

Midsummer Veterinary Group



23rd Edition

Summer 2008

**Make sure your pet has their Annual Check and Booster.
Don't forget preventative Flea and Worm Treatment too!**

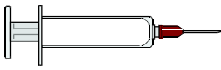
Practice News

Vitor, Assistant Vet, left for pastures new at the end of February and Rhiannon, who was one of our Animal Nursing Assistants, has also spread her wings. We all wish them well for their future. We are not going to be replacing Vitor just yet, so Dexter will be running the practice single-handedly for a while.

Sarah and Amy are coming to the end of their first year training and will be taking their first exam in July. They have both worked extremely hard and are determined to be fully qualified Veterinary Nurses at the end of their training next year.



The vaccination amnesty went very well and was extended to the end of April. Vaccinations are all part of Preventative Health Care for your pets and hopefully all those people who took advantage of having a full vaccination course for the price of a booster will maintain their yearly boosters from now on.



When your pet comes in for an operation or procedure we give out Pre-Anaesthetic instructions both verbally and written. It is very important that you follow these instructions. On occasions we have had to refuse carrying out the operation or procedure due to the pet being fed prior to being brought in. We will not anaesthetise pets who have knowingly been fed. The main reason is that if your pet starts to vomit (due to being fed) whilst intubated (having a tube down the trachea) there is nowhere for the vomit to go and may cause aspiration pneumonia. So please listen to the nurses' advice plus read the information given as these instructions are vital to your pet's well-being. All anaesthetics carry some risk. We strive to reduce that risk to the smallest possible.



Our On-Line shop is having a good response and many of our regular 'food' clients are now ordering on line and taking advantage of up to 20% discount on non-prescriptive foods and 5% on clinical diet food. Go to our website www.midsummervet.co.uk for ordering on-line.

ROYAL CANIN



How can you make sure that you are

feeding your pet the correct food? With so many types of dog and cat food available from supermarkets, pet shops and veterinary surgeries it's difficult to know exactly which food is right for your pet. It is very important that your pet has the

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correct food for his/her breed, age and lifestyle.

Dietary requirements of dogs and more especially cats are complex (37 essential nutrients for dogs, 41 for cats) and this varies according to age, weight and state of health. Prepared pet food is balanced, nutritious and convenient. It would be very difficult to maintain this balance with home prepared foods.



The different types of pet food available usually falls into two categories: COMPLETE – which provides all the nutrients required or COMPLEMENTARY – which does not include all the necessary nutrients and needs to be mixed with other food.

Dry foods may provide excellent dental care in the form of chewing whereas wet food may be preferable for pets with fewer teeth or eating difficulties.

If you are unsure about your pet's diet our nursing staff will be able to advise you on the type of food you should be using specifically for your pet.

If you have a new puppy we can put you in touch with a Dog Training School near you.

It is so important for young dogs to socialise with other dogs, children, adults and different surroundings. It will also teach your dog good manners, to obey basic commands and help him/her know their place in the family.



All dog owners have an obligation to ensure that their pet is happy, socialised, well trained and able to be within the local community.

Taking your puppy to training classes will show you how positive training methods really work. It's not just the puppy that's trained it's the owner too! Most puppy classes are over a six week period and a lot of owners find it so beneficial that they continue with the training by going on to other classes.

A trained dog is a happy dog.

Senior Pets. As your pet gets older their health requirements change and a dog or cat over the age of 8yrs is classed as a senior. Their diet needs to be adjusted so that they are having less calories but higher fibre. The nutrient value of the food needs to be easily digestible. Exercise routines for dogs may need to be changed, more frequent shorter walks a day rather than two long ones. Cats will still require their 'playtime' but at a gentler level.

Grooming is really important for elderly



pets particularly if joints are getting a bit stiff and they can no longer groom themselves. It also helps to stimulate the blood flow and keeps their coat in a better condition. It also gives you the opportunity of checking for lumps and bumps and any other abnormalities. As pets get older their teeth need checking frequently too. If you have always cleaned your pet's teeth you will easily notice any changes in gums, bad breath or decayed teeth. Untreated dental problems in elderly pets may inhibit their eating and cause unnecessary pain and suffering.

Keep a close eye on your pet for any indication that they may be suffering from an age related disease. Are they drinking more? Are they quieter and not so enthusiastic? Are they panting a lot and do they seem to be grumpier?

It may be a good idea to have your pet checked over every three or six months, plus regular blood tests to identify or monitor disease of liver, kidneys or other organs.



By making the right changes at the right time you can help your elderly pet to have a longer, happier and healthier life.

We offer FREE Nurse Clinics to help you to understand the needs of your pet.
Weight Clinic - Keep a regular check on your pet's weight and diet
Dental Clinic - Make sure you give your pet a good dental routine
Adolescent Clinic - Help and advice at this important stage
Club 8 Plus - Our Special clinic for elderly pets

Our experienced Nursing Staff are here to help you keep your pet in tip top condition - make an appointment today!

Did you know that if you have your pet

Identichipped with a Bio-Thermo chip we are able to take your pet's temperature by scanning the chip? Isn't technology wonderful? Normally the only way to accurately take your pet's temperature was rectally, which, as you can imagine is not always easy, particularly if your pet is a



little nervous. The Bio-Thermo chip incorporates a thermometer and an identifier all in one. This means less stress for you and your pet.

Should your pet go missing and be found by a member of the public they will normally either take your pet to their vet, or the nearest vet to them, or contact the RSPCA, or if the pet is a dog contact the dog warden. This means that your pet could well be taken out of the area in which he or she was found and should your pet have no means of identification then the chances of you being reunited with your pet are pretty slim. I.D. Tags are helpful but over time they may become unreadable but with an identity chip and once scanned your pet can be back home with you in a short time.

If a pet has been involved in a traffic accident it is vitally important that vets are able to contact the owner. Cats, in particular, who have been run over, are usually brought in by members of the public who either saw the accident or found the cat by the side of the road. Without identification owners may never know what happened to their pet.

If you have an unchipped pet please think seriously about having him or her chipped. The microchip is tiny and it is injected under the skin in the same way that vaccinations are done. For £25.00* (Identichip with Bio-Thermo) you will have the peace of mind that if your pet strays and is taken to a vets, RSPCA or to a kennels via the dog warden then you will be very quickly contacted. Worth it don't you think?

***For June only, Identichip with Bio-Thermo is on SPECIAL OFFER for just £20.00. Ring us now to make an appointment!**

Hopefully the warmer weather is here to stay for the summer, however, although us humans enjoy soaking up the sun, the heat can prove to be fatal for pets.



Please DO NOT leave your dog in the car. Heat exhaustion followed by collapse can happen in a very short time.

Ensure that rabbits and guinea pigs are not left in the full sun and that they have plenty of fresh water at all times.

Don't keep caged birds, gerbils or hamsters near a window that gets the full sun.

If you have a white dog or cat use a pet sunscreen on their ears and nose area.

Don't walk your dog on a very hot day - take them out in the evening when it's cooler or first thing in the morning.

If you suspect your pet of having heat exhaustion they will probably need prompt veterinary treatment.