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# NARCH

National Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists

## SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER



As we write this edition we are enjoying warm sunny days and Summer is in full bloom. Thank goodness for the longer daylight hours, both in the morning and evening, so much cooler to walk our dogs at these times of the day.

### SAVE THE DATE:

We have an exciting programme set up for our AGM and Autumn Education Seminar which will take place on **Sunday October 8th 2017** **at the Holiday Inn, Guildford, GU2 7XZ**. The AGM starts at 09h15 and the Education Seminar starts at 10h15.

Our Lectures and Speakers on October 8th will be:

- Water Pollution and Bacteria – *Steve B Burke MISPE*
- A Practical Approach to Neurological Rehabilitation in Dogs – *Dr Anna Tauro DVM GPCert(Neuro) MRCVS, Neurology Registrar in Neurology and Neurosurgery, Fitzpatricks Referrals*
- Aggressive Behaviour/Nervous Behaviour in Dogs, understanding the signs – *Rachel Bean, RVN*
- Peninsula Business Owners Briefing on health and safety and employment law – *A keynote speaker from Peninsula Group*



For the full programme please watch the [NARCH](#) website and [Facebook](#) page

**Earlybird Cost: £65 per person for bookings made before 1st September 2017. Thereafter, the cost will be £80 per person.**

Please note that we do NOT issue tickets. You will receive an e-mail confirmation and your name will be added to a seminar reservations register.

Only RCHs may attend the AGM starting at 09h15. You do not need to buy a ticket if you only wish to attend the AGM.

RCHs and their paying guests are welcome to attend the Education Seminar which starts at 10h15. This event is also open to anyone interested in canine hydrotherapy and canine rehabilitation.

[Click on this link to buy tickets](#)

Your attendance at this seminar will be worth 7 hours CPD and CPD attendance certificates will be provided at the end of the day. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

## REGULAR NARCH AUDITS ARE NOW UNDERWAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY – MAKE SURE YOU ARE READY FOR AUDIT.



Here are some useful topics to consider:  
Do you know your professional responsibilities to your patients and colleagues as an RCH?

Point Number One – Over recent months we have had several incidents where it has become clear that some RCHs have not fully read or understood some parts of the NARCH Guide to Professional Conduct. This Guide was written, and has been updated periodically, so that all RCHs have a clear understanding of their responsibilities to themselves, their colleagues, their employees, their patients, to

the public, to NARCH and under the law.

For example, if you are the only RCH at your centre and you go on maternity leave, who will run your centre in your absence? And what will happen to the NARCH logo displayed on your centre website and signage?

If you are the only RCH and are not attending the centre, then you are breaching clause 6.1 sub paragraphs (a) (b) and (c) which all relate to an RCH being present at all times when a patient is being treated/cared for, as follows :

#### 6.1 A RCH must:

- a) be present at all times when a patient is being treated or cared for. Failure to ensure this basic commitment to patients and the public may result in suspension and possible permanent exclusion from the List of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists
- b) ensure that anyone who is not an RCH is closely supervised by an RCH who holds current membership and is not subject to suspension. This includes supervision of students and volunteers. The RCH is the person deemed responsible for care of the patient
- c) close supervision means in the same room, actively observing and where necessary instructing/training and offering advice to the member of staff/ student or volunteer. This should be for the entire session in the hydrotherapy pool or water treadmill

Therefore, whether you are the business owner/manager or not, if you are the only RCH at the centre then you must make provision for suitable cover of your RCH responsibilities during your absence. You can do this by one of your colleagues becoming NARCH registered or, alternatively, you must advise NARCH that you are absent and confirm that temporary removal of NARCH status has been put in place, with temporary removal of the NARCH logo from your website/social media pages/brochures and signage.

**Point number two** -The above clauses also remind us that non-RCHs cannot offer hydrotherapy treatment unsupervised to clients. We recently received communication from the Trading Standards Authority of a specific County, because a member of the public had made contact advising that their dog had repeatedly received hydrotherapy treatment from an unsupervised student. You may all therefore wish to consider whether it is preferable to adhere to NARCH Guidelines or to expose your centre to the scrutiny of your local Trading Standards Authority and the resultant fines.

#### Why is it important to ensure that your RCH status is always “active” and not “suspended”?

Pet Insurers, Vets and Referral Vets use the NARCH website on a daily basis to check the status of hydrotherapists and centres.

Pet Insurers are a good example of this. When Pet Insurers cannot find a hydrotherapist on the NARCH website they contact us for verification. On several recent occasions we have had to advise Insurers that the RCH in question is currently temporarily suspended which is why the name was not coming up following a search of the NARCH website. We know that pet insurance claims for hydrotherapy have been declined on two separate instances, because the RCHs in question had been automatically suspended by the NARCH system, due to lack of up to date insurance/ insufficient CPD.

**IT IS THEREFORE IN EVERYONES BEST INTEREST, INCLUDING YOUR OWN, THAT YOU KEEP YOUR NARCH RECORD UP TO DATE!**

## Risk Assessment of your Practices, Procedures and Premises

It is important that you all take some time out to assess your centre's ability to withstand an emergency, be it a fire or a client suffering a medical emergency on your premises.

You could draw up a set of questions for yourself and then take some time to walk around your centre and realistically assess each area to include fire hazards, safety of floor surfaces, electrical fittings, warning signs, do you have an emergency procedure protocol in place, do you have a fire drill in place and prominently displayed to be seen by both staff and visiting members of the public, an accident book, is there a trained human first aider on the premises? The list is not exhaustive.

All of these aspects, if correctly assessed, will help you to have clean and tidy premises and above all, safe premises, for both canines and humans alike. Your ability to have a good NARCH Audit inspection, when the time comes, will also be enhanced.



## Do you know what is meant by TiterTesting?



All dogs presenting for hydrotherapy or fitness swims must have a vaccination record in place. Increasingly though you may find that some owners will show you a report from their dog's veterinary surgeon stating that Titer Testing has been carried out and the test has shown that the dog has sufficient immunity in its system thus negating the need for a booster vaccination.

It is likely that you will see TiterTesting increase in popularity in the future. Please remember that a dog must either have an up to date vaccination certificate, or a Titer Test report showing that sufficient immunity is present in the dogs system before any hydrotherapy or fitness swims are put in place.



## Would you like to be considered as a Practical Hydrotherapy Assessor for NARCH?

New applicants to NARCH often require additional practical hydrotherapy assessment. This is usually to supplement the number of hours practical training that the applicant has already undergone when attending a training centre for their ABC Level 3 certificate qualification. We are looking for NARCH members to help with these assessments. To be considered, we require assessors to be trained and qualified to Diploma level and you would need to have been running your own centre full time for between 3 to 5 years. A NARCH audit of your own centre would also need to be take place. If interested, please send your details by e-mail to Nicky Kohn, NARCH Administrator, [enquiries@narch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@narch.org.uk) for consideration.

**Vet Festival record numbers – On Friday 9th and Saturday 10th June, VET Festival, returned to Loseley Park for its third year delivering ‘Veterinary Education for Tomorrow’ to a record number of over 1400 delegates.**



NARCH were media partners of Vet Festival and in return were given 2 complimentary tickets. These were offered to RCHs on a first come first served basis and Dawn Stagg RCH was the lucky recipient. Dawn emailed us to say “Just a huge thanks again to all at NARCH for another truly educational and inspirational day at the Vet Festival yesterday. We were most impressed with the whole event which was outstandingly organised. There was a friendly relaxed tone to the venue held in glorious surroundings and we felt that we learnt an immense amount from so many acclaimed global speakers. What a privilege – can't wait until next year!”

## “ WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DOG LEGISLATION?” – PART TWO



HERE FOLLOWS PART TWO OF THE ARTICLE FEATURED IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER from our regular insurance feature. These have been produced by Cliverton, who assist many NARCH RCH's with their insurance arrangements. To reflect the high standards maintained through NARCH Registration, we are pleased to advise that we have negotiated a premium discount with Cliverton applicable to NARCH RCH's:

### 3) Travel

#### Pet Travel Scheme

In January 2012 the UK harmonised its pet travel rules with the rest of the European Union to allow for easier pet travel.

Anyone travelling within the EU or to or from a non-EU listed country must ensure that their dog has:

- a microchip
- a rabies vaccination (with a wait of 21 days before travelling) following microchipping

- a pet passport or an official third country veterinary certificate
- tapeworm treatment (except for Finland, Ireland, Malta & Norway).

Anyone travelling into the EU and UK from an unlisted country must ensure their dog has:-

- a microchip
- a rabies vaccination following microchipping
- a blood test 30 days after the rabies vaccination and at least three months before travelling
- tapeworm treatment.

Before travelling the vet must provide a copy of the results showing that the vaccination was successful. However, owners do not have to wait for three months if their pets were vaccinated, blood tested and given a pet passport for the EU before travelling to an unlisted country. In both cases the owners must use an authorised carrier and an approved route when travelling with their pets.

#### Non-commercial Transportation of Pets

In 2010 the European Commission outlined concerns that the commercial transportation of pets (specifically transporting puppies to puppy dealers for sale in other countries) was possibly being disguised as non-commercial movement of pets. In an attempt to tackle this the Commission added a new regulation which states that the number of pets (dogs, cats and ferrets) that can be moved between EU member states – including into and out of the UK – is limited to five per person accompanying them, unless they are taking part in a competition, show or sporting event.

Dogs being transported for the purpose of a show, or to participate in dog-sledding or other competitive sports events, require a specific health certificate issued by the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency. The certificate will be issued direct to a person's nominated veterinarian for completion within 10 days of the travel date.

If you require additional information or assistance, please feel free to contact Cliverton for advice on 01328 857921.

## CONTACT

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