

# small talk

## Crate training

Kat Johnson  
RVN Dip Instructor



Kat is a long standing member of our Nursing Team who runs our puppy and dog training classes.

Using a crate helps provide the puppy/dog with its own private safe place.

For owners it helps with toilet training and provides a safe area for the dogs/puppies to be left alone for short periods of time.

However if the crate has not been introduced correctly to the puppy/dog we will create a place that the dog is frightened of, increase behavioural problems such as barking, loss of toilet control and aggression.

### Crate size

This needs to be big enough for the dog to be able to stand up, sit down and stretch. Remember if you are using it for a puppy you will need to upgrade to the next size as the puppy grows.

### Crate location

Provide an area that is easily accessible for the puppy to go to.

Having the crate where the puppy can have peace and quiet to relax and calm down is useful and teaches the puppy to be isolated away from the family.

You can also have the crate location in the main family areas so your puppy can get used to the comings and goings of a busy family especially if you have children.



### What should be in the crate?

A comfy bed, toys and food/water bowl.

### Introducing the crate

If the puppy/dog has never been in a crate before you need to take time for them to understand this is a good place to be.

Start by feeding the dog in the crate and leaving the door open.

Encourage the dog to go in by throwing food treats into the crate when the puppy walks near it.

Once the puppy/dog starts to go into the crate on its own you can start to close the door.

When feeding the dog close the door while it eats. As soon as dog has finished the food the crate door should be opened.

Over a period of days slowly increase the length of time you keep the door closed after the dog has eaten.

### Problems

#### Barking/whining

Make sure puppy/dog is quiet before opening the crate. Start by opening the door just before puppy finishes the food and slowly extending the time after feeding.

Make sure the dog is quiet before opening the crate so it does not learn that barking or whining is what makes the crate door open.

An Adaptil diffuser placed next to the crate will help the puppy feel more relaxed in the area reducing the chance of barking/whining to occur.

#### Reluctance on going into the crate

If the owners have been moving the stage of introducing the crate too quickly, give more frequent food treats in the crate without closing the door, to get the dog to want to go into the area.

Give high value treats such as a stuffed Kong to make sure dog is happy to start to play/eat and close the door for a few seconds before opening the crate again. Over a few days slowly start to increase the length of time door is closed.

**NEVER** pick the puppy up to place into the crate it should always want to go in on its own.



# MRI Magnetic Resonance Imaging

## Did you know that we are able to offer Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) at Pride Veterinary Hospital?

The top-of-the-range machine allows us to safely investigate regions of the body which have previously been difficult to visualise, therefore enabling us to plan the best treatment or surgical options.

### What is MRI?

Unlike x-rays or Computed Tomography (CT) scanning, MRI works does not use ionising radiation, but instead uses a combination of a magnetic field and pulses of radiowaves to form a picture of the area being scanned. Very detailed computer images are produced showing the body in slices, with for example, the difference between tumour and normal tissue being clearly seen.

### When is MRI used?

MRI scans are recommended for animals to diagnose and plan treatment in a wide range of conditions. In some cases, this will be following x-rays or ultrasound, in other cases MRI may be the first technique to be used. For example, one of the differences to CT is that MRI allows us to 'see into' the brain; the white and grey matter of the brain react differently, allowing detection of tumours and other abnormalities. MRI may be used for:

- Investigating the cause of seizures and behavioural changes
- Investigating conditions causing weakness, loss of balance
- Assessing spinal disease and planning surgery e.g. disc protrusions ('slipped' disc) or tumours



- Investigating some abdominal conditions
- Examining joints for damage to ligaments and tendons particularly in the shoulder and elbow

### What happens during an MRI scan?

Your pet will be admitted into the hospital in the morning. An MRI scan is not painful, but because it is essential that your pet remain motionless during the procedure, general anaesthesia is used. This also avoids any anxiety for your pet during the scan. The time for the scan will vary depending on the region involved and size of the animal. Once he or she has recovered from the anaesthetic, they will be able to go home, usually in the afternoon or early evening. MRI is a safe procedure, tested on people for 20 years.

### How long does it take to get results?

As an MRI scan gives a detailed set of images it does take longer to interpret fully than a routine x-ray, however, results will normally be available within 24 hours.

### Will MRI make a difference to your pet's health care?

**In a word, yes!**

MRI allows examination of regions which are difficult, often impossible to 'see into' with conventional techniques such as x-ray and ultrasound. For example, the brain, spinal cord and soft tissue of joints can be assessed much more fully, therefore enabling more accurate diagnoses and appropriate treatment. Although sometimes brain tumours are detected, other times conditions which are suspected to be due to cancer, are found to have a more treatable cause.



## An Unfortunate 'Rawhide' Chew Incident

Hamish, a bright and healthy West Highland White Terrier was out in his owners garden when he suddenly became very unsettled and started to gag and retch.

Fortunately one of our medicine clinicians Charlotte Dye was able to help.

His owners realised that he had scavenged an old rawhide chew which had become lodged in his throat and they rushed him to their local vets. By the time they arrived the chew had blocked his airway causing him to have severe breathing problems as well as persistent choking. The local vets anaesthetised him immediately and managed to dislodge the chew from his airway which is likely to have saved his life. However, the chew subsequently migrated into his oesophagus (the tube responsible for propelling food from the mouth to the stomach). This

# Foreign bodies

We call anything that is in your animal that isn't part of him or her and shouldn't be there a foreign body!

For example grass seeds found in dogs eyes, ears, or feet; bits of plant in airways; toys, balls, bones, stones in the gastrointestinal tract and once we've even seen an airgun pellet in a dogs heart.

Probably the most common type we see are those in a pet's gastrointestinal tract i.e. something they've eaten that they shouldn't.

These cause all sorts of problems. From mild tummy ache as they pass on through and out the other end, to serious life threatening situations when they lodge causing an obstruction.

Below are some of the most frequent things we see as foreign bodies.

It's very important that intestinal foreign bodies are diagnosed as quickly as possible. A foreign body that is stuck in small intestine quickly cuts off the blood supply to that bit of intestine and it becomes very unhealthy and can die.

The most common symptoms of a gastrointestinal foreign body are:

- Vomiting (often frequently)
- Poor appetite
- Abdominal pain
- Restlessness or lethargy



Obviously there can be a lot of variation in symptoms so if in any doubt get your pet checked.

Treatment usually involves surgery to remove the offending object. Occasionally gastric foreign bodies (ones in the stomach) can be removed via endoscopy. The animal will also need supportive treatment such as intravenous fluids and various medications.

Surgery involves exploring the abdomen, isolating the obstruction and either removing it via an incision into the intestine or if sections of intestines are damaged beyond recovery they may need to be removed.

Most animals stay in hospital for at least 48 hours after such surgery and sometimes much longer.

Although usually the animals recover well there can be several serious complications with such surgery, including peritonitis, wound infections and aspiration pneumonia. Every time a pet has

this surgery again (some come in over and over again for the same thing) it increases the risk of complications they may not recover from.

It is important to train your pet not to eat things they shouldn't from a young age. This can be hard work and some dogs will still have a tendency to eat things on walks etc. In this case these dogs need to be muzzled whenever it's possible they could eat anything.

If you are having problems with this then you should phone the surgery and arrange an appointment with one of our behaviourists to discuss it.

Although it's much rarer cats do still occasionally eat foreign bodies. They are more likely to have eaten wool or string. These cause a 'linear foreign body' which can be one of the worst types as the string gets stuck then can pull tight cutting into intestines. If your cat plays with and potentially could eat any sort of thread it is important to stop this and replace it with safe toys to keep him/her stimulated.



resulted in marked discomfort and persistent retching. Along with this complication, chest x-rays revealed significant pulmonary oedema (fluid build-up within the lungs) as a consequence of the acute asphyxia. Hamish was therefore referred to us as an emergency for ongoing management.

On arrival Hamish was quiet and very unsettled with constant grunting and whining. He was also retching intermittently and expectorating white froth. He was anaesthetised immediately and a video endoscope was used to examine his throat and oesophagus. This confirmed the presence of a foreign body lodged very firmly

in the oesophagus. The endoscope was used to guide large metal forceps towards the foreign body and eventually we were able to grab the chew firmly enough to drag it out via the mouth.

Hamish came round from his anaesthetic without complication and, needless to say, felt a lot better. He was hospitalised overnight for observation, in particular to ensure that his breathing was stable, and since he was bright and well in himself, was discharged the following day.

Examination of Hamish's oesophagus after removal of the foreign body had identified some traumatic damage to the underlying tissue

which can predispose to oesophageal strictures (excessive scar tissue development resulting in obstruction to the passage of food). Prophylactic treatment using sucralfate and drugs that reduce gastric acid was started in an attempt to prevent this and Hamish went on to make a full and uneventful recovery. His owners have been advised that Hamish can now be fed as usual but that any large treats should be avoided!

# Staff Focus

## Jo Bell

Each month we introduce you to a member of our team. To keep the practices working effectively, we have a small army of staff working tirelessly to provide you and your pets with the very best in veterinary care.

This month we find out about Jo Bell, Line Manager in client care based at Pride Veterinary Centre.

### When did you start working for Scarsdale Vets?

I joined Scarsdale in September last year after moving to Derby from my home town of Scarborough where I had worked in a vets as a receptionist for just over five years.

### What does your job entail on a day to day basis?

My job is extremely challenging and varied which is why I love it! My focus and that of our team is client care, it is our top priority that every step of the client journey with Pride, from first walking into the building



or contacting the practice by email or phone is first class and as efficient and helpful as possible.

### What do you love the most about working at Scarsdale Vets?

I love that without fail everyday I learn something new and I really enjoy the client interaction alongside meeting all the diverse and interesting pets that visit us. Our job can be very challenging and difficult at times, often stressful and sometimes upsetting but when you support clients through their most difficult times and see the difference it can make to them it makes it all worthwhile. I also love that it keeps us on our toes, there are not enough hours in the day and no two days are the same!

### When you are not at work, tell us a little bit about what else you do?

Outside of work I am loving exploring the beautiful Derbyshire countryside with my lively three year old Sprocker Luna, I love the fact that the area is so dog friendly leading to lots of lovely lunches out!

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Please note that telephone calls are recorded for quality and monitoring purposes.

Scarsdale Vets presents

# The Springwood Dog Show

Registration from 12:30pm with a 1:00pm start

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017

St. Marys Church Hall, Stretton, DE13 0HD

Join the fun and enter your dog in a variety of classes!

Various stalls | Staff in the stocks | Refreshments

**ENTRY: £2 PER CLASS ENTERED**

All monies raised goes to **Hounds for Heroes**

Entry forms available at [springwoodvets.com/springwood-dog-show](http://springwoodvets.com/springwood-dog-show), at our Stapenhill & Stretton Branches, and on the day entry will be available

**Best Fancy Dress**  
**Most Like Their Owner**  
**Young Handler** (10 & Under)  
**Young Handler** (11 & Over)  
**Best In Show**

**Prettiest Bitch**  
**Cutest Puppy**  
**Most Handsome Dog**  
**Best Trick**  
**Waggiest Tale**  
**Golden Oldie**