

Mark Maltman MRCVS
Josie Cosham MRCVS
&
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with nurses:
Emma Akehurst RVN (Practice
Manager)
Mandy Chard RVN (Deputy Head)
Rebecca Norman RVN (Deputy
Head)
Cindy Winter RVN
Kerry Blight RVN
Mel Knight RVN
Clare Martindale RVN
Laura Betchley (Student VN)
Sian Bolton (Student VN)
Katie Goddings (Animal Care
Assistant)

and

Claire Martin (Reception)
Kerrie Hurren (Reception)
Lucy Cotton (Kennels)

PRACTICE NEWS:

It has been a busy quarter for the practice and we are very pleased to welcome several new members of staff to the Maltman Cosham team.

Sian Bolton is a student vet nurse, studying for a degree in veterinary nursing and has just started with us two days a week. She will be learning about all aspects of veterinary nursing whilst with us, so you will probably see her about the practice.

Katie Goddings is our new Animal Care Assistant. She is working with us full time and will be starting her student veterinary nursing course in September.

We are also delighted to welcome back Emma from maternity leave, as our Practice Manager. We would like to thank Ethan for lending us his Mummy for 3 days a week.

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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Preparing for the perfect puppy...

Welcoming a new puppy into your home is both an exciting but also challenging time as I have been finding out over the past few weeks. I picked up my 8 week old Golden Retriever puppy Folie, at the beginning of February and quickly became aware that life was going to be very hectic for the next few months!

It is vital that your new puppy is well socialised and trained, ensuring they develop into a well-balanced and friendly adult dog. Introducing your puppy to different environments and situations during their first 14 weeks is essential; this includes other dogs, adults, children, traffic and household noises. Vaccination courses are generally completed by 10 weeks, but prior to this it is

a good idea to invite round friendly, vaccinated animals to start the socialisation process.

Establishing a sleeping routine is worthwhile for both you and your puppy. The key to this is ensuring that you have a very tired puppy come bedtime! Puppy crates are very useful both during the day as a quiet area and during the night. They provide a safe environment for your puppy to sleep in and also aid toilet training. Puppies will generally cry the first few nights when left, it is vital that you do not go down and respond to this crying as this will encourage the behaviour, they will usually settle after a few nights.

I have also found a 'Adaptil' collar, which releases calming pheromones, a great help in Folie's transition from the breeder's home to mine. They last

a month and are worthwhile investing in for the first few months to help your puppy settle into their new environment.

If you have any questions about your puppy or are looking into getting a new addition, then please do not hesitate to ask any of the vets or nurses.

Hannah & Folie



Anti-freeze awareness...

As the cold weather comes in, more and more people will be reaching for the anti-freeze to de-ice the car windscreen. Although this is a quick fix whilst in a rush in the morning, anti-freeze contains ethylene glycol (EG), a substance which can cause fatal toxicity in cats.

Only a small amount of EG is needed to cause toxicity and this can easily be ingested by cats either licking anti-freeze directly (it is very sweet tasting) or whilst grooming themselves.

Initial signs of EG ingestion include vomiting and depression and this can be noted less than 12 hours after intoxication. These signs then begin to rapidly

develop and worsen and anorexia may be noted. Within 24 hours of intoxication it leads to kidney damage and failure.

Diagnosis is usually based on clinical findings, as cats are rarely observed ingesting EG. Blood and urine testing will show that the cat has gone into kidney failure and we often hypothesise that EG toxicity is the cause.

If cats are observed ingesting EG and examined immediately (less than 1 hour) then we can induce vomiting as the EG will still be present in the stomach. We can also administer ethanol, as this prevents the breakdown of EG in the body and stops the

damaging effects. After 12 hours or once kidney failure has developed, treatment with ethanol is unlikely to be effective and the focus of treatment is to support the kidneys. This means aggressive and on going intravenous fluid therapy to ensure that the kidneys are sufficiently perfused with blood. We also keep a close eye on urine output and measure the amount of urine being produced.

Unfortunately the prognosis for cats with acute kidney failure is poor, but recovery can occur with early aggressive treatment. It is important to phone the practice number immediately if your cat displays any of the above signs.

Collie Quinn's courageous quest...

Quinn is a 10 year old Border Collie who presented with intermittent lameness on his right forelimb and a dense swelling lower down the limb which was sore to touch. We elected to x-ray his limb under general anaesthetic to diagnose the problem. The x-ray of the limb (pictured



below), shows that the bottom section of his ulna (one of the long bones below the elbow) was missing. The bone had been eaten away by a bone tumour known as an osteosarcoma. Luckily another long bone called the radius sits alongside the ulna and this was what was supporting the leg, but the damage to the ulna explained the lameness and swelling present.

Quinn's owner was keen to treat the osteosarcoma, which meant amputating the leg and starting chemotherapy.

Quinn had his forelimb amputated 1 week later and recovered incredibly well. He went home 2 days later and trotted out of

the practice on 3 legs as if nothing had happened.

His chemotherapy started a week after the operation. He requires 4 cycles of a chemotherapy drug called carboplatin and this is injected intravenously every 3 weeks. We have to be very careful whilst injecting this drug as it is cytotoxic, which means it can damage cells, for example our skin cells. Everyone involved with giving the chemotherapy has to wear protective clothing. Quinn goes home after his chemotherapy and does not have to stay in the practice overnight, but his owner has to be very careful when handling his urine and faeces as some of the carboplatin can be excreted

out in his urine/faeces.

Quinn is halfway through his chemotherapy and is doing fantastically. He has coped remarkably well on 3 legs and has suffered no side effects from the carboplatin.

Below is a picture of Quinn on his 3 legs looking great!



Understanding our older feline friends...

As the life expectancy of our cats increases, so does their risk of developing dementia.

Experts suggest that good diet, mental stimulation and companionship can reduce the risk of dementia in cats. The cats we most commonly see displaying signs of the illness are over the age of 12. Their owners show concern over certain behaviours, mainly inappropriate vocalisation. Cats with cognitive dysfunction can be seen to stare blankly into space and may seem disorientated and confused. They may also begin to urinate and defaecate around the home when

they were previously litter trained. They can also forget to eat or have difficulty finding their food and water bowls and may stop grooming themselves.

There are a number of environmental approaches which can be tried to help both the cat and owner through this difficult period. Try to keep any changes at home to a minimum. Familiarity will certainly help your cat feel safe and minimise confusion. If night times are a problem, try leaving a dim light on and a radio on a low volume. Some cats seem to benefit from being in a more confined area at night and a

puppy crate is perfect for this. It must be large enough to house food, water and a litter tray. It may take them a couple of weeks to adjust to the crate so do not expect them to settle in immediately.

Play, interaction and TLC can help greatly in keeping your older cat happy. For some cats though medical intervention is necessary, there are both over-the-counter and prescription only medicines available to help alleviate these signs so speak to one of the vets if you are worried.

Mitzi's mishap...

Mitzi is a 6 month old Border Terrier, who was rushed down to see Mark one Friday evening after being trodden on by a much larger dog. She was unable to use her right forelimb and was very painful if you tried to touch the leg. Mark took her straight through to x-ray and radiographed her right forelimb. The x-ray (which can be seen above), showed that there was a fracture of her radius and ulna, which are the 2 bones that sit



below the elbow. Fracture fixation can be difficult in a young animal as their bones are still growing but the owners were keen to do everything they could.

Mark operated on Mitzi the next morning and applied a plate across the fracture line to stabilise the bones. X-rays taken after the procedure showed good alignment and stabilisation of the bones. Mitzi recovered very well and began weight bearing on the leg within 24 hours. She went home on the Monday and we advised strict cage rest for the next few weeks, to give the bones time to heal without putting too much stress and strain on them.

4 weeks later Mitzi came back for repeat x-rays of her leg. The fracture is healing very well and she is on her way to a full recovery. Here she is pictured below.

