

Vets Viewpoint – Antibiotics:

What is resistance and how YOU can help!

Sometimes when you come to the vets, we'll send you away with antibiotics for your pet. Antibiotics are medications which either kill bacteria or stop them from multiplying; they don't have any effect on viruses. When prescribing antibiotics we think very carefully about which will be the most appropriate for your pet including what form to give them in – tablets, injections, liquids or topical medications such as ear or eye drops and creams. Not all health problems will require treatment with antibiotics, and we use lots of different pieces of information to decide whether or not to use them. We gain these from talking to yourselves and examining your pet.

One of the big worries at the moment is antibiotic resistance. This is when bacteria change so that certain antibiotics are no longer effective. An example of this in human medicine is MRSA. Antibiotics are divided into classes of drug which work in similar ways and occasionally bacteria can become resistant to several or even all types of antibiotics. This is why we may sometimes suggest a culture and sensitivity test so find out exactly which bacteria is causing the problem and what is the most appropriate antibiotic.

We want to make sure that antibiotics remain effective – and that we continue to be allowed to give them to your animals when needed - so here are some things that you can do to help.

- Make sure that you give the correct dose at the correct time as directed by your vet. This helps to make sure that the antibiotic levels in the body stay at a high enough level for a long enough period to kill the bacteria, or stop them growing so that the immune system can fight off the infection.
- Always give all of the tablets that you are prescribed for your pet **EVEN** if they seem completely better before the tablets finish. When dispensing antibiotics we will consider how long

an antibiotic course is needed.

- Come back for rechecks as recommended by your vet. On some occasions we may need to extend the antibiotic course as stopping the antibiotics before the infection has completely gone can lead to resistance.

Please help us to use antibiotics responsibly so we can continue to provide the best care for your pets!

PDSA PetAid

We are a registered PDSA PetAid practice. PDSA – People's Dispensary for Sick Animals – is a national charity helping those in financial need to care for their pet's health. If you are in receipt of housing benefit or council tax benefit, you may be eligible for help towards the cost of treatment for your pet. These are the only benefits that are accepted and you can only nominate one pet per household.

A small annual registration fee applies. If you think PDSA may be able to help you please ask at reception for more information or to pick up a registration form.

Here are 5 facts about PDSA:

*PDSA is the UK's leading veterinary charity and has been treating the sick and injured animals of pet owners in need since 1917.

*PDSA funds the treatment of pets in need of vets through a network of PetAid hospitals, PetAid branches and more than 1,800 local private practices.

*PDSA PetAid services provide more than 1.2 million free treatments every year.

*This year PDSA PetAid services will cost more than £37 million, which means we need to fundraise over £3 million every month.

*PDSA PetAid services rely entirely on public support, mainly donations and gifts in wills.

Our book sale will be raising funds towards PDSA treatment for our local pets throughout September and October. All books priced at £1 each

Nurses News – Bearded Dragons

Bearded dragons are reptiles. They have an expandable dewlap which is covered in spiky scales which they inflate during aggressive and mating displays, thus forming a beard-like appearance, hence the name. Both sexes have this beard however the males inflate it more frequently. The beard turns jet black during displays of aggressions and they also mouth gape to try to appear more intimidating.

Bearded dragons can measure 33-61cm long including the tail and the colouring of the species depends on the soil in the region they live.

Bearded dragons are also capable of waving one of their arms. They stand on three legs and wave one of their forelimbs in a slow circular motion. One reason for this strange behaviour is species recognition but can also be a sign of submission. A smaller Bearded dragon will wave their arm when confronted with a larger one, or a female will if faced by a large male that is head bobbing.

Head bobbing is another display of aggression or if displayed to a female it might suggest he wants to mate with her.

Bearded dragons are classed as opportunistic omnivores as they live in areas where food may be scarce, therefore then don't tend to be fussy eaters. 20% of their diet is made up of plant matter and they eat insects, spiders and even small rodents. In captivity they are generally fed salad and crickets a few times a week.

In the wild Bearded dragons are found in Australia, widely distributed throughout the eastern half of South Australia and south-eastern Northern Territory.



Book Sale

Our book sale is proving so popular with our clients, raising money for local animal charities, we have decided to keep it running all year round. We have raised £190 for our local Wildlife rescue, Wildthingz, over the last two months. Our next charity will be PDSA.

Glow in the Park Run!

A number of staff from Castle Vets will be taking part in the 'Glow in the Park' run on Saturday 17th October in aid of Cancer Research UK. The course consists of 5k /3 mile run through Boconnoc Estate - in the dark!

There are various aspects to the course which will see us running, walking, and dancing through the Foam Zone, the UV Paint Blast Zone and the Time Tunnel, to electrifying light shows and energising beats.

If you would like to show your support and sponsor us for this great cause, we have a sponsorship form at both farm and small animal reception. We will make sure there will be photographic evidence of us all at the finish line!

Fun Corner

How many words can you make from **castle veterinary group?**

Please send your answers by post to Vanessa Dennis at the practice or by email to vanessa.dennis@castleveterinarygroup.co.uk by the end of September. The person with the highest number of words (no plurals or abbreviations) will win a small prize.

Answers to our 'August' quiz:

What language were you speaking?

Augusti – Swedish

augusts – Latvian

Augustus – Dutch

augusztus – Hungarian

Awissu – Maltese

Awst – Welsh

elokuu – Finnish

gusht – Albanian

kolovoz – Croatian

srpen – Czech
