



RVG News

Rainsbrook Veterinary Group Ltd and Hydrotherapy Centre
Small and Large Animal Veterinary Surgeons

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“Happy New Year” from
all at Rainsbrook Vets!

We hope you had a fabulous Christmas and New Year! Our holiday period was very busy as usual with routine procedures and emergency ones as well. Although we were only closed for a total of three days over the holiday period, we always had our client’s interests at heart by continuing to provide our own emergency service from our own surgeries. This is a service that we provide throughout the year, but it is especially important over holidays when opening hours are affected, and we are needed for an emergency. We appreciate that our clients prefer to be helped by professionals they already know, in surgeries where they already know how to get to, that is why we will be continuing to provide our own 24 hour service for the foreseeable future. We are aware that emergencies can be very distressing times and we always hope to make them as stress-free as possible.

So, heres to the New Year, and may you and your pets be happy and healthy!

ZOOS IN PERIL - The Lion’s Roar Project, Romania

The plight of captive animals in Romania has escaped the news headlines until this week when the Sunday Mail exposed the horror of Romanian zoo facilities (Sunday Mail 7/1/07). Most people are unaware that there are 33 zoos and aquaria in Romania, all of which are severely under funded; they are underfed and receive little or no veterinary care. Keepers are not trained and there is no welfare legislation that protects these animals from neglect or abuse. Romania is now a member of the EU and under EU legislation zoos must improve or close. At the present time, only 6 zoos have been told they must close, however, there is no provision for the animals and nowhere for them to be moved to.

Over the last three years a small group of concerned teachers and animal lovers in Warwickshire (left) have volunteered their time, money and energy in order to alleviate the suffering of animals in a zoo in a small deprived town of Buhushi. This small group has travelled to Romania at their own expense, to work, teach about animal care and welfare and to provide much needed equipment and medicines.



This group is the only volunteer group trying to make a difference to the lives of captive animals in Romania. All monies raised goes directly to the zoo for food, repairs and tools.

Buhushi zoo closed in January. They are determined to save its animals. To this end they want to re-home them in sanctuaries that give them freedom to exhibit normal behaviours. Any donation, however small, will help the team to pay for the animal’s food and heating this winter and help towards a positive outcome for these magnificent creatures.



In September 2007, 6 intrepid explorers from Rainsbrook Veterinary Group will take up the Talybont Challenge which is organised by the Guide Dogs. Sian Davies (Director/Vet), Christel Oink (Vet), Liz Rothen (Head Nurse/Team Captain), Becky Boag (Nurse), Charlotte Glasbey (Trainee Nurse) and Tristan Smith (Trainee Nurse) are the team mad enough to do it!

The team will be challenged to complete three sections in the Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales: to walk a major summit up Waun Rydd, cycle a 24 km mountain bike course on forest tracks and canoe a designated course on a local Reservoir. All this must be completed within 10 hours! Phew!

The team will be raising money for the Guide Dogs and are currently devising plans to raise the £2500 required to enter. Please watch this space for further news as training and fund-raising progresses!



Brecon Beacon Landscape



www.thelionsroar.us

Please help The Lions Roar volunteers by texting the word **SUPPORT** to 82085 - and £1 will go directly to them to help care for the animals. Any queries contact: js.romania@yahoo.com or visit the website.

Thank you

We would like to thank Jane Sanderson for providing this information about her work.

REAL CASE STORY...



Smudge came into the surgery initially for a routine annual check up and booster vaccination, when the vet found that one of Smudge's lymph nodes was unusually large. Smudge was immediately booked in for a biopsy of the enlarged node. The diagnosis came back as follicular centre cell lymphoma; a low grade lymphoma (cancer) which is slow to spread, but unfortunately has a prognosis of guarded to poor. This type of cancer has no cure, but with treatment it can be pushed into remission. Even in remission, a patient still needs periodic chemotherapy treatments to keep the lymphoma at bay. Smudge is responding very well to the courses of chemotherapy, and continues to be in remission, and as you can see from the letter opposite, is enjoying life to the full! Thank you to the Bates family for sending in the letter.

Do you have an interesting story about your pet? Let us know and they may feature in our next newsletter.

Hello,
My name is Smudge Bates and I wanted to tell you my story to give hope to all poorly doggies out there! I'm nearly 13 years old (I know I don't look it and I definitely don't behave like it!) and whilst you probably think I look really well, that wasn't the case a couple of years ago.
Let me tell you my story..
In June 2004, I was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer and was a very poorly doggie. Things weren't looking good for me, in fact, my chances of survival were not good at all. I couldn't walk up stairs, I couldn't jump on my favourite chair and I lost loads of weight. But thanks to Simon Daniel and his team - look at me now! After an intensive course of chemotherapy and lots of tablets, the cancer went into remission, and before I knew it, I was running around again and gaining weight. I still get the odd upset tummy due to my problem, but with a controlled diet and one dose of chemotherapy every 4 weeks, the cancer is kept in remission.
I am doing really well! Simon always tells me how pleased he is with me.
I hope that by reading my story it will spur you on not to give up hope. Don't roll over and let it beat you.

Smudge



xx

Hobbies: chasing cats and sleeping
Favourite place: my duvet and the seaside
Favourite food: chicken and rice

Smudge's story illustrates a number of important points.

Firstly, just how important the annual check ups are for your pet, as Smudge's enlarged lymph node was caught early before other symptoms presented themselves.

Secondly, the importance of pet insurance. Smudge was not insured but fortunately his owners were willing to pay for his treatment which has so far cost over £2000 over the past 2 years. If covered with a pet insurance such as Petplan, the insurance would pay for treatment required for the life of an illness.

Through hard work by Smudge's dedicated owners and on our dedicated team, Smudge has been given the fighting chance he deserves, so he can continue to enjoy all those things he loves best.

WINTER CARE TIPS FOR YOUR ANIMALS

- Please take care when storing anti-freeze. If leaking or is spilt, dogs and cats can be drawn to it due to its sweet smell. Ingestion can cause terrible kidney damage.
- Rabbits and guinea pigs kept in hutches in garden still need daily checking - no matter the weather! Ideally, the hutches should be moved into shed or garage if the weather very cold. If impossible, extra weather protection should be provided such as old carpet draped over the hutch front. Avoid encasing in plastic due to condensation.
- Please ensure you provide food and clean water for the wild birds and ensure bird tables are cleaned regularly.
- When walking your dog on salt-gritted roads, wash their paws with plain warm water (no detergent) after the walk and then dry them off.
- Frozen ponds - don't break the ice with a hammer! The shockwaves from this can kill your fish! Put a saucepan of hot water on the ice and when the ice is melted, put a football or plastic container in the hole to keep it open.
- If your tiny pets' cage is kept on a window sill, please make sure that it is moved before closing the curtains as they can get very cold.