

Newsletter

November 2015



Fireworks and Bonfires

Remember - don't build the bonfire until the day you intend to light it to avoid injuring sleeping pets or wildlife.

Move your "walkies" or feeding times to avoid peak firework noises.

Don't let your guests feed the left over sausages to the dog! Post party, your dog can suffer from a painful condition called Pancreatitis. This is caused by eating too much fatty food. It can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and generally be off colour. Dogs often require stays in hospital on a drip to recover.

Watch those chocolate treats too, they are poisonous to dogs.

Do you have a dog that is bomb proof and just wants to join in the fun? Just remember that they may think that firework you were just handling is a toy, so keep them well away, to avoid accidents. And make sure they don't play with the burnt ones the next day, they are toxic.

Breeding Dogs - Did you know the law changed this year?

As of April this year, some new laws have been in place regarding the breeding of dogs. A dog breeding licence is now required if you have three or more entire bitches intended for breeding and

- » Three or more litters are produced in the year OR
- » You advertise 3 or more litters for sale per year OR
- » You supply puppies born from 3 or more litters OR
- » You advertise a business that sells or breeds puppies.

The new legislation requires a **vet visit** to check the general health and welfare of your animals prior to the usual Council inspection. The council will provide you with details of everything you require for the inspection. The main requirements include

- A list of your breeding bitches, each with their own "Breeding Bitch Record". This should include their identifying features, date of birth, microchip number, dates of when they were mated and details of the litters produced. Stud Dog records are also required.
- Puppies must be kept for 56 days. Details of each pup should be shown in their own "Puppy Log" including when it was born, identifying features, microchip, details of the Dam (mother) and Sire (father) and name and address of the new owners, must be kept for at least three years and a copy to go with them.
- Bitches must be over 12 months old, must not have more than one litter per year and have no more than 6 litters in her lifetime.
- The details of breeding bitches that are sold on, must also be kept. Copies of these (inc. her breeding history) must be given to the new owner. Copies should stay with the bitch for her lifetime and be available for inspection at any time.

The new rules require, the vet report for fitness to breed and a written socialisation and environmental enrichment program to accompany the application. Inspection by the council will follow to ensure that all they require is in place.

If your licence is up for renewal, please contact us well in advance, to allow enough time for the mandatory vet visit and a report to be made.



OPENING HOURS

MON - FRIDAY

8.30AM - 5.00PM

SATURDAY

9.00AM - 12.00PM

24 HR

EMERGENCY COVER

PLEASE USE THE USUAL
NUMBER
01559 363318

Did You Know?

A chinchilla can jump 5 feet into the air.

A guinea pig can jump less high but will pop up and down on the spot, giving it the term "pop-corning"

Fleas can jump over a hundred times their height, similar to us jumping over a 200m building.

Rabbits don't tend to leap upwards very high but some can reach 10 feet in length in one leap.

The kangaroo rat is even more impressive reaching 9 feet, as this is 27 x its body length.

The British zebra spider is capable of even longer jumps, approximately 40 times its body length. As it is only a few millimetres long, you may well miss its impressive leaps.

The highest human standing jump is 5 ft but an impressive long jump of 8.95m

Whelping bitch or queen kittening - when to see the vet?

**Green or brown discharge and
no puppy or kitten coming.**

**Your bitch or queen has been
actively straining for an hour
and nothing has been
produced.**

**Shaking, panting and/or
looking drunk or**

**disorientated. These are signs of eclampsia (calcium imbalance) and is usually
seen 3-4 weeks after birth, although sometimes occurs at parturition (giving birth)**

Overdue and seems unwell.

Overdue more than 48 hours, with no signs of labour, please phone to discuss.

It is always best to phone and discuss concerns, than allow a problem to develop.



Remembrance
Sunday on 8th
November 2015
reminds us of the
sacrifices in war.



Did you know that
there was a charity that provides
assistance dogs to injured and
disabled service men and women
and civilian emergency services
personnel. For more info
<http://houndsforheroes.com/>



Rabbits - Over Winter

Managing your rabbits over winter can be a struggle. There is always a balance between giving them the open space of the run and the struggle to keep it mud free and warm.

It is possible, if you have the space and money, to build an insulated hutch into a large aviary style run, with separate straw boxes, ramps, tunnels and rain covers.

For those of us with smaller budgets and gardens, we need to be a bit more inventive to keep our pets warm and dry and still having the space to exercise and move freely. The ideal temperature for rabbits is 10-20°C, which is why rabbits burrow. Underground they are protected against the extremes of temperature. If your hutch remains in the garden, cover it with layers of carpet, quilts or old blankets. A tarpaulin placed over the top will keep things dry and can be flapped down loosely (you do not want an airtight seal!) over the front overnight for extra warmth. Put some Perspex over part of the mesh door to protect from drafts but still offering a view of the outside. Don't be tempted to cover the mesh entirely as they need ventilation.

If your run is not attached to the hutch, ensure you have an insulated, straw filled box in the run. Use a tarpaulin over a good part of the run to ensure a draught and rain free zone. Use cardboard boxes stuffed with crumpled newspaper as an alternative play area. Rabbits love something new to investigate.

If you decide to bring your rabbit indoors, remember that this environment has potential to be hugely stressful if it is not done with some thought and care. If your rabbit has never been indoors before, it is recommended that you use a quiet room, away from the main bustle. Bringing them in for small periods over a few days. The area you choose should have a box of straw or shredded paper as a place to hide. Its usual water bottles and feeding bowls ensure familiarity. A rabbit litter tray is a good idea, most rabbits take very little time to adapt to using these.

Remember that rabbits like to chew! I had a pair of house rabbits that ate through my speaker leads, a computer mouse and made a hole in some rather nice curtains before I caught on to their mischief. So you need to be prepared for expensive bills if you do not rabbit proof your room, it may be safer to use a play pen.

The same applies to hutches that are moved to the garage or shed. A rabbit should not be confined to its hutch for the winter. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 in Wales requires owners to provide accommodation that allows at least 3 hops. As one hop equates to 2', most hutches are woefully small, so it is vital that a dry run area is provided. If you wish to let them run around the shed floor, you need to ensure it is free from anything chewable, spillable, toxic or other hazard.

Don't forget toys either, boxes and tubes stuffed with crumpled paper, hay or straw so that they can scabble and chew, is a great way to counteract boredom.

Young, thin, old or thinly furred rabbits need to be monitored closely, they may struggle to survive even in a shed overwinter. If any rabbit goes off its food or starts producing less droppings, they need to be seen by a vet.

www.therabbithouse.com
www.rspca.org.uk/rabbits or
www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk/ are good sources
of information.



Warning about Anti-Freeze

Animals die if they drink anti-freeze. If you empty out your car radiator, or are topping up, please ensure your pets are kept well away from this toxic liquid and mop up spills. It tastes really sweet but is deadly. Crystals quickly form throughout the body causing organ failure and death. If you see your pet drinking anti-freeze, you have just a few hours to start treatment before irreversible damage is done.



Free microchipping

The Dogs Trust are once again offering free microchips. If you have a dog that requires a chip, please make an appointment for a nurse chipping clinic.

If your pet is due for an operation, we will offer to chip your dog at the same time.

This offer will run whilst funds last, so don't wait if you would like to take advantage of the offer.