



Lowesmoor News

The newsletter for Lowesmoor House Vets



Issue 2,
Spring
2017

New guidelines on feeding your cat



Feline experts in veterinary medicine, behaviour and health at International Cat Care have put together new guidelines which involves making a few simple changes to the way most owners feed their cats.

The guidance is based on how cats in the wild eat and so encourages cats to hunt, explore, climb and play. These activities provide both physical and mental stimulation and therefore boost cat's wellbeing.

The recommendations are:

- Splitting your cats daily food allowance into a minimum of five meals a day.
- Spreading the meals over a 24 hour period—to include night-time feeding.
- Using puzzle feeders instead of a bowl.
- Changing the location of their food so they have to search for it.
- Fresh water should always be available. Cats also prefer to drink away from their food.

For more information go to the International Cat Care website at www.icatcare.org. Guidance leaflets are also available in reception.

Myth busting: Kennel Cough

The term 'Kennel cough' can be misleading because your dog does not need to have been in kennels to catch it. In fact, kennel cough is not caused by just one type of infectious agent - it is a general term for any contagious upper respiratory tract infection.



Dogs with kennel cough will usually develop a hacking cough, which can sound as if there is something stuck in the dog's throat. The cough may also be productive (i.e. affected animals will sometimes cough up white froth). The cough may worsen with exercise and also when affected animals pull on the lead. Dogs with kennel cough are often bright or just a bit off colour, but they can have a high temperature and may become really poorly.

There is a vaccine against kennel cough which can be given alongside your dog's annual booster. The vaccinations do not completely prevent the possibility of your dog developing an infectious cough, but they do reduce the chances that any such infection will be serious.

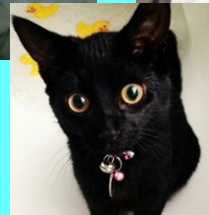
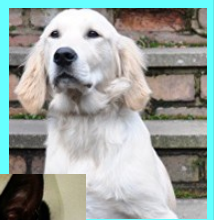
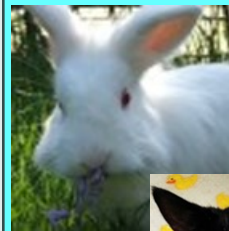
Most dogs that go to kennels are required to have the kennel cough vaccine (in addition to their regular booster) and we recommend giving this additional vaccination even if the kennels do not insist on it. The kennel cough vaccine is also a good idea if your dog regularly socialises or attends classes where he or she has close contact with other dogs.

Staff update

Vet nurse Chris is currently in training to cycle from John O Groats to Lands end this September. You can follow his blog at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Chris-lloyd2017 where you can read about his training as well as to donate. All money raised will be going to Cancer Research.



We've recruited three new pet bloggers! Selma, Rikki and Purdy are all passionate about their area of expertise and will keep you updated on rabbit-bits, dog news and all things cat-like. Find them on our website for their unique perspective!



Opening times:

Mon - Fri	8:30am - 7pm
Sat	9am - 12pm

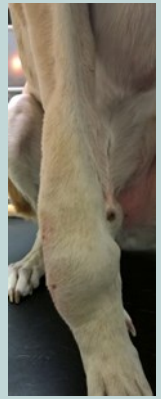
Consultations by appointment only.

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For regular updates and info visit our website at www.lowesmoorvets.co.uk

Star Pet—Spike

Spike came in to see us after he had developed a swelling on his right foreleg (see photo on right). Unfortunately the initial treatment of anti-inflammatories failed to bring the swelling down so a fine needle aspirate (FNA) was taken and sent to a laboratory to be tested. A FNA is a simple procedure where a needle is used to collect cells (or biopsy) from a lump or swelling. The laboratory results were conclusive that the swelling was a spindle cell tumour, a type that affects soft tissue such as muscle.

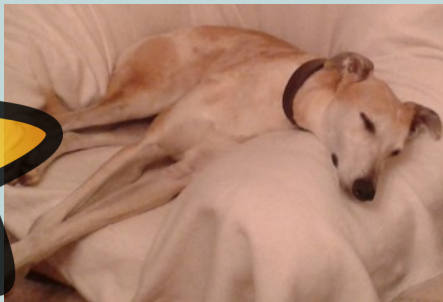


This type of tumour can be removed through surgery, but this is only an option if it is located in a single area of the body and the cells have not affected internal organs, therefore x-rays were taken of Spikes chest to check that his lungs were not affected. A larger biopsy was then taken at the same time to check the risk of the tumour spreading.

The results showed that the tumour was classed as 'low-grade'; this meant that we could go ahead removing it. However, due to its location, removal of just the tumour would be very difficult due to its size, therefore we had to amputate his leg.

Spike has been a star the whole way through his operation. After the operation he came in for regular post-operative checks to ensure the wound was looking good and that Spike was coping well—not forgetting cuddles with everyone here!

His owners are happy to report he is doing well and enjoying life on three legs!



Spike before his op enjoying a Sunday siesta!



Spike doing well at home after his operation

Pet Medical Shirts



The Medical Pet Shirt offers good protection after operations as an alternative to a buster collar, giving your pet greater freedom of movement. The shirt is easy fitting and is fixed with Velcro patches near the base of the tail to allow your pet to go to the toilet without needing to remove the shirt. In cases of incontinence or if your pet is in season the Medical Pet Shirt can also be fitted with a sanitary towel or nappy and can be easily washed at 30°C and so is hygienic as well as comfortable.



Speak to one of our vets or vet nurses for more information or if you are interested in buying one of our shirts.

Golden Oldie Clinics

Our geriatric clinic aims to provide support and give advice on problems associated with pets as they age. Did you know our pets age much more quickly than ourselves; in fact cats over 10 years, and dogs over 8 years are considered geriatric and approaching their golden years. Here at Lowesmoor House Vets we believe that prevention is better than cure so why not bring your cat or dog in for an M.O.T. which will include a through check over, blood tests, urine testing and blood pressure monitoring (cats only).

Cat Clinic = £70; Dog Clinic = £60.

(normal price if tests purchased seperately £120—130)

For more information please contact our veterinary nurse Tara on 01905 723361.

