



**Mark Maltman MRCVS**  
**Josie Cosham MRCVS**  
**Hannah West MRCVS**  
**Lindley Stewart MRCVS**

&

**Clare Newton MRCVS**  
**with nurses:**

Emma Akehurst RVN (Practice Manager)

Rebecca Norman RVN (Deputy Head)

Cindy Winter RVN

Kerry Blight RVN

Mel Knight RVN

Clare Martindale RVN

Laura Watson RVN

Anna Roberts RVN

Natalie Edwards RVN

Kerry Desmond RVN

Kat Filby RVN

Laura Betchley (Student VN)

Sian Bolton (Student VN)

Katie Goddings (Student VN)

and

**Claire Martin (Head of reception)**

**Yvonne Croker (Reception)**

**Lisa Snelling (Reception)**

**Kerrie Hurren (PA)**

**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.

Clare Newton, Yvonne Croker and Lisa Snelling are all joining team Maltman Cosham and you can read more about these members of staff in the adjoining article.

Kerry Desmond and Kat Filby are qualified veterinary nurses who have joined the team as evening staff and will be in charge of inpatient care with the duty vet.

Clare Martindale and Cindy Winter are both back part time after their maternity leave and I am sure you will all be pleased to see them around the practice again.

Claire Martin has become head of reception, whilst Kerrie Hurren is leaving reception to become Mark and Josie's personal assistant.

**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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## New faces at Maltman Cosham...

We are pleased to welcome Yvonne Croker to the reception team.

Yvonne was born in West Sussex and moved to Horsham in 1986 when she married Kevin. She has previously worked as a Personal Assistant, before becoming a Teaching Assistant and Learning Mentor at Heron Way Primary School in 2000. In 2013 she began volunteering for Care for the Wild International and this experience inspired her to have a career change and join Maltman Cosham in April 2015.

Yvonne has two grown-up children, Jason and Lucy, and a mischievous, ginger cat called Jasper. As well as spending time with her family and working in her garden, she loves to be in the countryside hiking or cycling. She is also a keen reader, attends Pilates and Zumba classes and makes silver jewellery.



We are delighted to welcome Clare Newton as the latest addition to the veterinary team.

Clare qualified from

the Royal Veterinary College in 1993 and started her career in a mixed practice in Staines Middlesex where she worked for three years. She then moved to concentrate on small animal work at a practice in Paddock Wood, Kent.

Clare moved to Sussex in 2002 where she has worked at a small animal practice in Partridge Green for the last 13 years, she is now looking forward to joining the team at Maltman Cosham.

In her spare time she enjoys playing the flute and cooking for family and friends. Her favourite way to relax is to go on a long dog walk over the Downs with a pub meal to finish.

We are pleased to introduce Lisa Snelling to the reception team.

Lisa trained as a Veterinary Nurse at Mackay and Green in Haywards Heath and qualified in 1989. Since then she has worked at three other practices, including Hawthorn Veterinary Surgery in Partridge Green where she worked for the past 16 years. Lisa has experience of reception duties and enjoys the client contact and wanted a change from the physical side of nursing whilst staying within the Veterinary profession.

Lisa has a 15 year old son, who attends the Weald Secondary school in Billingham and they have a three year old cross breed terrier called Pepper and two cats called Parsnip and Penguin. When she is not working, Lisa enjoys walking, cooking, baking and gardening.



## Bark in the Park...

Calling all dog owners and their four legged friends.

Go walkies this summer with all the family and support St Catherine's Hospice.

It's simple; you can raise much needed funds for your local hospice whilst enjoying a beautiful walk in a park near you. St Catherine's Hospice provides specialist end of life care to all those in Horsham, Crawley, Mid Sussex and East Surrey. On their In Patient Unit they have volunteer dogs that visit every week to spend time with patients, bringing comfort to those dealing with the

devastating diagnosis of a terminal illness. Your sponsorship money alone could pay for a patients meals for a day cooked to their special dietary requirements.

Everyone is barking about the walks so stop yapping and sign up today! Register for just £5 per dog with no minimum sponsorship.

There are 2 new venues this year making a total of 4 events. Sign up near you!

Our local event is at Chesworth Farm, Horsham on Sunday 31st May.

For more information and to register visit [www.stch.org.uk/barkinthepark](http://www.stch.org.uk/barkinthepark) or call 01293 447319



## Endless Ear Disease...

Bracken (below) is an 11 year old Poodle who was diagnosed with diabetes about 18 months ago. He had been doing well but began to suffer with recurrent ear infections in both ears. These were causing him severe discomfort and beginning to impact on his quality of life. Bracken was treated with antibiotics and antifungals, which would improve the ear disease but were unable to stop the issue re-



currence. We regularly use topical steroid when medicating ears but were unable to with Bracken as their use is contraindicated in diabetic patients, as it destabilises the condition and can be quite dangerous.

We decided after numerous antibiotic courses that a more drastic approach was needed to resolve Bracken's ear disease and it was elected to perform a total ear canal ablation and bulla osteotomy (TECA-BO) on both of the ears.

TECA-BO surgery involves removing the vertical ear canal, which sits under the ear flap, and closing the tissue so that the animal is left with no ear 'hole'. By doing this the area of

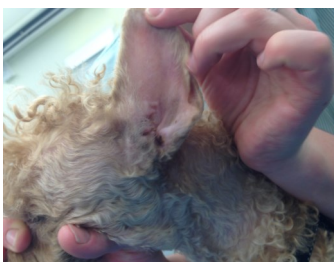
infection is removed and further infections are prevented. However this sort of surgery carries many complications and should only be used in patients such as Bracken who have chronic ear disease that does not respond to medical therapies.

Side effects include facial nerve paralysis, deafness, vestibular disease and wound infections. It is very important to locate the facial nerve whilst operating as it sits alongside the canal that is being removed and if traumatised it can result in facial drooping and a loss of the blink response which can then result in secondary eye disease.

Bracken underwent successful TECA-BOs on both ears during 2

separate surgeries 2 weeks apart. The results of one of the surgeries can be seen below, the ear flap has been lifted and there is no longer a canal just a flat area of skin.

Bracken went home with pain relief and antibiotics post operatively. However I am now pleased to say he is on no medication for his ears and is a much happier chap!



## Inflammatory Bowel Disease...

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a commonly seen condition affecting the stomach and small intestine of both dogs and cats. It involves an intolerance to dietary proteins and sometimes carbohydrates, which results in white blood cells flooding to the gut lining and causing thickening, which impairs the normal function.

It is a chronic condition and is not considered until clinical signs have been present for more than 3 weeks. Signs include vomiting or diarrhoea and most cases involve both the stomach and small intestine. Due to the thickened guts, the animal is unable to absorb nutrients properly and therefore they usually lose weight. Appetite can be increased if the pet is searching for extra calories or decreased if they are suffering with abdominal discomfort.

Diagnosis is based on a clinical history and then usually faecal samples (to rule out other diseases), bloods and imaging (usually an ultrasound scan). To

definitely diagnose endoscopic biopsies of the gut are taken, which requires a general anaesthetic but is considered a relatively non invasive procedure.

Treatment involves a combination of medical therapy and dietary change.

- Anti-acid drugs control the amount of acid in the stomach and small intestine and can help reduce inflammation.

- Steroids can be used to dampen the immune system down to prevent a reaction to the ingested food. Initially the dose is quite high and side effects may be noticed, but once control is achieved the dose is reduced to the lowest effective dose, which should be accompanied by a marked reduction in side effects.

- Antibiotics are sometimes used long term as the abnormal environment created in the intestine can result in bacterial overgrowth.

- Diet is the mainstay of treatment as if this is not changed the medical therapy will not be effective.

When choosing a suitable diet we look for a protein source which has not been fed to the patient before. There are both home cooked and prescription diets available and this is something that can be discussed if necessary with one of the vets.

Prognosis is good for the large majority of patients. If you have any concerns that your pet may be suffering from this condition then please book an appointment.



## Muesli mix musings...

The majority of dental problems that are seen in pet rabbits are part of a 'progressive syndrome of acquired dental disease' (PSADD) that affects the shape, position and structure of the teeth and is linked with incorrect diet, namely young rabbits fed muesli mixes and little or no grass or hay. The large majority of a rabbits diet should be made up of hay, grass, leafy green vegetables and wild plants with only a very small component comprising of pellets (approximately 5%).

The early signs of this disease are elongation of the tooth roots

and a reduction in the enamel covering. This can cause the roots to press on the nerve supply to the teeth and cause pain, which then prevents the rabbit from being able to eat harder foods such as hay. Excess tear production may also be noted as the elongated teeth press on the nasolacrimal duct, which blocks



Muesli mix

the drainage from the eye.

As the disease progresses the shape and position of the teeth alter so that they no longer align and therefore do not wear down. This causes sharp spurs to develop which can cut the cheek and tongue and affect the rabbits ability to eat, swallow and groom.

Eventually the changes destroy the tissue within the teeth, which results in the teeth no longer growing. The teeth will become uneven, discoloured and sometimes even fall off. Rabbits will be unable to eat anything other than very soft food and are prone to facial abscesses, which can be

difficult to treat.

It is therefore vital that rabbits are on the correct diet from a very early age. The damage created by being fed on muesli mixes is irreversible and can leave rabbits with many secondary debilitating diseases and a lifetime of pain.

