Summer 2017

Small Animal Practice News

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Welcome

Welcome to our Small Animal Practice Summer 2017 newsletter.

The Summer is now fully underway, and for many of you this means taking a well-earned break.

More and more people are choosing to take their pet with them on holiday - both in the UK and even further afield! There is a wide variety of pet friendly accommodation available these days, making it even more attractive to take your pet away with you. However, we quite often have pets come into the practice who have fallen ill whilst they are holidaying here in the South West - which makes me think that it would be very sensible to plan ahead for such eventualities.

What can you do to prepare?

• Check the area you are visiting to see which vets are available in an emergency so that you know who to ring when necessary.

• If your pet is on long term medication, it would also be good to make sure you have enough available and consider leaving a few at home in a safe place - we have occasionally had to help when people have forgotten to pack their pet’s medication when returning home.

• If your pet has ongoing medical issues it is generally easy to email or fax a pet’s history to the vet you are visiting but it may be helpful to have a brief medical summary and list of medicines or allergies so that the vet has access to this important information in an emergency.

Hopefully this provides some useful information if you’re planning on taking your pet away with you - we hope you and your pet both have a great holiday!

Enjoy this edition and the rest of the summer.

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

Practice updates

Practice News

Staff update

We’re very pleased to welcome Hannah Kittingham to the Practice team. Hannah will join us at the start of September as our new Receptionist and we’re looking forward to having her on board.

Congratulations

Huge congratulations to Beth Kent (Nee Bond) who is due to get married this month! We’re sure you’ll join us in wishing her and her fiancé Frazer a lifetime of happiness!

New to Langford Vets:

Pawsitive Pups Puppy Training

We’re pleased to announce the arrival of Pawsitive Pups – a Preschool and Training School for puppies.

Pawsitive Pups aims to help you and your new puppy get to know and understand each other, whilst setting you on the right track for a fun and happy life together.

Pawsitive Pups Preschool

Pawsitive Pups Preschool (previously known as puppy socialisation classes) is a four week course run by Head Practice Nurse, Diane. The aim of this course is to help your puppy learn the social skills needed for adult life. The classes are small and have an informal, relaxed atmosphere.

Pawsitive Pups Training School

Pawsitive Pups Training School is a five week course run by Practice Nurse, Sam. This course will be aimed at puppies that have been to our Pawsitive Pups Preschool and are looking to further their puppy training and begin basic obedience training. Puppies eligible for this fun-packed class will need to be between 12 - 20 weeks of age.

If you would like any further information on either Pawsitive Pups Preschool or Training School, please contact us by emailing sap@langfordvets.co.uk or call us on 01934 852422.
Q&A with James

Q. Is it normal for my dog to snore?

A. Snoring in dogs can occur for a variety of reasons.

The most common cause of snoring is the anatomy of your dog’s airways. Recent trends in the type of dogs that owners desire has led to an increase in the number of brachycephalic dogs seen in practice. These are dogs that have been bred to have shorter noses e.g. pugs and boxers. This change in face shape reduces the efficiency of breathing, making it more difficult - the result of which is often noisy breathing. Some of these dogs will even end up needing surgery to improve the anatomy of their airways to help make breathing easier.

Snoring can also commonly occur due to obesity, with excess body fat reducing the space at the back of the throat. This is often exacerbated when the dog is lying down.

Some dogs will start to snore when they get older as the tissues around the back of the throat lose elasticity and become more droopy.

So, whilst it may be normal for your dog to snore, if the volume increases or the snoring is a new thing, please book a check up with the vet to make sure there is nothing to worry about.

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:
- September: Too cool for school
- October: Autumn walkies
- November: Snug as a bug

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:

Facebook Photo Competition
Buddy was brought into the Small Animal Practice in April by his owner, after she was concerned he had been bitten by an adder. The adder is the only venomous snake native to the UK. They can be identified by a dark zig zag running down the length of the spine. They also have an inverted V on the back of the neck and range in colour from pale grey to brown.

Treating Buddy’s bite

Buddy was out for his evening walk, snuffling in the undergrowth when he yelped. Within 30 minutes his lip had started to swell and within two hours his whole face had swollen. Luckily, Buddy’s owner was quick-thinking and got him to the nearest vets as soon as she could! Buddy was seen by another local veterinary practice, given some first aid treatment and sent home for some TLC. By the following morning Buddy was feeling pretty sorry for himself and his face had become very swollen. He was brought in to the Small Animal Practice for a follow-up appointment.

Practice Vet, Colin Blakey admitted Buddy for treatment including intravenous fluids, pain relief, steroids and antihistamines to help reduce the swelling. Once Buddy had been admitted it was decided to administer a dose of antivenom as his face had continued to swell and the vet was concerned that it could start to interfere with his breathing. This was administered slowly through an IV infusion into his vein. He was closely monitored by nurses, Sam, Beth and Helen, whilst this was given to ensure he did not show any signs of an allergic reaction. Constant high level monitoring meant that any deterioration could be rapidly addressed.

Full recovery for Buddy

After a few days of nursing care the swelling on Buddy’s face started to reduce and he was feeling much better. Buddy was sent home to finish his recovery and we are pleased to say he has made a full recovery!

Buddy was a very brave patient and a pleasure to look after! We are very pleased that he is now fully recovered and back to his usual self. Let’s just hope he keeps his nose out of the long grass and away from adders in the future!

About Adder bites

Adders are commonly found in the South West, especially in sand dunes, heathland, rocky hillsides, moorland and also woodland edges - all of which we have in abundance in this area. Adder bites are more likely to occur between April and July when adders are coming out of hibernation, and in the afternoon when they are basking in the sun.

If you suspect your dog has been bitten by an adder it is important that you seek veterinary advice as soon as possible.

Adder bites can cause swelling, bruising, oedema and be uncomfortable for your dog. However sometimes adder bites can cause more widespread problems if the venom is absorbed, causing extensive inflammation across the body. This can make your pet feel very unwell, showing signs of lethargy, fever, increased heart and respiratory rates, drooling, vomiting and a wobbly gait (ataxia). Most dogs make a full recovery from being bitten by an adder within five days, with the help of supportive treatment from their vets.