

February 1<sup>st</sup> was a lovely sunny day and my thoughts were turning to spring when I was reminded by a client of the old proverb; 'If it (February) comes in like a lamb, it goes out like a lion!'. So maybe spring is some way off yet.

I was reminded again of this proverb a few days later when Gladys, a 16 year old cat, was presented to me. Now Gladys had been to the surgery many times and was always a pleasure to see. She would stroll out of her basket, and sit on the table and purr, and she loved being given a cuddle. Today though was different. Her owner reported that although she was well in herself her appetite could no longer be satisfied, she had lost weight and she had become very temperamental. In fact she had become far more like a lion than her usual lamb like self! She had to be levered from her basket where she glared at us and gave a mighty roar (well hiss actually).

After calming her down, the subsequent examination and resulting blood tests showed Gladys had an overactive thyroid gland. This is a common problem in older cats and if your cat shows similar symptoms to Gladys you would be well advised to consult your veterinary surgeon. The condition can be successfully treated, usually with tablets, and I am pleased to report that Gladys is now her old lamb like self! Hopefully she will soon be sitting in her garden enjoying the spring sunshine again.

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