

The Old Grumpies

Onwards and upwards is our call...

When they want our opinion, they'll give it us...

BY THE OLD GRUMPIES
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We decided that we would consolidate our thinking over the years and in view of next year's 800th year celebration of the signing of the Magna Carta we would begin production of a new Bill of Rights we felt confident would be accepted by the British people.

Although we would of course allow them a referendum.

Regrettably our task was hampered by a combination of filibustering, exposition, lack of concentration (i.e. falling asleep) and the usual recycling of Semprini type jokes (old ones, new ones, loved ones and neglected ones).

It started before we got started, when someone was asked if they had enjoyed the

recent concert in the Town Hall to which they replied "No! It was a load of rubbish" which certainly irked the three members present who had taken part in it.

An outbreak of verbal fist-cuffs was just about to start when a reasoned voice pointed out that it was only an opinion and he was entitled to it, even if it was a poor one.

We agreed that the big problem with opinions is that certain groups of people think that their opinions should be accepted as facts and begin their sentences with "The truth of the matter is..." or "Well, as a matter of fact". If David Cameron believes that Britain is a Christian country then that is his opinion. When groups of atheists and humanists combine to say it isn't, they somehow assume that therefore it is a fact. It isn't, it's just their opinion.

Someone then informed the meeting about a statement from a Ms Rashida Manjoo (a UN special rapporteur) who had concluded that Britain was the most "sexist" country in the world.

Not an opinion but a statement of fact. Blood pressures were visibly rising all-round at this outrage from this Ms who would appear to have missed the countries where women cannot be educated, for example.

For some reason there was then an interruption to our invective when a member who had arrived in what looked like a pre-war Burnley Football shirt suddenly exclaimed: "Never mind about that. We are up with the big boys!"

This was greeted with a mixture of indifference and enthusiasm and for some reason inspired the following limeric: "For the team at Turf

Moor we hold dear/Premiership football is now very near/ But we really must say/That we hope and we pray/ It will last for more than one year."

It was to be expected that this would be the cue for an airing of many favourite limericks and so it proved. First up was "The Young Lady from Tod" followed by "The Young Man from Devizes" and when we got to "A lady called Margerie Vickers" we all realised that the production of a new Bill of Rights would have to wait for another day.

There was just time for someone to point out that our effort might be in vain by producing the Stanley Holloway monologue about The Magna Carta which ends: "And it's through that there Magna Carta/As were signed by the Barons of old/That in England today we can do as we like./So long as we do what we're told."



The late Stanley Holloway's monologue got it about right, say the Grumpies

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Special Feature

Tips to help your pet stay in trim and keep active for the summer

At last we can all enjoy longer daylight hours and warmer weather!

After a long winter summer brings the feel-good factor helped by spending more time outside.

While we have to take care in the sun, the issues surrounding pets are far greater and with top tips from your new OSCAR Nutritional Advisor, Andrew Mitchell, you can rest assured that your pet will enjoy a happier, healthier and longer life throughout the seasons.

HEAT

Dogs die in hot cars! Pets easily overheat in summer and it's important to recognise the signs of a pet suffering from heat-stroke: excessive panting, lethargy and increased salivation - severe cases may cause vomiting or diarrhoea.

INSECTS

Fleas, ticks and worms are a constant problem but during the heat of summer they become very active. Grooming, protective treatments and advice is very important. Some products are waterproof but you may have to reapply should your pet become repeatedly wet.



Andrew Mitchell, Nutritional Advisor of Oscar Pet Foods in the Calder Valley.

THUNDER AND LIGHTENING

Can be a stressful time for pets and there are a number of ways to help relieve anxiety. Try placing an article of clothing in their den, or turning on a radio, above all keep calm and don't reward your pets behaviour with attention or comfort.

FOOD

The heat may bring a reduction in appetite that should be monitored. Plenty of fresh clean water will keep them hydrated but with additional help on feeding ratios and nutrition Stuart and Christine will ensure

that good health is maintained throughout.

For more tips and advice call Andrew on 01422 884489.

Andrew is your local OSCAR pet food Nutritional Advisor. He provides a free home delivery service with a comprehensive range of pet foods, treats, accessories and healthcare products - supported by nutritional, behavioural and veterinary experts to bring the complete pet care service direct to your door.

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