

## Summer Newsletter

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### New Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory for Cats

A new anti-inflammatory has been licensed for long-term use in cats. It is a liquid easily administered in food and is used for the relief of pain and inflammation in chronic musculoskeletal disorders such as feline arthritis.

#### Is your mature cat less mobile or finding it increasingly harder to jump?

If you think your feline friend may be feeling a bit stiff come in for a check up and we can assess to see if anti-inflammatories might be of benefit.

## Rabbit Health

Rabbits are the third most popular pet in the UK after dogs and cats and they have quite specialised needs so it is worthwhile spending a bit of time thinking about the best way to care for them.



**DIET** – This is one of the most important factors in rabbit health and most of the medical problems that we see are a result of the various dietary ingredients being fed in inappropriate proportions. This can manifest itself as dental disease, digestive upsets, hindquarter soiling, inappetence, weight loss, eye problems and abscesses. The correct diet should consist of good quality roughage, greens and concentrate and it is very important to get the quantities right.

**Concentrate** - for rabbits under 3.5 kgs (which is most of them) - 1 tablespoon daily, to make up about 2% of the diet. Concentrates come as mixes or pellets. Mixes are fine as long as it is all being eaten, but if rabbits are being selective it is better to feed a complete pelleted food to make sure they are getting their proper vitamin and mineral supplement.

**Greens** – about 28% of the diet should be greens – leafy vegetables like cabbage and broccoli

**Roughage** – about 70% should be grass based roughage – hay is the commonest or fresh grass if available. Most rabbits will consume their body size in hay each day.

The common mistake is to overfeed the concentrate part which is high in energy with the result that rabbits fill themselves up with this and don't spend nearly enough time eating their roughage. Rabbits are aradicular hypsodonts (yes, this was news to me as well!) which means that their teeth are open rooted and continually grow throughout life. If they are not being worn sufficiently, both the crowns and the roots start to overgrow and major problems can result. All the healthy micro-organisms in the digestive tract also need a constant supply of roughage to remain in good condition. AS

## Our Open Evening

The open day on 18th April was a great success. During the event we had a constant stream of visitors who enjoyed looking around the practice, finding out how we treat animals, looking at the equipment and chatting to us.

Furry toy animals were used as patients to demonstrate different medical procedures including a cat on a drip, a cat being x-rayed and even a dog being operated in theatre! Other equipment was also on display such as our blood machines, microscope, complete with beasties to identify and a host of different x-rays from broken bones to unborn puppies in the womb to look at.

We had guests such as animal physiotherapist Jenny Johnston, and several veterinary representatives all demonstrating equipment used for treating pets and providing advice on pet care.

Scooby Doo was a big attraction to younger visitors who could try to guess his age and win the huge cuddly toy. Well done to Fiona McWilliam who guessed correctly (38 years old) and is now in proud possession of Scooby.

Many thanks to everyone who made this such a successful and enjoyable event. If you would like to see more pictures of the evening please visit our website.





# Dog Train & Behave Week

28th July - 4th August 2007

The first Dog Train and Behave Week will take place from July 28th to August 4th.

It has been launched to try to reverse negative images of dogs that have built up after recent dog attacks.

The event organisers, Company of Animals wants dog trainers, clubs, vet practices and owners to take part and encourage training and raise money for doggy charities.

Visit [www.dogtrainandbehaveweek.com](http://www.dogtrainandbehaveweek.com) for more details

## Supermarkets ban pet sales on notice boards

Pressure from a national campaign group has seen Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons and the Co-op commit to a ban on the advertising of pets for sale on their in-store notice board.

The campaign group are concerned that breeders are using supermarket notice boards to sell their animals and claims that advertising in such locations "exacerbates the problems of over-breeding and encourages inappropriate impulse buys".

## A CONNECTIVE TAIL!



An owner of two very pampered Siamese cats had a problem with a neighbouring tomcat.

The result was a substantial sum in vet's fees treating the war wounds incurred after numerous heated exchanges in the garden. After seeking advice as to how best to deal with the problem a magnetic

cat door was fitted to stop the tomcat having access to the home and spraying in various places throughout the kitchen.

Returning from work the next day the owner was pleased to find her kitchen odour free and her two cats eagerly awaiting their dinner. After feeding them she carried on with the household chores and then noticed that they had finished their food but were still crouching by their bowls wanting more. Thinking this unusual, as neither were of the greedy sort, more food was then placed in each bowl. A couple of minutes later the pair were still there and it was discovered that they were both stuck fast to their enamelled tin feeding bowls by their magnetic collars!

## Badger Culling and TB Control in Cattle

This is an emotive subject and most of the media coverage tends to feature two diametrically opposed camps. On one hand there is the Badger Welfare Trust who seem unlikely to condone badger culling under any circumstances while on the other hand there are the farming lobby groups like the NFU who are very keen to crack on with a control policy. Sensibly the government commissioned a scientific study of the likely costs and benefits of various strategies and they reported at the end of June, in fairly unequivocal terms, that badger culling would be of no benefit to the control of TB in cattle in Britain and would probably make things worse. Instead a stricter regime of testing cattle and controlling their movements will be more likely to yield success.



On the 22nd April, Shelley took part in the **Flora London marathon** to raise money for **Kidney Research UK**. She completed it in an fantastic time of **4:41:23**

## Loyalty Credits



**Don't forget to tell your family and friends to mention that you recommended us when they register**

We will then be able to credit your account for £5

## TAIL DOCKING LEGISLATION

The tail docking legislation is now law and Scotland has the strictest regulations of the home countries. It is now an offence for any puppy born in Scotland to have its tail docked and it is also illegal to take it across the border to England to have it done. In England there are a small number of working breeds which are exempt but in Scotland there are no exceptions .

Dew claw removal is still permitted.

## SEA MAMMALS AROUND ABERDEEN

The easiest ones to see are Bottle-nosed Dolphins which are often present around the mouth of Aberdeen harbour. These are quite large dolphins with prominent dorsal fins which curve backwards and are quite obvious when they break the water. Much harder to see are Harbour Porpoises as they are severely persecuted by the dolphins and tend to keep a much lower profile. These are littler with smaller, triangular dorsal fins.

The third species I have seen is Minke Whale which I saw last summer on a boat trip from Macduff harbour. I would thoroughly recommend this trip with a company called north58, with great views of seabird colonies and the Buchan coastline.