

# THE HALE VETERINARY GROUP

VETERINARY HOSPITAL, 19 LANGLEY ROAD, CHIPPENHAM

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## NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 2007

### Extended opening hours

**Melksham Branch-** New extended hours Tues/Thurs

|              |   |                     |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Mon          | - | 9am - 6pm           |
| <b>Tues</b>  | - | <b>9am - 7.30pm</b> |
| Wed          | - | 9am - 6pm           |
| <b>Thurs</b> | - | <b>9am - 7.30pm</b> |
| Fri          | - | 9am - 6pm           |
| Sat          | - | 2.30pm - 4pm        |

For client convenience our Melksham branch will be open later every Tuesday and Thursday. Please telephone for an appointment.

And dont forget our Chippenham Hospital is open until 8pm Mon-Fri, Sat 9-12pm and 2.30-4pm and Sun 10-1pm !

### New Head Nurse



Kirstie Shield DipAVN (Surg) VN

Lucy Hayne left in November after 11yrs hard work for the practice and we wish her every success in her new job. This left a rare opportunity for a new head nurse. We have since had great pleasure in welcoming back Kirstie Shield. Kirstie left in 2004 to achieve her surgical nursing diploma at a specialist referral practice. She is now looking forward to leading our nursing team. She will bring a new dynamic to the already high nursing standards we are proud of at the Hale Veterinary Group.

## **Staff Matters**

The key to the success of any practice is the staff and one of the most important members of the support team is the receptionist. It is with sadness that we celebrate the retirement of Linda Baldwin. Linda has been a joy to work with and has been a familiar face to the clients during her 14yrs as receptionist at Chippenham. We would like to wish her all the best for the future. We have been fortunate that Sally Reid has been able to increase her hours to cover Linda's absence.

## **Maternity Leave**

Veterinary Surgeon Lucy Hayes has now left on her maternity leave. Lucy will be missed by many of our Melksham clients and we look forward to welcoming her back at some point. Everybody at the practice wishes her well for all the hard work ahead !

Maxine McFadzean has returned to nursing duties on a part-time basis after her maternity leave last year. Maxine will be working at the Chippenham hospital and Laura Harrison-Allan has replaced Maxine in her previous role as veterinary nurse as our Corsham branch.

## **Case of the Month – February**

OBESITY is becoming one of the biggest health problems seen in veterinary practice. A pet is classified as obese if it is greater than 20% above its optimum bodyweight. It can lead to all sorts of problems and will reduce a pet's life expectancy. Extensive surveys suggest that 25% of all dogs and cats presented at veterinary surgeries are considered overweight or obese.



**Before**



**After**

We chose George as our 'Case of the Month' for February and would like to congratulate his owners on helping him achieve a successful diet and extending his life expectancy as a result.

George, a 10yr old Retriever, weighed 47kg and over a six-month period lost 10.5kg. At 36kg he looks (and his owners say feels) like a new dog. Not only did the diet result in a fitter, more energetic dog but his coat and skin condition improved too. His owners are overjoyed with George's new lease of life. His controlled diet was calculated and organised by one of our qualified nurses. It is with this professional guidance, and the owner's dedication to the diet plan, that George has done so well. Your pets weight and diet can be discussed at any routine health check with a vet or nurse. Please ask at any of our branches for an appointment.