

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
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3pm-5pm

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2007

Welcome to this issue of our Newsletter

In this issue....

STAFF NEWS...Race for Life and Triathlon update

WHAT'S NEW?...air conditioning in waiting and consulting rooms

WEATHER ALERT...Unseasonal weather spells disaster for tortoises

THE PRACTICE IMAGING

ROOM...radiographs and beyond

OBESITY.....Is your pet fat not fit?

STAR PET...Meet JerryLee the Sennegal parrot

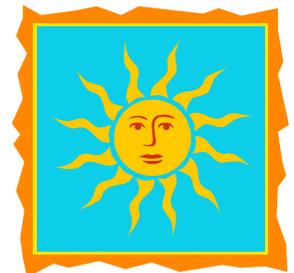
EXOTIC SPOT...Budgerigars by Kelly Adams

KIDS CORNER... picture sent in by Nicole Buckle

WHAT'S NEW?

This year the partners have invested in air conditioning units for the 3 consulting rooms and the waiting room. This is to make our working environment more comfortable and hopefully make the visit to the Vet's more pleasant for our clients and their pets!

All we need now is the warm weather that we were all expecting this summer!



STAFF NEWS



On July 11th 6 members of staff and some of their family joined the couple of thousand other women in Tesco's Race for Life at North Weald Air Field in aid of Cancer Research UK. Despite a drizzly morning the evening turned out to be beautifully sunny and cool and as you can see from the photo's before and after the race we kept smiling all the while! We managed to raise upwards of £500 for this

worthy cause. We would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who sponsored us and watch out for us next year! Jo completed her Triathlon also in aid of Cancer Research UK on June 30th and came 100th out of 300 entrants. So **CONGRATULATIONS** to her too!



WEATHER ALERT!!!!

The unseasonably cold and wet weather has taken its toll on our reptilian friends. Tortoises need to be kept above 75F (25C) in order to digest their food. If you have a tortoise that is kept outside in the garden please ask us for advice on how best to keep it warm.

THE PRACTICE IMAGING ROOM



Radiographs are an important diagnostic tool allowing a view into the body to assess not only broken bones but also many diseases of the internal organs. Since 2004 we have been using a digital radiography machine. This cuts out the need for chemical processing with all its Health and Safety requirements for disposal of the waste solutions and removes the need for a dark room. The radiograph is taken in much the same

way as for a conventional machine but the “film” is scanned into the computer and this allows us to place a copy into the patient computer records. When dealing with X-rays safety of our staff is of utmost importance and all staff working with this machine wear dosimeter badges which record the level of exposure to radiation. This is kept to a minimum by the use of lead screen doors and electromagnetically locking exit doors. Patients are generally sedated or anaesthetised to enable them to be positioned without being held by a member of staff.

In addition to radiography the imaging room is used for Ultrasonography. A high frequency sound beam generates a picture of soft tissues within the body which would not be distinguishable by radiography. Our Ultrasound machine has several different frequency probes ranging from 3.5MHz to 10MHz enabling us to obtain detailed pictures from patients of all sizes.



OBESITY IN PETS



Obesity is not confined to dogs and cats. All pets are at risk even tortoises!

You may not notice that your pet is putting on

weight on a day to day basis and obesity is sometimes not noticed until you visit the vet, normally at booster time.

If your pet is overweight your vet will be able to advise you of what to feed, how much and how often, you will also be given an ideal weight for your pet.

There are specially formulated slimming diets available. They contain all the minerals and vitamins your pet needs and they provide

bulk without the calories, so they feel full. Always get advice from your veterinary surgeon before starting your pet on a diet. The vet may want to check your pet to make sure there is no underlying problem that is affecting your pet's weight.

Being overweight can cause many problems in pets including heart and circulatory disorders, arthritis, diabetes. It also increases surgical and anaesthetic risks.

Obesity is caused by the animal eating more than it requires and not getting enough exercise. Many older pets need their diet adjusted, as they sleep more and require less exercise, your vet will be able to advise you on feeding the older pet.



STAR PET



Jerry-Lee has been with us for about 15 years now. We think he was about a year old when we got him. Unfortunately he already had some wing damage, so he's never been able to fly properly, but he does enjoy climbing around the inside and outside of his cage. He's been known to take the occasional dive off the top of his cage, making a barely controlled descent to the floor. This generally ends in what can only be described as an emergency crash-landing.

We first brought Jerry-Lee to see Mr. Lawton about 6 years ago because he started having seizures, and his plumage was in a terrible state. Blood tests revealed poor liver function, which has been treated with periodic steroid injections. He was also prescribed some medication to reduce his feather-chewing tendency, and was put on an improved diet, based largely on Harrison's High Potency Coarse feed pellets. He loves dried fruit and a slice of fresh banana (which ends up all over his beak), and occasionally we let him have a little bit of seed / nut mix.

Thankfully Jerry-Lee's seizures stopped within weeks of starting treatment, and his plumage has improved dramatically. Visitors to our home often remark on how much better he is looking now compared to when he was ill. We still bring him for a check-up about 5 times a year, because he still needs the occasional injection. Apart from climbing around his cage (and around any nearby furniture he can get to) Jerry-Lee enjoys playing with his bell, and rattling his cage door when we are eating!

If you think your pet deserves a mention in our newsletter send us a picture and your story and we'd be pleased to publish it!!

EXOTIC SPOT by Kelly Adams

Budgerigars

Budgies are small colourful little birds that originate from Australia. They are generally affectionate and in the wild they live in groups, so it is ideal if they are kept in pairs or groups.

The basic diet consists of a good brand seed mixture and millet, however budgies should be fed a variety of fresh food as well to help keep them healthy such as romaine lettuce, carrot, broccoli and apple



Your budgie's cage must be large enough for the bird to stretch and flap his wings without touching the sides of the cage and ideally as large as practicable. A dish of water can be placed in the cage or a plastic bath that clips to the door can be bought from a pet shop for bathing. Make sure that the cage is placed in a warm draught-free area so the budgie can dry out and not get ill. Budgies that are let out of the cage must be supervised and anything that they could get caught on or fly into should be removed from the room. Also make sure that all windows and doors are closed. The cage should be cleaned thoroughly on a weekly basis. Food bowls should be washed out daily and fresh seed and water provided.

Apple branches placed at different heights make good perches as they encourage the bird to climb, imitating trees in the wild. Budgies also like to strip the bark off branches and twigs, this helps keep their beaks sharp and prevent the budgie getting bored. Sandpaper covered perches should be avoided as they can irritate the budgies feet.

The lifespan for a budgie is on average 6 to 8 years, however some have been known to reach up to 20.

Sick budgies show a variety of clinical signs and should see a vet as soon as possible. Common signs include heavy breathing, overgrown beak and claws, and feather plucking.

KIDS CORNER



This pencil drawing was sent in by Nicole Buckle of her pet "Patch". We think he looks very mischievous! Well done Nicole we think you have the makings of a good artist. A £10 WHS voucher is on its way to you!

If there are any other youngsters out there who would like to send in any artwork, poems or jokes we'd be glad to receive them and remember there's a £10 Gift Voucher to be won!

Closing date for Autumn 2007 Issue is 21st September so get cracking!!!!