavement as the ground quickly heats up and this can burn your dog's paws and tummy as he is low to the ground. Avoid asking for requests to "sit" at the roadside, as this too may potentially burn your dog's bottom on a hot day!



Signs of over heating...

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| • excessive panting | • stupor |
| • difficulty in breathing | • bloody diarrhoea |
| • increased heart and respiratory rate | • vomiting |
| • drooling | • and even collapse. |
| • mild weakness | |

If you'd like to know more about pet health and safety, why not join our **Animal First Aid** workshop being held on **Saturday 18th June** in The Westwick Room, Leverstock Green Village Hall, Leverstock Green HP3 8QG. This interactive workshop held in conjunction with Animal Aiders, will teach you everything from bandaging to CPR and more. Tickets are approx £30 and includes; certificate of attendance, animal first aid handbook, refreshments and the opportunity to stock up on all your first aid essentials. Email us at info@walk-the-dog.net or call us on **01442 878628** to book your place.

Dog walking notice

Following our recent communication to our dog walking clients, we will be winding down our service from Friday 3rd June 2011. Please ensure you have arranged for alternative pet care cover before this date. If you're struggling to find suitable replacements or dog walking cover, please do contact us. Our other services which include; 1-1 dog training, behaviour consultations, puppy classes and pet feeds continue as normal until further notice.

New faces to Walk the Dog...

This month we give a warm welcome to; **Ella, Bessie, Hector, Murphy, Chloe, Rolo, Treacle, Bailey, Denny, Lennon and Stanford, Genie, Barney, Barclay, Duke, Digger, Zoe, Cleo, Smudge, Gingie and Maggie.** If your pet isn't on our picture gallery yet, please send us their picture, so they can join our animal hall of fame. Email us at info@walk-the-dog.net

And sad farewells...

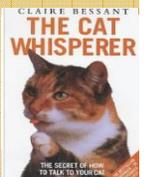
We're very sad to say goodbye to WTD pets **Winston Bramble** and **Fitz**, who sadly passed away recently.



Book review The Cat Whisperer

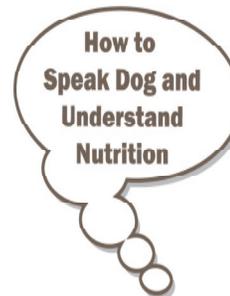
by Claire Bassant

Written by the Chief Executive of the Feline Advisory Bureau, Bassant looks at problem behaviours and how to overcome them, as well as top tips on how to have a happy, healthy and contented cat. RRP £4.45



Learn the tricks of Dr Doolittle and you can talk to your pet!

Re-enact the antics of Dr Doolittle with our special workshop to help dog owners understand their pets. Our event **'How to Speak Dog & Understand Nutrition'** features speakers; dog behaviour specialist Hanne Grice from Walk the Dog and canine nutritional advisor Jan Millington from Oscar Pet Foods.

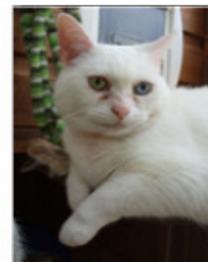


The workshop will help owners understand what their dogs are trying to communicate and how best to deal with their behaviour and actions as canine communication can be subtle ranging from a glance to a tensing of a single muscle. And, canine communication can be complex, a given gesture can have multiple meanings. The workshop will also look at the importance of a well balanced diet and decode pet food labelling. The workshop is on **Saturday 28th May** at 11am to 2pm in The Westwick Room, Leverstock Green Village Hall, Herts HP3 8QG. Tickets priced: £15 (includes refreshment, handouts and free samples.



Contact us on **01442 878628** or info@walk-the-dog.net Tickets available online at www.walk-the-dog.net

Special appeal – Honey



Honey is 8 years old and looking for a forever home. She loves to be stroked and played and best suited to a home without any dogs or other cats. Honey is a little overweight so is on a diet at the moment! If you can give Honey a home, contact Vanessa at Cats Protection Hemel branch on **0845 3711851.**

In the news...

Royal Wagging and more!

We've had a bumper few weeks in the national and local press with coverage with our new **Walk the Dog Brit Collection™** ahead of the Royal Wedding celebrations, as well as our charity Dressed to the K9s competition. Take A Break and Pick Me Up featured our WTD pet tribute to the wedding of the century with our own canine Kate and woofy Wills in print and online, while the local press highlighted our showcase item, the Cool Britannia waistcoat. WTD



pet Toby, also got his own spread in Pick Me Up! Check out our site www.wtdbritcollection.com for more information.



Top advice from our resident dog expert



Walk the Dog prides itself on being an industry leader in the field of animal care and behaviour. So, we're delighted that resident pet expert Hanne Grice has been featured in the press again, sharing advice for owners. Articles were included in Baby & Me, Area Life and Hertfordshire Exclusive magazines. Check out Hanne's blog for all the latest articles, research and top tips, at www.doglistener.tv



Filming with Retrieva...

Check out the new videos being released by Retrieva, the world's first tracking and anti-theft dog collar. Hanne was asked to present and feature in the video about this innovative product. Hanne discusses the importance of good training, and when you combine this with the latest technology, pet owners can be assured that if their pet does get distracted by interesting sights, smells and sounds outside, they can always locate their pet. So now, everyone can enjoy the walk! Find out more about Retrieva at www.retreivatracking.com



Have a happy hound while you're away

With summer just around the corner, owners may feel guilty at the thought of putting their pet into kennels or boarding. When choosing the best care solution for your pet we recommend; you visit the local kennels and boarding establishments in your area. Talk to the staff, ask about the daily routines of the pets in their care. Observe the behaviour of the furry guests as you walk around - do they seem calm, clean and cared for? Get recommendations; speak to friends, family or contact us for suggested accommodation. Whether it is home from home dog boarding or kenneling, we have tips to ensure your pet remains as stress free as possible.

- **Bon Voyage** – to promote calmness avoid making a fuss when you drop off your pet. Pop a tasty treat onto his bedding then calmly and quietly leave the kennel unit/boarding home. Avoid eye contact and say nothing; this helps your dog be as relaxed as possible and sets him up for success for future separations from you.
- **Take his belongings** - take bedding, favourite toy[s] and sleep in an old t-shirt; place these items in and around his bed. Having familiar scents around will give your pet comfort.
- **Welcome home** - When you come to collect your dog, avoid big welcomes as this send your pet up into a frenzied state. Instead, have a calm greeting and when you get back home, slip into your normal routine as quickly as possible. This will help him settle quicker and means next time you go away, there are as little changes as possible.

For further help about this topic, contact us at info@walk-the-dog.net.

Radio One DJ's pick our 2011 winner

Walk the Dog's annual **Dressed to the K9s™** saw some fantastic entries this year from furry Michael Jackson tributes to axe wielding canines! Radio One Breakfast show DJs 'Comedy' Dave Vitty and Dominic Byrne were our judges. They named Piran the Bearded Collie dressed as a cow boy as the 2011 winner. Piran lives with his humans in Truro, Cornwall and wins nearly £2k worth of prizes. Runner up was Ralph the Golden Retriever from Berkhamsted. His entry was entitled "He likes to shoot what he retrieves" made the judges laugh.



This year's event has raised over £600 for Every Chance Rescue, the dog rescue organisation which Walk the Dog supports. Thank you to all our clients and supporters who took part and donated, and a special thank you to our prize givers. To see all our great entries from this year's online photo competition, visit www.dressedtothek9s.com

Meet Megan Parkins - The Yankee Clipper

Name: Megan Parkins
Born: Washington, Maine USA
Occupation: Pet groomer
Pets: Sophie, Australian Shepherd and Boomer a Bullmastiff
Lives: Boxmoor, Hertfordshire



Megan runs The Yankee Clipper, a mobile pet grooming business in Hertfordshire. She has come here to help us Brits have the best groomed pets on the block! We met up with Megan to find out more...

How did you get into the grooming business? I started when I was 15 years old at a grooming shop in Maine. I was going to be shadowing for the day, but when I was offered a job, I snatched up the opportunity immediately. I started as a bather and gradually moved onto prep work. Eventually, I became a full-time groomer, doing haircuts alongside some of the best in the business. Those were the most valuable years in my career and I am forever grateful to the groomers that got me started almost ten years ago now.

Are there any differences in grooming in the USA compared to UK? Grooming is much the same here as it is in the US. I think the biggest difference is that grooming is more popular in the States. But it is a growing business here as owners are now looking at grooming more as a necessity rather than a "once a year" strip down and scrub.

Any tips for pet owners to help them maintain their pet's coat? Start from day one with your pet. Whether it's a puppy, rescue dog or your kitty, take the time to make grooming an enjoyable experience for your pet. For short-coated dogs - run a rubber curry brush over the coat at least once a week. This helps remove dead hair, keeping the coat shiny and healthy. For long-coated dogs - run a slicker or pin brush over their entire body a few minutes a day. Get under the armpits and groin area, as well as the ears as these are places where friction can cause the coat to tangle up easily. A coat spray containing silicone can also aid in brushing out those tangles, keeping the coat looking its best. For cats, a Teflon coated comb works wonders on both short and long-hair. It helps to have an extra hand while you are giving your kitty a quick comb. Place smaller animals onto a higher surface like a countertop with a towel underneath, this will help keep them still and avoid backache!

