

MSPCA Annual General Meeting 7th November 2016

Veterinary Report

We at the Milan Veterinary Practice are pleased to continue to provide veterinary services to the Society. We are delighted that a further agreement for the next three years is in place. We look forward to continuing our solid relationships with the staff and animals at the MSPCA.

All cats and kittens are now routinely vaccinated against feline flu, enteritis and feline leukaemia virus (FeLV). Vaccination certificates go out with each individual animal. All the cats and kittens are microchipped which positively identifies them. Routine worming and flea treatments are applied to all cats and all inmates have a health check before leaving Ard Jerkyll. I feel that anyone getting a cat or kitten from the MSPCA are continuing to receive excellent value for their donation as the animal is fully vaccinated, microchipped and either neutered or discharged with a neutering voucher. We are routinely screening high-risk cats for the viral conditions of Feline Leukaemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunosuppression Virus (FIV). We are picking up positives occasionally but in a low percentage of cases. Testing for other viral conditions such as Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is done on a targeted basis where we suspect a cat had such a disease. Again the incidence of these conditions is low.

Cattery has been very busy as usual over the last year and the staff members have been under pressure to find space for all the inmates at the peak of the season. This is a perennial challenge every summer as more and more cats and kittens are in need of sanctuary. We continue to deal with respiratory disease as the primary problem, a situation that is inevitable in a rescue centre. We have had a considerable number of flu cases and we have lost some kittens particularly. However with good working practices and a lot of hard work and dedication from the staff we have kept these losses to a minimum and the cattery remained open all year.

The sick bay unit has been very busy and it is working well. This facility plays a significant role in curtailing the spread of respiratory disease in particular. The refurbishment of the isolation units has improved our disease control. The units look very smart and are designed to minimise disease transmission and are easily disinfected. This has been a very worthwhile project.

The kennels continue to be very busy and constantly under pressure to find space for all the dogs. Thankfully we have such excellent facilities for the dogs and we have excellent staff to run them. All dogs are routinely vaccinated against the usual diseases, Distemper, Parvo Virus, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis and Influenza. Microchipping, routine worming and flea treatments are applied and health checks are carried out on all dogs. All dogs are neutered before re-homing.

We did not have major issues with the dogs in the kennels during the past year beyond the routine problems such as enteric and respiratory diseases.

The biggest challenge facing the kennels is that of behavioural problems particularly in dogs of a strong build, whatever the breeding. The Society has in the past identified that there is a skills deficit relating to having an APBC recognised behaviourist regularly on hand to work with the difficult cases. This was rectified during the past year and we had Carrie Evans visit over the winter. She worked with the dogs and more importantly helped and advised the kennel staff on how to manage the dogs in question. One dog Hughie was assessed as being temperamentally unsound. Given the extended duration of its stay at Ard Jerkyll and the stress that it was experiencing by being kennelled the Dog Welfare Panel (DWP) decided that it was in his better interest to euthanase him. This was done in February. To keep a perspective on this very emotive issue, Hughie was the only dog in over 2 years to be put down on behavioural grounds so it represents a very small percentage of the dogs being looked after by the Society. Other dogs have been assessed as having behavioural problems but these have been managed successfully through a variety of mechanisms.

The constitution and terms of reference of the DWP has been extensively reviewed and discussed by the board of directors and we now have a clear policy in place. However given the number of large breed dogs that are coming into the sanctuary over recent years this challenge will increase in the future.

The Society continues to respond to cases of alleged cruelty to all species of animals. In most cases these are resolved satisfactorily without the need to go to court. We await the presentation of new legislation that will arise from the Tynwald Select Committee hearings that took place last year. Hopefully this will reinforce the Society's position in safe guarding animal welfare in the future on the island.

The Society continues to foster older dogs with medical conditions that require on-going treatment. This can be an expensive process but with careful monitoring it provides these older dogs with a happy home outside of Ard Jerkyll and frequently it actually leads to an extended life.

Between April 1st 2015 and March 31st 2016 the following procedures were carried out by my practice on behalf of the Society:

Cat Neuters	123	(104)
Cat Spays	122	(108)
Dog Neuters	19	(28)
Bitch Spays	16	(24)
Other Operations	24	(19)

Rabbit Spays	33	(19)
Rabbit Neuters	18	(24)
Ferret Spays	0	(0)
Ferret Castrates	0	(0)
Dentals	32	(22)

The figures in brackets relate to April 2014 – March 2015.

The figures show a small decrease in the throughput of surgical cases for dogs and a slight increase in the number of cat neuters. The number of rabbit operations has increased significantly which reflects the increased numbers through the Small Animal Unit.

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A veterinary surgeon attends Ard Jerkyl every week to examine the animals and carry out any treatments. Currently all the surgery is done at one of the Milan Practice clinics. We carry out blood sampling and minor procedures at Ard Jerkyl.

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Finally I would like to congratulate the MSPCA staff for their dedication and hard work in looking after the animals at Ard Jerkyl during the past year. We have an excellent team in place and I look forward to another good year.

Raymond A Cox. MVB, MRCVS.

November 2016.