

# Little Coombe Kennels & Cattery

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

NEWSLETTER.....October 2009

## Recycle and help the RNLI

If you use a computer, please take a recycling envelope next time you are in our office. By recycling your used ink cartridges, you can help raise money for the RNLI as well as reducing waste. Thank you.



## Fireworks

Many dogs and cats are afraid of fireworks, even if kept indoors. There is a lot that can be done to help them though. Please ask for advice at your vets in plenty of time, not on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>!

*CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN!  
Please book soon if you need a Christmas or New Year boarding slot!*

## Veterinary Corner ANAL GLANDS

All dogs have two small scent glands just inside the rectum which they use for territory marking. Cats have them too, but they rarely cause problems in cats.

These glands should empty naturally when the dog passes faeces, but in some dogs this mechanism does not work and the glands become over-full. The dog then shows signs which might include rubbing its bottom on the floor, biting beneath the tail or chewing itself over the hip bones. The glands then need to be manually emptied to prevent an abscess from forming.

The contents of the anal glands have a very foul smell, and this can be another sign that they need attention.

Sometimes the addition of fibre to the diet (eg bran) will help the dog to empty the glands naturally. Overweight dogs are more likely to have problems, so watching your dogs weight can help too. Regular emptying is needed in some dogs. In a few cases they may be surgically removed by your vet if they cause long term problems.

If your dog needs its anal glands emptying regularly, this can be done whilst boarding at Little Coombe.

From time to time we have **work experience** students to spend time with us from various schools or Bicton College. They work under the supervision of our full-time staff to see if working with animals is for them or to gain practical experience. Many will go on to work in kennels, in pet shops or in veterinary surgeries.

## Changes in charges & VAT

Our charges will increase slightly on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009, but the good news is that they will only go up by 50p per animal per night. The other good news is that our discounts for long stay and for sharing will also increase at the same time.

The VAT rate will change back to 17.5% on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. That one is outside our control!

*We are delighted to announce the birth of our second granddaughter. Kaitlyn was born in September weighing 4lb 13oz to proud parents Alex and Catherine.*



*Meanwhile, our first granddaughter Rachel (Kaitlyn's cousin), is now 9 months old and at the crawling stage. She visits often and fortunately she loves dogs and cats!*