

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

Veterinary Education and Training Services (International) Ltd—T/A Lawton and Stoakes—Company Number 03431621



STAFF NEWS



Rachael who is taking a break from her Nursing Studies for maternity leave has had a baby boy so I'm sure you will join us in offering her

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes.

Lynne attended BSAVA Congress in Birmingham in April again this year and attended lectures on advances in Rabbit Medicine and dentistry among other topics. It is always good to learn new techniques for procedures, which result in better outcomes for our patients.

Moira has started studying for the Advanced Practitioner Certificate with a view to specialising in Zoo and Exotic Pet Medicine. Moira is keen to see any exotic species and gets involved with the care of our hospitalised patients.

WHATS NEW?

Regular clients will have noticed that we have changed the seating in the waiting room. The previous benches were custom made for us when the waiting room was situated in number 12 Fitzilian Avenue, before our major extension in 2003. The benches had served us well for many years but were tired and worn. We hope the new seating will be more comfortable for our clients and we hope to add tables in the near future for putting cat and bird cages on to provide a more stress free wait for our feline and avian patients. There are also seats in our Quiet Zone for any patients that would prefer to be away from other waiting pets. Just ask our receptionist on arrival.

We have also purchased a new mobile examination light. This will assist us when examining patients in areas such as in a kennel where the light may be poor and will mean that we will not have to stress the patient by moving it to the pre-op room for examination.

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

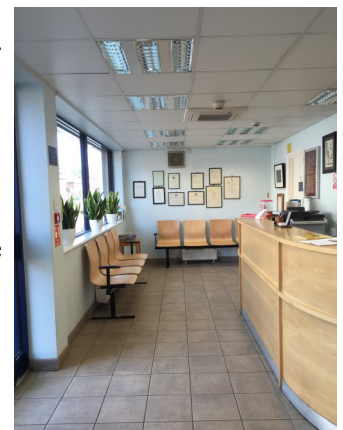
Dr MOIRA KELLY MA VetMB MRCVS

RECEPTIONISTS

JULIE AUSTIN (Administrator)
CORAL WILKINSON

NURSING STAFF

JAMIE BIGGS RVN Head Nurse
RACHAEL BROWN 1st Yr Trainee
LAURA BOUCHIER 1st Yr Trainee
LILY KNELL Nursing Assistant
MORGAN COOPER Nursing Assistant



Do Pets Get Dementia?

Just as people are living longer lives so are our pet dogs and cats. Animals go through the same ageing processes as humans, however the signs can be harder to spot and can mimic other conditions. It is thought that veterinary attention is not always sought for aged pets, perhaps because owners fear they will be made



to agree to euthanasia of their beloved pet. In fact there is a lot your vet can do for your geriatric pet. We may not be able to cure conditions caused by ageing but we can do much to help improve quality of life.

Many signs attributed to “getting older” include weight loss which can be a sign of an overactive thyroid gland or kidney or liver disease in cats and dogs or slowing down and sleeping more which can be signs of pain caused by arthritis. Your vet can prescribe medicines to help alleviate these conditions.

Dental disease is common in older pets and the importance of good dental health in our patients has been covered in a previous newsletter. Ageing in itself is not a reason to avoid anaesthesia, however a full evaluation of the patient’s health including a blood sample will help us to assess the risks associated with this procedure.

Heart disease can be difficult to spot until the condition is advanced unless the pet has regular routine health checks. A heart murmur or irregular heart beat or high blood pressure can only be picked up by a clinical examination yet if noticed early the condition can be managed leading to improved welfare for the patient.

Tumours are another condition which become more common in older age. Not all lumps will be cancerous and your Vet may want to perform a biopsy to ascertain the best treatment option.

Problems with cognition occur in people as they age and we recognise such behaviours in pets too, perhaps a change in response to a command or inappropriate toileting behaviour, and sometimes, modern medicine can help with this too.

Proper nutrition and weight control are important for optimum health as pets age and your Vet can advise on the ideal weight and best diet for your pet.

Routine health checks are important for detecting diseases early so that they can be controlled. If your pet has yearly vaccinations a health check is included. Please do not be afraid to raise any concerns you may have about your pet’s health with the Veterinary Surgeon at that time or book an appointment to discuss how we can help your pet.



PET INSURANCE NEWS

Many owners may not be aware that RSA have implemented a change in their policy regarding paying for referrals. Pets covered by health insurance by MoreThan or Tesco may find that they are restricted to which Referral Centres they can be referred to by their Veterinary Surgeon. This is a cost cutting measure by RSA in a move similar to car insurance where cheaper service providers are sourced. This could mean owners having to choose between travelling to a distant Referral Centre or being financially penalised. At Lawton and Stoakes we have build up trust in other referral practices that we have referred our patients to over the years and do not feel we should compromise on patient care purely on cost. If you are concerned this may affect you please speak to your insurance provider.

FLY STRIKE

With the warm wet winter just past there are reports of increased flies this year. Flies are not only a nuisance to us humans they can cause serious damage in debilitated pets. The adult flies seek out faeces or urine soaked fur or wounds and lay their eggs. When the maggots hatch a matter of days later they begin to feed causing serious deep wounds if left. This is particularly a problem in rabbits left outside in cramped hutches. Please give your rabbits room to move about, keep their hutches clean and examine them thoroughly every day to avoid this preventable condition. There are also products available such as Rear Guard to reduce the risk.

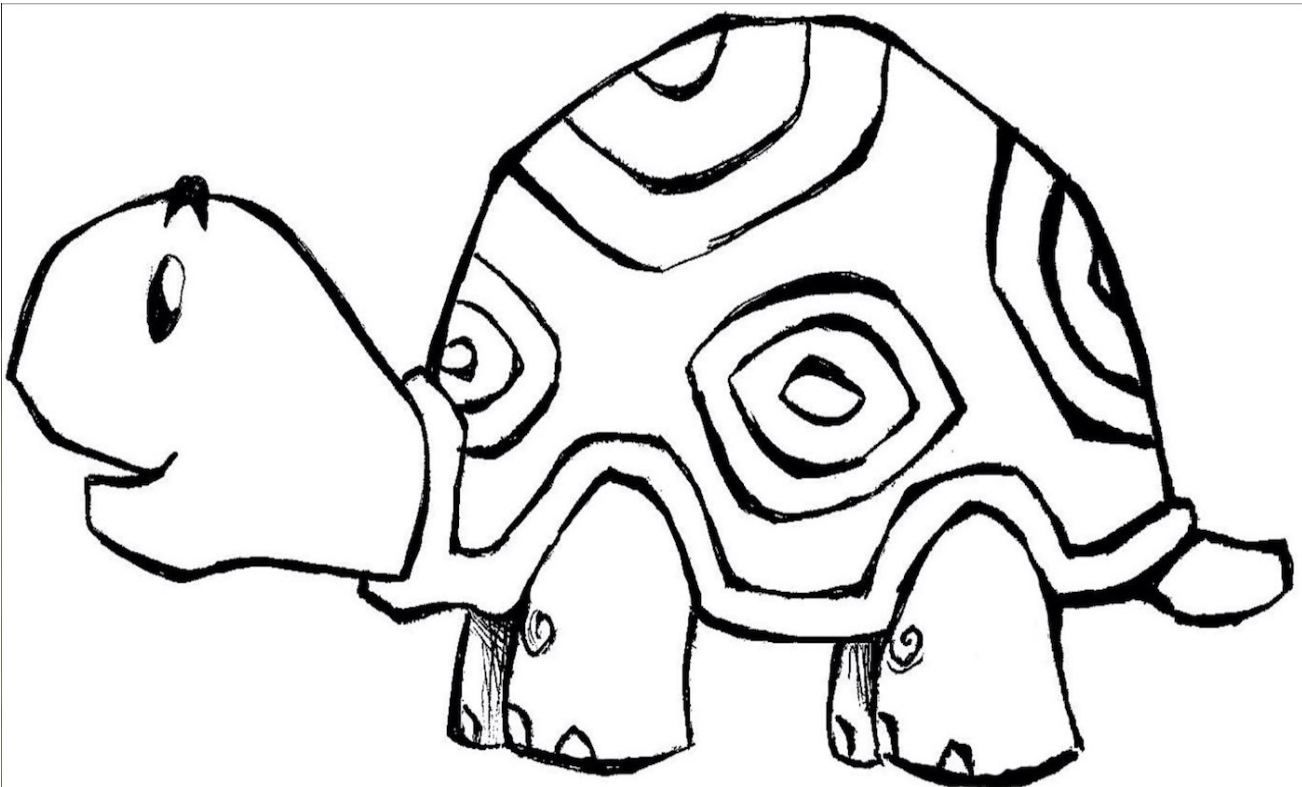
STAR PET

This is Chico a young Amazon parrot. Chico is very mischievous and his owner had not had him long when he was discovered with a broken leg. He was referred to us so that Dr Lawton could stabilise the fracture in order for it to heal. Chico had to spend several weeks with a collar on to prevent him from chewing at the external fixatives. He managed to get his first collar off and we had to be quite inventive to defeat his attempts. I'm pleased to say he mended well and the owner reports he is back to tormenting the other birds and generally being very naughty! What a lovely photo of Chico!



KIDS CORNER

A picture of one of our favourite animals to colour!
Make him nice and bright and if you like send us your picture so that we can display it!



TICK PREVENTION

An article in a recent Veterinary Times has urged Vets to advise owners of dogs to use Tick prevention treatments for their pets before holidaying in the UK. This is because Tick Borne Diseases can be prevalent wherever there is



Sheep tick after feeding

woodland or ruminant pasture virtually anywhere in the UK. If you are thinking of taking your dog on holiday in the British countryside a daily check for the presence of ticks is recommended and any that are found should be carefully removed using a special tick hook. We have always advised the use of preventative treatments for Ticks, Sandflies and Mosquitos when travelling abroad but now the need has arisen for these measures closer to home. Ticks are vectors for Lyme Disease and recently Babesiosis has been found in pet dogs that did not have a history of travelling abroad. Using a spot on product that both kills and repels biting insects is easy to do. Just ask our receptionists for advice.



Sheep tick before feeding

EXOTIC SPOT- Water dragons! Moira Kelly



Water Dragons are semi aquatic lizards. The 2 most common species kept as pets in this country are the **Chinese Water Dragon** (*P. Cocincinus*) and the **Australian Water Dragon** (*P. Lesueurii*). Water Dragons can reach up to 3 feet in length (females being slightly smaller) and have a maximum life span of about 18 years in captivity.

Generally the larger the enclosure for your water dragon the better, but should be at least twice the length of your dragon. As a semi-aquatic lizard they require a dry, basking area, a hide and branches to climb on as well as a pool of water for daily soaking and swimming. A variety of substrates are available to line the bottom of the tank.

Water dragons require a UV light emitting UVB and UVA rays. The UVA and UVB rays help the dragon to activate Vitamin D3, which is vitally important to its Calcium metabolism. The bulbs should be exchanged every six months, as it will still give off light after this time but no more UV rays. As reptiles, a water dragon's metabolism is dependent on the external temperature. The enclosure should be kept constantly between 84-88F (29-31°C) during daytime and not

go below 75-80F (24-27°C) at night. The spot under the basking lamp can go up to 90-95F (32-35°C). A suspended ceramic heater on a thermostat will provide this and temperatures should also be monitored and recorded.

Water dragons are omnivorous. They can be fed on a variety of insects (locusts, crickets, meal worms, wax worms- all live food should be gut-loaded with calcium first), pinky mice or day-old chicks can be fed to larger individuals. They also require some greens (shredded romaine lettuce, dandelions, mustard, watercress and collard; also carrots, green beans, parsnips) daily, dusted with a Calcium supplement.

Useless water dragon facts: water dragons can escape predators by swimming to the bottom of a pool and wait there for up to 90 minutes without breathing! Water dragons lay their eggs in a burrow, and the temperature determines whether the babies become male or female.