

# Lawton and Stoakes

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## Newsletter Summer 2017



### Staff News



Lauren has joined us in March as a Nursing Assistant. She has had previous experience as a Veterinary Receptionist and her love of animals has drawn her to want to pursue a career in Veterinary Nursing. Lauren has a pet dog called Alfie who is a Lhasa Apso. She enjoys dog walking and going to concerts.

Daniella has taking course to enable her to become a Clinical Coach. This means that she will be able to help Lynne in her role of training the prospective Veterinary Nurses. Daniella has also undertaken CPD on Addison's Disease. See her article in this Newsletter.

Lynne attended BSAVA in April as usual this year and gained a lot of up to date knowledge in a variety of subjects.

### 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 DANIELLA SELICK** B.Vet.Med. MRCVS

#### RECEPTIONISTS

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

#### NURSING STAFF

**LAURA BOUCHIER** 1st Yr Trainee

**LILY KNELL** 1st Yr Trainee

**SAMANTHA OSBORNE** Nursing Assistant

**LAUREN TURK** Nursing Assistant

### What's New?

We have replaced our Ethylene Oxide Steriliser as the previous model was no-longer serviceable. Exposure of instruments and equipment to prolonged Ethylene Oxide gas is an effective method of killing infectious organisms and this method of sterilisation enables us to sterilise items that would be damaged by conventional heat sterilisation such as delicate ophthalmic instruments and equipment that is battery operated. The sterilisation cycle takes 12hours.



### Egg Binding in Tortoises

We have had several tortoises presented for egg binding this year. The reasons for egg binding are complex and not fully understood. We usually advise keeping female tortoises away from males to prevent the shell damage that can occur during the courtship ritual, however this may lead to infertile eggs being produced and this has been suggested to be one of the reasons for the inability to pass the eggs. Lack of a suitable place to lay is another reason. Tortoises dig a hole to lay their eggs in a sunny spot. If the ground is too hard this may prove difficult. Providing a soft soil area where your tortoise indicates it would like to dig may help with this. A lack of Calcium will mean that the muscle contractions required for expelling the eggs are not strong enough and the hormone Oxytocin only works on the uterine muscle if there is sufficient calcium.



At what point a tortoise needs treatment for eggbinding is difficult to say and varies from one individual to another. Certainly if the a female tortoise is off her food and constantly digging then an xray is indicated to check for the presence of eggs. Xrays only reveal eggs that have a calcified shell and it is possible for tortoises to develop ovarian stasis where the eggs remain in the ovary with the appearance of a bunch of grapes. This can also cause health problems and is more difficult to diagnose. Sometimes ultrasound is able to pick up these ova.

If your tortoise is showing any of the above signs then call us for an appointment to determine the cause.

### SUMMER IS HERE!

Remember our pets don't always appreciate the hot summer weather. Make sure your pet can get out of the heat, provide plenty of fresh drinking water and

**NEVER NEVER NEVER**

leave any animal in a car even with windows ajar and in the shade. Every year we are presented with dogs that have heat stroke because their owners thought they had taken precautions against the heat and had failed to realise the dangers of heat build up in cars.

### Vaccine Alert!

A recent Article in Vet Times contained worrying news that the uptake of vaccines in pet cats and dogs is at its lowest level since 2011 according to the PDSA Animal Wellbeing Report. This is the seventh such report since 2011. The key findings were that 25% of dogs and 35% of cats have never had a primary vaccine course. This compares with 18% dogs and 28% cats when the survey began in 2011. If numbers of vaccinated animals fall the risk of diseases such Distemper, Parvovirus, Cat 'Flu and Enteritis becoming commonplace once again is high resulting in an increase in premature deaths for the pets affected.

The commonest reason cited for not vaccinating was the cost. In order to encourage the uptake of vaccines we have reduced our puppy and kitten primary vaccination prices as well as the standard yearly booster prices and don't forget this includes a free health check with each course or booster and an opportunity to discuss any health or behaviour related problems with your vet. If your dog or cat has not been vaccinated why not call us to arrange an appointment?





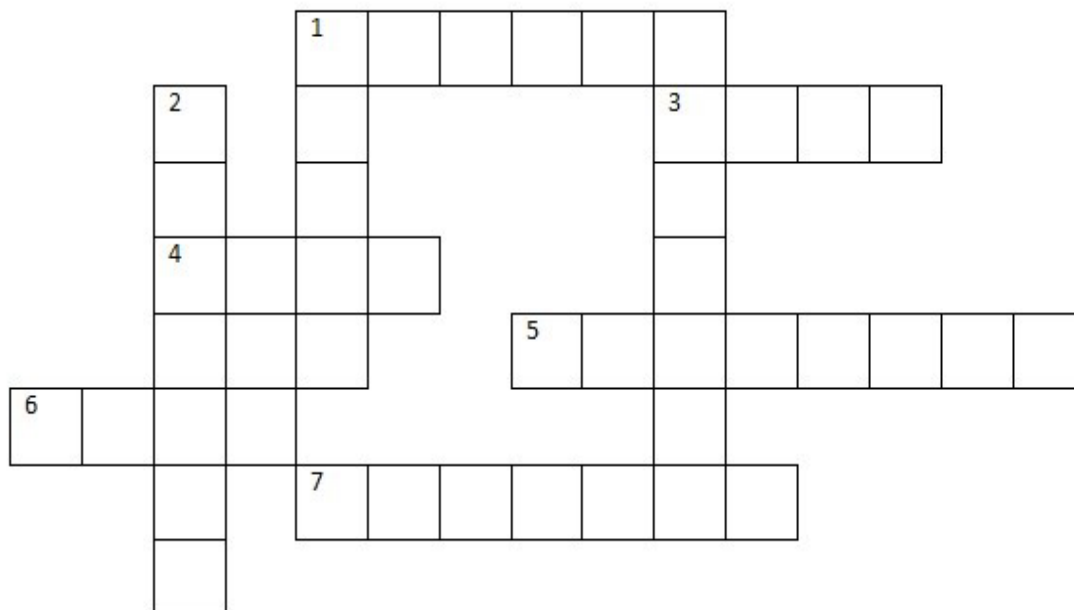
## Star pet

Meet Ruby the African Grey parrot who first came to see us in February because she had lost her voice. After some investigation she was diagnosed with Aspergillus, a nasty fungal infection of her lungs and other parts of breathing system. After months of special treatment at home with daily medications Ruby is on the road to recovery and has started talking again! Her owner is pleased to say she is doing well and that the daily treatments have brought them closer together, even if they were tricky to start with. Ruby has been very well behaved at the clinic and has done so well on her treatment that she really is a Star pet.



## KIDS CORNER

A Crossword Puzzle for you to complete!



Across

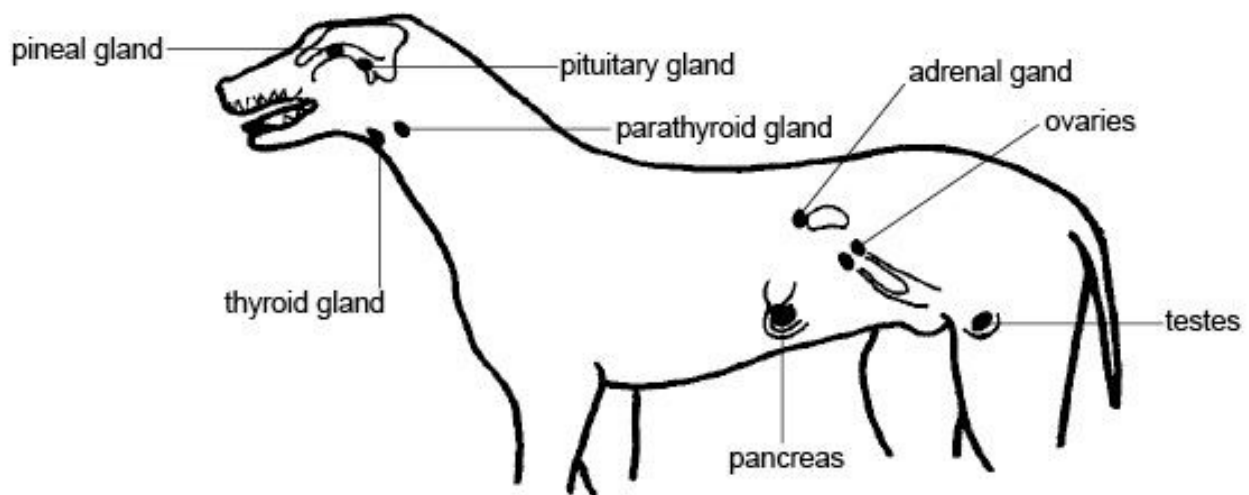
1. Tortoises hibernate in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Rabbits usually have two large \_\_\_\_.
4. Birds only have two \_\_\_\_ and cats and dogs have four.

Down

5. Cats have \_\_\_\_\_ which are large hairs that are on their face.
6. Dogs will wag their \_\_\_\_ when they are happy.
7. This animal lays eggs.
1. Birds use their \_\_\_\_\_ to fly.
2. Parrots are known for their \_\_\_\_\_ abilities.

## Addison's Disease by Daniella Sellick

Also known as hypoadrenocorticism, Addison's disease is a condition seen in dogs due to a tumour growing in the adrenal gland. The adrenal gland is responsible for producing important hormones in the body including cortisol. This disease is known as the great pretender because it's signs are non-specific and include lethargy, weakness, vomiting, dehydration, inappetance and weight loss. Poodles and poodle cross breeds are more commonly affected however it still remains an uncommon disease. However if this condition is left untreated you can end up with a medical crisis. Once other more common ailments are ruled out then diagnosis of Addison's is made by a specific blood test. Recently a new treatment has become available. The treatment is lifelong and treated dogs that are well controlled will lead a relatively normal life but do require monitoring by blood tests.



## EXOTIC SPOT

### The **pancake tortoise** (*Malacochersus tornieri*)

Pancake tortoises are as you would expect from their name flattened in shape. They grow to 18cm long and come from Northern Kenya and Eastern Tanzania and the shell is leathery rather than hard and it is this together with their shape that allows them to hide away in rocky crevices when evading predators. They do not hibernate and need to be kept warm all year round. They need a vivarium with a ceramic heater positioned to give a temperature of 37°C at the hot end and 23°C at the cool end. The environment should be arid but in captivity it is advised to provide a shallow water dish big enough for the tortoise to climb in. Hides should be provided at the hot and cool ends of the vivarium. They need a UV source for 12 hours a day. If housing outside in the warmer summer months care should be taken to ensure the solid sided enclosure has a mesh lid as these tortoises can climb.

Pancake tortoises eat grasses and weeds as well as fresh greens and should have a calcium supplement daily. When properly looked after they can live in excess of 35 years.

