

AYLESTONE BULLDOGUE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER- Volume 3 – ISSUE 7

NEWSLETTER 23

EASTER

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We wish all Aylestone Bulldog members a very Happy Easter. We would also like to extend our good wishes to all Members celebrating Pesach, to all those celebrating Baisakhi and to all those who have recently celebrated Holi.

Editorial

Warm weather is very welcome but remember, as always, dogs are wearing fur coats and do not really want to be walking in hot weather. It is also very dangerous to go bike riding with a dog on a lead, and the reasons are given here. An accident is always possible if the dog sees another dog (or a cat, squirrel, bird) and runs after it, pulling the bike over. Remember, too, that if you are riding a bike with your dog on a lead running beside you, that your dog cannot stop without pulling you over, and dogs need to stop, or may wish to for a sniff.

Chocolate for dogs has come up again. Really extra treats on a regular basis are not a good idea – obesity can result with all the health problems that causes – but at Easter we may like to give our dogs a chocolate treat.

Don't! It makes them hyper because chocolate is toxic to dogs. Instead, give your dog one of the many carob products made for them and available at pet shops and online: Pets for Homes does a range, for example.

Committee News

As was announced on the website Aylestone's Royal Princess Abigail died after a short illness. She belonged to Gareth Norman, the Technical Director. Many condolences were received mainly via Facebook, and Jodi Bevan-Gore was upset to hear that AR Lady Brimstone's mother had died.

Featured Dog

Problems with hacking on the site and upgrading have meant that the Featured Dog has rather sunk. However, a new Featured Dog is going up for Easter and will be followed by another in May.

Stud Book

The webmaster is still working on this – the hacking of the Forum has caused a major problem which is holding everything else up – but please send in names and contact details as we can now put them up on the Our Association page.

New pup news

R. Saunders' bitch, Fawn Gem, has pups with Rainbow Jubilee the Dragonlord. Cara Menga has pups from Brisingamen Pretty Girl Tri-Colour and Maxel Bruzer. Matt Granger has pups with Commodore Hornblower and Zeta Maria. Natalie Griffin has also had pups born; the father is The Lucky Bucky and D. Wylly has pups with The Jasmine Duchess Georgiana and Beltane Chase Mackenzie.

Matings

A. Eke's The Gunner's Sally-Anne mated with The Red Pimpernel.

Health and Behaviour

Importance of weighing pups

When pups are born everything seems wonderful. But joy must not get in the way of practical measures to ensure that those lovely puppies all have the best chance. As soon as possible, and within twenty-four hours of whelping ending, identify each puppy by its sex, colour and markings. It is best to write these all down in a list, giving each pup a number or (this is best) a name. While identifying the pups weigh each one (a set of kitchen scales will do for this) and make a note of the weight, with the date, against its name. At the same time each day weigh the pups again and note the weight and date against their name or number. In this way it is possible to keep track of weight gain or loss and a puppy that is not doing well will be caught within twenty four hours and steps taken to help it, such as supplementary feeding with goats' milk, Welpi or Lactol. To keep track of the weights a simple table helps:

Name	Date/Birth weight	Sex	Date/Weight	Gain/Loss
	3/2/12		4/2/12	
1. Fred	16oz	Dog	17oz	+1
2. Millie	17oz	Bitch	18oz	+1

Hot weather and whelping

It has been hot and hopefully will be again. In hot weather it is very important to regulate the temperature for the pups and mother. For bulldogs the temperature needs to be 85F/20C for the first two to three days. Then it can be gradually lowered to about 70F. Try to keep the air moist and check the pups for dehydration by pinching the back of their necks gently and seeing whether the pinch disappears or not. If the pinch

stays up the pup is dehydrated and will need water – Lectade from the vet is usually available on request but a good thing to have in the whelping pack is a box of Diarylite for children, which is just as effective. Make up strictly in accordance with the instructions and give about 5ml every two hours, checking for dehydration each time.

Health issues

Cruciate ligaments again

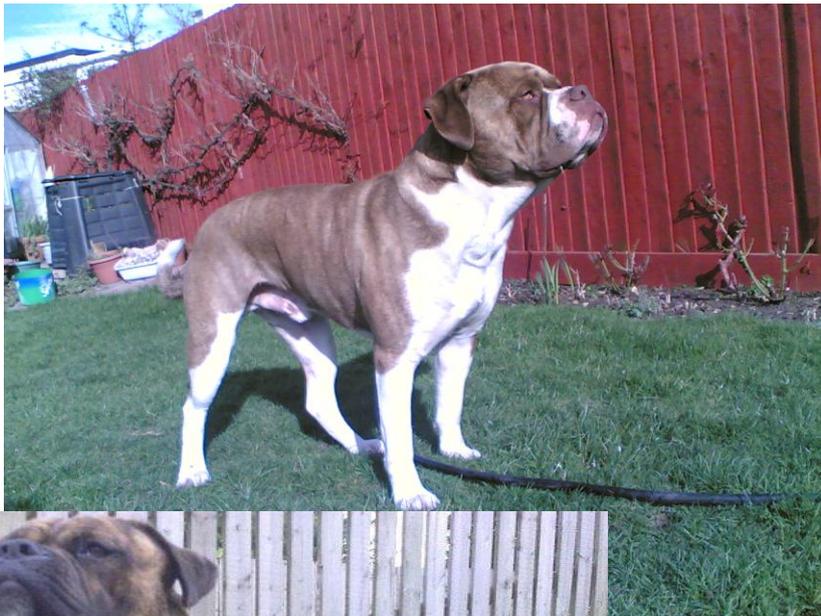
Cruciate ligament rupture was mentioned in the newsletter for Summer 2009 (Volume 2, Issue 4). The problem is one that appears in all types of dog; in fact it is the most common cause of lameness in dogs. Everyday activities can cause rupture because of the nature of the dog's knee, so it is difficult to prevent. Look out for stiffness in the knee as an early sign of a problem. In a case of full rupture the knee will also swell or the muscles of the back leg may start to waste away. A vet should be consulted and will likely take X-rays and do a test on the fluid from the knee joint. If the cruciate ligament is ruptured then surgery is the best option and works well, although the dog may get arthritis in later life, unfortunately.

Prevention is difficult since it is normal activity which causes the rupture, but one good way of avoiding the problem is to stop the dog getting overweight. Always remember that a dog does not need to diet because his food is provided by you – and you can diet him. Vets are able to weigh dogs and suggest an optimum diet to prevent too much weight gain. A healthy dog has a waist and his ribs can be felt under his coat – but do not stick out. He is active and does not get out of breath during a walk. It is not just cruciate ligament rupture that obesity causes but a whole lot of health problems, from heart disease to diabetes, so watching your dog's food intake and giving enough exercise will prevent a whole raft of problems.

Behaviour issues

Some puppies are fascinated by people's feet. Some take this far enough to play a game of biting feet. If this happens then the puppy must be stopped as what is charming in a puppy is not at all acceptable in an 80lb dog. As with all discipline training you need to be firm. Every time the puppy bites shoes or toes tell it off firmly and put it outside even if it is raining (naturally you do not leave a pup out in the pouring rain). If it persists then take a rolled up newspaper and bang it against your thigh when the pup bites feet and then put the pup out. The newspaper makes a loud noise which will shock the pup and it should then associate this unpleasant noise and being put out with biting and stop. A light tap on the rump with a firm 'No!' can also help (do not tap on the head as the pup will think this is a game). As well as this discipline add positives to your

pup's regime. Teach it to shake, sit for its food, or at the kerb – all these things will occupy the pup's mind, keeping him from the unwanted behaviour. Play games with rope toys so the pup learns that though biting feet leads to unpleasant consequences pulling on the rope is an enjoyable game with its owner. Dog training schools are also useful in getting rid of unwanted behaviour, and again occupy the pup's mind and help it bond with you.



Meet the Aylestones

This is Sunshine's Warrior of Aylestone, son of the well known stud The Red Pimpernel of Aylestone and Roxy the Rocket of Aylestone. He was bred by Mr Lee and is owned by Mr Orson – and is going on the Stud List.



Here is Beltane Chase MacKenzie of Aylestone, bred by Ms Knott, who is the father of The Jasmine Duchess Georgiana's pups. He is now a well known stud. His mother is Eastern Queen and his father The Red Pimpernel (he doesn't half get around!).

Endpiece

Remember newsletters come by email. Write or phone to get one by post. Have a happy Easter.

