



Newsletter

February 2016

Neutering Pets

A large percentage of people fall into pet ownership because they were talked into taking a puppy or kitten by a friend or neighbour. They had an unexpected litter from a stray that turned up on their doorstep. Then, before we know it our newly acquired pet has become adolescent and is displaying all the signs of a hormone led adolescent- Staying out all night, getting into fights, urine marking territory , getting pregnant. Suddenly we have a houseful too.

Gone are the days where we thought it was important for a pet to have at least one litter. In fact there is good evidence that neutering early, never having had offspring, has many health benefits.

- Reduced incidence of certain types of cancer and pyometra (infected womb) in females.
- Reduced road traffic accidents as they don't stray looking for a mate.
- Avoidance of diseases spread by mating or fighting (Cats FeLV and FIV) (Dogs Herpesvirus)

There are also financial benefits of course

- Litters of kittens or puppies require feeding, worming, vaccinating, until you can find homes for them, which may not be that easy.
- Pregnancies can require caesareans or other emergency medical treatments.

There is obviously a cost involved in neutering but it is far less than keeping an un-neutered pet and their potential offspring.

Neutering prices are available at the practice. Prices are based on the weight of your pet, please feel free to call in to weigh them on our scales. We recommend you talk to one of our nurses when booking a neutering; you can then discuss the operation, preparation for the day and aftercare. It may be that there are other minor procedures that would benefit your pet whilst they are under their anaesthetic, such as nail clipping, ear cleaning or anal gland emptying. We offer these at a reduced cost during the procedure as they are obviously easier to perform than when they are awake. Our staff are happy to provide any further information you require.

Neutering also reduces strays, reducing the financial burden on rescue centres. Realising this, some of the animal charities offer financial assistance towards neutering for those who are struggling financially. To ensure that requests for this financial assistance is not abused, stricter rules are coming into force. Two proofs of identity, evidence of the benefits you are receiving or your family income, will have to be provided.



The Microchipping of Dogs (Wales) Regulations 2015 will come into force on 6 April 2016, in line with the date announced for compulsory microchipping in England and Scotland.

We are still currently running free microchipping clinics, sponsored by Dogs Trust.



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?

One cat averages 6 kittens per litter and 3 litters per year.

18 kittens for just 7 years is 126 kittens.

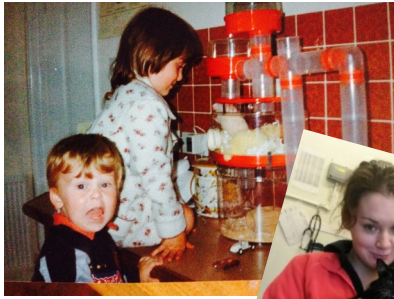
Cats do not have a menopause and average lifespan of an un-neutered cat is 7-10 years.

One bitch can potentially mate twice a year, when she comes into season. This is not recommended however.

Average litter size for dogs is 5 -6 pups. The largest litter recorded was 24 to a Neopolitan Mastiff.



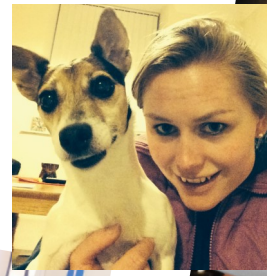
Bit of Fun - Did you identify the staff member from the childhood photos?



Georgina Hartnell



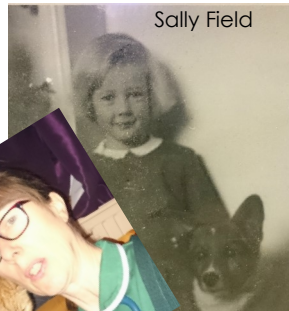
Danni Carroll



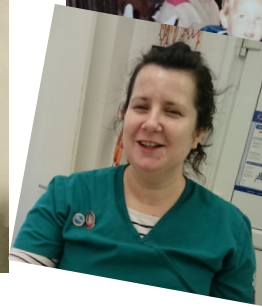
Sarah Mosley



Erika Dawson



Sally Field



Kate Tucker



Marie Evans



As you can see, animals featured strongly, for most of us, at an early age. Hope you liked the look back in time, we may feature more soon.



DENTAL PROBLEMS

When teeth are this bad they will require professional intervention.

Some teeth will look and smell bad but the teeth underneath are sound. With a good scale and polish they will be brought back to near normal colour and the raw gums around recover, without the abrasive action of the plaque and bacteria that thrive there.

All too often however, much more damage lies below the gum line. If there is so much damage to the gum line that the root of the tooth is exposed, or is rotten, then these teeth will have to come out.

Many people worry about teeth coming out, however we have found that patients that have even large numbers of teeth removed do really well. Many patients start eating better, even on the evening after their dental.

Owners will naturally have concerns about putting their pets through a general anaesthetic when they're older. There is always an element of risk with any anaesthetic, however, our experience is that the short term risk hugely outweighs the long term problems of pain and ill health. Sore mouths stop your pet from eating properly and getting the daily nutrition it needs. They become bad tempered due to the pain. Toxins from the bacteria in the mouth invade the body when your pet swallows but can also get into the blood stream at the bleeding gum margins. It is for this reason that we will often advise a course of antibiotics leading up to a dental.

If you are unsure if your pet requires a dental, or you would like to know more on how to prevent dental disease, a free nurse clinic is a good place to start. These can be booked through reception.

If you know your pet has some level of dental disease and you have concerns about your pet's health, book in for a veterinary consultation. Sometimes things are not as bad as you think and we may alleviate your fears.