



SMALL TALK



THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE SMALL ANIMAL TEAM - ISSUE # 11

JUNE 2009

History tells us all...

One of the skills of being a good veterinary clinician is the ability to get a good history from a client about their animals' illness. It is often said that 3/4 of a diagnosis is history and 1/4 examination.

Obviously, with the vast range of diseases that can affect our pets, it is vital that we narrow down the list of differential diagnosis so that resources and time can be directed in the most efficient manner to quickly obtain a diagnosis.

One of the most frustrating things that vets face is the situation when a sick animal is dropped off for "the vet to have a look at later". Just as frustrating is the situation when a friend brings in a sick cat or dog for an owner, but knows nothing about the pet's illness history.

Not only does this place the Vet in a position where they have very little to go on, but also results in a situation where it is unknown what the owner wants to do, and how much they want to spend on their pet. Certainly not a very efficient and economic way of trying to diagnose a problem!

So, it is essential that not only is a sick animal brought to the clinic, but the person who is responsible for providing its welfare should also come along with a detailed history of their pet's illness. Details should include: symptoms, duration and frequency of problem, appetite, drinking levels, weight levels, attitude, breathing effort and toilet habits etc.

Don't worry, your subconscious holds all the answers, it's up to the vet to get them out on to the table with your ill pet!



Now that the dust has settled.....

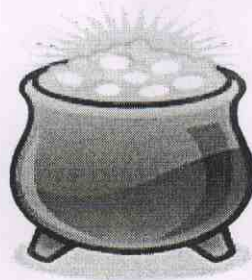
The renovations at Kennington are now complete, and we are fully operational with 2 new surgical suites, larger hospitalisation facilities and three consultation rooms. So far the feedback we have had from our clients has all been positive, so we thank you for your patience over the last several months. The renovations allow us to cope with the increasing work load experienced at Kennington, and provide a higher level of care for your pets, not to mention a much more enjoyable working environment for the Vetco team.



Case of the month - the hunt for the missing testicle.

Castrating dogs, either for sterilisation or surgical treatment for prostatic disease, or tumours of the perineum is common place in veterinary clinics. However, once in a while we are presented with somewhat of a treasure hunt. Cryptorchid dogs only have one (sometimes none) of their testicles fully descended into the scrotum. The undescended testicle needs to be removed as it will continue to produce testosterone and is more likely to become cancerous because it is in an environment that is too warm for it. Herein lies the challenge, the missing testicle will be somewhere between the dogs kidney and the inguinal region (groin). Embryologically, the testicle starts off developing adjacent to the kidney. As the foetus ages, the testicle is drawn backwards into and through the inguinal canal via a muscle called the gubernaculum. What a fantastic name for a muscle!

In such cases the dog is anaesthetised, careful palpation in the groin area is performed in an attempt to identify the missing testicle. Inguinal testicles are removed via an incision through the skin and soft tissue. If the missing testee is not found in the inguinal area then exploratory surgery is performed in the abdominal cavity. Identification is straight forward. There is only one thing that looks like a testicle inside the abdomen, and once found it is surgically removed.



ANIMAL FACTS

- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear
- On average people fear spiders more than they do death
- A pregnant goldfish is called a twit
- Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain
- Donald Duck's middle name is Fauntleroy
- Dogs hearing is very acute. They can register sounds of 35,000 vibrations a second (compared to our 20,000 and a cats 25,000)

KENNINGTON CLINIC

11 CLAPHAM RD 03 230 4689

EDENDALE CLINIC

14 SWEENEY ST 03 206 6170

Welcome Nicole

The clinic at Kennington has recently gained its second nurse, Nicole who together with Byron are the quiet workhorses behind the scenes. Now that we have two veterinary nurses, we are able to offer one on one weight loss clinics for your pets. Both Nicole and Byron can advise you on your pets target weight and design a weight loss programme specific for your pet, plus record your pet's progress on his or her own weight loss booklet. If you are concerned about your pets "rotundness" and associated health risk issues such as diabetes, arthritis, ligament damage, heart liver and renal problems, then ring up for a free weight loss consultation with our nurses.



You will also be seeing Byron and Nicole during suture removal revisits and bandage changes etc. For those animals that have undergone surgery and are now at home, the nurses will also give you a call to check up on the condition of your convalescing pet and answer any questions you may have regarding the post operative period of your companions.