



Lowesmoor News

The newsletter for Lowesmoor House Vets



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Autumn
2017

New case of Babesiosis highlights the need for dogs to be treated for ticks.

With a new case of Babesiosis occurring in Hertfordshire in a dog that hadn't travelled out of the country we thought it would be a good idea to reiterate the importance of good parasite control.

What is Babesiosis and why should I be worried?

Babesia is a malaria-like parasite that is carried by ticks. The parasite will infect red blood cells which can lead to life threatening anaemia. A tick typically needs to be attached to a dog for 24-48 hours to successfully transmit the disease.

What symptoms should I be looking for?

They vary, but the main symptoms are: lethargy, weakness, pale gums, jaundice, red/brown urine and fever. Diagnosis is made by examining the blood under the microscope or using specialised genetic tests to detect the parasite's presence. If you spot suspect symptoms in your dog then contact us straight away.

Treatment is available and this focuses firstly on killing the parasite and then stopping the dog's immune system from destroying more red blood cells. In severe cases, dogs may need a blood transfusion.

How can this be prevented?

There are no vaccines for babesia available in the UK. Anti-tick medication can stop the spread of the ticks. Bravecto is a chewable tablet that will cover your dog for three months. We also recommend that you check your pet for ticks after walks; if one is found on your dog then it should be removed as soon as possible using a tick-remover. These are available from Lowesmoor and one of our vet nurses will only be too happy to show you how to use one.

Why not pop your dog in for one of our free parasite checks where we can assess your dog's parasite risk and give them the most suitable product for their lifestyle.



Staff update:

Congratulations to receptionist Emma who got married to Guy in October.



Vet nurse Chris did amazingly well in his charity bike ride from John O'Groats to Lands End. Not only did he complete it quicker than he planned but so far has raised £550 for Cancer Research.



Thanks to everyone who came in to support our Macmillan Coffee Morning. Together we raised over £60, which was a perfect way to raise money and enjoy yummy cake at the same time!



Remember, Remember....

While many of us look forward to the firework displays around this time it is worth remembering that many of our furry friends can become stressed and fearful. Thankfully there are a number of things we can do to help our pets cope. Don't forget to pick up one of our leaflets or visit our website at www.lowesmoorvets.co.uk which gives helpful ideas on how to help manage stress with your pet over this period.



All about.....RHD2

RHD (Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease) and Myxomatosis are diseases found throughout the UK and both are highly fatal to an un-vaccinated rabbit. Previously, when your rabbit came in for its vaccination, it was given a combined vaccine for both of these diseases (called Nobivac Myxo-RHD).

However, a new strain of RHD has emerged (called RHD2) for which the current vaccine does not provide protection. This disease can produce a wide range of clinical signs from simple gut stasis to rapid death. It is mainly transmitted via the faeces of rabbits; however it can also be brought into the house on clothes or the feet of pets and people.



Thankfully, we now have a vaccine available that protects against RHD2. Depending on the risk to your rabbit the vaccine will need to be given once or twice a year. The vaccine does not provide protection against myxomatosis so your rabbit's usual Nobivac Myxo-RHD vaccine will still need to be given. It is recommended that an interval of 14 days should be left between giving the normal annual vaccination and this new vaccine.

If you wish to book your rabbit in for it's vaccination then call us to book an appointment.

Arthritis in dogs

Just as in humans, arthritis is a condition that can cause pain, swelling, and stiffness in joints. The joints most commonly affected in dogs include knees, elbows and hips.

Arthritis results from damage to the cartilage within the affected joint. The damage occurs because of wear and tear on the joint from aging, congenital abnormalities, obesity, athletic injuries or traumatic injuries.

In a normal joint, the cartilage acts as a shock absorber providing a cushion between the bones which form the joint. When the cartilage in one of your pet's joints is damaged, it starts a process that eventually destroys the cartilage. When the cartilage is no longer there to act as a shock absorber, the bones within your pet's joint become damaged.

The symptoms of arthritis may be subtle, especially in the early stages. If you are noticing any of the following in your dog it may be worth bringing them into us for a health check to see what we can do to make them more comfortable:

- reduction in your dog's mobility (limping or abnormal gait, stiffness)
- reduction in your dog's activity (reluctance to walk or play, general lethargy)
- changes in grooming habits (licking or chewing at the painful joint)
- changes in your dog's temperament (irritability, withdrawal or aggression)

Phone us on 01905 723361 to book an appointment.



Opening times:

Mon - Fri 8:30am - 7pm

Sat 9am - 12pm

Consultations by appointment only.

18 Rainbow Hill,

Worcester,

WR3 8LX

01905 723361

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

Vote for us!

If you think our practice or someone in the team deserves a thank you, then why not nominate them today for a Veterinary Award.

Pick up a nomination form at the practice or go online at:

www.petplan.co.uk/vetawards!

**Veterinary
Awards
2018**