

THE PetPatrol POST

A LIFESTYLE GUIDE FOR THE PET LOVING OWNER ©



TEAMWORK...

Teamwork... "The combined action of a group, especially when effective and efficient".

Building strong relationships is the cornerstone of Pet Patrol 365, and we shall be actively engaging with clients, contributors, third-party associations and animal advocates to build a robust community that we can all benefit from.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss referral business, sponsorship, advertising or joint promotions.

Yours warmly, Zita x



WELCOME

Welcome to your Spring edition of the Pet Patrol Post where you can find out about all the latest and greatest things happening in the world of Pet Patrol 365 before anyone else!

This special 'bumper' edition is focussing on lost and found pets, with an emphasis on keeping them safe. Also included is a super handy checklist to help you reunite them should they go missing. **Please keep it in a safe place!**

The **ASK THE EXPERTS** have some invaluable advice, and we have a date for your diary that shouldn't be missed!

So kick back and relax, we've got the accompaniment to your morning coffee right here!

A LITTLE ABOUT ME...
SISTER, GARDENER, CHOCOLATE LOVER!

Pet Patrol 365 were absolutely thrilled to achieve finalist status in the Service Excellence Award!



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ASK THE EXPERTS

KASIA ATMACA
VETERINARY SURGEON
PORTLAND ROAD VETS
01342 327799



Spring Danger Alert!

With Spring upon us, we are all looking forward to the warmer weather and longer days. Below you will find some common animal poisons that will help you go through the season, without worrying about the risks to your beloved four-legged friends:



- * Lilies - they look beautiful, but are extremely toxic to cats. Only a small amount of petals or leaves may lead to acute kidney injury.
- * Hyacinth and Tulips - especially the bulbs. Ingestion may cause drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, as well as heart and breathing problems. Dogs and cats be aware!
- * Crocus - Spring or Autumn varieties - the first one may cause vomiting and diarrhea, the second one may lead to organ failure and bleeding. Very dangerous to both dogs and cats.
- * Daffodils - Very toxic in higher amounts and ingestion may cause gastrointestinal problems.
- * Slug and rat bait - extremely dangerous, cause's blood clotting disorders and bleeding, neurological problems and seizures. The toxins may even take a few weeks to cause problems, so it's very important to seek help as soon as the ingestion has happened.
- * Fertilisers - depending on ingredients. They may be mild or toxic to people and animals. Iron, pesticides, herbicides, zinc, copper and many more - if the concentration is high, the risk of toxicity increases.
- * Lily of the Valley - may cause gastrointestinal and heart problems, collapse, even seizures. The toxic ingredients are glycosides, which can often be found in human heart medications.

If you are not sure or worried about any of the above (or any other plant/product ingested by your pet) always call your vets, so they can advise the next steps of action, or to even reassure you.

Pesky Parasites - To Treat or Not To Treat?

Recent low temperatures might make you think that you don't need to worry about your pet's fleas, ticks and unpleasant worms for the next few months. Unfortunately, they are stronger than we think!

Have a look at the most common parasites we have in the United Kingdom, and the reasons they are not welcome:

- * Fleas - a very common problem. Spreading easily, their full life cycle may reach 3 months! So actually getting rid of the infestation is a long process requiring patience and regular application of the medical products. Fleas will cause itching and skin irritation, sometimes even a condition called flea allergic dermatitis in both dogs and cats. Due to central heating and milder winters, they are now a year-long problem.
- * Ticks - becoming stronger every year. Some areas vary with tick prevalence but, overall, it is a common problem. Ticks like warm and wet areas so, unfortunately, that is mostly all year round. Although winter is less friendly for them, we still see ticks on dogs - even in January. They are a vector of many serious diseases such as Lyme Disease, Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis and more (the latter two are rare in the UK, but are becoming more common as the climate changes and animals are travelling more).
- * Lungworm - this is a life threatening danger present in slugs, snails and frogs if eaten by our pet. The worm occupies the lungs and causes blood clotting disorders. The first signs would usually be coughing and lower exercise tolerance, but sometimes it may not be obvious until it becomes extremely dangerous. Preventative drugs need to be given monthly to be effective, and lungworm is a year round danger.
- * Roundworms - very common and have a risk of spreading to people, especially children. They will often cause diarrhea as the first sign in dogs and cats.
- * Tapeworm - less frequent, but also present. More common for dogs and cats that hunt regularly.

To treat or prevent the parasites mentioned above, always make sure that you speak with your vet to choose an appropriate level of treatment for your pet. Specific prescription drugs have proven efficacy and strength, with regularity being key. Lungworm may be potentially fatal in dogs if left untreated, and is commonly spotted in Southern areas of England.

New Recruits!

Has your pet got what it takes to become an exclusive member of our Team?

Email zita@petpatrol365.co.uk for information.



#TeamWhiskers
in the Spotlight

Squeaky or bouncy - what do you look for in a toy? I don't do toys. Having come from South Africa, I am used to chasing lions and elephants. Toys are beneath me.

What's your favourite treat? I love tuna. In fact I gobble it so quickly sometimes that it comes back up again and I leave little surprises for my Slaves to clean up. It's so good!

What would constitute a perfect day for you? I am getting on a bit; I think I'm around 80 in human years. My perfect day is curling up somewhere warm and sleeping. Preferably somewhere I can leave maximum hair on someone's clothing. And getting lots of attention from one or both of the Slaves.

Do you have any special talents? I am very vocal and can repeat "feed me, feed me, feed me" at high volume early in the morning until someone obeys. There is no end to this very special talent of mine; I can keep it up for ages. It is especially fun to do this on the weekend when people are sleeping.

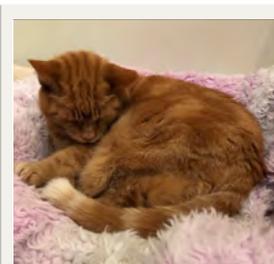
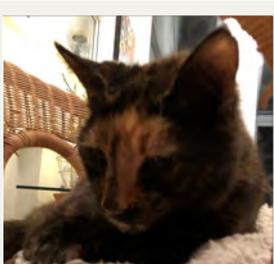
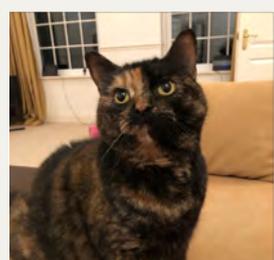
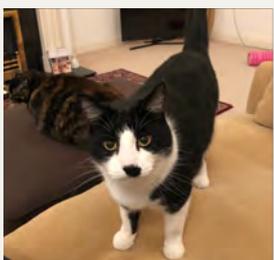
Complete this sentence: "I wish I had a friend with whom I could share..." No thank you. Friends want to share the Human Slave. I do not do sharing!"



<http://www.offtheleashdogcartoons.com>

Paws for Thought...

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." **Anatole France**



Is My Dog in Muscular Pain or Discomfort?

Our four-legged companions are stoic animals, and it can be quite difficult to know if and when they are in pain. Dogs are very good at adapting the way they move, stand, sit or lie down to avoid the area of pain or discomfort, and then compensate by shifting the load away from the area that has an issue. This then results in overuse or overload in other areas, causing in turn muscular pain and discomfort in these other areas. As a Galen Myotherapist, I find that it is often these compensatory or adaptive changes that can cause more pain than the original condition or issue. The pictures below show a dog that has adapted his posture, (Picture 1) shifting the load from the pelvic and lumbar regions towards the front and overloading the neck and shoulders. This dog not only had pain in the lumbar and pelvic regions, but also in the other areas highlighted below. The second picture, is the dog after x3 Galen Myotherapy treatments; it is clear to see that the load is more evenly distributed.



Picture 1



Picture 2

If your dog is in chronic muscular pain it is important to try and improve their muscular balance. By becoming more muscularly balanced, the muscle function is maximised which allows the dog to move in a functionally correct way; hopefully without pain.

The graphic below can be very useful. If your dog is showing changes in two or more areas, then they could well be in muscular discomfort. (*This does not, however, substitute a visit to your vets. If you feel your dog is in pain or are worried about any changes your dog is displaying, please do visit your vet for advice.*)

I want us to now look at each piece of the jigsaw and give some (though in no way exhaustive) examples of what these changes could include (there is a handy tick box for you to assess your dog).

Changes in appearance:

- Dull coat
- Disturbed coat - bits sticking up that used to lie flat
- Lack of sparkle in their eyes

Lack of mobility:

- Not wanting to exercise
- Choosing not to use a certain gait and/or struggling when walking
- Struggling on/over certain surfaces
- Stumbling
- Tiring quickly
- Limping
- Stiffness
- Pacing (when they use one side of the body at a time rather than moving on diagonals)

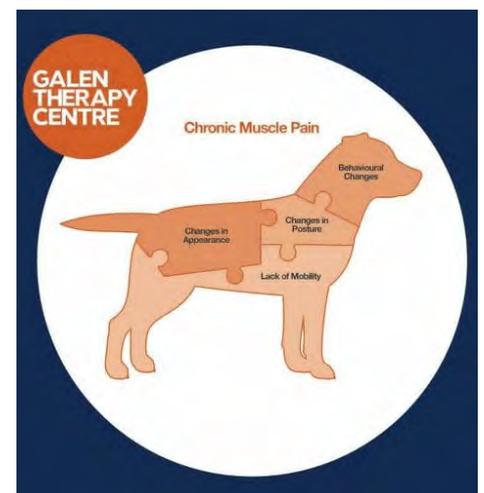
Behavioural change:

- Becoming reactive or grumpy
- Seeming depressed or withdrawn
- Not wanting to play
- Not wanting to be patted or stroked
- Not being able to settle

Changes in posture:

- Neck seeming shorter and you have had to let out their collar or harness
- Looking uncomfortable in a sit and perhaps sitting on one side or even refusing to sit
- The back and front legs seem closer together
- One end of the dog looks much larger/smaller than the other end

By noticing these changes and acting on them, you could help your dog's muscular health and comfort.



Would you like to
attend an Introduction
to Canine Massage
with Lucy?

Please email
zita@petpatrol365.co.uk
to be added to the
mailing list.

THE MISSING TALE OF BEAU - TOLD BY OWNERS ASHLEY & SARAH

Saturday 3 November 2018

Beau and Rogan are our Golden Retriever puppies and it is one week before their six months birthday. It's just before 8pm on the Saturday before Guy Fawkes night and we're out in the garden trying to get the puppies to have a quick wee before the neighbourhood fireworks start.



Out of nowhere, the first firework is launched, followed by a barrage of rockets. The scene changes from a calm, quiet, sedate ramble around the garden to one of complete pandemonium within the blink of an eye.

Both dogs are petrified and go bananas trying to race away from the bangs and flashes. After a few crazed laps of the garden, fortunately Rogan ran into the house but Beau took a different trajectory and disappeared up the lane away from the house and into the darkness.

We race up the lane. At the top of the lane we split up, one of us continues the search towards the other houses further down the lane, whilst the other goes to cut short celebrations and ask the revellers not to light any more boxes of rockets.

The fireworks now stopped, we go back to the house to pull on wellies, collect torches and resume the search; walking the surrounding houses, outbuildings and fields. At 10:30, tired and very worried we call off the search for the night and try to get some sleep.

“ Zita, we're so grateful for all your help finding Beau. You remained steady and calm when we couldn't. You never gave up hope and didn't let us either. Thanks so much! ”

Sunday 4 November 2018

Up at first light after a sleepless night, we resume the search walking miles through fields, woodland and calling to all the houses within a couple of miles. Despite covering a huge area, there's no sign of Beau. He's vanished.

At 8:14am, back at home we were unsure what to do, struggling to think straight we decide to text Zita for some advice. Within 30 minutes Zita had dropped her weekend plans, arrived at our house and we've recounted the story. Zita sprang into action. She rallied the troops, got the word out and started a Facebook campaign. Posters are rapidly printed and distributed to neighbours and pinned up at railway stations, shops, village notice boards and anywhere we can find a telegraph pole.

A friend came over with his drone and we spent time continuing the search from the air with Zita covering surrounding roads and fields by car and on foot. Despite covering a vast area Beau continues to elude us.

Back at the house to take stock, discuss next steps and try to eat something, we are now starting to wonder if something serious has happened to Beau.

The Facebook campaign is gathering momentum, lots of people are sharing the message and there are many messages of support and offers of help. It's very heartening that there are lots of good people rooting for us and for Beau. Lots of people have changed their plans to come and walk in and around the local area but, as the daylight starts to fade, we're preparing for a second night without Beau and making plans for the next day.

Monday 5 November 2018

At 9am we hit the phones, calling all the vets, animal rescue centres, dog wardens and anyone else that we could think of. We get Beau recorded as lost by the Kennel Club and the microchip registration company. The remainder of the day was spent walking the fields again and double checking sheds out buildings and hedges hoping that someone would spot Beau and that the phone would ring. Despite heading into a third night Zita kept our spirits up and encouraged us not to give up hope. At 10:30pm we took one last look around the garden, calling Beau's name. We thought we heard a dog barking but eventually dismissed it as our imagination and went to bed.

Tuesday 6 November 2018

We were woken up at 1:30am by the sound of a dog barking. We leapt out of bed and looked out the window. Beau had found his way home! We raced downstairs and out onto the drive. Beau was scared but very happy to see us. Despite being a bit smelly he was unharmed and seemed none the worse for wear.

We are very grateful to Zita for helping us to stay calm and positive. The Facebook pages and messages she created were shared thousands of times within a few hours and she had lots of ideas that would never have occurred to us. Rogan and Beau are now ten months old and the whole episode seems long forgotten by both of them, but not by us. I guess we'll never know where he went for nearly three days.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE **LOST** A DOG?

It's every dog owner's worst nightmare; one minute your dog is there, the next they're not. Of course it's upsetting and stressful for you when your dog is missing; and there's also the added worry that your pet may be scared or hurt.

If you've looked everywhere that you can think of and there's still no sign, it's time to let others know that your dog is missing.

REMEMBER - STAY CALM! Panicking will not help you focus efficiently.

Below is a useful guide to help you reunite with your pet. It is segmented into three colours **1. RED - URGENT**, **AMBER - IMPORTANT** and **GREEN - USEFUL**, so you can get to work on the most urgent 'things to do' first.

RED - URGENT:

- * If your dog has run off from home, let your immediate neighbours know and ask if they'd mind keeping an eye out for you.
- * Prepare a flyer with relevant information about your dog, including their name, breed, physical description, whether they are microchipped/wearing a collar and tag and, ideally, a recent photograph together with the date they went missing. Contact information should include your name, telephone number and email address (and dedicated Facebook page - see below). OR you can upload the information into DogLost and you can download a poster from there.
- * Contact online databases, such as DogLost <http://www.doglost.co.uk>, The National Pet Register <https://www.nationalpetregister.org> and Animal Search UK <https://www.animalsearchuk.co.uk> who provide free resources to help reunite you with your missing dog.
- * Call the microchip database they are registered with and report them as lost or stolen. Make sure your contact details are always up to date.
- * Contact your local authority dog warden, via your local council - they are legally responsible for stray dogs and may well pick up your pet. They hold on to stray dogs for seven days, but after this time dogs will be rehomed if not claimed, or put to sleep if no home can be found for them.
- * Find out where the local authority dog warden takes the dogs to (sometimes referred to as a 'pound', or sometimes a local kennel establishment) and call them too.
- * Also contact neighbouring local authorities as dogs may move across council borders.
- * Facebook can be a very useful resource. Both Animal Search UK and DogLost have their own pages and you'll be able to search for lost and found dog pages in your area. If you have your own account, it's worth advertising your lost dog there as your friends will be able to share your post and widen your search. Even setting up a dedicated page for your missing pet is useful, because you can provide all information and updates in one place.
- * Share the information on all local Facebook pages.
- * Twitter can be helpful, particularly if you include your location on the tweet and copy in any useful organisations.
- * Call local kennels/charities - it's possible someone has found your dog and taken them to a local rehoming centre or kennels.
- * Contact local vet surgeries and animal hospitals - if your dog has been injured, they may have been taken there for treatment.
- * Canvas the neighbourhood, enlisting any willing volunteers to help you search, knock on doors or distribute flyers.
- * Visit places where other dog walkers go and ask them to keep an eye out for your dog.
- * Post and distribute flyers wherever your lost dog was last seen, as well as throughout your neighbourhood, as some dogs have incredible homing instincts.

Try the following:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamp posts | <input type="checkbox"/> Post offices | <input type="checkbox"/> Petrol stations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling bins | <input type="checkbox"/> Supermarkets | <input type="checkbox"/> Off licenses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Vets | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden centres |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice boards | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Charity shops | <input type="checkbox"/> Riding stables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog bins | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor/Dentist surgeries | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Training & Obedience clubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Pubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus stops/shelters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Train stations | <input type="checkbox"/> Gym/Sports centres | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsagents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taxi ranks | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Chip shops | <input type="checkbox"/> Convenience stores |

Ask them if they'd be happy to display your flyer to help you find your missing dog. Try asking your Postman (and the sorting office), Milkman, Dustman and Newspaper Boys if they will distribute posters on their rounds.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE **LOST** A DOG?

Please remember to make a note of where ALL posters are to take them down when your dog is found, or to re-post if necessary. A useful tip is to put them into clear plastic wallets and seal with sellotape to keep them weather proof and pin up with drawing pins.

* Walk or cycle up and down the road near the area your dog was last seen and drive slowly through your neighbourhood. Show passers-by your flyer and ask them to keep an eye out for your lost dog. If they offer, ask them to help you widen your search by looking in surrounding fields or woodlands - you might want to give them some treats in case they do find your missing dog.

* If you think your dog has been stolen, call the Police.

AMBER - IMPORTANT:

- Contact your local Highways Agency in case your dog has been hit by a car.
- Contact Network Rail if you think your dog may have got onto a railway track.
- Contact your Pet Insurance Company as they may provide financial assistance and advice on how to find a missing dog.
- Contact your local newspaper/radio/tv for maximum coverage - make your dog 'too hot to handle'!

GREEN - USEFUL:

- Dog Lost <http://www.doglost.co.uk/how-we-help.php>
- K9 Tracker <http://www.k9tracker.co.uk>
- The Pet Detectives <https://thepetdetectives.com>
- Drone SAR for Lost Dogs UK <https://m.facebook.com/groups/DroneSARForLostDogsUK>

DELEGATE:

- Drivers - to drive people around who can jump out and put up posters without having to park.
- Sandwich/Tea maker and biscuit giver - always needed to rally the troops and keep helpers going!
- Telephonists - to make calls. Allocate five numbers to each person, which they are responsible for calling and following up - EVERY DAY!
This can be done from individual's homes.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE **FOUND** A DOG?

* If you've found a stray dog, check to see if they're wearing a tag with the owner's details. If they are, and you're happy to do so, contact the owner and arrange to give the dog back to them. When calling, don't give too much information about the dog away - ask the person on the phone whether the dog is male or female, colour, distinguishing marks etc. to ensure you are talking to the legal owner.

* If the dog is not wearing any ID, please take it to a vet for scanning as the dog might be microchipped. The vet may also keep hold of the dog until the owner or dog warden arrives.

* Alternatively, contact your local authority dog warden via your local council. They are legally responsible for stray dogs and will come and collect the dog from you and take them to a holding kennel while they wait to see if their owner will claim them.

* Register the dog as "found" on DogLost, which is a national online lost and found website.

* Although it might be tempting to keep the dog, you're legally required to let the local authority know about any strays. If you don't, you could be accused of theft.

* There is likely to be a loving owner out there desperately searching for their missing dog; if it is microchipped, it could be really easy to reunite them.

* It's very easy to get attached to a dog the longer you keep them, so please do let someone know you've found them as soon as possible.

* If you do want to keep the dog, let the local authority know and they may be able to arrange for you to rehome them if no one claims them.

WAYS TO HELP KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE!

IDENTIFICATION:

- Ensure your dog's tag contains - owner's name, postcode, and at least one contact number.
- Ensure your dog is microchipped - and that details are up to date.
- Dog tattoo - a permanent and visible means of identifying your dog. The National Dog Tattoo Register <https://dog-register.co.uk> can provide more details.

NEVER:

- Tie your dog up outside a shop
- Leave your dog unaccompanied in a car
- Leave your dog on its own in the garden
- Give out information about your dog to strangers

DO:

- Use a long lead if your dog's recall is poor
- Vary the time and location of your walks
- Walk with a friend if you are worried
- Increase your house security - a crime prevention officer will advise you
- Consider a GPS tracker collar

MICROCHIP

When a dog is microchipped, a tiny chip about the size of a grain of rice is inserted under the loose skin on the back of its neck, giving it a unique 15 digit code. If a pet gets lost or gets stolen and is picked up by a council or a dog shelter, the microchip can be scanned and matched to contact details stored on a database. Since 6 April 2016, it has been a legal requirement in the UK for all dogs to be microchipped and registered on a national database such as Petlog <https://www.petlog.org.uk>, and all newborn puppies to be registered by the age of 8 weeks <https://www.gov.uk/get-your-dog-microchipped>.

However, a microchip is only useful when someone finds your dog and hands it to a vet to scan the chip. If your dog gets lost, it won't help you actively find it.

Please keep your microchip up to date if:

- You move
- You surrender your dog to a charity or another individual

It is also advisable to ask your vet to scan your pet at least once a year to ensure that the microchip is still working, and that it hasn't migrated to a different part of the body.

Microchips go hand in hand as a back up should anything happen to your dog and to help keep it safe.

GPS PET TRACKER

A device that uses different technologies to keep track of pet's locations. These pet tracker devices are commonly attached to pet collars to provide real time round the clock tracking, so you can monitor the movements of your pets. Some trackers pinpoint exact location, making it easier to trace your pet if they become lost or stolen; and some give an alert when your pet leaves a pre-determined virtual area (commonly called a geo-fence).

There are many trackers on the market; however, the world market leader operating in more than 150 countries is <https://www.tractive.com>.

The Tractive is a top seller! It uses GPS technology (2G/3G) with live updating every 2-3 seconds to help locate your pet, and is 100% waterproof. It doesn't have interchangeable batteries, but has a battery life of 2-5 days (depending on use and mobile signal) and only takes 2 hours to charge. The price per unit is £44.99 with monthly subscriptions starting at just £3.33 per month. A small price to pay to help keep Fido or Fluffy safe!

Note: Please do your due diligence and ensure that this product is suitable for your pet before purchasing.

April 2018

I remember the day in April 2018 when I last saw Spence, our beautiful Bengal cat. He was asking to go out of the window (as he often did as he doesn't like going out of the cat-flap). I opened the window and he ran across the grass at full speed. When he didn't come in for his tea that evening I was a little concerned, as he loves his food and it was unlike him, but was hopeful that he would turn up the next morning, probably starving hungry and begging for food. But he was nowhere to be seen the next day and, as the days went on, I knew something must have happened to him.



Spence before his disappearance...

I put the word out that he was missing via social media and alerted neighbours, as well as searching for him around the local area, but unfortunately there was no sign of him anywhere and no one had seen him. Days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months. We resigned ourselves to the fact that he was most probably dead. The hardest part was the not knowing... As time went on it became less raw, although we never forgot him and would often remember little things about him.

Just under 7 months after Spence went missing, I was pulling into a client's drive to pick up their dogs (I am a dog walker), when I noticed a cat sitting on their outside window sill. Odd, I thought, as I knew they didn't own a cat. I got out of the car to say hello to it, it was a very friendly cat and even jumped in my car; oddly my dog, who was in the front, didn't even react!

The cat kept following me, even when I got the dogs out of the house for their walk.

After I had walked the dogs, the cat was still there, so I looked at it more closely. It was a painfully thin Bengal cat. Part of me wondered whether it could possibly be Spence, but it looked much smaller and had different colour fur. I even took a picture and sent it to my husband, who confirmed it wasn't him, as it looked very different. As he was so thin, it was obvious he was a stray, so I took him to our local vet to scan him for a microchip. When the vet said that the name on the microchip company's records was Spence I nearly collapsed! It was just so amazing that we now had our boy back!



Spence when I found him!



How he ended up in my client's drive I will never know, as they live about 3 miles away from us, down country lanes. My clients had never seen him before, so it was as if he was waiting for me to arrive that morning... if only he could tell me about his amazing adventures!

Months on and Spence is now almost back to his usual weight and has no health problems. The only lasting effect has been a ferocious appetite, but this is common with animals that have been starved.

People have said that they can't believe I didn't know it was him immediately. He just looked so different after being missing for so long, his fur was a different colour from where it had got dirty and wet through, his behaviour was also very unusual for him, before we couldn't get near him when he was outside, yet here he was jumping in my car and being very affectionate!

This is why it's SO IMPORTANT to get your cat microchipped, as living wild can change your pet beyond recognition!!!

ASK THE EXPERTS

CHRIS SAYERS
K9 STYLIST
WASH 'N' BLOW DOGS 2 GO
07736 484184



Why Is My Dog Always Scratching?

When dogs continually scratch, lick or chew, people often think that it may have fleas, but there are many other potential reasons why your dog can be itchy which include:-

- * Allergies - these may be related to diet or the environment, including grass, trees, pollen, dust, or mould.
- * Pests - such as fleas, ticks and mites which are happy to live on your dog causing them distress.

Another common ailment for dogs is dry skin, causing dandruff and, if severe, the skin can crack at the slightest touch causing instant and extreme itchiness. Dry skin can be caused by the environment that your dog lives in or by diet. There is enormous controversy whether it is better to feed a raw (BARF) diet (bones and raw food), or a balanced complete commercial food. Most commercial dog foods have had the oils removed so that the food will last longer, but these oils have a major influence on the health of your dog's skin and fur. Yeast infections and ringworm can also cause skin disorders.



As a groomer, I invariably see problems. The most common area is in the dog's ear canal, which is often red inside with brown dirt or, in severe cases, blood. This is usually signs of an ear infection with constant head shaking and scratching, causing extreme itchiness. In these instances, you must seek advice from your vet to determine the severity and treatment protocol.

What can you do as an owner if your dog appears to be itchy?

- * Visit your vet and ask them to investigate skin/ear problems. They will prescribe the relevant medication to help alleviate the problems.
- * If you suspect that diet may be playing a part in your dog's itchiness, ask your vet to perform a 'Sensitest'. Your vet will extract a small amount of blood from your dog and send it off to their laboratory to identify the level of antibodies in your pet's blood. Although these tests are not 100% conclusive, they are a very beneficial guide in revealing what your dog may be allergic to such as environmental issues, as well as meats, grains, cereals, milk or eggs. It will also detect the severity of the allergic reaction.
- * A dog's diet can determine its energy level, how well their immune system can fend off infection, and how much moisture their fur and skin can retain. Therefore, when choosing a diet ensure that you feed the best and tailored to your own dog's individual needs - they are all different - just like a human being.
- * Many issues that cause skin irritations can be avoided if you maintain your dog's coat, or take it to a groomer on a regular basis.

What are the advantages of having your dog regularly bathed and groomed by a professional?

- * If your dog swims regularly in lakes, ponds or rivers, these areas contain bacteria and chlorine which will dry out the skin and leave it vulnerable to infection. A fully trained groomer will be able to see signs and use a shampoo that will help soothe, nourish and calm the skin, and advise the owner of the issues found. Remember a dog's PH level is different to humans and, therefore, using a human shampoo could add to the problems of a dog that already has skin issues.
- * Having your dog regularly brushed will help distribute its natural oils, remove any debris in the coat; matts and tangles which, if left, can trap and harbour bacteria and dirt contributing to skin problems.
- * If your dog has a profuse amount of hair on the inside of its ear, a groomer will either pluck or trim the hair away to allow more air to circulate inside, thus reducing the risk of infection.
- * Groomers will also regularly trim your dog's nails which, if left long, may cause further skin lesions and secondary infection with a dog that is continually scratching.
- * Depending on the breed, having a dog clipped every 4-6 weeks will not only enable manageability of a coat, especially during the winter months, but will enable an owner to keep an eye on their dogs skin more easily and detect any issues early.
- * If you go it alone and decide not to use a groomer or bath between grooms, always remember to use a high quality dog shampoo and ensure that the coat is completely rinsed out and dried, otherwise any residue can lead to hot spots and wet eczema.
- * There are a number of breeds that are more susceptible to skin problems and these include, Yorkshire Terriers, West Highland Whites, German Shepherds, Retrievers and Chow Chows to name a few. Any dog that is repeatedly scratching itself is a cause for concern, but with the correct diet, regular grooming and bathing sessions using a good quality hypoallergenic shampoo (such as Aloe Vera or Evening Primrose Oil), can help soothe your dog's symptoms quickly and nourish the skin back to health.



Do you love your cat but worry about leaving him sad and lonely in a cattery when you go away?



Do you have a high energy dog who is bored at home while you are at work?

If you would like to arrange a complimentary home visit to run through the options that would be best suited to your furry friend, you can get in touch in the following ways:

zita@petpatrol365.co.uk
<http://www.petpatrol365.co.uk>
 01892 653548 or 07974 728967



HUDSON

#TeamWoofers in the Spotlight

Squeaky or bouncy - what do you look for in a toy? Bouncy and something that I can run after.

What's your favourite treat? Turkey and carrots.

What would constitute a perfect day for you? Wake up, chase the fox in the garden, have breakfast, have a walk then snooze. Wake up to lunch, have a treat, roam the garden then snooze. Watch TV, wait for the children to come home for some love then snooze. Wake up to dinner and then a pre-bed snooze.

Do you have any special talents? Looking like I've never been fed... ever!

Complete this sentence: "I wish I had a friend with whom I could share... a snooze with!"

Whistle Recall Testimonial Ashley James & Sarah Maguire

“ Beau and Rogan our Golden Retriever puppies arrived in July 2018 and, to begin with, they were content to play in the garden and didn't venture very far. However, they very quickly started exploring further afield and we started to realise that having two puppies was going to be challenging. No matter how many times we called them they either didn't seem to notice (because they were too busy playing) or one would come back, but never both.

Zita had been recommended by our neighbours as someone who could help us with extra training. We asked Zita if she could help out with recall. She suggested that we try the whistle. We were fairly sceptical and thought that it would be impossible to get them to respond to anything.

Zita demonstrated the whistle and, within a few minutes of their training starting, they were coming back! Then it was over to us... We were really surprised as to how quickly they picked it up. We went out the next day and bought the whistles. We use what Zita recommended which is an ACME 210 with the pea in. Zita left us some really helpful training notes which we found useful for prompts when practising. We use their best treats to reward them for their recall - ham, chicken and puff jerky.

The other benefit of using the whistle is the consistency, Beau and Rogan would respond better to Ashley's voice rather than Sarah's. With the whistle it doesn't matter who is blowing it - they come back.

To get to their daily walk we have to go through a field of sheep, so having the confidence that the boys will come back to the whistle and not chase the sheep is invaluable. Beau and Rogan continue to sneak over to our neighbours at every opportunity and they run off into the woods when we are out on our walks. However, a quick two pips on the whistle and a call of their names, and they come bounding back.

Although we couldn't say that they come back 100% on the first whistle, it's pretty close. We now wouldn't be without the whistles - quite often Ashley will realise that he's still wearing his in the office!!!”

Thank you Zita! ”



<http://www.offtheleashdogcartoons.com>



Competition Corner!

WIN!

A SHOWER Waterproof Dog Coat courtesy of Ginger Ted!

Designed to keep your dog dry, clean and comfortable on rainy days and wet walks.

The SHOWER is part of the signature collection and the most popular coat from the Ginger Ted range. Key features include: waterproof, windproof, breathable, quick fastening, reflective piping and warm fleece lining.

Available for Standard Breeds, Sighthounds and Dachshunds, the SHOWER is a superb all-round choice when you're looking for a waterproof dog coat that really does the job!

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, simply keep on an eye on <http://www.Facebook.com/PetPatrol365> for competition details.

The closing date for entries is 26 April 2019.



<http://www.gingerted.co.uk>
<http://www.facebook.com/ginger.ted.uk>
<http://twitter.com/gingerteduk>
http://instagram.com/ginger_ted_uk



WHAT EVERY RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER NEEDS TO KNOW!

Doglaw Seminar

We are pleased to announce that Pet Patrol 365, in association with The Conservators of Ashdown Forest, are hosting a Doglaw seminar.

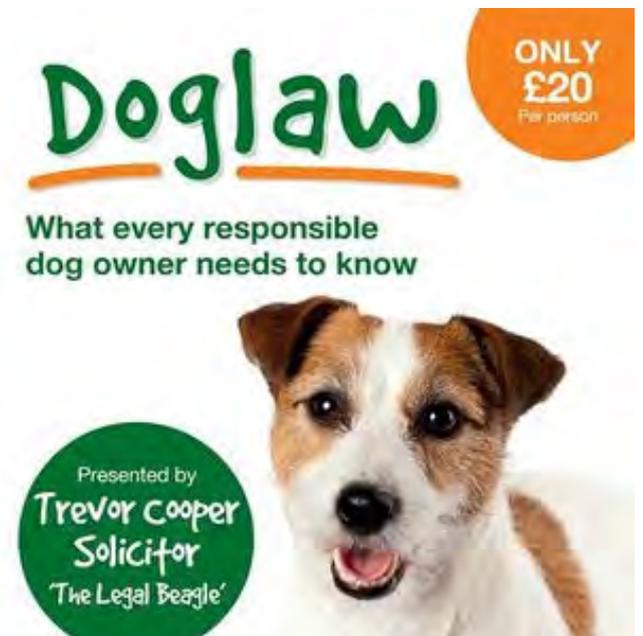


Saturday 15th June 2019 - 1.00pm

**The Education Barn
The Ashdown Forest Centre
Refreshments & Parking**

(No dogs, except guide/assistance dogs)

To book please click on the link and then select Ashdown Forest, Sussex as your location.
<https://www.doglawsos.co.uk/shop/doglaw-seminars>



These seminars cover a wide-ranging mix of legal issues that are important to dog owners, aimed at entertaining the audience as well as to inform.

No prior legal knowledge is required so come along and learn!

c.3 1/2 hrs