

## LANCASTER

Baldrand House Bowerham Rd  
Lancaster  
LA1 3AJ  
☎ 01524 32696

## MORECAMBE

194 Lancaster Road  
Morecambe  
LA4 5TL  
☎ 01524 410867

## MILNTHORPE

12 The Square  
Milnthorpe  
LA7 7QJ  
☎ 015395 62770

## COUNTING THE CALORIES

### Did you know:

- ☛ One slice of buttered toast eaten by a Cocker Spaniel is the equivalent to two bags of crisps for a person.
- ☛ A sausage to a Staffie is one-and-a-half chocolate bars to you.
- ☛ A chocolate digestive biscuit to a Jack Russell is a portion of chips to a person.
- ☛ Half a tin of salmon fed to a cat is the same as two doughnuts for you.
- ☛ Just one sardine eaten by a cat is one whole chocolate bar for a human.
- ☛ A saucer of cream lapped up by a cat equals a burger and chips for its owner.

## RABBIT RESCUE

### - NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Being called out to help rescue a rabbit who had chosen to live in the family car engine is not really routine at Bay Vets. However, together with the fire brigade and local press, we were required to be on hand in case our bunny client needed some urgent tender loving care and treatment. Having spent the night under the bonnet with no interest what so ever in coming out, the fire brigade put their heads together and soon the engine was suitably dismantled. We then had to call upon our voluntary worker, Kirsty Thomson, to use her petite hands to gently ease bunny out to safety. Bunny was oily and in need of a bath, but was completely unfazed by the events of the day and happily ate a long overdue breakfast.

## EXAM SUCCESS

Congratulations to student veterinary nurse, Helen Streeter, for passing her first year of nursing examinations in September!!



LARGE PRINT NEWSLETTERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE

ALSO AVAILABLE  
ON OUR WEBSITE  
[www.bayvets.co.uk](http://www.bayvets.co.uk)

BAY VET GAZETTE

Issue 10

Autumn 2009

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## MEET OUR PUPPIES! OUR PUPPY SOCIALISATION PARTIES

Registered Veterinary Nurse, Kirsty Pearson, has set up a series of parties to allow puppies an early opportunity to socialise and make friends with other wagging tails. Puppies who are isolated from public places until they have been fully vaccinated (usually around 12 weeks of age) need a chance to experience other people, animals, noises and surroundings. This usually results in a happier and more confident puppy who will hopefully experience fewer problems in coping with every day life. Isolation and continued attachment to a single family member can lead to behaviour problems such as fear-aggression and separation anxiety. The parties offer playtime as well as plenty of training, behavioural, health and wellbeing advice.



Animal charities are feeling the effects of the recession - financial difficulty is a major factor in giving up a pet and is very distressing. Pet owners have a legal obligation to ensure they provide a proper diet, suitable shelter and protect their pets from pain, suffering, injury and disease. Being aware of the realistic costs of owning a pet before taking one on is very important— there are ways to help you cope and save money:

- ☛ Vaccination against common diseases can prevent expensive, life-saving treatment in the future.
- ☛ Neutering has many health benefits, e.g. reducing the risk of breast and prostate cancer and infections of the womb.
- ☛ Pet insurance could save you money in the long run and may even expand your treatment options.
- ☛ Breeding from your pet may be seen as an opportunity to make money but there are often unforeseen costs, e.g. a caesarean section could cost up to £800 and in today's economic climate you may struggle to find homes for the litter - more mouths to feed. Owning a pet for life is very rewarding and is a decision that should not be taken lightly.

To receive our newsletters by email please give your details to reception.

## STICK INJURIES

We seem to have experienced a spate of stick related injuries over recent months. Pets who have been enjoying a run in the park, a playful game of fetch or just a quiet moment on the lawn chewing a rather tasty tree branch suddenly find the stick bites back! We have heard tales of dogs picking up sticks at one end whilst accidentally stepping on the other end resulting in a nasty gash to their tongue. The first the owner knows of the injury is when they notice a reluctance to eat, drink, bark or play - anything to avoid opening their painful mouths. The dog pictured (right) had to be anaesthetised and dissolvable stitches used to close the wound. Pain relief and antibiotic medication, together with a period of recovery adds up to an unexpected costly playtime.



This dog's injury (left) came as quite a shock to the team! Anaesthetised for a routine operation, the injury was discovered. Judging from the inflammation, the piece of stick in the photograph may have been wedged across the back of the jaw for some time and certainly looks very sore. Stick fragments can also become embedded in the animal's body causing long standing abscesses and swellings. There are many more cases we have treated — the pictures of which are just too distressing to print. Wean your dog off his stick fetish and get him a ball instead ... though

nothing smaller than a tennis ball please!

## PET DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

It is estimated that as many as 1 in 200 pets suffer from Diabetes Mellitus (sugar diabetes). It can often be associated with getting older, putting on weight and not being active. If left untreated, diabetes can cause serious illness in your pet and even premature death. Once diagnosed, however, diabetes in cats and dogs is usually relatively easy to treat and manage. The earlier the problem is diagnosed and treated the better. Treatment may include dietary changes and/or medication such as insulin. A simple urine test could tell you if your pet is diabetic. Untreated diabetics leak sugar into their urine. A special test strip can be used to check for the presence of sugar in the urine—ask at your surgery for details.

### Signs to look for:

**Excessive thirst \* Frequent urination \* Weight loss despite constant hunger \* Lethargy**

### November is Pet Diabetes Month:

During November log on to [www.petdiabetesmonth.co.uk](http://www.petdiabetesmonth.co.uk). Join the Great Pet 'Pee' test and share your result. Drug manufacturers will make a 10 pence donation to the PDSA for every result recorded.



## KEEPING YOUR PETS SAFE



An unfortunate consequence of daylight saving time is that once the clocks go back an hour the busy evening traffic rush hour is made in darkness and we see an increase in road traffic accidents involving animals. Reminding drivers to be extra aware that a small dark object might suddenly run out in front of them is one point. Letting your pets out after dark unrestrained, particularly during fireworks season, is another.

Our difficulty lies in determining who owns the animal when it is brought to us. Our staff can report many happy and many sad incidences where we have helped to reunite owners with their pets. Our lost and found database has helped on many occasions, as do collars with tags and tattoos. However, the most effective way of tagging your pet for life is by identity microchip.



Most charities, councils, wardens and veterinary practices will routinely scan every animal handed in to them. Even animals which have passed away are normally checked to prevent owners the awful anguish of never knowing what happened to their pet and who is (or is not) looking after them now. For only £16.95 and a simple ten minute visit to the vets you can ensure that if your pet is found, it has the best chance of being identified and reunited. Microchips can even activate cat flaps to allow only your cats access in and out when you want them to.



One of the lows of working in a veterinary practice is facing the fact that we can only offer emergency treatment to an unidentified patient. Charities only have limited funds and this usually means that we can only provide basic treatment and a safe warm environment to our unnamed patient. Too often euthanasia has to be considered as being in the best interests of the patient. With no identification we have no way of knowing if that animal has a loving family who have saved dutifully or paid for the best insurance cover in case just this occasion should arise.

Keeping your personal details up to date with the UK's national microchip database for lost and found pets is also crucial to the success of the microchip scheme. Every time you change address, home or mobile telephone numbers let Pet Log know your new details immediately.

