



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

Welcome to another Rainsbrook Newsletter. If you have any suggestions on articles you would like, or if you and your pet have a story, please contact Stacey Hammond via email on sch@rainsbrook.com or in writing to the Leamington Spa surgery. Thanks!

Well Done Charlotte!

Charlotte Glasbey (far right, practicing bandaging on Head Nurse Liz's Labrador Charlie) successfully completed and passed her final Veterinary Nurse exams in December at the Royal College in London. She still has further work to complete before she achieves her degree including further exams and a final dissertation. The dissertation is a research project of 10,000 words on a subject of her choice. Charlotte will be researching the usage of natural honey in wound management within the veterinary sector.

Honey is an ancient remedy for the treatment of infected wounds, which has recently been 'rediscovered' by the medical profession, particularly where conventional modern therapies are failing. There are now many published reports describing the effectiveness of honey in rapidly clearing infection from wounds, without slowing the healing process; there is even some evidence to suggest that honey may actively promote healing.

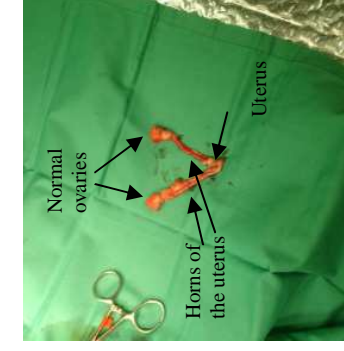
Charlotte's interest in the healing properties of honey came about from a rescue dog who had received extensive scalding burns (left—before and after photos). Through intensive care, much aided by the healing properties of the daily honey dressings, Sasha the Staffie made a speedy recovery. Natural remedies can be used in conjunction with modern medicine with good effect. In addition to honey, Aloe Vera was also used on Sasha's skin for its cooling and soothing properties.



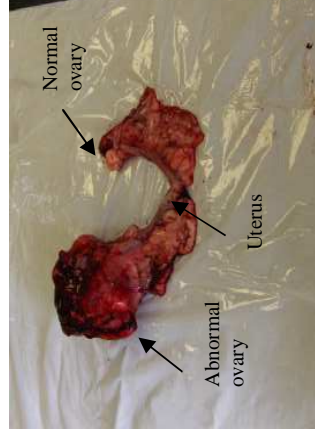
Sasha before treatment



Sasha 2 weeks of treatment & honey dressings



Normal reproductive tract of a 6 month female



Reproductive tract of a 4 year old female suffering from an ovarian tumour.

Benefits of Neutering Female Dogs.

Rainsbrook Veterinary Group advocates the neutering of pet animals, for reasons ranging from behavioural to medical.

To neuter your female pet we perform an ovariohysterectomy (spay). To spay is to completely remove the female reproductive tract. Not only does this procedure prevent the animal from becoming pregnant, it also eliminates the twice yearly heat cycles. The surgery removes the source of production of such hormones as estrogen and progesterone. These hormones are responsible for the pet's heat cycles and have a major role in pregnancy. They also have other effects on the body and some of them are harmful. Estrogen is one of the primary cause of canine mammary cancer—the most malignant tumour in dogs. Animals spayed before 1 year of age rarely develop this malignancy, and even more rarely if spayed before their first season.

The spay removes the risk of tumours occurring in the uterus and ovaries (illustrated on the left), since they are completely removed. The removal of the whole reproductive tract also prevents a severe uterine disease called pyometra following a heat cycle. With this disorder, a normal 3oz uterus can weigh 10 to 15lbs and be filled solely with pus. Undetected, this condition is always fatal. Treatment for this disorder ranges from hormone therapy and IV fluids to spaying the animal, but with the infection and the increase of size of the organs, spaying can be quite complicated and risky, and strain on the kidneys and/or heart in some cases may be fatal or cause life long problems. Another risk with having entire females is the occurrence of false pregnancies. In these cases, even if she has not been mated, her body believes it is pregnant due to incorrect hormone stimulations. The dog may only have abdominal swelling and/or swollen mammary glands, but in some cases, infections of the mammary glands and uterus may occur, or sometimes develop into full pyometra.

So, the medical reasons given above indicate that spaying your female dog is really quite important to improve her long term health. Contact your local surgery for further details.

Cats Need Loving Homes - March 2008



Barnaby is the ginger boy, about 10 years old and **Flo** is a 12 year old female. Barnaby loves to sit around your neck like a scarf!
Older cats make lovely pets so please give these two a chance.



Scoobey is a large, handsome, young black and white boy. He is a friendly boy and should make a nice pet.
When he arrived and had been in a bad fight, however his wounds have healed well and he is now neutered.



Muffin is a very petite chocolate brown half Persian. She is fairly old, and unfortunately very nearly blind.
She will be rehomed on the Golden Oldie scheme whereby we will pay her bills for the rest of her life.



Moggie is a friendly little boy who was found as a stray and is now looking for a home. He is tabby and white and about 7 years old. **Moggie** is a vocal and loving boy who loves being fussed.



Daisy is a very pretty white and grey fluffy girl, about 3 years of age.
She loves a fuss but will occasionally try to nip. She therefore needs somebody who understands cats, with no other cats or young children.



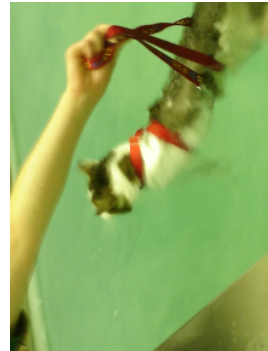
Faith is a tabby/tortie and white with unusual colouring and is only about 5 years old. She was a little timid at first, but is now a lovely and friendly little girl.

If you are interested in providing a loving home for a rescue cat, please contact us:

Telephone: 01926 334849
Email: midwarwickcats@hotmail.com
Web: midwarwick.cats.org.uk

And finally.....

Sweep is a cat who was found a home by the Cats Protection Mid Warwickshire branch and is classified as a Golden Oldie (veterinary treatment costs covered by the Cats Protection). Sweep came to the surgery in January suffering from back pain, and was admitted the same day for further tests. After a special dye was injected into his spinal column, a ruptured disc was diagnosed from a series of x-rays and a laminectomy was performed. Sweep was hospitalised for over a week in order for him to gain the use of his hind legs, and during this time Becky Pearson RVN, who has an interest in physiotherapy, regularly performed deep tissue massage and exercises. Our dog swimming pool has been very helpful for dogs who are recovering from orthopaedic operations, and since Sweep tolerated water very well as he was needing baths daily whilst hospitalised, we decided that he should be the first cat to utilise this facility! The warm water helped relax his muscles and the weightlessness of the water encouraged him to start making an effort to use his back legs. He is now home making a good steady progress.



PRACTICE SERVICES

- Appointment system.
- Convenient appointment times.
- Ample parking.
- 24 hour emergency service provided by our own team of vets and nurses.
- Tier 2 RCVS Accredited Practice
- Nurses living on sites.
- Annual health checks.
- Orthopaedic and Small Animal Medicine referral services with certificate holders.
- Modern surgical facilities.
- In house laboratory (Rugby).
- Nurse clinics providing expert advice on tooth care, diet, preventative health care.
- FREE puppy parties (Rugby).
- Hydrotherapy pool and water walker (Leamington)

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 7.00pm
Saturday
9.00am to 12.00 noon

SURGERIES

83, High Street, Hillmorton,
Rugby, Warwickshire.
CV21 4HD
Tel: 01788 542221
Fax: 01788 562242

1, Craven Road,
Rugby, Warwickshire.
CV21 3JX
Tel: 01788 562844
Fax: 01788 553642

(and Hydrotherapy)
12, Upper Grove Street,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
CV32 5AN
Tel: 01926 422592
Fax: 01926 334084

www.rainsbrookvets.co.uk

24 hour emergency service - call your local surgery direct and follow the instructions.

THE RAINSBROOK TEAM



DAVID WALKER
Veterinary surgeon,
Orthopaedic certificate
holder and Director



SIMON DANIEL
Veterinary Surgeon and
Director



SIAN DAVIES
Veterinary Surgeon,
Small Animal Medicine
certificate holder and
Director



FIONA CLEGG
Veterinary Surgeon



MARY-ANNE FRANK
Veterinary Surgeon



HELENA KADOW
Veterinary Surgeon



CHRISTEL OINK
Veterinary Surgeon



BECCI YOUNG RVN
Practice Manager

In the know – Gastric Dilation Volvulus

by Helena Kadow MRCVS

What is it?

Gastric Dilation Volvulus (GDV) occurs in dogs when the stomach dilates (expands) and twists into an abnormal position. GDV is life threatening and requires immediate veterinary attention

What happens?

When the stomach expands, but stays in its normal position, the condition is known as gastric dilatation – this can occur in any dog and is quite common in puppies that overeat. Usually dogs can relieve the pressure by vomiting or belching. If volvulus (twisting) occurs the stomach rolls, twists and closes off the opening into the stomach (oesophagus) and out of the stomach (intestines). This means the dog cannot vomit.

If the stomach twists enough then the spleen and major blood vessels in the area twist as well. This causes a lack of blood flow to the stomach and the tissues can become damaged or die. If the blood supply to the abdominal arteries is cut off then the blood flow to the heart decreases, causing low blood pressure and eventually shock and death.

In some cases the stomach ruptures and this can cause peritonitis when food contaminates the abdomen.

Is my dog at risk?

GDV can occur in any dog, but it is more common in large, deep-chested breeds such as:

Dobermans, GSD, Standard Poodle, Great Dane, St. Bernard, Setters, old English Sheepdogs and Newfoundland.

Evidence suggests that older dogs (7-10 years of age) are more at risk. There are some dietary risk factors that have been associated with GDV. See the following:

AVOID:

- Exercising 1 hour before or after a meal
- Drinking large quantities of water immediately after eating
- Eating a single, large meal once a day
- Leaning down to eat from a low level
- Gulping down food too quickly
- Sudden changes in diet

If you are worried about your pet, please do not hesitate to contact the surgery and speak to our trained staff - we are happy to help.
Please remember, to see a vet is by appointment only - contact your local surgery.

Signs to look for:

- Abdominal distension – swollen abdomen (see illustration below)
- Non-productive retching – appears to vomit, but nothing is brought up
- Restlessness, rapid, shallow breathing (panting) and salivation may occur

If any of the above signs are seen, contact your local surgery immediately



Illustration showing a swollen abdomen of a dog suffering from GDV.
[www.dkimages.com]

How is it treated?

After examining your pet, the vet will usually x-ray the abdomen to determine the size and position of the stomach. Your pet would be put on a drip to support their blood pressure and heart function.

The stomach is then decompressed by placing a tube into the oesophagus (food pipe) via the mouth. This is often unsuccessful if the stomach has twisted considerably. A needle may be placed into the abdomen to relieve the gas from the stomach directly.

If your pet is seen early enough then surgery can be performed to un-twist the stomach and suture it back into place. If the blood supply has been compromised and the stomach tissue is dying there may be no alternative but to euthanase your pet.

Surgery reduces the likelihood of GDV recurring but some patients never recover fully from the surgery.

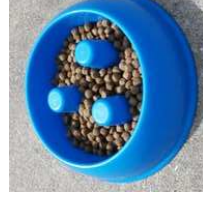
Sadly where surgery is not an option or your pet is too poorly then euthanasia may be indicated.

What can you do as an owner?

The most important point to remember is to be aware – knowing about GDV, knowing if your pet is at greater risk and avoiding the risk factors. There are products on the market that can help with the dietary risk factors: Stands that raise food bowls off the ground, and bowls such as Brake-Fast that are design to slow down your dog's eating (see below).



Double diner raised stands can be purchased from the surgery



Brake-Fast dog food bowl.

Please contact your surgery for advice if you are concerned at any time. Remember, we cover our own out of hours emergencies, so if you are worried, phone your local Rainsbrook surgery and follow the answer phone instructions to speak to one of our vets.

THE RAINSBROOK TEAM



LIZ ROTHEN RVN
Head Veterinary Nurse



ALISON COXON RVN
Hydrotherapist and
Veterinary Nurse



BECKY BOAG RVN
Veterinary Nurse



BECKY PEARSON RVN
Veterinary Nurse



CHARLOTTE GLASBEY
Trainee Veterinary Nurse



TRISTEN SMITH
Trainee Veterinary Nurse



ELAINE MILLES
Auxiliary Nurse



MARIE GUNTON
Kennel Assistant



BEV BEACHAM
Hydrotherapy Assistant