

Lawton and Stoakes

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NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018



STAFF NEWS

This issue we would like you to welcome two new members of staff:

We have a new Head Nurse - Emily Mathias

Emily has been working as a Nursing Assistant for many years and qualified as a Veterinary Nurse from the College of Animal Welfare in January 2017 after training at various practices in the South East. Emily's family pets include dogs, cats, guinea pigs and a horse and a donkey. She herself has a giant Rabbit called Hester. Emily's role as Head Nurse will be to help our Nursing Trainees with their studies, organising staff rotas and ensuring that the practice runs smoothly.



Demi-Nicole Nightingill is joining us as a Nursing Assistant. She has spent 10months working at a 24hr Veterinary Hospital as a patient care assistant. She has a Degree from Writtle College on Equine Behaviour and has her own horse as well as 2 Cocker Spaniels and a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel.

Her goal is to qualify as a Veterinary Nurse and she is interested in the Exotic Species. Her hobbies include horse-riding, painting and cross stitch.



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 Sellick B.Vet.Med.
MRCVS

RECEPTIONISTS

Julie Austin
Coral Wilkinson

NURSING STAFF

Head Nurse
Emily Mathias RVN

Trainee Nurses

Laura Bouchier 2nd yr Trainee
Lily Knell 2nd yr Trainee
Demi Nightingill Nursing Assistant

We're sure you would like to join us in congratulating Laura and Lily on their recent exam successes. Lily is now able to move on to the second year of her studies at City and Islington College.

WHAT'S NEW?

Not so much new as refurbished! Our Centrifuge recently had to be sent away for repairs. This machine is used daily to spin down blood samples to separate the red blood cells from the plasma and is essential to our laboratory.



Also our haematology machine developed a hardware problem and has had to be sent away for repairs. Fortunately we have been given a machine on loan until ours is repaired.

Work is in hand to finish our Exotics Hospitalisation room and I hope to bring you pictures in the next issue of this newsletter.

SPRING WEATHER????



Angel and Buffy had a typical reaction to the snow in early March. Angel barked at it and Buffy tried to eat it! Remember to take extra care of pets during the bad weather. Wipe or rinse dog's paws to wash away any rock salt, which can be toxic if eaten in quantity. Rabbits and guinea pigs need to be in a sheltered location and monitor water bottles for freezing. Check on hibernating tortoises as freezing temperatures can damage eyes leading to blindness.

Anal Gland Disease in Dogs

The anal sacs are reservoirs for secretions which are normally expressed onto the faeces when the dog defaecates. They are thought to be for scent marking. The glands can become impacted or infected or can become cancerous.

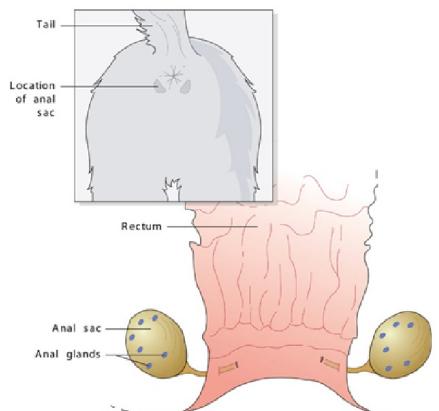
Signs of Anal Gland problems include scooting of the bottom particularly after defaecating, itchiness around the anus and tail chasing, pain on passing faeces or a reluctance to do so and the release of a foul smelling fluid from the bottom.

Causes of this disorder include soft faeces or diarrhoea and other skin problems can lead to changes in the anal gland secretion. Cancer of the anal glands is commonest in the German Shepherd dog, Golden Retriever and Springer Spaniels.

If your Veterinary /surgeon suspects an anal gland problem they will gently perform a rectal examination to manually express the secretion and assess whether there is evidence for infection. If the glands are impacted or infected they may be too painful to allow expression and the dog may have to be sedated for this procedure. If there is evidence of infection the glands may be packed with an antibiotic ointment.

In cases of persistent infection the glands can be surgically removed.

Cats have anal glands too although they are rarely a problem in this species.



In the News

The RSPCA are calling to make it a legal requirement to microchip all cats as is the case with dogs at the moment.

Microchipping pets helps to ensure that they are returned to their rightful owner if they become lost or stray. We offer microchipping at booster vaccination or consultation at a specially reduced rate. If you are interested in having your pet microchipped please ask one of our receptionists for details.

POST HIBERNATION

It will soon be time to wake up your tortoises after their winter nap. Even if the weather is not good we would not advise leaving your tortoise in



hibernation beyond March, however you will need a means to keep them warm until they are able to go outside. A warm bath helps and heat lamps are ideal.

Bird 'Flu

Following the discovery of dead wild birds testing positive for Bird 'Flu in Warwickshire and Dorset there is a Bird 'Flu prevention zone across the whole of England. DEFRA reports that the risk to public health is low but it is a legal requirement for bird keepers, whether they have a few backyard birds or a large flock, to increase biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of this disease.

Bird keepers are required to:
Remove wild bird food sources
Cover ponds with netting
Feed their own birds in an enclosed area away from wild birds
Minimise access by people.



STAR PET

Our star pet this quarter is Toby. He came to see us back in December complaining of tooth pain and in need of some dental treatment, so we quickly scheduled him in. However his pre-operative blood tests showed that he had hyperthyroidism and kidney disease! This meant that he had to go onto medication first to stabilise his conditions before he could have an anaesthetic. He was very forgiving of this and took his medication well and so was rescheduled for his procedure a few weeks later. Unfortunately for Toby he caught the flu and so had to undergo further treatment and wait even longer to have his teeth sorted. He has now had his dental treatment and is doing well on his treatment for the other conditions. He is enjoying his new water fountain and tucking into his new special diet too! Throughout the whole experience he has been very brave and not had a grumble or gripe against any of the treatment, even with all the blood samples and intravenous fluids he had. He really has been a dream patient and I am sure you will agree that he is handsome too.



KIDS CORNER

**Can you name
all the
exotic animals
in the box
on the right?
Which one
doesn't live in the
wild
in our country?**



Exotic Spot

Common Musk turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*)

The common musk turtle originates from eastern North America from Florida to Ontario and as far west as Texas. They inhabit slow moving streams and ponds. It has a domed carapace (top shell) and reduced plastron (underneath shell). It is a small species growing to 10- 13cm (4-5 inches) in length.



It has glands, which produce a foul smelling liquid for which it gets its common name the "stinkpot turtle". As with all reptiles we recommend that you ensure you purchase a captive bred specimen. They may live up to 30years if well cared for.

Common musk turtles should be kept in an aquarium with water shallow enough that they are able to extend their long neck to keep their head out of water without having to paddle. A dry land area should be provided even if it is seldom used. A basking lamp providing a hot spot of 32°C (90°F) and an ambient temperature of 26°- 28°C (78° - 82° F) should be provided. Also the water should be heated to maintain a temperature of 22°C - 26°C (72°- 78°F). It is important to provide good filtration of the water. Substrate is not required although small pebbles, which are too large to be ingested may be provided for aesthetic reasons.

Common musk turtles eat a variety of molluscs and aquatic insects in the wild. In captivity this can be mimicked by providing earthworms, cut up fish, shrimp, crickets and bloodworms. Some will eat pond weed or duck weed and freshwater turtle pellets.