

Mark Maltman MRCVS
Josie Cosham MRCVS
&
Hannah West MRCVS

with nurses:

Cindy Winter RVN (Head)
Mandy Chard RVN (Deputy Head)
Emma Akehurst RVN (Deputy Head)
Rebecca Norman RVN
Kerry Blight RVN
Mel Langdrige (Student)
Laura Betchley (Student)

and

Claire Martin (Reception)

PRACTICE NEWS:

Many of you will be aware that our head nurse Cindy and her husband Ant had a little baby girl called Beatrix Daisy on 3rd March, delivered at Redhill and weighing in at 8lb 7oz. Our heartiest congratulations to them all. Mum and baby are doing well and the practice looks forward to welcoming Cindy back from maternity leave in the Autumn.

The Practice has been accredited as a Nurse Training Practice in the last few months to add to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Practice Standards Accreditation received in January. We are very pleased to have achieved these so quickly and are grateful for the hard work put in by the staff to achieve these awards.

Our kennel assistant Laura has worked very hard through the first half of this year and so we are delighted to offer her a nurse training position, which she will step up to in July.

A new puppy has been added to the practice team, with Lyra the Labrador, named after the character in the book Northern Lights, joining the Maltman family. A photo from her first day in the office can be seen on our Facebook page!

24 hr veterinary care

The practice telephone number comes straight through to the Duty Vet 24/7 as we know how important it is for you to reach us urgently at what is a stressful time for you

01403 791011



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And then there were three!

Since opening our doors in 2011, Mark and Josie have worked hard to care for an ever increasing number of patients. This has included staffing the night and weekend rota of the practice themselves as they have always believed it is important for our clients to be seen in their normal practice by vets they know who have access to their pets' clinical notes.

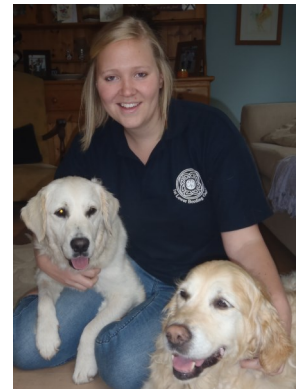
We have now reached a level where we recognise it is important to bring in a third vet in order to maintain the quality of personal care we wish to offer. We have been fortunate to have Hannah West working with us as a veterinary student over the past 12 months and been so impressed by her that we have offered her a job. Most importantly Hannah shares the ethos of compassionate care that Mark and Josie so firmly believe in.

Hannah was born and raised in Horsham and locally schooled at

Trafalgar Infants, Greenway, Tanbridge, where she was Head Girl, and Collyers Sixth Form College before undertaking the 5 year degree course in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at the University of Nottingham from 2007 to 2012.

Nottingham Vet School is the newest veterinary school in the UK, having opened its doors in 2006, and Hannah is in the second year of students to graduate. The Nottingham course has been designed to be innovative, with students learning clinical and practical material from the very start akin to how human medicine is now taught.

Hannah has undertaken numerous clinical placements in and around the Nottingham area and in Horsham and Crawley. When she first came to "see practice", Mark and Josie were immediately impressed by her clinical knowledge as well as her practical and surgical skills. We were very keen not to lose her



to another practice when she qualified and offered her a position. Hannah is very excited to be a member of the team and we too are pleased to have her joining us.

Outside of work Hannah enjoys running with her two family dogs Rosie and Summer, as well as swimming, kayaking and skiing. She is a Guide leader in Lower Beeding and really enjoys taking the girls away camping. She also has a keen interest in music, particularly playing the violin and clarinet.

Doug got more than he bargained for on an evening run in the grass!

Both Springer Spaniel Doug and vet Josie got more than they bargained for one evening recently when Doug was presented as an out-of-hours emergency following sudden onset retching, coughing, spluttering and extreme agitation. On examining his throat, Josie thought she may be able to see a piece of grass stuck but could not be sure without looking under anaesthesia. Doug was very distressed and so Josie admitted him immediately, called for assistance and anaesthetised him. On closer inspection of the throat, she con-



firmed that there was a blade of grass, but was amazed when she retrieved one end from his nasopharynx and started to pull that it was about 35cm long (pictured here) and must have been lying

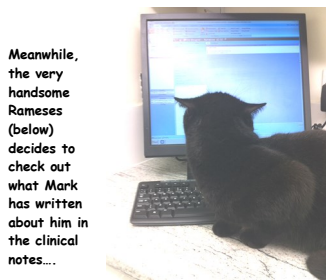
along his entire oesophagus almost to his stomach. Most often a dog would manage to either swallow or regurgitate this, but here for some reason the grass stuck to the lining of the gullet. No wonder the poor chap was so distressed, but after a shot of anti-inflammatory medicine and recovery from the anaesthetic he went home the same night very much relieved.

This is a great example as to why you want us on hand 24/7/365 to see you at the clinic if you have a problem. All you have to do is call the normal practice number.

A couple of cute cat photos for you to enjoy....



Here is lovely Freckles (left) on the reception desk checking in for her vaccination appointment—or is she applying to be our second receptionist?



Meanwhile, the very handsome Rameses (below) decides to check out what Mark has written about him in the clinical notes....

"Independence and compassion in modern veterinary care"

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR PETS TRAVELLING TO EUROPE

A new vaccine against Leishmania infection, which is a risk for pets travelling to Europe from Southern France downwards, has been launched this spring. This disease is transmitted by sandflies and can lie dormant in the system for many months or years before causing severe disease of many body systems and often death—it can also be contracted by humans. Exposure to sandflies can be minimised by keeping pets in one hour before and one hour after dusk and dawn. Furthermore, it is still essential to make sure that your pet is thoroughly protected against ticks, heartworm and lungworm whilst travelling in addition to the tapeworm treatment required by law on your return. Please do make sure you have asked one of the Vets for the up to date situation on disease prevention. It is also wise to double check the Passport is still in date and that the microchip can still be easily found.

Addison's disease (hypoadrenocorticism)

Mark recently saw Ed, the Bull Terrier, in his clinic with a history of malaise and inappetence which had lasted for a couple of weeks.

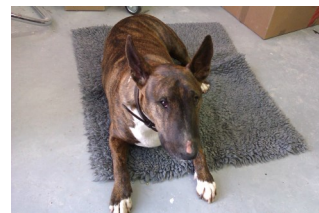
His blood tests showed high potassium and low sodium levels, which combined with evidence of kidney compromise, is classical for a hormonal condition called hypoadrenocorticism or Addison's disease.

Addison's disease is caused by an attack by the body's immune system on the adrenal glands which lie on either side of the abdomen just in front of the kidneys. These glands are destroyed by the immune system so that they can no longer produce the hormones cortisol and aldosterone

which play a role in numerous processes within the body, including the balance of potassium, sodium and water.

Affected dogs can be difficult to pick up in the initial consult as the symptoms are often very vague like Ed's. In addition to lethargy and poor appetite, they may have repeated bouts of vomiting and diarrhoea, as well as abdominal pain. These can progress to what is called an Addisonian crisis, where the patient lapses into a coma with collapse of the cardiovascular system and kidneys. Once at this stage, the situation becomes life threatening.

Fortunately, once the diagnosis is confirmed, treatment is straight



forward with lifelong supplementation of both hormones.

Ed actually enjoys coming in the practice now more than he did before the diagnosis. We try very hard to make our patients feel safe and happy when they are with us as in-patients as we feel this is equally as important as their clinical needs. Therefore, it is very rewarding that Ed feels so happy here.

Walking with sausage dogs!

We are delighted to be the official veterinary surgeons for a celebrity dog! Hercules, the Dachshund, has featured in a newly released book! *Walking with Sausage Dogs* has been written by Slinfold author Matt Whyman.

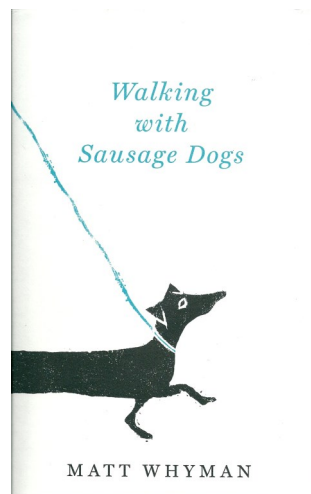
Hercules is a tremendous character and we understand he is now on a publicity tour for the new book with interviews and photo shoots pending with various national newspapers.

Matt has been a good friend of the practice over our first year and has kindly given us a personalised copy of the book, which is a

follow up to the first title, *Oink!*, about family life with minipigs, Butch and Roxi. These are a significant departure from his usual genre of fictional novels for teenagers.

Matt is also well known as an agony uncle on BBC Radio One's advice show, *The Surgery with Aled*, on Sunday evenings as well as in numerous publications.

We are pleased to give Matt's books a little plug, even if we cannot offer the same readership as the newspapers! We hope you enjoy the books as much as we have!



Microchipping dogs and cats

Many owners now take the positive step of permanently identifying their dogs and cats using microchip technology and there is talk of this becoming a legal requirement for all dogs in the near future. Indeed, it is already mandatory part of the Pet Travel Scheme which allows pets to travel outside of the UK with their identity confirmed by their microchips.

A microchip is a small electronic device, which is about the same size as a grain of rice. It is coded with a unique number and briefly emits low frequency radio waves when a scanner is passed over it.

It is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades using a sterile needle. No anaesthetic is required and the procedure does not usually cause any more discomfort than a standard vaccination. Once inside, the surrounding tissue attaches to the microchip and encapsulates it, preventing it from moving. The coating of the chip is made from the same material as human pacemakers, so that it is sterile and inert which means the body will not react to it.

All animals presented without an owner, for example as strays or following an accident, will be

scanned. If they are microchipped then they can be reunited with their owners easily and quickly.

People often ask us what will happen if their pet is stolen. Obviously, no system can completely safeguard a pet from those who wish to behave outside the law. However, in such cases which are fortunately very rare, a microchip does allow you to have some peace of mind that your pet may still be reunited with you if it falls back into the right hands, for example after being sold on, even when this is at the other end of the country.