



Boris!

Boris is a Greenbottle blue tarantula, recently rehomed by our receptionist, Dawn. Spiders are supposed to shed their skin periodically, but Boris was having trouble with his moult and it was not detaching properly. The exotics service at Acorn House is led by vet Sarah Fallow, who assisted Boris in shedding the rest of his skin and took the opportunity to give him a health check at the same time. In this picture, she is using a Doppler ultrasound probe to listen to Boris' heart.



Chewing gum - xylitol danger



Ernest is a beautiful 3 year old Hungarian Vizsla who got into mischief and ate his owner's Nicorette gum. This gum contains nicotine but also xylitol, a widely used sugar substitute. In dogs (but not humans), xylitol causes the body to release a lot of insulin, which can cause dangerously low blood sugar and liver damage. This can be fatal. Because Ernest's owner knew that the gum was dangerous and brought him for treatment before any of these problems occurred, Ernest made a full recovery. Xylitol can also be found in other types of chewing gum and some sugar free cakes, biscuits and sweets.

Jo Reynolds - distinction in feline nursing

Jo Reynolds is one of Acorn House's longest standing veterinary nurses. Eager for a new challenge, she has been studying for the International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM) certificate in Feline Nursing. After 12 months of studying, Jo passed her certificate with Distinction last month. This is a great achievement for Jo and brilliant news for Acorn House and all of the cats that are under our care. Acorn House has been recognised as a Gold Standard Feline Practice by the ISFM, and Jo's certificate will enable us to maintain and build on our high quality veterinary provision for feline patients.



Veterinary Education at Acorn House Veterinary Hospital

Vet Rosie is the Education Manager at Acorn House. She has been studying for the Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Education and learned that she had achieved this with Distinction this summer. Acorn House is a flagship veterinary practice for the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). This means that veterinary students from the RVC rotate through the Acorn House hospital as part of their course, observing how the practice works and learning important skills such as clinical problem solving and client communication. Rosie has been absolutely instrumental in setting up the student placement scheme so that the veterinary students are supported to learn as much as possible during their time with us.



Rosie will use her knowledge and skills to ensure that Acorn House can continue to offer these students a fantastic start to their careers. In return, the practice benefits from access to the specialists and new research taking place at the RVC, as well as enjoying the intellectual stimulation of passing on skills to the next generation of vets.

Laparoscopy - keyhole surgery

Acorn House invested in the special equipment and training to be able to offer keyhole spay surgery in July. Since then we have been carrying out several keyhole spays each week and have been very pleased with the results. Laparoscopic spays are minimally invasive and allow the surgeon to reach the ovaries precisely and accurately through very small incisions. This allows for a faster recovery and return to normal exercise. The larger the dog, the bigger the benefits tend to be, with laparoscopic surgery recommended for dogs weighing 10kg and above. Laparoscopy (keyhole) techniques can also be used for removing abdominally retained testicles in male dogs, and for taking liver biopsies - again, avoiding large abdominal wounds. Please check our website or speak to Reception if you are interested in laparoscopic surgery for your dog. Here is Lexie - a Leonberger who was spayed laparoscopically by vet Katharine in September. As one of the biggest dogs in the practice, the new technique was particularly beneficial for her.

