



## ... the one stop pet care company

Hello and welcome to the latest issue of **Pawsnews**... there's plenty to read with hints, tips and fun. So, without further ado let's get reading...

### Be quick get chipped!

You only have until 6 April to ensure that your dog is microchipped under new legislation coming into effect from that date.

The police and local authorities will be tasked with policing compliance with the scheme, and all local authorities and police forces will be issued with the appropriate number of microchip scanners to be able to execute their duties effectively. If the police or local authorities find a dog without a microchip after the legislation comes into effect April 2016, assuming that the owner of the dog in question can be located, the owner will be given a short window of opportunity to get their dog microchipped. If they still then fail to comply with the law, they will face a fine of up to £500 per dog.

So, if you know of anyone who hasn't had their dog chipped yet, tell them to get booked in - quick!

Remember, it's not only going to be law but increases the chances of your beloved pet being returned to you in the event that they get lost. Please don't forget though to update your details should you move house, change contact numbers etc.

Chip, chip,  
hooray!

Say yes to  
responsible  
ownership



### Cats - cute, cuddly & curious...



Cats are curious and it can sometimes get them into trouble. It saddens us at Paws and

more to read the number of lost cat posts on social sites on what, lately has seemed like a daily occurrence. When a cat that is normally home for tea does not return the alarm bells start ringing and although many do return home, albeit sometimes weeks or even months later, some sadly do not.

If your cat is an outdoor cat that likes to explore further than his or her own backyard our advice would be to:

- put a collar on them
- fit a cat flap
- get them microchipped
- get them neutered
- try to get them in at night

- make sure there is somewhere, safe & dry that they can hide out in in your garden in case the weather turns or they come home when you're not there

By doing these things you will be encouraging your beloved pet not to roam too far and to learn that he/she is safer at home than on the prowl. Having your cat chipped will also give you a greater chance of being reunited if he/she does get lost.

Of course, the other alternative is to keep your cat as an indoor cat. This way you know where they are at all times and cats will adapt to this lifestyle very easily. There are plenty of indoor climbing frames that you can get and toys to play with. House cats will generally live longer than outside pets as they have no stress and rely on their humans more.

Neither way is right or wrong and it's really down to what suits you best.

## Back pack training

For those of us with younger or energetic dogs sometimes a walk, even a longer one, can often seem like not enough for your dog, even though you feel like you've walked miles. The answer could be to give your dog a job to do on his/her walk.

By giving your dog a sense of purpose on the walk he/she will remain focused and feel useful as it provides a task that they have to focus on during the walk. Pack the backpack with bottles of water, a ball, poo bags etc. When it comes to the weight that you should load into the backpack, the general rule is 10 to 12% of their body weight but please remember to take into account your own dogs health and energy levels. You can always start with less and add more as your dog gets fitter and if you are not sure if this is right for your dog speak to your vet first. Small dogs can carry a pack too but an empty one as it will still give a sense of purpose, as once the pack is on, the dog will soon realise that he/she has a job to take the pack to wherever it needs to be.

In most cases, a 15-minute walk using a weighted backpack provides the same physical challenge as a 30-minute walk without one. If your pup is one that is ready to chase every squirrel, cat, cyclist that they encounter on their walks then a backpack really can help deter them away from this.

We've recently bought our Red Merle Border Collie, Bailey a back pack and after only a couple of walks we're noticing the difference. He used to weave all over the place when out on the lead and even in this short time of using the pack he has stopped this. He is also definitely returning from his walk more tired. During the walk and after he's getting lots of praise and stopping for a drink from one of the bottles he's carrying helps him to see that he is being useful by carrying our refreshments!



Backpacks don't cost a fortune either, prices start at around £10 and can be purchased from online sellers as well as local pet shops, just make sure you read the details to ensure you get the right size for your pet.

We'd love to hear how you get on if you decide to give back pack training a go. Send us your photos and details of how your pet is getting along to [pawsandmore@virginmedia.com](mailto:pawsandmore@virginmedia.com) and we'll publish a few in a future issue.



We've managed to keep our prices from rising for two years but we've now had to make a small increase, however, we think you'll find we are still one of the best value for money pet care companies around! The new rates are:

**Doggy day Care** - from £15 per dog/£25 for two dogs from the same house

**Home boarding** - from £20 per dog/£30 for two dogs from the same house

There are no changes to the prices for Pet Taxi, Cat Sitting or Small Animal care and all holidays already prebooked will be honoured at the old prices.

## Paws fun fact

In multi-pet households, cats are able to get along especially well with dogs if they're introduced when the cat is under 6 months old and the dog is under one year old.

*see you next  
time, Karen*

