



VETS ON WHITE HART LANE

www.vetsonwhl.co.uk

NEWS

AUTUMN 2012



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Vets on White Hart Lane
45 White Hart Lane,
Barnes, London
SW13 0PU

- Your independent, neighbourhood practice
- Modern surgical facilities
- "Gold standard" anaesthetic and monitoring systems
- In-house laboratory
- Nurses clinics with qualified nurses
- X-ray with automatic processing
- Ultrasound examination facilities
- Blood pressure measurement
- E.C.G heart assessment
- Certificate holder in veterinary cardiology
- Pet slimmer clubs

Consulting Hours

Monday to Friday
9.00-10.00am no appointments required. For other times ring for appointment.

Late night surgery up to 8.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Saturday

By appointment 8.30am to 12.00pm.

For appointments ring
020 8878 7287
or **020 8878 0552**.

For emergencies ring
020 8878 6080

Nominations For Best Veterinary Practice 2012!

Vets on White Hart Lane were thrilled to receive nominations for the **2012 VET PRACTICE OF THE YEAR** award. One of our vets, Katy Horton and one of our nurses, Marion Williamson, have also received nominations for **VET OF THE YEAR** and **NURSE OF THE YEAR**.

We want to send out a heartfelt thank you to all our clients who voted for us and we are proudly displaying our certificates in reception.

Katy Completes The London To Brighton Bike Ride For Charity

54 MILES later on the 17th of June, Katy crossed the finish line in Brighton. Clapham Common, the start point for the ride was a distant memory. So many of you sponsored the ride and our practice charity TOLFA (Tree of Life for Animals) are thrilled with the hundreds of pounds raised. TOLFA are a brilliant animal charity in India, they care for and treat the street animals who would otherwise have no-one to help them. They relieve so much suffering and also have extensive rabies vaccination and neutering clinics which have positive impact on the local human community. TOLFA also employ staff from the local area, have given employment to dozens of people and hence support to those people's families.

The practice already sponsor the head vet at TOLFA as our way of supporting animals that do not have the care from owners like you. This extra money will make a significant difference to what TOLFA are able to achieve this year.

If any of you would like to add to the sponsor pot that would be amazing, please visit: www.justgiving.com/katy-horton or we are happy to collect donations at the practice.

Thank you everyone for your outstanding kindness.



Autumn Alert – keeping your pet healthy!



AS WELL as ticks there are a range of other parasites and issues for our pets to contend with at this time of year.

Fleas are present in huge numbers in early-Autumn, so do remember to keep treating your pets! **Harvest mites** are also active in long grass

in the late-Summer and Autumn and will swarm onto passing pets where they tend to congregate on the ears, eyelids, feet and underside of the abdomen. They are easily identified as *bright orange dots* adhering tightly to the skin and are usually a cause of great irritation. Like fleas, harvest mites can also bite humans!

Autumn aches: With the cold dark nights coming, it's important to ensure you make time for walking your dog or his mobility (and yours!) can suffer. Affected pets may show signs of joint stiffness – particularly after rest. It's also a good idea to keep a close eye on **your pet's weight**, since it's all too easy for pets to gain a few extra pounds in the Autumn and Winter months. If you are at all concerned, please book your pet in for a check-up.



Microscopic view of a Harvest Mite *Trombicula autumnalis*

Autumn toxic hazards

Many car owners top up their car radiators with **antifreeze** (containing ethylene glycol) at this time of year. Any spillage is very *palatable* to pets and even small amounts can cause kidney failure and death.

Autumn fruits such as **apples** and **conkers** will cause digestive upsets so avoid dogs getting access to them.



Cat Photo: Warren Photographic



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Thirsty Work!



DID you know that *Diabetes mellitus* is a fairly common condition in dogs and cats and that as many as 1 in 200 pets may suffer from the condition?

Pets get most of their energy from carbohydrates which are broken down into glucose in the intestines. Glucose is then absorbed into the bloodstream where it travels to cells throughout the body, supplying them with energy.

In healthy pets, insulin (produced by the pancreas), allows glucose in the blood to enter the cells, enabling the body to function properly.

In diabetic pets, there may either be:

- Lack of insulin production *or*
- Failure of the body cells to respond properly to the insulin

Either way, this results in *too little* glucose getting into the cells and *excess* glucose in the bloodstream.

This excess glucose is filtered out by the kidneys and starts appearing in the urine. The presence of glucose in the urine draws more water into the urine, so larger volumes of urine are produced which needs to be replaced with excessive drinking.

Affected pets can show a range of symptoms, but common ones are:

- Excess thirst / frequent urination
- Weight loss despite increased appetite (they are always hungry)
- Tiredness and lethargy

If your pet is showing *any* of the symptoms described above, please let us see him or her for a complete health examination. Diabetes can usually be confirmed by a finding of glucose in the urine and a blood glucose concentration that is consistently higher than normal. We will also rule out a range of other causes of excessive drinking in pets (such as kidney disease).

The good news however is that although there is no cure for diabetes, the disease can usually be well managed with the help of daily insulin injections, specially formulated diets and (in dogs) carefully regulated levels of exercise.

Changes to the Parasite Control in our Dogs

For the last few years we have been advising our dog owners to use a combination of Frontline and milbemax. Using both these products monthly, we have looked to protect dogs from fleas, ticks, roundworm, tapeworm and lungworm. Lungworm has been a concern to us as it is an emerging problem in this area that has caused fatalities.

There is now a product called **Advocate** which is a drop on solution like Frontline which we believe is the most effective preventative product against lungworm.

We are now advising our dog owners to use **Advocate** once monthly. This will protect our dogs against fleas, roundworms and lungworm and means that you do not need to give the monthly Frontline and milbemax.

There is no tick protection with the use of **Advocate** so in those dogs that are at risk of picking up ticks (that will probably be most dogs in this area), we are advising two possible solutions. We could use a new collar called **Seresto** which offers up

to 8 months protection against fleas and ticks. Alternatively we can use another spot on treatment called **Advantix** which will not only kill ticks but stop them attaching onto the dog. This product will also be useful for dogs that travel as it repels mosquitoes and sand flies.

Advantix cannot be used in families that have cats as this product is toxic to cats.

For most dogs we would need some protection against tapeworms every 3 months. This will mean giving a milbemax every 3 months. We need to give the milbemax on the day before the next

Advocate is due to avoid overdosing with any of the active ingredients.



Photo: © iStockphoto.com

Dry Eye – is your pet affected?



DOES your pet have sore, red or sticky eyes with a mucus discharge? These are all signs of a problem which may have a number of underlying causes. Common causes include conjunctivitis, allergies or scratches to the surface of the eye, but for some dogs the underlying reason may be a problem with a *lack of tear production* – resulting in 'dry eye'.

So why are tears important? Tears carry oxygen and nutrients to the cornea (the clear outer part of the eye), lubricate and cleanse the eyes, and help to protect against infection. Tears play an important role in keeping your pet's eyes healthy.

Dry eye is characterised by a *reduced or total lack of tear production* and is most commonly caused by destruction of the tear glands by the dog's own immune system. Recent figures indicate that as many as 1:22 dogs may be affected.

If left untreated, the eyes gradually become more and more inflamed and painful as they are unable to cleanse and lubricate properly with insufficient tears. *However the appearance of the condition can be quite varied* with some pets' eyes appearing relatively normal *despite* little or no measurable tear production.

Happily there is a simple test that we can perform to check tear production. This is called the **Schirmer Tear Test** and involves holding a sterile paper test strip in the corner of your dog's eye for one minute and measuring how far the dye in the paper travels in that time. The greater the measurable distance the greater the tear production and the less the chance of 'dry eye'.

Better still, medication for 'dry eye', usually in the form of an ointment, can improve tear production and reverse many of the signs of 'dry eye', maintaining vision and keeping pets comfortable. So, if your pet has any of these symptoms, let us know since the earlier the problem is diagnosed and treatment started, the better the long term outlook for affected pets.



Healthy eye



'Dry eye' but appearing relatively normal



'Dry eye' with more obvious changes