



# RVG News

September 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1

Rainsbrook Veterinary Group Ltd and Swimming Pool  
Small and Large Animal Veterinary Surgeons

## THE POOL—New assistant, new equipment and refurbishment!

The hydrotherapy pool has proven to be very popular and successful with rehabilitation cases and for fun/fitness ones too. The popularity of the pool increased so much that we extended our opening hours into late evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and later opening on Saturdays. With these extra hours, we needed an extra pair of hands, so Bev Beacham joined as our new canine hydrotherapy assistant, who is extensively experienced with dogs.

After 3 and a half years of operation, the Directors decided it was time for a revamp of the hydrotherapy facilities at the Leamington Spa surgery. The pool room itself has been stripped bare and the layout will be rearranged in response to client suggestion and Alison Coxon's experiences during her sessions. Access to the pool will be improved with a reduced number of steps leading to the pool itself. Better drainage and floor covering will be installed, as well as a shower that will be used to rinse the dogs after their swims. The dog drying area will be enlarged and moved to be adjacent to the pool to reduce the spread of water.

The new equipment we have now is a water walker treadmill. This is especially useful for the following: cruciate disease/injury (pre and post surgery), Hip Dysplasia (pre and post surgery), fracture repairs, arthritis, weight loss, for fitness and nervous and very large dogs that may be difficult to introduce to pool. Dog's gain access to the treadmill by the use of a ramp and once in, the treadmill gradually fills up with warm water (27-32°C) to the desired height. By initially having the water levels high the dog's weight bearing is reduced by up to 40% enabling walking exercise but reducing concussive stress on the joints. As the dog improves, the water level can be reduced so the dog takes more weight back on to the affected limb. The treadmill can be set to a speed from as little as 0.5mph up to 8mph, it will be set at the speed that your dog finds most comfortable.



A stripped pool room with Alison looking on.



Bev Beacham



The water walker in action

## 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**

## BACK WITH THE OLD AND WELCOME THE NEW!

We would like to welcome back **Sian Davies** (right) who completed her internship at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket and her experience at the Willows Referral Service in Solihull. Sian has completed her portfolio work for her small animal medicine certificate and is awaiting to complete her final exams within the next few weeks. Sian is also now a director of Rainsbrook Veterinary Group. We



would also like to take this opportunity to welcome **John Ryan** (left) to our practice. John qualified from the University College Dublin and has an interest in bovine reproduction and small animal surgery. He has settled in well and we feel he will be an integral part of the Rainsbrook team!



# REAL CASE STORY

Animal - 'Hortense' the Lurcher X  
Owner - Dogs Trust, Kenilworth.  
Condition - Patent Ductus Arteriosus



Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) occurs when a special blood vessel, which is used to bypass the animal's lungs whilst in the womb, fails to seal up after birth. If this bypass does not close after birth, a short circuit of the heart occurs compromising the heart's ability to pump oxygenated blood around the body. If untreated, irreversible changes to the heart occur and total heart failure would be expected as the dog ages.

During Hortense's vet check at the DogsTrust kennels a murmur was detected. A murmur is a distinctive whooshing sound caused by turbulence of the blood in the heart that can be heard by the vet through a stethoscope. This turbulence is usually caused by some defect of the heart. Murmurs in puppies can sometimes rectify themselves as they get older, however, Hortense's was not improving. As it is very difficult to diagnose what is causing the murmur, specialist equipment is needed, Hortense was referred to a heart specialist vet in Kenilworth who used an echocardiogram and confirmed the diagnosis of a PDA.

The operation to seal this vessel was performed by David Walker at our Leamington Spa surgery. It was a complex surgery involving the nurse ventilating her lungs throughout the operation. She was given intra-venous fluids monitored via a pump during the surgery and attached to a ECG machine (which measures heart rate, blood pressure and blood oxygen levels) to monitor her vital signs. The surgery was a success! Hortense was hospitalised under intensive care for three days after the surgery. Hortense recuperated well as you can see in the photo. The successful surgery means that Hortense can now lead a full normal life with no risk of reoccurrence. She has now returned to the DogsTrust kennels where a home has been found for her, and we wish her a long and happy life.

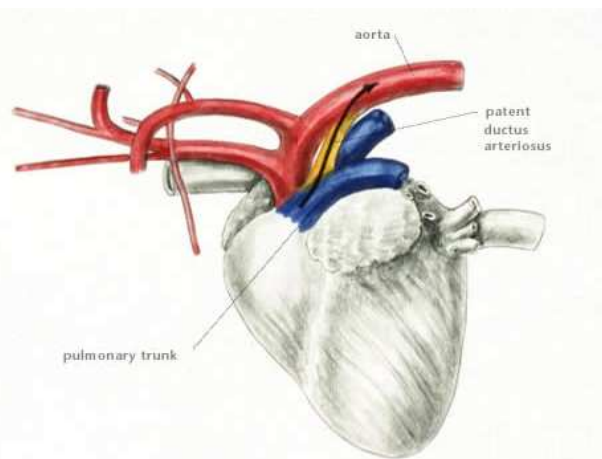


Diagram showing the patent ductus arteriosus in a dog's heart.



Hortense and Head Veterinary Nurse, Liz Rothen, after successful surgery and recuperation.

## HOME AGAIN—Benefit of microchipping

Rizza (right) was brought in by a concerned client as he had been hanging around her house for 3 days and looked a little lost and was very hungry.



We scanned him to see if there was a microchip, and there was! So after a few phone calls, his worried owner was contacted. He had been missing for over 5 days and his owner expected the worst, little did she know he was a few hundred metres away and totally lost! As Rizza constantly loses his collar, his owners made sure his was microchipped just in case he did get lost, and because he was chipped, we were able to reunite him with his owner and his brother who had missed him terribly!

## WEDDED BLISS!

Liz Bromell, the Head Veterinary Nurse at our Leamington Spa surgery, was married to Tom Rothen, agricultural engineer, at St. Ediths Church, Monks Kirby on July 8th 2006. It was a wonderful day, blessed with fantastic weather. We wish them all the best for the future!

