

Regent Court

Veterinary Practice NEWS

SPRING 2014



News Flash!

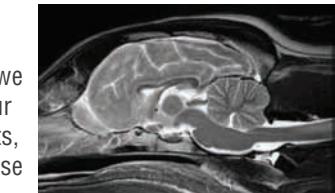
New Veterinary Nurse **Sarah Carter** starts. Qualified and experienced with working dogs and farm cats Sarah will be the new face of the Puppy Parties.

Practice Facilities

- RCVS Accredited Practice
- Convenient Surgery Hours
- 15 minute Appointment System
- Parking
- Full Surgical Facilities
- Full In House Laboratory
- Full Dental Facilities
- Xray and Ultrasound
- Qualified Veterinary Nurses
- Annual Health checks
- Weight checks
- 24 Hour Emergency Service



Also, we owners are legally responsible for our dogs' behaviour, and claims against dogs are being increasingly made following bites, jumping up incidents, and accidents which can sometimes be very costly. Personal liability insurance is advisable and is included with most pet insurance. We strongly advise insuring with a reputable company and have an impartial advice leaflet published by the Association of British insurers that details what you might need in a policy to suit you and your pocket. Please feel free to pop in and pick up a copy before you purchase your insurance.



MRI scans have revolutionised our ability to visualise conditions such as spinal cord and brain problems.

Some Typical costs:

Cataract surgery:
Sight Back.
Approx £2,500 per eye

Total Hip Replacement:
Bounce back.
Approx £6,500

Fracture repair:
Limb saved. Typically approx £1,000-£4,000

Cancer treatment:
Life back.
Variable depending on type £1,000-£5,000 +

Disc surgery: Hindlegs back. Typically approx £4,000- £5,000

Toy removal from bowel:
Dog back.
Approx £1,000-£2,000

Arthritis: Comfort back. Variable often £1,000 + per year

Opening Times

Mon – Fri: 8.30am-6.30pm
Saturday: 8.30am-12.30pm

Vet and Nurse Consultations by appointment

Mon – Fri: 9-12, 2pm-6pm

Regent Court Veterinary Surgery
Lower Queen Street, PENZANCE,
Cornwall TR18 4DE

**24 Hour
Emergency Service**
01736 368768

Holidays and Kennel Cough

When you're thinking about your holidays this year don't forget your pet. Firstly if you want to take them away abroad it is now easier than ever to do so with the pet passport scheme that the vets at Regent Court are very familiar with. By having a passport your pet dog, or cat, can travel to many countries abroad and share your experiences with you. So please give us a call or pop in to find out how easy it is.

Secondly if you are not able to take your dog away this year and choose to put them into kennels are they protected against kennel cough? All kennels require up to date vaccines to accept your pet and recommend kennel cough vaccination as well. This infectious cough can be caught at any time particularly in busy dog walking areas. Symptoms include a gagging cough, breathlessness as well as high temperatures and sore throats accompanied by a loss of appetite.

We highly recommend vaccinating against kennel cough if you are thinking of kennels or indeed have an out and about social dog as it could save you further expense later.

For advice on travelling with your pet this year or getting your dog vaccinated against kennel cough please call the practice where one of the staff will advise you or book you an appointment.



Photos: Warren Photographic



"Caring for your pets as we would our own"
www.regentcourtvets.co.uk

@fozzie_dog





Spring has Sprung!

It doesn't seem five minutes since we wrote last year's spring newsletter but spring has arrived again and no doubt some of the early Penwith daffodils as well (Picture – St Michael's Mount). It's great to exercise off the winter blues, but build things up gradually and avoid **over-exertion** as sudden excessive exercise can result in injuries, for you and your dog! So rest any lame legs and get them checked out promptly.

Avoid playing with **sticks** as they can cause throat injuries, that may necessitate emergency treatment. Specially designed dog toys are always a much safer option.

Remember to keep **flea** and **tick** control up to date (ask us for more advice on the best products available) as parasite numbers are building up now, and be aware that levels of **pollens** and plants that can cause allergic skin disease and itchiness are increasing too.



Out in the garden, be aware that **slug pellets**, **bone meal** and **weedkillers** are common sources

of poisoning and try to ensure that pets don't dig up **spring bulbs** and eat them – since many are poisonous. Seek immediate veterinary advice if any case of poisoning is suspected. Try to avoid growing or displaying **lilies** if you have cats, as the pollen can be very toxic, and enjoy your Easter **chocolate**, but don't let your pets share it! Chocolate (especially the plain varieties) can be very dangerous to pets and might necessitate emergency treatment.



Lastly, and we say this every year, please be aware of Adders when walking your dog.



As the days get longer and the temperature increases adders come out of hibernation and are particularly venomous. They can cause a nasty bite and occasionally fatalities. So please be aware of the potential to see them on the coast paths, dunes and moorland areas.

Enjoy your spring safely and have fun!

Fit for life! Is your pet the correct weight?

DID you know that a staggering $\frac{1}{3}$ of dogs and $\frac{1}{4}$ of cats are estimated to be overweight? So now is a great time to take a look at your pet, and check whether he is carrying a few extra pounds! Being over-weight predisposes to a range of problems including diabetes, arthritis and heart disease, and can also result in liver disease, hormonal problems, breathing difficulties and even anal sac problems. Also, pets that are an ideal weight tend to be generally healthier, have a more effective immune system and have less skin disease.



X-ray of an arthritic hip joint in a dog. The symptoms of arthritis are often much worse in overweight pets.

Maintaining the correct weight depends on a combination of being fed the right amount of a healthy balanced diet, as well as an appropriate level of exercise. It only takes a small excess of calories over a period of time to become overweight, but can take a reduction in calories of 25% or more to achieve weight loss due to changes in metabolic rate. Meanwhile exercise levels should be increased *gradually* to avoid injuries.



Recognising if your pet is overweight is the first step to a healthier life and is much easier to track at the practice using our animal scales. Weight clinics are free and your pet's weight will be plotted on their own chart of which you can have a copy so you can see their progress. The nurses will also be able to advise you at the time should your pet need to lose a little weight by running through how to control their diet or different food options available. Please call the practice for more information.

Fact File: Kidney Disease



IS YOUR pet drinking more and/or losing weight? Does he seem unwell? Is he off his food? These are some of the typical signs of chronic kidney disease, a disease seen commonly in older cats, and more sporadically in dogs.

One of the major functions of the kidneys is to filter urea (produced by protein breakdown) and to produce urine. Dogs and cats have two kidneys and each kidney has several hundred thousand tiny units 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.

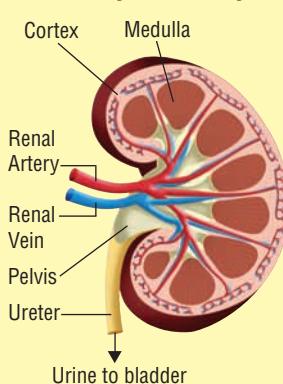
However, the good news is that the kidneys have *excess* filtering capacity with the result that, initially at least, any disease in the kidneys has little effect on their function. In fact, problems with kidney function only start to be seen when around two thirds of the nephrons have been lost. The problem with this is that once that degree of damage has occurred it can often be difficult to treat.

However, new treatments offer hope for affected animals:

- Specially formulated diets (lower in salt, phosphate, protein) can help to reduce the workload of the kidneys and help reduce ongoing damage.
- Novel medications can be used to inhibit or block ACE (angiotensin converting enzyme) which can result in better function in the kidneys, and reduced protein loss in the urine, associated with better quality of life and longevity.

If you suspect your pet may have kidney disease, it's a good idea to bring them in for a check up, and bring a urine sample too which we can analyse. Blood tests are very helpful in ruling out other conditions such as diabetes mellitus and hyperthyroidism (seen in cats) and allow us to identify the best course of treatment for your pet.

Kidney Anatomy



The kidney is a complex structure as can be seen in the diagram above. The renal artery supplies the kidney with blood, and thousands of tiny **nephrons** in the cortex and medulla filter the blood, removing waste products to form urine.