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Opening Times:  
Weekdays: 8.30am-7pm  
Saturdays 9am-1pm

## Newsletter Spring 2009

Welcome to the very first Cheshire Pet Newsletter. We hope to produce 1 every quarter that will be packed with relevant information for you & your pets. If you have any ideas or suggestions just let us know. Read & Enjoy...

### The Exotic Vet for Your Exotic Pets! - Molly Joins Cheshire Pet

In Jan 09 a new vet joined us at Cheshire Pet. (Is she mad!?) Molly Varga not only treats cats and dogs but is also a specialist in exotics. Exotics aren't as rare as you would think. Yes, they include lizards, snakes, birds and fish but also rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils and tortoises etc - many pets that people wouldn't immediately think of as exotic. We are really pleased she has joined us as she is only 1 of 4 people in the country to hold a diploma in exotic animals - and the only 1 in the country to be in general practice. This means that Molly will be able to bring her huge expertise in exotics to you. If you are 1 of the first 100 people to bring in your exotic pet to see Molly then you receive a free Gertie Guinea Pig cuddly toy. Molly lives in Manchester with her husband, 2 young boys (Finn & Logan) and a crossbreed dog called Dougie. Molly has fitted in brilliantly at Cheshire Pet and we've had great feedback from the clients. She is also setting up our very own referral centre for exotics so that people nationwide can bring their exotic animals to us. There will be many interesting stories over the next few months so stay tuned.....

### Flexible Pets

Unless you have a dog with rickety joints you've probably never realised that here at Cheshire Pet we have our own hydrotherapy unit. Our physiotherapy centre includes a hydrotherapy treadmill which allows water to take your pet's weight whilst helping build up muscles which in turn takes stress away from joints. Therefore this is particularly useful in cases such as hip & elbow dysplasia, cruciate ligament repairs, arthritis and spinal surgery. Due to the nature of the treadmill we are able to individualise the physio programme to suit your pet's requirements. We can alter speed of treadmill and level of water, unlike other hydrotherapy units elsewhere who offer a swimming pool. We work closely with 3 qualified K9 physiotherapists and all our nurses who take the water walking sessions are fully qualified giving you peace of mind. We have had great success stories with many dogs initially struggling from orthopaedic surgery or arthritis, yet a few water sessions later their limps or wobbly legs have disappeared. The treadmill is also useful for weight loss - this is at a reduced cost. If you are interested in viewing the treadmill or have any questions ask at reception.



### CHESHIRE PET BRAVERY AWARD

Our award goes this month to Barney Porter. Barney is 1 of our older more distinguished dogs who for many years has suffered from severe arthritis. Unfortunately he has a very sensitive tummy meaning some medicines for his arthritis he cannot have. He is 14 years old now but despite his setbacks he comes to see us every week for his injection with a spring in his step and a slobbery kiss for everyone. Well done Barney... and we love you. xxx

### \*\*\*VACCINE AMNESTY\*\*\*

Have you let your pet's vaccine lapsed? Worried about re-starting the vaccinations because of the credit crunch? Well don't worry because Cheshire Pet is offering a vaccine amnesty. You can re-start your pet's vaccinations and only pay the normal price for a booster. This could save you up to £23. So if you want to restart your pet's vaccination to protect them against nasty and often fatal diseases then contact the clinic.



### \*\*Don't forget to flea your pet\*\*

As it's been a particularly cold winter we are probably all guilty of turning up the central heating to keep snug and warm - but remember we're not the only ones keeping snug and warm - this is the ideal environment for fleas to strike and even if you can't see any fleas it is thought about 8 out of 10 family pets have fleas. So don't get in an itch about it - pop into the clinic to purchase flea treatment or for any advice.





## THE CREDIT MUNCH!!! Hills Science Plan

To give your pet the best chance of good health, here at Cheshire Pet we recommend Hills Science Plan. Unfortunately due to increased production costs, Hills have been forced to raise their prices. We do understand this couldn't have come at a worse time as we are all affected by the credit crunch, but Hills took the decision **not to compromise on their quality ingredients** and not to source cheaper, less reliable ingredients elsewhere. So although the initial outlay may seem substantial it still works out pretty cost effective on a cost per day basis to feed your pet.

And remember Cheshire Pet offers a loyalty scheme meaning we sell Hills Science Plan cheaper than Pets @ Home and Jollies of Congleton. But if you do happen to find Hills Science Plan cheaper elsewhere please present your receipt to reception and we'll happily refund the difference.



## LAPAROSCOPY

At Cheshire pet we are pleased to announce that we have invested in the equipment to allow us to perform laparoscopy.

Laparoscopy is a technique which involves the insertion of a small camera and instruments into the abdomen or chest of an animal through a few small incisions. This technique allows us to visualise certain organs and, if required, perform diagnostic and surgical procedures without the need of a large incision. This helps your animal to recover quicker and will reduce the risk of post operative wound complications.

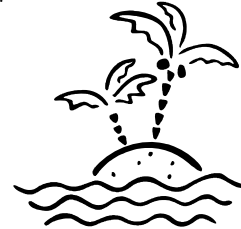
Laparoscopy is widely used in human medicine and with its introduction to our practice we aim to improve further on the standard of service we offer to yourselves and your pets.

## Thinking of Sunnier Climes?

### Passport info - give yourself enough time

*Dreaming of sun, sea & sand, or is backpacking with the locals more your cup of tea? Either way if you want your furry friend to travel with you this summer, here are some vital points.*

When you start on the passport package please allow yourself about 7½ months prior to going on holiday. This is because once your pet's passport has been issued (the date of the certificate is from the date of the blood sampling) then you cannot re-enter the UK within 6 months. This means if your passport is dated 15<sup>th</sup> March you can go abroad but not bring back you pet until 15<sup>th</sup> September. Our protocol at Cheshire Pet is for your pet to have 2 rabies injections (the reason for this is to ensure your pet passes the rabies blood test - just 1 injection has been known to result in a failure which puts the process back even further and ensures costly re-tests), then 2 weeks after the 2<sup>nd</sup> injection we take a blood sample which we send to the lab. Please check with DEFRA to check on individual countries' requirements. For any further questions Jane will be able to help so contact her at the clinic.



## SORRY FOR ANY CONVENIENCE

You may have noticed burly builders onsite (...well perhaps not so burly!). This is because we are extending the clinic. We're extending out of the back of the clinic in order to separate our existing operating theatre and x-ray suite. We are also moving the cattery further away from our kennels. We are also hoping to create a separate ward for our exotic inpatients that Molly will care for. But we're also converting our loft into new staff quarters. Here's hoping for plasma cinematic TV screen, bean bags and a brand new fitted kitchen!

## Seamus's Diary.....The View from the Dog Bed!

Welcome one and all to my new column. I always knew there was a story inside me but my talents were thwarted until Uncle Edward put a pen in my paw and said 'Go for it Seamus. Your pen is mightier than your paw'. You see I come to work everyday with my Mum - Rache on reception. Mummy's friends also bring their dogs to work but as they say... 'Age before beauty'. So here I am scratching my head with a Bic.

I was very excited to return to work after our New Year holiday, despite Mum and her friends grumbling about only having 1 day off. When I arrived I decided to have a chat with the K9 inpatients - I'm sure it couldn't have been a brill Christmas for them spent in hospital? Anyway a couple of the guys said how they'd over eaten at Christmas and been fed too many scraps and treats by family members and had ended up in the clinic. I suppose I should be grateful all the staff here are such meanies with their food. Although I reckon a little of what you fancy does you good.

Aunty Molly joined us at the beginning of the year and she's a lovely lass. Thankfully she's more interested in looking after annoying little things like rabbits & gerbils than me which is good cos my Mum's always getting the vets to check me over and shove untoward objects up my bottom! And I'm sick of it. Is there some sort of Canine Union to stop this?

At the beginning of February I was really put out because the builders started work on the extension. Despite this meaning a bigger staff room and a comfier settee for me it means that all the diggers are keeping me awake. I can't believe how hard I'm expected to work.

Anyway that's all from me folks from my first foray into Fleet Street. Next time I'll let you know how Uncle Edward celebrated his birthday in Manchester with the team. He's promised me a pig's ear if I don't tell you all that he'll be 40, so I'm keeping my muzzle sealed.

Wrap up warm during the snow - but try not to be wrapped up in a bright neon girl's jacket that my Mum has made me wear! Humans.....how embarrassing.

