

# Little Coombe Kennels & Cattery

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[www.littlecoombe.co.uk](http://www.littlecoombe.co.uk)

Newsletter ..... June 2008

## Staff News

*We are pleased to report that Rachel, one of our full-time kennel assistants, has recently given birth to a beautiful baby girl. Aleah was born a few weeks early but is very healthy. Rachel is currently on maternity leave.*

*Michelle has left us to take a job in dog grooming and we wish her well. Our new kennel assistant, Katie, will be joining us in early July, to work alongside Lorraine, Angela, Leah and Kirsty.*

*Over the summer we will be offering placements to several work experience students from Bicton College. They will shadow our regular staff to gain experience in animal care.*

## Jenny's vetting again

After about 18 months off, I returned to veterinary work in January 2008, but have decided to cut down the amount I do. I now work as an occasional locum for 3 or 4 different practices in the area which is very enjoyable and varied work. After 24 years of working all hours, I have also decided not to work nights and weekends any more, which was definitely a good decision! I look after any basic veterinary needs of our boarders, while any more complex treatment is provided by Corner House Surgery, Exmouth.

TILLY, our boxer puppy, is growing up fast. She is now fully vaccinated and has been out for her first proper walks along Exmouth sea front. Progress was slow, as so many people wanted to say hello to her and she was happy to oblige! She has also been exploring Woodbury Common with us. Tilly is seen here with Martha, our older boxer, who suddenly seems very sensible by comparison. The next step for Tilly will be training classes, which we think are useful to all dogs and owners, and it is a long time since we had a puppy so we probably need retraining too. She has already outgrown her first collar and chewed up her first lead as well as several flowerpots (including plants unfortunately). She is very sociable because of the number of visitors to our house. We still make use of a crate for Tilly because it gives Martha some guaranteed peace and quiet from one very energetic pup.



Summer has finally arrived, and at the time of writing, we are enjoying a spell of lovely warm weather. Unfortunately this always brings with it an increase in the number of fleas on pets. Fleas are important, not just because they can cause irritation or allergic skin disease, but also because they act as intermediate hosts for certain internal worms. This means that when a dog or cat with fleas licks or nibbles at itself, it may well swallow fleas and also immature worms. These then develop to the adult form internally.

Routine flea prevention and de-worming are essential throughout the life of your dog or cat, so please seek advice at your veterinary surgery about the most effective products to use. Humans are also susceptible to bites from cat and dog fleas, so we would be very grateful if all our boarders were flea-free! If their regular treatment is due whilst boarding, we are happy to apply it for you.

**Exeter Children's Orchestra** (in which our younger son plays saxophone), will be performing the following summer concerts:

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> June (2-4pm) Manor Gardens, Exmouth (FREE)

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> July (12-4pm) Connaught Gardens Sidmouth (FREE)

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> July (7.30pm) Exmouth Pavilion, with special guests Exeter Kagemusha Junior Taiko

Please see [www.exeterchildrensorchestra.co.uk](http://www.exeterchildrensorchestra.co.uk) for further details