

The Vale Veterinary Group April Newsletter

****Vale Veterinary Centre- Pet Health Plan Scheme****

- Pet health plans are a simple money saving way to give your cat or dog the regular preventative treatment they need. You just pay a certain amount per month via direct debit. Prices include yearly booster vaccination, 1 year's worth of Advocate and Drontal as well as a 6 monthly check up with one of our nurses. There are also additional discounts off food, neutering, micro chipping, long term medication and much more.



Staff News

Our Honiton practice is now up and running! If you missed our open day-, do not worry! Feel free to visit anytime, our friendly staff would be more than happy to give you a guided tour!

Welcome to Andrew Bitmead our new veterinary surgeon who has recently joined the Cullompton practice.

Prices

- There is an initial £10 joining fee (then £5 per animal) then a price per month depending on weight.

£ per month	Small <10kg	Medium 10-25kg	Large 25-40kg	X Large >40kg
Dog	£9.85	£11	£12.75	£20.65
Cat	£9.60			

For more information please call into the practice or give us a ring on 0188435558.

Happy Easter!!

- Remember-keep all Easter eggs away from your dogs (and other animals too!!) as chocolate is very poisonous to them! If your animal does ingest any type of chocolate- ring us immediately, the quicker we see the animal the more likely it is that we can make them vomit, thus hopefully avoiding any complex and expensive treatments to save them. DO NOT attempt to make your dog vomit at home, it can be dangerous.

- Also....Spring bulbs, especially daffodils can cause death if eaten by your dog or cat. Slug baits and other garden fertilisers can be equally dangerous, so make sure you keep your garden secure or pet friendly!!!



Easter Opening Hours.

Date	Hours
Friday 22 nd April	Bank holiday-Emergencies only
Saturday 23 rd April	As normal 9am-4.30pm
Sunday 24 th April	Emergencies only
Monday 25 th April	Bank holiday-Emergencies only
Tuesday 26-Thursday 28 th April	As Normal
Friday 29 th April	Bank holiday-Emergencies only
Saturday 30 th April	As normal 9am-4.30pm
Sunday 1 st May	Emergencies only
Monday 2 nd May	Bank holiday-Emergencies only
Tuesday 3 rd May onward	As Normal

Remember we have a 24hr emergency service- you will be able to speak to a vet at any time over the Easter period.

Do you have any old towels or blankets you no longer use??

If so, our new Honiton practice would be happy to take them off your hands!! Just bag them up, bring them in to any of our practices and give them to our reception team.
Thank you very much!



LUNGWORM

All dog owners should be aware of and be vigilant for signs of Lungworm infection. This is a serious disease which can be fatal if not recognised early and treated correctly. Lungworm infection is caused by the parasite *Angiostrongylus vasorum*, which is relatively common in the South West of England.

Dogs become infected by eating slugs and snails which can carry the larvae of the parasite. Some dogs and cats will eat snails on purpose, however the hidden danger arises from small slugs and snails which can be accidentally swallowed when dogs are drinking from outdoor water bowls, playing with toys left out in the garden, or rummaging through the undergrowth.

Dogs which have picked up a lungworm infection can show a number of different symptoms. Dogs may cough or have breathing difficulties. They may also show general signs of being unwell including weight loss, reduced appetite and vomiting. The most serious potential consequence of infection is persistent bleeding, both internally and externally and even from minor cuts.

Advocate is a spot on flea and worm treatment that can prevent you pet from getting lungworm. It is the ONLY wormer that is effective against lungworm. Just remember that it doesn't cover Tapeworms, so you will still have to give a drontal tablet every 3 months if your animal is a scavenger or a hunter.

Don't delay-Animals with Lungworm can go undetected and then go downhill very quickly. This disease can also be fatal if left un-treated



Early Neutering

We strongly believe that the best way to reduce future cat overcrowding and reduce the number of cats without loving homes is to neuter them early enough to prevent unwanted litters, in other words, to neuter before the cat reaches puberty.

We promote the neutering of pet cats by **four months of age or earlier** (shortly following primary vaccination wherever possible). With feral cats we promote neutering from weaning age (approx 8 weeks) – to avoid the need to release and retrap them.

By having your pet neutered you can prevent many problems including,

- Pyometra. This is a potentially fatal condition where pus accumulates within the uterus.
- Mammary tumours.
- Testicular tumours.
- Pets wandering / straying.
- Reduce the likelihood of diseases spread by fighting & mating such as FIV/FelV.

If you require any more information about neutering your cat or would like to book your cat in for neutering please call the surgery on 01884 35558.



The Vale Veterinary Centre.
Cullompton 01884 35558. Uffculme 01884 841317.
Whimble 01404 823230. Honiton 01404 44095



May 2011

National Vaccination Month – MAY

Is your pet up to date??

For national vaccination month, vets everywhere are having a vaccination amnesty. If your dog or cat is over 18 months old and you have let their vaccinations lapse, now is the time to restart. The Vale Veterinary Group are offering all lapsed animals the chance to have a full primary course of vaccines for the price of a booster, as well as a free health check.

Vaccination is very important **THROUGHOUT** life not just the first few years. Vaccinations are given yearly and can help to prevent your pet catching a number of life threatening diseases including;

Dogs

- **Distemper**- Causes diarrhoea, breathing problems and neurological signs- is highly contagious and usually fatal
- **Parvovirus**-Causes severe vomiting, diarrhoea and heart issues-is highly contagious and usually fatal
- **Leptospirosis (Weils disease)**-Affects the liver and/or kidneys. Spread by rats and can be caught by humans. Can be fatal.

Cats

- **Feline Leukaemia**-Causes tumours, anaemia and a weak immune system. Spread by grooming, feeding and fighting. The disease is always fatal.
- **Feline Panleucopaemia**- Causes vomiting, anorexia and fever. Is usually fatal
- **Cat flu**- Causes sneezing, nasal and ocular discharge. Not fatal but can persist throughout the cats life, causing large veterinary bills.

So don't delay. Log onto www.nvmonline.co.uk to collect your voucher. Print it off then ring 01884 35558 to book your appointment. (If you do not have a computer we would be happy to print off a voucher for you. Just pop into the surgery.)