



Veterinary Centre

NEWS

387 Walsall Road, Great Wyrley,
Staffordshire, WS6 6DP

Sharon excels in cat and dog nutrition

Huge congratulations to Sharon who has passed her Certificate in Feline and Canine Veterinary Health Nutrition with distinction. The qualification, which took 9 months to complete, involved intensive research and bi-monthly assessments. Topics included digestive anatomy, the importance of balanced and life-stage nutrition, diet types, feeding regimes, nutrition management for pets with chronic illnesses and looking at new developments in wet and dry food. Sharon's CertNutr qualification recognises that she has been formally trained to apply best practice principles in the support of your pet's on-going nutritional management. Great news for all our visiting cats and dogs!



New out of hours provider

As of 1st January 2016, we are now using Pool House in Lichfield (Fosseway Lane, Lichfield, WS13 8JY) for our out of hours provision instead of St George's in Wolverhampton. After much research, we believe Pool House offers a much more accessible service. Initial response to the change has been positive, with clients reporting that, "it's a very friendly place" and is, "... a lot easier and quicker to get to."

If you do have a veterinary emergency when the practice is closed, please call us on 01922 411755 and follow the answer machine instructions to access the emergency service.

Amazing response to Pet Christmas Dinner plea



Huge thanks to everyone who brought in food donations in support of our 'Give a Pet a Christmas Dinner Campaign' in December.

This is the 3rd year we have run the project in support of local cats and dogs in shelters waiting for their forever homes. And it

was a record breaker, with 145kg of wet and dry food - the equivalent of Hamish and our qualified nurse Sophie put together! We also collected assorted towels, blankets, dog coats, leads and toys. Proceeds have been distributed to Sunnyside Kennels in Featherstone, Cats Protection Cannock and The Ashmore Rescue for Cats in Wednesfield. All charities are incredibly grateful for your support.

Microchipping is compulsory!

As of 6th April, it is the law for all dogs of 8 weeks or older to be microchipped. Get your dog microchipped here today!

We're an Approved Weight Management Centre of Excellence

As some of you may know, 387 Vets recently became only the 7th practice in the UK to be approved as a Royal Canin Weight Management Centre of Excellence. But what does this mean for you and your pet?

We've put in place practice protocols to make sure we give you best advice on nutrition and weight management at every important stage in your pet's life, from birth to becoming an OAP ('old aged pet!').

For puppies and kittens, we'll discuss balanced diet and nutrition and managing calorie intake. We'll show you how to ensure you give exactly the right food quantities at meal times and assess for yourself the body condition of your pet.

Around neutering time, we'll talk to you about the importance of a neutered diet to prevent



Charlie's body condition being weighed and measured at his weight clinic

unnecessary weight gain post-op in pets. And at every booster appointment we'll assess your pet's body condition and raise any nutritional concerns.

Pet obesity is a growing problem

UK-wide and can contribute to serious health conditions. We're so passionate about helping you to help your pets stay healthy, we're referring cats and dogs over their ideal body condition score to free one-to-one weight clinics: your dedicated qualified nurse will help guide your pet, week by week, back to optimum condition with your support.

We've already helped 68 weight clinic referrals towards a better quality of life and look forward to helping more pets become happier and healthier.

What do free weight clinics include?

- Great nutrition advice
- Learning how to body condition score your own pet
- Weight checks
- Progress charts
- Personalised feeding guidelines
- Demonstration of different feeding methods
- Personalised exercise plans
- And more!



Our pledge is to support you!

Benefits of successful weight loss

- More energy
- More mobility
- Less joint pressure
- Improved behaviour
- Less risk of heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers
- Increased life expectancy
- A happier pet!

New ultrasound scanner

In December 2015, we invested in a new ultrasound scanning machine for the practice. This scanner, which had previously been an NHS hospital scanner, gives us amazing clarity and more detailed imaging compared to our previous

machine. As well as improving what we can see within large organs such as the liver, spleen and kidneys and giving us a much clearer view of the heart and its valves, we can now also examine smaller structures in the abdomen. And we



can scan other parts of the body too which we couldn't do before - even the eyes!

Looking to purchase a new puppy? BUYER BEWARE....



New puppies are an absolute delight. Once you've researched into breeds and made the decision that's right for you, it can be tempting to scan the internet for cute pups and set off immediately to buy. But make sure you get off to the right start. Otherwise, your fairytale could turn into a nightmare....

The internet puppy...

At the end of last year, a couple came in to 387 Vets with a very depressed, lethargic puppy which they had just bought after spotting it on a well known pet-selling internet site. The couple had gone to collect the puppy of their dreams, but were given an excuse as to why they couldn't pick up from the house. Instead they were met on the street by a woman with the new pup. Puppy was subdued on collection and wouldn't eat when they got home. Within 24 hours he showed signs of the potentially fatal parvovirus and although he received intensive veterinary treatment, unfortunately he passed away.

A deceptive transaction...

Recently a client came to see us having bought and collected a new puppy which was under the weather. Puppy came to its appointment with diarrhoea, an ear infection and fleas.

When we routinely scanned puppy for a microchip during the consultation, we also discovered it had been bred in Slovakia. The owner had been given no indication puppy wasn't UK bred on collection - the reason for sale she'd been given was that the seller couldn't keep puppy as his other dog didn't get on with it.

Fortunately puppy made a full recovery, but the new owner should never have been sold a sick puppy nor been deceived about puppy's foreign origins, as breeding standards abroad do not meet UK welfare regulations for happy, healthy litters and there's every chance puppy could have come from a puppy farm. It is also illegal to import a puppy under the age of 15 weeks (even from Ireland). After discussion with our vet Carole, puppy's owner contacted Trading Standards to alert them. Trading Standards had already been made aware of this seller and are continuing to monitor him.



Image from Independent article on puppy farming, posted online in May 2015

"41% of people who bought a puppy in the last year did not see the puppy with its mother and 53% did not see its breeding environment, meaning those puppies are highly likely to have been bred by puppy farmers and sold by third parties"

2014 Kennel Club PAW survey

Puppy farming

It's likely that these two puppies above that came in to 387 Vets were originally from puppy farms. The Kennel Club defines a puppy farmer as, "a high volume breeder who breeds puppies with little or no regard for the health and welfare of the puppies or their parents. A puppy farmer's main intent is profit." Puppies are taken from mum early and are kept in poor conditions,

with inadequate socialisation or basic health care such as immunisation and worming. They are more likely to suffer from behavioural issues, common preventable diseases or inherited conditions, and have a shorter lifespan.

"Behavioural problems are the main cause of euthanasia in dogs under 2 years old."

MSD Health

Farmed puppies are often sold through a third party, like pet shops or through the internet, so you don't see the environment in which they've been raised.

"1 in 5 puppies bought from pet shops or directly from the internet suffer from potentially fatal parvovirus. This is four times more than the average."

2014 Kennel Club PAW survey

Safe puppy purchase: best advice

- Source a reputable breeder.

Go through a trusted recommendation. Carry out your own research. Check out the Kennel Club's Assured Breeders Scheme on their website

- Always go to see puppy's home environment
- Ask to see mum and pups together. Don't be swayed by excuses such as "Mum's asleep"; "Mum's on a walk"; "Mum gets possessive"; "Mum's staying with a friend"

- Check mum and pups are happy and relaxed

- Check they're happy in the company of strangers and noise - this shows they are well socialised with people and reduces the likelihood of behavioural problems

- Expect to be interviewed by the breeder - they will want to know that puppy is going to a good home!

- Check mum and dad's vaccination cards

- Make sure you ask the right questions: 'The Puppy Contract' is a great way to find out about puppy's background, whether puppy is pedigree or not. Ideally, the seller and the purchaser should complete the contract which records the thought and the attention the breeder/seller has invested in puppy's care. It holds legal sway and is endorsed by major animal welfare and veterinary organisations.

Don't get emotionally committed . . .

... until you know you've found exactly the right happy healthy pup. If you do suspect the puppy you are viewing is from a puppy farm, heartbreaking as it is, you should walk away. Buying will only fuel the trade and you could be letting yourself in for a list of medical problems and a sad ending to what should be a happy, joyful event.



Download a puppy contract at puppycontract.rspca.org.uk/home