

Lawton and Stoakes

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Veterinary Education and Training Services (International) Ltd—T/a Lawton and Stoakes—Company Number 03431621

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

Staff News

Congatualtions to Noemie who has had a baby boy February 2nd Weighing 3.3kgs. Noemie will be on maternity leave until January 2016. We wish her the best for this time together with her baby. For the time being Martin and Lynne are the only Veterinary Surgeons at the Practice so please bear with us at busy times! Martin has attended the Western States Veterinary Conference again in Las Vegas. Lynne will be attending BSAVA in Birmingham once again to keep up to date with all the latest ideas and treatments for the benefit of our patients. Lynne gave a talk to Moulsham Ladies Club in Chelmsford on the Veterinary Care of Exotic Animals.

Fiona and Paige have attended and passed a British Red Cross one day course on Emergency First Aid at Work and so are now our designated first aiders. Paige and Rachael are continuing with their studies to become Qualified Veterinary Nurses and we are supporting them through this challenging course as they both work hard to reach their goal.

What's in a title?



On 17th February 2015 the RCVS was granted a Royal Charter protecting the title of Veterinary Nurse. All qualified Veterinary Nurses will be placed on a Register and can use the Post Nominals RVN. The Register has actually been open since 2007 with an option for nurses who qualified prior to this date (previously Listed Veterinary Nurses using VN after their names) to join. Fiona who qualified in 2001

STAFF

VETERINARY SURGEONS

Dr. Martin Lawton B.Vet.Med; Cert.V.Ophthal;
Cert L.A.S; C.Biol; M.S.B; D.ZooMed; FRCVS

Dr. Lynne Stoakes B.Vet.Med. MRCVS

Dr. Noemie McDermott B.Vet.Med. MRCVS

RECEPTIONISTS

Joanne Cross

Julie Austin

NURSES

Fiona Gordon RVN Head Nurse

Jamie Biggs RVN

Paige Head 1st Year Trainee Nurse

Rachael Brown 1st Year Trainee Nurse

has therefore now become a Registered Veterinary Nurse. This change brings obligations to its members in that they can be held accountable for their actions and need to show they are keeping up to date by Continuing Professional Development (CPD). It will now be illegal for anyone who is not on the Register to call themselves a Veterinary Nurse.

The RCVS has ruled that Veterinary Surgeons in Britain can use the title Dr. Providing they indicate they are a Veterinary Surgeon. This is following consultation with Veterinary Professionals and the public and brings UK Vets into line with their European and American counterparts.

What's New?

Following on from Martin's visit to the Western Veterinary Conference in February he has purchased a new portable Capnograph. This device measures the Carbon dioxide in the air that is breathed out by the patient. It is used during general anaesthesia to monitor the ability of the patient to ventilate its lungs. It also monitors the forcefulness of the breaths and the respiratory rate and will be used as an adjunct to the other monitoring devices we already use to ensure that our general an-



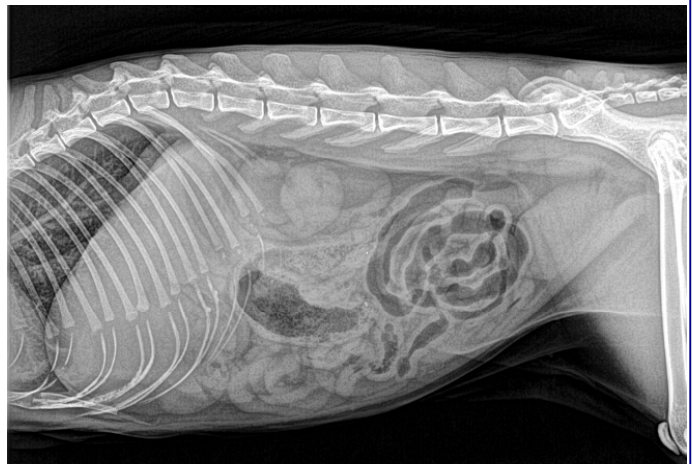
IT'S SPRINGTIME!

Time to wake up your hibernating tortoise. After a period in the cold a nice warm bath is appreciated and they will need a heated enclosure until the weather warms up enough for them to go outside. If your tortoise is not eating within a few days please contact us for an appointment to check them over.



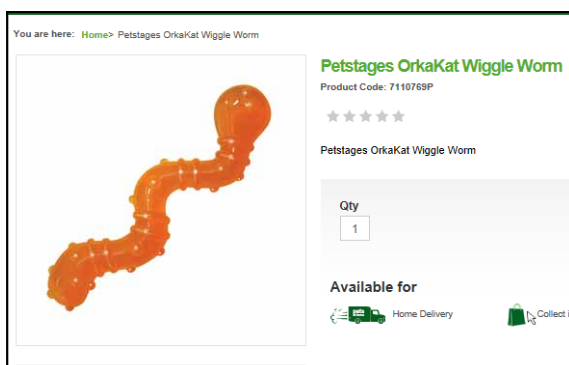
An Unusual Case

Cats are usually very finicky about their food and leave swallowing non-food items to their canine counterparts. However, recently we came across a young cat that managed to chew up a plastic toy which was impregnated with Catnip. The owner immediately removed all the pieces of toy from the vicinity, however, after a few days the cat was showing signs of vomiting and the owner presented him to us. The cat was reasonably bright but dehydrated and had a painful abdomen. Given the owners history we elected to radiograph the abdomen. Plastic does not show up on radiographs but there was tell-tale evidence of dilated small intestine with gas which tends to suggest an obstructive problem. An emergency exploratory laparotomy was performed and a small 1cm piece of plastic toy was removed from the small intestine. The cat is recovering well (you can meet him in our Star Pet feature!). This just goes to show how important information given by the owner can be. Without this information we may have treated this cat medically for the



much more common problem of gastroenteritis with potentially fatal consequences!

We would urge all owners to be wary of buying non-digestible toys containing catnip to avoid this occurring in their cats.



IN THE NEWS

Reptile-linked Salmonella in Children

A recent article in the Veterinary Times reported on a study that showed that more than a quarter of Salmonella cases in children were contracted from a pet reptile. Children with Reptile associated Salmonellosis were more likely to have more serious signs of blood infection, meningitis or colitis and required hospitalisation for treatment.

Salmonella bacteria are sometimes shed in the faeces of reptiles and can be transferred by ingestion. In general the risk of transfer of Salmonella bacteria is very low however, parents are recommended not to allow young children to handle reptiles until they are of an age where they understand the risks and can wash their hands after holding the reptile. It is thought that children under five years old and adults with a suppressed immune system are most at risk.

The risks are easily reduced by observing good hygiene and washing hands after holding any reptile pet.

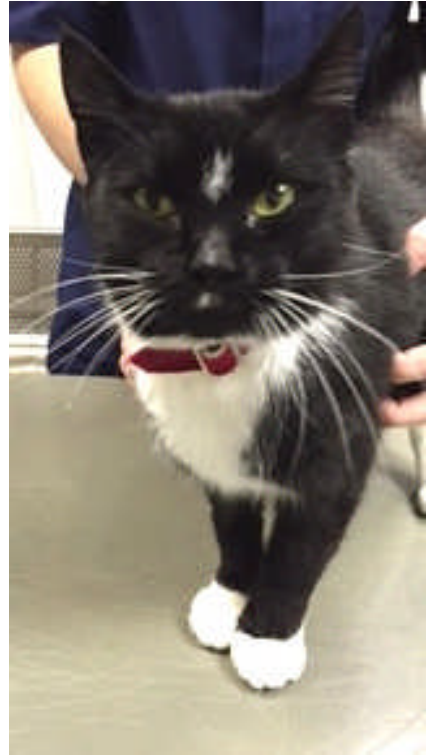
If you are concerned about the risks of your reptile pet to your family please ask for a leaflet on Salmonella and reptiles.



Lawton and Stoakes
Veterinary surgeons
began in October 1985
so 2015 is our 30th year in business!
Why not visit our facebook page?
Help us to get to 100 likes by
October 2015

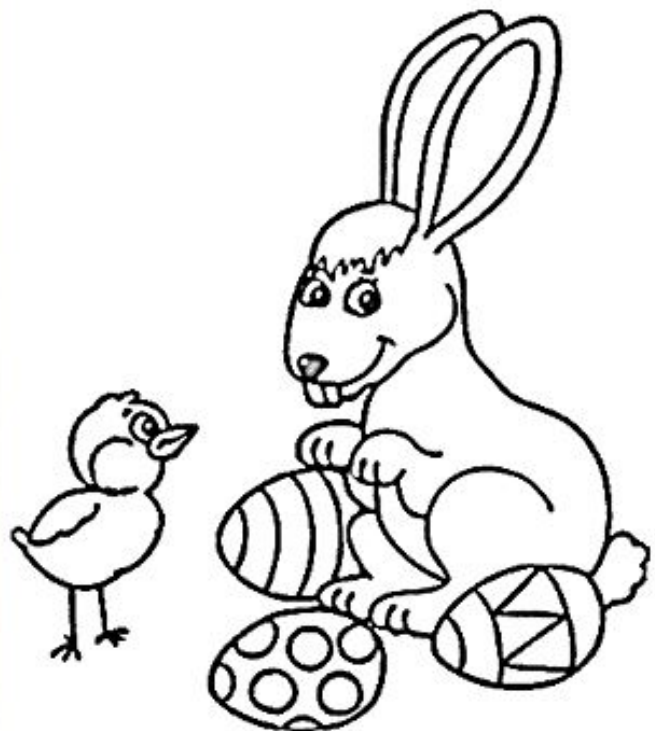
Star Pet

This is Cagney a very mischievous cat that appeared as a stray and adopted its owner recently. Cagney likes to chew and recently chewed and swallowed a piece of plastic toy which then caused a blockage in his intestine. He stole all our hearts by being so friendly during his treatment. Fortunately he is making a good recovery following surgery and we hope that he settles down and keeps out of trouble in future!



KIDS CORNER

A Springtime colouring picture.
Remember rabbits are for life not just for Easter!





Hahns Macaw by Paige Head

Hahns macaws originate from Northern parts of South America and the scientific name is *Ara nobilis nobilis*. They are the smallest of all the macaws measuring about 12 inches in length from the beak to tip of the tail feathers and can also be called Hahn's mini macaw. Adults weigh around 165g and average life expectancy is around 30 years.

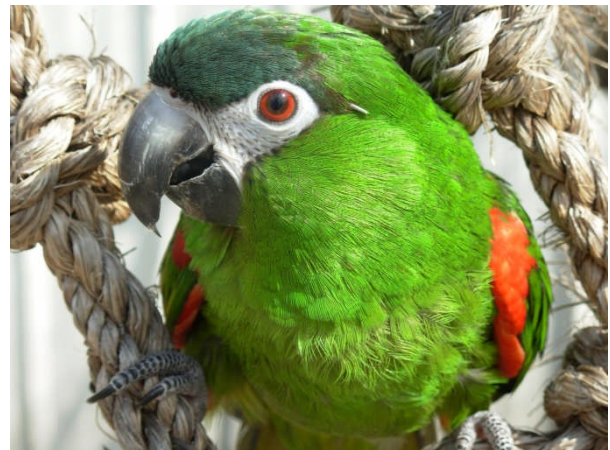
They are Social and intelligent birds, who respond quickly to training and are capable of learning tricks and behaviours. Hahn's Macaws can be good talkers with practice and training however, do exhibit many typical macaw behaviours such as screaming. They are a good choice for the bird lover that wants a macaw, but isn't quite ready to take

on one of the big guys.

Mature Hahn's Macaws are primarily green with darker greenish-blue feathers on their foreheads. They have a spot of bright red on the undersides of their wings in addition to black feet and a black beak. At maturity, their eyes resemble a burnt orange colour, framed by the Macaw's classic bare eye rings.

Hahn's Macaws should be fed a diet consisting of a high quality commercial pellet and seed mix, in addition to daily servings of fresh fruits and vegetables to maintain a varied and nutritious diet. They do enjoy millet sprays also which can keep them entertained for a while and interested in food.

Those interested in owning a Hahn's Macaw must be aware that although the smallest of macaws, they still have a large personality and require a lot of attention. They must be able to exercise and stretch their muscles regularly and plenty of time would be required to bond and train the bird as this is essential to build a good relationship with the bird and to keep them interested. A bored Macaw can become frustrated, upset and angry and potentially make the bird become depressed.



Pododermatitis in Small Furrries

Pododermatitis is a common and debilitating problem in pet rabbits, guinea pigs and Chinchillas. It is caused by pressure sores on the hocks (ankle joints). Contributory factors include lack of exercise and obesity. Early warning signs are loss of fur from the underside of the hock and pinkness of the skin. If this is not addressed then the lesion will progress to a deep seated infection causing discomfort for the patient and requiring intensive treatment.

We recommend that you regularly check your rabbit, guinea pig or chinchilla's feet for this condition and make an appointment with your veterinary surgeon if you are at all concerned.



Pododermatitis in a rabbit.
Vetsonline.org