

The Wylie Centenary Flyer

February 2008



You Know Your Pet Is The Best – So Prove It!

Think of February and what comes to mind? Cold grey days, frosted windscreens – maybe even snow? Or do you think of Valentine's Day and the ones you love?

We know how important your pets are to you – as soon as you take on a pet they become a member of your family. Why not let the world see why your pet is extra special? Bring a photograph to the surgery, (max size 5 x 7 ins), and it will be entered into our competition, (closing date 15th March). The winners will be displayed in our waiting room and each category, (children and adults), will win a super book featuring the winning wildlife photographs currently to be seen at the Natural History Museum. Also, all entries will receive a special Wylie Centenary gift.

So – get snapping now! You could be a winner!

Did you take advantage of the free nurse weight checks in January? Do you now have a fitter, trimmer pet as a result?

Perhaps your pet could be even more lovable? Does the breath smell a bit? Have you looked at his or her teeth lately? A scale and polish can make the mouth smell a lot sweeter. Or are the gums sore and the teeth painful? Animals will often continue to eat even if they have very painful diseased teeth. Our nurses can help you here as well. If you book a **free nurse dental check** during February you will not only get valuable advice on caring for your pet's teeth, but also receive another Wylie Centenary gift!

Editor: **Kathy Beasley**



My Quiz on his holidays last year

Thank Goodness For 100 Years Of Scientific Advances!

Life was much less certain 100 years ago. Just handling their animals could give people deadly infections! The Veterinary Record in February 1908 reported on the death of a horsedealer from Glanders, 'a disease' that the readers 'were doubtless aware', 'was communicable from horse to man'. Also a man who worked at a horse-slaughterer's died of Anthrax in Doncaster, after developing a boil on his arm!

Some animal diseases causing worries then are still a great problem today. Foot-and-Mouth Disease was hitting the headlines as often in 1908 as it has been recently, due to a fresh outbreak having been discovered in Edinburgh.

Any death is always upsetting, but at least we have safe, effective vaccines available to protect both us and our pets against many of the life-threatening diseases that are still out there. Dogs can now be protected against Distemper, Leptospirosis, Canine Hepatitis Virus and Parvo Virus, while cats can be protected against Feline Enteritis Virus, Feline Flu and Feline Leukaemia Virus. Even rabbits can have vaccines against Myxoematosis and Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD).

Ideas have changed recently regarding dog vaccines, and although we still advise the Leptospirosis and Parainfluenza cover every year, we now advise that the Parvo, Distemper and Hepatitis vaccines only need to be given every 3 years. This means you will notice a saving on the cost of your dog's vaccines in the future! Don't worry if you own a cat or rabbit. To celebrate our 'Centenary', and to promote pet health in the community, **all** our vaccination prices are down this year!

How Do We Manage Without It?!

You may think that veterinary treatment 100 years ago was very limited. No antibiotics, no animal vaccines. However a book produced in the early 1900's shows that vets had one apparently extra-powerful weapon with which to treat nearly all animal ailments and afflictions!

'*Elliman's Embrocation*' won a silver medal at the Paris Exposition in 1900, the highest award given to any veterinary product at that time, and was used in horses, dogs, birds and cattle. The dog chapter advises the embrocation for most problems. Other aids are mentioned – stiff brown paper to splint broken bones of toy dogs, wooden splints for St Bernards. A merciful death is advised if a fracture is 'compound', which means the bone protrudes through the skin and is therefore open to infection. Even *Elliman's* could 'not offer much prospect of recovery' then. Luckily now, with the aid of antibiotics and external or internal fixation, we find most fractures heal very well.

Some treatments come full circle – grains of bromide of potassium were thought beneficial in fitting dogs then, and potassium bromide tablets, with or without phenobarbitone, are often recommended for epilepsy now. However it was felt more important in 1908 to keep the bowels open and apply *Elliman's* to the back of the head! The cause of Distemper was not known, but the twitches that occurred in survivors were thought to respond to strychnine given twice daily, together with *Elliman's*. *Elliman's* was used for everything from bronchitis and mammary tumours to deafness and colic! How do we manage today without it today?!

