

Colne Valley News – August 2019



Our 2019 Team Photo

We recently had our Staff Photo of 2019 taken. The photo depicts some of the members of our wonderful team but it does not include every member of staff. With our total number reaching almost forty, it can be difficult to get everybody in the one place at the same time. This year, we opted to have the photo taken in front of the road side of the building so that we could include our logo. This did mean that the photographer had to put himself at a small risk by standing in the road to take the photo (to the amusement of various onlookers). We are pretty pleased with the results and very proud of our amazing team and so it seems appropriate to give it pride of place on this month's newsletter.

Hot cars

This is the annual plea to avoid leaving your dog in the car for any period of time in warm or hot weather. It is possible for dogs to overheat whilst travelling in a moving car, because there is not necessarily efficient dispersal of cool air to all areas of the car, coupled with the heating effect of other occupants in the car. Once stationary and parked with the engine no longer running, the interior will heat up very quickly, even with windows left open a crack.

Another hazard

We have recently seen several cases of mycotoxin poisoning. This has invariably followed scavenging, when a dog has gained access to the mouldy contents of a kitchen waste caddy or found other 'fluffy' old food, such as that found under a bird table, mouldy windfall fruit and nuts under trees, or whilst out on a walk. This means that you may not have even

seen your dog eating the mouldy food. You may simply find your dog showing signs such as: vomiting, unsteady when moving about, trembling, stiffness, overactive behaviour, panting, breathing rapidly, flicking eye movements and dilated pupils, leading on to overheating, dehydration and exhaustion. In more advanced cases there may be convulsions and coma.

Clearly, it is vital to seek veterinary intervention at an early point. Intensive treatment is needed with a good outcome if signs are mild but clearly the prognosis for those showing more serious signs is less good.

As ever, prevention is best and it is wise to ensure that your food waste bin is securely closed and if possible, inaccessible to your dog.

Fleas

Please come and ask us about flea control. There is a wide range of effective products, often also controlling other parasites such as ticks and various worms. A classic time to experience a flea infestation is on returning from a holiday - we have had clients describe walking in the front door and seeing fleas jumping out of the carpets onto their legs.

Leptospirosis vaccination

As a practice, we routinely vaccinate dogs against two types of the causal agent of leptospirosis or rat jaundice (Weil's disease). There are other strains of *Leptospira* causing disease abroad and there is a vaccine available against two of them plus the two in the standard vaccine. We would therefore recommend considering vaccination with this L4 vaccine for those dogs travelling to spend a significant amount of time abroad. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this - a course of two vaccinations exactly four weeks apart is needed to initiate protection with onset of immunity three weeks later.

