



Veterinary Centre

AUTUMN 2019

NEWS



Practice News



See a trained pet behaviourist at 387 Vets!

If we've referred you to a pet behaviour counsellor, it's likely you'll already have met Dr Zoe Demery. Zoe runs animal behaviour counselling service Second Nature, and from August, will be coming to 387 Vets for a day a month to see referred behaviour cases here in practice. Zoe's qualifications include a doctorate in animal cognition and behaviour, a degree in psychology and zoology and she is a provisional member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC). She is incredibly experienced at supporting pet owners with behaviour issues such as aggression, phobias, overexcitability, compulsive disorders, age-related conditions and inappropriate destruction, vocalisation and soiling, and works to help owners and pets understand each other better for problem resolution, with proven results. Zoe coming here will make behaviour referral more accessible for even more of our clients who struggle with pet behaviour issues long-term.



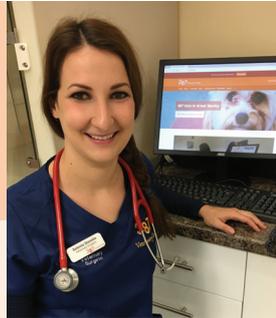
Are you signed up? Gizmo is!

Make sure your pets (and you and your home!) are fully protected against pesky parasites! Sign up to our monthly parasite treatment home delivery service like Gizmo and his owner, and you'll never forget a flea, tick or worming treatment again! It's handy, spreads payments, provides optimum year-round protection and all at no extra cost as postage and packing is free – and we'll even give you the worming tablets half-price! No one wants an infestation of fleas from hidden flea burden in the carpet, or potential exposure of our pets – or us - to parasite-borne disease. Take advantage of our new service to stay covered, by giving us a call or popping in to practice.



Fun-draising!

We wanted to let you know that National Pet Month donations have made a lot of Cinnamon Trust dogs very happy! Monies raised are going towards developing and improving the canine agility play course at the Trust's Hillside Sanctuary in Devon. An extra big tunnel is required so that Lola the Pyrenean Mountain Dog can play, and new jumps are being added for all the resident dogs to enjoy!



Selenia set to become one of the first Postgraduate Dental Certificate holders in the UK!

We are delighted that Selenia has been accepted on a brand new Postgraduate Certificate in Small Animal Dentistry, starting

in October. Places have been like gold dust – only 20 delegates have been admitted on this inaugural course.



The year-long qualification is targeted at general practitioners, to develop pet dentistry skills and knowledge to bring new learning back in to practice. Course modules cover essentials of small animal dentistry, feline dentistry and tooth extraction and paediatric, geriatric and advanced small animal dentistry. And particularly exciting is the practical component: nine intensive, hands-on practical dental training days at a special centre for delegates to apply and reinforce new learning. The tutors are eminent in the field of veterinary dentistry and include a certificate holder in endodontology (the study and treatment of dental pulp and related tissue) and a European specialist in veterinary dentistry.

Selenia has always had a special interest in dental disease, a condition particularly prevalent in cats and dogs, and she was delighted when she heard that she had secured a place on the new postgraduate dentistry certificate course.

“Cats and dogs can suffer if dental disease is left untreated – it can be very painful. Talking to owners about managing pet dental disease is a big part of the job, and in cases where cats and dogs have developed dental problems, it's really rewarding to see how much I can improve their quality of life by fixing their teeth.”

“I love new learning. The course is all about improving knowledge and dentistry skills to enhance the dental care we can offer your pets in practice. I can't wait to start!”

Vegetarian option for allergy-suffering dogs

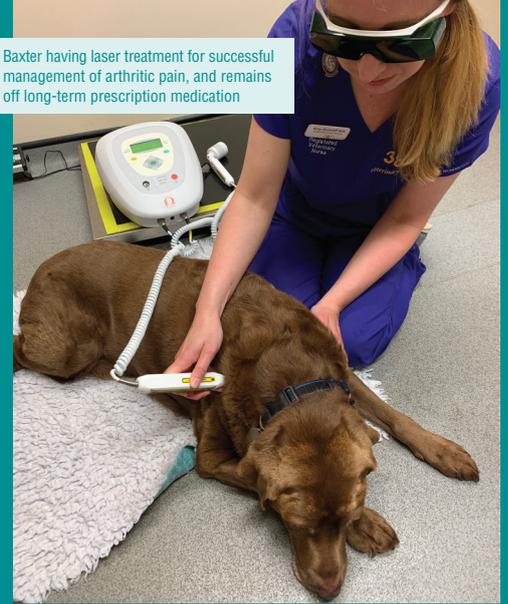
We now sell a complete all-vegetable diet for adult dogs at 387 Vets, which contains all nutritional and amino acid essentials necessary for a healthy and balanced diet. Evidence suggests that many food allergies in dogs are caused by meat protein, leading to unsettled, uncomfortable guts, and dogs with meat protein allergy may also display skin issues. Solo Vegetal provides a great solution for cutting out the meat protein allergy trigger and other allergens too, as the diet is maize and soya free as well as being free from genetically modified ingredients and any additives and preservatives.



Ask us for more information about Solo Vegetal's answer to meat-free feeding!



Baxter having laser treatment for successful management of arthritic pain, and remains off long-term prescription medication



Autumn Alert!

Summer is waning and cooler weather approaches. But don't be fooled that the parasite season is over! See below for more information on this and a few other specific health challenges our pets face this Autumn!



Ticks: Still prevalent in Autumn when it's mild and wet, ticks especially like warm, moist, grassy undergrowth, and will latch on to an unsuspecting passing host – like your dog or cat! - to feed. Deer, wildlife and grazing animals are great hosts so dog walks are prime tick territory. Be aware, ticks can transmit disease, so best to treat your pet year-round. If you do find a tick on your pet, remove by twisting free with a tick hook. Never pull!



Fleas: The article 'Fleas and Ticks: Latest Thinkings and Innovations,' in June's Vet Times cites that 28.1% of cats and 14.4% of dogs* in the UK are infested with fleas. The vast majority of fleas on felines and canines are cat fleas. The article states that, "cat fleas are well-suited to living in the humidity and temperatures maintained in most UK homes, with 95% of a typical flea infestation existing in the home as eggs, larvae and pupae."

By the time you see a flea on your pet, they're already in your home. Keep treating!



Harvest Mites: Active in late summer and Autumn, these are really itchy. The mites congregate in any area where there is little hair and a thin covering of skin and look like bright orange dots. Whilst the larvae drop off after they've grown 3-4 times in size, the itching can go on for weeks and can cause rashes.



Don't eat! Conkers and acorns are toxic and can cause upset stomachs and intestinal blockage. Keep dogs away from windfall fruits too as they can make dogs poorly, not to mention the potential for painful stings from any feeding wasps. Stings to the mouth can be dangerous and compromise breathing. If this occurs you should see a vet.



Bonfire Night: Fireworks can be scary! For dogs, make a den, close curtains, keep TV or radio on to muffle bangs, walk early, avoid toileting during displays and stay calm so you don't transmit stress. Cats love to be able to go off and hide. Keep inside and provide extra litter trays. Both cats and dogs can respond really well to calming pheromone diffusers, although you'll need to start a couple of weeks in advance. Bring small furries into a garage or shed, worm rabbits as stress can trigger e-cuniculi, and provide lots of bedding for hiding and a nibble toy for distraction. Ask us in practice about lots of other strategies for helping with pet stress!

Alabama rot: A dog disease of unknown cause, Alabama Rot causes nasty skin swellings and ulcerous lesions and can lead to fatal kidney failure. Since November 2012, over 180 cases across 38 UK counties have been diagnosed, with 95% occurring between November and May.** It's thought the disease is picked up on paws and legs on muddy walks, so you may wish to bath your pet where they have become wet or muddy. Please note, this is a rare condition, but best to get your dog checked if you are at all concerned.



Seasonal Canine Illness: Although rare, this is a serious condition typically affecting dogs in the Autumn. Symptoms appear 1-3 days after walking dogs in woodland, the main one being vomiting, often accompanied by diarrhoea and lethargy. Additional signs can include abdominal pain, fever and muscle tremors. Dehydration can occur quickly and the condition is life-threatening, so it's imperative you get your dog seen straight away.

*Abdullah *et al.* 2019 • **BVA Blog: Alabama Rot: An update, 31.05.19

Arthritis: take action and make a difference to your pet

National Arthritis Week is 7th – 13th October this year, so our Autumn newsletter is perfect for flagging up a condition that affects 80% of older dogs and cats. Osteoarthritis (also known as degenerative joint disease) normally occurs due to age-related wear and tear on joints. The role of cartilage and lubricating joint fluid is to enable pain-free movement. With osteoarthritis, cartilage is worn and damaged, lubricating synovial fluid deteriorates in quality and effectiveness and joint bone thickens. Fluid movement is compromised and the result is pain and inflammation. Whilst this condition typically affects middle-aged and older pets, younger pets that have suffered an injury or that have been born with imperfect joints are also susceptible.

Common signs of arthritis in dogs are stiffness getting up, lameness when walking, plodding with a heavy gait, slowing down on walks, sleeping more and not wanting to jump into the car. For cats, they can sleep more too and have issues using the litter tray and jumping up onto surfaces.

Whilst there's no cure for arthritis, pets can benefit from a wide range of treatment options. **Weight loss** is important for any pets carrying excess weight as this places huge pressure on joints. **Exercise should be managed** - shorter, slower walks are better. **Anti-inflammatory medication** can be effective at providing pain relief, and many arthritis sufferers benefit from taking **joint supplements**.

At 387 Vets, we offer various complementary therapies that are really effective at managing arthritic pain. We're delighted with results from **our new laser therapy service** – visit www.387vets.com/clinics-courses/ for case studies - and **our free pain clinics** are specifically designed to teach owners massage and physiotherapy techniques to carry out at home.

If your pet is showing signs of arthritis, do come and see us, so that we can help improve their quality of life.