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Consultations
by appointment
Mon-Fri: 9am-11am
12pm-2pm
4pm-7pm

Sat: 11am-1pm
3pm-5pm

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2011

STAFF NEWS

We hope you will join us in welcoming **Noemie McDermott** to our Veterinary team. Noemie qualified from the Royal Veterinary College in London in 2009 and has worked in various small animal practices in the South East. She is a fluent French speaker and her main veterinary interests lie in feline medicine. She also has experience of exotic species from working as a volunteer at London Zoo. Having worked in a large practice Noemie is looking forward to the opportunity to develop good client relationships for which our practice is renowned.



Jamie Biggs is now a fully qualified Veterinary Nurse having passed his practical exams in January this year and so Congratulations are due to him!

Martin Lawton has just come back from the Western States Veterinary Conference in February and attended lectures on, among other things, arthritis in the dog with new ideas regarding treatment to help the many patients we see with this condition. **Lynne Stoakes** will be attending the British Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress in Birmingham in April. **Kelly Adams** RVN has also attended 2 Continuing Professional Development Courses. The practice supports this CPD as essential to our aim of providing the best care for all our patients.

Staff

Veterinary Surgeons

Martin Lawton *B.Vet.Med:*
Cert. LAS: C. Biol: MI Biol:D. Zoo
Med (Reptilian): FRCVS

Lynne Stoakes *B.Vet.Med.*
MRCVS

Noemie McDermott
B.Vet.Med. MRCVS

Receptionists

Paula Smith
Julie Austin
Joanne Cross

Veterinary Nurses

Fiona Gorden *VN*
Kelly Adams *RVN*
Jamie Biggs *RVN*

Student Veterinary Nurses

Helen Whitworth (1st Year)

WHAT'S NEW?

The Practice has invested in new computers throughout the surgery. They all have Internet Access allowing our staff access to up to date Continuing Professional Development and also aids us with providing educational material for clients.

Two new handheld pulse oximeters have been purchased to supplement the ones already used during anaesthesia. These machines allow us to measure the pulse



and oxygen content of a patient's blood and their small size and portability allows us to use them anywhere including in the dog/cat and exotic recovery rooms to monitor patients recovering from anaesthesia or for critically ill patients.

The weighing scales in Consulting room 2 have been replaced and can weigh animals up to 150KG to an accuracy of 50g. We routinely record our patients' weights as an indicator of health. If you are concerned about your pet's weight and would like to make use of our weighing scales please telephone our receptionists who will be pleased to book you in to see one of our Nursing Staff.

Have you booked your Tortoise post hibernation check up?

After last year's cold winter weather why not treat your tortoise to an MOT?
Don't wait for a problem...

Phone today for an
Appointment!

BLOOD TESTS

what they can and can't tell us.

Blood samples may be recommended after a physical examination of your pet has alerted your Vet to a clinical problem. The blood sample is required to confirm your Vet's diagnosis prior to starting treatment.



It is usually possible to take a blood sample from most cats and dogs during a routine consultation. Blood is often taken from a vein in the front leg or sometimes from the jugular vein. It may be necessary to shave the fur in order for the Vet to see the vein. Occasionally it may be necessary to administer a sedative if your pet is very nervous, or sometimes for some of our exotic patients.

The sample are centrifuged to separate the plasma from the red blood cells.



The plasma is placed into the Biochemistry Machine where it is mixed and incubated with various chemicals leading to colour changes which are converted to results by the machine.

Your vet will explain the significance of any abnormal results either in person, by telephone or by letter.

While the results tell us if a particular organ is damaged or diseased they rarely tell us the cause of that damage. It may be that other tests are required to definitively diagnose the condition. Your vet will advise which course of action is best for the welfare of your pet.

For some tests the sample must be packaged and sent to an outside laboratory for testing. If possible these tests are best taken in the early part of the week to avoid weekend delays which may affect the reliability of the results. Such tests include hormone assays and DNA tests for various infectious organisms.

EXOTIC SPOT

LOVEBIRDS

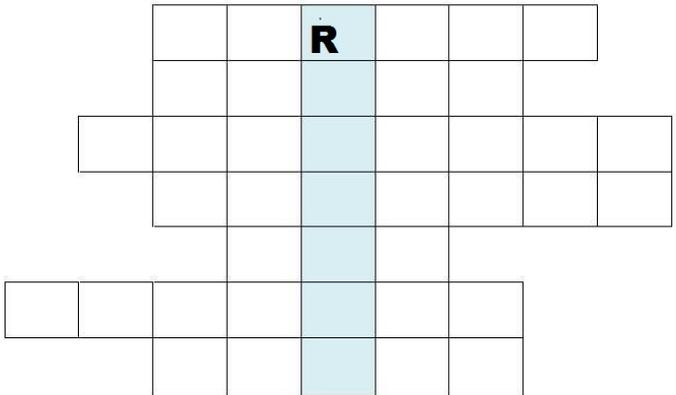
Lovebirds are a small species of parrot native to Africa and are very active and intelligent. They are best kept in pairs or small groups and need an aviary or cage that is large enough to allow plenty of room for flight. Perches are best made from tree branches approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inches (1.5cm) as this gives them the opportunity to strip the bark and keeps their beaks and nails in trim. Alternatively they need to be allowed out to fly around the room (having first made sure all doors and windows are closed). Although small they can be very loud and they can live for up to 10-12 years if kept properly. They can be difficult to tame and much patience is needed if you want to be able to handle them. Lovebirds come in different colours and markings either masked or peach faced. They should be fed a Cockatiel/parakeet food mix with fresh fruit and vegetables and a vitamin and mineral supplement is recommended. Fresh water should be available at all times and they often like to bathe or be sprayed with tepid water.



They are reasonably hardy birds and have few ailments. They can suffer from lice and mites or temperature fluctuations can result in excessive moulting.

KID'S CORNER

- Desert Rat**
- Medical Bloodsucker**
- Packs a long trunk**
- Buries its head in the sand**
- Lives in a sty**
- Ape beats his chest**
- Woolly mammal**



Answer the clues to reveal a type of animal our practice specialises in! There's a £20 Voucher for the winner!

Congratulations to Pearl Hempstead who won the Wordsearch competition in the last issue!

CALL FOR PET PHOTOS!

ONCE AGAIN FOR 2012 WE WILL BE PRODUCING A CALENDAR TO SUPPORT OUR CHOSEN CHARITY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR PET TO BE A PART OF THIS EXCITING PROJECT SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS NOW BY POST BY HAND OR BY EMAIL TO SECRETARY@VETS.UK.NET AND WE WILL BE PLEASED TO INCLUDE THEM! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR GET SNAPPING!



STAR PET



This is Justin a 12 year old Border Terrier. Justin was diagnosed with Diabetes last October. His condition has been brought under control with twice daily Insulin injections. He has been a brave little dog not just tolerating his injections by his owner but actually looking forward to them (the dog biscuit treat helps!). We say he thoroughly deserves his stardom!

WORMING REMINDER!

**Remember
worming products
are available from your
Veterinary Surgeon.**

**Our Receptionists
will be pleased to advise you
on the best product for your
pet.**

**Remember Tortoises need
worming too!**

LUNGWORM

Angiostongylus vasorum is more commonly known as Lungworm although it lives in the heart of dogs and foxes. It used to be confined to Cornwall and



Southern Counties of England but it is now spreading and cases are being reported in the London area.

Lifecycle

There is a lot that is not known about the life cycle of this parasite but what is known is that the parasite eggs are passed in the dogs faeces and are eaten by slugs or snails and dogs and foxes become infected when they eat these infected molluscs.

Signs

Your pet may show signs of breathing difficulty or coughing but other more serious signs include poor blood clotting , abdominal pain or seizures.



Diagnosis



The condition can be diagnosed by looking for larvae in a faecal sample.

Treatment

Treatments are available but not all worming products will be effective against Lungworm so it is best to check with the Veterinary Surgeon if you are concerned.