



Cedar Snippets

THE NEWSLETTER OF CEDAR VETERINARY GROUP

SPRING ISSUE 2008

SURGERY OPENING TIMES

All surgeries run by
appointment only

RINGWOOD

01425 473683

Mon-Fri 8am to 6.30pm
(opening until 9.30pm soon)
Sat 8am to 5pm

VERWOOD

01202 825217

Mon-Thurs 8.30 to 6pm
Fri 8.30 to 6.30pm
Sat 8.30 to 12.30

FERNDOWN

01202 861622

Mon-Fri 8.30 to 6pm
(closed 1 to 2pm)
Sat 8.30 to 10.30am

CANINE CARE

CENTRE

01425 480721

Tues-Fri 9am to 4pm
Sat 9am to 1pm
Mon & Sun Closed

EMERGENCIES OUT

OF HOURS

01425 473683

Out of hours emergencies will
usually be seen at our Ringwood
Hospital. Please phone first.

With Spring on its way in the New Forest it is time to check your pets are ready for the coming season.

Remember to introduce rabbits to the spring grass gradually to avoid digestive problems, and check them daily for fly eggs as the weather warms up.

It's also the time of year to start watching out for young adders as they are at their most poisonous as they emerge in the spring!

Feel free to pop in and see one of our consulting nurses with any queries about routine preventative care.

Walking off the Christmas Turkey

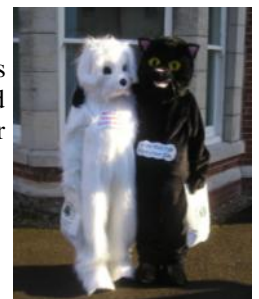


The start of the walk at the Red Shoot pub.

walk to promote exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle.

The day was a great success with more than forty clients and almost as many dogs, and raised a total of £187.70 for Happy Dogs. We would like to thank everybody who supported us and hope to host another similar event later in the year.

Justine and Lucy preparing to take the obesity message out onto the streets of Ringwood!



A cold clear day in mid February saw a number of clients and friends of the practice meeting for a walk in aid of the locally run charity Happy Dogs. The walk was organised by our consulting nurses Justine and Lucy, as part of our recent campaign to raise awareness about the increasing problem of obesity amongst our pets.

Justine and Lucy are passionate about preventative health care, and firmly believe in the benefits of keeping our pets' weight under control. This year has seen them spreading the word in Ringwood and Ferndown dressed as overweight pets, before organising the

Open All Hours!

It has not escaped our notice that all sorts of businesses are altering their opening hours to suit their clients. We have always been able to offer a twenty-four hour emergency service staffed by our own vets, but we are pleased to announce that we will now be extending our opening hours. From March 17th we will be open for routine appointments until 9.30pm at no extra charge. We hope that this will help you to fit your pet's health care around your full-time jobs where necessary!

We will be continuing the twenty-four hour emergency service for our clients, with emergency call-out fees applying from 10pm onwards.



New Healthy Pet Plans

Many of you will already be aware that we offer a variety of Healthy Pet Plans. These are designed to organise your pet's routine health care whilst spreading the cost by using a monthly direct debit. In this way, not only do we provide you with everything your pet needs for the year, but you don't have to worry about paying each time you come for vaccinations, wormers, and flea treatment etc.



Until now there have been several plans offering different levels of care, however this has made things rather complicated! Therefore we have decided to simplify it by offering just three plans— one for dogs, one for cats and one for rabbits. Each plan offers full vaccination (excluding kennel cough for dogs), worming, and flea and tick control, all with a ten per-cent discount.

If you have your pet on a healthy pet plan then you will also qualify for a ten per-cent discount on all other preventative health care services, including neutering, dental products, microchipping and nurse grooming, with free nail clipping whenever your pet needs it. To apply, simply pick up a leaflet at any of our surgeries and fill out the application form on the back. Hand it in to reception, where we can provide you with a direct debit form to complete. We will then send you out an information pack, with a personalised Treatment Plan with all the information you need for your pet's routine care.



National Vaccination Month

March marks the start of National Vaccination Month, where any pet whose vaccinations are out of date can re-start the vaccination course for a reduced price. Vaccination is vital, and as we have reported in previous Cedar Snippets we still see life-threatening infections such as Parvovirus and Leptospirosis in dogs whose vaccinations have lapsed.

Dogs and cats who are more than eighteen months overdue require a starter course of two injections. This month you can save £16.50 by logging on to www.vaccinationmonth.co.uk and download a voucher for a free second injection. Following the initial course, the Intervet vaccines we use for dogs now only require annual boosters for the Leptospirosis and Parainfluenza vaccine, whilst Parvovirus, Distemper and Hepatitis only need to be boosted every three years. Cats still require annual vaccinations at the moment, and it is important to be aware that rabbits should have myxomatosis vaccines twice yearly in this area due to the high levels of the disease in the new forest.

Local Charity Dog Show and Fun Day

Cedar Vets will be sponsoring a Companion Dog Show and Fun Day in aid of the "Friends of the Strays of Greece", a charity run by Lyn Purden, one of our Ferndown receptionists. There will be a variety of both pedigree and novelty classes. The show will take place on Sunday April 13th at Burt's Lane, Mannington, near Wimborne and there will be a variety of classes for everybody. Paul Martin, known to most as BBC's "Flog it" presenter, will be supporting the day and helping with some of the judging.

For more information call 01425-478757 or log on to www.straysofgreece.org



BBC's Paul Martin will be joining the Friends of the Strays of Greece for a fun day out on April 13th.

Support your pet's joints for life



At Cedar Veterinary Group we are very keen to emphasize the importance of preventative health care to try and reduce some of the common problems we see. A classic example is arthritis, very common amongst our dogs and increasingly recognised in older cats as well.

Nutritional supplements are very popular in human medicine for promoting healthy joints and reducing the wear and tear which leads to arthritis. Glucosamine is the main ingredient of these "nutraceuticals", and is a key building block in cartilage and joint fluid, which act as the "shock absorbers" in our joints. This is often combined with various amino acids and chondroitin sulphate, another important component of healthy connective tissue in the body. Many people who experience the benefits of these supplements would like to try the same for their pet.

However, it is a common misconception that human formulations are as effective in pets as they are in us. The main difference is that human supplements contain glucosamine sulphate, whereas the pet licensed versions are based upon glucosamine hydrochloride. The key difference is the type of molecule, as the glucosamine hydrochloride is better absorbed in dogs and therefore more effective.

We prefer to use a customised formulation called Glycoflex, which is licensed for dogs and cats. It comes in three different strengths to provide the appropriate level of support for your pet whether they have serious arthritis, or whether they are just in a higher risk category for developing joint disease in the future. An added benefit of Glycoflex is that it is one of the less expensive formulations on the market, making life a little easier if only a low level of supplement is required.

Glycoflex is just one of the treatments available for arthritis, and the vets generally try to create a personalised treatment plan for each pet. We then encourage regular visits to one of our consulting nurses to keep an eye on your pet's progress. Feel free to arrange an informal chat with Justine or Lucy, or alternatively you can make an appointment with one of the vets for an arthritis assessment.

Pets Reunited!

Every dog now legally has to have a collar with an identity tag, providing a contact telephone number for the owner in case they become lost. But what if your dog slips his collar and escapes?

One Saturday morning several weeks ago, a young West Highland White Terrier was found roaming around Ferndown without a collar. With no means of contacting the owner, and no Dog Warden available on a Saturday, the person who found the dog brought him to our Ferndown branch.

We were able to scan the dog to look for a microchip, and fortunately found one. We could then ring the microchip helpline, which has records of all UK microchip numbers, regardless of where they were implanted or which microchip company was used. Within half an hour of the dog's arrival, we were able to reunite a very worried owner with their beloved pet.

Microchipping is a simple procedure, similar to an injection, which can be done at any time. The actual chip is approximately the same size as a large grain of rice, and is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades. You can book your pet in for microchipping with Justine or Lucy, our consulting nurses, at any of our branches, and the procedure is also offered at a reduced rate at the time of any surgical procedure.



Changes to the Canine Care Centre

From March 7th, the Canine Care Centre will be closing for conversion to a specialist referral centre for our orthopaedic service. It will be fitted with the latest state-of-the-art equipment including a permanent CT scanner for improved diagnostic capability, and a dedicated physiotherapy suite. The MRI scanner will continue visiting on a regular basis.

This does mean that sadly we will lose the hydrotherapy pool as there simply is not room to keep it open. Although it has been useful for fun swims and weight loss swims, the latest research suggests that a pool alone may not be the best means of rehabilitating dogs after surgery.

Instead our new physiotherapy suite will include a water treadmill, which is increasingly recognised as the most controlled way of re-introducing exercise to dogs after surgery or those suffering from arthritis.



The physiotherapy suite will be run by Donna Scott, a qualified veterinary physiotherapist who used to be a hydrotherapist with us.

An example of the new water treadmill in action

The behaviour and training facilities will be continued, as Jo Scott will now be running The New Forest Behaviour Practice. This will be based at a neighbouring site at Hangersley, offering rehabilitation classes for dogs with behavioural problems.



As part of this venture, Jes Carter and Helen Beesley will continue their hugely successful training classes as the Perfect Paws Training Academy. A wide range of training classes will be available at Alderholt and Ibsley village halls, with Jes offering a one-to-one training service from her house in Avon Castle.

With the advent of late night opening at the Ringwood surgery, Puppy Club will be moving to our Verwood branch from March 17th. This is a weekly meeting on Thursdays which provides a fantastic opportunity for puppies to get together and play, whilst one of our behaviour team are available to answer any questions you may have about your puppy's care.

For any enquiries please contact Jo on 01425-480721 or Jes can be contacted directly on 07769-975462.



Easter Egg Alert!

It's that time of year again! In the run-up to Easter, remember that chocolate can be very dangerous to your pet.

Chocolate contains a substance called theobromine, which is a stimulant similar to caffeine. It is very poisonous to dogs, causing drooling, vomiting and excessive drinking and urinating. In severe cases the heart can start beating irregularly, patients can have seizures, and very rarely chocolate poisoning can be fatal.

The higher the percentage of cocoa solids, the more dangerous the chocolate, so dark chocolate or cocoa powder should definitely be avoided!

A small piece of milk chocolate should not be dangerous, but if you are concerned that your dog may have eaten a large quantity of any sort of chocolate you should contact us immediately. Please have the packet to hand if possible so that we can work out exactly what your pet has been exposed to and then our vets can advise whether you need to come down to the surgery.