

**The Vale Veterinary Centre Small Animal Newsletter Newsletter**

**!!!!!! SPRING OFFER !!!!!!**

**15% OFF NEUTERING  
IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH**

**Are you suffering from the effects of the credit crunch?  
Can we help?**

There are many benefits of neutering including health and behaviour issues as well as the prevention of unwanted puppies and kittens. The best time to neuter your cat is at 6 months old. For male dogs neutering (castration) is recommended from 6 months of age onwards and for female dogs neutering (spaying) can be done either at 6 months old or 3 months after her first season (if you're not sure which – call and chat with one of our vets or nurses).

**If your pet has not been microchipped we will also offer you microchipping at the time of neutering for only £10!!!**

**Give us a call at the surgery to book your dog or cat in today!  
01884 35558**



**STAFF NEWS**

**Congratulations to Carly Fowler who passed her level 3 written exams in December, just the practicals to go then she will be fully qualified!**

**Congratulations to Abi and Phil!**  
Big news for Abi Dart, one of our veterinary nurses, who got engaged to Phil in December, we wish them all the very best for the future!



**RCVS accreditation means:**

- Peace of mind for you
- Quality care for your animals
- Regular inspections for the practice

**RCVS**  
ACCREDITED  
PRACTICE  
SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE

**We passed our inspection!!!!**

We have recently been awarded RCVS Tier 2 status at our Cullompton Surgery!

See over for more details.....





# March 2010 is ORAL HEALTH MONTH



Does your pet have any of the following symptoms??

Halitosis (bad breath)  
Excess saliva  
Difficulty eating  
Facial swelling

Grinding teeth  
Pawing at their mouth  
Weight loss  
Abnormal discharge/bleeding from mouth

**If so, your pet could have periodontal disease.**

Over 70% of all cats and dogs over the age of 3 years will have some form of periodontal disease.

Periodontal disease, or dental disease as it is more commonly known, is a chronic gum inflammation. It occurs when plaque builds up on and around the teeth. The plaque bacteria cause the gums to become very red, inflamed and sore. It is the same as what would happen to our mouths if we didn't brush our teeth. There are 5 stages of dental disease ranging from mild gingivitis (inflamed gums) to severe infection and rotting teeth.

During your pet's dental check, the nurse will give your pet a full examination and also give you information on all aspects of oral health. You will receive a free dental pack containing your pet's own personal booklet and dental record, a free sample of Royal Canin dental food, a free Pedigree Dentastix and lots of hints, tips and information on how to ensure your pet has the healthiest mouth possible!!

## The Snow!!!!

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our clients for their patience during the recent snow fall.*

*Although many of our staff made heroic efforts to get to work, which was much appreciated, we were a little short staffed necessitating closure of the Whimple and Uffculme branches and early closing at Cullompton to ensure the safety of our staff on their journeys home.*

*We apologise for any inconvenience which may have been caused and once again Thank You All!*



In spite of the cold weather we've been experiencing, don't forget that fleas can still be a huge problem as our houses are toasty warm with that central heating! So it is more important than ever to keep up your regular flea prevention programme.

**For the best products and advice come in to the surgery today!**



This practice is proud to be an approved member of the RCVS Practice Standards Scheme. As a Tier 2 accredited practice, we have passed an inspection carried out by an experienced vet focusing on a range of areas, including hygiene, health & safety, clinical governance, provision of 24-hour care, lab facilities, commitment to education, training of staff, and the facilities we provide, to name just a few of the many criteria.

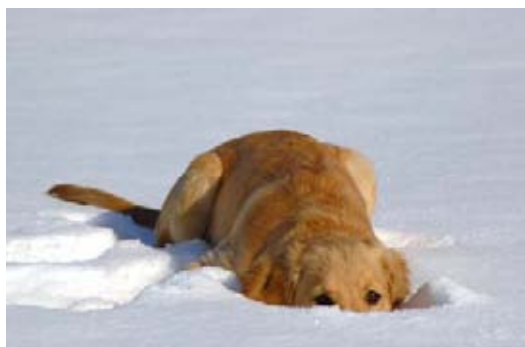
The Practice Standards Scheme is a voluntary initiative - not all practices are part of it. The practice will be re-inspected every 4 years and we will be subject to spot checks in the meantime!

So what does that mean to me and my pets?

RCVS accreditation means that as a client you can rest assured that our practice offers a high quality of care- in those bits of the practice that you can see- and those that you can't!!

We have a range of leaflets available if you would like any further information about the scheme or you can visit the RCVS website.

[www.rcvs.org.uk/practicestandards](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/practicestandards)



## Walk for Haiti 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010

7 members of our staff are walking a half marathon in aid of COMPASSION to raise money for their valuable work helping the victims of the terrible earthquake in Haiti.

They will be walking from Cullompton to Exeter then walking around Exeter collecting money. If you see them walking - please encourage them on their way and give generously.

Sponsor forms are available at the surgery, please help in any way you can, every little helps!

