



# Hunters Lodge

## Veterinary Practice

### **Lexi Discovers a Taste for Ibuprofen**

This is lovely Lexi. She is a 1 year old Japanese Spitz cross. She came in to see us last week after scoffing a strip of Ibuprofen tablets.



Unfortunately her owners did not know exactly how many she had eaten. She brought them back up within an hour so her owners breathed a sigh of relief and thought she would be fine. The next day Lexi looked a bit sorry for herself. She was sick a few times and not keen on her food. Her owners thought she would get better, but Lexi had other ideas and did not pick up at all. She started to drink a lot of water too. Her owner brought her to see Helen concerned that she was not doing very well. Helen examined Lexi and although she was still bright and had a waggy tail Helen was worried as there was an odd smell to Lexi's breath. Lexi was admitted for blood tests and we found that her kidneys and liver were failing. She was put onto a drip and given lots of supportive medication. Only time would tell if Lexi's organs could recover. It could already be too late for her. The next day Lexi was no longer vomiting and eating her food.

Grant took some more blood to see if things were any better.

Fortunately her blood results were much improved which was a great sign. The real test would be another blood test after Lexi had come off the drip. We saw Lexi today and are pleased to report that her kidneys are normal and her liver is also recovering. She is much brighter, eating well and most of her bounce has returned.



As humans we take Ibuprofen at the drop of a hat for any little ache and pain. It is hard to appreciate how toxic this medication can be to dogs as we use them so freely on ourselves. If your pet steals any type of medication always call us straight away for advice. It is always better to see us immediately and treat the pet before any signs develop. Lexi was lucky as her owners did bring her in, but if she had been left any longer the story would have been very different.

### **Did you know?**

Hedgehogs are in trouble in the UK as reports come in that fewer hedgehogs are seen every year. In the past, gamekeepers killed hedgehogs because they ate the eggs of game birds. Today it is regarded as beneficial and is often called the gardener's friend as it eats large numbers of slugs, snails and other garden pests.



Although the hedgehog is in decline

and receives some protection from the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, it is not officially a threatened species. Thousands of hedgehogs die every year for a variety of reasons, most of them caused by humans. Spare a thought for the spikey ones this spring when you are using your strimmers in the garden. Lot of hedgies are injured this way every year.

### **Charlie and the Kebab**

This is Charlie. He is a ten year old Jack Russell.



*Charlie looking guilty*

He came in to see Grant on a Saturday afternoon after devouring a kebab on a stick. Charlie believed in not taking any chances and chewing his food as he might get caught, so he swallowed the kebab plus stick whole. Fortunately for Charlie his owner had seen his actions so was able to get him seen by the vet straight away. After seeing Grant it was decided that Charlie would have endoscopy to see if the stick was still lurking in his stomach. This would mean he would have a general anaesthetic and have a camera put into his stomach. On doing this Grant was confronted with a lot of food in his stomach as Charlie has also recently

had his elevenses. It was quite difficult to find the kebab stick in amongst all the other food. Eventually Grant saw the end of a stick like object in the top of Charlie's stomach. He used a pair of grabbing forceps to see if he could get hold of the stick. Fortunately he did and was able to pull the stick back towards the opening of the stomach. As he was removing the stick Grant found it difficult to pull the stick out of the stomach. He realised that the meat on the kebab was causing the difficulty. With a bit of a tug the stick came clean out leaving the pieces of kebab meat safely in Charlie's stomach. As his owner later pointed out Charlie still got his own way in the end!



The offending kebab stick

The endoscope, and of course Grant's skill, proved invaluable in this case. Had we not had this useful piece of equipment Charlie would have needed a major operation to open up his stomach to retrieve the stick. Had the owners not witnessed Charlie's crime he would have possibly been in a life threatening situation and the outcome would have been much less certain. The great news is Charlie has made a speedy recovery but kebabs are definitely off the menu!

## Alabama Rot

Idiopathic cutaneous and renal glomerular vasculopathy, otherwise known as CRGV or Alabama rot is a disease that has been known about

since the late 1980's. It was initially thought to only affect Greyhounds and the dogs reported with the disease in the USA presented with kidney failure and/or skin lesions. The cause of the disease remains unknown.

Since December 2012, sixteen suspected cases have been seen in the United Kingdom. Some of these were from the New Forest. However, cases have also been identified in Dorset, Surrey, Cornwall, Worcestershire and County Durham. Only two cases have been seen since December 2013.



The skin lesions are a symptom of the disease rather than being traumatic wounds from an injury. Typically the skin lesions have been below the knee or elbow. They may present as a focal swelling, a patch of red skin or a defect in the skin (like an ulcer). Over the subsequent two to seven days the affected dogs have developed clinical signs of kidney failure which can include vomiting, reduced appetite and tiredness. It is important to remember that only a very small number of dogs have been affected. Most skin lesions will not be caused by this disease and most cases of kidney failure will have another cause.

If your dog is affected, early recognition of the disease and aggressive management is likely to lead to the best outcome. Without knowing the trigger for the disease it is impossible to give specific advice about walking your dog and it is again important to stress that the case numbers are very low and that this disease is not isolated to the New Forest. The disease does not appear to pass from dog to dog. If you are concerned about your dog please give us a call.

## Practice News

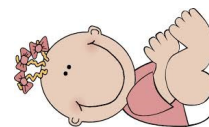
We are looking for a part time **veterinary surgeon** to cover maternity leave from September. This job may also be available as a long term position. Interested or know someone that might be? Call Helen or Delia on 01483 276464 or e mail us on

enquiries@hunterslodgevets.co.uk



**Congratulations to Jocelyn and Matt** on their engagement. Jocelyn has wasted no time on the planning and the wedding is booked for December.

**Louise** our **receptionist** has returned to Ewhurst after being on maternity leave. Little Darcey is now one year old.



**Congratulations to Charlie** on passing her 2<sup>nd</sup> year nursing exams. Nearly there!



### **Ewhurst**

1 Mapledrakes Road  
Ewhurst, Surrey  
GU6 7RG

**01483 276464**



### **Guilford**

41 Woodbridge Hill  
Guilford, Surrey  
GU2 9AD

**01483 570782**



### **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.

[www.hunterslodgevets.co.uk](http://www.hunterslodgevets.co.uk)

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