

Little Coombe Kennels & Cattery

Dog Lane, Woodbury Salterton, Exeter, EX5 1PZ..... 01395 232545..... www.littlecoombe.co.uk
Newsletter.....March 2010



We are currently having major repairs carried out to our roof, so the house is covered in scaffolding. We hope the weather will be dry enough to finish by the end of the month. We apologise to clients for any inconvenience caused by scaffolding, skips or extra vehicles.

Tesco vouchers

Tesco are currently offering shoppers vouchers for schools. If you have no use for them, we would be glad to give them to our local primary school if you bring them in to us. Thank you.

Veterinary Corner: TICKS

Ticks are blood-sucking parasites which attach to the skin by a very efficient mechanism involving barbed spikes on their mouth-parts and a cement-like substance in their saliva. They can attach to any warm-blooded animal, including dogs, cats and humans, and feed on their blood. They can cause a local reaction at the site which can be mild or severe, but more importantly, they can transmit serious blood-borne diseases. Ticks are present all year round but the numbers increase in the warmer months. They like areas of dense, wet vegetation best. They usually attach where the hair is thinnest, so in a dog or cat this is often around the face or inside the back legs. At this stage they are very small but they swell as they gorge themselves on their host's blood. Not all ticks carry disease, but some are carriers of the organism which causes Lyme's disease (high temperature, loss of appetite and painful joints).

It is important that ticks are removed correctly with the mouth-parts intact. If in doubt it is best to consult your vet or vet nurse. They could show you how to use a special tick removing device which works by twisting not pulling. Regular treatment with a flea and tick preventative will help reduce the chances of them becoming a problem to your dog or cat.

Microchipping has been in the news recently, as the government discusses proposals to make it compulsory for all dog owners to have their dog microchipped and carry insurance against injuring other people. Enforcing the insurance part would only be possible if every dog was permanently identified, which is where the microchipping comes in. Although not compulsory yet, it could help a lot in stopping dog fighting and dog attacks on people as well as reducing numbers of strays, if it was enforced. The other very useful benefit of microchipping is that it enables a lost dog or cat to be quickly reunited with its owner. If an animal is found wandering alone and is taken to any vets or cat/dog home, it can be scanned to check its identity. After a phone call, its owners details will be known and they can be contacted. This is especially important if the pet has been injured, in a road accident for example, when the vet may need to speak to the owner urgently about treatment options. Microchipping is also the first step in the process of getting a Pet Passport for a dog or cat to travel abroad.

Microchipping is quick and easy to carry out and most animals do not find it more painful than an ordinary injection. It can be carried out at Little Coombe by Jenny. The cost of implanting a microchip and the associated paperwork is £17 + VAT.

Once implanted, it is important that any changes of address are notified to keep the pet's details up to date.

Spring is coming at last! The daffodils are a bit late, but the snowdrops and crocuses have been lovely.

