

To the rescue...

One afternoon in December Marcia received a phone call from the SSPCA reporting that a cat has been found trapped on a fence. The SSPCA officer was attending another call and asked if we could go out to the cat. Emma and Jenny gathered some items together and set out to assess the situation and free the cat from the fence.

On arrival they found a black and white adult cat hanging by its hind leg on a cast iron garden fence. It had managed to trap its leg through one of the swirls. There was obvious trauma to the trapped leg where the cat had been struggling. The cat was also very hypothermic, weak and distressed. It was important that we released it as quickly as possible and got it back to the surgery. With some manoeuvring the leg was freed, the cat was given a fast acting pain killer injection and placed into a cat basket with a heat pad. Emma telephoned back to the surgery to ask Rachel to set up the X-ray machine, prepare treatment and get a warm kennel ready.

Once back at the surgery the cat was given a general anaesthetic so that X-rays could be taken of his leg. Fortunately there were no broken bones but the leg had nasty wounds and more worryingly dangerously poor circulation. The cat, who was nick named Hefner, stayed with us for about a week and thoroughly enjoyed being cuddled and groomed. Hef's leg slowly regained circulation but required daily physiotherapy to reduce the oedema (swelling) and improve blood flow.

Despite radio adverts and posters nobody came forward to claim him. Hef did not have a collar or microchip and there was no other way of finding his owners. He was taken in by the Cats Protection and has now been rehomed.

Hello and Goodbye

After nearly two years, Shelley has hung up her reception hat and can start to enjoy Saturday lie-in's again! We would like to thank Shelley for all her hard work covering reception on Saturday mornings.

Welcome to **Karen Dobbie** who has joined us as our new Saturday receptionist. Karen works for an oil company during the week but has previously worked as a veterinary receptionist.

We also have another new face. **Hilde Huitfeldt-Ormaasen** is on a three month placement with us as a part of her final year veterinary nurse training in Norway.

New pet food

Since we opened we have stocked Hills pet food as our preferred brand of food. In the last year they have increased their prices several times and have also just cancelled a discount scheme which allowed us to sell it at a cheaper price. For this reason we have decided to stock Royal Canin to provide an alternative.

Breed Specific - Royal Canin have a range of diets that have been specifically developed for individual breeds. We will be initially stocking some of the most common dog breed diets. Breed diets available include Labrador, Labrador junior, German Shepherd, German Shepherd junior, Boxer, Rottweiler, Dachshund, Shih Tzu, Miniture Schauzer, Cavalier King Charles, Westie, Chihuahua, Cocker Spaniel, Poodle and Rottweiler. We have information booklets and free samples if you would like to try this food for your dog

Pitter Patter



Congratulations Emma and her husband, Blair, who are expecting their first child in June. All is going well and Emma is hoping to keep working until the end of April and will back with us by Christmas.



Neutered Cat - After cats have been neutered, their metabolism changes slightly and they are more prone to gain weight. The feline neutered range provides all the nutritional requirements that your cat needs to keep it feeling full but limiting weight gain. The neutered cat diets have also been specifically designed to promote a healthy urinary environment preventing urinary stones and mineral deposits which can be a problem in neutered cats (especially males).



Well Done...

Shelley for running and completing the New York Marathon. Shelley worked hard fundraising and training for the marathon and managed to raise lots of money for Macmillan cancer support.

Rachel for passing her veterinary physiotherapy exams.

Physiotherapy appointments are available with Rachel and compliment other medical treatments that we offer.

Jenny for completing a 24hr mountain bike race in the Highlands in January!



If you would like to receive our newsletters by email then please send your email address to enquiries@auroravet.co.uk or follow the link on our website's newsletter page

Website Updates

We have been expanding our website to include more pet care information.

Please visit our site to have a look. New ideas and feedback are always welcome. Please contact Jenny if you have any suggestions.

www.auroravet.co.uk



Campylobacter

Campylobacter is a bacteria commonly associated with digestive upsets and it is the most common cause of human bacterial gastro-enteritis in the UK. In affected people, clinical signs include abdominal cramping, diarrhoea and vomiting. Severe complications are uncommon but they can occasionally occur, especially in young children, elderly people and immunosuppressed people.

Most cases are food poisoning, acquired by handling or eating undercooked meat products, especially poultry. Other risk factors include ingesting contaminated or unpasteurised milk and dairy products, drinking contaminated water, contact with pets and foreign travel.

Direct transmission from pets to people is one of the rarer ways that people get infected but campylobacter is common in pet dogs and cats. It can cause diarrhoea in pets but many dogs and cats are asymptomatic carriers that carry the bacteria without showing any clinical signs.

The Vet Record 10.01.09 has a survey of campylobacter in dogs and cats in the Republic of Ireland. Campylobacter was isolated from 20 out of 43 healthy dogs (46.5%) and 11 out of 25 healthy cats (44%). These are quite high infection rates and it is worthwhile considering how to reduce the risk of transmission from pets to people.

- Basic hygiene – this is the most important. Always wash your hands before preparing food and don't allow pets access to food preparation surfaces.
- Dispose of dog faeces and contaminated cat litter promptly and wash your hands afterwards.
- Always feed pets cooked food – raw diets will increase infection rates.

Take particular care when pets have diarrhoea. You can consider testing your pet to see if it is a carrier. This involves sending a faeces sample away for culture and if they are positive giving a course of an antibiotic (erythromycin) to eliminate the infection. This might be particularly worthwhile for pets that have contact with the more vulnerable groups of people.

Pet Food Contamination

The current disaster in China with babies being poisoned by adulterated milk powder is a very sad follow on to a similar problem in which contaminated pet food killed over 4500 pets in America in spring 2007.

The problem arose when Menu Foods imported wheat gluten and rice-protein from China to use as protein sources in their pet food manufacturing process. These raw ingredients had two cheap chemicals, melamine and cyanuric acid illegally added to them. These chemicals are rich in nitrogen and they fool the standard tests for protein levels which measure nitrogen levels in the food. In small quantities they can be tolerated but in larger doses they are very harmful and in combination they are even more deadly, causing crystals in the urine and fatal kidney damage.

The situation was complicated even further because Menu Foods manufactured food for several other pet food companies in addition to themselves and for a while it was very difficult to find out which brands were safe. The chemicals were also turning up in the human food chain in small quantities because waste pet food can sometimes be incorporated into poultry and pig feed.

It had been hoped that this affair would provide a wake up call for everyone concerned with food safety. In China the government sent out 33,000 inspectors who carried out 10 million inspections and shut down over 150,000 unlicensed food companies but it is the same chemical, melamine, which is turning up in the babies' milk powder a year later.