

# Little Coombe Kennels & Cattery

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Newsletter.....September 2007



## Sheriff family holiday

We recently enjoyed a very pleasant stay in Brittany with two of our children and some friends. We stayed in caravans on a site near Quimperle and enjoyed visiting the local towns and beaches. We all did a lot of swimming, and the children (including Duncan) also spent time quad biking, canoeing and on a very long zip wire across the River Elle. We were very lucky with the weather which was mild and dry with a few hot days.

Our holiday was over all too soon, but it was nice to be reunited with the rest of the family and our dog and three cats on our return. At least we didn't have to go too far to get our pets from the kennels!

Many thanks to Jenny's parents and all the staff for running things so well, and allowing us to get away.

We are now booking up rapidly for **Christmas** and the **New Year** period. As usual we will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day only, so the minimum stay over Christmas is Dec 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. Please book as early as possible to be sure of a place. All our kennels and cat pens are heated in the winter.

*Our full-time staff are Lorraine, Michelle and Rachel. They are helped part-time by Angela and Kirsty. Kirsty, who helps on Saturdays, has now left school and is studying Animal Care at Bicton College.*

**Fireworks** can worry many pets, but fortunately we do not usually have any very close to the kennels. We also keep the radio on overnight to reduce the chance of dogs hearing distant fireworks. If your dog is upset by fireworks, it is worth seeking advice from your veterinary surgery well before Nov 5<sup>th</sup> because there are many things that can be done to help, eg DAP diffusers (plug-in device which emits dog appeasing pheromones), behavioural techniques and in some cases tranquilisers. Often owners unwittingly reinforce their dogs fears by the way they react themselves, so it is very useful to speak to your vet or nurse about this.

*These two beautiful Cavalier King Charles Spaniels are Tiggi and Daisy, who are brother and sister. They have lovely temperaments as well as good looks, and often have a bath and a trim here. Daisy also works as a PAT dog (Pets as Therapy), visiting children in hospital.*



## Fleas are still about!

Although we usually think of summer as the "season" for fleas, they are quite happy to survive the winter in heated homes, so pets do need preventative treatments all the year round. The flea spends most of its life in the carpets or bedding, only jumping on to the dog or cat (or sometimes human) when it wants a feed. Some animals can carry fleas with very little evidence, while others have an allergic skin reaction to even one bite and become extremely itchy, doing further damage to themselves by scratching.

Many different types of flea prevention are available, but some work better than others so do take advice from your veterinary surgery. All the cats and dogs in the household will need to be treated.

Fleas are also a source of some types of worms, so if your dog or cat has fleas and licks itself and swallows a flea, it will also be infesting itself with worm eggs. This is one of the reasons why all dogs and cats also need regular worming.