



Briefly.....

Prize Draw Winners

Thanks to all who took part in the prize draw. Winners were Debbie Coates & Monty, Mr Moore & Max, Mrs Pritchard & Oscar, Sonia Korevaar & Bo and Mrs Walker & Poppy.

Warm Reception

Many of you will have met Gina who has been running the reception desk most mornings since we started at Bethersden. She has now been joined by Sue Chisholm who will be covering most Wednesdays, some Saturdays and days when Emma is out of the shop on home visits.



Welcome from Gina and Sue

Early birds

If your appointment is before 9am or pick up after 5pm you may find the gates to the garden centre closed. That doesn't mean we're closed, just that the garden centre is not open yet. There is plenty of room to pull off the road and park in front of the gates. We'll keep an eye out for you. Toot your horn or come in and find us. The gates may be shut but not locked.

Phone lines

We've got a second line now. Just call on the same number: 01233 822 411 and if it's busy it will transfer to the second line.

Text us

If you still can't get through leave a message and we'll 'phone you back as soon as possible, or now you can text us on 07890 423 162. Just leave a short text and we can either ring or text you back as you wish.

Email us

Email us at emma@a-zanimalcare.co.uk. Let us have your email address and we'll keep you up to date with special offers and the latest news.

First at Crufts for A-Z Animal Care!

Okay Okay so we didn't actually *compete* at Crufts but we did *go* for the first time - and it makes an irresistible headline! And one day, who knows?.....

But seriously; Emma, Vanessa and Nevil went to the opening day of Crufts at the NEC in Birmingham in search of the latest and best on offer in the world of animal care and grooming.

With over 400 trade stands to choose from the range of products was enormous, with a staggering array of equipment, lotions, potions, food and accessories from all over the world.

We came away with lots of new ideas and equipment which we've been using with great success; not least the *Shed-less furminator* which has proved a real winner (See "Spring Cleaning" over page).

What a privilege to see so many

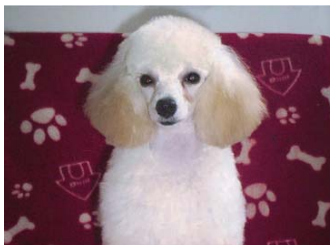


beautiful dogs in one place; more than 24,000 apparently over the four days. We were able to watch a good selection of the breed judging and particularly enjoyed the agility and obedience competitions. These really are the best of the best.

A long day, a 360 mile round trip but well worth the effort. We'll be passing on the inspiration to all our customers and their pets.

Wall of Fame

Thanks for the 'photos of all your lovely pets. There's over 100 already and we've ordered a second board, so keep 'em coming! This is Fifi, one of our regular customers



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Dognapping

Not wishing to spread unnecessary concern but we thought we ought to bring to your attention an article that appeared in one of the less alarmist newspapers recently.

It concerned the "fast-growing crime of dognapping" and dog theft. Direct Line Pet insurance says that there has been a 40% increase in claims over the past three years.

Thieves either sell the dogs on, or demand a ransom— sometimes running into many thousands of pounds for the pets return. There is no particular pattern; dogs can be taken from parked cars, urban gardens, parks or outside of shops.

It's a sad state of affairs that we even have to consider such things but please be vigilant and aware.

Bad breath, tartar or plaque?

We were as sceptical as the next dog owner when we first tried **PlaqueOff**. It's easily administered; just a little powder added to normal food, but it works. We've had a number of people come back to tell us so.

It's in stock now @ £9.99 and lasts a year for a small dog or cat

Meet Finn



Some of you may be aware that Emma sadly lost her dog, Moss, to cancer over Christmas. These things are never easy to get over but life goes on and it was difficult to imagine Emma without a dog for too long.

So welcome to Finn, a black Lab puppy who arrived at the end of March. He was one of a litter of nine, and all boys! You'll no doubt be seeing him at the shop

Walkies do wonders Sunday 21st May



We have received a letter from Macmillan Cancer Relief asking us to organise a sponsored dog walk in this area in aid of people living with cancer.

There are numerous charities out there all competing for funds but this is a very

Cats on the Web



So far we've found three good "Cat related" sites which you'll find as links from our new website (see right).

These are The Cat Protection League, RSPCA and the PDSA's site. The PDSA's site is particularly good for cat health and any questions you may have. There is even an "Ask the Vet" section where you can submit questions to a panel of vets and view hundreds of previous asked - and answered questions.

Please email us if you come across any other "Cat sites" that you think we should add to our list.

Spring Cleaning!

Over the winter a dog's coat grows extra thickly to protect it from the cold. As things warm up in the spring the coat is shed (guess where!) in anticipation of the summer.

One of our best finds at the Crufts show was a special tool for removing this shed hair. It's about three times more effective than any brush we've come across and is proving a real winner, particularly for the larger breeds such as German Shepherds, Labradors and retrievers.

It's called a *Shed-less Furminator* and we're offering it's benefits to our customers at no extra charge. So if your vacuum cleaner is bursting at the seams give us a call.

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worthwhile cause, and with a captive audience of over 450 dog owners we have little excuse not to help.

We won't be harassing anyone to participate but if you feel you would like to join in and support the cause then we'd love to see you on Sunday 21st May.

At this stage we'd like some suggestions as to where we should meet & walk. You can return the slip enclosed with the newsletter (or pick one up at the shop), or 'phone us, or email, or text or just call in and tell us!

Details at the shop or look on the Macmillan website: www.macmillan.org.uk

Our new website

We've finally got the new website up and running so do please email us and tell us what you think.

We have started a "Links" page to other animal related sites and welcome your suggestions and recommendations for any you think we should add.

www.a-zanimalcare.co.uk and can email to emma@a-zanimalcare.co.uk

Fun Terrier / Terrier Cross Dog Show Sunday May 7th

Not quite expecting 24,000 entrants but if you missed Crufts then why not come along to this fun day out organised by The Kent and East Sussex Railway at Tenterden Town Station on Sunday May 7th 2006.



"And just what's so funny about me being in a dog show?"

There's lots going on in the steam engine department and the railway is hosting up to five famous Victorian tank engines known as "Terriers", hence they decided it was an excellent excuse for a Terrier Dog show to match.

There will be 14 main classes in the show which will be held in the car park adjoining the station. Just come along; entries start at 1pm It's only £1 per class with judging from 2pm to 4.30pm

We'll be there and plan to have a stand and tent so do pop in and see us. We'll also be offering microchipping while you wait and providing the First Aid cover for the show.

For further details please give us a call or contact Rebecca Nightingale c/o K&ESR on 0870 600 6074

An(imal)agrams;

How many can you get? Answers at the shop

I'm not a lad (9) Rest brand (9)
Scrape a tin (7, 3) Dopey loot (3, 6)
The Sir tries (5, 6) Hen regards hemp (6, 8)
I roll cod beer (6, 6) Koi sherry retiree (8, 7)
Ankles ice crop (6, 7) Young herd (9)
Old revenge trier (6, 9) Dad's hunch (9)