



Copthorne Veterinary Clinic News

Fund Raising Fun



An autumn weekend in September saw the return of Copthorne Vet Clinic's annual charity dog show. We had a good turnout despite the not so good weather, and at least it was kind enough not to rain! This year over £900 was raised and the proceeds were shared between Shropshire Greyhound Rescue and the Lingen-Davies cancer appeal.



Winner Rolly with Owner Tim

A very big thank you goes to our judge **Jenny Griffiths** who did a fab job, and to all those who came along to support our worthwhile event.

Results of the Dog Show

Best in Show went to a 13 month old Staffordshire Bull Terrier named **Rolly** owned by Tim Malpass of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Reserve Best in Show 3 year old Gordon Setter **Phoebe**, owned by D W and V J E Whitlock of Guilsfield.

Best Puppy in Show German Spitz **Mika** owned by Terry Bellingham of Shrewsbury.



Wear & Tear in Old Age

Cats are infamous for their long snoozes and appear to be very laid back creatures, but they actually do lead very busy lives. A great deal of energy is spent defending territory, eating, climbing, checking out the mice in the shed, teasing the dog next door and ensuring plenty of attention from their owners. All this activity, can take its toll over the years and as they age, subtle changes may take place, which are not always visible to the owner. Joints can become a little stiff; hearing not so sharp and internal organs may begin to give a few problems. In older cats, **kidney failure** is very common. These organs have to work very hard forming urine, and the special nephrons in the kidneys, which help filter the blood and remove waste products, gradually disappear over time and are not replaced. With this loss, the kidneys then fail to function correctly.

If your cat is drinking excessively and urinating more, these could be signs that they have developed kidney failure. They may also vomit, lose their appetite and suffer weight loss. Blood and urine tests can be taken to confirm the condition and although incurable, there are many ways to help your pet cope with the problem. The type of treatment will depend on the level of failure. We may suggest a change in diet, medication, or possible hospitalisation for care. If you feel your pet is showing signs of kidney failure, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We provide many services that are beneficial to your pets' health and offer a full health check and blood screening, which will show the start of more hidden conditions such as kidney disease.



New Years Eve or on other celebratory events.

We may like fireworks but our pets don't! Help & advice is available for nervous pets, so please call us at the surgery.

Copthorne

Opening Hours

Weekdays

8.30am - 7pm

Saturday

9am - 12noon 4pm - 5pm

Sunday 9am - 10am

Consultations by appointment

01743 360614

EMERGENCY HOURS SERVICE



Feet were made for walking

Fortunately our dogs don't need shoes to match every outfit! However, with endless running, jumping, digging, and scratching to be done, healthy feet are a must. Damage to pads, toes and claws can cause pain and discomfort, so it's very important to frequently check your dogs' paws and claws for any problems, especially after exercise.



A peek at paw pads Thick, hairless, with seven on each front paw, five on each back paw. They have a good blood supply, sweat glands and contain fatty tissue, which acts as a shock absorber. Rough pads help them grip when turning and running. Watch out for corns, cuts & cracked pads.

Tips for Toes Keep hair short in and around toes. Check for swellings, lumps, splits, wounds and skin irritations in between each toe. This can also be home to ticks, cysts, fungal infections, embedded grass seeds, thorns, stones etc.

Clued up on Claws These grow in two sheets to form claw walls, which grow over the dermis or 'quick' that lies over the bone. Quick contains many blood vessels and nerves. If cut during nail clipping, it bleeds and is extremely painful for your pet as are split, damaged and loose nails, which should be treated. Clipping your own dog's nails can be a little nerve racking, especially if your pet is uncooperative, so book an appointment with our nurses who are very skilled at this procedure.



Footnote ☺ Always rinse away any dirt, mud and winter salt/grit as this can irritate pads. Any signs of limping, reluctance to walk, hesitation of placing paws to ground, excessive licking, chewing or nibbling, then do please pop them in for a paw check.

Copthorne Staff News

Veterinary Surgeon **Richard Morris** has just completed a two year course in advanced surgical skills, which he is now putting into practice. This enables us to offer clients surgical services, which previously might have required passing their pets on to remote referral practices. Well done Richard.

Richard recently judged the canine entrants at the **RSPCA's annual show at Gonsal Farm**. This is an important opportunity for the charity to raise awareness of the wonderful re-homing work they do, while raising £1300 this year towards the society's funds.

Trainee nurse **Hollie Cleo** has been successful in completing her level 2 NVQ in veterinary nursing and will now start her level 3 diploma. Two other junior nursing staff **Sarah** and **Natalie** are also commencing their veterinary nurse training this month. This will involve them in a good deal of hard work over the next year or three, while everyone in the practice has a role to play in supporting and coaching them.

Vet Nurse **Corinne** gave birth to a second son at the start of September. William, a brother to Henry, weighed 8lb 2oz and was born by Caesarean section. Corinne and family are all doing well, and she will now be away from the practice for a period of maternity leave. We look forward to her return next summer.

More New Equipment

At Copthorne we are always looking at new ways to improve our facilities and the services, which we offer you and your pets. In our last newsletter we announced the purchase of a new Ultrasound Scanning machine, which we have all enjoyed getting to grips with. This is proving immensely useful in the imaging of certain conditions where x-rays are of limited value. We are now very pleased to report that recently, we also upgraded our endoscopy facility. This new fiberoptic tool will be suitable for carrying out examinations of the upper alimentary canal not only of medium to large dogs, but also of small dogs and adult cats. This should really help us in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the gullet, stomach and small intestine.



Veterinary Acupuncture

Do you know that vet Clare Hacker is qualified to perform acupuncture on pets?

This is a form of treatment, which can be of great benefit to pets with conditions ranging from osteoarthritis to self-traumatisation of the skin.

If you would like to know more about acupuncture or are interested in your pet receiving this treatment, please call the surgery to speak with Clare.



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We hope you enjoy our newsletter and find the information helpful, however it should not be used as an alternative to professional veterinary care. If you have any concerns regarding your pets' health please contact your surgery.