

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:

We are excited to announce the completion of our new offices at the back of the practice on the Lyons Farm Estate. With new staff members joining the team over the past few months it has been necessary to create some more space to continue to provide the quality of care that we pride ourselves on.

We would like to thank you for your patience whilst the building work has been carried out.

The staff pets are equally as excited as us about the new space. Here is Josie's dog Lulu enjoying the new facilities!



We would also like to congratulate Mark and Hannah on completing the Virgin London marathon. They were both back in the practice the day after proudly wearing their medals! They have raised over £10000 for Cancer Research and Macmillan Cancer Support and would like to thank everyone for their support and very generous donations.

### 24 hr veterinary care

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

01403 791011



Volume 3 Issue 2

June 2013

## Summer garden hazards special...

### Enzo's edible error...

Enzo is a 7 month old black Labrador, who presented to Mark out of hours one Saturday having eaten some slug bait pellets. Slug bait contains a substance called metaldehyde, which can be fatal to dogs if ingested. Clinical signs develop rapidly, usually within 30-60 minutes and include agitation, muscle twitching, panting and seizing.

On presentation to Mark, Enzo was already experiencing muscle twitching and had become quite agitated. Mark recommended flushing Enzo's stomach, a procedure known as gastric lavage, to

try and retrieve any pellets and prevent further absorption.

Enzo was immediately anaesthetised and 10 litres of warmed fluid was used via a tube to flush his stomach and a considerable amount of pellets were removed.

An intravenous catheter was placed so that Mark had venous access in case Enzo started seizing whilst recovering from his anaesthetic. On recovery Enzo became quite agitated and Mark gave him an intravenous drug to prevent this developing into a seizure. After this Enzo became calmer and more settled.

Due to the critical nature of Enzo's poisoning he required constant monitoring, so Mark spent the night at the

practice with Enzo to provide round the clock care. This was essential in case Enzo rapidly deteriorated into a seizure.

He was kept on intravenous fluids and gastro protectant medication was started to protect his stomach and intestines from ulceration. Enzo was sent home 48 hours later, feeling much better!



Enzo back to his cheeky self!

### Archie's angry eyes...

We see many injuries involving grass seeds at this time of year. Penetration wounds, particularly of the foot, are common but also seeds getting trapped in ear canals and behind the third eyelids of animal's eyes

A Springer Spaniel called Archie became a frequent visitor last August, when Hannah found 6 grass seeds behind his third eyelids over a 3 week period. They cause pain, inflammation, discharge and even corneal ulceration. However they are fairly easily removed using local anaesthetic drops and a cotton bud.

Archie's owners did some research to try and prevent this from happening. Below is a picture of Archie in his protective 'doggles'!



### Sorting stings...

It is not uncommon at this time of year for pets to sustain wasp and bee stings whilst on a walk or out in the garden. For solitary stings we would advise applying a cold compress to the area, such as a bag of frozen peas, for 5-10 minutes. A small amount of Wasp-Eze can be applied safely as long as it is not sprayed into the eyes and licking it off is prevented.

More significant problems usually occur when multiple stings are sustained, for example when the animal is engulfed by a swarm or if is stung inside the mouth or throat, which can cause swelling and breathing problems. Stings such as this can lead to anaphylactic shock. In these cases animals present with facial swelling, hives, itching, vomiting and/or collapse. This is uncommon in animals, but cases where multiple stings have been sustained and/or the animal presents with vomiting or facial swelling, should be examined by the vet relatively quickly.

### Common garden poisons...

There are many products and plants that your animal may encounter in the garden that are considered poisonous. We recommend preventing access to these poisons where possible, but if your pet has ingested one, it is important to phone us immediately. We do not advise inducing vomiting with mustard or washing soda as this can cause ulceration of the mouth, throat and oesophagus. It is also important that a vet assesses if it is safe to induce vomiting, if so we use an injection known as Apomorphine to do this.

Some of the more common poisons include slug bait containing metaldehyde, rat bait, amaryllis bulbs, ragwort, rhododendron and rhubarb. For more information and a comprehensive list go to Google and search 'Dogs Trust list of poisonous plants'.

## Dudley's disastrous day...

Dudley is a 5 year old black Labrador owned by our Head Nurse Emma. He was rushed straight down to see Josie one Wednesday afternoon with a severe chest wound he sustained whilst out walking. On arrival it was obvious that Dudley was in a lot of pain and he had a very large wound over his right chest wall, which we suspect was caused by a large wooden stake.



The picture above shows Dudley stitched back together

High dose pain relief was administered to Dudley and Josie then anaesthetised him.

A chest x ray was taken and it showed that Dudley had some air within his chest cavity, a condition known as a pneumothorax and this indicated that the wound had penetrated all the way through the chest wall.

Josie then began the painstaking task of cleaning the heavily contaminated wound and determining the full extent of the injury. 3 litres of saline was used to flush away the debris and Josie removed a lot of the damaged tissue to leave a clean and healthy wound.

Whilst exploring the wound Josie discovered a fractured rib,

which had caused a tear in the muscle wall and led to the pneumothorax. It was vital that this tear was fixed as leaving it open would mean further air could enter the chest cavity and collapse the lungs, reducing their capacity and causing breathing difficulties. Josie sutured the tear together and carefully closed the wound using multiple layers.

Once the procedure was finished, the gas within the chest cavity was removed using a needle and syringe to ensure Dudley's lungs could expand fully.

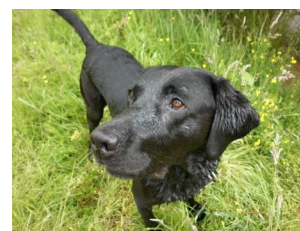
His pain relief was topped up and he was brought round from his anaesthetic.

Dudley was intensively cared for

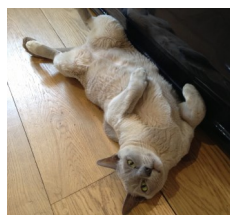
overnight by Hannah and Mel, who kept a close eye on his breathing and ensured his pain relief was adequate.

Dudley was looked after by all of the staff over the first few days and then by Emma at home. Three weeks after his very traumatic day, he bounced into the surgery and jumped onto the consult table ready for his stitches out.

Below is the lovely Dudley looking fantastic!



This is Skimble, who has been attending regular weight watchers clinics and is our most recent 'slimmer of the month'. Above is him weighing in at 7kg and below a fantastic 5.7kg.



## Weight Watchers at Maltman Cosham...

### Skimble's story...

Skimble joined our free of charge nurse weight clinics in September 2012 with a starting weight of 7kg. He had developed feline asthma and was not a very active cat. Skimble's diet and feeding regime was discussed at the first clinic and it was decided to start Skimble on a prescription diet.

With the hard work and perseverance of our nursing time, particularly Kerry, and Skimble's owners, he now weighs an incredible 5.7kg.

He has lost 2cm of body fat from his chest and a massive 7cm from his tummy. He is much more active and his asthma has improved too.

### More about our clinics...

50% of dogs and cats in Britain are overweight and this is a statistic we would like to reduce at Maltman Cosham. We have therefore started running free of charge weight clinics with our veterinary nurses in order to help overweight pets lose weight.

It is not just overfeeding which can cause animals to become overweight; certain breeds are prone to weight gain and animals are also more at risk after they have been neutered.

It is important to keep your pet at a healthy weight as obese animals are prone to many health implications, including heart

problems, joint problems and diabetes. All of these conditions can reduce life expectancy, so it is really important to ensure your pet remains at a sensible weight.

We have set up these weight clinics, which are run by our team of veterinary nurses, to help owners get their pets down to their ideal weight. Many strategies are used during the clinics, including diet, exercise and feeding tips. Not only will your pet be weighed but the nurses also take measurements of the animals so that you can see loss of kilograms and centimetres.

For more information or if you are concerned that your pet is overweight, please ask one of the team.

## Facts about fly strike...

A commonly encountered problem, mainly in rabbits but also guinea pigs is fly strike. This describes the situation where flies, usually bluebottles, lay their eggs on the animal. They are attracted to areas of faecal contamination so normally lay their eggs around the anus. The eggs then hatch into maggots and feed on the faeces.

The maggots grow quickly and after approximately 3 hours

are able to burrow into the animal's skin, feeding on their flesh and blood.

Prevention is the best course of action and this involves maintaining a clean hutch, not overfeeding pellet or muesli foods and preventing faecal soiling around the bottom.

Most rabbits and guinea pigs will keep themselves clean but faecal soiling, or clagging, often occurs because the diet is

imbalanced. Clagging is prevented by ensuring the balance is around 80% grass/hay, 15% leafy greens and 5% pellets.

Other factors that can predispose to soiling are poor teeth, obesity and skeletal restriction such as arthritis, which prevents the animal from being able to clean itself.

Finally there are products available, such as Rearguard, which are applied to the rear end and prevent maggots developing.

Animals should have their bottoms inspected twice daily. Faeces can be removed using water soaked cotton wool. If there is any sign of maggots then please phone immediately to arrange to see a vet.

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