

The Wylie Centenary Flyer

September 2008



No Ticks? – Then Smile!

September is Dental Month, so this is an ideal time to get your pet's teeth checked. Our nurses are offering **free dental checks** for dogs & cats this month, and they can give you lots of helpful advice. They also have **free** Centenary gifts for you as well!



In 1908, when Arthur Wylie first started veterinary work in this area, most people did not travel very far from home, and neither did most of their animals. However, certain circumstances did cause animals to travel abroad, and war was one of them.

An epidemic of a serious equine disease, Epizootic Lymphangitis, broke out in the UK in 1904, due to horses coming home after the Boer War. The epidemic lasted 8 years. It was a disease endemic in parts of Africa and it spread easily when large numbers of horses were stabled together, as they were in a cavalry. There was also concern in the Veterinary Record of 1908 that 'Redwater', a disease of cattle, carried and transmitted by foreign ticks, might get a hold in this country, and be transmitted by British ticks, if infected animals were imported.

Luckily for Britain, the conditions here were not warm enough for the foreign tick-borne diseases to be a problem one hundred years ago. Now, with global warming, and the increased traffic of animals between countries, we can no longer be so sure. Those of you who take your pets on European holidays will know that they have to be treated with a tick-killing preparation, (*Frontline*), before leaving the Continent. The reason is to ensure foreign, potentially dangerous, Continental ticks do not reach our shores, survive, and spread diseases. Canine Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis have already been diagnosed in some dogs coming back from their holidays.

Don't take chances! In order to ensure you protect your pets as much as possible when you go abroad we have information sheets explaining the precautions you can take.

Editor: **Kathy Beasley**

Wylies And The Orsett Show

Many of you probably attended the Orsett Show on Saturday 6th September this year. The Orsett Show is one of the oldest one-day Country Shows in England, but it started in 1841 as a ploughing match. The show died when the squire of the village died in 1880, but the new squire revived it in 1895 and it became the Orsett and District Cottage Garden and Agricultural Society Show. It was held in the park at Orsett Hall and it continued until the outbreak of the 1st World War. When it resumed in 1919 classes for vegetables and horses were introduced, but pigs were not included until 1946, cattle classes returned in 1947, and in 1949 a Fur and Feather section was added.

When Arthur Wylie set up his plate in Grays in 1908 the Orsett Show was a well-established event in the area. As the local veterinarian he would no doubt have attended, and provided his services should they be required. The close association between Wylies and the Orsett Show was continued, with his son, Dick Wylie, and his grandson, David, being involved with the show for many years.

In the last few years both the Orsett Show and Wylies have changed. These days the show no longer concentrates on farm animals but more on horticulture and horses. Also Wylies stopped treating large animals a few years ago, opting to specialise in small animals and 'exotics' instead. When David Wylie retired our connection with the Orsett Show was at an end.

These days a new show, the two day 'All About Dogs' is held in Brentwood, and for the last two years the Wylie Veterinary Centre has provided vets and nurses to give advice and emergency treatment at that event. Perhaps you saw us there?

Not Necessarily A Good Bet!

In 1900 Princess Alexandra was influential in bringing a Finsen Lamp to the Whitechapel Hospital. This large contraption produced ultra-violet light and could treat several patients at a time. A new treatment for skin tuberculosis in people, and also found to be helpful treating rickets, It is now in the Science Museum in London.

The use of x-rays was still in its infancy in the early 1900s, but side effects had already been noticed. The first badges to check that workers were not being over-exposed to radiation were produced in 1918, and those of us working with x-rays today still wear similar badges. 100 years ago x-ray machines were made of lead lined glass but had no other protective casing, and anybody in the vicinity would have been at risk. Despite this, by 1910, several hospitals had x-ray rooms. A doctor in 1908 wrote that 'the very simplest way of getting rid of a wart is by a single application of the X-rays'. He added that 'the mode of application in the case of warts is very similar to that employed in ringworm. 'Each sitting is between 15 and 30 minutes'. 'Within a week to 10 days afterwards it simply drops off!'

Also in 1908, a writer in the Veterinary Record extolled the virtues of tracheotomy operations, placing a permanent tube in the neck of racehorses to help their stamina in races! 'I myself operated on the horse Patlander at Aintree at 5pm on the day before the Grand National of last year, and he ran third exactly 22hours afterwards – probably one of his best performances'. A reply was printed, from someone worried that 'by aiding the least fit' there would be a disservice on future generations of racehorses. 'I fear his theory, like the time-honoured tradition that docking strengthens the back, is untenable.' Also a tube 'when flat racing', 'in dirty going, gets choked with mud!' Today some racehorses still have this operation, but now only for good medical reasons.

