



Cophthorne Veterinary Clinic News

The Heat is On!

The one thing predictable about the English weather, particularly in the summer, is that it is unpredictable! Most of us would like a long hot summer, however where our dogs, cats and other pets are concerned, it does not have to be a real scorcher for them to be affected by **heatstroke** (hyperthermia) - a rise in body temperature. Just a warm cloudy humid day can cause the heat to rise in your home, conservatory and garden where your pets could be relaxing or exercising. These places become even hotter when the sun is shining, and as an animal's cooling system is not as efficient as a human's, your pet can very quickly overheat and dehydrate. If their temperature reaches too high a level, serious damage may occur to their organs and cell system. Sadly in severe cases this can be fatal. **Some pets are more at risk than others** and extra care should be taken with those who are overweight, elderly, have a heart condition, breathing problems or long and thick coats.

Aim to Prevent

Never leave your pet in the car, not even with the windows open. They will cook in minutes!

Exercise pets in the **cooler morning or evening air**.

Don't **over exert** them.

Always ensure they have **access to shady cooler areas** in and outdoors.

Regulate their time spent **lying in the sun and heat** in the garden or indoors.

Place rabbit and guinea pigs' housing, outside run and drinking water **in the shade**, also ensure the hutch has good ventilation.

Recognise the Signs

- Increase in panting
- Excessive/thick saliva
- Anxiousness/pacing/distress
- Dark gums
- Lethargy
- Unwilling or unable to rise
- Vomiting
- Dizziness/disorientation
- Collapse/loss of consciousness

Pets can recover from heatstroke but the key is **early recognition and prompt action, better still - prevent it!**

If you suspect that your pet is suffering from the effects of heatstroke move them to a cool area and contact your veterinary surgery immediately.

Provide plenty of **fresh, cool, clean drinking water.**



Client Evening... a Great Success!

A very enjoyable time was had by all on Thursday 4th March at The Four Crosses Public House, where presentations, a raffle and buffet, were just part of Cophthorne's special client evening. We would like to thank everyone who came along and helped us to raise £190 for Help In Suffering, a very worthy animal charity. We began with a presentation from our very own vet Richard Morris, who gave us a wonderful account of his charity work with Help In Suffering, in Jaipur, India, from neutering and treating street dogs, to improving the welfare of working camels and elephants. In addition, the photographs and short film that accompanied the presentation, gave us a real insight into the world of the people and animals living in Jaipur. Vet Alison Banwell from Intervet, provided us with a very informative talk on caring for our senior pets, covering many topics, from weight management to looking after a diabetic pet.

After Alison's talk the buffet arrived, giving clients an opportunity to chat with our vets and nurses from the surgery, in relaxed and informal surroundings. Again, a big thank you to everyone that bought raffle tickets and made kind donations for Help In Suffering. If you would like any further information on this worthwhile charity or services provided by our surgery for older pets, please give us a call or pop in and see us.

We'll be holding further client evenings in the future, so do watch out for information in the practice or on our website to ensure you reserve your tickets for our special events.

Richard meets some future working elephants



Congratulations Susan!



Student Veterinary Nurses work extremely hard to achieve their goal of becoming a Qualified Veterinary Nurse. Not only do they work full time, they also attend college and complete a portfolio evidencing their knowledge and skills. After completing their training, the students have to sit written and practical exams. Susan Richards has successfully passed these exams in January this year, to become a qualified Veterinary Nurse. She has been a dedicated student, and is an excellent Veterinary Nurse. Everyone at Cophthorne Vets congratulates Susan on her success. If you would like more information on Veterinary Nurse training, please contact the surgery for a chat with one of our nurses.

Worming Its Way In!

There is a particular type of worm that we have reported on before, but this rather nasty, new parasite is unfortunately on the increase. Pet owners need to be fully aware of the risk that this worm poses, so that action can be taken to protect your pets from **Lungworm**.

This parasite lives in the lungs and hearts of dogs and foxes, that have become infected through eating snails or slugs. Your pet may not be partial to this particular snack, but as all dogs enjoy sniffing around the garden, on walks and may even be grass eaters, there is a good chance they could come into contact with the lungworm larvae and swallow it. It will then travel through your dog's blood reaching the lungs, where it can develop and breed.

Preventative Care

Treatments are available to help tackle this problem, so it really is worth discussing these with your vet, especially if your pet enjoys munching on slugs and snails. If left untreated, lungworms can cause serious illness and in some cases may be fatal.

Please bring your pet in as soon as possible for a check-up if you notice any signs of coughing - rapid/difficulty breathing - loss of appetite reluctance to exercise - lethargy - behavioural changes
In more severe cases dogs may experience heart failure - bleeding problems - seizures

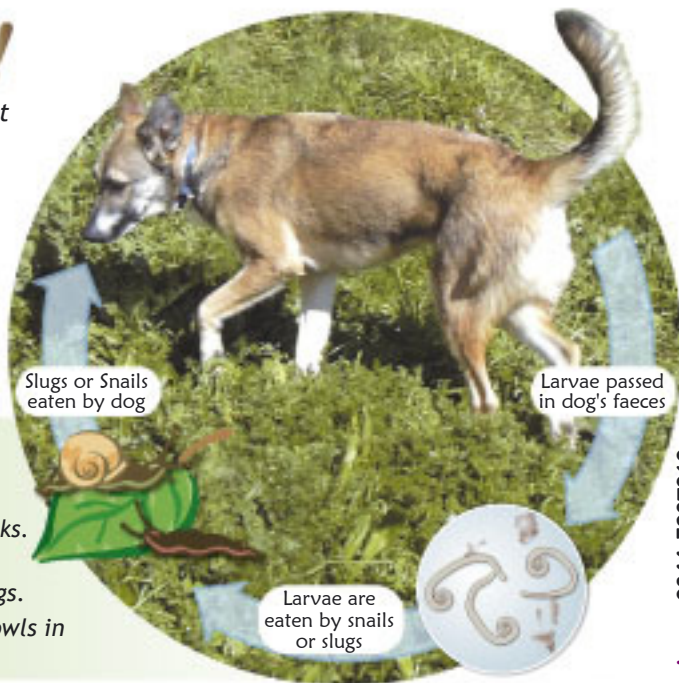
Slug pellets may well destroy slugs and snails in your garden, but this pesticide is also extremely poisonous to dogs and other pets if eaten.

You can help by

Cleaning up and correctly disposing of your dog's poo from the garden and on walks.

Minimize your pet's contact with snails and slugs.

Bringing water and food bowls in from the garden.



Copthorne Vets Dog Show

Sunday 19th September

After the huge success of last years dog show, Copthorne Veterinary Clinic will be doing it all again, **at Longden Village Hall** on Sunday 19th September. With over 80 dogs entering classes last year, and monies raised reaching £700, split between the Lingen Davies Cancer Appeal and Shropshire Wildlife Trust, we hope that this years event will be every bit as successful.

There are both pedigree and novelty classes to enter, with rosettes for 1st to 5th places in all classes, and for Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show, Best Puppy in Show and Best Veteran. The day will also include a barbecue, tombola, facepainting, animal charity stalls, cake stall, archery provided by the scouts, refreshments and lots more. All proceeds from this year's event will go to the Lingen Davies Cancer Appeal and Shropshire Greyhound Rescue.

Our New Ultrasound Machine



Ultrasound machines have been used for some fifty years in human medicine. They have become an invaluable piece of equipment in veterinary practice, and are utilised in many of the same circumstances that call for the use of ultrasound on humans.

They can provide invaluable information in the diagnosis of diseases and conditions. This allows most disorders to be detected earlier, so treatment can start more quickly and accurately.

One of the most common reasons for a vet to use ultrasound, is as an aid to diagnosis. For example, if an owner who is concerned that their pet has abdominal pain with episodes of vomiting and diarrhoea, the vet might use ultrasound to check for any abnormalities in the abdomen. It can also examine suspicious masses and other findings, which occur during a manual examination, to confirm pregnancy, and assess the health of developing young. We can also monitor the progress of on-going conditions, like liver and kidney disease.

In an emergency situation, ultrasound can look for serious injuries such as internal organ damage following a collision. Copthorne Veterinary Clinic would like to announce the arrival of its new ultrasound machine, to enable the best care and treatment of all pets, where an ultrasound scan is invaluable in the diagnosis of their condition.



Last year's Best in Show Winner, with Susan who was judging.

Make sure you mark the date in your diary!

If you would like any more information about the event, please contact the surgery.



www.shrewsburyvets.com

Opening Hours

Weekdays 8.30am - 7pm

Saturday 9am - 12noon 4pm - 5pm

Sunday 9am - 10am Consultations by appointment

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