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Winter 2010-11

Frame Swift and Partners Small Animal **NEWSLETTER**

Puppy Class - back by popular demand!

We are very pleased to report that we are starting a puppy class again at the Veterinary Centre. The classes have not been run recently as our previous trainer, David Ryan, decided to stop to concentrate on his behavioural referral work. The classes were always popular and we found that almost without exception, all puppies that attended not only learnt some valuable skills but also seemed to love coming to the clinic for a visit later in their lives.

We are fortunate to have secured the assistance of Jenny Cartmel, a well-known local trainer to run our new classes. They will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7pm at the surgery. Each course lasts for 6 weeks. Interested clients should enquire at reception or call Jenny direct on 017684 83834/07867728118 or email jen@clever-dogs.co.uk



Beware - antifreeze is poisonous

With the recent cold snap most of us are having to top up our cars with screen wash or radiator antifreeze more often than usual. Antifreeze contains the organic compound ethylene glycol, which is a dangerous toxin to all mammals if ingested.

Unfortunately antifreeze is quite sweet tasting so can be very attractive especially to dogs if left lying around. The toxin can cause severe and irreparable damage to the kidneys, so making sure antifreeze is not left where animals can get to it is very important. If you suspect that your pet may have had access to antifreeze it is important to contact the surgery without delay to allow us to start prompt treatment to try and limit the effects of the toxin.



New Vet

Vet **Chris Dixon** who has worked at the practice since 2005 is leaving in December 2010 to pursue his interest in eyes and to work in ophthalmological referral practice. We are very sorry to see him go but wish him well with his new job.

We are pleased to welcome new vet **Lynn Veitch** to the practice. Lynn graduated from Glasgow University in 2009 and has been working in a mixed practice in West Cumbria. We look forward to working with her in the years to come.



Outdoor rabbits take care!

We are commonly asked at this time of year if it is reasonable for rabbits to live outside when the weather is cold.

Rabbits can cope outside provided they are given a chance to acclimatise and that they have adequate shelter. This means they should have a waterproof hutch with an enclosed 'bedroom' area that must include plenty of dry and insulating bedding material e.g. hay or fresh straw. The hutch should be sited in a position that protects it from the wind or driving rain or snow. Young, old or infirm rabbits may require extra warmth as will animals who have not been used to living outside.

Extra care is needed to ensure adequate fresh water supplies at this time of year as small bottles rapidly freeze! Regularly checking your rabbit is even more important than usual at this time of year because if they do get ill they are likely to deteriorate quite quickly.



Don't Forget!

During these winter months it's easy to forget about your cat or dog's routine worm and flea care. Although there are less parasites around at this time of year, animals can still carry worms and fleas survive very well inside centrally heated houses!

Adult dogs and cats should ideally be treated for internal parasites such as worms every 3 months and external parasites such as fleas every month. This should continue all year round, even through winter.

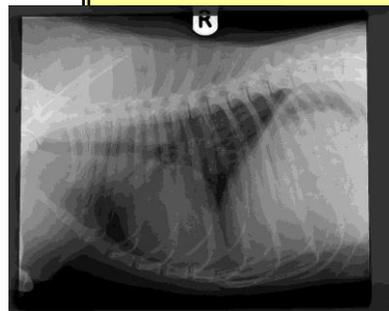
If you feel your cat or dog is due their flea or worm treatment please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff at the veterinary centre where we can advise on the most appropriate treatment and offer the most effective and modern products available.



Digital X-ray

The practice uses x-rays commonly to help diagnose many problems in a wide range of animals. Many of you may have had a pet x-rayed at one time or another.

Recently we have upgraded our x-ray facility at the practice to a new digital system involving a special machine that reads the x-rays then stores them electronically.



This more advanced method of processing the x-rays we take involves no changes in film and significantly improves the speed at which x-rays can be developed and viewed.

Storing the x-rays on computer instead of old fashioned film allows us to change the images more easily, achieving more detail and a better quality than before. The pictures can also be moved easily to other computers and because we no longer have to store the x-ray films in folders it helps the environment too!

A Happy New Year 2011 to all our clients!