

The Vale Veterinary Centre Small Animal Newsletter

TORTOISE HEALTH CHECKS

If you have a tortoise that has hibernated this winter then they will be waking up now. This is a critical time for tortoises as they are often weak, dehydrated and more vulnerable to infections. A healthy tortoise should start to drink, eat and urinate within 5-7 days of waking up.

Post-hibernation anorexia is a common problem and can be suggestive of serious health problems.



Why not call the surgery now on 01884 35558 to book your tortoise in for a post hibernation health check.



**Is your pet microchipped??
June is national
microchipping month!**

900 pets go missing every day in the UK. Don't let your pet be one of them. Having your pet microchipped means if they do go walk about, you'll have the best possible chance of being reunited.

Pets can go missing for a variety of reasons, they can become scared during firework night season or heavy thunderstorms, wander too far from a new house and being naturally inquisitive can easily become lost whilst investigating smells or noises. Although tags and collars are important, they can easily slip off.

With microchipping, on the other hand, the vet injects a tiny chip—about the size of a grain of rice—just under your pet's skin, between the shoulder blades. A unique number on the microchip is entered into a national database. If your dog or cat is found, any animal hospital, shelter, or humane society can use a microchip reader to read the number contained on the chip. The database is then accessed by inputting the chip number. This will identify your animal and give your contact details.

Having a microchip implanted is quick, simple and very cost effective. It will give you the peace of mind that if your pet does become lost, you will have more chance of being reunited faster and will avoid the possibility of your pet being re-homed or kept in a shelter. The chip can't be lost or damaged, and it lasts for the pet's lifetime.

Staff News

Congratulations to Katie Moore one of our qualified nurses who has a new post, lecturing at Bicton College, educating the next generation of veterinary nurses. We will be very sad to see her go, but wish her all the best.

Congratulations to Carly Fowler who has passed her final nursing exams and is now a fully qualified registered veterinary nurse.

Also big congratulations to Kate Fairclough one of the partners, who will be expecting twins in October, and Becky Manning's who is also pregnant with her second child.

SPECIAL OFFER!

Special offer in

June

**Get your
animal
microchipped
for only**

£10

**at the Vale
Veterinary
Centre**



DOG GROOMING NOW AVAILABLE AT THE VALE VETERINARY CENTRE, CULLOMPTON

Here at the Vale Veterinary Group we are always looking at ways to improve the services to our clients.

For this reason we are now offering a grooming service, which will be run by Jamie, one of our registered veterinary nurses and Lorraine, an experienced dog groomer.

Why come to the vets to have your dog groomed?

- High quality service run by qualified, experienced staff
- Veterinary nurses can advise on preventative healthcare and nutrition
- If there is any evidence of skin disease, ear problems or any 'lumps or bumps' our vets can advise on the best way to manage these conditions

To book, phone us and speak to Lorraine or Jamie at Cullompton on 01884 35558

Does your cat have high blood pressure?

Hypertension (high blood pressure) is a common problem in people, often associated with smoking or a stressful lifestyle. In older cats we regularly diagnose hypertension and it is almost always caused by an underlying disease.

The most common cause of hypertension in older cats is kidney failure, but it is also seen in association with hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid gland function) and heart disease. There are also other less common diseases which can also lead to high blood pressure.

If a cat has hypertension, then the blood within its vessels is under higher pressure than normal, this can lead to bleeding or blood clot formation. If this occurs in the eye, it can lead to sudden blindness; in the kidney, it can cause or exacerbate kidney failure (with increased thirst, loss of appetite and vomiting); if bleeding occurs in the brain, then stroke-like symptoms can occur and if in the heart then heart failure can be the result. Also hypertension will generally make your cat feel rotten, he may be more grumpy than normal or may go off his food.

Hypertension is easy to diagnose - we use small inflatable cuff, just as in people, it is a rapid and painless procedure which can be done by any of our vets or nurses. This is one of the tests done by the nurses in the 'Senior Cat Clinics'. If your cat's blood pressure is high (over 180mmHg) then we will recommend further blood and urine tests to check for an underlying disease.



The good news is that hypertension is easy to treat with inexpensive daily medication. This treatment will be lifelong and we will need to perform regular blood pressure checks.



Hidden dangers in the garden.....

Spring bulbs can be fatal if dug up and eaten by your dog, in fact all parts of the daffodil plant can be poisonous to dogs and cats.

Lillies are extremely toxic to cats both those growing in the garden and cut flowers, they may even be fatal.

Other plants potentially toxic to your pets include cherry laurel, laburnum, yew and lily of the valley. Before you buy new plants for your garden - check whether they are poisonous.

Also don't forget slug bait, fertilisers and weed killers can all be poisonous to pets.

The Vale Veterinary Centre.
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