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Sri Lankan Strays with Flea Allergy Dermatitis



Sri Lankan Stray

Whilst on my honeymoon to Sri Lanka last week I found it very difficult to avoid diagnosing the many different conditions that afflicted the many stray dogs that were around. Skin disease was all too prevalent although what was interesting was that the most common diagnosis was flea allergy dermatitis which is still the most commonly diagnosed skin condition in our canine patients in Hinckley.

It was all too clear by the tremendous number of leg injuries that road traffic accidents are all too common. In the wake of the devastation caused by the Tsunami the Sri Lankan government, quite rightly, has had to prioritise the health and safety of their citizens over any concerns with the rising stray dog population. However with the increase of human rabies cases rising to 73 in 2006 it may well be that canine population control together with compulsory vaccination may be in the interests of both humans and their "best friend".

This year our own RSPCA has sought to raise pet ownership to a new level in this country with the introduction of a new Animal Welfare Act which came into force in March. This means that every pet owner in the UK is legally obliged to take responsibility for the health and welfare of their own pet, with the failure to do so a criminal offence.

I like to think that the vast majority of our clients at Fairfield have already embraced this concept without the need for legal enforcement! At the same time in Sri Lanka, local canine charity KACPAW is striving to avoid further stray dog "eradication" policy by spay and vaccination programmes subsidised by donations.

Despite feeling "swamped" on my return to work it is nonetheless gratifying to know that the pets registered at my practice are generally owned by people quite prepared to insist on good health care rather than being told they should!

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This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at www.fairfield-vets.co.uk

You won't care how much we know - until you know how much we care