

# Lawton and Stoakes

Partners:-

**M. P. C. Lawton**

B.Vet.Med; Cert.V.Ophthal; Cert.L.A.S;  
C.Biol; M.S.B; D.Zoo.Med; F.R.C.V.S  
RCVS Recognised Specialist

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## Newsletter Spring 2017



### STAFF NEWS

Lots of new members of staff to introduce this quarter. Dr Moira Kelly has moved to Belgium to be with her husband who has relocated there and in February we sadly said goodbye to Jamie Biggs RVN who had been with us for 10 years initially as a Trainee Nurse and eventually as Head Nurse. Jamie has taken up a position at the Royal Veterinary College in their Haematology Lab.

So new members of staff to introduce are:-

**Dr Daniella Sellick B.Vet.Med. MRCVS**



My name is Daniella and I graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2014. I enjoy surgery and I am currently working towards a further qualification in exotic pet veterinary medicine. At home I live with my husband and my cat "Alfie". In my spare time I enjoy keeping fit, music, baking and sewing. I look forward to

meeting you.

**Donna May**



I worked as a Patient Care Assistant for 18 months and came here to study for Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing. I have a Bearded Dragon and 2 cats. I have previously attained an Animal Management (Hons) degree and have a particular interest in exotic species.

### STAFF

#### VETERINARY SURGEONS

**DR MARTIN LAWTON** B.Vet.Med;  
Cert.V.Ophthal; Cert.L.A.S; C.Biol; M.S.B;  
D.Zoo.Med; FRCVS

**DR LYNNE STOAKES** B.Vet.Med. MRCVS

**DR NOEMIE MCDERMOTT** B.Vet.Med.  
MRCVS

**Dr DANIELLA SELICK** B.Vet.Med. MRCVS

#### RECEPTIONISTS

**JULIE AUSTIN** (Administrator)  
**CORAL WILKINSON**

#### NURSING STAFF

**LAURA BOUCHIER** 1st Yr Trainee  
**LILY KNELL** 1st Yr Trainee  
**DONNA MAY** Nursing Assistant  
**SAMANTHA OSBORNE** Nursing Assistant

**Samantha Osborne**

I have also worked as a Patient Care Assistant for 18 months at another Veterinary Practice. I am hoping to study for the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing. I have a Bichon Frise called Ronnie and in my spare time I like swimming and going to the Cinema to watch horror films.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANGEL!

Angel was 4 years old on 16th March.

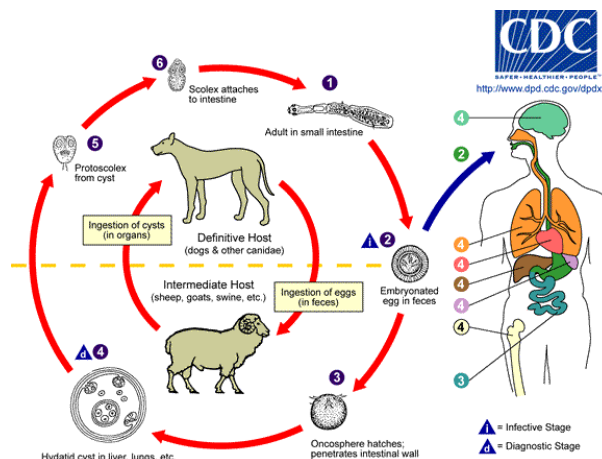


She still goes to training school and is studying for her Gold certificate in the Kennel Club Good Dog Citizen Awards. We've a way to go yet before she reaches the standard but it is fun and very rewarding.

## Risks to Human Health from Exotic Parasites in Animals

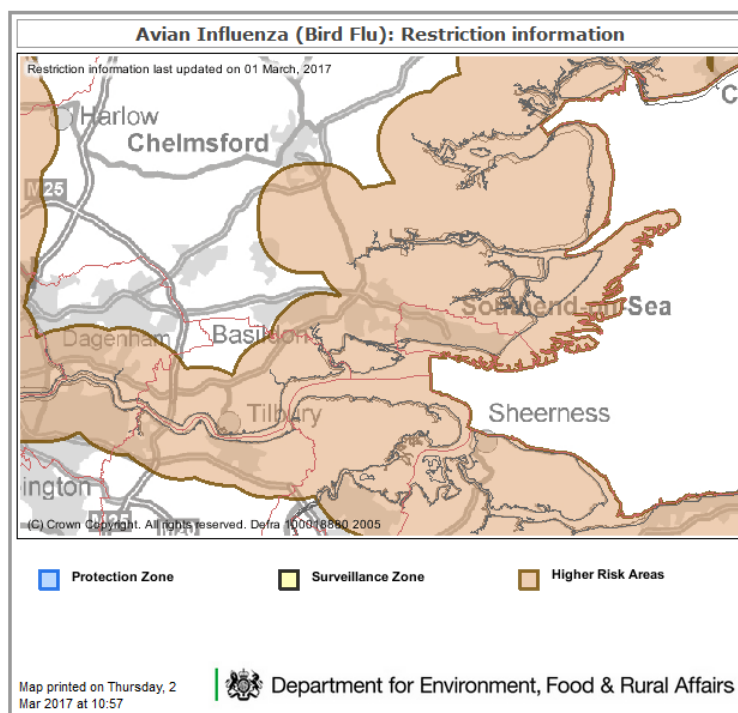
*Echinococcus multilocularis* is a tapeworm carried by many foxes and dogs across Europe. It is not present in the UK thanks to compulsory Tapeworm treatment prior to entering this country from abroad. However the increase in pet travel and relaxation of importation rules means that this situation could change. *E. multilocularis* causes liver cysts in people and can seriously reduce life expectancy.

Tick Bourne Encephalitis is a viral condition spread by *Ixodes* species of Tick. It is prevalent in Eastern Europe but is spreading Westwards and the ceasing of compulsory Tick treatment on entering the UK means that this condition could be brought in to the UK unwittingly on pet dogs. It is important that people taking their pets abroad are aware of these conditions and treat their pets accordingly. Control of illegal importation of puppies is essential and we would advise our clients considering buying a puppy to buy from Kennel Club Assured Breeders in this country to avoid the unscrupulous market in illegally imported pups.



## IN THE NEWS

The Prevention zone for bird flu has now been lifted as of the 28<sup>th</sup> February. If you are not in a high risk area then birds can now be allowed outdoors into fenced areas as long as those areas are made unattractive to wild birds (covering ponds and removing food sources), taken action to reduce and existing contamination, fenced off wet or boggy areas and have assessed the risk of contact with wild birds. For those in higher risk areas then the previous guidance under the prevention zone still stands. Higher risk areas include Rainham, Dagenham, Grays, Stanford-le-Hope, Rayleigh, Southend-on-Sea and areas of Basildon, Billericay and Chelmsford. For more information visit the DEFRA website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>.



**“Buying Medications online can put Health at Risk”** was a recent headline on the BBC News Web-site. People were warned to be wary of buying medications on the internet after an investigation found widespread failings. It may be tempting to use online pharmacies as medication from Veterinary Practices can be expensive to purchase, however if the medication is being offered at an extremely reduced price caution should be exercised in case the product is not genuine. Always buy from a reputable site and remember if it looks too good to be true it may well be and could put your pet’s health at risk.

### **SPRING IS ON ITS WAY!**

**PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH BABY BIRDS THAT MAY HAVE FALLEN FROM THE NEST. THE PARENTS MAY BE NEARBY AND BETTER EQUIPED TO SAVE THEM.**

**CREATURES ARE EMERGING FROM THEIR WINTER SLEEP HELP THEM BY PROVIDING FOOD AND WATER .**

**SLUGS AND SNAILS WILL SOON BECOME ACTIVE. REMEMBER TO USE ADVOCATE TO PROTECT YOUR DOGS FROM LUNG-WORM.**

**TORTOISES APPRECIATE A WARM BATH AND A HEAT LAMP TO HELP THEM WARM UP.**



## **Mouth Rot (Stomatitis) in Tortoises**

Mouth rot is commonly seen in tortoises waking from hibernation. This is a critical time for tortoises who have often had a long period in hibernation to avoid our cold British winters. The tortoises’ immune system is low and infectious agents take hold. It is important to



know the signs and to get early treatment for this condition. Affected tortoises usually refuse to eat. They may seek out a cold spot and refuse to move. Around the mouth you will often note a mucous discharge or a bad smell. On opening the mouth the creamy pus can be seen adhering to the tongue and sides of the mouth.

Treatment is aimed at improving the tortoises’ immunity by warming them artificially using heat lamps and rehydrating them with warm baths. Nutrition can be provided in the form of a powdered Glucose administered in the water- we recommend Reptoboost for this purpose. It is important if using this to rinse the tortoise after its bath to remove the sticky residue.

If your tortoise is inappetent for a long period then liquidised food may need to be given by stomach tube or a pharyngostomy tube, which is placed under general anaesthetic.

The prognosis depends largely on the severity of the condition and whether there are any underlying health issues. It will often recur after subsequent hibernations and affected tortoises should have a short hibernation period or be kept awake in a warm environment over winter.

If you have any concerns regarding your recently woken tortoise then please do not hesitate to contact us for an appointment to give them a health check. Post Hibernation checks are charged a special reduced rate and you can ask the Veterinary Surgeon any health or husbandry related questions at this time.

## **STAR PET**

Meet Archie who has been treated for diabetes since October 2015. Stabilising diabetic cats is very difficult, however Archie is doing very well on his special diabetic food and twice daily insulin injections given by his owner. Well done Archie!



## EXOTIC SPOT

### The Moluccan Cockatoo by Daniella Sellick

**Cockatoos** are a type of parrot. The **Moluccan Cockatoo** is one of the largest of the white cockatoo species. Living for between 40 and 60 years with good husbandry they usually grow to about 900g in weight, with the females being slightly larger. Apart from their striking appearance they are avid attention seekers and are very affectionate with the right care, but like most cockatoos can become unruly if neglected. They are one of the loudest parrot species and are quite good at mimicking sounds; however they do not make the most talkative of birds.

Generally the larger the cage for your Moluccan cockatoo the better, it should also be sturdy and tough as their beaks are very strong and they enjoy chewing things. Inside the cage there should be perches of various sizes, a few toys which should be rotated regularly and enough space to fully extend their wings. They also require time outside the cage daily to exercise. Do ensure that no cage parts or toys are made with galvanized zinc or lead parts or paint as these can be toxic.



Your parrot should be fed a balanced and varied diet consisting of:

- **70% specialist pellet diet:** (e.g. Harrison's), these are nutritionally balanced. Commercial "parrot seed mixes" are often too high in fat and missing many essential nutrients and so should not form a significant proportion of your parrot's diet.
- **30% fresh fruit and vegetables:** can include all types of fruits such as apples, oranges, pears, plums, bananas, mangos, papayas, and even berries such as strawberries and blueberries and sprouted seeds, vegetables such as carrots, cucumbers, zucchini, and even dandelions can be given. It's even better if these can be provided in a way to encourage foraging and natural behavior.

**Do not feed avocado, chocolate, fruit seeds, alcohol, or caffeine.**

**Useless Moluccan facts:** male cockatoos have a black iris whilst females have a brown iris. These birds are known as pests in grain and coconut plantations where they eat and destroy the crops.

## KIDS CORNER

### CAN YOU FIND THE ANIMALS IN THE WORDSEARCH?

1. Dog	D	F	P	O	N	Y	R	J	O	T
2. Cat	O	H	S	P	S	N	A	K	E	O
3. Rabbit	S	A	A	N	G	R	H	T	J	R
4. Hamster	A	M	N	M	A	F	E	I	L	T
5. Parrot	L	S	F	I	S	H	E	B	G	O
6. Fish	A	I	G	C	A	T	R	B	Y	I
7. Snake	B	S	Z	K	I	A	E	A	E	S
8. Horse	Y	R	R	A	P	H	O	R	S	E
9. Pony	S	P	A	R	R	O	T	F	T	Y
10. Rat	H	T	T	F	Y	D	D	O	G	X
11. Lizard										
12. Tortoise										