



Newsletter

March 2016

Pasg Hapus -Happy Easter

Whatever you are celebrating this March, it is definitely a month to enjoy. Longer daylight hours encourage longer dog walks, our rabbits and guinea pigs get a chance to spend longer in the garden. So what health issues come to mind this Easter?

Preparing for visitors, worm and de-flea the pets, making sure they are bug free before they are cuddled by family or strangers.

Finding some non-chocolate, low fat treats for my pets, so that they won't feel left out but won't get sick either. You can get carob based eggs for dogs if you really must. However, the more a dog treat resembles our food, the more your pet will beg when you get out any snack for yourself. So my advice is to stick to something unwrapped and obviously intended for your pet.



There are some great toys available, catnip cat toys, squeaky dog playthings and willow weave chews for rabbits. I think some fun for weeks to come, is better than high calorie treats.

Keep that chocolate well hidden.



Wellness Clinic for Older Cats

Fit for life for longer

Is your cat 11 years old or above? Would you like to come along and have a free consultation with the nurse at our new Wellness Clinic for Cats?

Starting later in March, we will be launching our first weekly nurse clinic. These will be by appointment only, between 9 and 10.30am on a Thursday morning. If you cannot make this time then we may be able to offer you an alternative appointment, please ask.



The aim of this clinic is to talk with owners about problems which can be associated with the ageing cat. The benefit of the clinic is to identify any changes early enough for us to help slow down the progression of some diseases and to support cats with changes which can naturally occur in advancing years.

If any problems are picked up at these clinics, they will then be referred to your vet for further consultation or investigations as necessary.

We will be posting more information on our website, facebook and in practice a little nearer the time. If you would like further information beforehand please ring and ask for Jean 01559 363318



OPENING HOURS

MON - FRIDAY

8.30AM - 5.00PM

SATURDAY

9.00AM - 12.00PM

24 HR

EMERGENCY COVER

PLEASE USE THE USUAL NUMBER

01559 363318

Did You Know?

There is now a test for **heart disease in cats**, that we can run in practice. With a simple blood test, it is possible to check if the murmurs or breathing problems stem from the heart or not.

Some breeds of cat are more prone to heart disease, such as Bengal, Maine Coon, Persian and the Himalayan.

Heart disease can be missed in cats, as they rarely appear unwell, until a crisis hits.

Whilst a vet may detect a heart murmur or rhythm change using a stethoscope, only a blood test and heart scan will differentiate between serious disease and something innocent.



Dr Ruadh

Easter Bunnies

The majority of rabbit ailments can be linked to incorrect nutrition. Rabbits have a unique digestive system, they are known as fibrevores, as high fibre is essential.

75% - 80% of each rabbit's daily food should be hay and unlimited grazing on grass, if the weather allows access to the garden. Some fresh vegetables daily and (contrary to popular belief) only a tablespoon of nuggets for a medium sized rabbit is required.

Rabbits have a "sweet tooth" and will always eat their favourite foods but too many treats will result in sticky bottoms! Muesli style diets for rabbits are not recommended as bunny picks out the favourite bits, leading to a dietary imbalance.

If your bun suffers from a sticky bottom whether they are eating a good diet or not, they need to be

seen at the practice. A sticky bottom is a sign of ill health.

The easiest way to plan bunny's daily requirements is to think about portion sizes in relation to your bunny's size. The size of his/her body of hay; the size of her head in fresh veg; the size of the ears worth of nuggets.



Rabbits actually need twice as much water relatively than dogs or cats, so don't forget to ensure fresh water is always available.

If you would like to know more about caring for your rabbit, please ask for Kate our Rabbit Nurse.

Eligibility for Subsidised Dog Neutering Costs—Changes from 1st March 16

As of the 1st of March there are some changes affecting eligibility for assistance.

Only the following breeds will be eligible ; Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Mastiff, Rottweiler, American Bull Dog, Greyhound, Lurcher, Akita, Husky, Malamute, GSD, Samoyed, Jack Russel Terrier, Collie or identifiable crosses of the list above.

You must be on a means tested benefit OR have a farm/small holding number.

You must provide 2 proofs of identity including a utility bill *and* the dog must be registered at that same address on our computer system.

A payment of £35 will need to be paid prior to the operation.



The Microchipping of Dogs (Wales) Regulations 2015

This will come into force on 6 April 2016, in line with the date announced for compulsory microchipping in England and Scotland.

At what age should my puppy be microchipped? All puppies must be microchipped between 6-8 weeks. *An extension to 12 weeks old is only allowed in working dogs, with docked tails, where a veterinary certificate has been issued.*

In both cases the puppies must have been chipped **before** being passed to a new keeper.

Are there penalties for non-compliance? Yes. If the breeder or subsequent keepers do not update the dog's details on the register, they will be served with a 21 day notice. If this is ignored then a fine of up to £500 may be issued.

How do I check if my dog's details are correct? If you have the microchip number at home and access to a computer, you can check online. If you know your pet is chipped but have lost the number, you are welcome to bring in your pet to be scanned.



We are still running free microchipping currently but this will end soon.

It is great when we get a stray pet into the practice and we find a microchip in place. The microchip has a unique number that is stored on a national database. The number is linked to the details of the owner, address and phone number; it also carries name and breed description of your pet, any health issues that were listed at the time of registration. Re-uniting is then just a short phone call away.

Do remember to update your records if you move, or our attempts to contact you will fail.