



RVG News

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

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Leamington Spa Open Day October 2006

On the 28th October 2006, our Leamington Spa surgery opened its doors for an open day for the public. Lots happened on the day: our

operating theatres were set up to show people what happens during surgery—our orthopaedic operating room was a particular success as people could look at the specialist equipment required to perform such complex procedures. People were able to look at xrays and MRI scans (from our referrals to specialist MRI centres), and learnt where organs were in the dog and cat body. Our endoscopy and arthroscopy equipment were on display along with movies showing visitors what can be seen when we use these non-invasive diagnostic tools—we travelled into the lungs, the ear, the nose and the shoulder joint! Sian Davies demonstrated our ultrasound machine on her dog Rupert, who was an absolute gem, pointing out internal organs, and showing his heart beating.

The refurbished pool and the new water walker treadmill held demonstrations all afternoon with many staff dogs volunteering to show off their skills. All of the visitors to the pool room were treated to a friendly welcome by Bev Beacham, who answered many queries, and Alison Coxon, who supervised the swimming. Many of the new visitors to the pool have booked in for swimming sessions, so much so, that **we have had to extend the pool opening hours, creating a further 12 slots per week!**

With approximately 200 visitors who came through our doors, it was felt all round that the afternoon was a resounding success. The free raffle provided some fun too, with the lucky winners as follows: Miss Wild won a tray of tinned dog food; Mrs Bibby won a free microchip; Mrs Smith won 3 bags of James Wellbeloved cat food; Mrs Scarbrook won a CD player; Mrs Gerrard won a free veterinary health check and Mr Jones won a free introductory swim in the pool or the treadmill!



David Walker demonstrating the endoscope machine



Sian Davies, Simon Daniel and new trainee nurse Tristan Smith showing the ultrasound machine and the surgery prep room.

Watching Annie the dog swim—keep a safe distance else you're likely to get wet!

Introducing our new trainee veterinary nurse

We would like to welcome Tristan Smith (right) who joins us to begin his veterinary nurse training at Warwickshire College. He has joined us after working at the DogsTrust in Honiley for 6 years. Tristan begins his veterinary nurse training at Morton Morrell in January 2007. He has extensive experience working with rescue dogs, and for the past 2 years he has held the role of Veterinary Nurse Assistant at the kennels, aiding the onsite nurse in all aspects of canine care. During his time at the kennels, he was also an external liaison officer giving informative talks on dog care to the public. Tristan shares his home with 3 cats and a dog.



ONGOING SPECIAL OFFERS!

Just a quick reminder of our ongoing special offers:

- **FREE** first wormer for puppies and kittens.
- **FREE** first flea treatment for puppies and kittens.
- 4 weeks **FREE** pet insurance with Petplan, plus an extra 4 weeks free if a plan is taken out.
- Buy 3 worming tablets and get 1 **FREE**.
- Microchipping **ONLY** £15

REAL CASE STORY

Animal - 'Sky' the 1 year old Husky

Condition - Fractured pelvis and dislocated hip after a road traffic accident.

Sky was referred to David Walker, our orthopaedic specialist after she was hit by a car. She was transferred to our Leamington Spa surgery after she was stabilized at her primary veterinary centre. Sky had to be carried into the surgery as she was completely unable to walk and in a lot of pain. Her initial x-rays showed that her pelvis was badly fractured and her right hip was also dislocated.

She was admitted on a Wednesday for further intra-venous fluids and further x-rays to allow David Walker to assess what implants are required to fix the break. Surgery was performed and lasted for over 2 hours. Sky was connected to a monitor during surgery so her vital signs could be watched closely. Two nurses helped with the operation and watched over her in intensive care as she came round. Sky's pelvis had an implant that was screwed into it to stabilise the fractured parts and her dislocated hip was 'toggled' back into place. A 'toggle' operation is a surgical technique which is used to repair luxated (dislocated) hips. A synthetic ligament is passed through a tunnel drilled into the thigh bone and anchored to the pelvis using a metal toggle-pin, hence the name of the operation. Dislocated hips can be returned to normal only if they are seen very soon after the initial dislocation, however, once the muscles surrounding the hip have settled into a new position after a dislocation, it is very difficult for the hip to stay in place as the newly positioned muscles contract and dislocate it again. Therefore surgical intervention is the only option. Due to Sky's pelvic injuries, an operation was definitely required as the pelvis was too unstable and she had potentially life threatening internal injuries which had to be addressed first. By the Friday, Sky was passing urine and faeces without any pain, and was able to get up and walk unaided. Sky was able to go home on the Friday evening, 2 days after admission, back to her grateful owner who was given extensive after care instructions. Sky is due back within the next couple of weeks, and we will give you an update in our next newsletter.



Sky two days after the operation.



Before (left) and after (right) photos of Sky's operation to repair her fractured pelvis, and relocate her hip.

Christmas dos and don'ts...

NEVER give or receive pets as Christmas presents. Taking on an animal is a big responsibility.

HOLLY, POINSETTIA and MISLETOE can be poisonous to pets—ensure these are out of reach and the berries are picked up off the floor.

RIBBON, WRAPPING PAPER and PRESENTS are all very tempting to curious pets—avoid leaving pets alone near gifts to prevent damage—to them and your gifts!

BAUBLES and SMALL TOYS can be choking risks if swallowed by your pet, please keep them out of reach.

TURKEY BONES and any other cooked bones are dangerous to dogs as they can splinter and cause internal damage

ALCOHOL is palatable to pets—don't let them drink it! **ANTI-FREEZE** can cause kidney failure if drunk, and **SALT** on the road can cause pad irritation, so rinse with water.

DO NOT over indulge your pet at Christmas. Changes in their diet can cause gastrointestinal upset.

CHOCOLATE IS POISONOUS TO DOGS! If your dog eats a lot of chocolate, contact your vet immediately.