



SPRING 2019

BVVS NEWS CORNER

We would like to welcome Sofie Harper, our new Practice Manager.



Having previously worked with us as a Vet Nurse some 15 years ago, Sofie has now returned as Practice Manager. Her PM roll includes dealing with many different business aspects of the practice such as marketing, analysis, client communications and of course our popular health care plan.

Sofie has always worked in animal health from nursing, nutrition, pharmaceuticals and business consultancy. Sofie is mum to puppy Border Terrier Dexter, cats Nala and Bluebell and Dora and Diego the tortoises! (and 2 children)! Sofie welcomes your contact and feedback about the practice so that we can strive to make it the very best it can be.

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BRAVEHEART AWARD

Our spring 2019 Braveheart award goes to Asherah Poppy (or 'Froggy' as she's otherwise known). Asherah is a beautiful Maine Coon, and is a sweetheart when she comes to visit us. At the end of last year she was diagnosed with lymphoma, which is a cancer of the lymph nodes and lymphatic system. Asherah then had to start a programme of chemotherapy, which is a form of cancer treatment where medication is used to kill the cancerous cells. Our Veterinary Surgeons and nurses are equipped to carry this out at our practice, and so Asherah has become a regular visitor. Similar to human chemotherapy, patients can suffer side effects such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea, so it has been a tough journey for Asherah, as she has also had to come in for regular blood tests and check-ups, but she has been very brave and taken it all in her stride. Well done Froggy!



Asherah Poppy Cox



ALABAMA ROT

You may well have heard of Alabama Rot (cutaneous and renal glomerular vasculopathy), a relatively new disease that has surfaced in the UK, where we still do not have much information about its cause or aetiology. Some symptoms include sores or swelling on the paws, legs, body, face, tongue or mouth, and unexplained redness, hair loss, or ulcer-like lesions. This leads to eventual kidney failure, where the dog will display signs such as vomiting, lethargy, and inappetence. **There has been a recent confirmed case in Surrey (Caterham)**, so please do educate yourself and other dog owners about the signs of this disease, as noticing symptoms early hugely increases the chances of survival.

It is suspected that the disease is caught in muddy and woodland areas during the winter months, and so advice is to wash off mud and paws after walks. It is worth remembering however that the disease is still very rare, and so it is still safe for you to walk your dog in these areas, but remain vigilant.



Ulcer on thigh of dog with confirmed CRGV
Source: <http://goo.gl/Xs5A1J>



Ulceration / Lesion on the paw of a dog with confirmed CRGV
Source: <http://goo.gl/Xs5A1J>



Lesion of the back of the front paw (Carpal pad) of a dog with confirmed CRGV
Source: <http://goo.gl/Xs5A1J>

Watch out TICKS are about!

We have definitely seen more ticks over the past few years and spring is certainly the start of 'tick season'.



Ticks can cause local irritation and sometimes infections, but they can also carry diseases that cause serious health problems for both pets and humans. In the UK, tick borne diseases are thankfully uncommon but there are a couple that are potentially serious.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that causes symptoms including lameness, fever, loss of appetite and meningitis, and can even be transmitted to people. It can be treated with antibiotics if diagnosed early enough.

Babesiosis has only been seen in the UK relatively recently. It causes a potentially fatal anaemia and symptoms include a lack of appetite, weakness and lethargy, pale gums, enlarged abdomen, weight loss, red urine and jaundice. Fortunately, this rather nasty disease is still rare but is something we should still consider when deciding upon the best parasite control medication for our pets.

There are a number of different applications available but our product of choice is the Seresto collar. These are usually fitted in March and provide up to 7-8 months protection against ticks (ie pretty much the whole tick season). They kill and repel ticks and also kill fleas as well.

Available in 2 sizes for dogs and one for cats, the odour free, water resistant collar is generally well tolerated, even in those cats who don't usually like a collar! The cat collar has two proven safety mechanisms, a quick release and a break point.

In addition to using preventative treatments, you can reduce the likelihood of ticks attaching to your dog by avoiding tall grass or brush (tick breeding habitats) and examining your pet thoroughly for ticks after walks. Ticks are relatively easy to remove with the right technique and tick removing tool. We stock inexpensive tick removers here at the practice and can also demonstrate the correct way to remove them. Old fashioned techniques such as burning them off or smothering in Vaseline are NOT recommended as they stress the tick and make it vomit into your pet's bloodstream! This increases the chances of disease transmission so please get a bespoke tick hook instead.

When travelling in Europe with your dog or cat, be aware that there are different species of tick which can transmit more serious and potentially fatal diseases to your pet. Tick prevention treatments are essential when travelling abroad.

OFFER—10% OFF SERESTO COLLARS ! (VIP members will receive an additional 10% OFF)

