



RIVONIA VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC
011 803 3122

Dec 08

NEWSLETTER – FEB '09



SUNNINGHILL VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC
011 803 1221

HOLIDAY HINTS

With the Silly Season once again upon us, it is important to bear the following in mind:

- Make sure that all pets are fully vaccinated prior to going to kennels
- Ensure that you have stocked up on Nutricalm and DAP/Feliway products to make the thunderstorm/fireworks season a little less stressful for pets that tend to be noise-phobic. It is best to avoid using sedatives and tranquilisers as these are contra-indicated in many cases; if your pet is absolutely unmanageable when traumatised, discuss suitable options with the vet as these medications have a number of side-effects and can result in the symptoms being exaggerated rather than relieved.
- Keep rich celebration-foods well out of the way of your furry friends to avoid upset tummies (keep a bag of Hills I/D or Eukanuba Intestinal formula on hand, just in case) and remember that chocolate is highly poisonous to dogs!!
- When holidaying with your dogs, make sure that frontline has been applied for at least 48 hours before leaving and, if visiting a high-risk tick area (eg. coast, bushveld and Drakensberg), take along a frontline spray to top up treatment of the undercarriage, or use a Preventic collar for additional protection.
- When traveling with pets in the car, stop every 2-3 hours for a toilet-break, make sure there is adequate ventilation and avoid feeding a large meal 3-4 hours before leaving.

BREED BYTES

This month we feature the Jack Russell Terrier. Originally a hunting dog, these gutsy little characters are working dogs and require plenty of stimulation. In turn, they will reward you with loads of affection, loyalty and companionship. JRT's are ideally suited to large properties and team well with equestrian activities.

They should not be kept in small residential properties unless they are walked at least once a day, as boredom will result in incessant yapping, digging, chewing and generally destructive behaviour.

Puppy socialising is vital as, being terriers, they tend to have a dominant, stubborn streak which needs to be tempered as early on as possible. Continued training will give the dog the mental and physical stimulation he craves, as well as the opportunity to socialise (also very important to these friendly little chaps).

Remember, too, that tail-docking is now an unethical procedure, and may be prosecuted under the Animal Protection Act, so make sure that your prospective pup has a lovely long tail; don't give in to any pressure to have the tail docked. Our Health Care Team will assist you with all the handy info you'll need in order to make "puppy-parenting" a stress-free experience. Puppy Socialising guru, Amanda, will help you instill good manners in your little JRT and help you develop a happy "pack relationship" which will bring joy for years to come.

CLINIC UPDATES:

We would like to bid a fond farewell to the following team-members and wish them all the very best in their respective future ventures:

- Dr. Andrea Viljoen – veterinarian and partner
- Dr. Gill Taylor – veterinarian
- Jenny Hays – receptionist
- Vanessa Herbst – receptionist
- Robyn Oelofse – receptionist
- Vincent Khumalo – senior kennel assistant

And wish our new team-members a warm welcome:

- Dr. Fiona Hapelt - veterinarian
- Dr. Jessica Lane - veterinarian
- Kay Kovacs - receptionist
- Tina Schulte - receptionist
- Michael Boshomane – kennel assistant

Although change is difficult, we are all committed to ensuring that our goal of Total Care, For Life will be achieved with our new team!

NEWSFLASH:

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR RVV AND SVV CUSTOMER LOYALTY PROGRAMME NOW NOT ONLY OFFERS YOU, OUR VALUED CLIENTS, FANTASTIC BENEFITS, BUT ALSO GIVES YOU THE OPTION TO DONATE TO TWO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS: FREE ME ANIMAL REHABILITATION CENTRE OR S.A.GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND.



