



Summer 2017 Newsletter



Practice News

This summer, we unfortunately have to say goodbye to two valued members of our team. At the beginning of June, one of our lovely student nurses, **Verity Murden** will be leaving us. Verity joined us for a year as part of her degree at Hartpury College. We wish her all the best with her continued studies.

We will also be saying farewell to **Katia Dei**, one of our skilled vets. Anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Katia knows that she loves all things 'heart'. Katia will be moving across to Lumbry Park Veterinary Specialists in Alton to begin an internship with the cardiology department. While we are very sad to see Katia go, we are excited for her to get one step closer to her dream of being a cardiologist.

Joining us in June though is **Josh Cooney**, who will be a new addition to our nursing team. Like Verity, Josh attends Hartpury College and will be with us for a year as part of his degree towards becoming a qualified nurse.

Congratulations!

Our student nurse, **Steph Cockburn**, is one step closer to becoming a qualified veterinary nurse. This spring, Steph passed all of her final exams and now will just need to complete her practical exam (OSCEs) to finish her training. Good luck Steph!

FACEBOOK LIVE

At the start of June, we started the first in our series of Facebook Live Sessions. Our vets will be coming to you live on Facebook to provide information on veterinary issues and will take your questions throughout the live video session.

Please follow us on **Facebook** for further details!

SUMMER REMINDERS FOR YOUR PETS



DOGS

+ Never leave your dog in the car on a hot day, even if you've left a window open. Within a few minutes, the temperature in a car can rise to a dangerous level and your dog may experience heatstroke, which can be fatal.

+ Walk your dog in the morning and evening when it is a bit cooler and they won't burn their paws on the pavements.



+ Make sure you always provide your dog with fresh, clean water – at home and if you take them out with you.

+ For dogs with thick coats, get them a nice haircut at the beginning of the summer and regularly groom them.

+ Give your dogs plenty of access to shady spots - keep them out of strong sunlight as they can also get sunburns.

CATS

+ Keep your cat hydrated – make sure they have plenty of water and shady spots available in the garden, brush their fur daily to get out mats, and keep them out of conservatories
+ Keep your cat calm and rested indoors, if you can, while the weather is particularly hot
+ Be careful if taking your cat out in the car, to the vets or a cattery for example, ensure that you never leave them in the car in hot weather

RABBITS

Beware of **flystrike** in **rabbits** and ensure you keep your rabbit's bottom dry and clean. In the warm weather, flies are attracted to rabbits that have wet fur that has been soiled by urine or faeces and will lay their eggs in these warm areas. The flies quickly hatch into flesh eating maggots which can place the rabbit into a terminal state of shock.



Pet Blood Donation

Summerleaze are now officially part of the **Pet Blood Bank Sharing Scheme**. This is an additional service at the practice that we can offer - it means that we will stock canine blood and blood products to enable transfusions to be given to sick pets. The service is available to pets who are registered with us but we will also be able to supply other local practices with blood to help save more pet lives! Our own staff pet, Bailey, suffers from a life threatening condition called haemophilia, and he has needed several transfusions in the past.

We are unable to collect and store **feline blood** in the same way, so we would still be interested in hearing from you if you have a cat that you would consider having on our donor list.

Your cat should be:

Friendly and healthy (not diagnosed with any long term illness or be on long term medication), aged 1-8yrs, lean bodyweight of >4.5kg, fully vaccinated, and be up to date with flea & worm control and have not travelled outside the UK

You should be:

Willing to be contacted at any time (which could include during the night or at the weekend); you do not have to answer our call or guarantee availability, but you should be happy for us to attempt contact!

Summerleaze will:

Provide your pet with a full health check without charge, carry out a health screen blood test without charge, blood type your pet without charge

Please contact us the practice on 01628 628121 for any further information or if you are interested in your pet being on our donor list!



MEET ONE OF OUR VETERINARY SURGEONS ALEX LACEY

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I come from a farming background so grew up feeding pet lambs and looking after my own chickens in Buckinghamshire. I went to university in Cambridge which was beautiful and I had a wonderful time. Now I am back, I am married and live locally with my husband and our dog.

When did you realise you wanted to be a vet and when did you qualify? I can't have been very old, the farm vet used to come out to the farm and I used to 'help' (probably not very well!) when he came to treat the animals. When I got a bit older I had more of an understanding of what they were doing and it became even more interesting. I qualified as a vet a year ago (my Facebook feed reminded me of this recently) how time flies!

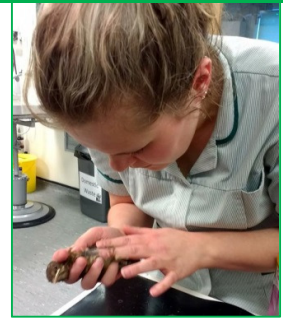
How long have you been at Summerleaze and what do you like most about working here? I have been at Summerleaze since August 2016. I like working with a wonderful team, everyone has their own particular interests so there is a wealth of knowledge in the practice which is fantastic. It is much more fun to work in a place where people are passionate about what they do! It is great to work in a veterinary hospital because being 24 hours allows us to look after animals that would be too poorly to stay with us if there was not a vet here overnight.

What is your favourite part about the job and what is more rewarding? It is most rewarding when you can make a real positive difference to a pet's life. Sometimes this can be the simplest thing such as starting an older dog on some pain relief for arthritis, but it makes an amazing difference to how they feel. When owners bring their pets back and they can see a massive positive improvement it makes me really happy - so in a funny way rechecks are probably my favourite part!

Away from the practice, how else do you like to spend your time? I love spending time outside. I have a dog who I spend lots of time walking, I enjoy cycling and also I have recently started trying my hand at a little gardening thanks to some inspiration from a friend! I also enjoy yoga and Pilates; life is very busy so it is good to be forced to do one focused thing for an hour.

WILDLIFE FOUND BY THE PUBLIC

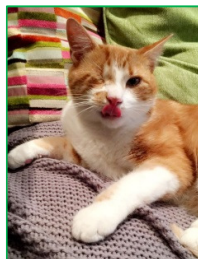
As a practice, we get a lot of questions regarding wildlife about what to do when someone finds an injured bird, hedgehog or other small animals. While a general veterinary practice is not the place for wildlife, as the environment includes housing and being near predators such as cats, which is not appropriate for rehabilitation, we will do what we can when an animal is brought into us to provide the correct advice about what to do. Our student nurse **Nancy** is currently one of our go-to members of staff when wildlife are brought into the practice, as she spent 2 years working at Vale Wildlife and Rehabilitation Centre, before joining us at Summerleaze to train as a veterinary nurse. Nancy, as well as our vets, are able to advise clients whether the wildlife could be given a chance at rehabilitation if taken to a wildlife hospital such as Tiggywinkles. If you need their help, the hospital can be contacted directly on 01844 292292 and are available 24 hours a day or their website is www.sttiggywinkles.org.uk/.



MARLOW PET HEALTHCARE UPDATE

If you attend our Marlow practice as well as Summerleaze, you will notice a few new (or new-ish) faces over the coming months. At the end of May, **Anne Kaukas** joined as a Receptionist and Nursing Assistant on a part-time basis. Anne previously worked for Beechwood Veterinary Hospital in Woodley, which is part of the Active Vet Care group (which Marlow and Summerleaze belong to). Anne is also a qualified behaviourist and will be interested in running behaviour consults for owners who have behavioural needs with both cats and dogs.

In June, re-joining the Active Vet Care Group is **Hannah Wiggins** who will be completing the team at Marlow working as a Nurse. Hannah previously worked for Summerleaze as a Student Nurse, as part of her degree at Hartpury College as well as a Nursing Assistant for the MiNight Out of Hours team more recently. We are delighted to have both Hannah and Anne join the team at Marlow and they look forward to meeting (or meeting again!) your pets!



ONE-EYED JACK: REUNITED

In December 2015, we had a lovely ginger kitten brought into us with some traumatic and painful injuries to his eye. We were unable to find his owners, so our skilled vets performed a necessary eye enucleation (removal of the eye) to stop the pain. Following his procedure, he was ready to be rehomed.

One of our lovely clients came in to meet with Jack and fell in love. He was adopted in January 2016 by Lucy and moved into his forever home. Very sadly, in June 2016, Lucy reported that Jack had gone missing and tried desperately to find him. Lucy searched for months to no avail until finally, in April of this year, he was spotted by a member of the public. Lucy explains that "Jack actually managed to travel safely across the A4. I received a message from a lovely man who hadn't seen my posters being the other side of the A4 but spotted Jack on a 'Pet Patroller' website for the local area, after realising he wasn't just a cat from next door (as Jack repeatedly came back to steal his cat's food). It took a few days of me going over, but finally Jack came inside the house and he was able to shut him inside so I could come and collect him. He recognised me straight away and has clung to me ever since!"

Jack is now happily back living in his adopted home with Lucy and you can follow his adventures on Instagram at: www.instagram.com/oneeyed.jack/ We are so happy that Jack found his way home and Lucy has her beloved companion back with her, where he belongs!