

Colne Valley News

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**your friends
are
our concern**

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Bird watching: Spotted in the editor's garden one snowy afternoon in February

(‘Meet the staff pet’ has moved over the page for this issue)

Spring Advice

Spring is in the air! Having actually seen some snow this winter, although not as much as the children would have liked, it is time to move on to the next season. A year since the first ‘Colne Valley News’ but there is some advice which needs to be repeated:

Flea control

Although winter is traditionally thought to be a quiet time, flea control can be needed all-year-round, especially in cats, and should certainly be re-started around now as the temperature starts to rise. [Found my first flea dirt of 2009 in

an itchy dog's fur today – Ed]

Myxi vaccination

We recommend vaccination of rabbits every six months against myxomatosis, a very distressing illness. If you have your rabbit vaccinated on an annual basis, then this is a good time of year to boost his/her defences. The virus is transmitted by biting insects, so not just fleas but also mosquitoes can transfer the infection to rabbits. This is why myxi can occur in pet rabbits living in the middle of a town, without close contact with wild rabbit populations.

Calling all young cats!

Please do not forget to have your male and female kittens neutered, any time from four months onwards.

The increasing daylength is an important trigger for a female to start calling for a mate, which may include rolling around on the ground as if in pain and walking with her hindquarters dropped. Indeed, it is

not unusual for owners to seek veterinary advice, only to be reassured that their queen is perfectly healthy and showing normal behaviour.

It is also worth remembering that she will call very shortly after being delivered of a litter of kittens, so that there can be another litter in less than three months!

Staff pet – Senior Special



*Tilly, who will be celebrating her sixteenth birthday later this year.
A favorite family phrase or slogan can go here.*

Tilly was born in October 1993 and belongs to Jane, one of our receptionists. She came from the Garrison hunt kennels, and Jane says that Tilly was so naughty as a puppy that on several occasions she was nearly sent back!

[I do remember seeing her for her puppy vaccination course when we were at

Military Road all those years ago – real character even then! - Ed]

She enjoyed very good health until five years ago when she had pancreatitis but is doing well on long-term medication. She still enjoys a run on the beach, chasing the seagulls. In her youth, she was known to jump onto kitchen work-tops to steal food!

Long service

Have you ever remarked on there being a familiar face behind reception whenever you come into the practice? Or that the nurse bringing out your pet after a stay with us is someone you have seen before?

This is because several of our receptionists have been

with the practice for more than ten years, as well as some of the veterinary nurses.

As for twenty years' service, that mark has already been passed by two of the vets and the accounts manager, with another vet fast approaching the line!

Nutrition for health

When you are next in the waiting room, look out for the new range of life-stage foods from Royal Canin. Like the Hill's Science Diets, which we will continue to stock, the Vet Care Nutrition range has been formulated to meet the varying needs of the healthy dog and cat as they develop and mature.

It is being increasingly recognised in the field of

human health that what we eat has an important role to play, and the same applies to our pets. There is also the added difference neutering makes to the amount of energy needed to maintain good body condition, even when neutered as a puppy or kitten and still growing.

It is definitely easier to actively prevent weight gain than having to work at weight loss!



*What is unusual here?
Answer next issue.*