



The Wylie Veterinary Centre

NEWS

AUTUMN 2008



Our Centenary Year is Fun, Fun, Fun!

Summer always flies by so fast – especially this year! June was very busy for us – first we held our Centenary Open Day on Sunday 22nd, and then our Centenary Ball on Saturday 28th!

Many of you came to our Open day at the Upminster surgery and were able to compare modern veterinary life with times gone by! There was fun for the children – bouncy castles and face painting – while everyone could enjoy the competitions, exhibitions and drum majorettes! The Ball was an excellent dining and dancing experience, as always, but this time included a casino and a magician!

Like everyone we do our best to be environmentally friendly and recycle as much as possible. Now we have a new venture. Paper bags will still be used for medicines, but, for larger amounts, such as food, instead of plastic carriers we can now offer, at minimal cost, re-usable Wylie Centenary fabric bags!

Vet Gean has hidden talents! She has an exhibition of prints at Asia House Café T, Cavendish Street, London, from June 16th – August 9th!

Finally Carly and Laura became fully qualified Veterinary Nurses, and vet Anna surprised us all with the early arrival of her new son! Congratulations!

Editor: Kathy Beasley

Veterinary Physiotherapist Is Now Available At Wylies!.....

Have you ever had problems with your back or other joints? Did you see a physiotherapist to ease the pain so that you could carry on doing the things you enjoy? Or have you ever had an operation and received physiotherapy to get you back on your feet? Well, just like us, many animals suffer from muscle and joint problems. Perhaps your pet has undergone an operation, and would benefit from further rehabilitation to return to his or her normal self? Veterinary physiotherapy could really be of help, as it involves the assessment and treatment of animals in order to relieve pain, and improve function and performance. A Chartered Veterinary Physiotherapist can fully assess the animal patient from nose to tail! Treatment is then provided within the same session and owners are often given

a few exercises to continue with at home. Follow up sessions enable reassessment of the pet and further development of their treatment programme.

Sarah Dalton is a Chartered Veterinary Physiotherapist who is now available for consultations at our Upminster surgery. Recently she treated Sophie, a Dalmatian, who unfortunately had back pain following a road traffic accident. Her owners noticed



that Sophie experienced pain when attempting to eat out of her bowl, and that she was also reluctant to play with her favourite ball.



Her treatment involved specific physiotherapy techniques including soft tissue massage and core stability exercises, while her owners were given advice and an exercise programme to help Sophie's recovery. After a short period Sophie was no longer avoiding eating from her bowl and had started to return to her normal mischievous and playful self!

If you require further information, or would like to arrange an appointment with Chartered Veterinary Physiotherapist, Sarah, at our Upminster surgery, please contact her on 07795 272286.

Start now if you are planning a trip for 2009!



DID YOU know many owners are now taking advantage of the Pet Travel Scheme and taking their dogs and cats on holiday and to live in other countries with no need for a stay in quarantine on the way back?

Now is the time to start planning as it takes 7-8 months to fulfil the requirements of the scheme. Your pet will need to be **microchipped, vaccinated against rabies** and subsequently **blood tested** to prove that sufficient immunity has developed. You additionally need to allow six calendar months to elapse (from the date of the successful blood sample) before your pet can re-enter the UK under the scheme, and then only after certain **tick** and **tapeworm** treatments have been carried out and certified before arrival in the UK.

Please contact us for further information or advice – but don't delay!

Pet photos: Jane Burton Cartoon: Jenny Hole

SURGERY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

HALL LANE, Upminster ☎ 01708 251200 • ABBS CROSS LANE, Hornchurch ☎ 01708 445166

Arthritis: is your pet affected?



NORMAL joint function is something that most of us take for granted in our pets. However arthritis (or degenerative joint disease) is a relatively common problem, particularly in older pets.

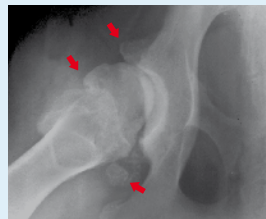
In the majority of cases arthritis occurs secondary to a lifetime of wear and tear on the joints. Arthritis may also occur following joint trauma or due to malformation of the joint, for example hip dysplasia – see above right for x-rays.

The joints that are most susceptible to arthritis are those associated with limb movement; these joints are called synovial joints. The ends of the bones which meet at these joints are covered by very smooth articular cartilage. The joints are also lubricated with synovial fluid – allowing friction free movement.

Arthritic joints typically show progressive breakdown and thinning of the cartilage lin-



Normal hip joint



Arthritic hip joint in a dog with hip dysplasia. Secondary new bone (arrowed) can be seen around the joint

ing the ends of the bones and formation of secondary new bone around the joint. Affected joints usually appear stiff, swollen and painful. Typical signs include: difficulty in getting to their feet after rest, and (for dogs) problems getting in and out of cars and often a reluctance to go on walks.



Feeding a balanced healthy diet with regular exercise and active weight management can make a huge difference to your pets mobility

So what can be done?

Even those pets that are only mildly affected can benefit from treatment, and the most effective approach involves several factors. Weight loss alone can be effective for animals that are overweight; this along with a combination of regular gentle exercise and massage is also helpful. Special diets can help to slow the progression of the disease and food supplements containing glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate may help to reduce pain and inflammation.

Finally, many pets benefit from pain relief given by medication, and with a number of medicines available, we can choose the right one for your pet.

So, if you suspect that your pet may be suffering from arthritis, come and discuss this further – we can help you to help him!

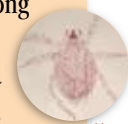


Autumn Alert!

ONCE again, the shorter days and cooler weather signify the beginning of the Autumn months. However this time of year holds many potential hazards for our pets.

Despite the cooling weather, **fleas** unfortunately do not take holidays and are still a major problem at this time of year! So now is definitely NOT the time to lower your guard against these irritating tiny pests!

Harvest mites are another cause of irritation in later summer / early autumn. They are active in long grass and will swarm onto passing pets where they tend to congregate on the eyelids, ears, feet and abdomen. They are easily identified as bright orange “dots” adhering to the skin, and are often the cause of great irritation.



Harvest mite (x 50)

As the weather cools down, **bees and wasps** become dozy and are easily caught by dogs and cats. Unfortunately they can still give nasty stings to your pets.

Antifreeze is also a potential hazard for many pets at this time of year. When getting the car ready for the winter, any spilled antifreeze should be cleared up promptly – it's very tasty but extremely toxic.

Remember also to keep pets indoors in the evenings to avoid **firework** injuries. Dogs with noise phobias may benefit from medication to help relieve anxiety associated with fireworks. Habituation to loud noises over a long period of time can also be helpful.



Finally, turning to **rabbits**, if you haven't had your rabbit **vaccinated** against **Myxomatosis** and **VHD** yet, act now! These usually fatal illnesses can easily strike in the Autumn.



Pet Insurance: are you covered?

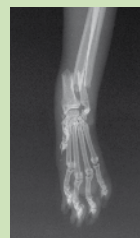


YOU look after your pets and make sure they have regular health checks, vaccinations, appropriate diets, worming and flea control. But what about **pet insurance**?

It's a worrying fact that in an average year, one pet in three will require veterinary treatment for some form of illness or accident and with the cost of diagnosis and treatment

for a variety of conditions running into three and even four figures, pet insurance has never been more relevant. With appropriate pet insurance we can hopefully ensure that decisions regarding the best course of treatment for your pet can be made on the basis of **need** rather than **cost**. **Don't take any chances – get your pet insured today!**

Although we tend to think of traumatic **surgical** events



(such as a fractured leg), as the main reason for pet insurance, many **medical**

conditions (such as skin infections, ear disease, kidney or heart disease – to name just a few!), can also be very costly to treat.