



# Spring Newsletter 2015

## Emergency?

Does your animal need to see us urgently?

### Emergency care

Here at BVVS we operate an appointment system but there are some situations which require immediate, emergency treatment. It is sometimes difficult to determine whether symptoms are signs of something more serious and our symptom checker, which can be found on our website: [www.bansteadvillagevets.co.uk](http://www.bansteadvillagevets.co.uk) has been designed to assist you. Please take a look to familiarise yourself with this facility should you ever need to use it. We have also outlined here some common emergencies and how to deal with them;

**Blockage of the Urinary Tract** If your cat is struggling or unable to pass urine this could be an indication of a potentially life threatening emergency. Please contact us immediately.

**Road Traffic Accidents** Even if your pet appears well, internal injuries may not be evident. Keep patient as still and quiet as possible. Slide onto a towel, secure cats in a suitable carrier and contact the surgery.

**Seizures/fitting/collapse** Stay calm. If your pet is fitting, try to remove as many hazards as possible from the immediate vicinity. Keep quiet and darken the room if possible. Do not attempt to comfort or stroke a dog who is fitting as there is a possibility he will bite you.

**Swollen abdomen** – If your dog's stomach appears bloated and they have been trying unsuccessfully to vomit you should contact us immediately.

In the event of any emergency it is vital that you phone the surgery before arriving. We have emergency protocols to follow and contacting us prior to your arrival saves time and allows us to deliver emergency care quickly and efficiently.



## SMILE FOR THE CAMERA!



In our continual aim to improve the service that we provide we have invested in a state of the art digital dental x-ray system.

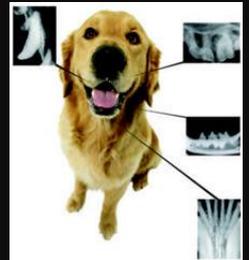
Dental radiographs are one of the most important diagnostic tools available to a veterinary surgeon. They allow the internal anatomy of the teeth, the roots and the bone that surrounds the roots to be examined.

Dental x-rays are made using small digital sensors placed inside the patient's mouth, and provide superior quality for examination of individual teeth or sections of the jaws compared with standard-sized veterinary x-rays. The process is carried out under general anaesthetic or sedation.

The radiation risk to the patient from taking dental radiographs is minimal.

Signs of dental disease are:

- Bad breath
- Loose teeth or teeth that are discoloured or covered in tartar.
- Your pet shies away when you touch the mouth area.
- Drooling or dropping food from the mouth.
- Bleeding from the mouth.
- Loss of appetite or weight loss.



If you are worried that your pet may have dental disease or if you would like your pet to have dental check-up, please contact us at the surgery.

## Pet Insurance

We are delighted to announce that Banstead Village Veterinary Surgery has been nominated for the Petplan award for Veterinary Practice of the Year 2015. Known as the Oscars of the Veterinary World, these celebrated awards are highly regarded and to be nominated is a great achievement.



We would like to thank everyone who has nominated us and say a massive well done to all our staff for their continued dedication.

To find out more information about the Petplan Veterinary Awards, please visit [petplanvet.co.uk/vetawards](http://petplanvet.co.uk/vetawards). We would also like to take this opportunity to remind our clients of the importance of pet insurance. With constant advancement in veterinary medicine we are able to achieve more and more excellent results, which is great news for healthcare but less so for your pocket. The costs of surgery following an accident or long term treatment for chronic illness can run into thousands of pounds and The British Small Animal Veterinary Association strongly endorse the concept of pet insurance. Our staff will be happy to advise you but we would recommend making sure the policy you choose suits your needs and of course, always read the small print.

Some points to consider –

- Does the policy give cover for life?
- What is covered by the policy and are there any exclusions?
- What is the maximum amount paid out for each condition?
- What is the cost of the monthly premium?
- Does the policy have third party cover?

Every pet deserves **Petplan**



*'Your local caring vet'*



# Pet of the season

Winnie is a seven year old neutered female, domestic short haired cat. She was brought to the surgery by her owners as she had not eaten for three days and had been vomiting and losing weight for two weeks. Winnie had been in a cattery following her arrival in the UK from Brazil with her family.

In the past, Winnie had been inclined to eat plastic bags and we were concerned that she may have done it again, causing a gastrointestinal blockage. If this was the case, Winnie would need surgery to remove it. However, her owners assured us that Winnie had not had access to any plastic bags as she had been in the cattery. X-rays and an ultrasound scan helped to confirm this. Our next step was to collect blood samples and Winnie was given pain relief, anti sickness drugs and put on a bland diet.



Despite her owner's very best efforts to nurse her day and night at home, Winnie showed no sign of improvement. When the blood test results came back, they showed that Winnie had a condition called Primary Hepatic Lipidosis, also known as feline fatty liver syndrome. This is one of the most common forms of liver disease and is more common in overweight cats. The disease may occur when a cat stops eating for any reason. In this situation, the liver responds by converting body fat into energy but if this process continues for too long, fat builds up in the liver cells and prevents them from functioning normally. The disease is potentially reversible through intensive feeding but not all cats will recover.



As Winnie would not eat voluntarily, we decided that she would need to be fed via a tube. She was given a general anaesthetic and had a soft rubber tube placed into her oesophagus through a small incision in her neck. These tubes allow liquid food to be delivered directly to the stomach without any stress to the patient. They are commonly used for animals who are too ill or injured to eat for themselves and can be left in place for extended periods of time if necessary. They are generally well tolerated and Winnie coped fine with hers.

For the next month, we checked Winnie regularly at the surgery and her owners provided around the clock TLC and intensive nursing care. They had to feed Winnie six times a day via her tube and give her lots of medication. The skin around the tube also needed to be kept clean to prevent infection and the bandages holding it in place had to be changed regularly. Winnie needed lots of love and encouragement to keep her spirits up and to start to eat and her owners provided this in abundance.



Eventually, Winnie began to eat well on her own and her blood results showed that her liver had recovered, so we removed the feeding tube. It has been a little while now since we last saw Winnie, but her owners tell us that she is very well and completely back to her old self. Winnie's owners did a fantastic job of nursing her and the fact that she is still here today and enjoying life in a new country is a credit to them. Winnie's owners were kind enough to leave a Facebook review about the treatment that Winnie received from us at BVVS.



'Our cat came from Brazil with us and since she got here in Banstead we noticed that she was not acting normally (not eating or playing as usual). As soon as we noticed that it could be something serious we took her to BVVS and we are glad we did! Andy and his crew are the best. After treating her symptoms and doing some tests they found that she had some liver disease (hepatic lipidosis). The treatment went well and after several weeks of procedures (including a feeding tube) our cat finally was cured! For the whole treatment (more than a month) they were kind and gentle, you can easily notice that they are well trained and that they really care about the pets (and people). We had such a hard time trying to settle in a different country and our 7 year old daughter was very sad with her beloved cat ill and weak. I don't know what we would have done without this clinic and its really incredible staff. God bless them all!



**Banstead Village Veterinary Surgery**  
**170a High Street Banstead, Surrey, SM7 2NZ**  
**TEL: 01737 210011**

