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Veterinary Newsletter – Spring 2019

Puppy Socialisation & Swim...

We have just introduced a new class for puppy socialisation. Not only is this a great opportunity for puppies to socialise under the supervision of one of our hydrotherapists but it also allows the puppies to have a safe introduction to water. So many of the dogs we see have never been in the water and their first experience is when carrying an injury or suffering with arthritis. So, wouldn't it be great if from young age they already had the confidence in water, making any potential future hydrotherapy far less daunting.

We are also taking this as an opportunity to educate owners about the hidden dangers of letting their dogs play in and around water, including secondary drowning, water intoxication and blue-green algae. We'll also be talking about the risk of bloat and gastric torsion when exercising dogs too close to feeding and the importance of not over exercising puppies.

The class is limited to four puppies, each having a 10-15minute 1-2-1 swim in our hydrotherapy pool. We are offering clients the chance to book individual sessions at £30 each or block book four for £100. Our first four dates are now fully booked but we are about to release four more dates on 19th May, 2nd June, 16th June and 7th July. All puppies will require signed veterinary consent form.



A recent special case...

Flea – 1yr old cross breed from Mauritius

Flea started hydrotherapy with us back in December. He was thought to be 5-7months old and has just been brought over from Mauritius. Someone had attacked Flea's right hind with a machete and left him for dead. When found he had so much infection in his body that he couldn't undergo surgery for 10days until it had cleared. Vets in Mauritius stitched Flea's wound together but due to the lack of skin it has left him very tight. With muscle and ligament damage along with the tight skin and scar tissue Flea was struggling to weight bear on the limb which also had very poor mobility. After just a couple of weekly hydrotherapy sessions we were already beginning to see an improvement in Flea's use of the limb. Now ten sessions in he is walking and running on the limb and developing good muscle tone. We don't know what the future is going to hold for Flea's damaged limb but for now he's doing well and is going to be keeping up his hydrotherapy for as long as necessary.



Did you know...

Treatment at our centre starts the minute the patient enters the door. From getting the patient prepared for the pool to rinsing and drying afterwards, these stages all contribute to the rehabilitation of the dog.

Showering techniques can be used prior to the pool to stimulate muscles and provide proprioception then afterwards to massage and warm the muscles back down.

The ramp can be used to movement shape the patient into a balanced stand whilst correcting gait.

There's so much more to hydrotherapy than swimming alone.