

Mark Maltman MRCVS

Josie Cosham MRCVS

&

Hannah West MRCVS

with nurses:

Emma Akehurst RVN (Head Nurse)

Mandy Chard RVN (Deputy Head)

Rebecca Norman RVN (Deputy Head)

Cindy Winter RVN

Kerry Blight RVN

Mel Langdridge RVN

Clare Martindale RVN

Laura Betchley (Student VN)

and

Claire Martin (Reception)

Lucy Cotton (Kennels)

PRACTICE NEWS:

Many of you are aware that our head nurse Emma is expecting her first baby in February and has just left us to begin her maternity leave. She will be greatly missed by us and I am sure by many of you too. We wish her and her partner Neil well over the next few exciting months and look forward to meeting the new arrival.

A big congratulations to Rebecca, who has been appointed deputy head nurse. She will be working alongside and supporting fellow deputy head nurse Mandy.

We are delighted to announce that Laura, our student veterinary nurse, is engaged. Fiancée Stevie proposed on Christmas day and we are very excited about the prospect of our second Maltman Cosham wedding!

Our newest member of the nursing team Clare has been with us for several months now. She has settled into the practice extremely well and I am sure has become a familiar face to most of you.

Mark and Hannah are running the London Marathon this April for two very worthwhile charities, Cancer Research and Macmillan. They are both running for personal reasons and any donations would be very gratefully received. For more information please have a look at their sponsor page online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/maltmancosham> or have a look at the noticeboard in reception.

24 hr veterinary care

The practice telephone number comes straight through to the Duty Vet's phone 24/7

01403 791011



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It's official...we are FAB!

We are thrilled to announce that we are now officially recognised as a *Cat Friendly Clinic*. This award is designed by the Feline Advisory Bureau and the International Society of Feline Medicine to encourage high standards of feline care within the veterinary profession.

In order to achieve this certification, we have to prove that we meet the stringent criteria set by the awarding body. Our provision of a quiet cat waiting

area in reception and a separate cat only hospital ward were just two of the essential criteria we met in order to receive this certification.

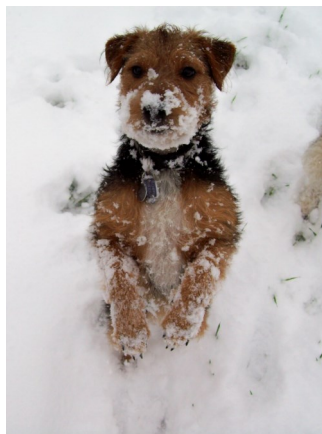
We hope this award reflects our understanding of the unique requirements of our feline patients and the steps we take in making their visit as stress free as possible.

To find out more about the scheme, please visit

www.catfriendlyclinic.org



Transfusions for Terriers...



Tash after her ordeal, playing in the snow

Tash is a 9 month old Lakeland Terrier who came to us one Friday evening having eaten rat poison in the garden. On presentation she was lethargic and her gums were very pale. Rat poison stops the liver producing vitamin K, this vitamin is involved in producing clotting factors.

This means dogs that have eaten rat poison cannot clot their blood properly and are at a high risk of bleeding. Tash's pale gums were of great concern as this can be a sign that the animal is losing blood from somewhere in their body.

A blood sample was taken to test Tash's blood clotting times; it showed that her blood was taking longer to clot than normal. We then scanned her abdomen and found free blood, this meant she was bleeding into her abdomen.

Treatment was started immediately by supplementing Tash with vitamin K. It was also decided to give her a blood transfusion as she had lost so much blood into her abdomen and her condition was life threatening. The

blood was ordered from a pet blood bank in Brighton and brought straight to the practice. The blood was attached to a special giving set and given to Tash via a catheter in her vein. Tash was closely monitored as some animals can suffer severe reactions to blood transfusions; however Tash made a remarkable improvement and was much brighter within a couple of hours.

She was kept in the clinic over the weekend and then returned home. We kept a close eye on her over the next few weeks, with continued vitamin K supplementation and regular blood tests to check her clotting times.

She has now made a full recovery and is back to her usual cheeky self!

Diabetes in dogs and cats...

Diabetes is a hormonal condition affecting the part of the pancreas which produces insulin. Insulin reduces blood glucose in numerous ways, including transporting glucose into the body's cells to be used as energy. In diabetes there is a lack of production of insulin, which causes glucose levels in the blood to rise. However this glucose is no longer taken to the cells and so the cells become starved of energy.

The clinical signs seen in diabetes relate to the high level of glucose. When blood glucose levels are increased, it is filtered by the kidneys into the urine causing the animal to

urinate a lot. The animal may become incontinent or no longer be able to go throughout the night without urinating. This is often mistaken for a loss of house training. Owners may also notice an increase in drinking as the excessive urination causes the animal to become thirsty. Finally the urinary glucose creates an excellent environment for bacteria, so diabetic animals may suffer from recurring urinary tract infections. Weight loss may also be noted.

We diagnose diabetes by taking blood and measuring the amount of glucose present. Glucose can also be measured in the urine.

In order to treat diabetes we

have to try and balance the amount of glucose going into the body with the amount coming out. Eating puts glucose in, whilst exercise takes it out. We therefore encourage the owner to establish a daily routine with regard to meals and exercise. Animals will also require up to twice daily insulin injections.

Animals with diabetes are monitored regularly by reviewing their blood glucose and fructosamine levels.

The prognosis for diabetes is generally very good but owning a diabetic patient is a big commitment in terms of time, emotion and money and all of these

matters should be discussed with your vet.



The picture above is of Lindy Lou, she is one of our diabetic patients who is doing fantastically on treatment.



The picture above shows Daisy's kittens feeding away, just days old.

Below are the kittens looking all grown up!



Daisy's delivery day...

Daisy is a beautiful brown Burmese cat, who started kitting one Wednesday morning. After a couple of hours of contractions no kittens had arrived and Daisy was beginning to get tired. Hannah went out on a home visit to assess her. Her abdominal contractions were not very strong so we gave her a drug called oxytocin to increase the intensity of the contractions and help her pass the kittens. After 15 minutes the contractions became a lot stronger but Daisy was still struggling to push the kittens out. The decision was made to perform

a Caesarean as Daisy was not progressing and becoming exhausted.

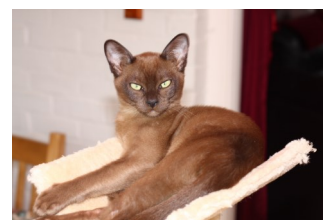
Daisy was brought to the surgery and quickly prepared for a general anaesthetic. She was taken to theatre and six very small kittens were delivered into the world: four boys and two girls. The nurses revived them whilst Daisy recovered from her anaesthetic and we were all concerned by their small size.

Within half an hour Daisy was awake enough to meet her kittens and she began mothering them instantly. The family returned home later that day under the watchful

eye of Daisy's owners.

Unfortunately one kitten did not make it, but the rest thrived under Daisy's care.

We have just vaccinated all of the kittens who are looking fantastic. They have all been found lovely homes and are off to meet their new families soon.



Proud Mum Daisy.

Have you had your pet microchipped?

Many owners have taken the positive step of permanently identifying their animals with microchips. A microchip is an electronic device the size of a grain of rice, which is coded with a unique number that can be read by a scanner. It is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades using a sterile needle and most owners choose to have this done at their animal's second vaccination.

Around 10 000 organisations in the UK have scanners, including veterinary clinics, local authorities and animal welfare charities. All animals brought to the practice without an owner, for example stray animals or animals that have been involved in an accident, will be scanned to check for a microchip.

A confidential national database can be accessed by bo-

na-fide organisations with scanners, to access the owner's information in order to contact them and reunite them with their pet.

It is therefore vital that you keep this information up to date, especially your phone number. We have had a few cases recently where owners have not updated their details and we have not been able to get hold of them to inform them their animal has been found and is safe.

"Independence and compassion in modern veterinary care"