

## **MSPCA Annual General Meeting 9th July 2018**

### **Veterinary Report**

We at the Milan Veterinary Practice are pleased to continue to provide veterinary services to the Society. We are entering the final year of the current agreement and although I am stepping down as Clinical Director at Milan the new owners Independent Vetcare Ltd (IVC) are as committed to continuing our excellent working relationship as I have been for the last 21 years. It is policy at IVC that the local practices deal with animal rescue agencies at a local level and there is no over-arching instruction coming from them. I anticipate that Milan will continue to build on the solid relationships with the staff and animals at the MSPCA in the future.

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 felines have a health check before leaving Ard Jerkyl. 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. We are currently reviewing the policy regarding FIV positive tests on domesticated cats. This will be in line with the major cat rescue agencies in the UK and advice from the Feline Viral Unit at Glasgow University. 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.

The cattery has remained busy all year but despite bigger numbers of cats and kittens coming into the Society, the staff has coped very well in dealing with the challenge. The biggest issue with the cats is with respiratory disease and cat flu in particular. However, with good working practices the cattery remained open for re-homing all year round.

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, now compulsory on the island, routine worming and flea treatments are applied and health checks are carried out on all dogs. All dogs are neutered before re-homing. 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 Jerkyl and frequently it actually leads to an extended life.

Again we did not have major issues with the dogs in the kennels during the past year beyond the routine problems and it has been a successful year for the kennels.

We had two successful prosecutions for animal cruelty during the year. One involved dogs, birds and reptiles whilst the second one concerned a lovely West Highland White Terrier. In both instances the animals were signed over to the Society for rehabilitation and re-homing.

The situation regarding the illegally imported Pit Bull Terrier type dog has dragged on since February 2017. This case involved a then 8 month-old un-chipped and un-neutered male dog that 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. The 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. However despite a number of court dates being set the case has not been heard as yet.

Juana Warburton and myself represented the Society was on the Animal Welfare Bill advisory committee. We wait to see what recommendations to Tynwald will be made regarding new legislation.

Between April 1st 2017 and March 31st 2018 the following procedures were carried out by the practice on behalf of the Society:

Cat Neuters	129	(85)
Cat Spays	145	(104)
Dog Neuters	23	(15)
Bitch Spays	8	(16)
Other Operations	27	(41)
Rabbit Spays	18	(32)
Rabbit Neuters	12	(18)
Ferret Spays	0	(0)
Ferret Castrates	0	(0)
Dentals	67	(59)

The figures in brackets relate to April 2016 – March 2017.

The figures show an increase in the number of cats operated on that reflects the higher numbers through Ard Jerkyll. The total number of dog operations has remained static whilst the procedures on other species have decreased slightly.

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

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that it has been my honour and pleasure to have served as the Society's veterinary advisor over 21 years. There have been times when the personal vilification and condemnation of the MSPCA on social media have made the job so much more difficult. However this is not significant when compared with good that the staff with their dedication and hard work have done and continue to do.

I wish the Society well in the future and I can reassure them that Katie Druggan who is taking over as clinical co-director at Milan, will continue to give excellent service.

Raymond A Cox. MVB, MRCVS.

July 2018