



# Newsletter Summer '11

Dear friends,

Summer is finally here and with the longer days and schools breaking up, what better time to get out and about with your pets. We've got some suggestions on fun games to play outdoors on your walks, and look at a common problem behaviour - excessive licking. We meet Katenna Jones, animal behaviour consultant to find out more about her work with the American Humane Association. And, we have all our usual news, review and another great Ellen Tozer cartoon for you too.

Happy reading!  
Hanne x

## New faces to Walk the Dog...



This month we give a warm welcome to; **Ralph P, Digger, Toby, Megan, Storm, Flash, Ralph, Luna, Monster, Cirrus, Stoli, Trixie, Benjy, Alfie, Ellie, Honey, Miah, Sparky, Tilly, Eddie, Bella and Rafferty.** If your pet isn't on our picture gallery yet, please send us their picture, so they can join our animal hall of fame. Email us at [info@walk-the-dog.net](mailto:info@walk-the-dog.net)

## And sad farewells...

We're very sad to say goodbye to WTD pets **Fudge, Chloe, Ant and Matilda**, who sadly passed away recently.



## Playing in the great outdoors

Summer is officially here, and what better time of year to get out and about with your dog? Going for walks with your pet should be an enjoyable experience for you both, if your dog is easily distracted outside, then playing with your pet on your walks will not only help improve his training but it is more fun for you and your dog too. Here are our top tips for games to play with your dog while on a walk.

**Nosing around** – your dog has an incredible nose with over 220 million hair cells up their snout compared to our 5 million! So, put this ability to use while outdoors; take a toy with you that your dog loves and that he'll happily sniff out. (If your dog is motivated more by food, then take out your tastiest treats and use these instead). Get your dog interested in the toy but do not give it to him. Instead, pop him into a sit/stay and place it along a path you have not walked yet but where he can see the toy, then retrace your steps and encourage him to "Go get it". When he retrieves the toy, make a big fuss of him then have a game with it. You start the games along a path you have not walked down to teach him to use his nose, if you place the toy along a path you have already crossed, he would get confused and not trust his nose.

**Making it harder** – now your dog has the idea of sniffing out his toy, you can make this game harder. Start to move the toy further away, hiding it behind a tree or bush – always retrace your steps and come back to your dog so he can follow your scent to the toy.

**Hide and seek** – this is a great game that tests your dog's spacial awareness as well as his nose! Place your dog into a sit/stay and then hide. Call your dog and when he finds you, praise and reward with a treat. When you are out, if your dog wanders off, duck behind a tree instead of calling him. With most dogs it does not take long until they start to look for you. This is a useful way to train your dog to stay close and keep an eye on his owner!



**Chase me** – chasing is a natural dog behaviour and they love to chase! Encourage your dog to exercise his chasing instinct in a positive way – chasing you, rather than letting him get his kicks chasing the squirrel in the park. Playing chase with your dog will aid with his recall training. Start by running a few steps away with a treat in your hand, you could also use a cue word such as "Catch me". As your dog runs to you, praise him and reward with the treat. Once your dog gets the idea you can stop showing him the treat, he should get the reward for coming, not as a bribe.

**Ping pong** – a great way to re-enforce recall and have fun while out and about is to play a game called 'ping pong puppy'. Arm yourself with lots of treats and take it in turns to call your dog backwards and forwards between you and a friend. Use your pet's name to get his attention and then your cue word when he looks. When your dog comes to you, immediately reward with a treat and then the other person calls him back. Start away from distractions at first (e.g.) at home and in your garden, then build up to this outside on a walk, slowly introducing distractions.

For more great game ideas for you and your pet, read **Playing With Your Dog** by Hanne Grice (RRP £6.99) available from Walk the Dog, Amazon, Borders, Tesco, WHSmith's and other online resellers.

## Special appeal – Ron

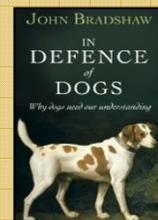


This ginger haired cutie is Ron, a 9 week old kitten. Ron was found with his siblings in a garden, and is now looking for a forever home. Ron is a little unsure of people, so will need a loving owner who is willing to give him lots of time and patience to let him settle. Ron would best suit a home with older children. For more information, please contact Hemel Hempstead & Berkhamsted Cats Protection branch on **0845 3711851**.

## Book review In Defence of Dogs

by John Bradshaw

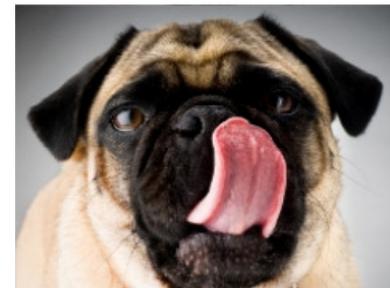
Dog behaviour expert John Bradshaw presents an alternative to conventional, dominance-based approaches to understanding dogs. This is an informative guide to how canine biology and psychology determine behaviour and is recommended for those looking to further their understanding of their pet's behaviour. RRP £11.60.



## Pet problems revealed - Licking

A common unwanted dog behaviour I am often called in to help with is excessive licking. Whether it is licking walls, bedding or even owners, licking can occur for a variety of reasons.

Some medical conditions may cause excessive thirst or a desire to lick or ingest inappropriate items, so ensure your pet is healthy with a visit to the vets. Some dogs may lick to pick up scents left by others while licking may also denote stress.



Dogs need mental as well as physical stimulation, so licking may also occur when a dog is bored. Be aware of your own responses as this could unwittingly make the licking more exciting to him as it gains your attention. By redirecting your dog's attention away from area/items he is licking and providing lots of mental and physical stimulation through games and tricks, you can reduce down this unwanted behaviour. Spray Bitter Apple or Anti-Chew onto the areas your dog is interested in, this will taste nasty to your dog and discourage the licking. Use Kong toys and Buster cubes filled with treats and paste to enable your dog to use his licking and chewing action onto these items instead.

## In the news...

### WTD gets Royal seal of approval

In the run up to the Royal Wedding and to promote our national charity competition 'Dressed to the K9s', we set up a photo shoot with 15 dogs dressed as the Royal Wedding party. We wrote to Her Majesty the Queen, inviting her to enter our light hearted competition which sees owners dressing up their pets and sending in their photos online for a chance to win great prizes and raise funds for 'Every Chance Rescue'. We included a photo of Lottie the miniature



Schnauser who played the role of Her Majesty. We were delighted to recently receive a letter from the Palace thanking us and wishing our event and charity well. So, it looks like we're not for the Tower just yet! To view photos from our Royal Wedding tribute shoot visit [www.wtdbritcollection.com](http://www.wtdbritcollection.com)

### Ellen Tozer's Basset collection launches



Artist and Basset Hound lover Ellen Tozer has launched the new website 'Love Jefferson'. Named after one of her Basset's, Love Jefferson offers a range of fun and unique gifting ideal for pet lovers everywhere. Ellen illustrates for many publications, including our very own 'Howard & Jefferson' cartoons exclusively created for Walk the Dog, and the recent book *Playing With Your Dog* by Hanne Grice. The Love Jefferson collection includes paintings on canvas, greeting cards and even has downloadable colouring sheets for kids! For more information, log onto [www.lovejefferson.com](http://www.lovejefferson.com)

### Calling all dog owners - photo opportunity!

Berkhamsted based publishers **Make Believe Ideas** are looking for cute dogs to photograph to include these images in future publications. If you fancy your dog becoming the next big celebrity hound, then please contact Hayley at Make Believe Ideas on **01442 874569** or visit [www.makebelieveideas.com](http://www.makebelieveideas.com)



### Ruby the Beagle makes the headlines



The latest Hertfordshire Life features estate agency **Fine and Country's** celebrated Beagle and Walk the Dog pet client, Ruby. The article features the award winning agent Jan Foo (Ruby's owner) who talks about the impact Ruby has had in the office, her popularity with Jan's clients and credits Ruby's excellent behaviour on the dog training skills taught by our very own dog behaviour expert Hanne Grice. To find out more about Jan and Ruby, visit [www.fineandcountryberkhamsted.com](http://www.fineandcountryberkhamsted.com)

### Closure dates for 2011 – Reminder!

Important dates for your diary! Walk the Dog will be closed for our annual break across the following dates:

- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August to Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August '11**
- **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September '11**
- **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December '11 to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January '12**

We will not be operating any of our pet care, behaviour or training services during this time. So, please ensure you make alternative arrangements for your pets during this period. If you have any questions about our holiday dates, please do contact us on 01442 878628 or email [info@walk-the-dog.net](mailto:info@walk-the-dog.net)

## Meet Katenna Jones – US Animal Behaviour Consultant

**Name:** Katenna Jones  
**Lives:** Rhode Island, USA  
**Occupation:** Animal Behaviour Consultant, APDT webinar co-ordinator and instructor for the American Humane Association's Red Star Disaster team  
**Pets:** Maison (pit bull), Van Gogh and Scrubbies (cats)



Being a member of the APDT, we get to network with some fascinating members including Katenna Jones, an animal behaviour consultant based in Rhode Island, USA. Katenna's work includes training with the American Humane Association's Red Star Disaster team. We chatted with Katenna to find out more about life as a behaviour consultant in the States and her disaster relief work.

**How did you get into dog training and behaviour?** I studied biology at University and in my senior year I discovered what I truly loved was called animal behaviour. At the same time I was volunteering as a dog walker at an animal shelter and was soon hired. I fell in love with animal shelters and knew that was where I belonged, and wanted more education. I moved to Rhode Island to pursue an advanced degree in animal behavior at Brown University. I conducted research at local animal shelters and taught volunteers to train dogs. I found that I had a knack for animal behaviour and training, as well as teaching humans!

**What are the most common issues you come across in your work?** A lack of understanding and awareness from pet owners of what is normal, natural animal behaviour. Once I explain to owners how animals think and act, they develop empathy and understanding, they are much more patient and willing to work with a behaviour.

**Your work recently took you to the tornado hit State of Joplin Missouri - what were you doing there?** I work with the American Humane Association Red Star Emergency Response team. I spent 12 days in Joplin performing a variety of tasks including volunteer in-take, cat care, reunification, and canine behaviour evaluations. My response was the most physically and emotionally challenging thing I've ever done in my life, and I look forward to responding again in the future.

**If you could share your top three tips for successful dog training, what would they be?** Firstly, appropriate and frequent exercise, secondly - consistency, this is key, and finally follow-through!

**What does the future hold for Katenna?** I firmly believe in going through open doors. Five months ago I would never have guessed I would be where I am now, so who knows! Carpe Diem. I will always be in this field and I will always work with shelter animals and professionals.

You can find out more about Katenna and her work by visiting [www.bestbehavior.net](http://www.bestbehavior.net)

