

## Can you judge a cat by it's colour?

In a study published in the Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, experts used an online survey to test a common assumption that tortoiseshell cats are more fiery tempered than other coloured cats. The survey used results from 1,274 cat owners. They responded to a questionnaire which asked them to list the frequency and degree of their cat's aggressive behaviour during everyday interactions, when handled and when taken to the vets. The answers gave each cat a rating on an aggression scale. The scientists felt that the results confirmed that tortoiseshells along with black and white and grey and white cats were more frequently aggressive. The study also found that black and white cats were particularly aggressive when handled; grey and white cats had a 'hissy fit' when they visited a vet, and the torties were recorded as more stropky in everyday interactions with humans.



### Cat owners, does this ring true in your opinion?

We would love to hear your personal experiences. Can you judge a cat by it's colour? Email your comments to [news@eastcottvets.co.uk](mailto:news@eastcottvets.co.uk) and we will report back in our next newsletter!

## Countdown to Compulsory Microchipping for Dogs

**From April 2016, every dog in England and Scotland will have to be microchipped by law (became law in Wales in March 2015 & April 2012 in Northern Ireland).**

### What you need to know:

- From 6th April 2016 all dogs and puppies over 8 weeks of age will be required to have a microchip.
- You will have to register the details of any new owner **before** you sell or give away any dog or puppy over 8 weeks of age.
- From that date you will need to have your dog microchipped and registered on one of the authorised commercial databases.
- You will need to keep your contact details **up to date** on the microchip databases, so you must notify them of any change of address or phone number.
- After 6th April 2016, owners of dogs found by the police or local authorities not to have a microchip will face a fine of up to £500.
- After 6th April 2016, it will be an offence not to have your dog or puppy's microchip details up to date. Failure to do so could result in a fine of £500.

This new legislation applies to dogs only, however the advantage of having your pet microchipped is that it makes it very easy to reunite you with your pet should it be lost or stolen. A quick scan is all that is needed to match a pet with their owner on the database. We strongly recommend that cats are microchipped and other pets such as tortoisies can be microchipped too! If you would like to know more about having your pet microchipped, please contact the surgery on 01793 528341.

## Lydiard Bark Charity Dog Show - Save the Date

This year's Lydiard Bark Charity Dog Show will be held on Sunday 11th September 2016. The show, held in the grounds of Lydiard Park, is a great way to show off your dogs, meet other dog owners and raise money for charity. Owners don't need to have any special handling skills and dogs are welcome of all shapes and sizes, it is all for fun! More information to follow.



## Recommend a Friend Prize Draw

Congratulations to Mrs Cox who has won £100 worth of Eastcott vouchers in this quarter's draw to spend on Mable her French Bulldog puppy. To read more about the Recommend a Friend scheme, please visit our website or pick up a form from one of our waiting rooms.

# Alabama Rot

Alabama rot has been very prominent in the press recently and is, quite rightly, a concern for dog owners in the Swindon area due to a number of local cases. It is important that there is perspective on this condition. The frequency of this disease is currently very low nationally and locally. Our animals need exercise and stimulation and it is not appropriate to stop walking your dog.

**Paul Higgs** MA VetMB CertSAM DipECVIM-CA MRCVS, European Veterinary Specialist in Small Animal Internal Medicine – our Head of Internal Medicine has written an information sheet on Alabama Rot for worried dog owners. It can be found on our website, on the news page and in our Resource Centre. It covers many of the questions that you may have, including:

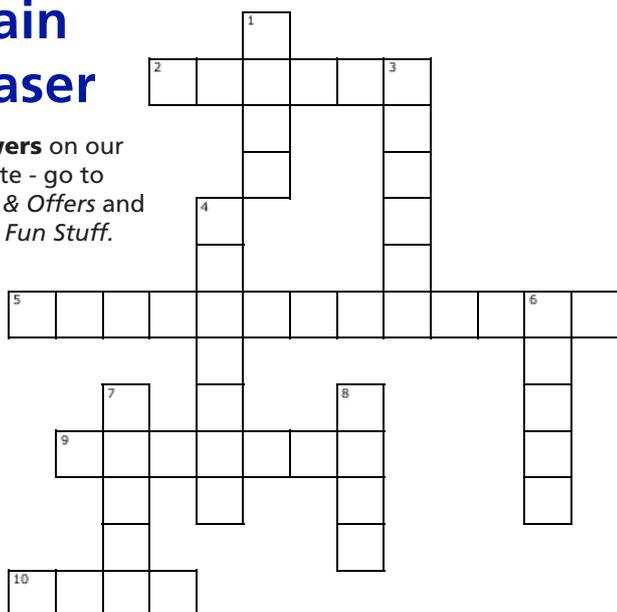
- What is Alabama Rot?
- What causes Alabama Rot?
- What are the symptoms?
- How is the disease confirmed?
- What is the treatment?
- Is my dog going to die if it develops a skin lesion?
- What should I do if my dog develops a skin lesion?
- How do I avoid my dog getting Alabama Rot?

If you are in any doubt about a lesion or your dog's health, please contact us to discuss your concerns. However, we will always advise that you bring your dog in for an assessment.

If you do not have access to the internet, we do have this information printed in our waiting rooms if you would like to pick up a copy.

## Brain Teaser

**Answers** on our website - go to *News & Offers* and select *Fun Stuff*.



### Across

2. Fruit in your fruit bowl that is poisonous to dogs
5. Colour of cat accused of being 'fiery' tempered
9. Breed of dog with no bark
10. A breed of dog that frequently has a blue/black tongue

### Down

1. A breed of cat that has no tail
3. Something that you should not throw for your dog
4. Term for a group of cats
6. Name of first dog in space
7. A highly contagious canine virus
8. Flower in your bouquet that is poisonous to cats

# 2015 Charity Updates

We fundraised and promoted 2 very worthy charities during 2015. With your help we supported Swindon Cats Protection and Mission Rabies. In addition, a percentage of the profits from the Lydiard Bark Charity Dog Show were split between Mission Rabies and our old friends, Swindon Guide Dogs. As well as making cash donations we purchased 2 cat traps and a special cat handling basket for Swindon Cats Protection to help them with their work. We very much hope that we have raised awareness of the work of both of these charities and that people will continue to follow and support them.

## Our Chosen Charity for 2016



Registered Charity No: 1115926

This year our chosen charity is Oak and Furrows Wildlife Rescue Centre. Annually the centre takes in over 3,000 wildlife casualties and receives between 6 and 7,000 telephone calls for help and advice. All of this is achieved by a dedicated team of people comprising of staff, volunteers, friends

and supporters. Fans of Countryfile may have seen them feature on a recent episode.



We visited Oak and Furrows to see how we could help them and were overwhelmed by the number of animals that they help on a very tight budget. We will be bringing you regular updates from the centre and also news on how you can help us raise funds. In the meantime you could consider becoming a 'Friend of Oak & Furrows' for a donation of £10 or more (preferably more!), or you could donate something off their Amazon wish list.

More details can be found at [www.oandf.co.uk](http://www.oandf.co.uk)

### Edison Park Clinic & Hospital

Edison Park, Dorcan Way, Swindon SN3 3FR  
For Sat Nav use SN3 3RB  
Mon to Fri 7am - 8pm Sat & Sun 8.30am - 8pm

### Bath Road Clinic

59 Bath Road, Old Town, Swindon SN1 4AU  
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 7pm Sat 9am - 12pm

### Cricklade Road Clinic

6 Clive Parade, Cricklade Road, Swindon SN2 1AJ  
Weekdays 8.30am - 10am and 4pm - 7pm