

First case of new rabbit virus confirmed in Bedford

Last month, we assisted with the sad case of a four month old rabbit who had died unexpectedly without any prior sign of illness. Our vets carried out a post mortem examination and arranged for laboratory testing, which confirmed that this rabbit had died from RVHD2. The RVHD2 virus was first suspected to have arrived in the UK 2 years ago, but this is the first case confirmed in the Bedford area. The standard annual rabbit vaccination protects against myxomatosis and RVHD1 only, but a separate vaccine against RVHD2 is available. We recommend that all rabbits are vaccinated once a year with the standard myxomatosis/RVHD1 vaccine and every 6 months with the new RVHD2 vaccine.

Cookie the skunk

Vet Sarah has a keen interest in our more exotic patients, and last month removed two damaged teeth from Cookie the skunk. Cookie had been dribbling a lot but this has all settled down now that the painful teeth have been removed.



Well done Sharon!

Deputy Head Nurse Sharon and her family completed the Camino de Santiago last month - walking 272km in 12 days along a traditional pilgrimage route in north-western Spain. The heat and rough terrain caused particular difficulty in the form of very bad blisters, making Sharon's achievement all the more impressive. Sharon has now returned to work for a well earned rest!

Grass Seeds

Last month our vets and nurses were kept busy with a constant stream of dogs with grass seeds lodged in a variety of body parts! The most common sites were paws and ears, but vet Blanca removed multiple seeds from the back of Lily the Cockapoo's throat and Katharine was most surprised to find a grass seed inside Bronwen the Welsh Spaniel's tear duct! Not to be outdone by the dogs, X the cat had one stuck in his eye! These seeds are particularly troublesome because they are arrow-shaped so tend to work their way into the fur and skin and then do not readily come out again. Keeping feet trimmed short and checking through fur (especially around ears and feet) after walks is recommended.

University success

Our lovely Customer Care Advisor, Clare Munyard, is currently combining working at Acorn House with studying for a History degree via the Open University. Clare has just received her exam results and we are delighted that all of her hard work has paid off and she has passed her second year. Only one more year to go!

Malachi's prickly problem

Poor Malachi came to see us because he was experiencing great discomfort when trying to urinate. Scans and X-rays showed that he had a large number of very spiky stones in his bladder. The stones had developed because Malachi's kidneys were not controlling his calcium levels properly. Malachi had surgery to remove the stones and is now eating a special low-calcium diet. Malachi's owner tells us that he is like a different cat now that he is comfortable again.

Well done Gaynor!

On Sunday 30th July our Practice Manager, Gaynor Dudley, took part in the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100. She cycled 100 miles through the London streets and Surrey hills in support of the PDSA where she has already managed to raise over £300! Gaynor completed it in an amazing time of 7 hours 11 minutes and 47 seconds and got a nice big medal to show off her hard work. Well done Gaynor! If you would like to donate further and help her reach her target of £500, then you can do so here: bit.ly/gaynor100 or ask about it at reception. Thank you!

