

# RedLeaves Veterinary Centre

Welcome to the Autumn 2007 issue of our newsletter - keeping you up-to-date with what is happening in the practice.

## Practice facilities

- Appointment system
- Ample parking
- Convenient surgery hours
- Dedicated 24 hour emergency service
- Annual health checks
- Modern surgical facilities
- Veterinary nurse appointments
- Weight checks
- In-house laboratory
- Full dental facilities
- Hills Nutritional advisors
- Hills Science Plan
- Hills prescription Diet
- Radiography
- Electrocardiography
- Ultrasound scanner
- Blood pressure monitor
- Pulse oximeter
- Export/health certificates (pet passport)
- Air conditioning
- Radio surgery

## Consulting times

Mon - Fri 8.30am - 1.15pm  
3pm - 7pm

Saturday 9am - 12pm

## Address:

132 Feltham Hill Road  
Ashford  
Middlesex TW15 1HN

Tel: 01784 259606

Fax: 01784 256939

E-mail: Enquiries@  
redleavesvet.co.uk

www.redleavesvet.co.uk

## Protect your dog and your family!

If you're already a dog owner, you'll know how sociable they can be! Whether it's splashing about in the nearest pond or chasing each other in the park, they are never happier than with their doggy pals.

Whilst we'd never come between a dog and his playtime it's worth being aware that your dog could be at risk of contracting leptospirosis when out and about. The worry with this particular disease is that not only will your dog suffer, but it could also pass on the disease to you or your family.

Leptospirosis, also known as Weil's disease, is a bacterial disease transmitted via other dogs or animals such as rats. At its worst it can cause jaundice, a high temperature, severe thirst, lethargy, abdominal pain, vomiting and bloody diarrhoea. The leptospirosis bacteria can last for weeks or months and is spread easily via contact with urine from a diseased animal.

The added danger is that there are cases where the symptoms are not so obvious and the disease is harder to diagnose. Affected animals may be infected for a long time posing a threat to everyone around them.

By ensuring your dog is properly vaccinated, has annual health checks with the vet and is regularly wormed, you can be confident he will be pro-

tected against a range of infectious diseases, including leptospirosis.

If your dog is behind with its vaccinations, please call us now to make an appointment with your vet.

## Is your dog losing his breakfast?

Does your dog vomit once or twice each week? Dogs have a tendency to vomit from time to time, usually triggered by indiscriminate eating or being fed something unusual. As a general rule, they recover from these episodes of vomiting quickly. However, if your dog is suffering from regular vomiting then there may be an underlying problem.

Regular vomiting is a classic sign of a condition called chronic gastritis, which can be caused by a multitude of different factors. Some breeds of dogs are predisposed to the condition but, unfortunately, the cause of most cases cannot be determined.

A change in diet may help, but our veterinary practice can offer your dog medication to help reduce their stomach acid, which will help your pet recover from persistent vomiting. If this sounds like the answer you've been hoping for, contact the practice on (01784) 259606.

## Staff news

◆ Welcome back Barbara Taylor, who has been on extended leave following an operation to donate a kidney to her husband Mike. We are pleased to report that all has gone well so far and we hope their good recovery continues.

◆ Joining our team we welcome Kylee, our new Vet Nurse, who has a particular interest in animal be-

haviour. We also welcome new receptionists Vicky and both Paulines.

◆ Sadly we have had to say farewell to our Vet Nurse, Vicky. We wish her every success in her new career. We also say goodbye to our receptionists Sarah and Yve, who have been with us for three years and 18 months respectively. We wish them well in the new jobs.

# RedLeaves Veterinary Centre

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



### Vets

Barbara Taylor  
Sally Goulden  
Vicky Hall  
Ann Trewren  
Sakine Kudat-  
Andersson

### Nurses

Mel (Senior VN)  
Jan C VN  
Laura VN  
Kylee VN  
Jenni SVN  
Lucy

### Reception

Jan B  
Vicky  
Pauline M  
Pauline P

### Administration

Barbara Inwood  
(Office  
administrator)  
Pip (Clinical  
administrator)

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## Protecting against feline leukaemia

Feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) is an infectious agent most commonly associated with the occurrence of tumours and anaemia in cats, but it can also cause disease by suppressing your cat's immune system. This will potentially leave your pet susceptible to a variety of other problems, which may then be more serious. This is similar to the problems seen in humans with the AIDS virus and in cats with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).

The good news is that the FeLV virus cannot survive for long in the environment, so spread of infection between cats is reliant on prolonged close contact. Transmitted in the blood and saliva when cats fight each other, or during grooming, the disease can take months or even years to develop with young cats and kittens particularly vulnerable.

Not long ago, feline leukaemia was both widespread and common. Thankfully, vaccination is gradually reducing the incidence of this disease, because there is no effective treatment to eliminate a FeLV infection. We recommend vaccinating your cat against FeLV, particularly if your cat may have a high risk of exposure to the virus - this includes if your cat ventures outside or if it comes into contact with potentially infected individuals.

If you think that your cat is at risk of feline leukaemia, please feel free to book to see one of our vets for further advice. They will also advise you on all your cat's healthcare re-



## Heart to heart

Heart disease remains the UK's most common cause of death in humans, but it isn't only people that are affected. It is also one of the major causes of death in dogs and approximately 10% of pets that visit a vet's surgery are diagnosed with the condition.

Early detection, treatment and monitoring are key to improving the length and quality of your dog's life and symptoms to watch out for include coughing (especially at night), a decrease in appetite and tiredness on walks.

One of the most common syndromes in dogs with cardiac disease is congestive heart failure (CHF). This condition may be easily treated in the majority of cases with medication including an ACE inhibitor. ACE inhibitors have been shown to reduce coughing, increase physical activity and the life expectancy of a dog with heart problems and they work by easing the load on the heart and reversing some of the damage caused by heart failure. Humans with heart disease are also commonly prescribed ACE inhibitors to good effect.

If you think your dog may be suffering from a heart condition then it is important to contact us as soon as possible to arrange for a health check for your pet.

### Facts about a dog's heart

- \* On average a dog's heart beats 144,000 times a day.
- \* A dog's heart pumps 4,000 litres of blood a day.
- \* Blood really is thicker than water - in fact about three times thicker.
- \* The red blood cells that carry oxygen around the body of your dog are so small that it would take 70 billion of them to fill a teaspoon.
- \* Blood pumps around the body at less than 1mph.