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**We would like to thank our clients for their continued loyalty and wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.**

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### **Weight.**

Many of the pets that we see daily are unfortunately overweight, and in most of these cases, the owners are unaware of this.

Obesity is the most commonly seen nutritional disease of dogs and cats. Surveys suggest that as many as 40% of dogs and 15% of cats are clinically obese.

Obesity may not only reduce your pet's enjoyment of life but several serious clinical problems have been linked with the condition such as osteoarthritis, diabetes mellitus and liver disease to name a few. There is also an increased surgical and anaesthetic risk. So, there are many health benefits to weight loss.

Diagnosis of obesity is simple and does not require specialist equipment. All you need to do is weigh your pet and compare it to the breed average. You should be able to feel your pet's ribs easily but not see them and they should also have a waist. We commonly see the presence of fat pads over the hips and tails and a pendulous abdomen, especially in cats.

Weight gain often goes unnoticed by owners as it can occur gradually over a long period.

Signs that your pet is overweight include:

- Difficulty feeling their ribs/spine
- Difficulty seeing their waist
- Their abdomen is sagging
- You have had to loosen their collar several times over the year
- They often appear tired and lazy
- They lag on walks
- They have difficulty grooming properly

Our nurse weight clinics are free of charge and we can discuss with you your pet's condition. We can set a target for you to achieve over a sensible period. We will discuss what to feed and how much to feed and we will arrange regular appointments for a weigh in to see how you are coping with the weight loss program, and to assess the progress.

So, if you think that you have an overweight pet or you are unsure book in for a weight check with our nurses.

### **Nurse Clinics.**

If you do not need to see the vet you can see our qualified veterinary nurses for free advice on many different topics such as kitten and puppy advice, flea and worm products and dietary advice. Our nurses are happy to help you and your pet for any of the following.

- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vaccinations
- ✓ Weight Clinics
- ✓ Diabetic Clinics
- ✓ Flea and Worm checks
- ✓ Puppy and Kitten advice
- ✓ Dietary Advice
- ✓ Post-operative Checks
- ✓ Removal of sutures post-surgery
- ✓ Micro-chipping\*
- ✓ Nail clipping\*

Nurse clinics are run daily at both of our surgeries.

Appointments are necessary and charges may apply. Book in today to see us.

\*a small charge applies, please check with a member of staff for more details

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### Pet Motion Trackers

Its January again and everyone is trying to get active after the Christmas period. But have you ever wondered how active your pet is whilst you're not around? Or how far your pet actually runs whilst out on their walk?

Well wonder no more. Now you can track your pet's movements all day long with the Tractive<sup>®</sup> Motion Pet Activity Tracker.

Tractive<sup>®</sup> MOTION tracks your pet's activity 24 hours a day. Simply attach Tractive<sup>®</sup> MOTION to your pet's collar and get the data directly on your smartphone. Therefore, a Bluetooth Smart Ready mobile device is required.

We have a limited number of these motion trackers in stock for a fantastic price of £24.99.

Check the website for more details and to see if your smart phone is compatible.

<https://tractive.com/en/motion/>

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## **RGV / "Alabama Rot"**

A neighbouring veterinary Practice (Coombefield) has recently confirmed a case of this disease. It is a very rare condition which we have not yet encountered so we would advise clients there is no cause for alarm but to be aware of the symptoms and to seek advice if concerned.

### **What is CRGV?**

CRGV is a disease caused by damage to the blood vessels in the skin and sometimes the kidneys. Blood clots form in the tiny capillary vessels causing blockage which in turn leads to damage of the affected tissue. In the skin this can cause ulceration; in the kidney there may be sufficient damage to cause acute kidney failure. Any age, sex or breed of dog may be affected. No other species of animal are known to be affected by the condition

### **What causes CRGV?**

The cause remains unknown; investigations are ongoing. Many possible causes - common bacterial infections, exposure to known toxins - have been ruled out, and it is considered unlikely that plants can be the trigger factor.

### **What are the symptoms?**

Unexplained redness, sores or swelling of the skin - particularly on the paws or legs but also the body, face, tongue or mouth - followed within 1 - 7 days by signs of kidney failure - lethargy, depression, loss of appetite and vomiting.

It is important to remember that the great majority of skin lesions will NOT be CRGV but will be cuts or abrasions or stings/bites but it can be difficult to distinguish the cause so if in doubt seek advice.

Even if the skin lesions are caused by CRGV, many dogs will not develop kidney problems and will recover fully.

### **Can CRGV be treated?**

Yes. Treatment of skin lesions will vary according to their severity, some may need antibiotics, some may need dressings.

If signs of kidney damage appear, very intensive treatment is needed including possible referral to a specialist hospital.

### **How can I prevent my dog getting CRGV?**

As the cause is unknown, it is impossible to answer this question. There have been only small numbers of cases, scattered over several counties of the UK so there is no specific guidance on which areas to avoid.

Washing off any wet/muddy areas of your dog's legs or body after a walk would seem a good idea but there is no evidence to say that this is helpful in preventing the disease. It will however give you an opportunity to check for any sore areas on the skin.

### **When does CRGV occur?**

Over the last 3 years more cases have been seen between November and May than between June and October.

### **More information?**

Further information can be found online on the Anderson Moores Veterinary Specialists website

CRGV can be a very serious, potentially fatal illness of dogs BUT it is a very rare condition - less than 100 cases have been confirmed in the whole country in the last four years; few of these cases have occurred.

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## **Contact Sidmouth.**

Ikin & Oxenham Sidmouth Veterinary Centre  
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Sidmouth  
Devon, EX10 9BX

Telephone 01395 512611

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Facebook [facebook.com/ikinoxenhamsidmouth](https://facebook.com/ikinoxenhamsidmouth)

## **Contact Ottery St. Mary.**

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