

MSPCA Annual General Meeting 26th June 2017

Veterinary Report

We at the Milan Veterinary Practice are pleased to continue to provide veterinary services to the Society. We are in the middle of a three-year agreement and 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 had its busiest year and 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 had a significant issue with contagious diarrhoea in the cats over the winter. This was being caused by a number of different agents that were quite challenging to clear up. It required an overhaul of working practices and disease control. However with good working practices and a lot of hard work and dedication from the staff we eventually rid the cattery of the problem.

The sick bay unit has caused some concerns due to damp and ventilation issues. These are down to the construction of the unit and we are trying to overcome them. The unit plays a significant role in curtailing the spread of respiratory disease in particular and it has a vital role.

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 that we faced in the kennels during the past year related to dealing with long term kennelled dogs with profound behavioural problems. Our previous animal behaviourist Carrie Evans identified a number of dogs that had significant temperament issues. These dogs were put on a remedial training programme that was carried on by Dr

Sarah Heath. With hard work from the staff and volunteers all bar one of these cases improved markedly.

Ziggy a 6-year old Staffordshire Bull Terrier, had been in the centre on and off since 2013. He came to us as his owner could not cope with his behaviour any longer. Over the next 3 years various attempts were made to rehabilitate Ziggy and he was rehomed a number of times. However he returned on each occasion having bitten people / other dogs. Despite continued rehabilitation and careful handling Ziggy's behaviour did not improve. Following another incident in December 2016 the Dog Welfare Panel (DWP) met to assess Ziggy. It was Dr Heath's assessment that Ziggy was not suitable to rehome but by keeping him in the kennels his anxiety and stress was becoming worse. It was decided by the DWP that it was in his better interest to euthanase him. This was done in January. It caused a degree of reaction from the public that by and large was due to poor and mis-information from some quarters regarding the dog's handling. Regrettable as this situation was the correct decision was made in my opinion.

Another situation that brought the society unwanted attention was that in February an illegally imported Pit Bull Terrier type dog was kennelled at the request of DEFA. This 8 month-old un-chipped and un-neutered male dog had been sent unseen to a lady in Douglas by The Last Hope Animal Rescue based in Clacton-in-Sea, Essex. It is against the law on the Isle of Man to transport a Pit Bull Terrier or a Pit Bull Terrier Type to the island. This dog has been returned to the Last Hope Animal Rescue and the authorities in the UK are prosecuting the case as further UK regulations may have been broken.

The Society continues to respond to cases of alleged cruelty and currently there are two cases before the courts. The Society is being represented on the Animal Welfare Bill advisory committee that will make recommendations to Tynwald regarding new legislation.

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 2016 and March 31st 2017 the following procedures were carried out by my practice on behalf of the Society:

Cat Neuters	85	(123)
Cat Spays	104	(122)
Dog Neuters	15	(19)
Bitch Spays	16	(16)
Other Operations	41	(24)
Rabbit Spays	32	(33)

Rabbit Neuters	18	(18)
Ferret Spays	0	(0)
Ferret Castrates	0	(0)
Dentals	59	(32)

The figures in brackets relate to April 2015 – March 2016.

The figures show a decrease in the number of cats operated on whilst the procedures on other species are constant.

A veterinary surgeon attends Ard Jerkyll 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 Jerkyll.

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

Raymond A Cox. MVB, MRCVS.

June 2017