

8-12 Fitzilian Avenue
Harold Wood
Romford
Essex
RM3 0QS
Tel: 01708 384444
Fax: 01708 344318
E-mail: News@ExoticVets.net
www.Vets.gb.com



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

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

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2009/10

WELCOME! HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR CLIENTS AND THEIR PETS!

In this issue:-

STAFF NEWS...New Nursing Assistant Helen Whitworth

WHAT'S NEW?.. Calendar Sales

THE HEALTH CHECK...What is it for?

KIDS CORNER..for our younger readers the chance to win a prize

STAR PET...Meet Rhea the German Short Haired Pointer

EXOTIC SPOT...Lovebirds by Helen Whitworth

STAFF NEWS

Currently there are two veterinary surgeons at the practice, Mr Lawton and Miss Stoakes. Miss Stoakes is now working until 7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and until 6pm on Mondays and is now working alternate Saturdays. Mr Lawton continues to work Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and alternate Saturdays. These hours may change subject to other engagements so it is always advisable to telephone for an appointment to help us to ensure you see the Veterinary Surgeon of your choice.



We have a new Nursing assistant **Helen Whitworth**. Helen hopes to start the Veterinary Nursing course next September.

The Veterinary Nursing course is currently undergoing major changes and will no-longer be NVQ based.

WHAT'S NEW?

Although there are changes to the Veterinary team the availability of veterinary care remains the same with surgeries between 9-11 am and 4-7pm daily with a lunchtime surgery 12-1pm during the week and Saturday surgeries between 11am-1pm and 3-5pm as usual.

We hope the new client handout detailing the clinical examination findings at your pet's annual health check will prove useful to you to keep for future reference. See in this issue for details of the health check.

The 2010 Calendar has sold well and will be on sale until the end of January while stocks last.



We will update you next issue on how much money we managed to raise for the Zebra Foundation.

THE HEALTH CHECK

A free general health check is included with all routine vaccinations; so why is this so important?

By giving your pet a health check it is possible to pick up some diseases at an early stage, which improves the chances of successful treatment or management.

What is included in your health check and what is the Veterinary Surgeon looking for?

THE EYES The Veterinary surgeon will check for any signs of discharge which could indicate infection or a problem with the production or drainage of tears. The colour of the conjunctiva (lining the underside of the eyelid) can indicate anaemia or jaundice.



THE NOSE is checked for signs of discharge which again could indicate infection.

THE MOUTH AND TEETH are checked for signs of dental disease.

THE CHEST is examined with a stethoscope to listen to the heart and lungs. The heart sounds, rate and rhythm help to determine the presence of heart disease and the respiratory rate and respiratory noise can alert the Veterinary surgeon to lung problems.



THE ABDOMEN The Veterinary Surgeon is feeling for the organs particularly kidneys and liver to see if they are abnormal in shape or size, or any abnormal masses.

THE TEMPERATURE may be checked with an electronic ear thermometer to determine your pet's normal temperature (in nervous patients this can be higher than expected as anxiety can increase the temperature quite normally).



THE SKIN AND HAIR COAT is checked for signs of parasites and is a good general indicator of your pet's health status.

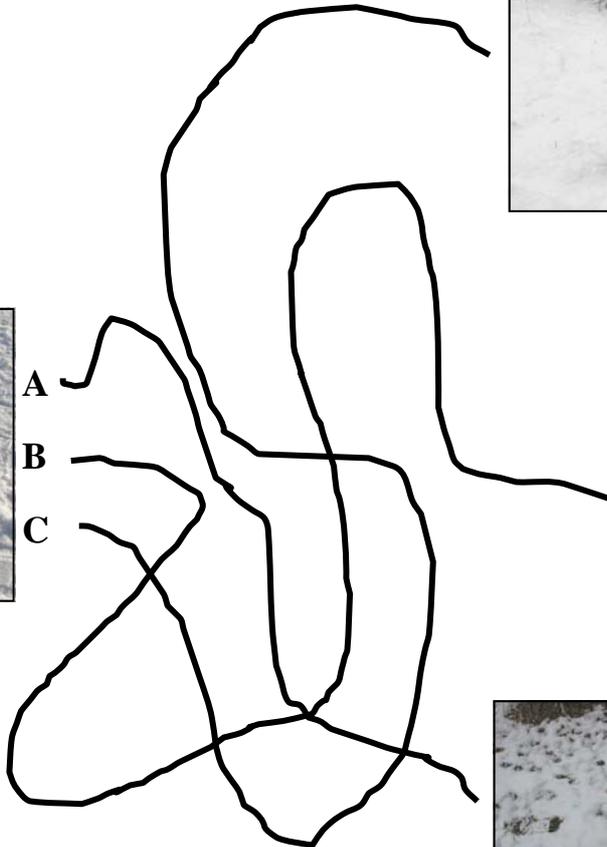
YOUR PET'S WEIGHT will be recorded and the body condition (underweight, normal or obese) noted.

The Veterinary Surgeon's findings together with suggested treatment or management options will be given to you on the **new exam leaflet** and if you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff.

Other investigations are offered at additional cost including anal gland emptying (dogs) and a routine blood screen to check the function of the internal organs.

KIDS CORNER

Poor Sabrina is lost in the snow. Can you put her on the right path to get her home in the warm?



There's a prize for the first correct entry!

Congratulations to 6 year old Stephanie Rollison who spotted the 5 differences in the photos in the Autumn Issue. Stephanie won £10 WHS Gift Voucher.

STAR PET



This issue meet Rhea the German Short Haired Pointer. Rhea is 9 years old and her owner thinks she is a real character and we agree. Rhea was rescued when she was 14months old with her half sister, Lottie, from a home where she wasn't getting the care she needed. At first, unlike Lottie, she was hard work as she was not even house trained and liked nothing better than chewing up the carpets but her endearing nature meant that she soon won her new family's hearts. Rhea has recently undergone many investigations at Lawton and Stoakes and then at the Royal Veterinary College. She is currently being treated for Lymphoma, a cancer of the white blood cells. Rhea continues to be mad as usual and we hope she remains symptom free

for as long as possible.

EXOTIC SPOT

Lovebirds by Helen Whitworth

Lovebirds are friendly, inquisitive, colourful and intelligent birds that are easy to keep and look after. The second smallest parrot species, they originate from Africa and its surrounding islands and they can live up to 20 years - so choosing them as a pet is a long-term commitment. Lovebirds come in a variety of colours and markings and like the company of their own species so are best kept in pairs or larger groups.

Lovebirds can be housed indoors in a large wire cage with a plastic base or outdoors in a purpose-built aviary. The cage should have some horizontal bars on it to allow climbing. Kept outdoors, your aviary should allow room for the birds to fly around properly. Lovebirds kept indoors will need to be let out of their cage daily to exercise under supervision. Covering the cage with a cloth at night will encourage your Lovebird to settle down for sleep. You should provide a bath for your bird, either fixed to the outside of the cage or a shallow bowl placed inside the cage – although some birds may prefer to be sprayed with tepid water instead.

Lovebirds in the wild eat a wide range of seeds, grains, and vegetation. A quality Cockatiel / Parakeet food mix makes a good basic diet although supplements may also be required such as cuttlefish which acts as a vitamin supplement, environmental enrichment, and also helps grind the beak down. Small pieces of fresh fruit and vegetables can also be given as treats and fresh drinking water should always be available. Certain foods can be harmful to your Lovebird - avoid giving them lettuce, avocado, lemon, potato, or any sweets or drinks designed for human consumption.

