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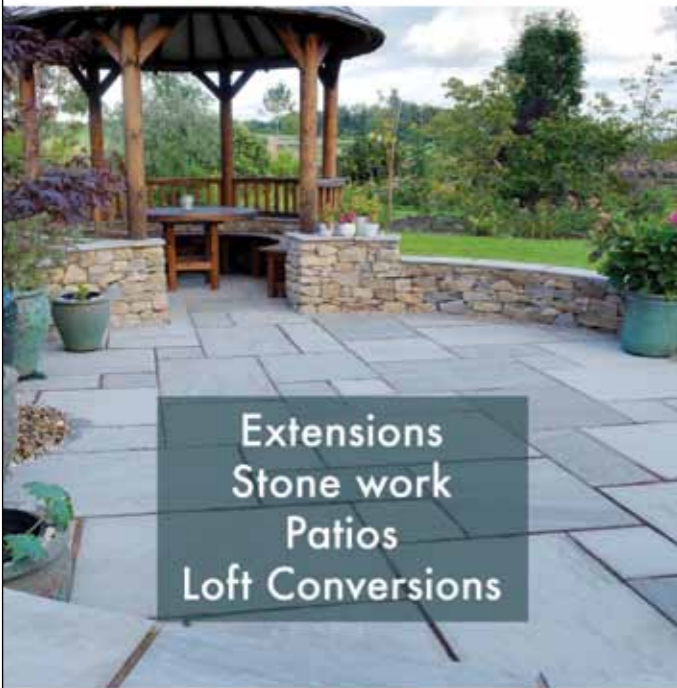
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Puppies and Separation Anxiety – fact or myth?

Can puppies develop Separation Anxiety (SA)? The answer to this is absolutely, yes they can – this is a fact, not a myth. If you have a new puppy, or pup has been with you for some weeks and pup is struggling to cope when left alone, how do you 'teach' your pup that being home alone is cool and ok?

How is SA identified in puppies?

Common separation anxiety-related behaviours (SRBs) are barking and howling, destruction (particularly in the area of the exit door), toileting in the house. It can be difficult to know sometimes when these are SRBs or just part of pup growing up, expressing their needs, play, or developmental behaviours, for example, it's normal for a puppy to have accidents in the house in the early weeks, before house training becomes fully effective. It's all about context. I can use my expertise to help you understand your pup's behaviour in relation to possible SRBs or other causes, and when not to worry.

When it's not SA. It's quite normal that puppies follow you around and seek comfort; this in itself is not a sign of SA. The first



principle when you bring a new pup into your home is to help your pup feel safe and build a trusting relationship with you. Pup needs a period of adjustment to their new home and family. This may take a week or so and supporting your pup and your family through this 'get-to-know-you' time by allowing pup to explore their new home and garden, avoiding overwhelming pup with new experiences or people for these first few days, keeping pup close to you and giving reassurance and comfort when they need it, will all help pup adjust and start to build that sense of safety and trust. We know that from this secure base, puppies thrive and become confident animals.

Once settled in and feeling safe, along with other socialisation experiences, starting to leave pup alone can be introduced. As with all socialisation experiences,



leaving pup alone should be a positive activity for them – it's a life-skill.

My protocol for Preventing Puppy SA involves teaching your puppy to be cool about your absence positively

and supports long term success as they go through adolescence and adult development – I want your pup to feel good when home alone, not just now but for their lifetime. As all pups and their families are individual in circumstances and experiences, I base the Preventing Puppy SA protocol on your individual pup and family environment. I will just need some details from you. To find out more, click on the 'Book a Free Call' button (sa-mentor.com/contact/) for a free chat and a free Preventing Puppy SA plan.



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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND EDUCATION

News on the progress of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has increased at an exponential rate in the past few years and no Managing Director or Chief Executive can predict with 100% confidence how AI will affect, in detail, their organisation.

Carrying out a search on the internet on AI and Education will show papers from UNESCO, the USA Office of Educational Technology and the EU commission outlining their recommendations. The Department of Education is in the process of evaluating information obtained from educational establishments on how AI is being used across education in England and the opportunities and risks it presents. Unsurprisingly AI is with us and one could say it has crept in quite stealthily through the backdoor.

Within the European Commission's 112 page publication on AI was the statement: "While many writers and government ministries have expressed their hope that AI will save teacher time (Bryant et al. 2020; Miao and

Holmes 2021b), others have suggested that AI will at some point make teachers de facto redundant – or at least their role will be reconfigured as classroom orchestrators/technology facilitators....."

The above comment shows how serious the potential problem of AI and Education must be taken. I comment on this passage towards the end of this article.

Factors to be considered

- AI needs to be controlled.
- AI is already improving traditional teaching methods by enhancing the students' best aspects and correcting their flaws.
- AI can be available for students 24/7, encouraging remote learning.
- AI can even take care of many tedious administrative tasks allowing teachers more time to focus on their students.

The Way Ahead

I do not believe for one minute that AI will make teachers obsolete. It is and will continue to be a great asset to teachers, but the role of a teacher goes beyond teaching to a specification from some examining

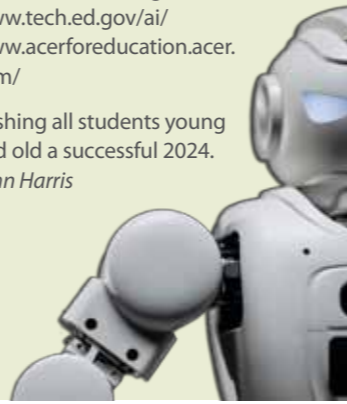
body. They are also instrumental in preparing students for the life they must face beyond schools, colleges and universities. The lockdown taught us how many children have suffered and have since needed to be taught social skills upon returning to a formal educational environment.

References:

- www.gov.uk/education
- www.ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_6338

www.unesco.org/en/digital-education/artificial-intelligence
www.tech.ed.gov/ai/
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Friday 9th February 2024 @ 2.30pm. "The Georgian Visitor" - a vignette of garden visiting in the 18C given by Richard Wheeler who worked for the National Trust for 40yrs as a Garden Historian. He is an excellent speaker.
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Condicote Tornado

28th October 2023 19.10

Caroline Clare is a resident of Condicote and was at home when the tornado struck. The following week she was teaching at Longborough School. The children were fascinated by the tornado and wrote an article about it. The TORRO research group came and assessed the damage and have written a full report.

Please see attached link below:
www.torro.org.uk/research/event

The report on the Condicote Tornado can then be accessed from the link above.

It was assessed as a T3. There are approximately 30 reported tornadoes every year in the UK and, of those 30, about 8 are rated T3 and higher (that is stronger). The T3 tornado did so much damage as many houses suffered damage with 5 houses suffering considerable damage. Caroline said that she would not like to experience a stronger one! Interestingly, Caroline pointed out that when they compared insurance companies' reactions to the tornado the NFU came out top. The representative rang all clients a few hours



after the tornado struck - such good service.

The following article was written by children from Longborough C of E Primary School and the photographs of the damage were taken by Lucy Clare.



Condicote villagers were not expecting a tornado. However, on Saturday 28th October, a village in the Cotswolds, got hit by a tornado. Before the tornado hit people said at about 6.30 pm there was hard rain. The torrential rain started about half an hour before the tornado.

At 19.10 the tornado began and was over by 19.11. Someone said it was horrifying and someone else said it lasted about 20 to 40 seconds. The villagers said it was like a train going through the house and some felt shaking. Trees were ripped apart and small out houses were blown out of their gardens and other small buildings were blown away by the tornado. Slates came off roofs on people's houses with tiles hitting cars leaving five houses damaged.



There was debris everywhere, destruction of roofs and sadly two houses made uninhabitable. The owners of the houses were upset. The tornado picked up debris as well as a rabbit which flew 100 metres approximately and survived. The electricity men found the rabbit in the middle of the field and it looked like it was stunned. They took the rabbit to a villager.

There was a piece of metal that got wrapped, twisted around an electric pole at the bottom of the field.

Someone said: it is shocking to see a tornado do that much damage in 20-40 second. None of the locals were hurt.

TORRO inspectors came round to Condicote (on Friday 3rd November) and ranked the Tornado as T3 which means there was airborne debris in people's back gardens as well as broken sheds and trees! The wind speed of the tornado was approximately 114 mph. Lots of sources are from a site called TORRO.

Written by Tilly, Sienna, Eadie, Lev and Willow.

Photos: Lucy Clare

The Leap Year

As everyone knows Leap Years come around every 4th year when the last 2 digits of the year are divisible by the number 4. There are exceptions to this rule and at the turn of each century the first 2 digits have to be divisible by 4. So the year 2000 was a leap year but the intervening change of the centuries 1800 and 1900 were not, and neither will the year 2100 be a leap year. Thus 2024 is a leap year.

How did this come about?

We are taught at school that the Earth rotates the Sun in 365.25 days in reality it takes 365.242199 days, a difference of 11 minutes and 24 seconds. Obviously, the Emperor Augustus did not have the advantage of modern technology to assist him when he amended Julius Caesar's calendar (although Hipparchus (c190 – 120 BC) the Greek Philosopher was aware of the inconsistency.

So it took 1582 years for Pope Gregory XIII to enact the present calendar. By this time the calendar had slipped 10 days with the seasons.

Great Britain would not change and for a period of 170 years carried on with the old calendar and did not convert to the Gregorian calendar until 1752. This is the calendar which the world tends to follow, there are others but that is another story for another day.

Diary

The Quadrantid meteor showers peak early hours 3/4th January. Perihelion Wednesday 3rd January – It takes some believing but the Earth is the closest to the Sun on this day.

Mercury: Can be observed during the first 3 weeks of January to the left of a very bright Venus but by February reaches superior conjunction (i.e. on the opposite side of the Sun), and is therefore not observable.

Venus: Look South East early in the morning and observe Venus hugging close to the Moon. Good to observe during January and first half of February.

Mars: Not observable during January but to the keen observer you may catch it under Venus on the 22nd February.

Jupiter: Wonderful to observe during the whole of January as it traverses the southern sky. Continues on its journey throughout February.

Saturn: Look towards the south west in the early evening during January but Saturn will have set by 8.00 pm in the early part of the month. By February Saturn is effectively out of view as it approaches a conjunction with the Sun.

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This month - New Year, new garden?

When the outlook is cold and bleak pour a mug of hot chocolate and start planning for Spring.

We'd all like a dream garden right? But is your dream garden the same as your neighbour's? Probably not. Whether you're designing a garden from scratch or remodelling the one you have there is no 'one size fits all' garden design. Unless you can afford to have the professionals in - and they can be worth every penny - you'll need to apply a lot of thought to the process. We've created this brief guide to give you a kick-start.

Budget

Be clear about this. There's no point coming up with a grand design if you can't afford to carry it through.

Time

If you work full time and have an active social life you'll need to think 'low-maintenance.'

Consult your family

What do they want from the garden. Small children will want a space to play; the adults might want a space to eat and entertain; you might want to grow your own veg, or herbs.

Is it possible?

How big is the garden? How much sun does it

get? It's no good planning lots of flowerbeds if the garden is in deep shade for most of the day. How can you compromise so that everyone is happy?

What shape is your garden?

Each shape presents its own challenge. Square can be boring and needs to be broken up using lots of curves. Long and thin can be disguised by dividing it into imaginary rooms linked by a winding path. Slopes can be challenging, especially if they're steep but could be made into a feature by terracing or incorporating a waterfall.

Firm up your ideas

Do you want grass or paving? How much should be devoted to borders or flowerbeds? Will you need a new fence or would you rather have a natural hedge. Will you need professional help with any hard landscaping?

Make a scale plan

Measure all the major distances in your garden. It's a good idea to take them from a fixed point, such as the corner of your house. Try 1/4 or 1/2 inch = 1 foot if you're not metric and 1cm or 2cm = 1m if you are. When complete make

several copies and draw all your ideas on to the plans until you come up with one you really like. Because it's to scale you can now carry out your plans with confidence. Happy Gardening!

When Planning a Garden...

Look at the plants which thrive in your neighbours' gardens. Chances are they'll do well in yours too.

Don't be scared of garden designers. A good one can maximise the potential of your plot. You can still do all the work yourself at your leisure if the budget is tight.

Get help with hard landscaping if you don't have the expertise. You'll save money and heartache in the long run!

Happy Gardening!



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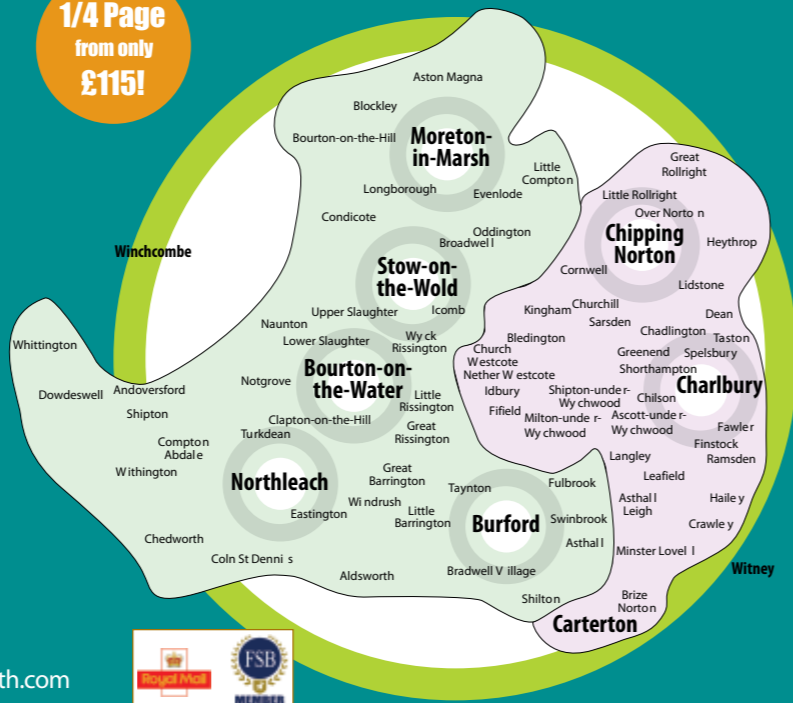
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1/4 Page
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INDEX

- Bathrooms**
Cotswold Bathroom Company: p5
Country Bathrooms: p11
- Builders & Contractors**
Calarel Developments: p5
C M Builders: p2
Country Roofing & Building: p13
Feldon Builders: p15
Harris-Keyte Construction: p3
J P Quinn Ltd: p13
Mitre Oak: p16
MRP Construction: p4
Phil Dadge: p10
Thomas Contracting: p13
- Children's Services**
Cotswold Tutor: p8 & p10
Walkers Day Nursery: p1
- Clearances**
Oxfordshire Clearances: p2

- Education**
Cotswold Tutor: p8 & p10
- Elderly Services**
Hearing & Mobility Store: p7
Windrush Care: p6
- Electrical Services**
P Wheeler Electrical: p10
- Flooring**
Country Tiles and Flooring: p11
- Fuel**
Cotswold Petroleum: p15
- Furniture**
Amanda Hanley By Design: p1
Graham Lane Furniture: p4
Hilltop Joinery: p14
Hooper Joinery: p4
Phil Dadge: p10
- Gardening & Outdoors**
C M Builders: p2
D P Gardening Services: p12
J P Quinn Ltd: p13

- MRP Construction: p4
Stockwell Davies Tree Contractors: p12
Thomas Contracting: p13
Tom Negus Tree Care: p12
- Gifts**
Alain Rouveure Galleries: p8
Amanda Hanley By Design: p1
- Healthcare & Wellbeing**
Bourton Podiatry Clinic: p7
Paul Brookes Foot Health: p7
Runnerbean: p7
Tina Wearing Foot Health: p7
- Hearing Aids**
Hearing & Mobility Store: p7
- Home & Interiors**
Alain Rouveure Galleries: p8
Amanda Hanley By Design: p1
Country Bathrooms: p11
Country House Curtains: p5
Country Tiles and Flooring: p11
Hilltop Joinery: p14
Hooper Joinery: p4
Paul Dadge: p11

- Town & Country Shutters: p1
- Kitchens**
Barrington Kitchens: p3
- Locksmiths**
Just Carpentry & Locks: p14
- Motoring**
Oilwell Garage: p15
- Painters & Decorators**
Paul Dadge: p11
Phil Dadge: p10
WB Property Maintenance: p12
- Pet Services**
The S A Mentor: p6
- Plumbing**
City Plumbing Supplies: p4 & p16
- Property Maintenance**
Country Roofing & Building: p13
Dovecote Property: p10
Hilltop Joinery: p14
Hooper Joinery: p4
J P Quinn Ltd: p13

- Just Carpentry & Locks: p14
MJ Harris Domestic Repairs: p2
Mossinator: p5
Phil Dadge: p10
WB Property Maintenance: p12
- Removals**
Oxfordshire Clearances: p2
WB Property Maintenance: p12
- Repairs**
MJ Harris Domestic Repairs: p2
- Sports & Leisure**
Cotswold Archery: p8
Runnerbean: p7
- Tree Surgery**
Stockwell Davies Tree Contractors: p12
Tom Negus Tree Care: p12
- Tuition**
Cotswold Tutor: p8 & p10
- Windows**
RJB Window Restoration: p13
Town & Country Shutters: p1

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