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Spring 2011

Frame Swift and Partners Small Animal **NEWSLETTER**

Practice Open Day

We are very pleased to announce that we will be holding a Practice Open Afternoon this year on Sunday 26th June from 2-4pm. The Open Afternoon will give clients the chance to have a 'behind the scenes' tour, talk to staff and to see some of our new equipment and facilities.

Outside we will have other attractions including a Bouncy Castle, some interesting vehicles, Snee's ice cream and various other events yet to be confirmed. Volunteers from Eden Animal Rescue will be running their own stalls and we hope as in previous years that we can raise some much needed funds for this worthy local charity. Fingers crossed for a nice sunny afternoon!



Eden Animal Rescue

Congratulations Kim!

Nurse Kim Wilks recently passed her Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing. The Diploma covers medicine, surgery and anaesthesia from a veterinary nursing perspective and is the most advanced practical qualification a veterinary nurse in the UK can achieve. This new qualification for 2011 replaces the older style diplomas that only covered one discipline. Kim is the only veterinary nurse in Cumbria to have achieved this new qualification.

June 2011- National Microchipping Month

*id*ENTICHIP[®]
BioThermo™

We will be taking part in National Microchipping month in June this year. As a practice we have always strongly encouraged chipping of pet animals and horses. Almost all animals can be microchipped. National Microchipping Month aims to highlight the need for microchipping and encourage pet owners to ensure that their loved ones are chipped. Every year, thousands of pets go missing and many are not reunited with their owners as they lack any form of identification. Those that are microchipped however can easily be identified and returned to their owners.

We use the latest generation biothermal microchips that provide a permanent and unique identification for your pet and also allow us to take your pet's temperature using a simple microchip scanner rather than the more traditional rectal thermometer! The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is implanted by injection under the skin at the base of the neck. Most animals tolerate the implantation of a chip very well.

To celebrate National Microchipping month we will be offering a 40% discount on the cost of chipping throughout the month of June. Please phone the practice for an appointment if you want to get your pet microchipped

Parasites in Rabbits

Regular treatment for worms and skin parasites is something that we are all well aware of for dogs and cats but do not forget your pet rabbit!

Rabbits can get range of different skin parasites from fleas to mites and lice. We do not routinely treat for all these parasites as the risk is usually relatively low especially if the other pets in the household are protected against parasites.

We quite commonly see fur mites in rabbits and always advise treatment as they can cause marked irritation to the skin. Treatment for fleas can be especially important as they can transmit myxomatosis.



If you feel your rabbit may have fleas or other parasites we can examine them, test for any parasites and then recommend the best product to treat them with. Often treatment is as simple as applying a rabbit specific spot on.

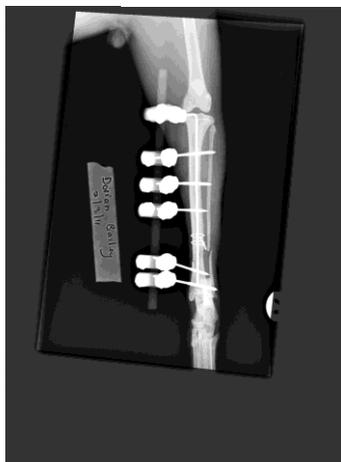
Pet rabbits can also be affected by internal parasites including worms or protozoa. The most dangerous of these is a protozoa called *E. cuniculi* that is spread between rabbits through the urine. *E. cuniculi* can infect the rabbit's brain and can cause a range of problems; including floppiness/weakness through to more severe neurological problems. It can also cause urinary tract infections and can be difficult to treat.

Luckily, both *E. cuniculi* and other internal parasites can be prevented by routine worming using a paste. The paste is given into mouth daily for 9 days and we recommend that rabbits are treated 4 times a year preventatively.

As before, if you feel your rabbit has any health issues or may require treatment for parasites, please ring us or come to the surgery and we can advise on the best course of action. For rabbits on our pet health plan we include four treatments per year for *E. cuniculi*



x-rays showing the fracture before and after repair



Case Study

Dorian is a 1 year old male neutered cat. He lives on a farm at Reagill. His owners brought him to the practice because he was very lame on his right hind leg at the beginning of March.

He was examined by vet Alex Kirby who suspected a fracture of his tibia just above his hock joint.

X-rays taken with our new digital radiography system confirmed Alex's suspicions.

Dorian was operated on by Alex and Jess and his fracture was repaired using our new generation external fixator kit. He was the first case we have treated using this new equipment and we were very pleased with the results.

The operation was very successful and Dorian is progressing very well.



Dorian after his operation before going home