



CedarSnippets

THE NEWSLETTER OF CEDAR VETERINARY GROUP

SUMMER ISSUE 2006

SURGERY OPENING TIMES

All surgeries run by
appointment only

RINGWOOD

01425 473683

Mon-Fri 8am to 6.30pm
Sat 8am to 5pm

VERWOOD

01202 825217

Mon-Tues 8.30 to 7pm
Wed-Thurs 8.30 to 6pm
Fri 8.30 to 6.30pm
Sat 8.30 to 12.30

FERNDOWN

01202 861622

Mon-Fri 8.30 to 6pm
(closed 1 to 2pm)
Sat 8.30 to 10.30am

CANINE CARE

CENTRE

01425 480721

Tues-Fri 9am to 4pm
Sat 9am to 1pm
Mon & Sun Closed

EMERGENCIES OUT OF HOURS

01425 473683

Out of hours emergencies will
usually be seen at our Ringwood
Hospital. Please phone first.

Snakeseason!



A male adder snake guards his mate

From spring onwards we are always on the look out for pets which may have been bitten by a snake. The adder snake (*Viper berus*) is Britain's only venomous snake, and the New Forest is an ideal habitat.

Adders can live for up to fifteen years, and emerge from hibernation in the springtime to mate, often bearing as many as ten live young. They feed mainly on snails and insects but will use their venom to help catch larger prey such as voles and lizards.

Colour varies from pale cream through to brick red, but the distinctive features are a dark zig-zag stripe down the back along with a squat heavy bodied appearance.

They are actually very timid creatures and only resort to biting when threatened, unfortunately often by an inquisitive canine nose! Symptoms of a snake bite develop within minutes, with pain and significant swelling at the site of the bite, where two puncture wounds can often be seen. The swelling tends to advance very quickly so can be very dangerous if it is around the face or neck. In addition the venom can cause other effects such as an irregular heart beat, vomiting and collapse.

At Cedar Veterinary Group we are well equipped to deal with snake bites and hold the anti-venom which is given intravenously in many cases, along with anti-inflammatories and antibiotics. Affected animals are hospitalised so we can put them on a drip and monitor them closely.

If you suspect your dog has been bitten you must come to the vets immediately; this is a genuine emergency. However, it is very rare for snake bites to be fatal, and after receiving appropriate treatment the vast majority of cases make a speedy recovery.

It's summer at last...

with plenty to enjoy in the New Forest. But as ever with the rising temperatures come a few seasonal hazards to be aware of! Read on to find out what to watch for and how to avoid potential problems.

There is also the usual news of the latest exciting developments within the practice

Branchoperating times

If you live in Verwood or Ferndown then you are probably familiar with one of our branch surgeries for day-to-day queries and appointments. You can now take advantage of the broader range of operations we offer at each surgery, avoiding the need for travel to Ringwood for many neutering and minor surgical procedures.

Operations can be arranged on Mondays and Wednesdays at Verwood, and Tuesdays and Thursdays at Ferndown. Please contact your local branch for more information or to book a procedure.



**Our surgery at
Verwood**



Bourbon's bladder bother.

Bourbon is a 2 year old female rabbit who came into the surgery feeling very off colour, not wanting to eat anything. Like many rabbits she had a history of problems with her back teeth, and was admitted initially for dental investigation. After the dental treatment Bourbon was not recovering as well as expected and seemed to have a very painful abdomen. At first we thought this may be due to an intestinal impaction, which can be common in rabbits, but taking an xray confirmed that she had two large stones in her bladder.

After some further tests there did not seem to be any other explanation for Bourbon's abdominal pain, and whilst staying at the hospital she started to strain to pass urine. Unlike other animals, rabbits pass a very large amount of calcium into their urine, so it is not uncommon for them to develop little stones or sandy material in their bladder. However, large stones can cause an irritation or blockage, and then an operation is needed to open the bladder and remove the stones.

Bourbon had this operation and we were able to remove the stones successfully. She had to stay at the hospital a few days more to have painkillers and anti-biotics, and initially needed some help with feeding until she was feeling better.

Thankfully Bourbon was insured which covered the cost of her treatment, as she needed to stay with us for nearly ten days in total. She has now made a full recovery and we are trying to prevent any further bladder stones developing by amending her diet.....

HealthyPet Plans

Did you know that it is not just household bills and insurance which can be organised on direct debit these days? For those people preferring regular monthly payments, this can be arranged for you at Cedar Veterinary Group.

Subscribing to one of our Healthy Pet Plans enables you to spread the annual cost of your pet's routine care on a monthly direct debit, making routine trips to the surgery even less complicated. The plans all include annual vaccinations, a year's supply of worming and flea products, and free health checks halfway through the year. There are additional benefits for individual plans, which are tailored to suit your pet's needs depending on age and species.

You can take up a Healthy Pet Plan at any time, feel free to enquire at any of our surgeries for more information.

Something a bit fishy..!

Our latest development at the practice is one for those water-dwelling pets in the area. Fiona MacDonald is a specialist fish vet who will be based from our Ringwood hospital, offering her expertise to fish enthusiasts near and far.



Fiona originally qualified from Glasgow University as a vet, and after spending some years in general practice she then moved into Aquaculture. She has spent many years providing technical services to the Fish Industry as well as veterinary care for private owners. Her diverse career ranges from vaccine development for the Scottish Salmon Industry to treating ornamental fish in garden ponds. For some years she has also been the Secretary of the Fish Veterinary Society which involves her in frequent close contact with other fish veterinarians in private practice, the Aquaculture Industry and Universities and Government Establishments.

Fiona can be contacted on 07731 140011 or via our Ringwood hospital.

New Orthopaedic Staff

As many of you will be aware, we have a specialist orthopaedic department providing state-of-the-art orthopaedic diagnostics and surgery both for our own clients and as a referral service for other practices. The orthopaedic team have been overwhelmingly busy, and hence we have been joined by an additional orthopaedic vet, Mark Tonzing, and orthopaedic nurse, Sue Robinson.



Mark originally graduated from University of Melbourne, Australia in 1993, and soon developed a keen interest in orthopaedics. In July 2000 he was admitted as a member of the surgical chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, and has since worked in orthopaedic referral practice in both Australia and the U.K. Mark was recently awarded the 2006 Lesley Vaughan prize by the British Veterinary Orthopaedic Association and is planning to undertake examinations for the RCVS Diploma in Small Animal Surgery (Orthopaedics) in 2007.

Sue Robinson qualified as a Veterinary Nurse in 1998 whilst working in small animal practice in Birmingham. She developed a special interest in surgery which led to her gaining the Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Surgery) in early 2005.



With the expansion of the orthopaedics team we are now able to offer a full 24-hour orthopaedic emergency service.

Anyone for a Hot Dog?

Dogs are unable to sweat much due to their furry coat hence their response to getting hot is panting. This enables them to take air through their nose, picking up excess heat from the body, which is then expelled through the mouth. The ability to do this is severely affected in high humidity or when the dog is confined, for example in a car.

This is known as heat exhaustion and can rapidly progress to heatstroke which is a life-threatening emergency. The dog will start panting excessively, become anxious, develop a high heart rate and sometimes vomiting. The body temperature can get extremely high (often as high as 106 degrees F) and ultimately they will collapse.

If you think your dog has heatstroke you must act quickly and calmly. If possible, move the dog to a cool, shaded area. If the dog is having difficulty breathing, ensure its airways are clear (taking care to ensure you are not bitten). The dog's temperature needs to be brought down to normal as quickly as possible; applying towels soaked in cool water or hosing down will help. If your dog is small enough, move him/her to a tub of cool water. If possible, put them in front of a fan as well. Either way it is important to contact us as soon as possible.

To help prevent this from happening to your dog there are a number of things you can do:

- remember not to leave them confined in a car during the summer, even if parking in the shade.
- Overweight dogs are more prone to suffering from heatstroke, so keep your pet trim, and always provide plenty of fresh drinking water.
- Grooming to remove dead hair will help in long-haired breeds
- ensure controlled exercise on walks as energetic dogs will not always know when to stop!



Even on a mild day, with the windows open, the temperature inside a car can reach 120 Fahrenheit (about 49 degrees Celsius) in less than 30 minutes.

New Laboratory Service



Being such a busy practice we have always had a well equipped laboratory to deal with all our blood tests as quickly and effectively as possible. However, this year a new dedicated commercial laboratory, Richer-Torrance Diagnostic Services (RTDS) have set up on site, offering laboratory services for both ourselves and surrounding practices.

This means that along with routine blood tests, we are now able to offer a quicker turnaround on a wider range of tests, as the majority no longer need sending away.

In addition we have the benefit of on-site pathologists in those more challenging cases, providing a more efficient & comprehensive diagnostic service for your pet!



Meet Heidi Wyatt - holisticvet

Heidi graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, London in 1993, and after three years in mixed practice she has worked mainly in small animal practice in Salisbury. During this time she developed an interest in acupuncture and homeopathy, completing the three-year Oxford HPTG Homeopathy training in May 2001. Heidi will be joining us at the Ringwood surgery on alternate Saturdays, and will be providing regular midweek acupuncture and homeopathy consultations from our Canine Care Centre.

Homeopathy is the development of an ancient Greek principle which aims to stimulate the energy of the body to aid in the healing process, allowing the body to better fight disease. It is a gentle form of healing which can be used for all ages and species of animals either alone or in combination with conventional therapy. Acupuncture is an ancient Chinese system of medicine which involves

insertion of needles at selected points in the body. The idea is to restore balance to the energy flow through specific meridians within the body, encouraging healing processes to take place. It is especially useful for musculoskeletal problems such as arthritis and back pain, as well as conditions of the nervous system.

For either therapy Heidi advises it is of utmost importance to gain a correct diagnosis, hence conventional tests are still required before treatment can commence. They will often be used in conjunction with conventional medicine and can sometimes allow reduction of doses of drugs which have become less effective in chronic disease cases, or where side effects are a problem.

Consultations with Heidi can be made directly with the Canine Care Centre on 01425 480721.

