

a word from the boss..... Is your Pet Diabetic?

So another busy summer has been and gone and the next issue of our newsletter is back on the shelves. This time my topic is Diabetes Mellitus - quite a common condition in animals, just as it is in humans. It has long been recognised in dogs, but in recent years we've seen more cases in cats. We're not sure why this is but the most obvious potential cause is an increasingly inactive lifestyle and ample feeding... much like us humans!

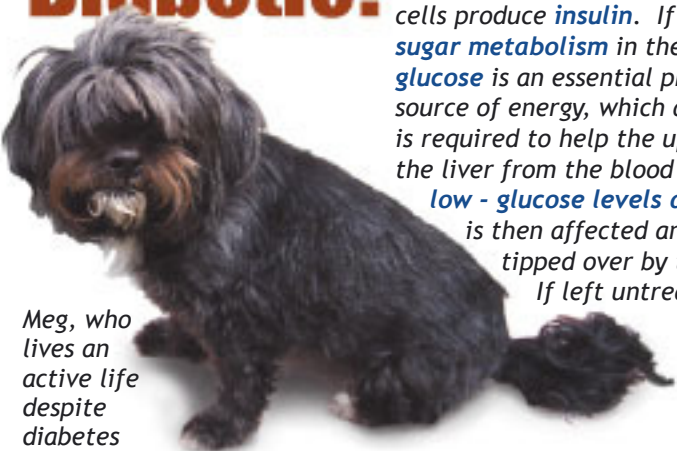
What is Diabetes? In the pancreas gland, certain cells produce **insulin**. If these cells malfunction, it affects **sugar metabolism** in the body. Usable sugar in the form of **glucose** is an essential product of digestion and a principal source of energy, which allows bodies to function. **Insulin** is required to help the uptake and utilisation of glucose by the liver from the blood stream. **When insulin levels are low - glucose levels are excessively high**, metabolism is then affected and some of this 'waste sugar' is tipped over by the kidneys into the urine.

If left untreated, diabetes can lead to ketosis (a form of "blood poisoning") and ultimately can be fatal.

J.F. Moloney & ASSOCIATES
marks farm
VETERINARY CENTRE
Winter 2009/10
News

Signs of diabetes are usually easy to see
Excessive drinking & urinating
Increased or decreased appetite
Weight loss Lethargy

Treatment of Diabetes This involves a combination of dietary management and daily insulin injections. This probably sounds quite daunting but the reality is very straight-forward, and you can feel confident that we are here to help you. In the early stages of treatment frequent blood tests are required to establish the correct dose of insulin to be given and once stable, your pet can look forward to a good quality of life.

Meg, who lives an active life despite diabetes

Diabetes is a serious but relatively easily managed disease. As with many conditions, the earlier identified the better. If you have any concerns about your pet then as I always say... just give us a call, as did Joan Escott of Bardfield Saling. In September 2008, she noticed that Meg her Lhasa Apso, suddenly became very poorly and was drinking excessively. After blood and urine tests, Meg was diagnosed a diabetic. It's upsetting when our pets have a problem but Joan is very positive about Meg's condition. At first, injecting her pet did seem rather scary, however she is now proficient and Joan is very happy knowing that this daily treatment is helping to keep her pet well and enjoy life. Eleven-year-old Meg comes to the surgery every two months for a check-up, and as Joan told us, "the minute we turn down your lane, Meg's tail begins to wag and she shows great excitement about her visits to the vet. She just loves the kind care and attention that you all give her. Meg is such a happy little dog despite her condition, and although unfortunately in the last year, has lost her sight due to cataracts, she has no problem charging up and down the stairs and around the garden, amazing everyone!"



Wedding Bells Chime! Great celebrations and congratulations were in order for the marriage of our Veterinary Nurse Lucy, who tells her own wedding story - in words truly from the heart! So take it away the new Mrs Lucy Auld.....
"Alan and I got married on Saturday 6th June 2009 and it was absolutely fabulous. The ceremony was at Castle Hedingham Church, followed by the reception at Spains Hall, Finchingfield. I had two bridesmaids, one being my lovely friend Neddy, and the other was my beautiful little niece Eleanor. Of course the star of the day was my one and only 'Thomas' (my dog) who was exceptionally well behaved and didn't cock his leg once or attack the vicar! We continued with the celebrations the next day at my parents' house, and then jetted off to Hong Kong and Bali for three weeks. We had a truly wonderful time, however I did miss my cats! My new husband Alan and I have got over the shock of returning to work, but I am still suffering a little from 'post wedding blues', apart from that we are both very, very happy!"



If you've not yet visited our new website then log on to www.marksfarmvets.co.uk Here you'll find plenty of information on us, who and where we are, opening times, pet care and much more.

01371 872102

Wrap up....here comes Winter



Antifreeze used in cars is extremely poisonous. It tastes sweet to our pets, but can be fatal if swallowed. If you think your pet has digested antifreeze **contact us immediately.**

Check under your bonnet before starting up, as some cats will shelter in car engines to keep warm.

Don't give up on the daily dog walk just because it's cold outside. It's an important part of your pets' routine healthcare.

Watch out for frozen ponds. These are unsafe so keep your dog on a lead when close by.

Salt & Grit on slippery pavements can irritate paws and needs to be rinsed off quickly.

Small Pets that live outside require plenty of warm bedding & daily checks that drinking water is not frozen.

Keep an eye on hibernating pets.

Continue with flea treatments.

Those nippy creatures are around all year!

Supervise dogs & cats near fireplaces & heaters during winter.

Don't be tempted to give your dog or cat any carcass bones over the festive period. They can become lodged in the mouth, throat, stomach or intestines and may require surgical removal.

Buy your pet a Christmas present

....but not chocolate! It contains 'theobromine' which can be poisonous to dogs and cats.



Staff Profile

Here is one lady **Bev Jones** who took a dramatic career change from twenty-four years in the sedate banking world to our world of animal care. Joining us at Marks Farm in October 2008, she already, in her own words, "loves it all" and we are very pleased she does, as Bev has become a valued member of our team. Apart from her busy job of co-ordinating reception, she has already progressed to behind the scenes duties such as developing x-rays and is very keen to continue to learn more. She is a great animal lover and as a child had chickens, ducks, rabbits and a

'heinz 57' dog called Trixie.

Bev was born and lived in the beautiful county of Devon with her husband Kenny, until six years ago when, due to work commitments, they moved to Essex. She is a very proficient scuba diver and over the ten years since qualifying, has seen the spectacular ocean depths of the Maldives, Australia, Thailand and Egypt. Bev also enjoys aerobics and socialising with friends.



.....New Years Eve or any other celebratory events. **We may like fireworks but our pets don't!** Help & advice is available for nervous pets, so please call us at the surgery.

.....and in other News

Good Luck to Holly who began her Animal Care Course at Writtle College in September.

Goodbye to vet Marta who has returned to her home country of Portugal.... but not forever, as we may well see her back at the surgery in the near future.

Three very lucky ex-battery hens have been rescued from slaughter by our vet nurse Lucy. Hubby Alan has built them a house and pen as their new residence. Maxine, Blossom and Daisy are having a wonderful time scratching around in the garden and enjoying their newfound freedom!

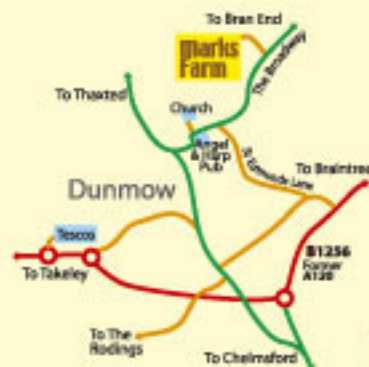
New Arrival!

Congratulations and well done go to Clare (receptionist) and Richard, on the arrival of their new son Fletcher Regan who was born by caesarean section at 6.32am on 25th July 2009, weighing 9lbs 15oz. Fletcher unfortunately had a few problems shortly after birth, but thankfully with treatment, all is fine now and Mum and baby are doing really well. At only six weeks old he's already wearing 3-6 months clothes! Clare and her family would like to say a very big thank you to everyone for all the beautiful cards and gifts they have received. In Clare's own words "it was really nice and very much appreciated." You can also see a picture of

Fletcher on our notice board in reception amongst all the notices for puppies and kittens for sale or re-homing. He's already had one enquiry!



Clare's dog Barclay with Fletcher



VETERINARY CENTRE
The Broadway, Great Dunmow
Essex CM6 3BQ
01371 872102

