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Welcome

Welcome to our Small Animal Practice Spring 2017 newsletter.

Another mild and wet
Winter passes and Spring
is here again. I always feel
that Spring is imminent
when the daffodils that line
the entrance at Langford
Vets are in bloom.

The North Somerset Show is
on the horizon and as usual
we will be there, so please
come along and say hello. We enjoy seeing our
clients in a less formal setting, and many of you
bring your dogs along for a biscuit too.

I usually take the opportunity in the Spring
newsletter to discuss parasite control as a
warning, but we have noticed (particularly
amongst dogs) that there has been a reduction
in the tick problem since the new prescription
medicines became available a few years ago.
We rarely see ticks on dogs in the practice now
despite being in a rural location, although we
do, on occasion, have locum vets to help in the
practice who report that ticks remain a regional
problem. I can only assume that this represents
the effectiveness of the products we now have
available to us. If you have any concerns
about parasite control options, please book an
appointment to discuss this further as we try to
develop a tailor made solution for each pet,
dependent on their risk.

We are coming to the end of the current year
of veterinary students, and the next group of
students will be starting in May. Their time in
our clinics is vital to allow them to develop their
communication and clinical skills and to help
them to become the vets of the future. So, thank
you for the help you give us with the students in
allowing them to participate in your pets’ care.

I hope you enjoy your Spring, this newsletter and
wishing your pets the best of health.

James Allsop
BVSc GPCert(FelP) MRCVS
Clinical Lead of the Small Animal Practice

Dates for your diary

May

1st North Somerset Show

Once again we are looking forward to attending the
North Somerset Show this year on 1st May 2017.
Come and say hello to us on our stand where
you can enter our free prize draw, enjoy some
refreshments and find out about our latest news and
offers.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Practice News

Staff updates

We’re very pleased to welcome two new staff
members to the Small Animal Practice team!

Firstly, welcome to our new Practice Vet, Liz Arnold
(below left). Liz joined us in January, having previously
worked as a Locum for us.

Secondly, welcome to our new Receptionist Helen
Goss (below right) who also joined us in January.

We’re sure you’ll join us in making them both feel
very welcome!

Come and see us on Bank Holiday Monday!
**Pet News**

**Avian Flu**

Much of the area surrounding Langford remains a “High Risk” zone for Avian Influenza.

The guidelines issued by the government remain in place for housing birds or taking additional bio-security steps where housing is not possible. Bird keepers can get additional information, and the latest news and guidance from the government website (link below).

www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu

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**Pet News**

**Rabbit Vaccination Update**

Over the last year we have been recommending vaccinating rabbits against a new strain of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD). This protection is offered in addition to routine vaccination against Myxomatosis and type 1 RHD. The new vaccine has now been licensed for use across the EU with a vaccine schedule of 6 monthly doses. Our recommendation for your rabbit(s) is:

- Annual vaccination against Myxomatosis and RHD-1
- 6 monthly RHD-2 vaccinations

The two vaccines have to be administered at least two weeks apart.

We are currently offering a new ‘Rabbit Vaccination Package’ at an annual cost of £85.00, which includes the following:

- Annual Myxomatosis/RHD-1 vaccination
- Bi-annual RHD-2 vaccine
- Two full health checks, performed at time of vaccination with a vet
- Third vaccination will be administered by a veterinary nurse or vet and will include a brief examination
- Free nail clip with a nurse by appointment at any time
- 10% discount off neutering & microchip
- 10% discount off waiting room products e.g. food or hay
- 10% off consultation (excluding Out of Hours consultations)

In comparison, the individual costs of vaccinations are £48 for the Myxo/RHD-1 and £47.91 for each RHD-2 vaccine. Depending on the timing of vaccination, it may be possible to reduce this cost further if one of the RHD-2 vaccinations is administered two weeks after the myxo-rhd vaccine.

If you would like to book an appointment or have any questions, please get in touch with our Reception team.

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**Facebook Photo Competition**

Our monthly Facebook photo competition is an opportunity for all of our followers to get involved by sending in their pet photos for the chance to win a £15 voucher to spend in our Small Animal Practice.

Each month will feature a different theme, which will be announced at the start of the month.

Our upcoming themes are:

- April: Fooling around
- May: May the flowers bloom
- June: June Jesters

Think you’ve got a winning photo?

Send your photo to us via our Facebook page or email us at news@langfordvets.co.uk

For full Terms and Conditions, or to find out more, head to our Facebook page:

/langfordvetssap
On the 22nd September 2016, two tiny stray kittens were brought into the practice by one of our regular clients. The kittens - one black and one grey - had been found on the side of the A38. They were less than 24 hours old, still had part of their umbilical cord attached and their eyes were still closed. With no indication of the mother around, the kittens were brought into the practice.

Our veterinary surgeons performed a thorough examination. Both kittens were covered in fly eggs, which, if not removed, would have hatched into maggots. Without knowing when the kittens would have last been fed, our veterinary nurses made up some kitten formula milk and began to syringe feed them. The kittens were very weak and it took a great deal of patience and nursing care to get them to accept even a small amount of milk from a syringe. They were placed on insulated hot water bottles to ensure they were kept warm and all of the fly eggs were removed with a flea comb.

Kittens of this age are totally dependent on their mother for all aspects of care, including feeding, toileting and grooming. This meant our nursing team had to act as a ‘substitute’ mother and hand rear these kittens to give them any chance of survival. Hand rearing, although rewarding, is a difficult job; kittens have to be fed every 2 hours during the day and night for the first 10-14 days of their life. They also need to be stimulated to pass urine and faeces after every feed by rubbing wet cotton wool onto their bottom.

Hand rearing is also difficult because it is usually the weakest kittens or puppies from the litter, or ones may have been through some trauma, that require hand-rearing. Kittens that are reared by their mother will receive maternally derived antibodies via her milk which provides a level of immunity, helping them to fight off any illness or infections. For this reason the survival rate of hand-reared kittens and puppies is usually quite low.

After a slow first few days, both kittens had begun to get used to taking milk from a syringe, and they started to thrive - they were both drinking lots of milk and growing rapidly. However, a week later, the black kitten started to deteriorate. She wasn’t drinking much milk and had become very weak. The nurse who had been fostering them became concerned and brought her into the practice to be checked by one of our vets.

An attempt was made to rehydrate her with fluids and glucose, but sadly, after a few hours she still hadn’t improved and the decision was made to put her to sleep to prevent her suffering.

The little grey kitten however, continued to thrive and grow very rapidly. Her feeds stretched out over the course of 6 weeks; as she was growing she could take larger volumes of food at less frequent intervals.

At five weeks old, the weaning process was started by introducing mashed up wet food. She wasn’t keen at first but after a lot of encouragement she started to eat on her own. It was a messy job - she liked to eat in the bowl and wear her food! Her ‘foster nurse’ fell in love with her and she became a permanent member of their family. Although her official name is Poppy, the name Grey Cat has still firmly stuck. Grey Cat is now causing lots of mischief with her new friend Angus cat!

The Langford Club

The Langford Club provides pet owners with the support they need to help their pets stay fit and healthy.

It covers the regular treatments your pet needs throughout life including annual health check and booster vaccinations, and year-round flea, tick prevention and worming treatment, plus discounts on other selected services and products.

Speak to our Reception team, or head to our website to find out more.