

SUMMER 2009

Consulting Times

KENDAL SURGERY

Monday to Friday:

9.00 - 11.00am, 1.30 - 7.00pm

Saturday: 11.00am - 12 noon.

☎ 01539 722692

KIRKBY LONSDALE SURGERY

Monday (new evening surgery)

9.00 - 10.30am, 2.00 - 7.00pm

Tuesday: 9.00 - 10.30am, 2.00 - 6.00pm

Wednesday and Friday:

9.00 - 10.30am, 2.00 - 4.30pm

Thursday (new evening surgery)

9.00 - 10.30, 2.00 - 7.00pm

Saturday: 9 - 10am

☎ 015242 71221

Practice News

Jacki Bland has joined the Kendal reception team, Jacki is a farmers wife from Staveley and has a keen interest in horses, she has 15 traditional cob horses which she shows and breeds. We are also working closely with a dog behaviourist, Debbie Hodgkiss. Debbie runs our puppy parties and also offers a series of puppy classes after this, the aim is to give puppies the best possible social start in life and to have well behaved sociable dogs. We always encourage owners to "drop in" with their dogs so that they don't always associate a visit to the vets with the bad things in life!!

An important part of keeping up to date with current advances in veterinary treatment is continuing professional development, we all spend a minimum of 5 days a year on specialist courses as well as reading veterinary journals. Gerard, Paul, Mary and Emily have all recently attended the british small animal conference in Birmingham the largest conference in Europe with many international speakers, Mary has also recently completed a year long modular course on cat medicine which has been a great help to the practice in keeping us at the forefront of feline medicine, we keep everybody updated by having regular clinical meetings so that the knowledge is shared.



The arrival of a new pet is a happy occasion and to help with this, we've put together a check-list of things to do to keep your pet fit and well throughout their lives.

Vaccination Provided their mother was vaccinated, pups and kittens will have a degree of immunity to *infectious diseases* that will protect them in the first few weeks of life. However this immunity rapidly falls and in order to restore it, a primary course of vaccinations is required. This immunity will also fade over time and regular booster vaccinations, combined with a health check, are the best way of protecting your pet, *plus* keeping an eye out for any other problems.

Looking after your new pet

Life-stage diets We can now offer your pet a tailored series of diets from tiny kittens and puppies, through adult hood and into their senior years. These diets are designed to offer the ideal balance of nutrients for each life stage – as such they come highly recommended.

Parasites It is very important to treat puppies and kittens for roundworms since they can acquire these from their mothers early in life. Following this, since our pets are readily infested with worms, fleas and ticks, treatment is best regarded as a life-long endeavour. We are happy



to offer you advice on the most effective and convenient form of treatment for your pets.

Lost and found It is important to get your pet identified as soon as possible. As well as the traditional collar and tag, we also recommend having your pet microchipped as a more secure and permanent form of identification, since tags can fall off just when your pet may need them the most.



Insurance Whilst we hope your pet stays fit and well, if problems do occur and your pet is insured, we can hopefully ensure that decisions regarding treatment can be made on the basis of *need* rather than *cost*. Very highly recommended!

Early socialisation of pups in the first few months of life is *very* important as well! Please ask us for further information on this, or any of the topics covered in the article.

Kennel Cough: is your pet protected?



KENNEL COUGH is a highly contagious condition in dogs and is easily spread wherever dogs meet – out on walks, at training classes, dog shows and of course in boarding kennels.

Dogs with kennel cough typically have a dry hacking cough, commonly followed by retching. The cough is often described as having a "honking" sound. In mild cases, dogs will continue to eat and be active and alert. However in more severe cases the symptoms may progress and include lethargy, fever and lack of interest in food. While some mildly affected dogs recover relatively rapidly (usually in 5-10 days), others may take several weeks to recover fully and antibiotic treatment is often required.

The condition is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium – *Bordetella Bronchiseptica*. Although your pet's regular booster vaccinations should provide protection against the viral components of the cough, only intranasal vaccine drops can offer protection against *Bordetella*. Don't take any chances with kennel cough – contact us to ensure your pet is vaccinated!

Puppy photo: Jane Burton