

Lawton and Stoakes

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NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012

WHATS NEW?

We have recently replaced one of our floor weighing scales. Accurate weights for animals are important for dosing of medications and sedative/anaesthetic agents and also for monitoring the health of our patients. If you would like to make use of our weighing scales to monitor your pet's weight please telephone our receptionists who will make the necessary arrangements for you. Lawton and Stoakes are offering a Senior Cat Health Check at a special discounted price. For more information see article in this newsletter.

In addition to our Website we now have a Facebook page. Why not pay us a visit and look out for more news and information about what is going on at the practice?

Thank you to everyone who bought one of our Calendars and donated money to the Zebra Foundation. A total of £162 was raised!!

WARNING ISSUED OF COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES ON EBAY

A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE Veterinary Times urged practices to make clients aware of the risk of buying medicines from eBay after fake Frontline had been discovered for sale. Do not buy if medicines are not in original packaging and even drugs in packaging can be convincing so check carefully. At best these fakes are ineffective but at worst they may actually be harmful.

STAFF NEWS

Noemie McDermott has attended CPD (Continuing Professional Development) day on Feline Diseases and also on Diseases of Travelling Pets. Noemie is particularly interested in Feline medicine; see later in this newsletter for our exciting new Senior Cat Health Check offer! Kelly and Jamie have both attended CPD on various topics.

Lynne is hoping to take part in the Farleigh Hospice "Walk for Life" once again this year on May 13th. Any sponsors would be greatly appreciated!

Martin is lecturing at the British Chelonia Group Spring meeting at Milton Keynes on March 10th on Respiratory Disease in Tortoises and terrapins.

Following a recent Health and Safety visit from Writtle College the Practice has been re-approved as a Training Practice for Student Veterinary Nurses with Lynne acting as Clinical Coach to the students.



Senior Cat Health Checks

Is your cat showing its age? Slowing down? Stiff? Smelly breath? Howling?

Is your cat in pain?

In fact, all of these signs can be symptoms of painful conditions in cats. Older cats have different health requirements to younger cats, and many age related conditions, such as kidney problems, diabetes, hyperthyroidism and hypertension can be helped if diagnosed early on.

For a limited time only, Lawton and Stoakes are offering Senior Cat Health Checks, at a special reduced price, saving 50% on the standard cost of Consultation and Blood Pressure Monitoring.

The offer includes an extended consultation and physical examination, including;

- Cardiovascular system
- Respiratory system
- Eyes
- Dental
- Weight
- Musculoskeletal system
- Urogenital system
- Abdominal checks



KIDS CORNER

Last quarter we asked for help to name Our 3 goldfish.

Jessica Barnard Aged 2yrs came up with the following suggestions.



Poppy



Emma



Noah

Well done Jessica a WHS £25 giftcard is on its way to you!

This quarter we have another challenge. Naughty Moet the Border Terrier has left muddy paw prints in the kitchen. Can you find out where else she has been in this newsletter?



STAR PET



Everglade the Everglades rat snake is our star pet this quarter. He has been suffering from a skin condition resulting in blisters along his back. Despite being given daily cream applications and regular antibiotic injections for many weeks Everglade has remained friendly and docile. He is now at home with his owner continuing treatment. We are hopeful of a full recovery for Everglade and think he deserves our STAR PET award for his bravery during treatment!

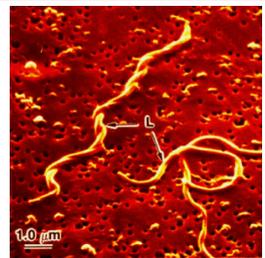
PET INSURANCE PITFALL

In times of recession many people are looking for cheaper Insurances and Pet Insurance is no exception. BUT BEWARE changing your pet insurer may have unforeseen consequences. Remember any condition that your pet had before the changeover will not be covered by the new policy as it will be classed as a **pre existing condition**. Many people have fallen into this trap and only discover that they do not have the cover they thought they had when they make a claim. Please always read the small print of any policy and remember cheaper may not always be better!

IN THE NEWS

Lyme Disease

This disease is caused by Borrelia, which is a bacteria and is spread by infected ticks. It is a disease that can affect people as well as dogs and its incidence in England is on the rise according to recent research. Signs of infection are non specific such as a skin rash, joint pain, fever and arthritis and as such diagnosis can be difficult. Ticks are found in woodland areas and infection risk is high in the late spring, summer and autumn as this is when the ticks are active. If your pet picks up ticks then you may be at risk from this disease too. Ticks can be prevented by the use of licensed products which are available from the surgery. If you think your pet may have picked up a tick and are unsure what to do please contact the surgery for advice.



Changes to the PETS travel scheme

On January 1st new changes were introduced to the PETS travel scheme. This scheme allows pets that meet certain conditions to travel to EU countries with their own passport. From January 1st a blood test to show a positive response to the rabies vaccine is not necessary and animals may re-enter this country 21 days after vaccination rather than the 6 months previously required. Changes to the requirement for Flea, Tick and Worm treatments have also occurred and owners considering taking their pets abroad are recommended to check the requirements for the country they are visiting well in advance of their travel.



EXOTIC SPOT

Ducks by Noemie McDermott

Pet ducks are a popular pet for large gardens. There are many varieties, ranging from the small Call ducks (average weight of 0.7kg) to large Muscovy ducks (weighing in at up to 6kg!) – a size for every pond! Ducks can be friendly and tame if handled from a young age, and some breeds will produce eggs on a regular basis. They are sociable animals, and do require the company of other ducks.

Ducks require constant access to clean water for bathing, but will rapidly muddy water and pond edges, so care should be taken to ensure the design of the pond or water containers allows for good drainage and easy cleaning. They will pass droppings regardless of where they are, so are not suitable as house pets. Ducks require a safe, predator-proof enclosure, and should be confined at night to prevent attacks by foxes.

Ducks should be fed an appropriate pelleted mash, and this can be supplemented with fresh vegetables, herbs and insects they find foraging in the garden. Feeding time is an ideal time to observe and monitor your ducks' health – watch out for wounds, lethargy, or ducks not eating as much as normal, and speak to your vet if you have any concerns.



EAR DISEASE IN DOGS



Normal Ear Canal

Disease of the outer ear (otitis Externa) is common in dogs especially those with pendulous ears or hairy ear canals. It is an infection which can be caused by bacteria, yeasts, fungi or ear mites. Infection is common because the ear canal contains wax and debris on which the organisms feed. The resulting wax and pus cannot drain out of the ear due to its anatomy and needs to be cleaned manually. Occasionally this may require an anaesthetic if your pet is nervous or in pain. The Veterinary Surgeon or Nurse will show you how to clean the ear and apply medications.



Otitis Externa