

The Wylie Centenary Flyer

March 2008



Save Your Garlic For The Kitchen!

We want to make this, our Wylie Centenary Year, extra special. If your pet is livelier and healthier by the end of 2008 we will have achieved our aim. If you have benefited from our Centenary presents and offers along the way - even better.

Our nurses have been helping some of you already this year, and there are many slim pets with fresher breath as a result. One hundred years ago obesity and bad teeth were not major concerns for most dog owners. Feeding scraps and bones may have led to other problems - but the teeth would have been good! However, suffering from worm infestations is a problem dogs and cats of today have in common with their ancestors.

In the early years of the 20th century the fight against intestinal parasites was limited by the drugs available. Garlic was used, as were strong purgatives and toxic mercury salts. The Rockefeller Sanitary Commission was founded in 1909 with the aim of eradicating hookworm disease from 'the southern states of the USA and beyond'. They used a new drug, 'Resorcinol', but this was still toxic and needed several-days administration to be effective. Eradication was found to be impossible. Even with modern drugs it is clear that the fight against worms will always be on-going.

There have been great advances in worm treatments, especially recently. No longer do the drugs purge, or cause vomiting. A one-off treatment of 'Drontal' will treat your dog or cat against both roundworms and tapeworms. There are even drop-on wormers now! Successful worming without stress! The public health risks to children of not worming pets are well-known - all pets should be wormed regularly. Our nurses and vets can give you any help and advice you might need.

Editor: **Kathy Beasley**



It is Dick and Jean Wylie's Platinum Wedding Anniversary this month. 70 years! Now that really is something to celebrate!

P.S. There is still time to enter your pet's photo in our competition. The closing date is the 15th March.

Yes We Are Europeans – But It Is So Good To Live On An Island

In March 1908 there were reports that two dogs in Northampton had been suspected of suffering from rabies. Until then there had been no rabies cases in Britain for 6 years. 672 cases had been seen in 1895 but the introduction of quarantine regulations and a muzzling order had been successful in stamping out the disease. The dogs, having attacked humans and shown signs of the disease, were euthanased. The movement of dogs out of the borough of Northampton and within a radius of 5 miles was prohibited, and all dogs had to be muzzled in public places within that district.

Dog-smuggling was thought to be 'not infrequent'. Count von Farbrace, Equerry to the King of Saxony and his wife were stopped at Dover because 'the Countess was noticed to look bulky when she landed'. A dog was found in a bag under her coat. Ignorance of the law was not accepted, and they were fined £5 plus costs. Even then it was felt that this fine was amazingly small, the maximum possible being £20!

In 1908 all dogs had to be licenced, and, unless a pack hound, had to wear a collar 'with the name and address of the owner inscribed thereon or on a plate attached thereto'. Unfortunately collars and tags get lost, but your pet can be microchipped instead. An 'identichip' means that you no longer need to worry about him or her getting lost. The procedure is a simple injection and lasts for life. Also, although pets going abroad can now be vaccinated against rabies, in order to have a valid 'Pet Passport' that allows them back into this country they must firstly have an identichip. There is a 10% discount if you bring more than one animal to be identichipped - and this month you will also get a Centenary gift!

Advances Come – But At A Price!

The cost of drugs was as much of a problem one hundred years ago as it is now. It particularly caused problems for practices dealing with farm stock and working horses. 'Indispensable' drugs, such as the iodides, could 'not be called cheap' and alkaloids were 'very costly'. However, it was felt that 'the occasions when one particular drug is indicated above all others are the exception, not the rule' and a 'large proportion of cases can be treated perfectly well with cheap drugs'.

Oh, that it were so now!

Medical and veterinary advances have progressed diagnoses and treatments beyond the wildest dreams of our forebears. A specific diagnosis of a condition may often require a very particular treatment, and the more specialised the drug, the more expensive it is likely to be. When you consider the research and testing that goes into the development of the drugs we use now it is no wonder that they are expensive. We benefit from the efficacy and safety margins of modern drugs, but no-one wants the worry of an unexpected expense added to the anxiety you already have for your sick pet.

Pet insurance is available from many different companies and is easy to come by. Costs vary depending on the age and breed of your pet, and will also depend on the cover offered. As with all insurance you need to read the small print - but it is undeniable that some of our patients would not have had the treatment they had, and the successful outcome, if they had not been insured.

