

SURGERY

TOWARDS 2000

Veterinary Vouchers

If saving the money to pay vets' bills is a problem, or if you are looking for useful gift for a pet-owning friend or relative, Veterinary Vouchers could be the answer.

Many people, particularly the elderly, are reluctant to accept cash help with bills, labelling it 'charity' but are happy to accept a gift voucher. This was the reasoning behind the Veterinary Voucher and saver scheme, which was launched in January 1992.

The stamps and vouchers can only be used at present in exchange for veterinary treatments, products sold only at vet surgeries, and to pay animal insurance premiums. The vouchers and saver stamps can be obtained from vets, some animal charities and direct from Veterinary Vouchers. The vouchers, each security marked,

are available in £5 and £10 denominations. One pound saver stamps which can be stuck on a saver card are also available.



C Norris

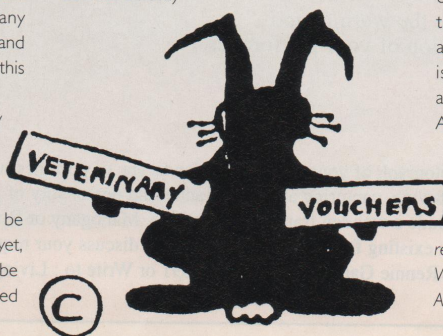
For more details of the Veterinary Vouchers scheme, please telephone: 0161 330 2957 or fax: 0161 339 4740

VETERINARY VOUCHERS

Elderly pet owners and those on limited incomes often find it difficult to meet vets' bills. Although organisations such as the PDSA, RSPCA and Blue Cross are often able to provide subsidised treatment, many people do not know about the service and some owners are too proud to accept this form of help.

A registered charity called Veterinary Vouchers has been set up to allow people to collect tokens, or give vouchers, which are redeemable against veterinary treatment. The scheme is to be launched in the North of England and, as yet, this is the only area where vouchers can be purchased. They can, however, be redeemed

at any veterinary surgery willing to participate in the scheme. (Vets wishing to know more about the scheme, and how to send vouchers off to be redeemed, should contact the address below.)



The vouchers can be spent on treatments, insurance premiums and preventative care, such as annual boosters and petcare products only available from vets. The organiser of the scheme also points out that they are a way of donating money to an animal charity and guaranteeing that it is spent on animal treatment, rather than administration.

All profits from the Vouchers scheme will go into a Charitable Trust, to be used to help other needy pet owners who can't pay for treatment.

If you would like to become involved, or receive more information, please contact Veterinary Vouchers, 2 Exeter Drive, Hartshead, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancs OL6 8BZ.

ALL ABOUT CATS

The magazine for cat lovers

A **Gong** PUBLICATION

VOLUME III ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 1996

PRICE: £1.90



CHARITY... *begins at home*

This month we have a selection of registered charities in need of your generosity

Veterinary Vouchers

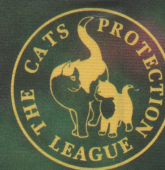
Veterinary Vouchers are intended as a means of enabling pet owners to purchase saver stamps or to receive gifts as vouchers, enabling them to allocate sums of money solely for their pet. These vouchers can be redeemed against veterinary treatment, preventative treatment such as annual boosters and pet care products available only at veterinary surgeries. They can also be put towards the payment of animal insurance premiums. The saver stamps and vouchers can be donated to the animal charity of your choice knowing that they can only be exchanged for veterinary treatment or products purchased only at veterinary surgeons.

Anyone requiring further information should send a stamped addressed envelope to: Kathleen Pearson – Chairperson, 2 Exeter Drive, Hartshead, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancashire OL6 8BZ. Registered charity number: 1050827.



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

THE CAT



MAY/JUNE 1998
Volume 71 No.3

VETERINARY VOUCHERS

'Veterinary Vouchers' is intended as a means of enabling pet owners to purchase saver stamps or to receive vouchers as gifts, thus enabling them to allocate sums of money solely for their pet. After a pilot scheme in the Greater Manchester area, 'Veterinary Vouchers' is about to be launched nationwide. The stamps and vouchers can only be used initially in exchange for veterinary treatments, products sold only at the veterinary surgery and to pay animal insurance premiums. The vouchers are of £5 and £10 denominations and security marked.

A large saver card will be available for self-adhesive £1 stamps. This is an ideal way to save for your cat's annual vaccinations or for those unforeseen emergencies. A voucher would also make an original gift for an animal lover friend/relative who may find it difficult to afford routine veterinary checks for their pet. Giving a voucher to your local CPL Branch is an excellent way of helping them with their veterinary costs. It is also an excellent way of encouraging children to be responsible for their pets by purchasing a stamp each week. Ask your vet about 'Veterinary Vouchers'. Any veterinary practice that has not received information on the scheme is welcome to contact 'Veterinary Vouchers' on **0161 330 2957** or **fax 0161 339 4740**. Vouchers can be obtained from vets, or 'Veterinary Vouchers' (reg. charity no. 1050827) **2 Exeter Drive, Hatshead, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs OL6 8BZ.**



Two options: vouchers and £1 stamps to help you save for veterinary fees.



The SCAS JOURNAL

The Society for Companion Animal Studies
Patron: Dr Desmond Morris

Reg. Charity No. 326475

Vol VII No 4

Winter 1995

Editor: Anne Docherty

The SCAS JOURNAL

Page 5

Veterinary Vouchers

by Kathleen Pearson, SCAS Member

THERE IS MEDICAL EVIDENCE that supports the view that provision of a pet and the promotion of the health of that pet, provides a valuable source of comfort and support for the aged, sick and needy - often more so than the companionship of a fellow human being! But pets can be expensive.

Veterinary Vouchers are intended as a means of enabling pet owners to purchase saver stamps, or to receive gifts as vouchers, thus enabling them to allocate sums of money solely for their pet.

These vouchers can be redeemed against veterinary treatment, preventative treatments such as annual boosters, and products available at the local veterinary surgery. They can also be used at boarding kennels and catteries, crematoria and towards the payment of animal insurance premiums.

Veterinary Vouchers will be National, but will initially be available in the North of England, starting in the Greater Manchester area.

All profits will be placed in the Vet. Voucher Charitable Trust Fund. This fund will be used to help those who cannot meet the costs of their pet's emergency treatment, and also for boarding fees for their animal companion if they have to go into hospital. The saver stamps and vouchers can also be donated to the animal charity of your choice knowing that they can only be exchanged for veterinary treatment or products purchased only at veterinary surgeries.

All pet owners would benefit, even those with insured pets where the vouchers and stamps would pay the excess on claims, or for vaccines and treatments which are not covered. In September 1993, a questionnaire was circulated to all veterinary practices in the U.K. The response was as follows:- 395 (16%) replied. **90% were in favour.** 1% were unsure and 9% not interested. 257 were small animal practices, 117 mixed, 14 large animal, 6 equine and 1 exotic. 39% of the practices were rural, 42% urban, 7% inner city and 12% mixed.

The Vet. Voucher Charitable Trust Fund will exist on the sale of the gift cards. Fund raising will also be part of the organisation; donations and legacies will also be accepted. It is also hoped that there will be support through sponsorship. Our first priority is the welfare of the animal, whether that animal is furred, feathered or scaled.

If you require further information, please contact:-
Veterinary Vouchers,

2 Exeter Drive,
Hartshead,
Ashton-U-Lyne,
Lancs.
OL6 8BZ.
Tel: 0161 330 2957

WILD ABOUT

Animals

The magazine

animal lovers

A **Gong** PUBLICATION

MARCH 1996

VOL VIII ISSUE 3

PRICE £1.65



HEALTH & ADVICE

SURGERY

TOWARDS 2000

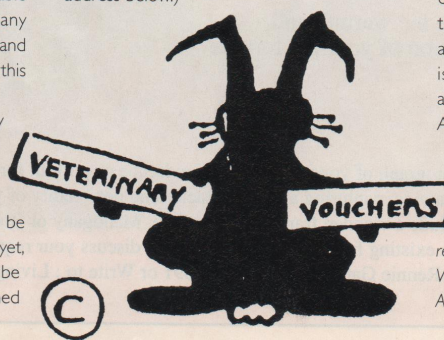
This month's surgery looks at pet rabbits that suffer from poor diets and lack of sunshine, and a new veterinary voucher scheme aimed at helping to pay costly vets' bills

VETERINARY VOUCHERS

Elderly pet owners and those on limited incomes often find it difficult to meet vets' bills. Although organisations such as the PDSA, RSPCA and Blue Cross are often able to provide subsidised treatment, many people do not know about the service and some owners are too proud to accept this form of help.

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at any veterinary surgery willing to participate in the scheme. (Vets wishing to know more about the scheme, and how to send vouchers off to be redeemed, should contact the address below.)



The vouchers can be spent on treatments, insurance premiums and preventative care, such as annual boosters and petcare products only available from vets. The organiser of the scheme also points out that they are a way of donating money to an animal charity and guaranteeing that it is spent on animal treatment, rather than administration.

All profits from the Vouchers scheme will go into a Charitable Trust, to be used to help other needy pet owners who can't pay for treatment.

If you would like to become involved, or receive more information, please contact Veterinary Vouchers, 2 Exeter Drive, Hartshead, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancs OL6 8BZ.

WILD ABOUT ANIMALS • 45

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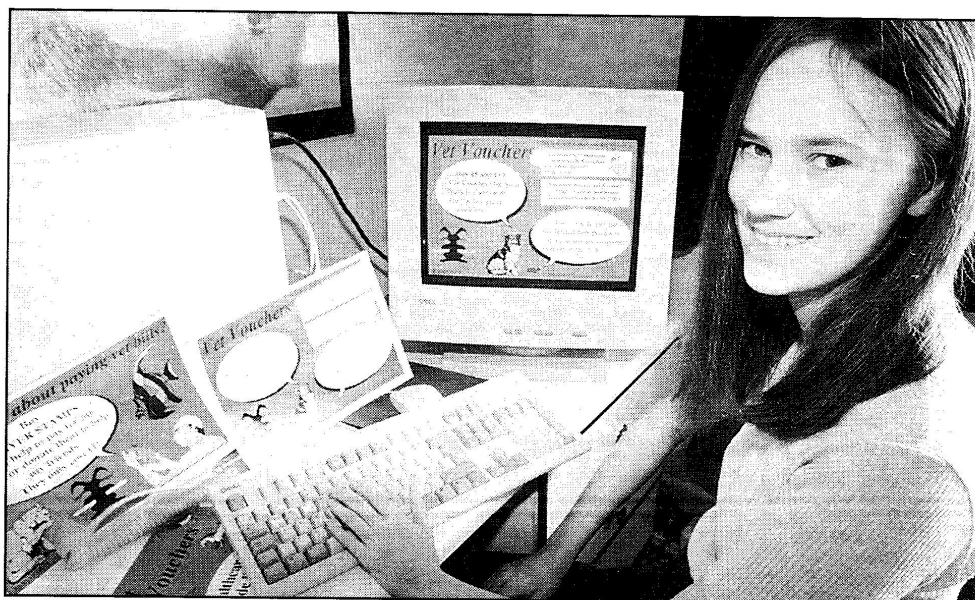
Saver stamps for vet care

"Veterinary Vouchers" is a new project offering a "save as you can" scheme towards the cost of vets fees. You buy the saver stamps or vouchers which can then be redeemed against the cost of treatment, boosters and any pet care products available at your vets. They can be used towards your pet's insurance premiums, or even collected to be donated to help an animal charity meet its bills.

The project, which has charitable trust status, is currently operating a 12 month pilot scheme in Greater Manchester area and stamps/vouchers are available from vets in 50p or £1 amounts for stamps, £1 or £5 for vouchers.

Kathleen Pearson, Chairperson of the Veterinary Vouchers Trust Fund tells us: "If the scheme proves successful, we hope to extend it nationwide."

APRIL 1996



TECHNO ARTIST: Ruth Price demonstrates her computerised designs for the vets voucher scheme

Picture Brian Jones CX54217

Ruth's designs on the future

A TALENTED Plymouth design student has soared to success nationally after her work was chosen to promote a pioneering veterinary voucher scheme.

The designs by Ruth Price, 14, of Princess Avenue, Plymstock, were chosen above those of professional companies to highlight the benefits of the initiative.

Veterinary Vouchers were

BY LOUISE YEARLING

introduced in Manchester 12 months ago as a new way of protecting the welfare of animals by providing a health care guarantee.

And the success of the scheme has urged representatives to extend their work nationwide, promoting the vouchers in vet centres across the country.

But posters were needed – a job which has now been fulfilled by Ruth who spent hours on her computer designing advertising materials at her home.

The Plymstock School student has also been asked to offer ideas for further work the scheme might need when it is introduced in March.

Ruth is delighted by her achievement. She said: "I decided to offer my ideas

because I enjoy working on computers and designing things.

"It was quite hard thinking of the idea but I wanted something eye-catching. I was over the moon when I heard my work was going to be used.

"I love animals, I have got fish and a rat. It will be great to see my own work around."

Ruth eventually wants to move into a career in design work.

Page 18 Fur & Feather, March 21, 1996

Welcome to
your
Cat



Veterinary vouchers

Help is at hand for anyone dreading a hefty vet bill. A charitable scheme, Veterinary Vouchers, allows pet owners to either buy saver stamps or receive vouchers as gifts.

Trials launched in Greater Manchester a year ago have

February 1998

been a success and the scheme is now launched nationwide. The stamps and vouchers can only be used for veterinary treatment, products sold at vets or to pay animal insurance premiums.

Scheme founder Kathleen Pearson came up with the idea after a relative was unable to pay vet bills and was reluctant to accept cash as 'charity'. She was however happy to receive gift vouchers. Vouchers are for £5 and £10. A large saver card holds £1 stamps.

Any veterinary practice which has not yet received information can contact Veterinary Vouchers on 0161 330 2957 or Fax: 0161 339 4740.

VETERINARY VOUCHERS

We have received a leaflet from a registered charity (1050827) called **Veterinary Vouchers**, at 2 Exeter Drive, Hartshead, Ashton-U-Lyne, Lancs. OL6 8BZ.

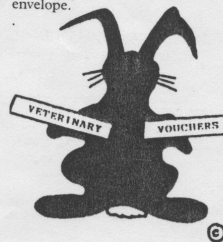
Veterinary Vouchers are intended as a means of enabling smallstock owners to purchase saver stamps, or to receive gifts as vouchers, thus enabling them to allocate sums of money solely for their pet's veterinary treatment.

These vouchers can be redeemed against veterinary treatment, preventative treatments such as annual boosters, and pet care products available only at veterinary surgeries. They can also be used towards the payment of animal insurance premiums. The scheme will be national, but will initially be available in the North of England, starting in the Greater Manchester area.

All profits from trading the vouchers and stamps will be placed in the Veterinary Vouchers Trust Fund. This fund will be

used to help those who cannot meet the cost of their animal's emergency veterinary treatment, and also boarding fees for their companion animal if they have to go into hospital.

Chairperson Kathleen Pearson was invited to present the concept at an International Conference in Geneva on Human/Animal interactions last September and tells us that it was well received. She welcomes enquiries from readers who would like to know more about the scheme but requests that you enclose a stamped addressed envelope.



Pilot scheme aims to help pet owners

A NEW scheme to help pet owners is being tested in Rochdale.

Some local vets are selling veterinary vouchers to help offset the cost of veterinary treatment.



LOCAL vet Wendy Lane (right) with some of the pet vouchers from the scheme started by Kathleen Pearson. (Q9285)

The scheme was started by Kathleen Pearson, who wanted to find a way of helping an elderly relative with a sick pet who refused to accept help with her vet bills, but was happy to receive gift vouchers as presents for birthdays and Christmas.

Kathleen said: "My aunt was happy with presents of department store gift vouchers, so I thought why not start a gift voucher scheme to help pay for veterinary treatment."

"I presented a paper to the British Veterinary Association and spoke to several vets about the scheme. They all said they would value a savings scheme."

'Christmas present'

"This scheme is different in that all the money from the vouchers is spent on the animals."

"The vouchers make a lovely Christmas present, especially for elderly people with pets who may struggle to pay vet fees."

"The vouchers can also be donated to the RSPCA, to help the charity pay for essential treatments."

The pilot scheme, which is running in Greater Manchester was started in November and will run for a year.

The vouchers are available from the vets: Wendy Lane, Bury Road and Calderbrook Road, Littleborough; Mr Raza, Rooley Moor Road, and Jane Baines, Market Street, Heywood.

Voucher scheme to help with cost

TREATMENT by a vet can cost a lot of money. Some people, particularly the elderly, can find themselves in an impossible position when they have to choose between treatment for a much-loved pet and their own living costs.

Ashton-under-Lyne animal-lover Kathleen Pearson is promoting an idea that might help to solve the problem — veterinary vouchers.

Kathleen originally presented a paper on the idea to the British Veterinary Association in 1992. That was followed by a survey of vets which showed that 90 per cent of those who answered were in favour of such a scheme.

Redeemed

The voucher scheme would allow pet-owners to buy saver stamps or receive vouchers as gifts. The vouchers could then be redeemed against veterinary treatment, preventive treatments such as annual boosters and products available at vets' surgeries.

Profits from the scheme would go to a charitable trust fund, which would be used to help those who cannot afford emergency treatment or to pay for boarding fees if the owner has to go into hospital.

The idea has sparked interest abroad, and this week Kath is presenting her idea at the International Conference on Human-Animal Interactions in Geneva.

VETERINARY VOUCHERS

Following our report in the March issue of WAA, Veterinary Vouchers have been swamped by requests for information on their scheme. Kathleen Pearson of the charity thanks readers for their support, and asks if anyone else who is interested could remember to send with their request an SAE, to Veterinary Vouchers, 2 Exeter Drive, Hartshead, Ashton-U-Lyne, Lancs OL6 8BX.

The high prevalence of benzimidazole resistant strains of nematodes in goats ensures that the other groups of anthelmintics must be considered for treatment of worm infections. Previous studies have shown signs of mild intoxication in angora goats treated orally at 16 mg/kg with levo-tetramisole (Smith and Bell 1971) and that attempting to increase bioavailability by subcutaneous administration increases the risk of toxicity (Hsu 1980). Although a study in which more than 1000 fibre goats were routinely drenched with levamisole at 12 mg/kg on at least six occasions over two full grazing seasons has provided no evidence of toxic effect (F. Jackson, unpublished data), it would appear that the use of levamisole hydrochloride can cause severe adverse reactions in individual cases. Reactions have been observed following oral and parenteral treatment at the ovine dose rate as well as at the increased dose rates. In one case evidence of central nervous system malfunction was observed; the goats became prostrate and some individuals died. These changes can occur very rapidly (within minutes), particularly after parenteral treatment. Discussion with various veterinary surgeons has shown that whereas this problem has been reported previously, it is not widely recognised and it is important that the profession should be aware of the risks involved when considering the treatment of fibre goats with levamisole hydrochloride.

It is possible that certain fibre goats differ from other strains of goats in their susceptibility to toxic chemicals, perhaps due to inbreeding. This may reflect differences in activities of detoxifying enzyme systems. Indeed it has been noted (I. C. Shaw, unpublished observation) that angora goats appear to be more susceptible to organochlorine toxicity. This may reflect increased activity of the cytochrome P-450 oxidase system which is responsible for generating toxic organochlorine metabolites. Levamisole is metabolised by the same system and generates a potentially toxic hydroxy-metabolite; this might well explain the current problem. In one case where this reaction occurred, it was found that treatment with betamethasone (Betsolan; Pitman-Moore) produced a rapid improvement.

G. D. Cawley, *Grampian Pharmaceuticals, Research Division, Talkin, Brampton, Cumbria*

I. C. Shaw, *Lancashire Polytechnic, Faculty of Science, Department of Applied Biology, Preston, Lancashire*
F. Jackson, *Department of Parasitology, Moredun Research Institute, 408 Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh*
R. Turner, S. Levon, *The Farm Practice, Marsh Barton Farm, Clyst St George, Exeter, Devon*

References

- COLES, G. C., GIORDANO, D. J. & TRITSCHLER, J. P. (1989) *American Journal of Veterinary Research* 50, 1074
HSU (1980) *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 176, 1166
SANGSTER, N. C., RICHARD, J. M., HENNESSY, D. R., STEEL, J. N. & COLLINS, G. H. (1991) *Research in Veterinary Science* 51, 258
SMITH, J. P. & BELL, R. R. (1971) *American Journal of Veterinary Research* 32, 871

Proposed veterinary vouchers scheme

SIR, - In October, a questionnaire was circulated to all practices in the country about a proposed veterinary vouchers scheme. The object of the scheme is to assist pet owners, particularly the elderly, with fees for veterinary services and for nutritional or pet care products purchased at veterinary surgeries.

The vouchers could be purchased by friends or relatives of elderly pet owners for Christmas or birthday presents, or be used as a 'saver scheme' for elderly people, low-income families or multi-pet owning households. All pet owners could benefit, even those with insured pets, where the vouchers would pay for the excess on claims, or for vaccines and neutering, which are not covered.

The response from the profession has been extremely favourable; 395 replies have been received to date, that is, a 16 per cent response rate. Of these, 90 per cent are in favour of the scheme, 78 per cent are willing to stock and sell vouchers, 12 per cent are willing to accept vouchers but not stock and sell them, 1 per cent are unsure and 9 per cent are not interested in participating at all.

The responses have come from a variety of practices: 257 from predominantly small animal, 14 large animal, six equine, 117 mixed and one 'exotic'. The catchment areas of these practices were as follows: 36 per cent rural; 45 per cent urban; 7 per cent inner city and 12 per cent mixed. Of the practices responding, 96 per cent accept and promote insurance and 34 per cent offer discounts of some sort, for example, to pensioners.

Forty-seven per cent of practices felt that the vouchers would be 'not very useful' in helping their own clients to pay fees; 41 per cent felt they would be 'fairly useful' and 12 per cent thought they would be 'very useful'. Personal communication with some vets at the BSAVA congress this year indicated that accepting vouchers might help the cash flow of their practices.

On the basis of this feedback, we are optimistic that, provided the start-up costs can be met, the scheme will be successful. The BSAVA has been kept informed of the scheme, in the hope of receiving its support. It is planned to launch Veterinary Vouchers in National Pet Week 1994.

The scheme will be non-profit making. A charitable trust fund will be established for surplus monies which, after administrative expenses, will be available for treatment of needy cases on request. Further details of the scheme will be circulated before the launch. Anyone wanting information now can contact me at the address below.

On behalf of the organiser of the scheme, Kathleen Pearson, I thank Intervet UK for valued assistance in mailing the questionnaires to enable the 'market research' to be done. We are very grateful to all the practices who took the time to reply.

J. I. Thomas, *County's End Veterinary Hospital, 97b High Street, Lees, Oldham, Lancashire OL4 4LY*

FeLV incidence

SIR, - Further to my recent letter on the incidence of feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) in pre-vaccination cats (November 13, p 508), I have received comments from colleagues with similar experiences to my own. It would seem that figures for FeLV in sick cats tested for diagnostic reasons show similar incidences to those quoted in the FeLV/FTV National Awareness Campaign, but the incidence in the general healthy cat population may be very much lower than the figure of 10.2 per cent quoted in this survey.

May I invite colleagues to examine their records of healthy cats tested for routine screening of FeLV, and to contact me with their results. I require the following simple figures:

(1) The number of healthy cats screened for FeLV, by appropriate blood tests, over any fixed period of time within the past three years.

(2) The number of cats, tested in this same series, which showed a positive result for FeLV.

Should I receive an adequate response, I will add the results together and produce a percentage of cats responding positively to FeLV blood testing, in the healthy cat population. I will then submit the result for publication during the next few months.

T. R. Mainland, *Berne House Veterinary Centre, 2 Aberconway Road, Prestatyn, Clwyd LL19 9HH*

Haemorrhagic septicaemia in Cameroon

SIR, - Haemorrhagic septicaemia is an acute septicaemic disease of cattle and buffaloes. In 1961, Perreau discovered a new serotype of *Pasteurella multocida* responsible for the disease in the Central African countries, serotype 6:E, which was different from the one responsible for the disease in Asian countries, serotype 6:B. Since then, a few countries, notably Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan, have recorded both serotypes.

In October 1992, *P. multocida* serotype 6:B was isolated from a severe outbreak of haemorrhagic septicaemia in zebu in northern Cameroon. The mice-protection test was performed to demonstrate that there was no cross-protection between this strain and the strain of *P. multocida* serotype 6:E which is used as an inactivated vaccine in Cameroon.

As there are a lot of uncontrolled animal movements between the Central African and West African countries, it is recommended that these countries use a bivalent vaccine including both serotypes.

A. Martrenchar, *National Veterinary Laboratory, BP 503, Garoua, Cameroon*

Reference

- PERREAU, P. (1961) *Revue d'Elevage et de Médecine Vétérinaire des Pays Tropicaux* 14, 245

Letters may be shortened for publication.



Gong

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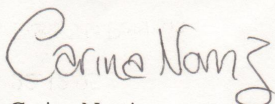
22.12.95

Dear Ms Pearson

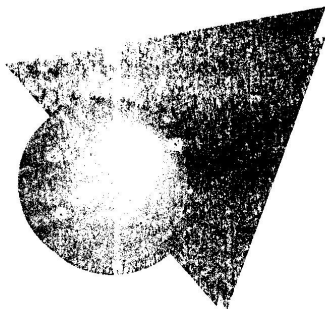
I was very interested to read about your Veterinary Vouchers scheme in the SCAS Journal. I think it is a wonderful idea. I would like to feature it on the Veterinary pages of Wild About Animals, and possibly the news pages of All About Cats magazine. I wondered whether you could send me any more information, and also let me know what readers could do to help.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Kind regards



Carina Norris
Science Editor



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L'Annuaire Vétérinaire ROY
Summa
Profession Vétérinaire

Siège social
3, rue Alexandre
B.P. 233

Ms Kathleen PEARSON
Veterinary Vouchers
2 Exeter Drive, Hartshead
Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 8BZ
ROYAUM-UNI

ALFORT, le 11 mai 1994

Dear Mrs Pearson

You will soon receive "La Semaine Vétérinaire" n° 736

One of its articles may be of great interest to you. You will find it on page(s) 30 but you can read the entire magazine anyhow.

With compliments of the *Semaine Vétérinaire*.

Yours sincerely,

*Kind regards,
Karin de Lange*

Karin de LANGE
Assistant Editor "EUROVET"

*Here it is - the article on "Veterinary Vouchers"
Please keep me informed of further
developments!*





VETERINARY VOUCHERS

Des coupons pour payer les consultations

Un chiffre d'affaires plus important, des clients qui règlent plus rapidement, moins de factures impayées, une meilleure satisfaction professionnelle et même une petite prime. Le rêve de tout praticien... En Grande-Bretagne, Kathleen Pearson, institutrice impliquée depuis longtemps dans la protection animale, pense avoir trouvé la solution : mettre en circulation des *Veterinary Vouchers*, ou "coupons vétérinaires". Selon Kathleen Pearson, ces coupons — véritables "chèques vétérinaires" — pourraient aider les propriétaires, en particulier les personnes âgées, à régler les frais de consultation et l'achat de produits (diététiques ou de soins) pour leurs animaux de compagnie. « Si l'on réduit l'appréhension vis-à-vis du coût du traitement, certains propriétaires seront plus incités à se rendre chez le vétérinaire. » Les coupons pourront également servir à payer des dettes.

« Ces coupons seraient achetés par des connaissances ou des parents de propriétaires âgés, comme cadeau de Noël ou d'anniversaire, ou même comme don à des propriétaires à faibles revenus, sug-

gère Janet Thomas, praticienne à Oldham et conseillère technique sur le projet. *Tous les propriétaires en bénéficieraient, même ceux ayant des animaux assurés. Les coupons paieraient la franchise ou les soins non couverts, tels que la castration ou la vaccination.* »

Destinés en premier lieu aux propriétaires d'animaux de compagnie, les coupons, vendus au grand public, seraient uniquement disponibles chez le vétérinaire, qui obtiendrait une "mini" commission sur la vente. Les fonds ainsi obtenus seraient placés sur des comptes rémunérés, ce qui rendrait immédiat l'encaissement des coupons. Les coupons non vendus seraient remboursés.

« Veterinary Vouchers sera une association à but non lucratif, précise Kathleen Pearson, organisatrice du projet. Pour couvrir les frais de gestion, des laboratoires et compagnies d'assurance sont invités à placer une publicité au dos des coupons. Les bénéfices éventuels constitueront un fonds à part pour les cas particuliers nécessitant des soins vétérinaires. »

Pour évaluer l'opinion des praticiens britanniques sur ce projet, une enquête a été lancée en

octobre dernier. Sur les quelque quatre cents réponses reçues*, 90 % approuvent le principe des "coupons" : 78 % se disent prêts à les vendre et 12 % susceptibles d'en accepter, mais sans les stocker. Seuls 9 % ne sont pas du tout intéressés. 47 % estiment cette initiative « peu utile » et 53 % la trouvent « assez », voire « très utile ». En outre, 43 % reconnaissent pratiquer des tarifs réduits pour certains clients, tandis que 97 % encouragent leurs clients à assurer leurs petits compagnons.

« Même la clinique de l'école d'Edimbourg a exprimé son intérêt pour ce programme, signale Kathleen Pearson. Le seul obstacle au lancement des Veterinary Vouchers n'est autre que la participation, encore à confirmer, de quelques sponsors. »

♦ K. d. L.

* Enquête réalisée auprès de 2 500 praticiens, soit un taux de réponse de 16 %.

** Renseignements : Veterinary Vouchers, 2 Exeter Drive, Heartshead, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs OL6 8BZ, Royaume-Uni.

International interest.