



# CEDAR SNIPPETS

The Newsletter of Cedar Veterinary Group

August 2005

## OPENING HOURS:

RINGWOOD HOSPITAL  
69 Christchurch Rd  
Ringwood  
01425 473683

Mon-Sat:  
Appointments all day

VERWOOD SURGERY  
17 Ringwood Rd  
Verwood  
01202 825217

Mon-Fri:  
Morning and Afternoon appointments available

Saturday:  
Appointments 8.30 to 1.00pm

FERNDOWN SURGERY  
81 Victoria Rd  
Ferndown  
01202 861622

Mon-Fri:  
Morning and Afternoon appointments available

Saturday:  
Appointments 9.00 to 10.30am

## CANINE CARE CENTRE OPENING IN SEPTEMBER

We will shortly be opening a new Canine Care Centre at Hangersley, in close association with local dog behaviour counsellor Jes Carter.

The aim of the Centre is to offer services for your dog which we feel are important but are not offered by most vet practices. There are a lot of people "jumping on the bandwagon" of canine care, and we want to put you in touch with professional people who know their subject and we are happy to recommend.

The Centre has a large indoor training area, in which Jes and Jo Scott will continue their behaviour therapy sessions, one-to-one training and do some group work.

There is also a new hydrotherapy pool with hoist equipment, massage jets and full buoyancy aids, as well as regular visits from a qualified animal physiotherapist. This will give us and you many more options in treating arthritic pets, helping dogs post-surgery, assisting with weight loss programmes or just having fun swims.

The Centre will also have a dog groomer ( a branch of Handsome Hounds), and a consulting room in which we may develop other areas such as homeopathy and acupuncture in future. A monthly visit from an MRI scanner will also be extremely useful for local vet practices.

The Centre runs independent of our vet practice, and you do not have to bring your pets to us to use it.

In the end we hope that we can help you to have a well behaved and healthy pet, as that way you can get so much more from your relationship.

The Care Centre is just off the A31 at Hangersley Hill. Turn left at In Excess & it can be seen after 100 m on the right. It opens on 13 September. For details of hydrotherapy, training classes and physiotherapy, please phone 01425 480721 after the opening date.

## Hannah runs for Britain

Many congratulations to Hannah Mitchell and her mini Poodle Gem who have been picked to represent GB at the World Dog Agility Championships this year. Hannah runs and coaches all the sessions of our Dog Agility Club, which meets at Three Legged Cross all year round (weather permitting). Those of us who watch these dogs jumping fences, weaving through poles and climbing walls under the careful guidance of their handlers are full of admiration, and Hannah's is an amazing achievement. So if you are interested in taking up dog agility, we take on all ages and abilities - and you now have the bonus of being coached by one the British team!

Please ask at the surgery for more details.



## Preparing for firework day

For those of us who have dogs who are petrified of loud noises, that time of year is coming round which we all dread. So we thought we would provide you with a quick rundown of what you can do.

- **DAP**—this is Dog Appeasing Pheromone. In other words it is a cocktail which gives off a smell which makes your dog more relaxed. We use it a lot in anxious dogs, and it really can help. It comes as a diffuser that you plug in to the wall or as a Spray. Start using it the beginning of October.
- **Drugs**—there are various types of tablet which will have a calming effect. We recommend a certain combination of prescription drugs. However you do need to start these mid October and keep going for about a month, and you will need to have your pet's heart checked before they are given. The vet will also need to OK your pet having them. We have found that for the pet who has a real problem, then using the drugs and the DAP together has better results.  
NB We do not recommend using ACP sedatives for firework nervousness.
- **Desensitisation** - here we slowly try to introduce the sounds to your pet in a controlled way so that they become used to them. This method takes a long time, and you do need to be very careful that you do not "increase the volume" too quickly! There are now CDs readily available of fireworks, thunder, cars etc to help with this method.

As with all behaviour problems, it is easy to make them worse by applying the wrong treatment to your individual pet, so we would encourage you to discuss the correct method with Jo Scott, our behaviourist (07747 615246) or 01425 480721 at the Canine Care Centre. We will shortly bring out a leaflet on fireworks, available at the surgeries.

## MRSA "superbugs"

You may have read a few articles in the national press about MRSA infections in pets. MRSA is a bacterium which is very resistant to the usual antibiotics we and our human colleagues use. There is no evidence at all that it can spread from pet to human. However the bugs are in the environment and are also carried by many members of the public, but they are only dangerous if they get into a wound or a very sick patient. Even then, with the correct antibiotic the infection can usually be treated, but occasionally it is tragically fatal.

Many vet practices all over the country have now seen MRSA in their patients. We have seen two in our own clients and two in pets referred to us from other practices. While no practice can guarantee they will not see it, there are many guidelines available from the veterinary governing bodies on how to reduce the risk, and we are actively complying with these.

These include: using sterile operating theatres; full masking up of surgeons; regular swabbing of risk areas to check for the bugs; nurses and vets wearing gloves or washing hands between patients.

As a Veterinary Hospital we are one of the few practices which has to comply with many of these guidelines anyway, and allow ourselves to be inspected. Rest assured that we take the problem seriously and do all we can to avoid infections.