



Hunters Lodge

Veterinary Practice

Fleas: Still an irritation

As the weather gets cooler don't be fooled that there are less fleas around. Although fleas like hot weather they also thrive in damp conditions. As outside temperatures fall, the central heating will go on and this encourages flea larvae in the carpet to wake up and start looking for a meal. Clients often think they are out of peak flea season once the summer is over and slacken off on their monthly flea treatment the result being a surge in the flea problem in their house.

Options for flea treatment include:

Advocate - a monthly spot on that also treats fox mange, ear mites, roundworm and also lungworm.

Advantix - fleas and ticks. Ticks can be a huge problem in the Autumn. As this summer has been pretty wet we have been seeing plenty of the little blighters! This is available for dogs only. Advantix also has lots of benefits for dogs travelling abroad.

Program injections for cats - an injection given every 6 months. A very convenient way of preventing flea eggs hatching in your carpet.

Indorex Spray - treatment for the carpet. Lasts up to a year.



Flea prevention can be a minefield and it's always tempting to get it from the supermarket when you go shopping. Unfortunately these are non-prescription medications and often not effective. If you want a flea free season come and see us for more information.



Cats: Our fair-weather friends

As the seasons change, cat behaviour often does too. Whilst dogs will go out for a run whatever the weather, cats are far more sensitive to the rain and cold. The result of which is that they stay in and find a nice warm spot in the airing cupboard for the next six months. This may be exaggerating slightly but it is a common trend that cats generally gain weight over the autumn and winter due to less activity outdoors. When we see them in the Spring they have often gained a significant amount of weight. Even if they lose some in the summer year on year this tends to cause an overall gain in weight.

There are plenty of things you can do to prevent this happening. Try and keep your cat active indoors. If they like playing with toys then get them running and chasing around at least twice a week to burn off a few calories.

It is a fact that neutered cats are less active once neutered and eat more often resulting in weight gain. They are even less active in the cooler weather. Prevent this weight gain with a diet for neutered cats. We recommend Royal Canin neutered feline. It is 30% lower in calories and will help maintain your cat's figure. It will also prevent bladder stones which is a common problem for neutered male cats. The stones can cause all sorts of problems some of which are very serious.

Please come in and see us if you would like some advice or information.

Arthritis: Not just getting old

We have all heard the stories of a friend who has moved to Spain and is now far more active and pain free from arthritis than they were in the UK. It is a sad fact that the colder damper weather can aggravate arthritis. This is exactly the same for our pets. You may find in the cooler weather your pet is slowing up or becoming more stiff.



If you are noticing that your dog or cat is stiff or slow to rise after lying for long periods and then warms out of the limp when walking, they may have some form of arthritis. Arthritis is a condition where the joints, often in the legs, have degenerated causing pain and discomfort. The condition will have come on gradually so sometimes can be hard to notice.

It can be more difficult to spot in cats. Owners often assume that old cats sleep all day just because they are old. We have found that quite often it is because they are painful and so do not want to move around a lot. Owners are quite often surprised at how active their cat has become once they are on treatment to improve the pain.

Arthritis can occur at any age but does tend to happen more in older animals due to wear and tear on the

joint. The good news is that there are many treatments available to make your pet comfortable such as pain relief, nutritional supplements, acupuncture, hydrotherapy and weight loss programmes.

The key is to keep your pet mobile so that the muscles work for as long as possible. If you think your pet is showing any of these signs book an appointment and we can talk to you about treatment options.

Arthritis is not an inevitable part of ageing, there is plenty that can be done about it.

CASE BOOK: Bandit

Bandit is a five year old male Labrador. He came in to the practice after being unwell and off his food for 2 days. For a Labrador this was especially out of character. Bandit was also seen stretching his abdomen suggesting he was in pain.



Helen, the vet, asked some questions about what Bandit may have eaten and his owner remembered him scavenging the bin bag after a barbeque, and thought he may have eaten some corn on the cob. This was over a month ago and he had been fine since eating it. This is a common foreign body so Bandit was admitted for x rays and ultrasound to see if that was the problem. On the x ray there was a very subtle suggestion of a blockage so an ultrasound was done to see if

this would show up more easily. The ultrasound showed lots of fluid in the intestine but it was not possible to see the blockage. Helen discussed the findings with the owner and they decided to do an exploratory operation.

Bandit was put onto a drip and given a general anaesthetic. He was taken into theatre and his abdomen examined. A large piece of corn on the cob was removed from his small intestine. He was very lucky as his gut was close to perforating. If the owners has not brought him in so quickly his chance of recovery would have been much less.

Why had it taken a month for Bandit to get ill after eating the corn? The cob had probably been in Bandit's stomach for all that time. Whilst it was there it was not causing a problem as food could travel around it and pass into the small intestine. It was only when the cob passed from the stomach into the small intestine that it started to make the patient ill as there was then a complete blockage. Bandit was a slightly unusual case as he was not vomiting as much as expected for an intestinal blockage so it was much harder to diagnose the problem.

It was lucky that his owners mentioned the barbeque so then we had a good idea what we were looking for.

Bandit is now doing really well and making a good recovery.



Practice News

Puppy Parties

We are now running puppy parties at the Guildford practice. They are great fun and an opportunity to socialise your puppy with others of a similar age. It's also a chance to get a lot of information from us and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. We will be taking plenty of photos so check out our website.



We run a course of two evenings, on two consecutive Wednesdays, starting at 7.30pm and lasting for an hour. Parties are also available to non registered clients so if you have a friend with a puppy ask them to come along too. Just let us know they are coming. All puppies must have had their first vaccination.

Well Pet Blood Test

When your pet comes in for their vaccinations ask about the Well Pet Blood Test.

This is a like an MOT that is run for healthy animals only available at the time of vaccination. The idea is to detect underlying problems that are not yet obvious and treat them early for the best possible outcome. We have been running this screen for a while now and have lots of cases that have benefited from early diagnosis.

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About Us

Hunters Lodge is a well-established, independent mixed practice offering a high quality service for all small animals, farm animals and horses.

We understand that clients appreciate continuity of care and always endeavour to arrange an appointment with the vet you request. Our team consists of three veterinary surgeons and five veterinary nurses who aim to provide a caring and individual service to achieve the needs of you and your pet.

We have two fully equipped practices in Guildford and Ewhurst where we can perform all routine and more involved surgical operations.

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