

Veterinary Ireland

JOURNAL



ISSN 2009-3942

JULY 2019 VOLUME 9 NUMBER 7



COMPANION ANIMAL FOCUS

Congenital portosystemic shunts - part 2

Ocular thelaziosis in a travelled dog - case study

RESEARCH

Tick-borne diseases in Ireland

LARGE ANIMAL

Addressing the drop in milk solids during early lactation at grass

Convictions for hedgerow destruction

Two men were found guilty of hedgerow destruction during nesting season and convicted under the Wildlife Acts in a recent case brought by the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS). Both men were convicted of the wilful destruction of birds' nests and the destruction of vegetation growing in a hedge at Carlow District Court in May 2019. The Wildlife Acts restrict the destruction of hedges and the destruction of vegetation on uncultivated land from March 1 to August 31. The offences, which include the destruction of one mile of hedgerow took place between May 22-27, 2017. The men argued that they were unaware that birds were nesting in the hedgerow, which they said they removed in the 'ordinary course of agriculture.' However, Judge Colin Daly disagreed saying that the evidence showed that the destruction of vegetation was very significant and outside of the ordinary course of agriculture due to how it was carried out. Both men were charged on two counts each, with one instructed to pay €750 and the other, €500.

Not a healthy bunny?

A survey carried out recently by the British Veterinary Association (BVA) highlighted concerns that many owners were not ticking all the boxes for keeping their rabbits happy and healthy. In the UK, it is estimated that rabbits are the third most popular pet, but their needs are 'grossly misunderstood' according to the BVA.

Providing a suitable diet topped the list of concerns reported by 78 per cent of respondents who believe that rabbits' welfare needs are not being met. Seventy-six per cent reported that rabbits were being housed alone or with other species, and 72 per cent were concerned that the rabbits were being cared for in an inappropriate environment.

As highly sociable animals, vets and animal experts recommend that rabbits are housed with a suitable companion rabbit, the ideal being a neutered rabbit of the opposite sex. Although it is generally recognised that a solitary life has a negative impact on the physical health and mental wellbeing of pet rabbits, the survey also revealed that 43 per cent of vets saw rabbits that were housed alone.

To help better the lives of pet rabbits in the UK, vets and animal welfare charities joined forces recently to support Rabbit Awareness Week, an annual campaign looking at key rabbit health or welfare issues to help the public and professional community better understand their needs.



This year, the awareness week focused on the importance of vaccinations after a recent outbreak of a highly infectious and deadly rabbit virus strain, Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease Type 2 (RVHD2). The disease, which can kill within one or two days, is transferred via direct contact with other infected rabbits or urine and faeces. The virus can survive for months and can even be introduced on the soles of shoes, meaning that house rabbits do not escape a potential risk. The best way to protect against the virus is vaccination. In a 2018 report, the PDSA (the UK's leading vet charity) reported that preventive healthcare in rabbits was a hugely neglected area. Vets are urging all rabbit owners and those thinking of getting rabbits to register them with a vet and have them vaccinated.

Tailored Employment Documentation for Veterinary Practice

SERVICE FOR SMALL TO MEDIUM VETERINARY BUSINESSES

- CONTRACTS
- POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
- WORKPLACE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Best practice human resources compliant with current employment law for your veterinary practice.

Employment Contracts. Current legislation requires that an employer issues basic terms of employment to a new employee within 5 days of commencement of work, and that a written statement of terms be issued within 7 months. Lisa Geraghty Consultancy provides individually tailored and customized contracts for all employees.

Employment Policies and Procedures. Under current employment law disciplinary, grievance, bullying and harassment procedures must be issued to employees in the first 28 days of employment. Many other useful policies in veterinary practice can be tailored to your business. These include policies on use of practice property, email and internet use, practice vehicle use, confidentiality agreements, health and safety policies, probation procedures and data protection.

Workplace Dispute Resolution. Workplace disputes are inevitable. Resolution can often be achieved without the cost of litigation by engaging with the process of mediation. Lisa Geraghty Consultancy provides workplace mediation with a qualified civil and commercial mediator with first hand experience of veterinary practice.

Package includes initial consultation, customized employment contracts, suite of procedures and policies and briefing session with practice principal on implementation of policies and procedures. Mediation fees negotiated separately.

Lisa Geraghty Consultancy

Dr Lisa Geraghty
MSc, MEd, BA (Hons)
Law, BA

White, Co. Westmeath
Phone: 087 234688
Email: lgeraghty@rediris.com

LGC

Convictions for hedgerow destruction

Two men were found guilty of hedgerow destruction during nesting season and convicted under the Wildlife Acts in a recent case brought by the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS). Both men were convicted of the wilful destruction of birds' nests and the destruction of vegetation growing in a hedge at Carlow District Court in May 2019. The Wildlife Acts restrict the destruction of hedges and the destruction of vegetation on uncultivated land from March 1 to August 31. The offences, which include the destruction of one mile of hedgerow took place between May 22-27, 2017. The men argued that they were unaware that birds were nesting in the hedgerow, which they said they removed in the 'ordinary course of agriculture'. However, Judge Colin Daly disagreed saying that the evidence showed that the destruction of vegetation was very significant and outside of the ordinary course of agriculture due to how it was carried out. Both men were charged on two counts each, with one instructed to pay €750 and the other, €500.