

The Wylie Centenary Flyer

April 2008



Did You Enjoy Your Easter Eggs?!

Easter is traditionally a time to celebrate after the abstinence of Lent. Hopefully you did not over-indulge too much, or you could now be suffering from an increased girth and tooth-ache!

Most dog owners know that our chocolate can be dangerous for their pets. However, if your dog has over-indulged in other ways over the Bank Holiday our nurses could be of help. A **free nurse check** will soon have your pet on the road to a trimmer figure and healthier teeth. They can even tell you about a new drug to help with weight loss! All this – and our nurses have special Centenary gifts for you as well!

Thank you to everyone who entered our Photo Competition. The winners of the two categories are on show in the waiting room of our Uprminster surgery and are also shown below. They both won a copy of the '2008 Wildlife Photographer of the Year' book, featuring the photographs exhibited at the Natural History Museum. Runners up Sophie Baggs and J. Munford won 'kongs' for their dogs Lola and Sophie.

Editor: *Kathy Beasley*



Megan Chisnall won the children's section with a photo of her cat named 'Sweet'.....



while Angela and Frank Sharp won the adults' section with a photo of their Boxer puppy 'Ruby'.

Poisons – The Old . . . The New And The Unexpected

In 1908 'certain poisons' were 'commonly employed for domestic and industrial purposes'. These included sheep dips and weed-killers. There was pressure to relax the restrictions on their sale, especially in rural areas, where a pharmacy or veterinary surgery could be many miles away. It was felt that 'sad mistakes which often involved death', could be avoided if 'they should have some distinctive colour or some strong odour.' The restrictions should still apply to the sale of such things as arsenic, cyanide and strychnine, 'substances that lent themselves to use for criminal purposes'!

Weed-killers and insecticides are much safer these days both for us and animals, with packaging clearly stating the intended use, and any possible dangers. Much more is known about the toxic side-effects of all the drugs we use, what precautions are necessary, and what to do if a drug has not been used in the advised manner. If you have any problems with an unexpected reaction, or an accidental over-dosage, do not hesitate to contact us. Our staff will be able to advise you, and, if necessary, give immediate treatment.

We also know much more about the possible toxic effects from seemingly harmless substances, such as the ingestion of cocoa and raisins in dogs, or the ingestion of lilies in cats. Some toxins that can cause trouble now would not have existed one hundred years ago. The drinking of spilt ant-freeze has resulted in the deaths of many pets recently. Never presume that animals instinctively know what is good and bad for them. Our pets think that some poisons, like anti-freeze, smell and taste really good!

There Was No Ducking Out Of It!

One hundred years ago, despite the 'Veterinary Surgeons Act' of 1881, 'quackery' was still considered to be a great enemy of the veterinary profession. Men who often had practical experience, but no qualifications, advertised themselves as 'specialists' and 'castrators'.

An unqualified man was taken to court in 1908 for claiming to be a 'canine specialist'. He was fined one shilling without costs and instructed to remove his sign, 'Canine Specialist. Dogs and Cats Treated for all Diseases.'

One hundred years on, even veterinary surgeons cannot be registered as 'specialists' unless they have extra post-graduate qualifications, such as dermatologist Ewan Ferguson, who sees referral cases here on Wednesdays.

The Veterinary Record of 1908 asked members to start recording clinical cases. 'Very few veterinary surgeons ever practice for ten weeks without seeing cases well worthy of record'. It was hoped that the sharing of practical experience would help others, especially with 'the rise of canine practice' and 'the many problems it presents'. There was also a report on the arrangement of the first International Veterinary Congress to be held at The Hague in 1909.

Nowadays, with the aid of computers, we not only keep accurate and detailed clinical records, but, if necessary, we can quickly transfer them, together with x-rays, to colleagues many miles away. Both British and International Veterinary Congresses are now very successful, and, with the threat of global warming bringing exotic diseases closer to our shores, the exchange of knowledge with veterinarians from abroad can only be helpful!

