

# Lawton and Stoakes

Partners:-

M. P. C. Lawton

B.Vet.Med; Cert.V.Ophthal; Cert.L.A.S;  
C.Biol; M.S.B; D.Zoo.Med; F.R.C.V.S  
RCVS Recognised Specialist

L. C. Stoakes

B.Vet.Med; M.R.C.V.S



8 - 12 Fitzilian Avenue  
Harold Wood  
Romford  
Essex  
RM3 0QS

Tel 01708 384444  
Fax 0845 051 8773  
Email Vets@Vets.Uk.Net

*WWW.VETS.UK.NET*

## NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015



### STAFF NEWS

We have two new members of staff to welcome this issue.

Coral Wilkinson joins us as receptionist to replace Joanne Cross who has taken a job as Veterinary Receptionist nearer to where she lives in Kent. Coral has previously had experience working as a receptionist at a dental practice. Her love of animals drew her to apply for our post as Veterinary receptionist. Coral looks after 4 Boxer dogs for her Aunt and she likes to attend dog shows and has even shown dogs herself.



Rachael Stanley has joined us as a Veterinary Nursing Assistant and she is hoping to go on to do the Veterinary Nursing Qualification. She has two Quaker Parrots and a cat of her own and has always had a love of animals. She has previously undertaken voluntary work at another Veterinary

Practice before deciding that a career as a Veterinary Nurse was for her.

### STAFF

#### VETERINARY SURGEONS

**DR MARTIN LAWTON** B.Vet.Med;  
Cert.V.Ophthal; Cert.L.A.S; C.Biol; M.S.B;  
D.Zoo.Med; FRCVS

**DR LYNNE STOAKES** B.Vet.Med. MRCVS

**DR NOEMIE MCDERMOTT** B.Vet.Med.  
MRCVS

#### RECEPTIONISTS

**JULIE AUSTIN** (Administrator)  
**CORAL WILKINSON**

#### NURSING STAFF

**FIONA GORDON** RVN Head Nurse  
**JAMIE BIGGS** RVN  
**PAIGE HEAD** 1st Year Trainee Nurse  
**RACHAEL BROWN** 1st Year Trainee Nurse  
**RACHAEL STANLEY** Nursing Assistant

### What's New?

Some of you may have noticed that our receptionists have a new uniform. We have decided to keep to a blue theme but the receptionists wear light blue and nurses wear dark blue so that clients will easily differentiate between the two. Everyone now has a name badge stating their job title so that clients will be aware whom they are addressing.

There is a new text service, notifying clients in advance to remind them when their appointment is and any other important information such as any documents that need to be brought along. This has proved to be very popular and hopefully will result in fewer missed appointments. If we do not have correct contact details for you please let the receptionists know so we can update our system.



## Health Risks of travelling abroad with your pet dog

External parasites such as fleas and ticks are not only a source of discomfort to pets but can also transmit blood borne infections from one animal to another and also to humans. Pets can be allergic to the bites of parasites leading to skin disease. With pets travelling abroad with their owners the risk of exposure to disease transmitted by ticks and other biting insects such as sand flies and mosquitos is increasing.

There are many products available with which to combat these pests. No one product covers them all and it can be hard to make a sensible anti-parasite plan.

### Fleas

We stock Advocate, a spot on product, which has activity against fleas, lice, mites, intestinal round-worms and lungworm. It is a good general product to use for the UK. Formulations for dogs, cats and ferrets are available. Fleas are killed within 24hrs and treatment at monthly intervals is recommended. Flea larvae are also killed by this product. Treatment of the environment with Acclaim household spray is recommended to kill any fleas in the house and to prevent eggs and larvae from developing into adult fleas for 12 months.



### Ticks

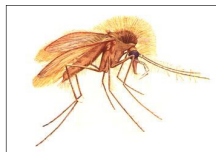


It is no-longer a legal requirement to treat for ticks prior to bringing animals into this country from Europe, however it is sensible to treat as a precaution against the many diseases that can be transmitted by these parasites such as Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis which occur in Southern Eu-

rope and Borreliosis (Lyme Disease) which can be found in the UK. Advantix both kills and repels ticks. Ticks, which are already on the animal may not be killed and should be removed using a special tick removal device to ensure the mouthparts are not left in the skin. Advantix also kills fleas and lice.

### Sandflies, Mosquitos and Stable flies

Advantix has repellent activity against sandflies, mosquitos and stable flies for between 2-4 weeks. Sandflies are found in Mediterranean countries and are responsible for transmitting Leishmaniasis. Mosquitos can transmit Dirofilariasis (heart worm). It is advised to start treatment with Advantix 10-14 days prior to travelling with your dog abroad.



**For advice on the best product to use for your pet please ask your Veterinary Surgeon.**

## Abandoned Exotics on the rise

The RSPCA are finding widespread neglect and abandonment of reptiles due to their owners finding them too much of a commitment. Recently a Uromastix (Spiny Lizard) was found in a Surrey Park. Looking after reptiles can be time consuming and costly if the right environment is to be provided. It is important to do your research before purchasing a reptile pet and consider the ongoing costs of housing, feeding and of course Veterinary Bills which can be expensive due to the investigations often required!

### Figures released by the Veterinary Poisons Service

have revealed the top 5 poisons ingested by dogs between 2010 – 2014 were:- human painkillers, rat and mouse poison, chocolate, grapes and xylitol (found in chewing gum).



Other poisons are becoming more common such as E cigarettes and palm oil. Even seemingly harmless items such as blue cheese, raisins and onions can be harmful to dogs. Owners need to be aware of the risks to protect their pets.

A study by a leading pet insurance company has revealed that some treats marketed for dogs and cats contain as many calories as a Big Mac! A single Bonio Biscuit for a Labrador is equivalent to giving a human male a Kit Kat Chunky. With treats being used for training it is important to be aware of how many calories your pet is getting through the day and alter their main meal accordingly!

## EXOTIC SPOT

### **GERBILS By Jamie Biggs RVN**

Gerbils are small mammals belonging to the rodent order. Once known as “Desert Rats,” there are around 110 species, although the most common species kept as a pet is the Mongolian Gerbil (*Meriones unguiculatus*). On average pet gerbils can live between 3-5 years (with females generally living longer than males), and when fully grown usually weigh between 65-100g (males) and 55-85g (females).



Most gerbils are diurnal meaning they are active during the day, although many are at their most active around dawn and dusk which is called crepuscular activity. They are social animals and should therefore be kept in single sex pairs or groups, although new animals should not be introduced once gerbils in the existing group are over 8 weeks of age, as they would then be mature and likely fight with and kill the newcomers!

Conventional hamster and mice enclosures are not suitable for gerbils, as they need to be able to dig their own tunnels and burrows. Aquariums or other similar large tanks are ideal, a rough size guide being around 10 imperial gallons (45Litres) per gerbil. This should be filled with soft bedding material such as shredded paper towels or napkins, timothy hay etc. to a depth of at least 20cm, but remember to leave enough space above ground for them to stand up! Avoid using bedding with artificial fibres as these can wrap around legs and feet causing injuries. Other materials to avoid include sand and cat litter, as these are abrasive and can also cause harm. The enclosure should be cleaned at least once a week, although some old unsoiled bedding should always be mixed with any fresh material so as to keep a familiar smell.

Enrichments such as cardboard rolls, wooden toys and branches should be provided as gerbils enjoy having things to chew. This also helps to wear down their teeth which, as with all rodents, grow continuously throughout their entire lives. An exercise wheel should also be available, but not the wire varieties, as the gerbils are likely to catch their legs in the gaps and hurt themselves.

Their diet should consist of a complete commercial gerbil food, along with small amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables such as apple and carrot. Seed mixes can also be offered as treats, but should not be given too often as they tend to be quite high in fat (particularly sunflower seeds which gerbils particularly like).

Useless gerbil facts: It is illegal to buy, import or keep a gerbil in the US state of California, and also to import the Mongolian gerbil into New Zealand, as both these places consider them a threat to their in-

## **What have Guinea Pigs and Pirates got in common?**



Both are susceptible to Scurvy. Neither Guinea Pigs nor humans (pirate or otherwise) can manufacture Vitamin C in the body and so both need a source of Vitamin C in the diet.

For Guinea Pigs even 2 weeks without Vitamin C in the diet can lead to clinical signs of deficiency. Vitamin C is needed to make collagen an important connective tissue in the body found in blood vessels and bone. Signs of Vitamin C deficiency include lethargy, lameness, bleeding from gums and a poor hair coat.

It is very important that Guinea Pigs get a good source of Vitamin C in their food. They should have access to grass daily and be fed a reputable commercial food, which should be used well within the expiry date.



Sennen is a gorgeous 6 year old Border Collie. He is being treated for an unusual skin complaint. His lovely, shiny coat is falling out. Biopsies have shown that he may have an auto-immune problem and so he has started on a course of treatment that we hope will restore his luscious locks! Throughout his numerous Vet visits he has behaved impeccably. I think he actually enjoys all the attention!



## Kids corner

In the picture below colour the spaces with dots in blue and the spaces with x in red.  
What do you see?



## MICROCHIPPING OFFER

Compulsory Microchipping of all dogs is set to become Law by 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

In order to promote the microchipping of dogs and cats Lawton and Stoakes is offering microchipping at a discounted rate. The standard cost for microchipping is currently £23.40

Your pet dog or cat could be microchipped for the special price of **£12.00**

if done at the time of vaccination. If you would like to take up this offer please mention it to the receptionist when booking your appointment.



**WHY TAKE THE RISK?  
GET YOUR PET MICROCHIPPED**