



Newsletter January 2021

Happy New Year!

Acorn House is looking forward to 2021. Senior Vet Jennifer and Lead Emergency and Critical Care (ECC) Nurse Carla are expected back from maternity leave this Spring, and both the nursing and veterinary teams are expanding with new staff joining us between January and March. We are very grateful to RVN Michaela who led the ECC team through a very challenging year in Carla's absence and will remain as a permanent member of the ECC team.



COVID Update

It is expected that social distancing requirements will remain for the next few months. Acorn House will continue to provide a car park "meet and greet" service so that clients can be checked in for appointments without having to enter the building. Veterinary surgeons will continue to discuss cases with clients by telephone or outside using our gazebo and garden facilities. Pets will continue to be taken into the consulting rooms for examination whilst their owners wait in the car park but please be reassured that they have been behaving extremely well and our vets have plenty of treats to make the experience a good one for them!



Pet Travel

From 1st January 2021 the rules for pet travel between Great Britain and the EU have changed. Dogs, cats and ferrets can still travel to and from the EU without quarantine if they have a microchip and are up to date with rabies vaccination, but they must also have a special Animal Health Certificate completed by an Official Veterinary Surgeon within 10 days of the trip. If the pet goes on multiple trips to the EU they must obtain a new certificate every time. Please read the updated information on our website if you plan to take your pet abroad this year.

<https://www.acornhousevets.com/PetTravel1504.html>



Toffee

On an EU theme, here is an Xray of little cockapoo puppy Toffee, who unfortunately ate a 10 cent Euro coin! An injection to make Toffee sick saw him bring up all of his food but the coin stayed stubbornly stuck to the inside of his stomach. Because Toffee's intestines were small and the coin was large, the decision was made to remove it before it could get stuck and cause any damage.

Laboratory Upgrade

Acorn House has upgraded its internal laboratory with several new laboratory analysers. The most exciting new development is our automated urine analyser which bypasses the traditional requirement to manually spin down urine and examine it under the microscope. The new machine automatically takes hundreds of digital microscopic photographs of the urine and sends key images directly to the patient's clinical records.

Here is the machine's photograph of a dog's urine containing some abnormal red blood cells and struvite crystals. The machine also measured the pH of the urine and showed that the crystals had developed because the urine was too alkaline. A diet change has been introduced to make the urine more acidic, which should dissolve the crystals before they form into dangerous bladder stones.

