

### Spring /Summer 2017 (Issue 2)

Hello clients and companion animals and a warm welcome to the second edition of Paws2Walk news and muse. In this edition you will find information on how to keep your pets healthy during the summer months, some facts and figures and recent book reviews. All the latest news and updates can be found here and covers the following topics:

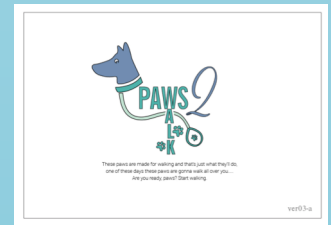
- Keeping animals safe and healthy in spring and summer
- Did you know... facts & figures
- Book review 'A Street Cat named Bob' by James Bowen

#### Top Tips for Keeping pets safe & healthy in Spring/Summer

- At New Year, check with your vet when your companion animals are due their vaccinations and annual health check and diarize before the year gets started.
- Make that kind decision to neuter or castrate pet cats and dogs to prevent unplanned litters, re-homing and rescue centres are full of unfortunate pets awaiting new homes.
- A warm mild spring can see the flea cycle and other infestations re emerge. Make sure you have sufficient flea treatments available to treat your cats and dogs.
- In the summer season ticks can strike and attach themselves to your pet's skin burrowing deep and feeding on their blood. Use recommended tic removing tools which can be purchased from your local vet or reputable pet stores. These are designed to remove the whole tic and reduce the chance of infection. Keep a check on small animals for fly strike – and act fast. This can be fatal for small animals like rabbits.
- In Dorset we have the Harvest Mite which often attacks the soft ears of cats etc. Some summers it is worse than others. Be alert and if you see your pet over-scratching their ears or notice they are losing their fur around these parts your vet can determine the cause and treat accordingly. Similarly, watch out for areas of Lyme disease and check out the news on local dog walking sites & remember take water/ don't leave dogs in cars as they can die from the heat.

**Book review 'A Street Cat named Bob' James Bowen ISBN 9781444737110**

This book is an inspirational insight of life on the streets of London for one homeless man and his companion cat. Their trials & tribulations, love, loyalty & friendship; a moving story of hope, healing and transformation it's now been made into a film.



#### Facts and figures at a glance:

Last year the UK dog food market reached £2bn – a lot of hungry hounds.

Recent market research found 9 out of 10 pet owners regarded their pet's part of their family.

One quarter of owners have their pets photographed professionally.

Sadly dog obesity is increasing!

According to the Pet Food Manufacturers Association nearly 10% of the UK's 8.2 million dogs are overweight.

The first year of a puppy's life is equal to the development an infant from birth to a teen of seventeen.

The National Animal Welfare Trust has produced a downloadable disc for pet information that can be placed in your defunct tax disc holder. You complete it with emergency details and information about any ailments or medical conditions your pet has. I've got mine. Visit their website at: [www.nawt.org.uk/advice/emergency-tax-disc](http://www.nawt.org.uk/advice/emergency-tax-disc)

One in four motorists with a dog could be breaking the law. The Highway Code says that dogs/other animals must be suitably restrained. Only 24% use a pet seat belt or harness, only 15% use a pet carrier.