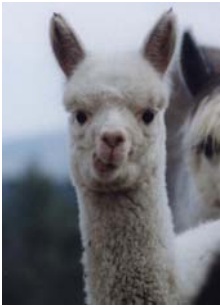


An Unusual Visitor to the Unit



Our equine unit had an unusual visitor recently in the form of an alpaca. This relation of the llama has become more popular in recent years both as a pet and for its' wool.

This particular patient, Frasier, injured himself possibly whilst being transported to his new home with his friend Niles.

Frasier was very lame and in obvious pain when we were called to look at him. His owner brought him to our equine unit in Blakedown where vet Heidi Whieldon was able to give him a full examination. She x-rayed the leg which showed that he had dislocated his hip.

Heidi then attempted to put his hip back in place but due to the amount of swelling this was impossible. Rod Stroud performed a femoral head excision arthroplasty the following day un-



der general anaesthetic (he removed the ball part of the ball and socket joint).

To date Frasier is making a really good recovery back out in his field with Niles.

Staff News

We will be saying farewell to vet Laura Frost as she sets off travelling the globe. Laura has been with us since she graduated and is going on her adventures with her boyfriend, starting in Peru.

Nurse Gemma Hughes is also spreading her wings and is leaving us after 4 years for a career working for a veterinary drug company.

Both girls will be missed by staff and patients alike.

Two of our receptionists are also moving on, however they won't be going very far. Emma O'Neil at Bromsgrove and Katherine Hackett at Hagley have both started training as veterinary nurses so you'll still be seeing them both around the practice.

Louise Taylor at the equine unit has now gone full time to help cope with demand and

new additions to the team include qualified nurse Allison Jones (below left) and receptionist Jayne Lombardi-Vaughan (below right) who will be working at Bromsgrove.



Laura's replacement is Tim Froydenlund. Tim graduated from Cambridge Vet School in 2007 and comes to us from a mixed practice in Herefordshire where he spent the majority of his time doing farm work.

Belated CONGRATULATIONS to vet Heidi on her recent marriage to Andy Whieldon. We wish the happy couple all the best for the future.

BLUE TONGUE

- As many of you will have seen on the news, DEFRA have begun releasing Bluetongue Vaccine in some parts of the country.
- It is only available for use in the areas covered by the protected zones.
- In order to prepare for the release of the vaccine into our area, you are encouraged to register your interest by calling the Equine Unit.
- We will only be allowed to order the amount of vaccine that we actually require for immediate use so accurate numbers of animals are important.
- The vaccine is a 1ml dose with a single dose for sheep and 2 doses for cattle 3 weeks apart. Full protection is not provided until 3 weeks after the course is complete.

For the latest updates about Bluetongue in your area visit the website for DEFRA at www.defra.gov.uk

