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October 2015 No. 261
ISSN 1361-3952 **20p** where sold

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Coldfall poisoning rumours put dog walkers on alert

By Ann Bronkhorst
Last month there were some worrying rumours of dogs dying after being walked in Coldfall Wood. It took weeks before the truth could be established and fears allayed.

Naturally, friendly dog walkers share information so when a dog had to be put to sleep after severe reactions to eating some chicken bones in Islington (St Pancras) Cemetery the word spread. Unfortunately the story morphed into several more, variously suggesting that poisoned bait/bread was being put out for foxes/rats by allotment holders/local residents, while the venue became several places in Coldfall Wood.

Warning notices went up around the wood, there was

a flurry of Streetlife postings and a Facebook page was set up for concerned Coldfall dog walkers. The Broadway Ham and High newspaper carried two successive articles dramatically reporting three 'dog poisonings' although on 10 September it published a slightly more measured account.

No poisonings
Meanwhile, Haringey police and Haringey Council were trying to establish the truth. Local veterinary practices and the RSPCA had no poisoning

cases to report. The Friends of Coldfall Wood, who include dog walkers, were troubled by the rapid spread of the rumours; they maintained that there was no evidence of dog poisonings and appealed for information.

Sadly, dogs will pick up and sometimes eat unsuitable things. It is upsetting to see a dog being unwell, so some dog walkers have been avoiding Coldfall Wood. The facts are that one dog died, not three, and not because of eating any substance found in the wood. Visit www.coldfallwoods.co.uk or, for general advice on dogs, www.rspca.org.uk.



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