

Damory Veterinary Clinic

Small Animal Newsletter

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Special points of interest in this issue:

- Margaret Green Charity Calendar
- Kennel Cough
- Intradermal Skin Tests– Allergy
- Parvovirus

Also included in this issue:

- New staff
- Weight Clinics



2016 Winter Newsletter

Date: December 2016

Vetsure Pet Insurance

As a practice, we recommend insuring your pets to cover the costs of medical & surgical procedures they may need during their lifetime. Having insurance can take away any potential financial concerns and allow you to concentrate on helping your pet recover. As of the summer we now promote Vetsure Pet Insurance®, for a number of reasons:

1. We are part of the trusted Vetsure network. This means that Vetsure are happy for us to settle the bill directly with them when you make an eligible claim. You simply pay us the policy excess.

2. You are able to pick and choose from a range of benefit levels to suit your budget. Vetsure offer three main policies, each carrying a different excess and monthly premium (tailored to your own individual pet). The three excess levels are £69, £109 or £149

3. If your pet develops an on-going condition such as arthritis or diabetes, the vet treatment benefits offered will re-charge every year for each condition** – many insurers charge the excess every year – which can soon make costs add up.

As a fully accredited Vetsure practice we can exclusively offer our clients 5 weeks cover free of charge. Simply choose whichever level of cover you are interested in taking out and get the first 5 weeks free.***

***provided your premiums are kept up to date and your policy remains in place.*

**** terms and conditions apply – visit vetsure.com for details on cover available.*

Advanced Training in the Small Animal Department.

A number of our vets have undertaken, or are in the process of undertaking, additional training in a number of different areas and are therefore able to enhance the medical and surgical knowledge of the team and treatments we are able to offer:

Dave Harding - RCVS Certificate in Veterinary Radiology and General Practice Certificate in Small Animal Ophthalmology. Mr Harding also has extensive knowledge of internal medicine.

Cesar Sastre - General Practice Certificate in Small Animal Surgery. Mr Sastre also has a special interest in Dermatology.

Jaime Mayol – Currently undertaking a General Practice Certificate in Small Animal Surgery

Ruth Crossman – Currently undertaking the RCVS Certificate in Small Animal Internal Medicine

Samantha Butler – Currently undertaking a General Practice Certificate in Small Animal Internal Medicine.

Margaret Green Animal Rescue Calendar 2017

CALENDAR 2017



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Margaret Green
In aid of Animal Rescue

This year sees the return of our Margaret Green Animal Rescue Calendar. We ask our clients to send in pictures of their pets – of all shapes, sizes, species and breeds!

If you missed the opportunity to send us a picture this year, keep an eye on our Facebook page next year for another chance.

The most photogenic are featured and all proceeds from the calendar go towards the charity, who work tirelessly at rehoming and helping the animals of Dorset. Available in from now! make sure you pre-order your copy!

Weight Clinics



It's a sad fact that a large percentage of the pet population are overweight and this can lead to a number of different health conditions. Diabetes, arthritis and cardiac disease to name but a few. Our nurses can help in the weight loss, as they run weight clinics here at the practice in the mid afternoon. These clinics are free of charge.

Detailed measurements of your pet will be taken and they will advise how best to succeed in reaching a target weight for your pet. If you feel your pet could benefit, or one of our vets has advised they could lose some weight please contact the practice and we will be able to arrange a nurse consultation for you.



Intradermal Skin Testing– Allergy

Do you have an itchy dog or cat?

Dog skin conditions and cat skin conditions are very common and frequently have an underlying allergic cause.

Cesar Sastre performs intra-dermal skin testing on patients to elucidate the causal allergen and help provide a treatment. This service runs from mid-November to mid-May.

Your pet will need to be lightly sedated for the procedure, which involves injecting a number of potential allergens under the skin on a pre-prepared area and measuring the response. This enables us to identify a potential cause for an allergy and prescribe the appropriate treatment.

Please contact us at the practice for further information if you feel your pet may benefit from this.

Staff Changes in the Small Animal Department

This year we've seen three of our trainee veterinary nurses succeed at their final exams and become fully fledged registered veterinary nurses (RVN).

Congratulations to Naomi Gough, Leanne Garrett and Sophie Babbs! All three are staying with Damory and we're so proud of all they've achieved.

We've also got two new starters to our nursing team – firstly Georgia Purton has started her veterinary nurse training with us and will be starting college in January 2017, attending once a week and receiving further training with us on the other days. Secondly we welcome back Sophie Barber who trained and qualified as a Veterinary Nurse with us at Damory nearly three years ago. She had a two year work opportunity at another vets as a small animal nurse, but has now returned and as of December 2016 will also be a clinical coach for trainees at the practice.

Leanne Garrett



Georgia Purton



Naomi Gough



Sophie Babbs



Sophie Barber



Kennel Cough

Over the recent months we have seen an increase in the number of cases of kennel cough. The disease comes in two forms – bacterial or viral, or indeed a mixture of the two. Often presenting as a raspy cough, which worsens if the dog is excited or pulling on the lead. Many will cough to the extent that they can vomit.

The majority of cases are self-limiting and may only need treatment that reduces the coughing. Some dogs can

become unwell with the condition and may benefit from further treatment.

If you suspect your dog may have kennel cough, please call the surgery for advice. If we recommend seeing him/her then we will always ask you to wait outside with them to minimise the risk of spreading this highly contagious disease.

We appreciate your understanding should we ask this.

Parvovirus

Parvovirus is a severe form of gastroenteritis seen in dogs and cats (also known as Feline Infectious Enteritis), leading to profuse bleeding from the intestines. It is more common in puppies and kittens and is often fatal. Those that survive will require intensive treatment. Pregnant dogs and cats infected with parvovirus can pass the disease onto their unborn young. In puppies this can result in a heart condition known as myocarditis and in kittens, cerebellar hypoplasia. Affected kittens lack fine motor control and will be very unsteady on their feet.

Parvovirus is still relatively prevalent and we have very sadly seen some recent cases, which has prompted us to write an information piece.

As vets we are regularly asked as to whether vaccinations are necessary. This has come about due to the decreased incidence of many diseases as a result of vaccination but also due to health concerns about over-vaccination. Whilst it is right to question the frequency of vaccination there is no doubt that there is a genuine need for vaccination as a concept and it is our belief that alternatives such as homeopathic nosodes are of little, if no benefit.

We follow both the guidelines outlined by both the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA – Vaccine guidelines) and the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA). These principles outline core vaccines, one of which is for parvovirus. Our current vaccination protocol is as follows:

Dogs:

Initial start course of two injections covering parvovirus, distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis. Start at 8 weeks and second injection 4 weeks later. Full booster at 1 year of age. Beyond this we recommend yearly vaccination against leptospirosis and full boosters of parvovirus, distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis every 3 years.

Cats:

Initial start course of two injections covering parvovirus, cat flu and feline leukaemia. Start at 8 weeks and second injection 3-4 weeks later. Full booster at 1 year of age. Beyond this we recommend yearly vaccination against cat flu and leukaemia and full boosters of parvovirus, cat flu and leukaemia every three years.

Dogs and cats coming for yearly vaccines also have the added benefit of receiving a full clinical exam from a veterinary surgeon.

We will often refer to a situation known as “herd immunity”, and this is especially important in animals who have received their puppy/kitten and 1st year vaccines. When an individual animal is vaccinated regularly, they are protected should they be exposed to the disease. If the population in general is vaccinated, then this allows the amount of circulating disease to be reduced. This can lead to a reduction in the prevalence of the disease, and therefore result in protection to puppies before they are vaccinated.

The vaccination company that we use, Nobivac, recently carried out a large, nationwide study of the development of diseases such as epilepsy and skin problems between the vaccinated and unvaccinated populations. There was no statistical difference in the development of chronic medical conditions between the vaccinated and unvaccinated population, suggesting that vaccination should not be implicated as a trigger factor for these diseases.

That is not to say that vaccination cannot have side effects. Individual animals may react badly to an individual vaccine and its use again would have to be carefully considered. On the whole, however, we believe that the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks. If you have any specific concerns, however, one of the vets will gladly discuss this further with you in a consultation.