



# Oakwood Newsletter

SPRING 2010

## Client Evening

WE ARE HOLDING another client evening on the Thursday, 25th March (date to be confirmed), 7.30pm at the Whittington Cricket Club. The evening will be about spotting the initial warning signs if your pet is developing mobility problems. In this newsletter we briefly discuss these warning signs. The evening will be split into two. One half we have invited a speaker from Royal Canin to discuss mobility problems and the ways diet can help support your pet. Then in the second half, Barbara owner of Oakwood Veterinary Centre and with a special interest in alternative therapies, will be giving veterinary advice on mobility issues and then go on to discuss how mobility can also be supported by acupuncture and homeopathy. If you would like to come to the client evening it is £5 per ticket and please inform your friends and family who also have pets! Tickets can be bought at the surgery, reserved over the phone or bought on the night. Refreshments will be provided.

## Daytime Surgery

(By appointment only)  
 Monday - Friday: 9 - 6pm  
 Tuesday Evenings: late surgery until 7.30pm  
 Saturday: 9-1pm  
 24 hr Emergency Service  
 Tel: 01691 679699  
 Fax: 01691 657563  
 Email: [oakwoodvets@onetel.com](mailto:oakwoodvets@onetel.com)

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## Meal deal – choosing the ideal diet!



CHOOSING a diet for your pet can sometimes seem a daunting task with such a huge range to select from! To make matters more complicated – and just as with ourselves – our pet's dietary requirements *alter* as they grow from tiny kittens and puppies, into adulthood and eventually old age. However,

the good news is that with *life-stage diets*, we are able to feed our pets a correctly balanced diet for every stage of their lives.

**Puppies and kittens**, because of their rapid rate of growth, need *higher* levels of energy, protein, fatty acids and other nutrients. Specifically formulated junior/growth diets ensure controlled growth (avoiding obesity) and healthy joint development. Puppies of large and giant breeds also have different dietary requirements and require their own specially formulated diets.

**Adult pets**, with their major growth phase now complete, require a balanced diet to keep them fit and healthy, but with *lower* levels of many of the nutrients mentioned above. To achieve this, adult pets require carefully balanced adult/maintenance diets.



**Older pets** also benefit from specifically formulated geriatric/senior diets. These have a reduced calorie content to help prevent weight gain in older age, higher fibre content to reduce constipation and changes in protein and mineral levels to reduce the workload of internal organs such as the kidney, liver and heart.

Whether healthy or poorly, your pet will benefit most from a high quality diet that suits their needs. If you have any queries on the most suitable diet for your pet – we would be delighted to help you.

### Prescription Diets

Pets with particular disease problems may also benefit from specific “*prescription diets*”. These are specifically formulated diets that can help greatly in the treatment of a variety of conditions including diseases of the kidneys, heart, joints, skin and teeth.

## Old age and pet mobility!

DID YOU KNOW that 50% of the UK population of cats and dogs are over 7 years of age? And with it comes mobility and joint problems.

### Common signs to be aware of if your pet has mobility issues:

*Slow to get up after lying down • Difficulty getting into the car • Has trouble climbing the stairs • In pain when handled • Repeatedly licking joints*

**To help your support your pet's mobility** we can recommend a diet and mobility tablets to help maintain joint mobility and activity particularly when:

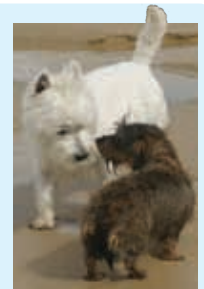
*Your pet is currently on long term medication eg. Rimifin or Metacam • Adult large breed dogs • Your pet has suffered injury or surgery involving a joint*

The mobility support diet is a complete dry food containing Green Lipped Muscle (GLM). GLM has many joint benefits, it is a **natural source of Glucosamine, Chondroitin, Omega 3, antioxidants** and a **variety of minerals** produced by Royal Canin exclusive to veterinary practices. The mobility tablets are extremely palatable and one should be given for every 10kg of bodyweight.

To accompany the nutritional support we also offer a range of **holistic therapies** like **acupuncture, homeopathy** and **herbal supplements** to support your pet's health as they get older.

We are proud at Oakwood to introduce **free 'Mobility Clinics'** run by Helen Parrish our head veterinary nurse who is a Pet Health Counsellor. To launch these last year in October we sent out letters to over 100 clients of which only 3 came to Helen. Of those 3 patients all of them have had a mobility assessment and started either the diet and or the mobility tablets and have reported an amazing change in their pets activity levels and general wellbeing.

Should you wish to know more about the Royal Canin range or wish to book a **free appointment in the 'Mobility Clinic'** please call our practice on **01691 679 699**.



Oakwood Veterinary Centre, Babbinswood Farm, Whittington, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 4PF

Tel: 01691 679699 • Fax: 01691 657563 • Email: [oakwoodvets@onetel.com](mailto:oakwoodvets@onetel.com) • 24 hr Emergency Service

**Client Corner.** We would like to thank Marion for sharing her loving memories of Wellie.

### Wellie Cat by Marion

From an agile 'roof cat'  
To a 'little old lady', NOT!  
Pouncing 3 ft high into long grass,  
At the age of about 14 yrs or so 'Our little old lady' NOT!  
I'm not a very big lover of cats, until that was 'our Wellie cat' came into my life.  
Lovely she is,  
With not so innocent looks and being secretly STUBBORN.  
That is while, purring with glee!  
Wellie ran over Shane's head when she was a kitten!  
So we think its sweet justice that, Frankie licks Wellie enthusiastically,  
But she seems to come back for more!  
While sitting on the arm of the sofa, precariously balanced!  
She always seems so happy.  
Always seems to be purring, morning, noon & night.  
Going in, going out, may be, maybe not!!  
In, out all day long! It must be an age thing...!  
Sunday's togetherness day,  
Sticks by us, supervising every move we make.  
Comes into the house just to smell up the sitting room!  
Then wanting to go out fast!  
If we aren't around, she might be in the barn,  
Maybe sunbathing or could be 'big game' hunting,  
Down in the lower orchard.  
Who knows what 'our little old lady' will do next!  
Now at the age of 15'ish and still going strong,  
She maybe small but seems to be highly hairy!  
Lots of grey hairs...! Haven't we all!  
'Our little old lady, NOT'!  
Even if she IS on metacam, potassium, ovarid too!  
A range of concoctions from our wonderful vet, Barb!  
Just as long as 'our little old lady', NOT!  
Is happy and purring! We wouldn't have it any other way.  
At 17,  
Good Bye for now, and hope to see you again in the next world  
Our wonderful Wellie Cat.  
'OUR LITTLE OLD LADY, NOT'!

**If you would like to contribute to an Oakwood Newsletter with your stories then please contact us.**

## Rabbiting on...

LIKE other pets, your rabbit needs to visit us from time to time for a routine health examination and vaccinations. Here we look at some of the health issues facing pet rabbits.

**Vaccination** With the onset of warmer weather, now is the time to ensure your rabbit is vaccinated. Vaccination primes your rabbit's immune system to recognise and defend against incurable and life threatening infectious diseases – specifically Myxomatosis and Viral Haemorrhagic disease.

- **Myxomatosis** is a distressing viral disease spread by rabbit fleas, mosquitoes and other blood sucking insects. Affected rabbits typically suffer from swollen eyes, leading to blindness and death in most cases.

- **Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD)** is another very serious viral infection. It spreads easily between rabbits or via contaminated hutches, bedding or food. Infected rabbits may show a variety of signs including nose bleeds, loss of appetite and lethargy. Sadly most will die despite treatment.

Happily we are now able to offer you protection against both of these deadly infectious diseases – please contact us now to arrange a health check and vaccination.

## Kidney disease Is my pet affected?



THANKFULLY most of our pets lead healthy active lives. However for some, kidney disease can be a problem and it is particularly prevalent in older pets (especially cats).

Dogs and cats have two kidneys and each kidney has several hundred thousand tiny filters called **nephrons**. These filter the blood, removing toxic waste products, salts and water which are then concentrated to form urine.

Over time a proportion of the nephrons will disappear with age and not be replaced. Other factors such as toxins, infections or cancer may also destroy nephrons.

However, the kidneys have *excess* filtering capacity with the result that *visible* symptoms of kidney disease are not usually seen until roughly two thirds of the nephrons have been lost. If this stage is reached the filtering capacity falls and toxic wastes begin to accumulate in the blood. Common symptoms include **increased drinking and increased urination, weight loss, muscle wastage, lack of appetite and lethargy.**

With regular veterinary check-ups the symptoms of kidney disease can often be detected at an earlier stage – *before* they become outwardly noticeable. So don't delay – if your pet is showing *any* symptoms of kidney problems, please see us for a check-up. Whilst kidney disease cannot be cured, a combination of specially formulated diets that reduce the workload of the kidneys, together with medication such as Fortekor, can often significantly improve the quality of life for affected pets.

## First Aid for Hedgehogs

HEDGEHOGS are known as the gardener's friend as they will eat slugs, beetles and caterpillars. If it is found out in daylight this can be a sign that something might be wrong. This is because they are nocturnal creatures and do not usually come out during the day. Therefore we feel it is essential to give you a few tips on what to do if you find an injured hedgehog in your garden.

Ensure the hedgehog is kept warm by placing it in a high sided box, which is lined with newspaper.

- A hot water bottle can be placed in the box but **please remember** to wrap the hot water bottle in a towel first to prevent it scolding the hedgehog. Also remember to leave enough room around the bottle to allow the hedgehog to move away from the heat source if it chooses to.
- If the hedgehog is wounded then bathe them with a weak dilution of salt and water but seek veterinary advice ASAP.
- Offer the hedgehog a drink of water but NEVER GIVE IT COWS MILK.
- Offer the hedgehog cat or dog food or a small amount of cooked chicken to help build its strength up! By offering it in a shallow bowl allows it to feed easily - Jam jar lids are essential!
- But most importantly remember to seek medical advice!!