



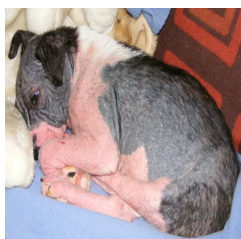
# Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

## Client's Stories – "Daisy"

Earlswood Staff

Hello, my name is Daisy, I'm now coming 2 years old and I want to tell you my amazing story.



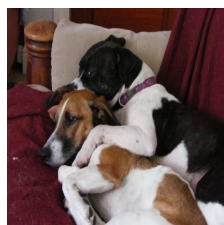
I didn't have a very good start in life; as a puppy I was

starved and abandoned very early on and was left outside to fend for myself. I had mange which made my hair fall out and my skin all sore. I became so weak that one night I finally crawled into a doorway and lay down. It was there that someone found me and took me to the

Veterinary Hospital. Everyone thought at the time that there was no hope for me but they decided to make me comfortable, put me on a drip, wrapped me up in warm bedclothes and let me sleep. After a couple of days I managed to eat a little but my tummy had shrunk so much I wasn't able to eat properly. Eventually I started to gain weight and even managed to stand up with help. When I was able to stand on my own I went home with



one of the nurses for a couple of days, just when we thought all was well I caught another virus, called parvo, it made me really, really sick. Once again everyone thought that I wasn't going to pull through but I got another chance to prove them wrong. Once I was a little better, I went to live with my new mum, it's great. I get to play with my two sisters and wee brother. I get lots of treats and I can do whatever I want cause it's my very own home.



I can go to the park now and everybody is so nice to me, I just love being alive. I want to thank everyone at Earlswood for giving me a chance and helping me to get better, but most of all I want to say thank you to my new mum who just loves me lots. Please don't walk on past a wee one if it needs help, it could have been me.

Daisy xo

## The Credit Crunch and your Pet



There was an interesting set of statistics generated by a company working on behalf of a Dental Insurance firm. They said, "when and if the going gets tough financially, of all the medical orientated covers, most people would give up their dental cover followed by their medical insurance".

The least likely insurance that would be dropped is their Pet Insurance. I would wonder if that is because the National Health Service would pick up the slack of the other human insurances, but in the world of pets there is no NHS.

There are many choices as far as Pet Insurance is concerned and although it is another expense amongst many, you have to ask whether you can afford not to insure your pet because as sure as eggs are eggs a major problem will occur and it would be a pity if the insurance was not in place to pay for it.

We get great pleasure in seeing the relief on people's faces when they realise the procedure will be covered. We as vets have a lot of experience as far as Pet Insurance is concerned and certain truths have become obvious and we know those companies that provide a great service and try hard, and those who do not. By asking the right questions the complicated business of deciding what company to go for can be clarified.

Often the devil is in the detail and of course this is the 'Small Print'. Some questions to ask are, 'will my pet be insured against long term problems?' 'Will my pet have blanket exclusion as soon as a claim has been settled for this area of the body?'

'What is the total amount my pet is covered for and is this a total for everything I might claim in an unlucky year or separated into individual problems and therefore much more valuable.'

'Is my pet covered for life?' Important if your pet has diabetes or a heart condition

Ian Millar BVMS, CertVOphthal, MRCVS

that warrants a life on medication. We also see some very inexpensive premiums, which is fine, because cover will be low as well and the majority of claims tend to be below £1500. But if a more specialised, expensive procedure is required you can find yourself underinsured and having to pay a substantial difference.

There is always an excess to pay, (that initial amount no insurance company picks up). Most pets over 10 years also get a percentage of the remainder deducted from the final settlement and the amount or percentage is also worth watching.

So, talk to an insurance broker or your local Veterinary Practice to clarify any questions. The bottom line is; do get your pet insured with some company and if possible get insurance with the best.



## Bark-a-bye Baby Introducing baby to the family pet

D. J. Thompson OBE, BA, MVB, MRCVS

**Introduction** There is no doubt that properly controlled and properly looked after animals are of tremendous value to any animal loving family. There are several criteria

which must be satisfied to ensure that the first sentence applies for you and these criteria are different for cats and dogs. This article deals primarily with dogs and their relationship to children in the household. The family must be fond of dogs and the children must be taught to respect them. It is essential that all the circumstances are taken into account. Is there room for a dog? Is there someone around most of the day to look after it and supply the necessary company and exercise?

**Introducing a new baby** There are obviously many occasions when a young couple already own a dog

before they start a family. In these circumstances it is common for the pet to have been the whole centre of attention in the household and in many cases has been treated as their child if not as a member of the family. It is not unusual in these circumstances for a significant chance of jealousy to occur in the dogs mind when a baby suddenly appears and becomes the centre of attention. It is wrong to suggest that the dog should be considered to be on the same level as the new baby because in all cases humans must take precedence over animals.

**Training of dogs** I will assume that the dog has been properly trained in the first place and is friendly with people and children. Even if the animal has never shown any signs of being cross or aggressive it is never sensible to leave a dog alone with young children. With the best will in the world young children and dogs can be unpredictable and it can happen that the child will hurt the animal and it may react badly

because of pain. This is obviously more likely to occur if the dog has not been used to being around children.

**Conditioning the dog** A dog which has been the exclusive centre of attention is potentially more likely to be jealous of the new born arrival than one which used to sharing with children. The best course of action is to create a situation where the dog receives less attention than it was receiving before the new baby appeared. By the time the baby is born the pet should be receiving significantly less attention. This part of the exercise is relatively easy. It is the next step which is more difficult to achieve.

Having reduced the attention before baby's arrival and then increasing it after baby is born the dog does not feel neglected and associates the new arrival with pleasure. More exercise and walks are also added bonuses for the dog at this critical time. It is also essential to ensure that the dog is not ex-

cluded from the house or even the room when the baby is being fed or having its nappy changed. By carrying out these simple procedures the dog automatically associates this extra attention with the baby and so any thoughts of jealousy are very much less likely.

Common sense hygiene is also essential in these circumstances. Worming of the dog at least every 3 months is good practice. In spite of taking all these appropriate steps I cannot stress too emphatically that regardless of the pet's temperament a dog should never be left alone with either a new baby or any young child. Although there is this slight worry with jealousy this can be eliminated by careful management and a pet in an animal loving household with small children is of enormous benefit and fulfilment to the whole family.



## Cataract Surgery

In many ways cataracts in dogs are very similar to those in humans and removed with the same type of equipment.

Firstly, cataracts are those 'crystal' looking changes that occur in the lens which is quite large in dogs. The lens sits behind the iris, the coloured part of the eye and is normally so clear you cannot see it. It is

clear because it is slightly dehydrated compared to the fluids it floats in. So you can imagine if water is allowed into the lens it

changes in appearance to a white /grey colour which the dog cannot see through. When a light shines into the eye the pupil (the black circle in the centre of the iris) will get smaller and this is one of the tests to see if cataract surgery will help the



This grey crystalline appearance is the cataract in the lens

cataract patient. Other tests are done to check the reaction of the retina and to scan the inside of the eye. Cataract removals tend to be very successful. It is done through a tiny cut in the clear part of the eye and by inserting a probe that breaks down the cataract and gently sucks it out. A big part of the eye which aids the dog focus is removed, so if possible a plastic lens can be inserted to help get back some of that lost focus. The lens tends to be harder in dogs but just as in humans the cataract is inside a clear capsule bag and we are removing the cataract from this bag and this is ideal to slip a new lens into.

Also we need to treat the eye with drops postoperatively six times a day for up to six months. In humans four times daily is enough and often only for four weeks. We would normally see the patient and prescribe drops to be used for ten days before surgery. Then they come in on the day of the operation and hopefully go home the next day, with an Elizabethan collar on

Ian Millar BVMS, CertVOphthal, MRCVS

since we cannot rely on a dog not to scratch the eye.

Hopefully the owner has insured the dog, as cataract removal is one of the more expensive operations performed. However, it is very pleasing to see a dog chase birds or play with a ball again. Finally, if your dog is getting old and you notice a blue sheen to the lens starting to form, this can be a result of the lens hardening, however they can see as well as ever. Many people mistake this for a cataract. Before you start to worry, call the vet to let them examine the eye. That's why we are here!!



## Meet our Staff



**Alison Hoy BA CVPM** seen here with her pet Pebbles, qualified as a registered nurse with the NHS in 1981, before moving into Business Administration and IT in 1987. She successfully completed her BA Business Studies at UJJ and Diploma in Corporate Direction, before managing her own IT company

in 1997. Alison is also a qualified IT and Microsoft Expert Instructor, having trained software packages to local companies. When the position of Practice Manager became available at Earlswood in December 2006, Alison was particularly interested, having loved and owned a pet all her life. It was also a role which appeared to pull together all the previous experience

### Nurse Clinics

For Free Veterinary Nutrition Advice visit our Registered Nurse Clinics and take time to discuss a programme that best suits you

and qualifications already in place. Alison has since completed the Veterinary Practice Management Association's Certificate. This was achieved in December 2008 along with two other Practice Manager's representing Northern Ireland, David Mulligan and Jennifer Crawford-Allen.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.