

# Frame Swift and Partners Small Animal **NEWSLETTER**

## Pet travel scheme

If you are thinking of taking your animal abroad, you will need to comply with the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme. It takes about 7 months from the start of the process for your pet's passport to become valid so planning well ahead is always advised.



The first step is to have an identichip implanted to give the animal its own unique identification number. Your pet can then be given an approved rabies vaccine.

A blood sample is taken three weeks after the initial vaccination. This sample is submitted to a laboratory and tested for antibodies against rabies to make sure the animal has appropriately responded to the vaccine.

The final step, assuming an adequate level of antibody, is the issue of the pet passport. This requires attendance of the pet at the surgery for a health check and reading of the identichip. The passport will become valid for re-entry into the UK six months from the date of the blood test and will remain valid for the life of the animal provided the rabies vaccination is kept up to date. Currently the booster interval for the rabies vaccine is not more than three years.

The scheme also requires that animals be treated by a veterinary surgeon with approved products against ticks and tapeworms not less than 24 hours and not more than 48 hours prior to re-entry into the UK.

The above protocol satisfies the requirements for animals returning to the UK. It does not necessarily fulfil the requirements of all destination countries. You are advised to contact the embassy of the country you plan to visit well in advance of your trip to ensure there are no additional requirements.



Photo courtesy F.Wilson

## Sam completes the New York Marathon

Vet **Sam Mauchlen** ran the New York marathon on the 1st November 2009.

Sam raised over £950 for the benefit of **Eden Animal Rescue**, our local animal charity.

Thank you to all that kindly sponsored him.



**Eden Animal Rescue**

## Dates for your diary:



**March** Oral Care Month  
Free dental checks for dogs and cats.



**3rd April - 3rd May**  
National Pet Month  
Join us for a practice dog walk on Monday 3rd May at 10:30am to raise funds for **Eden Animal Rescue**.

**26th April - 2nd May**  
Rabbit Awareness Week.



**17th May** FS&P Pet Health Plan Launch (see over for more details).

**June** Microchipping Month  
40% off our state-of-the-art biothermal microchips.

## Coming Soon - Frame Swift and Partners Pet Health Plans

We are very pleased to announce that in May 2010 we will be launching our **Pet Health Plans** for dogs, cats and rabbits. The plans have been designed to include all essential preventative health care for your pet throughout its life, with easy money-saving, monthly payments. The plans include:

- six monthly visits for a health check
- all routine vaccinations and boosters
- year round routine flea, worm and parasite treatments
- reduced price microchipping
- discounts on neutering, dentistry, long term medications and food



We will be writing to you nearer to our launch date with more details about this exciting new scheme.

### Case Study:

Sam was brought into see us in November 2009 after injuring his back left leg while jumping over a fence.

An x-ray of the leg confirmed he had fractured his tibia (shin bone) in several places.

Using a combination of a plate, screws and wires vet Alex Kirby was able to stabilise the bone fragments in their normal position.



We took some x-rays of Sam's leg two months after the surgery and could see that all the bone fragments were healing together well. The metal implants will stay in Sam's leg for the rest of

his life. Three months after his surgery Sam can now use the leg normally and enjoys plenty of exercise with his owner.

Sam was treated by vet **Alex Kirby** who has a particular interest in orthopaedic surgery.



## Myxomatosis. Rabbit owners watch out!

Myxomatosis is a **fatal disease** of rabbits caused by a pox virus. The virus is spread by blood sucking insects such as rabbit fleas and mosquitoes.

Outbreaks of disease in wild populations can pose a particular risk to pet rabbits especially considering the rural location of Penrith. Every year we see a number of cases of the illness.

The first signs of disease are puffy swellings around the head and face, often described as 'sleepy eyes'. As the disease progresses swellings can be seen around the lips, ears and genitals. The swellings increase in size very rapidly leading to blindness.

Unfortunately survival in unvaccinated rabbits is extremely uncommon and death from the disease can occur within 12 days.

The two methods of prevention are vaccination and insect control.



**Vaccination** is the main method of prevention and aims to produce immunity against the disease. The vaccine can be given once or twice a year depending on the rabbits level of risk. The disease is most commonly seen during the summer months and the ideal time to vaccinate is through spring.

**Insect control** can be as simple as keeping your rabbit away from wild rabbit populations or the application of ectoparasiticide drops. (Please speak to a vet if you are interested in the use of these products as rabbits are very sensitive and the correct dose will be required).