



IsabelleVets

We love them, like you do

# Pet News

SEPTEMBER 2014



This month's cover star:

**MR SCRUFF!**

## Contact us

Route Isabelle Surgery  
Tel 01481 723863

Make an appointment online  
[www.isabellevets.co.uk](http://www.isabellevets.co.uk)



## Saffery Champness Rotary Walk - 2014

Well done to our team who completed the gruelling 39 mile walk. Thanks for your generous donations. The money will provide support for several local charities.

## THE ITCHY DOG

During the warmer months we commonly see dogs scratching and chewing at their feet and body. This can inflame the skin leading to bacterial and/ or yeast infections.

Regular bathing with a prescription shampoo and daily food supplement with essential fatty acids can help prevent inflammation in the long term but in the short term infections may require antibiotics. If your dog's got itchy skin you should get them checked out by a vet as soon as possible.

### What are the causes?

#### 1) External parasites

Fleas, mites or lice living on the surface of the animal.

#### 2) Environmental Allergens

Your dog may have an allergic reaction to pollen, house dust mites or moulds, for example.

#### 3) Food allergies

### What's the treatment?

1) External parasites are treated with tablets or spot-on treatments but the key to parasite treatment is to:

- a. Treat all year around
- b. Treat all animals in the household
- c. Treat the environment - remember only 5% of the flea population is on the animal - 95% is in its surrounding environment

2) In many cases of allergic reaction to pollen and dust mites etc. avoiding the allergen may not be possible. Severe or long term cases may require immunotherapy, steroids, antihistamines or immunosuppressive drugs. There is also a new treatment for allergic dermatitis released this year and it is proving very successful. Your vet will be able to prescribe the right solution for your dog.

3) Exclusion trial - feeding a 'hypoallergenic' diet only for 6 weeks can help to establish whether food is the cause of the problem.



## R.I.P Daisy

It is with deep regret to have to tell you that Daisy, our much loved Surgery Cat has passed away. She will be missed hugely. x



## Well done to the Isabelle Vets relay team!

Here they are at the end of the Guernsey Waterfront Marathon on Sunday - **James, Doreen, Carmel, Heather and Ina!** The race was completed in 4 hrs and 2 minutes with us coming 24th out of 33 teams - a marked improvement from coming last in our previous performance!

## Practice standards in the veterinary world

Isabelle Vets is accredited under the Practice Standards Scheme run by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS); the main practice at Route Isabelle is accredited as a small animal general practice, and a core practice for equine and farm animals; the branch surgery at L'Islet is a core practice for small animals. But what does this mean?

The Practice Standards Scheme is a voluntary scheme which aims to promote and maintain the highest standards of veterinary care. The RCVS sets out the standards to be met, covering areas such as health and safety, use of medicines, premises, patient facilities, diagnostic equipment, out-of hours care, and management of staff.

An RCVS inspector will visit the practice every four years, and may do a spot inspection in-between. Inspectors are or have been practising veterinary surgeons, who understand how a veterinary practice should work.



## The Practice Standards Scheme aims to promote and maintain the highest standards of veterinary care

To meet the standards, we have to show that we are fulfilling the legal requirements involved in running a veterinary practice, as well as meeting our professional responsibilities as set out in the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct. To do this we have to provide documentation (such as a health and safety policy), but the inspectors will also make sure that all staff are aware of the practice policies on all aspects of veterinary care.

For Isabelle Vets, being accredited under the practice standards scheme means that we are assured that we are fulfilling all our legal and professional obligations, and are running the practice so that we can provide the best standards of veterinary care.

For our clients, our accreditation assures you that behind the scenes, the practice is well organised, health and safety guidelines are adhered to, equipment is properly maintained, and members of staff are properly trained for their roles. During our last inspection in March 2014, the inspector complimented the nursing and reception staff on how efficient they were, and how smoothly the practice was running despite being very busy!

**If you want to find out more about the Practice Standards Scheme, please go to the website at [www.rcvs.org.uk/practice-standards-scheme/](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/practice-standards-scheme/)**

## What is lyme disease?

Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease in Europe in both pets and humans

A form of bacteria called a spirochaete and known as *Borrelia burgdorferi* is the causative agent and is passed to the diseased animal by ticks. In theory, the sheep and hedgehog ticks which abound in Guernsey can carry and pass the disease although the deer ticks, which are not present on the Island, is most commonly blamed for the problem.

Symptoms vary but typically there is an acute temperature rise coupled with lethargy often with shifting lameness, polyarthritis and occasionally renal disease. The disease may take weeks or months to develop after a tick has attached and of course in many cases the owner has been quite unaware of a tick's presence.

The tick carries the *Borrelia* organism in its stomach and when it attaches to your pet it takes approximately 24 hours before the full feeding pattern occurs. At this point, the tick disgorges some of its stomach content into the host and this transfers the disease. Treatment with antibiotics can be

successful. Prevention, however, is better than cure and Isabelle Vets would recommend that your pet is given an effective product to limit the risk of ticks. Many products don't stop attachment but the key point is that product must cause the tick to either fall off or be killed in the period prior to disgorgement of the tick's stomach contents.

There is a vaccine called Merilym3 which reduces the risk of Lyme disease considerably. We can discuss this vaccine with you if you believe your pet might be at a high risk.

To date, there have been no confirmed cases of humans or pets who have caught the disease in Guernsey. However, if you are travelling with your pet to the UK or Europe they are potentially at risk of infection. Remember to take the required precautions well before you travel and if you are going to southern Europe, be aware that there are many other unpleasant vector born diseases your pet could possibly come into contact with. Your vet can give you more information lyme disease and prevention.



Wherever you see the Practice Standards logo displayed you can be sure of the highest quality of care for your pet.