

November Newsletter

Pet Diabetes Month

During November 2009 we are offering a free urine test strip as part of Pet Diabetes Month. Unfortunately, diabetes in dogs and cats is a growing problem that can cause serious illness and even death. Similarly to people, diabetes in our pets tends to be associated with getting older, weight gain and inactivity. The good thing is that, once diagnosed, diabetes in cats and dogs can usually be easily managed.

Common signs of diabetes in pets are increased drinking and frequent urination, weight loss despite an increased appetite and lethargy. If you are concerned that your dog or cat may have diabetes or you would just be interested to check, please collect a urine test strip and information leaflet from the surgery. Of course, if your pet is unwell it is best to see the vet first and as soon as possible.

Change to Hip Scoring Identification Rules

With effect from January 2010 all dogs being screened under the BVA hip and elbow dysplasia scheme will be required to be permanently identified (by means of a microchip or tattoo) before they have their x-rays taken. Dogs can be microchipped at Lampeter or Tregaron (please ring first to ensure equipment is available) during surgery hours and nurses clinics. If you require more information about hip or elbow scoring please phone or call in for a chat.

Acute Liver Fluke in Sheep

The VLA in Carmarthen and Aberystwyth have diagnosed acute liver fluke in several flocks this Autumn where it has caused significant numbers of sheep deaths. Liver fluke is a parasite that develops into an infective form within a small snail which lives in wet pastureland. Sheep ingest the infective Metacercariae and become infected with fluke. The immature fluke migrate to the liver where they develop into adults and in doing so cause liver damage.

Cases of liver fluke are particularly acute (sudden in onset) and severe this year because there is heavy pasture contamination with infected snails due to the recent mild weather (the snails thrive in warm and wet conditions). The risk of infection is likely to continue for the next three months, especially if the weather remains mild. With these points in mind, we advise treating sheep for fluke again this Autumn with a flukicide that kills immature fluke – please phone or call in for advice.

