

# Lawton and Stoakes

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

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019



### Staff News

Dr Noemie McDermott returns to the practice following her maternity leave and will be continuing to cover Saturdays and holiday/leave of the other veterinary surgeons. She is looking forward to seeing both regular and new clients.

Dr Martin Lawton has spent 2 weeks in Las Vegas at the Western Veterinary Conference.

Dr Lynne Stoakes will be attending the BSAVA conference in Birmingham again this year for 4 days of learning.

Laura is fast approaching the end of her veterinary nursing course having passed all the theory papers and the Nursing Progress Log. Now all that remains is to pass the Practical exam before she can qualify as a Registered Veterinary Nurse. I'm sure you will join us in wishing her Good Luck!

### 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> yr trainee

**Lily Knell** 2<sup>nd</sup> yr trainee

**Chloe Peirce** Animal Care Assistant

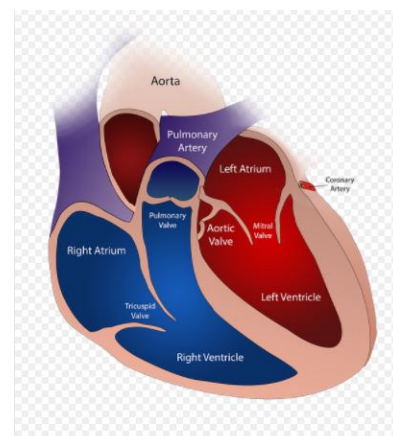
### LOST PROPERTY!

We have a number of items of lost property waiting to be claimed. These include scarves and jumpers. If you think you may have left something behind on your last visit please enquire at reception and we can reunite you with your property!!



# Congestive Heart Failure in Dogs

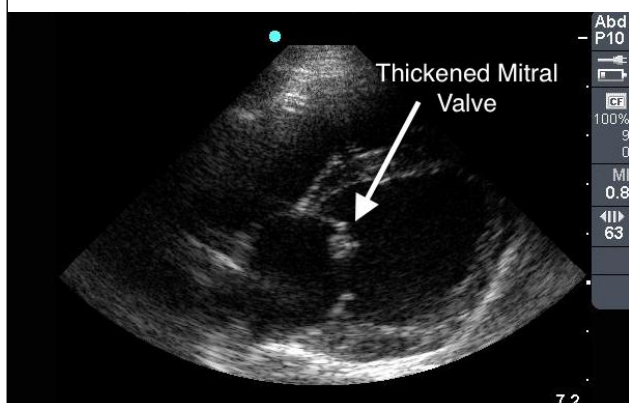
The heart is a muscular pump responsible for circulating blood throughout the body. The heart is divided into two sides. The left side receives oxygen rich blood from the lungs and delivers it to the body and the right side receives oxygen poor blood from the body and delivers it to the lungs to be re-oxygenated. Each side of the heart is also divided into a top receiving chamber called the atrium (atria plural) and a main pumping chamber called the ventricle. Between these two chambers lie valves which ensure that blood only flows in a forward direction.



In older mainly small breed male dogs these valves can become thickened and fail to meet causing some of the pumped blood to flow backwards into the atria. This causes turbulence which can be heard through a stethoscope as a murmur. The condition is known by several names and is commonly called Endocardiosis.

As a result of this abnormal flow the heart has to work harder and becomes larger which eventually exacerbates the problem and leads to congestive heart failure.

Signs of congestive heart failure that an owner may notice may include weight loss, increased thirst, lack of energy, cough or laboured breathing or pot belly.



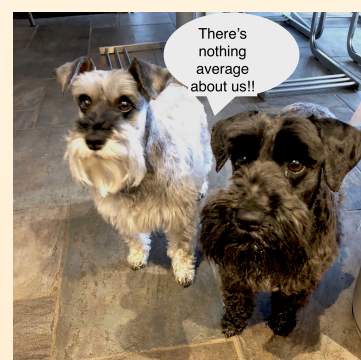
If the Veterinary Surgeon detects a murmur or irregular rhythm with a stethoscope they may want to do further tests such as Xrays, Ultrasound (Echocardiography) or an ECG (Electrocardiogram) to identify the cause and the extent of the problem which then determines what treatment should be given.

Endocardiosis is not curable and treatment is aimed at reducing the congestion, thereby alleviating the signs and giving the patient a good quality of life.

If you think your dog may be showing signs mentioned above our Vets will be happy to examine them and assess the heart, just telephone and ask our receptionists for an appointment.

## RVC Study into breed specific disease.

A study conducted by the Royal Veterinary College has found that the Miniature Schnauzer is the UK's "most average breed". Although prone to a few medical conditions such as dental disease, obesity and anal sac impaction they did not have any breed specific problems and so could be thought of as a good breed for new owners. Do Angel and Buffy Lawton agree?! More information can be found <http://bit.ly/2Is7Wbb>



## NURSING NATTER

Welcome back to nursing natter. This quarter's topic is Continuing Professional Development or CPD to save a few syllables! Few people will be aware that CPD is a mandatory requirement from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS- the governing body for Veterinary Surgeons and Nurses) in order for us to remain on the register and therefore be able to work and call themselves respectively a Vet or Veterinary Nurse. A Veterinary Surgeon must complete 105 hours of study over a 3-year period (Averaging 35 hours per year) and for a nurse a minimum of 45 hours over 3 years (averaging 15 hours per year) is required. This is a substantial ask on a profession that works long hours with often challenging and complicated situations. CPD can be carried out in a number of ways – whether it is reading, watching webinars (online tutorials), attending conferences across the world or taking part in practical workshops. CPD opens up a whole new world for veterinary professionals, broadening our knowledge bases but also keeping us up to date with all ground breaking treatments for your lovely pets, which in some cases can be life changing!



## Slugs and Slug Bait

With the spring comes an increase in the population of slugs. Although these critters can devastate crops and flowers and are a source of Lungworm parasite for dogs please consider carefully how you deal with them. DEFRA has announced its intention to ban the molluscicide Metaldehyde in the spring of 2020. Metaldehyde is the main ingredient of the “little blue pellets” commonly in use to kill slugs and snails. If these pellets are eaten by dogs or cats, they can cause tremors or convulsions within 30 minutes of ingestion and unless treated early can be fatal. If you are considering methods to deter slugs from your prized plants, please check the packaging to ensure they are pet (and wildlife) safe.



## Tortoise Care

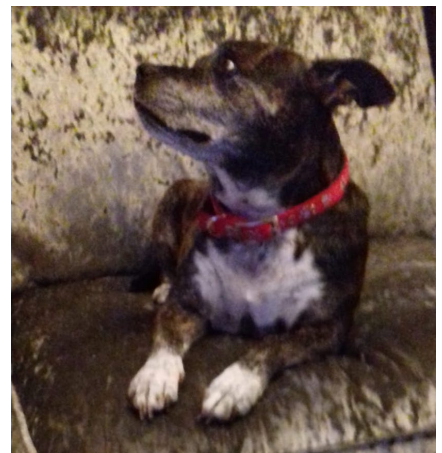
Do you have a tortoise in hibernation? Now is the time to be checking carefully on their progress. It is important that if there are any signs of tortoise activity or if it has urinated or defaecated the tortoise should be brought out of hibernation and kept warm. This can be achieved by using heat lamp and bathing them in warm water daily until they are eating. Under no circumstances should a tortoise that has become active be allowed to re-enter hibernation as it is likely not to have enough reserves to wake a second time. If you have any concerns about how to keep your tortoise healthy at this critical time of the year please telephone **Lawton and Stoakes 01708 384444** for advice.



## Star Pet



Socks is an 8 year old Staffordshire Bull Terrier who has been very brave recently. Late in 2018 Socks owners noticed lumps appear in her mammary glands. She has undergone 2 major operations six weeks apart to remove all the mammary tissue in an attempt to stop the tumour from spreading. Socks stole everyone's heart while she was with us and behaved so well despite all that she has been through. **What a Star!!**





## Exotic spot

### Tegu Lizard (Tupinambis, Salvator spp)

These large lizards originate from Central and South America and can become very tame and friendly if handled well from an early age. An adult Tegu may grow to be 3ft (90cm) in length and will need an enclosure 6-8ft (180- 240cm) long and 3ft (90cm) deep and high and if well cared for can live for up to 20years. Within the vivarium they require a basking spot of 37-43°C and a cooler end at 24-27°C and a humidity of 70-90% which can be supplied by misting the substrate regularly, although it is important not to saturate the substrate as this can lead to disease.

UV light is essential and is supplied by a UVB bulb which should be changed every 6-9months and

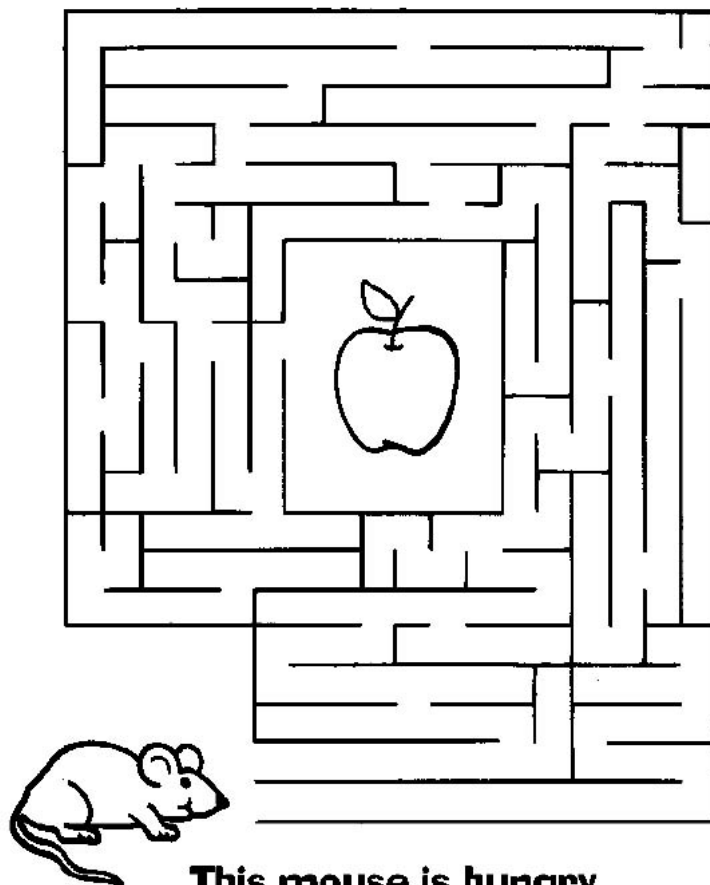
should be on for 12hours a day. The UV light should be placed towards the hot end of the vivarium.

Tegus are omnivores in the wild and should be offered insects (gut loaded with calcium powder), whole frozen/thawed rodents, lean meat, fruit and vegetables. It is essential to also provide a calcium supplement to both hatchlings and adults. Young Tegus should be fed daily while adults are fed every 3 days. Fresh water to drink and to bathe in should always be available and an additional bath twice weekly will help with shedding.



## KIDS CORNER

**This poor mouse wants to nibble the apple. Can you help him find a way through the maze?**



**This mouse is hungry.  
Will you help him find the apple?**