



CULVERDEN VETERINARY GROUP

NEWS

Tunbridge Wells • Crowborough • Wadhurst
AUTUMN 2015

Appointment Times

Tunbridge Wells: 01892 520296

Monday to Friday:
9–11am, 2.30–4.30pm, 5–6.30pm

Saturday: 8.30–11.30am

Crowborough: 01892 661650

Monday to Friday:
9–11am, 2.30–4pm, 5–6.30pm

Saturday: 8.30–11.00am

Wadhurst: 01892 782382

Monday to Friday:
9–11am, 2.30–4pm

Monday & Thursday: 5–6.30pm



Meet Our Partners (Part 2!)

Tom Doyle

I grew up in Ireland, messing about on the farm in my holidays. I went to Vet School in Cambridge and spent six great years there working and playing very hard. I took degrees in Physiology and in clinical veterinary medicine, and spent lots of time working all over Britain and Ireland in pig farms, sheep farms, dairies, abattoirs, laboratories and different kinds of veterinary practices. I also spent time in India and Malaysia doing wildlife work. My final year elective was in Equine Reproduction, and so it was a surprise when I began to practice that small animal work was where I found most satisfaction! Four years ago I gained a certificate in Ophthalmology really enjoy treating interesting eyeballs. I've lived in Wadhurst for more than 10 years and enjoy travelling, growing vegetables, cycling, and (most of all) spending time with friends and a growing band of nephews and godchildren.



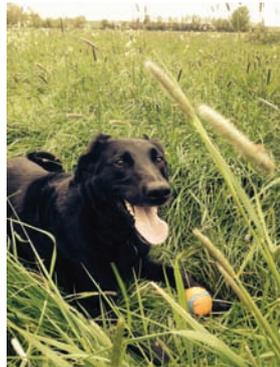
www.culverden.co.uk



Like us!



Look out for "Lepto!"



We're lucky to have such beautiful countryside around Wadhurst, Crowborough and Tunbridge Wells, and our dogs certainly know how to enjoy it! It's sensible, though to be aware of the dangers posed by infectious disease. One of the most important for us is Leptospirosis, which comes from rodents and is transmitted in water such as ditches or puddles. "Lepto" causes severe kidney and liver problems, and is a risk to people. Scientific research after a recent outbreak found that two new strains have become important in southern England, including our area. Fortunately the disease is easily preventable by vaccination, and over 2015 and 2016 we'll be protecting all the dogs we vaccinate against the new strains. If your dog isn't vaccinated now's the time to get it done! For more information see our website or talk to one of our vets.

Love is in the air...

Culverden is experiencing an outbreak of marriage! Congratulations to our vets **Dr Natalie Harley** and **Dr Sian Hynam** (soon to be Dr Musio), and to our nurse **Claire Roisseter** from Crowborough. We all wish you every happiness.

Health Plan Update:

Every month, more and more clients are signing up to the Culverden Health Plan and are receiving **huge** benefits! We currently have over 220 clients who have signed up to the plan and are certainly reaping the rewards. You have the advantage of breaking up payments into manageable monthly instalments, which is great for budgeting, *plus* it works out as *roughly* a 20% discount on all your treatments! The plan includes your annual vaccinations and additional health check with the vet, flea and worm treatment for the year, lungworm and fox mange protection, not to mention discounts on dental work, neuterings, food and accessories and the kennel cough vaccine. The real bonus for us is that we get to see you on a more regular basis, and we love catching up with our loyal clients! Visit our website or call us for more information.



For further information on any of the topics covered in this newsletter, contact the practice on 01892 520296

Email: cvg@culverden.co.uk • www.culverden.co.uk



Microchip Alert!

Did you know that microchipping of **dogs** is already required by law in Northern Ireland and will become compulsory in England, Scotland and Wales from April 2016?

However it's not just dogs that will benefit from being microchipped! The good news is that microchipping is a *permanent* method of identifying your cat, dog, rabbit or pretty much any other pet (including birds and fish!)

So how are microchips implanted? A microchip is hardly bigger than a grain of rice and just takes a few seconds to implant. Like a normal injection, it is inserted under the skin at the back of the neck, and once there, lasts a lifetime.

Should your pet go missing and is found, veterinary practices, the police and welfare organisations all have special microchip scanners and will routinely scan stray pets. So – don't take any chances – get your pets microchipped today, and of course it is rapidly becoming a legal requirement for dogs in all parts of the UK.

Arthritis – is your pet affected?



The cooler Autumn weather often unmask arthritic disease and joint stiffness, so keep an eye on your pet's mobility and comfort.

Arthritis is a common disease in dogs and cats, and generally worsens with age. In most cases, it results from

wear and tear to the surface of the joints, but can also occur as a result of joint trauma or as a consequence of a joint malformation (for example hip dysplasia).

The joints most susceptible to arthritis are those permitting limb movements – called synovial joints. The ends of the bones which meet at these joints are covered by smooth articular cartilage and the joints are lubricated by synovial fluid.

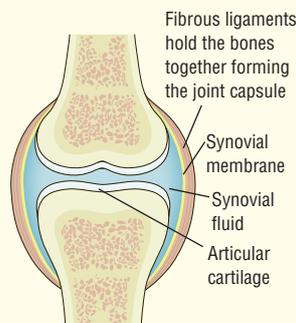
In pets with arthritis, the smooth cartilage covering of the bone ends becomes roughened, irregular and damaged, the joint fluid becomes less shock absorbing, and the joint capsule becomes swollen, (see diagram) resulting in stiffness and pain on movement.

Affected pets typically show signs of lameness, stiffness, difficulty rising, and problems negotiating steps. They may also become slower, less active, and more grumpy, and may show obvious signs of pain such as crying out, whimpering, or avoiding contact with painful areas. X-rays can be helpful, confirming the degree of bone changes and allow assessment of the joints affected.

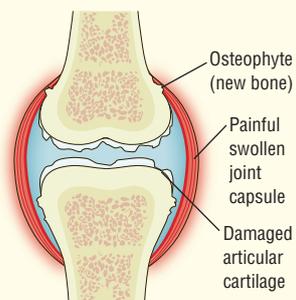
So what can be done? **Weight loss** can make a massive difference to many affected pets, as they are often overweight. Reducing food, and splitting meals into several smaller meals can aid weight loss. **Regular gentle exercise** is also important, and it helps if it is consistent (i.e. the same amount of exercise twice daily every day, and no unusually long walks on the weekend!) whilst physio exercises can aid mobility. **Joint supplements containing glucosamine** may be helpful, but the majority of pets also benefit from **anti-inflammatory pain relief medication**.

Ask us for more information if you think your dog or cat may be showing signs of arthritis, and let us help you get the spring back in their steps!

Joint Anatomy



Healthy synovial joint with smooth articular cartilage



Arthritic synovial joint with damaged articular cartilage

Autumn hazards!



As temperatures drop and the nights draw in it's great to get out and active in the Autumn, but there are some factors that still need to be considered to keep our pets fit and well. With this in mind, here are a few topical tips:



The bright orange mites often cluster together and are commonly found between the toes

Harvest mites are a problem in late-summer and Autumn. These very seasonal parasites are picked up in woodland and long grasses and swarm onto passing pets where they tend to congregate on the

ears, eyelids, feet and the underside of the abdomen. They are identified as tiny bright orange dots adhering tightly to the skin and are usually a cause of great irritation with itchy, crusting lesions developing.

Ticks are particularly active in the Autumn months, living in long grass and woodland areas. Ticks clamber onto passing pets, firmly attaching themselves and feeding on their blood. Worse still they can also spread a range of infectious diseases such as Lyme disease and Babesiosis.

Fleas are more of a year-round problem, and unlike the parasites mentioned above, fleas love central heating and will make themselves comfortable in your home and on your pet!

So – make sure you regularly check your pet's coat for any signs of parasites and let us advise you on the best treatments for your pet.

Around the house and garden, keep a wary eye out for toxins at this time of year. Pets are very attracted to **ethylene glycol (antifreeze)** which is easily spilt when topping up radiators. It is very sweet tasting and extremely toxic to pets, causing kidney failure and often death. In the garden, try to ensure pets don't eat **fermenting apples** and also **conkers** – both of which can lead to digestive upsets and a visit to the vet!

Enjoy the Autumn weather and take care!



Harvest mite down the microscope



Harvest mite photo: courtesy Cat Henstridge