

The Wylie Centenary Flyer

July 2008



Objectives: 1908-2008!

The President of the British Veterinary Association in July 1908 stated that 'the first and primary object for which they' (veterinary surgeons), 'existed was the lessening of pain and suffering in all animals. Next to that it was their desire to be of service to the community.'

Another speaker felt that 'in this scientific age, the least they might be expected to do would be to adopt all the scientific means at their disposal to have their work carried out in a humane fashion'. He then discussed problems he had encountered gelding colts, and stated that 'these cases showed the great necessity of being very careful not to have any assistant who was not likely to keep his head on!'

At this time it was a fairly new idea to consider anaesthesia when castrating horses. The speaker assured the audience that there was an 'almost entire absence of risk of injury to the animal during the administration of chloroform while the horse was in the standing position' 'It was well known that drunken men and babies rarely come to any harm from falling down, it was the same with horses that were half anaesthetised!'



It may be one hundred years since the BVA President's statements were made, but Arthur Wylie upheld the same principles then, and the Wylie Veterinary Centre still does today.

We are continually reviewing and updating our painkilling protocols. For instance, animals undergoing operations have painkillers in their 'premeds' a certain time before each procedure so that we can be sure that the drugs have taken full effect when they awake. You may have noticed that your pets recover from 'routine' operations such as spays and castrations a great deal quicker now than they did even a few years ago.

We are proud to have served the local community since 1908, and we are proud of our staff. Not only are they well-trained, knowledgeable and compassionate but, most importantly, and without exception, their heads are extremely well screwed on!

Editor: **Kathy Beasley**

Here's To The Next 100 Years!

It is 60 years since the National Health Service Started. At that time the Wylie Veterinary Surgery had been established in this area for 40 years! When Arthur Wylie set up his plate in 1908 he would never have imagined that one hundred years later we would be celebrating what he had started with probably our most successful Open Day ever!

Our Centenary Open Day was held on Sunday 22nd June, and in the week preceding the big day the weather men kept predicting heavy rain. We organised a marquee tent to offer shelter from the deluge, but, as it turned out, we were very fortunate, and the afternoon was warm and sunny. Crowds of you came to see the exhibits and enjoy the day. In keeping with the centenary theme, we had a pictorial representation of the last 100 years of Wylies near the entrance to the surgery, whilst inside there were demonstrations of ultrasound and endoscopic examinations. There were also exotic animals to see and handle, from parrots, ferrets and tortoises to crocodiles and tarantulas! Children had lots to occupy them, from quizzes and treasure hunts to tombolas, face paintings and a bouncy castle. There was even an impressive display of drum majorettes, a dog training display and physiotherapy advice!

Following the Open Day, a Wylie Centenary Summer Ball was held on Saturday 28th June. There was good food, dancing opportunities, a roving magician and a casino! What would Arthur Wylie have thought? Well, we know that his descendants approved, as Dick Wylie was a special guest at the Open Day, while David and Rose Wylie were our guests at the Ball. It was lovely they could join us, and their presence helped to make the celebrations perfect. The £2,000 raised during the evening will be shared between the MS Society and WSPA!

Not Only Dogs Are Man's Best Friend!

The Veterinary Record of July 1908 relayed the information that parliament had now created a 'Veterinary Corps for the better management of the Cavalry and Artillery Sections of the Army'. Back then horses were very important in the army, and were still used for transport, farming, and even working down the mines.

Dogs too were given jobs and during the 1st World War of 1914-1918, they were messengers in the British Army. Lt-Col. Richardson first started training sentry and patrol dogs to supply the Belgian Army, and Airedales were found to be particularly good. In 1916 the Royal Artillery had great success with 2 Airedales used as message carriers, and a War Dog Training School then opened in Shoeburyness. At first the dogs came from Battersea Dogs Home in London but later they came from further afield, Bristol, Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester. Demand grew, and all police forces in the UK were told to send strays to the War Dog School. Many were also sent by the public, as they found they were affected by rationing and unable to keep their pets. As well as Airedales, other breeds used included Border Collies, Luchers, Old English Sheepdogs, Retrievers and Summer Dogs, ('summer this and summer that')! The dogs had scarlet collars and tins around the neck to hold the messages. It was a serious offence to stop a dog in the line of duty. Later, in the 2nd World War, dogs were used to search for people trapped in rubble following bombings.

The Dickin Medal was first awarded in 1943 and is the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. It was the idea of Maria Dickin who was the founder of the PDSA in 1917. It has been awarded not only to dogs and horses but also to pigeons and even one cat! Thousands of pigeons carried messages in both the 1st and 2nd World Wars.

