

The Vale Veterinary Group Small Animal February 2012 Newsletter

Pet Health Plans.

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.

Prices

- There is an initial £10 joining fee (then £5 per animal) then a price per month depending on weight. If you would like any more information please call the surgery 01884 35558

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

Antifreeze.

We are now well into the winter months and many of us will be putting antifreeze into our cars. Antifreeze is highly toxic to cats and dogs so it is important to make sure that none is spilt on the floor and that bottles are stored out of an animals reach.

Antifreeze is very sweet tasting and it only takes a small amount to be fatal. One pool of spilt antifreeze could be fatal to a large number of animals. Ethylene Glycol (the main ingredient of antifreeze) is very toxic to the kidneys. Initial signs include stumbling, in coordination, excessive thirst and lack of appetite. This can lead to breathing difficulties, seizures and eventual kidney failure and death.

If you think your pet has ingested antifreeze it is important that you bring them to the vets immediately, even if they appear well as symptoms can take time to develop. This will give your pet the best chance of survival, however unfortunately ingestion is usually fatal.

Staff News

Becky Manning's one of our receptionists is taking maternity leave as from February. We wish her all the best.

Carole is on the run...again!!

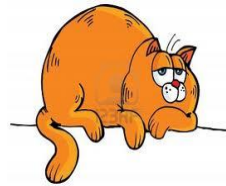
Carole from our large animal office is running the London Marathon next spring in aid of Exeter Hospiscare. If you would like to donate any money to her efforts you can visit

<http://www.justgiving.com/carole-newbould-london-marathon-2012>. or contact her at the practice.



Small Furrries

It is important not to forget your small furrries this winter. During the winter months rabbits and guinea pigs spend less time outdoors in their runs and more time in their hutches. Also due to a lack of light and work commitments, most people do not see their animals in the light. They also get handled less. This can lead to a variety of nutritional and husbandry problems. It is important to make sure that they have a regular supply of good quality hay not only for warmth but for eating. In rabbits especially this can help to prevent problems such as bloat. Due to a lack of movement small furrries in hutches can also suffer from urine scalding. It is very important that small furrries are handled every day and checked for injuries or illness. Rabbits and Guinea pigs do not cope well with illness and can become very sick very quickly, it is therefore imperative that they are checked regularly and seen as soon as possible if unwell.



Grooming

Unfortunately due to maternity leave and injury our grooming service is currently unavailable. We hope that Lorraine will be returning at the end of February, however this is subject to change. We apologise for any inconvenience.



Is your pet overweight???

New Year is generally the time people start to think about losing weight themselves but have your thought about your pet?? Obesity in animals can cause a variety of expensive health problems including joint disease and diabetes. If you feel your pet is overweight then come in to see one of our nurses for a FREE weight check. We can talk to you about your pets diet and advise you on how much your pet needs to lose, and how to go about it. We can then arrange FREE follow up appointments to check on your pets progress. To book call the surgery and ask for a FREE weight check.

Fleas

With modern heating systems, fleas are becoming more and more of a problem during the winter months. If your pet has a large flea burden then fleas start to infest the home, lodging themselves in carpets and bedding and laying their eggs. These eggs can lie dormant within carpet and start to hatch when heating systems are turned on in the winter. This can lead to a large infestation very quickly. Most spot on flea treatments will only treat your pet, so if treatment is appearing to be ineffective then it is most likely to be an infestation within the home. This can occur if treatment is not initiated quickly or is not maintained leading to a vicious cycle whereupon fleas that are on your pet are killed but then replaced by fleas from the house. Treating the house is by a spray called 'Indorex®'. This is sprayed around the house and lasts for 1 year. It is also important to wash and Hoover all carpets and furniture/bedding your pet comes into contact with. Unfortunately fleas can be very difficult to get rid of and fumigation of your house may be the only option.

The best way to prevent a flea infestation is regular monthly treatment of all pets within the household. If you would like any more information feel free to ring and speak to one of our nurses 01884 35558.

