

Frame Swift and Partners Small Animal **NEWSLETTER**

Lungworm in Dogs

Lungworm is caused by infection with a worm called *Angiostrongylus vasorum*. Dogs become infected after eating a slug or snail that is carrying lungworm larvae. The larvae migrate from the gut, through the liver and eventually colonise blood vessels within the lungs.



Lungworm can cause a variety of symptoms ranging from mild coughing or rapid breathing through to severe life threatening respiratory, heart and vascular disease. Diagnosis is difficult and severe cases can be very challenging to treat.

Lungworm is a relatively new parasite in the UK but in recent years has been increasingly diagnosed particularly in the south and west of the country. The prevalence of this parasite in the Penrith area is probably still relatively low but it is certainly something owners should be aware of particularly in young or inquisitive dogs who are most likely to ingest an infected slug or snail.



Infection can be prevented by the monthly application of spot on product.

If you are concerned about lungworm please talk to one of the practice vets for more information.

Veterinary Nursing News

Congratulations to nurse **Laura Stott** who has just completed her training and passed all her exams to become a fully qualified, registered veterinary nurse (RVN). Laura joined our practice in September 2008 and completed her training with us.



Julie Uilyart has successfully completed the first years training to become an equine veterinary nurse. Julie has many years experience of nursing small animal and equine patients. When she completes her training she will be one of only a handful of qualified equine nurses in the UK



We are also pleased to report that nurse **Kim Wilks** has passed the first year of her diploma in advanced veterinary nursing, continuing to build on her extensive experience.



Case Study:

Pip is a 2 year old Lakeland Terrier. She came to the practice after attacking the lawnmower!



Unfortunately Pip was pulled in towards the blades of the mower and suffered a deep cut to the corner of her eye.

Careful examination also revealed that the inside of Pips eye was inflamed. This serious and painful condition can lead to blindness if untreated.



Thankfully with immediate topical treatment her vision was saved.

The deep cut was carefully repaired with very fine stitches, and the skin healed very well. It is now impossible to see which eye was affected.

Pip gave birth to four puppies shortly after her recovery.

Pip was treated by vet **Chris Dixon** who has a special interest in eyes. If your pet develops sore eyes, please ask to see Chris when booking an appointment.



Firework Phobia

Firework season is fast approaching. If your pet had a problem last year, now is the time you should be thinking about what you could do to try and reduce the problem this year and in the future.

Animals find fireworks frightening because they do not get a chance to get used to noises they make. If fireworks went off regularly all year round most animals would get used to them and no longer be so frightened.

Recently, a number of new approaches and products have become available which have proved to be much more effective than the old fashioned reliance on sedatives.

Creating a secure sound and light proof 'den' in your home to which your pet can retreat will help him to cope with the noise stress.



Naturally occurring canine and feline hormones are now available in diffuser form. Use of such diffusers from a few weeks prior to the beginning of, and throughout the firework period has a general calming effect on animals living in the house, and has been shown to be very effective in helping to reduce firework fear.

Animals can get used to the sound of fireworks if given enough time in a familiar environment. With care we can build up a tolerance in them so they no longer find the noises so scary. Specially produced recordings of firework noise can be used to very gradually expose your pet to firework noise over a long period of time. This method will allow your pet to become used to the sounds and no longer find them as frightening.

If your pet is scared of fireworks act now, talk to one of the practice vets or nurses, and to try and make this season a better one

Dental disease a common problem

By the age of two as many as 70% of cats and 80% of dogs have dental disease. Dental disease is caused by the daily build up of plaque on the teeth. If the plaque is not brushed away this can lead to gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) and eventually periodontitis (the structures supporting the tooth are destroyed and the tooth becomes loose).

The best way to care for your pets teeth is to brush the teeth daily using a pets toothpaste and a soft toothbrush. The ideal time to start this regime is as a puppy or a kitten, but with a little patience older pets can also be encouraged to have their teeth brushed. This is something we can show you how to do at a nurse clinic. There are also dental diets available to help clean your pets teeth as they eat, and dental chews to help strengthen your pets teeth. If your pet develops dental disease, the next stage is to scale and polish the teeth to remove the tartar. This is performed under a general anaesthetic at the veterinary practice.



Rabbits also need their teeth caring for. Their teeth continually grow and are worn down by chewing. It is very important to provide enough roughage in the form of hay or grass to wear the teeth down. Providing a balanced rabbit food will also provide the correct nutrients for healthy teeth. If a rabbits teeth grow too long it will not be able to chew its food properly. At the practice we have special rabbit burrs and drills to trim their teeth. For a dental check or advice please contact the practice for an appointment.

In September we will be taking part in **Pet Smile Month**. We will be offering FREE dental checks by appointment.

More information can be found at: www.petsmile.org



Sam to run the New York Marathon

Vet **Sam Mauchlen** is planning to run the New York marathon on the 1st November 2009

Sam will be running for the benefit of **Eden Animal Rescue**, a cumbrian animal charity.

Any sponsorship would be welcome

