



Spring Newsletter 2016

Microchipping

From April 2016 new laws are being introduced regarding the microchipping of dogs. To improve animal welfare and help reduce the number of lost and stray dogs it will be compulsory for all dogs in the UK to be microchipped and recorded on a government compliant database.

- The new legislation requires all puppies born after 6th April 2016 to be implanted and recorded in the breeders name by the time they are 8 weeks old.
- When the puppy is taken to its new home, the new keeper must complete the transfer of keepership into their own name.
- Unchipped adult dogs must also be implanted with a microchip and details held on the relevant database must be up to date.

Please note that a microchip is not a substitute for a legally required identification tag attached to the collar. By law, all dogs must have a tag containing the keepers name and address.

Failure to comply may result in a fine of up to £1000. A variety of tags are available here. Please ask at reception for details.

As with all methods of identification, it is important to ensure your details are kept up to date with correct and accurate information on the database.

Microchipping is available at the surgery by appointment at a cost of just £15.00.



seresto™ flea and tick protection



Ticks are parasites that survive through attaching themselves to a passing dog or cat and feeding on the host's blood. Ticks can be picked up in outside areas such as woodland and grassland, which is their favoured habitat. Once attached, ticks can cause irritation, discomfort, and may potentially transmit Lyme disease. This is a bacterial infection that causes symptoms including lameness, fever, loss of appetite and meningitis. It can often be cured with antibiotics if diagnosed early enough. Lyme disease has zoonotic potential which means that it can also affect people.

Seresto is an innovative flea and tick collar, which is available from the surgery on prescription. **Seresto** acts as a tick repellent, as well as killing ticks.

These repelling and killing properties mean that most ticks do not get a chance to attach to your pet and take a blood meal. This anti-feeding effect means that **Seresto** reduces the risk of your dog or cat becoming infected with tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease.

Seresto also kills fleas as well as repelling ticks for up to 8 months in dogs and cats, which is great news, as the tick season runs from Spring through to Autumn.

- ❖ Innovative collar matrix enables controlled continuous release of ingredients.
- ❖ Water resistant: no need to remove when your pet goes into water
- ❖ Reduces the risk of fleas and ticks spreading disease to your pet



Important safety information – In the unlikely event of a dog or cat becoming trapped by the collar, **Seresto** includes a double safety system. The pets own strength/wriggling is sufficient to widen the collar to allow for a quick release and there is also a pre-determined breaking point.

Now is a great time to buy a **Seresto** collar to provide protection for your pet for the rest of the year!

From March to May, Seresto collars are 10% off, or 20% off for VIP patients!

Kennel Cough



Kennel cough, also known as infectious tracheobronchitis, is a highly infectious respiratory disease which circulates in the dog population **all year round**. A range of bugs can be involved but the two most likely are a bacterium called *Bordatella bronchiseptica* and *canine parainfluenza virus*.

Once exposed to infection, it takes 3-10 days before the disease is seen – usually as a dry, retching, honking cough and a raised temperature. Dog owners often think that there is something stuck in their dog's throat. Very rarely, serious cases can result in pneumonia and even death, particularly in puppies or elderly dogs, but much more commonly, the result is just a very nasty cough.

Kennel cough can last from a few days to several weeks and even after the coughing has stopped the dog can remain infectious for a long time.

Every dog is at risk, however healthy. Protection against the most important causes is not included in the routine annual vaccination and infected dogs can pass on the disease very easily. It is in fact the commonest infectious disease that we see affecting dogs.

Despite the name, kennel cough is not only contracted in kennels - a recent survey suggested that the majority of cases are acquired in places other than kennels. Your dog is likely to encounter it in the park, at dog shows and at training classes - basically anywhere that dogs meet. For this reason we recommend that ALL dogs have kennel cough vaccines, not just those going into kennels.

As with any disease, prevention is always better (and cheaper!) than cure. Effective intranasal vaccines are available against *Bordatella* bacteria and can be administered routinely alongside your pet's normal annual vaccination, although the preference is to leave a 2 week gap between annual vaccines and kennel cough vaccines.

Please contact us at the surgery to make an appointment for your dog's kennel cough vaccine.



'Your local caring vet'



FREE REMINDER SERVICE



We are pleased to announce that from mid-March onwards, we will be sending out 2 different kinds of free text message reminders.



Appointment reminders:

If you have an appointment booked for one of your animals to come and see a vet or nurse, you should start receiving a text message reminder the day before your appointment. You can of course opt out of these if you want to, but everyone from hairdressers to dentists sends these nowadays so we thought we would make your lives easier too!

Flea and worm reminders:

When you have purchased flea and worm control products (Advocate, Stronghold, Drontal, Profender etc), you should now receive a reminder to apply these products, and thereby ensure that your pets receive their parasite control as regularly as needed. Again, there will be an opt out if you wish, but we hope that these messages will be really useful. The system will work from the date that you purchased the product, and remind you every month (or 3 months for wormers) to use the product. We anticipate that this might cause a few giggles for the first month or two if you don't currently apply it on the day you get/order it, but once things are aligned thereafter, it should make remembering to apply these products so much easier!



BVVS has been awarded Cat Friendly Accreditation, meaning that we are now a Cat Friendly clinic. Although we have always been cat friendly and follow strict guidelines, this award means we are recognised as doing everything we can to ensure your cat's visit with us is as pleasant as possible.

What is a Cat Friendly clinic?

The International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM) is the veterinary division of International Cat Care. Through ISFM, International Cat Care works to provide education for veterinarians, veterinary nurses and veterinary technicians across the world to help improve the care that is provided for cats. The ISFM Cat Friendly Clinic programme is a vital part of our aim to try to make every veterinary visit for cats easier and more accessible. The whole process of taking a cat to a veterinary clinic can be highly stressful from simply catching a cat to put it in a basket, through to transporting the cat in the car, waiting in the veterinary clinic (often alongside dogs), being examined in the clinic, and sometimes having to be hospitalised. All these aspects can be difficult, stressful and challenging both for the cat, and also for cat owners. However, it does not have to be like that! Simple changes can make a huge difference and, while it may be impossible to alleviate all sources of stress, with the right approach, with empathetic handling and with appropriate facilities, much can be done to improve the experience for cats.

So, what does this mean for your cat?

The clinic must ensure cats are handled with appropriate gentleness and respect at all times, ensuring cat-friendly principles are always adhered to during the care and restraint of cats. These includes:

- Minimising stress during handling, examinations and procedures
- Recognising and minimising fear and anxiety in cats
- Providing owners with information on how to reduce stress during the journey to and from the vet clinic
- Avoiding heavy manual restraint and 'scruffing' of cats
- Minimising the negative impacts of odours, bright lights and noise for cats in the clinic



Communicating with owners

The clinic must ensure owners know who is involved with the care of their cats and the clinic must appoint at least one member of staff as a 'Cat Advocate', to ensure the Cat Friendly Clinic criteria are adhered to, and to answer any questions cat owners may have. Relevant cat information (leaflets providing advice on transporting cats, choosing cat carriers, giving cats medication etc.) must be readily available for owners.

Options for investigations and treatments, and likely costs must be discussed with owners and written estimates and itemised invoices must be provided if requested. We have been doing all of these things for years anyway!

In the waiting room, efforts must be made to avoid direct contact between dogs and cats, hence our lovely new cat only waiting area!



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