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

## Does your cat have high blood pressure?

High blood pressure or hypertension is a common problem in people - did you know it is also very common in older cats?

Hypertension can occur as a primary problem or sometimes in association with other diseases especially kidney disease and hyperthyroidism.



Checking a cat's blood pressure

Untreated high blood pressure can cause serious problems in many organs such as the eyes, brain, heart and kidneys. Blood pressure is easily checked using a cuff and ultrasound probe in a similar way to humans. If your cat is suffering from hypertension then it can be treated easily and usually very effectively.



Retina of a cat with hypertension

We advise blood pressure checking in older cats with kidney disease or hyperthyroidism and in some cases as part of routine screening.

Please talk to one of the Practice vets or nurses if you would like to know more about high blood pressure in cats.



## Practice News

Our clinic was recently inspected by an official from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Practice Standards Scheme. We are pleased to report that we have again been independently recognised as providing a good general practice standard for small animals, equine and farm animals. This standard is awarded to a primary care practice which also aims to facilitate the achievement of high standards of clinical care and is the highest standard a general practice can achieve. More information on the practice standards scheme can be found on the RCVS website [www.rcvs.org.uk](http://www.rcvs.org.uk).

Recent visitors to our clinic may have noticed the arrival of a raft of solar panels on our south facing roof. The solar panels were fitted by local company, Love Solar, and are already generating electricity for us despite the dark winter days. We hope they will be a useful addition to our building and will help to reduce its environmental impact a little.

## Give us your feedback!

We are always interested to know how you think we are doing. Comments and feedback are always welcome to let us know what you like and how we could do things better.

In the New Year an interactive console will be appearing in the Waiting Room. There are about 10 questions to answer and it should only take a few minutes. We would very much appreciate you taking the time to answer the questions about your visit to our Clinic. The information generated will be used to give an idea on how we are doing and what we can do to improve your and your pets' visits to us in the future.

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Frame, Swift and Partners



## **Pets Travel Scheme - changes for 2012**

The Pets Travel Scheme has been operating for over a decade now. It was introduced to allow pet animals to travel to a range of countries and then to re-enter the United Kingdom without having to go into quarantine. To date around 750,000 animals have travelled with around 100,000 travelling each year currently.

From the beginning of 2012 there will no longer be any requirement for animals to be blood tested after their rabies vaccine to be eligible for a passport. Instead we will be able to issue a passport once a period of three weeks from the date of the rabies vaccine has elapsed.

Additionally there will no longer be any mandatory requirement for tick treatment prior to re-entering the UK. We still strongly advise stringent preventative tick treatment for all animals travelling abroad to reduce the risk of acquiring a number of very serious tick borne infections. Preventative treatment against sandflies may also need to be considered.

**Tapeworm treatment will still be required for pet dogs before travelling back into the UK.** Not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours (1-5 days) before its scheduled arrival time in the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme, your dog must be treated against tapeworm and the treatment recorded in the pet passport.

More information can be found on the pets travel section of the defra website at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk).



The practice now has a Facebook page. Search Facebook for Frame, Swift and Partners to access our page and to catch up on the latest practice news and events. If you 'like' our page you can add your comments. We hope to hear from you soon!

### **Remember your pet's preventative health care in 2012!**

Many animals are already benefiting from our practice Pet Health Plans. The plans are designed to encourage and promote optimal preventative health care whilst spreading the cost and saving you money.

Plans are available for dogs, cats and rabbits and include all routine vaccinations, parasite treatments as well as discount on a range of our other services and products.

Please ask any member of staff about our plans and they will be very happy to give you more information.

### **Is your pet microchipped?**

We thoroughly recommend you have your pet microchipped. Lost animals can be rapidly identified and reunited with their owner if they are chipped.

If your pet already has a microchip that was not implanted by us please let us know the number so we can add it to their details.

If your pet gets lost locally and is brought to our clinic, as often happens, knowing the chip number will allow us to contact you without delay.