



100 Years of Veterinary Practice

2019 represents 100 years of Veterinary Surgery at Isabelle Vets. Our name may have changed over the decades, but the business is the same. We started with Eustace Laine in 1919 working with the Island's cattle and working horses. He travelled by horse and trap and was known to enjoy a 'glass or two' on his journey. In those days the land was ploughed by horses, Guernsey was an agricultural community with hundreds of very small dairy farms and vine houses growing for the British market. WW2 interrupted regular services, although we believe Eustace continued to offer as much of a Practice as was humanly possible under extreme circumstances. When the war ended, Guernseyman Pierre Blampied returned to Island to join him, working out of a small surgery in Queen's Road at a time when the veterinary world was evolving, and companion animals were becoming a more significant part of our lives.

Fast forward to 1980, and a purpose-built Practice was developed at our present Route Isabelle site; at around the same time, the Practice saw companion animal treatments become the majority of the veterinary care work carried out. Since then, different vets have joined the Practice, helping to increase levels of service, facilities and veterinary knowledge. The Route Isabelle site has been expanded on a couple of occasions to develop full hospitalisation, surgical and diagnostic facilities. An additional surgery was also built at L'Islet in 2017 to provide further consultancy facility and a state of the art C.T. unit, with other facilities such as hydrotherapy. Isabelle Vets employs forty people and is the largest provider of veterinary care in Guernsey.



Our Centenary Celebration

To celebrate our 100th year anniversary, we have a celebration marquee planned at the West Show in August (14th & 15th).

This is to represent the modern face of Isabelle Vets in 2019, after a hundred years as a veterinary practice. We will have a static display and staff will be on hand to say hello and answer any queries you may have for the two days of the show. On Thursday, from 12:00 pm, there will be a pet photographer and a welcome drink, so bring your pet along to have a free 'happy snap photo' and enjoy a refreshment in the shade. Later that day, we are hosting an invitation-only reception for all our **Pet Health Club** members, who have supported Isabelle Vets through their membership.

The Pet Health Club is supported by nearly one thousand pets, and provides the best of preventative health care for dogs, cats and horses.

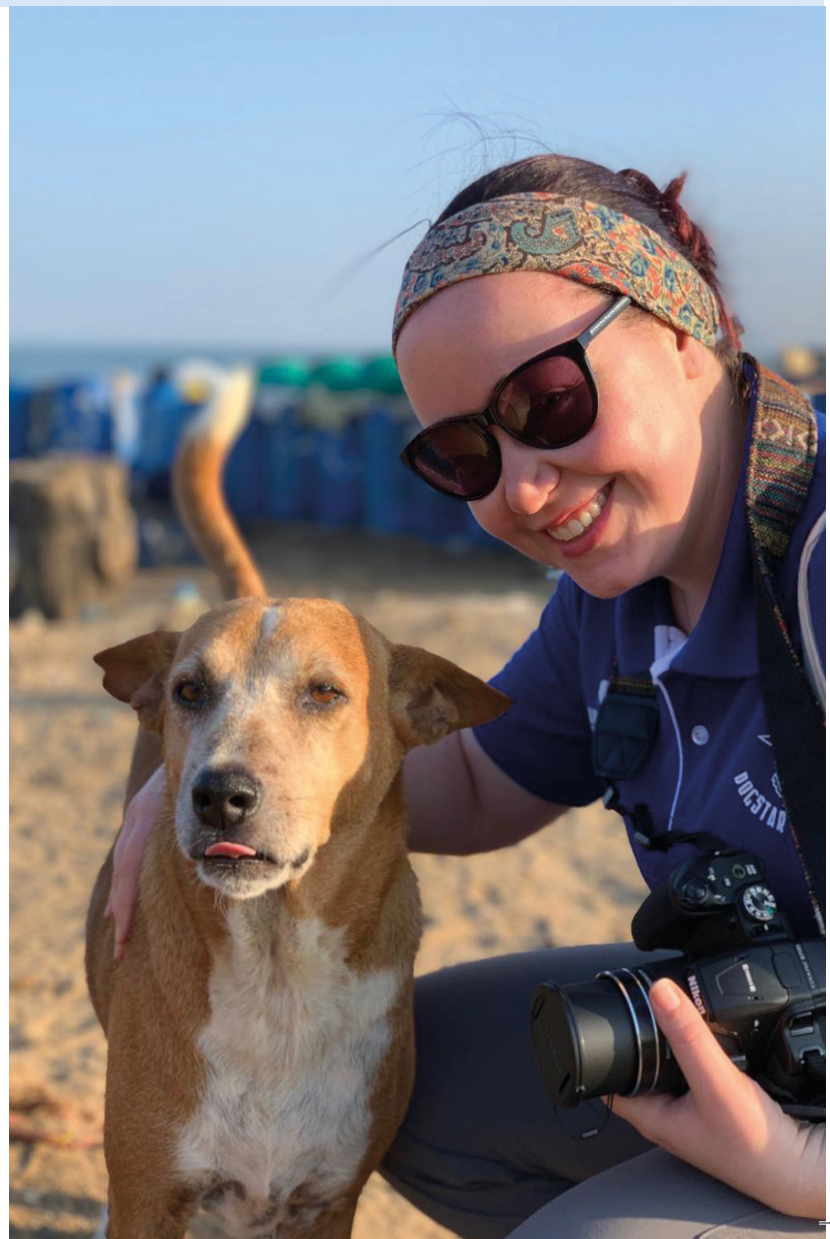
The idea of the scheme is to keep your pet healthy and provide the care that Pet Insurance does not cover, at an affordable price. We see the members of the Pet Health Club being bonded in care with our veterinary team, and the evening event is our way of saying 'thank you'. If you are interested in joining the Pet Health Club, please contact the Practice for more information.



Becky helps Sri Lankan dogs

One of our registered veterinary nurses, Becky, has been in Sri Lanka for several weeks working as a volunteer with World Veterinary Services ("WVS"). This wonderful veterinary run charity works in many jurisdictions around the world and has two principal areas of care. Few people realise the World Health Organisation figures indicate that there are SIXTY thousand human deaths a year from Rabies and there may well be many times this number that go unreported due to lack of medical facilities in the areas where the disease is rife.

WVS provide Rabies education to the population and vaccination programs for the local dogs. If a high percentage of domestic dogs (they are the conduit for the disease) can become vaccinated, then Rabies can be effectively eliminated from an area. WVS also runs many neutering and training clinics in Africa and Asia. Local vets are trained in procedures and techniques, and the local population is educated in the importance of responsible dog ownership and care. Becky has worked with WVS for several years. If you would like to find out more, please check their website at www.wvs.org.uk.



Dietary Warning

A Grain-Free Diet and Heart Disease

Diets for dogs have, for a long time, been a 'bone of contention and discussion' for dog owners. (No pun intended) Dogs are omnivorous, and it was widely believed (and correctly so) that your pet could happily live on a 'meat and two veg'. Ever since the early days of proprietary dog foods such as 'Chum' and 'Chappie', there have been strident voices of opinion who know better. To be honest, the original versions were not great foods, but they did bring the concept of a balanced diet to the canine table. As the decades progressed, manufacturers employed canine nutritionists who were able to fine-tune the nutritional requirements for our doggy friends. This resulted in them living longer and looking better, mostly thanks to their dietary health.

Dry foods became the norm because they were easy to carry and sensibly priced. However, lingering in a small proportion of people's minds was the thought of whether feeding processed food was the right thing to do and whether they could do better. Raw foods have been mooted as a natural and healthy alternative, and we can see the reasoning in favour of this food preparation. Unfortunately, there is a small risk, and it is small, of food poisoning and parasites from raw foods. Grain-free diets have hit the headlines as a natural diet as dogs, before domestication, would never have eaten grain.

Grain and gluten were perceived as evil and should not be added to dog food according to this philosophy.

Recently the highly influential US Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning to dog owners who feed grain-free diets: "The FDA is investigating a potential dietary link between canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and dogs eating certain grain-free dog foods. The foods of concern are those containing legumes such as peas or lentils, other legume seeds, or potatoes listed as primary ingredients. The FDA began investigating this matter after it received reports of DCM in dogs that had been eating these diets for a period of months to years. DCM itself is not considered rare in dogs, but these reports are unusual because the disease occurred in breeds of dogs not typically prone to the disease."

DCM or dilated cardiomyopathy is a potentially irreversible and fatal condition. It may not be the lack of grain but the increased proportion of other ingredients or that some nutritional factor is deficient without grain but could be added back into a diet. What we do know is that this is a dire warning, which dog owners should take seriously until clarification is achieved.

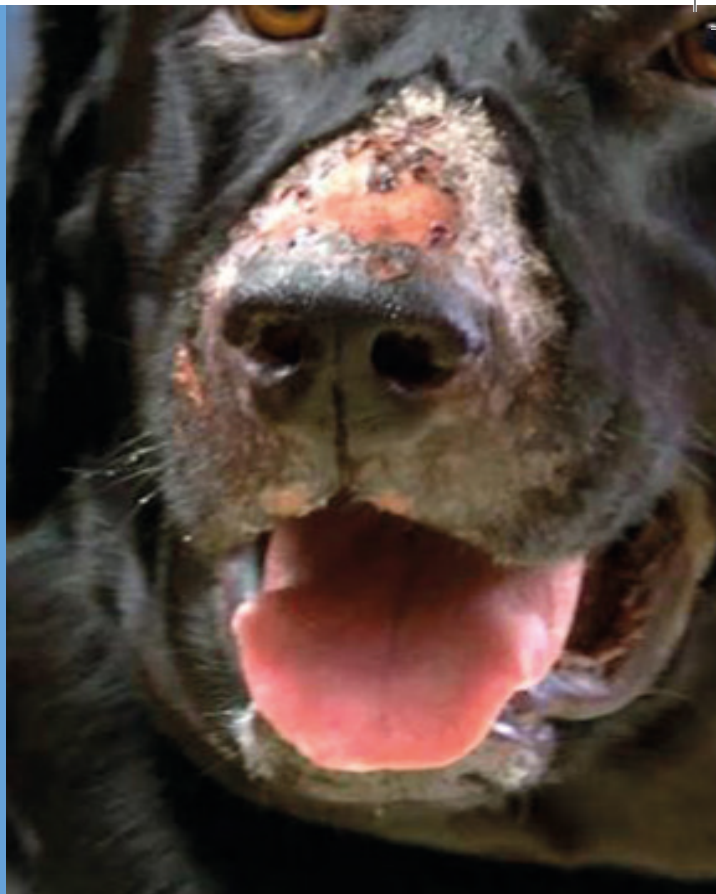




Alabama Rot

To date, we are unaware of any cases of the highly publicised condition, 'Alabama Rot' in Guernsey. The other name for this condition is Cutaneous and renal glomerular vasculopathy (CRGV); which effectively describes what happens with the disease when there is a sudden onset of skin eruptions and potential kidney failure.

The condition has been diagnosed in 38 UK counties, so has a widespread distribution and also appears to have a wintertime incidence. The cause is unknown, which is very worrying as without a cause it is difficult to prevent. A Bacterium *Aeromonas hydrophilia* has been isolated from many cases, and this may be contracted from walking dogs in muddy and wet woodland. As we have restricted woodland in Guernsey, this may be a reason why we have not seen a case to date. However, we remain vigilant, and Isabelle Vets is continually keeping updated on this new disease.



Leishmaniasis:

If Travelling abroad, how to limit the risk to your pet.

There are two and a half million cases of canine Leishmaniasis in Europe. This disease is widespread across southern Europe and is passed on by a vector, the bite of a sand-fly. If you go on holiday with your pet anywhere south of an approximate line through Bordeaux, you run the risk of him contracting this disease. Humans can contract Leishmaniasis as well. Once the disease becomes established, there is rarely a cure, just control. The principle symptom is skin eruptions, ulcers and scabbing, but all body organs can become infected, and the principal cause of death is kidney failure.

Prevention of the carrier sand-fly bite is the key and this can be undertaken using insecticidal collars. However, these are never going to be 100% effective in controlling the vector fly, and managed care in areas visited should also be implemented.

An additional and new means at reducing the risk of Leishmaniasis is the use of a new vaccine, Letifend. A single dose provides protection in 73% of vaccinated dogs. This is a relatively low level of protection, but significantly better than no protection, which will be the case for most Guernsey dogs.

Isabelle Vets now have available the Letifend vaccine and if you are thinking about 'travelling south' the vaccine should be given at least a month before your holiday. It also would be an excellent opportunity to discuss the control of other European dog diseases that can affect your pet's health.

www.isabellevets.co.uk

Opening Hours: Route Isabelle - Mon - Friday 8.00 - 18.30 | Saturday 8.00 - 17.30 | Sunday by appointment

Opening Hours: L'Islet - Mon - Friday 8.30 - 18.00 | Saturday 8.30 - 12.30 | Sunday by appointment

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