

Mark Maltman MRCVS  
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with nurses

Cindy Wedd RVN  
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Mandy Chard RVN



#### PRACTICE NEWS:

We have now been open for 4 months and are very pleased with how the clinic has bedded in. The team of three fully qualified veterinary nurses was completed early on with the addition of Rebecca and Mandy to head nurse Cindy. The nurses run the reception as well as their clinical duties meaning that clients can speak directly with a clinically qualified member of staff at all times.

We continue to emphasise the importance of vaccination with an article in this newsletter and offer kennel cough vaccine in all our dog vaccine protocols without extra charge to the client. Currently, for the months of July and August, we are running a vaccine amnesty whereby lapsed vaccines can be restarted for only the cost of a booster.

Finally, we'd like to say a huge thank you to all the clients who have beaten a path to our door and for their kind feedback!

#### OPENING TIMES:

Mon 0800-1930

Tues 0800-1800

Wed 0800-1800

Thurs 0800-1930

Fri 0800-1800

Sat 0800-1230

And of course in an emergency you can be seen 24/7—simply ring 01403 791011

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### LUNGWORM—*Angiostrongylus vasorum*

Lungworm, or to give it its full name, *Angiostrongylus* is a parasitic worm which is acquired by dogs when they eat slugs and snails, or even eat or lick the grass where they have left their trails.

The incidence of lungworm has increased significantly in the South East of England in the last 10 years, which is probably a reflection of climate change.

Once inside the dog, the worms multiply in the intestine and then migrate to the lungs, where they impede blood flow through the lungs from the right side of the heart. Occasionally, they can spread to other areas of the body such as the brain.

Larvae are coughed back up and passed in the dog's faeces where they can be reacquired by the slug or snail so that the life cycle is completed.

The clinical problems associated with lungworm are severe. Heart failure may occur if the right side of the heart cannot pump blood through the obstructed blood vessels in the lungs—this can lead to the accumulation of fluid within the chest and abdominal cavities.

Alternatively, the blood clotting system can be disturbed such that excessive bleeding may be observed with bruising under the skin, coughing up or vomiting blood, accumulations of blood in the chest or abdo-



men. Occasionally, bleeding may occur into the brain leading to seizures.

Clearly the incidence of lungworm is on the increase and the Maltman Cosham vets have diagnosed a number of cases over the last few years.

This makes the need to prevent lungworm very important—thankfully, this is easily achieved using an appropriate spot on treatment which is available within the practice.

### OUR OLDEST SURGICAL PATIENT TO DATE — Lucy

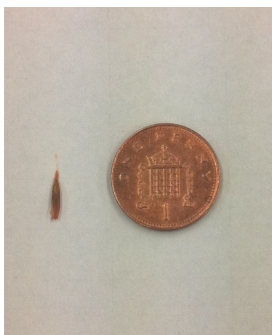


Lucy the 20 year old cat is a patient who had developed an

ulcerated mass on the skin of her underside. Her owner had initially managed this well with soothing creams, but eventually it started to bleed uncontrollably and, left with no other option than to put her to sleep, her owner decided on surgery and the mass was removed recently under general anaesthetic. Lucy has made a remarkable recovery, showing not only her good

health despite her age but her stubborn determination for life. Her first action on recovering from anaesthetic was to scoff a bowl of food! The photo shows her at a post operative examination, with a body stocking holding a dressing in place.

Well done to Lucy and also her owner for a brave decision!



## SUMMER WARNINGS! - health matters in the hot weather

The obvious warning for the hot weather is to prevent heatstroke by exercising dogs in the early morning or late evening, and of course never leaving them in cars even if the weather is cloudy—remember that the sun can come out or the sun shift so that the car is no longer shaded. Certain diseases are exacerbated by the heat, such as heart and lung conditions -these cases are often first noticed when the patient struggles in hotter weather.

All parasites are more abundant so treatment for fleas, ticks and lungworm is essential. Rabbits are prone to fly strike where flies lay their eggs, which hatch into maggots, on soiled bottoms so it is essential to check your rabbit's cleanliness twice daily and ask for a preventative treatment from the practice.

Grass awns are small pointed seeds which penetrate the skin easily to cause an abscess, or get in ears, or are particularly troublesome if

they are inhaled where they can cause a localised pneumonia. The pictures on the left show a grass seed which was removed from a dog's foot.

The unusually hot weather this spring and summer has led to increased activity of adders with dogs being most at risk when they are in undergrowth. Most snake bites involve the snake striking to facilitate escape, rather than releasing venom to kill the dog, but a severely necrotic wound and pain will still need urgent treatment.

**"Independence and compassion in modern veterinary care"**

## CHANGES TO THE PET PASSPORT SCHEME FROM 2012

The Government has announced changes to the Pet Passport Scheme, which will come into effect from 1st January 2012. Animals travelling to and from EU members states and certain other designated countries currently need to be microchipped, vaccinated against rabies and then blood tested 21 days later. If they pass the blood test then their passport becomes active 6 months after the date of the blood test.

As from the start of 2012, the microchip and rabies vaccination will still be required, but there is no need for the blood test or waiting period. Instead, rabies vaccinated animals can travel 21 days later.

This will be welcome news to pet owners who wish to take their dog or cat abroad on holiday with them. However, they may still be exposed to certain foreign diseases and

so it is essential you ask for tick and worm preventative measures before you travel.

**Please remember that these changes do not allow pets to travel for the remainder of 2011 other than under the old system.**

We recommend that owners with an existing Pet Passport or wanting to start one discuss their individual circumstances with Mark or Josie.



Charlie, the Golden Retriever, decided to check himself in for his appointment at the clinic!!!!

## WHY DO WE CONTINUE TO VACCINATE DOGS AND CATS?

Dog and cat vaccines became available in the second half of the last century and were received with open arms by pet owners as a preventative measure against numerous fatal diseases. Nowadays, with these diseases less common, a significant anti-vaccination lobby has developed which insists animals are vaccinated too often. However, there is very little substantiated evidence to show that vaccines are responsible

for causing disease, with the exception of some cases of autoimmune anaemia in dogs.

At Maltman Cosham, we believe it is essential to strike a balance and not reduce vaccination until it has been proven to be safe to do so. Several components of the dog vaccination are now given only every 3 years, but the leptospirosis vaccine and most cat vaccines have not been proven to be effective

without an annual booster and so we still recommend an annual booster for these.

Some data suggesting longer intervals has come from the USA, where strains may not be the same as the ones we deal with, so must be taken with a pinch of salt.

It is vital to not go backwards and see a re-emergence of disease. Therefore, the vets continue to vaccinate their own pets.