

Lawton and Stoakes

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RCVS Recognised Specialist



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NEWSLETTER WINTER 2018



STAFF NEWS

Clare Brimstone has joined us as receptionist to assist Julie. She has settled into the role well and is looking forward to meeting our clients old and new. Clare has a Certificate in Higher Education in Animal Studies and has a rescue Bichon Frise of her own.



What's New?

There have been many changes over the past few weeks, some obvious, some behind the scenes. Decorating continues with our nursing staff donning their old clothes and taking up paint brushes and continuing to spruce up the pre-op room, Imaging room, and creating a new staff rest room! Also, behind the scenes, following the breakdown of our 14 year old hot water system we have had the hot water cylinder replaced and now, thankfully, have hot water again! More obvious to clients will be our new lighting. We have replaced the older fluorescent style lights which were great in their day (also 14 years ago when we had our major refurbishment) with new LED daylight panels. These are not only much brighter, allowing for a better examination of your pets, but are also more Eco friendly using a fraction of the electricity of the previous lights.

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 Tatiana Mashanova B.Vet.Med. MRCVS

RECEPTIONISTS

Julie Austin

Clare Brimstone

NURSING STAFF

Emily Mathias RVN Head Nurse

Laura Bouchier 2nd yr trainee

Lily Knell 2nd yr trainee

Chloe Peirce Animal Care Assistant



Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus 2

Classic rabbit haemorrhagic disease has been present in the UK since the early 1990's. It has been brought under control by vaccination and good husbandry. However, in 2014 a variant of RHDV named RHDV 2 has spread to the UK from mainland Europe. The disease affects rabbits of all ages.

There are different presentations of this disease ranging from peracute where affected animals are found dead with no apparent signs of illness to subacute or chronic where animals have clinical signs of jaundice and anorexia and sometimes death from liver failure 2 weeks after infection. Animals that do recover will be immune to the RHVD2 variant only and may shed virus for up to 2 months after infection. Both of these viruses are very difficult to remove from the environment being resistant to many disinfectants.



As the name suggests the virus causes haemorrhages throughout the body and enlargement of the liver and spleen. The clinical signs can mimic those of other conditions and so RHDV2 can only be definitively diagnosed by laboratory tests looking for viral RNA.

The disease is very contagious being spread by direct contact with infected animals or indirectly by exposure to food bowls and water bottles or handlers clothing. Flies can also spread this disease.

To prevent outbreaks of disease the advice is not to forage for food in areas where outbreaks in wild rabbits are known to occur and quarantine of new animals brought into existing colonies.

There is now a vaccine available for RHDV2. This must be given in addition to vaccines against Myxomatosis and RHDV (usually 2 weeks apart). This gives good protection against the disease for up to one year. If you would like more information please telephone for an appointment with one of our vets.

Changes to Pet Travel in the event of a No-Deal Brexit

It will still be possible to travel with your pet to Europe after Brexit, however some additional steps may need to be taken in the event of No Deal being reached.

In order to travel to the EU dog, cat and ferret owners will need to prove their animals are effectively vaccinated against Rabies. This will require a blood test to be taken no less than 30 days after the Rabies Vaccination and at least **3 months** before travel.

This is important because if an owner wants to take their pet to the EU soon after 30th March 2019 it is advisable to contact their vet at least 4 months before travel, that is November 2018 in order to accommodate this.

More information can be found on the Government Website; gov.uk and **search pet travel**.



Welcome to the Winter edition of Nursing Natter

How quick has this year gone!? December and January in particular are always a time for reflection; we all worry how many pounds we have piled on over the festive period, but have you considered your pet's waistline this year? Obesity among our furry friends is rife, we have so much control over their predominant diet and when you see them on a regular basis it's hard to distinguish if they have gained weight. As Veterinary Nurses we are always keen for our patients to be as healthy and happy as possible, unfortunately obesity is a disease that can not only limit your friend's life span but also put them at a higher risk of anaesthetic complications, diabetes and joint disease. As many of you know trying to lose weight is not easy but getting your pet to lose weight is slightly more straight forward, you control their portion sizes, the fat content of their food and their exercise, which let's face it is what holds most of us humans back! (I know it certainly does for me!) If you are struggling to get your pet to lose weight, why not make an appointment with one of the nurses, together we can make a plan to help shed some pounds. The difference to their activity and waist line will amaze you! Have a healthy and happy Christmas and a great new year, catch you in 2019! Emily x



Star Pet

This Colin the canary. Colin was brought in by a member of the public as he had been found in their garden. He was in a sorry state and so we took him in and our nurses have done a wonderful job of restoring him to health. He has been with us now for 9 weeks and as no-one has claimed him we are now looking for his forever home.

STOP PRESS COLIN NOW HAS HIS FOREVER HOME! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO OFFERED!



See Exotic Spot in this Newsletter for How to care for a Canary!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL PATIENTS AND THEIR OWNERS!

Our Opening Hours Over the Christmas and New Year Period are:

Mon 24th December 9-6pm
Tue 25th December Closed
Wed 26th December Closed

Mon 31st December 9-6pm
Tue 1st January Closed.

Normal opening hours outside of these days.

Exotic Spot

The Canary Bird (*Serinus canaria domestica*).

Canaries originate from The Canary Islands. These small birds are members of the finch family and can live up to 10 years if well cared for. The males are noted for their birdsong unlike the females that just cheep! Due to selective breeding, they now come in a range of colours as well as the familiar yellow.

Canaries require a cage that is big enough to allow them to fly around freely. The bigger the better! They are better kept with a companion unless they can have frequent attention from their owners. The perches should be as natural as possible. Apple and Pear twigs and branches are suitable provided they have been well cleaned. If wooden dowel is used make sure to have a variety of diameters and inclinations to exercise and keep feet healthy. Food pots and water dishes should not be placed beneath perches or they will become soiled. The floor should be covered with paper or sandpaper and cleaned daily. A removable tray makes this easier.

They are primarily seed eaters and a variety of seed should be given. If using a commercial mix make sure it is in a sealed bag with an expiry date to ensure it is not contaminated by fungal spores. Water should be available at all times and some greenstuff can be offered such as chickweed and cress. Avoid honey sticks as these can lead to obesity. Millet sprays are also welcomed in moderation. Pelleted food is available for canaries and offers the best solution to picky eaters who may not otherwise get a balanced diet.

They are well known for being sensitive to airborne pollutants (hence their use in coal mines to detect poisonous gases) and as such should be kept well away from cooking areas and should not be exposed to cigarette smoke or household sprays.

KIDS CORNER

Here's a Christmas Picture for you to colour in. Why not send it in to us? We'd love to see your creations!!

