



## AT ALL WITH A HAPPY ENDING

One winter's day, Milligan, an 18 month old white and black cat, was rushed into our Whetstone surgery. Having been missing for 9 days he had returned home collapsed and disorientated, with a sore tail and having lost a dramatic one third of his bodyweight. What had happened to him was a mystery. Only 2 weeks beforehand he had been given a clean bill of health at his annual vaccination and health review appointment.

Milligan was given immediate first aid treatment (pain relief and intravenous fluids) and had blood tests. He was transferred to our Glenfield Veterinary Hospital, where he was cared for overnight by a vet and veterinary nurse. In the morning X-rays of his chest and pelvis were taken to rule out bone and lung damage. Swelling and infection in his hind legs and tail was found, so he was started on a course of intravenous antibiotics. Next day he was well enough to be sent home from the surgery, with medications for his owner to give him, although there was some

## THE TORTOISE WHO STUCK HER NECK OUT

Whilst tortoises have to stick their heads out of their shell to eat, drink and see where they are going, they do prefer to retreat into their shells from time to time. Poor Dinkie, a 3 year old tortoise, was unable to pull her head back into her shell, no matter how hard she tried.

She was found to have a solid lump under her neck that made her neck wider than the gap between the top and bottom parts of her shell. The lump was an abscess. Abscesses in reptiles have to be surgically removed. The problem was, Dinkie was very small, weighing only 210g (less than half a pound), so the general anaesthetic required was quite tricky.

Fortunately, the anaesthetic, monitored by one of our very experienced veterinary nurses went well, and the vet was able to successfully perform the surgery. Dinkie was able to recover from the anaesthetic in a heated vivarium at the practice. Within days she was back



to her normal self, able to pull her head right back into her shell if she wanted to, and eating ravenously.

concern about wounds which were developing on his tail and back legs.

Whilst intensively nursing him at home Milligan's owner discovered what had happened to him. He had been stranded on an island in the middle of a slurry pit on a dairy farm and had been rescued by the farmer. Afterwards the exhausted cat had walked a quarter of a mile home.

Once the cause of Milligan's injuries was known, the vets were able to tailor the treatment of his severe infection. After 2 weeks it was clear that his tail was too damaged to salvage and he was deemed fit enough for the anaesthetic needed to amputate it. The wound healed well and Milligan was finally signed off 10 days later.

After the scare of losing him Milligan's owner decided to have him micro-chipped. He is now back to normal, a happy, healthy, hunting cat who feeds with his brother in the barn and uses the kitchen for a warm-up.

# NEW RULES FOR PET TRAVEL SCHEME & QUARANTINE

(Some changes since New Year Newsletter)

**FROM JANUARY 1ST 2012** new Pet Travel Scheme rules come in to force for pet dogs, cat and ferrets travelling from the UK to the EU or returning to (or coming into) the UK from any country in the world.

## To travel from the UK to the EU:

**Pets with an existing valid Pet Passport** – can continue to travel as normal, as long as the Rabies vaccine is in date.

**Pets without an existing valid Pet Passport.** The new, simpler requirements are:

- 1) Your pet must first be micro-chipped.
- 2) He or she must then be vaccinated against Rabies.
- 3) A pet passport must then be issued.
- 4) Your pet can then travel to the EU 21 days after the Rabies vaccination, without needing a blood test.
- 5) Your pet must travel with a transport company and by a route approved under the Pet Travel Scheme.

**To return to the UK from the EU and some non-EU countries (listed by DEFRA) which are Rabies free or have good Rabies control, such as Switzerland:** your pet needs to fulfil all the criteria listed above for travel from the UK to the EU and **in addition** dogs must be given tapeworm treatment by a vet, with an approved product, 1-5 days before your expected arrival time in the UK.

**To return to the UK from all other non-EU countries** your pet must:

- 1) First, be micro-chipped.
- 2) Second, be vaccinated against Rabies.
- 3) Third, pass a blood test on blood taken at least 30 days after Rabies vaccination. If the result is a fail steps 2 and 3 must be repeated.

Make your way over...



Pay by monthly direct debit for yearly vaccinations plus either:

- 1) Year round flea & worm treatment & other benefits, or
- 2) A package of attractive discounts and benefits, or
- 3) A combination of both. \*

\* Terms and conditions apply

- 4) Be issued with the correct paperwork, recording all the above. This could be an up to date EU Pet Passport completed specially before you went abroad.
- 5) Then wait 3 months from the date a positive blood sample was taken, before being able to return to the UK, via an approved transport company and route.
- 6) Dogs must be treated with an approved product, by a vet, against tapeworm, 1-5 days before your expected arrival time in the UK.

This replaces the need for 6 months quarantine.

However pets returning to the UK that do not meet the new UK entry criteria may be licensed into quarantine, until they do meet the rules. It is entirely up to the pet owner to ensure that their pet and its paperwork comply fully with all the legislation.

**For more information** please go to: [www.defra.gov.uk/pets](http://www.defra.gov.uk/pets) or phone the Pet Travel Scheme Helpline: **0870 241 1710**

**To travel to countries outside the EU** the Pet travel Scheme does not apply. A pet must comply with all the import rules of the country they are travelling to. The rules vary between countries and can be complicated. For more information go to: [www.defra.gov.uk/pets](http://www.defra.gov.uk/pets) or telephone: **01228 403 600**

Please contact the surgery for advice about getting a Pet Passport, help with export documents or on how to prevent your pet from contracting exotic diseases whilst abroad.

## TOP TIP: BRUSH THOSE TEETH!

**Did you know that if you don't brush your dog's teeth, after 48 hours the teeth will be coated with a film of foul bacteria?** They can't be rinsed off and produce chemicals that cause bad breath (even if the teeth look clean). The bacteria also lead to the production of plaque, tartar and gum disease.

**What can be done?** Daily tooth brushing, ideally starting when your dog is a puppy, is the best answer. We stock tasty, non-frothing, fluoride-free toothpaste especially for dogs. Please ask a veterinary nurse for advice. We also stock excellent tooth cleaning foodstuffs. However, these do not clean the tiny space between tooth and gum, whilst brushing does. Offering your dog something to chew, that takes time to chew also helps – something they chomp up in seconds will do no good.

Buy any 3\*  
worm tablets  
& get 1 **free**

The  
early bird  
catches  
the worm!

\*Offer applies when purchasing 4 tablets at the same time. Ask our receptionists.