



# April 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dates for your diary  
*Rabbit Awareness Week*  
18<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Client evening  
& clinics.

*Westover Dog Show*  
August 14<sup>th</sup> 2016

## Babesiosis

Dog owners in the UK are being warned about an outbreak of an animal disease that is carried by ticks.

It is the first time that experts have established an outbreak of babesiosis in the country.

In Essex, two dogs have died and three others needed blood transfusions after contracting the disease. Experts say that it will be impossible to stop the spread of the disease, which is caused by a single-celled parasite.

The ticks carrying the *Babesia canis* parasite have been found in fields in Harlow, Essex. The local council has put up a sign with a map defining the area and advising dog walkers not to enter.

Two government agencies are now investigating the outbreak: the Animal and Plant Health Agency and Public Health England.

Clive Swainsbury is a vet at the Forest Veterinary Centre in Harlow. He has been treating some of infected dogs, including the one that died.

"The parasite enters the bloodstream, enters the cells, and in the process of trying to kill the parasite the dog will actually destroy its own blood cells. So they become very anaemic."



The expectation is that it will spread throughout the country.

"At present we have a very well defined area. The problem in the future is that every female tick will lay a couple of thousand eggs and all those offspring from that disease will also carry the disease.

"As mammals move around they will start spreading the disease. Although you can advise dog walkers not to go there, it's possible that foxes and other animals will transport these ticks."

The symptoms of babesiosis within dogs include weakness, lethargy, pale gums, red urine and fever. A serious problem is that Babesia can be mistaken for other less dangerous diseases.

By Claire Marshall BBC Environment Correspondent

16-03-16

*For prevention see over page:-*

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Preventative tick control treatments can be in the form of 'spot on', tablets and collars. All of these are available from us. Our recommendation is either to use a Seresto collar which repels the ticks or the Bravecto tablet as this kills the ticks within 12 hours and the transmission time for the disease is 24 - 48 hours.

However, if you see a tick on your pet carefully remove it with a tick remover (which we can supply), or phone and book a free nurse clinic, and one of our skilled nurses will remove it for you.



## Hedgehog Awareness Week 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May



Hedgehog Awareness Week runs from 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and hedgehoggy events are being organised all around the country already!

Hedgehog Awareness Week is organised by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and takes place every year. It aims to highlight the problems hedgehogs face and how you can help them.

This year efforts are focussed on trimmers and cutting machines – every year we hear of many terrible injuries and deaths caused by garden machinery. BHPS is asking people to check areas carefully before using any machinery. They have produced a sticker to be placed onto machines and are asking councils and tool hire companies to get in touch and request the free stickers for their machines.

## Treat your pet to our Westover Health Care Plan And give yourself peace of mind for 2016.



Tick treatments are included in our plan.

### Westover Waffle



Welcome Linda Darby “animal nursing auxiliary/assistant receptionist” to the Westover Family. Linda will be working part-time, both behind the scenes and front of house in her dual role. Linda owns two labradors Cranberry and Tess who keep her busy with lovely long walks, but are not so keen to visit Linda at work!

