

Colne Valley News

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Practice Ltd*

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**your friends
are
our concern**

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Charlie Read with a lobster found whilst exploring the beach near his new home in Scotland. Read more on the back page...

Advance Planning 1

Fireworks! If your dog has a noise phobia, then the next few weeks can be quite distressing for you and your dog. Guy Fawkes will be celebrated with firework displays from the weekend before to the weekend after 5th November, followed by fireworks to welcome the arrival of 2010.

Any behavioural strategy should have been initiated several months ago, but the problem is that a noise phobia can escalate to such a degree that it becomes a year-round problem. Then there is no good time to start

addressing the problem. Not only are fireworks used to celebrate other events such as weddings, but also there are other loud noises such as thunder. I have watched our family Jack Russell Terrier's noise phobia progress from fireworks through thunder to the drumming of rain on the conservatory roof and high winds blowing through trees.

Remember to contact us in good time if you need help for your dog. Please try to avoid being one of those ringing for drugs on 5th November...

Advance Planning 2

Also, do remember to make plans for your pets if you are going away for Christmas and/or New Year. You may need to book kennel and cattery accommodation well in advance. Do ensure that vaccinations are up-to-date.

Likewise, if appropriate please check you will have sufficient medication and prescription diet to see your cat or dog beyond the New Year break. Thinking in advance is particularly important if your pet is going to be due a health assessment.



*A favorite family phrase
or slogan can go here.*

*Hard to garden
when your dog is
sitting exactly
where you want to
dig!*



*Clinical conundrum: what is
happening here? Answers in
the next issue.*

Julie's Farewell

Julie Read writes: I moved from West London to join Colne Valley in September 2001. Changing from essentially sole charge of a branch to a 5.5 vet, eight nurse team was exactly what I needed. I have had clinical freedom and access to first-class diagnostic equipment, plus the benefit of experienced colleagues to discuss cases and ideas which I really missed working alone in London.

Colne Valley's ongoing investment in staff has allowed me to develop my medical and surgical skills. In 2005, I gained a certificate in Small Animal General Practice. My continuing education has been very broad-based, enabling me to keep abreast of developments in most fields and to develop a particular interest in Ophthalmology.

My family home being Edinburgh, I knew little about Colchester when I moved here, not even that it was a Garrison town! I soon found that Colchester had more than just a good job for me: in 2002 I began dating Rupert, then a Sergeant at the Military Corrective Training Centre. When he received notice of a two year posting to Germany in 2005, I decided to go too. We were married in September 2005, and officially lived in Germany until May 2007.

I had planned to have a couple of years off work, perhaps doing something entirely different. Instead, I became a regular client of Ryan Air, travelling back to the UK to do locum work mainly at Colne

Valley. I was loathe to sever my ties with Colchester, knowing we would eventually come back and I would be looking for full time work again. Rupert's job was essentially weekdays 9am–5pm so, with my intermittent locum work, we were able to see and do much exploring at weekends.

Colne Valley has been very good to me over the years, and created a vacancy for me when we returned from Germany by expanding the practice to 6.5 vets.

Rupert's 22 year army career ended in May. We are now in the process of moving to a small town in the Scottish Highlands, to a house which has been a long distance renovation project for three years. I have a new job starting at the local veterinary practice on 5th October: I am both excited and apprehensive! I hope I will be able to deliver the high standard of first opinion veterinary care to which I have become accustomed.

Rupert is already living up North, and has settled in well to 'Civvy Street' and his new job as an Infrastructure Manager. My Colne Valley pets Charlie the Doberman and Fred the cat are also happy up there. Charlie has developed a taste for seaweed and Fred is enjoying his new stomping ground after an eleven hour train trip from Colchester.

So, I am leaving Colne Valley for good this time with mixed emotions: I am very excited about our future in the Highlands and what life ahead holds for both of us, but I am leaving behind many good friends. However – it is only a short flight away...