



VETS ON WHITE HART LANE

www.vetsonwhl.co.uk

NEWS

SUMMER 2010

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

Vets On White Hart Lane Makes the Grade



We are delighted to tell you all that we have been awarded a Tier 2 Standard Small Animal Practice by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Tier 2 is the highest award available for a small animal practice like ours. The inspector was very complimentary and we are thrilled to have received our certificate and plaque.

This is a voluntary scheme that we really wanted to be part of. It was started in 2005 by the Royal

College of Veterinary Surgeons. The scheme aims to establish a quality assurance framework to promote and maintain the highest standard of veterinary care, thus offering peace of mind to clients of accredited practices. Veterinary practices have to be inspected by an independent body to ensure they have reached certain standards.

Diagnostic and surgical facilities, hygiene and cleanliness, inpatient facilities, staff training, health and safety are just some of the things that are examined by the inspectors. In order to join the Practice Standards Scheme and become accredited, practices volunteer for rigorous inspection every four years and we will be subject to spot-checks in the meantime, so we have to keep on our toes.

We are proud to tell you that we were doing everything that was required routinely anyway but it did require lots of paperwork to show and document it all. After much work (Simon and Katy have gone a little more grey) and then a few anxious months of waiting we were awarded our Tier 2 standard.

This will have no impact on the service you receive but we are delighted to be given this award and hopefully this will give our clients the peace of mind that the practice they use for their pets has been inspected by an independent body and has fulfilled high standards.

Teeth – time for a check-up?



HAVE YOU flipped up your pet's lip recently and had a look at his teeth? Did you know that gum disease is probably the single most common long term disease that our pets will suffer from in their lives?

A healthy mouth usually has pale pink gums, and bright white teeth. However, over time, accumulation of plaque bacteria on the surface of the teeth can lead to *inflammation* of the gums – a condition called **gingivitis**. This is frequently accompanied by the accumulation of calculus (tartar) on the surface of the teeth, and also very bad breath!

If you would like any further information, or a dental check-up for your pet, please contact us to arrange a suitable time.

Progression of dental disease



Healthy mouth with white teeth and healthy pink gums



Unhealthy mouth with gingivitis and calculus

Lungworm photo: courtesy Bayer plc



For further information on any of the topics covered in this newsletter, please contact your local surgery



Beat the heat this summer!

AS WE enjoy the warm sunny summer weather it's worth sparing a thought for our four legged friends. Here we look at a few steps you can take to keep them fit and well!

- Make sure fresh clean water is always available to all pets – you may even need to take some on walks and avoid exercise in the heat of the day – particularly with old, overweight dogs with heart problems; stick to early mornings and evenings.
- Cats are natural sun bathers, but cats with white noses and ear tips are particularly vulnerable to sun burn and subsequent skin cancer. This risk can be reduced by keeping them out of the sun, or by applying sunblock to these areas during the summer months.
- Watch out also for grass seeds (awns) of the meadow grasses. They commonly become trapped in dogs ears – causing violent head shaking, or may become embedded in the feet or other areas.
- Bee and wasp stings are another seasonal problem. Some pets are allergic to their stings and may need prompt veterinary attention.
- If your pet is going into kennels this summer, don't forget to make sure they are up to date with their vaccinations!
- Don't forget to keep treating your pets regularly against fleas, ticks and worms and **never ever leave a pet in a car on a hot day.**



Ear tip of a cat showing cancerous changes



Grass awns of the summer grasses



Paw of a dog with an interdigital cyst caused by a grass seed



Bees and wasps can be a summer hazard for inquisitive pets



Help me – I'm lost....

HAVE YOU ever wondered how you would cope if your pet went missing? Regardless of how much you care for them you can't be in control all the time; cats roam very widely and dogs may stray. If your pet does become lost or is injured, it is essential that he or she can be reliably identified. Sadly, many pets are never reunited with their owners due to lack of identification.

The good news is that in addition to the traditional collar and tag (which can unfortunately become detached and lost), modern technology has come to our aid – giving us a far more reliable form of pet identification – the microchip implant.

A tiny microchip (about the size of a grain of rice) is quickly and easily implanted under the skin, permanently identifying your pet. Each microchip contains a unique code which identifies your pet and these details are stored on a central computer database. Should your pet go missing, when found, the chip can be read using special hand held scanners (see photo right). Veterinary practices, the police and animal welfare organisations routinely scan strays, hopefully ensuring that if the unthinkable happens, you can be speedily reunited. For further information or to have your pet microchipped, please contact us today!



Microchip implant



Thyroid disease – is your pet affected?

MOST of us have heard of the thyroid gland, but did you know that thyroid problems are surprisingly common in pets?

The thyroid gland consists of two lobes, located on either side of the trachea (windpipe) in the neck – see diagram. The thyroid gland produces thyroid hormone which regulates your pet's metabolic rate. Too much thyroid hormone speeds up the body's metabolism, whilst too little slows it down.

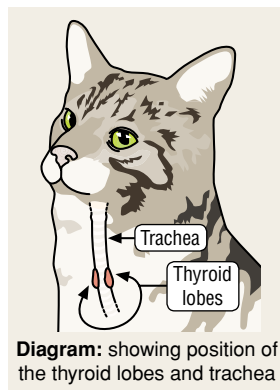
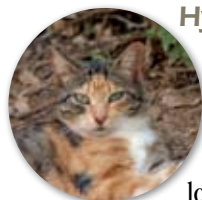


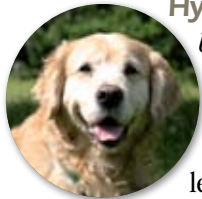
Diagram: showing position of the thyroid lobes and trachea

Hyperthyroidism in cats



Over production of thyroid hormone is called *hyper*-thyroidism and is a relatively common condition in cats over eight years of age. In the majority of cases this is caused by benign (non-cancerous) enlargement of one or both thyroid lobes. Hyperthyroid cats typically have an increased appetite, but *despite* this show signs of weight loss, and often become quite unkempt in appearance. In addition, excess thyroid hormone usually increases the heart rate, frequently causing cardiac problems. As well as the above, a variety of other signs may be seen including hyperactivity, vomiting and diarrhoea. However the good news is that in the majority of cases, hyperthyroidism can be successfully treated. If you are concerned your cat may be hyperthyroid, come and see us for a check-up.

Hypothyroidism in dogs



Under production of thyroid hormone is called *hypo*thyroidism, and is a relatively common condition in the older dog. Lowered production of thyroid hormone leads to a decrease in the metabolic rate, usually leading to weight gain (with no increased appetite) and generalised lethargy. Other signs often include coat problems, and recurrent skin and ear infections.

Diagnosis of hypothyroidism can be more tricky, but in confirmed cases, daily treatment with oral thyroid supplements can be very successful in treating this condition.

As you can see, thyroid conditions are relatively common in pets, but the really good news is that with an appropriate diagnosis, *both* conditions are very treatable. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you are concerned that your pet is showing any of the signs described above!