



Oundle veterinary surgery

SPRING 2011

news



PRACTICE NEWS

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE!!

Partner Nick has entered the Coast to Coast Lakes to Dales Cycle Challenge in July: 4 days covering 162 miles from east to west in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. Any sponsorship for this gruelling challenge would be gratefully received. We wish Nick the best of luck!!

Congratulations!!

To vet Chrissie and husband Steve who are pregnant with their first child and to student nurse Holly, who has successfully passed her 1st year exams, fantastic news!

Face book and Twitter pages are regularly updated with news from the practice and can be accessed through our practice website as well as via networking sites.

ITCHY SKIN!

Itchy skin in cats and dogs is often more than just a minor annoyance. Ongoing skin problems are fairly common and can unfortunately lead to severe discomfort and a poor quality of life if left untreated.

There are many causes of skin irritation such as fleas, mites and bacterial/fungal infections but one of the most common causes is allergies.

Airborne allergies in humans lead to hay fever symptoms with a runny nose, sneezing and itchy eyes. Dogs and cats that have airborne allergies develop skin symptoms instead of respiratory symptoms and this is called 'Atopy' or 'Atopic Dermatitis'. The most common allergens are pollens, grasses and trees but any airborne particle can potentially become an allergen. Atopy usually produces a seasonal itchiness, although as time goes on the animal develops allergies

tests and blood tests that can be done which might show specifically what things an animal is allergic to. These things can then be avoided or a program of allergy injections can be made to desensitise the skin to the offending allergen. The disease cannot be cured but the goal of therapy is to provide ongoing relief from the symptoms and

this can be achieved with a variety of medications, shampoos and food supplements.



Another type of allergy in dogs and cats that causes itchy skin is 'Food Allergy' and this is one of the itchiest conditions! Many people mistakenly

assume itching due to food allergy requires a recent diet change of some sort. In fact, the opposite is true! Food allergy requires time to develop so most animals have been eating the offending food for years with no trouble! Specific hypoallergenic diets are fed to these animals to keep them itch free!

to other things and the duration of the itchy period extends and finally the pet is itchy nearly all year round! Seasonal itchiness due to atopy tends to begin early in a pet's life (normally between 1 and 3 years old). Initially itching is most severe on the face, ears and feet and excessive scratching causes reddened areas and hair loss. Dogs with atopy are also thought to have changes in their immune system that make them more likely to develop skin and ear infections. Skin infections by themselves are itchy, so the combination of atopy and a skin infection will make an animal extremely itchy! Once a diagnosis of Atopy has been reached, there are specific skin

The Flea Factor: Because allergies add to each other, it is quite common for an animal with food allergy or atopy to also be allergic to flea bites and one flea bite can tip the balance! So, it is especially important to ensure that flea control for any itchy pet is always up to date!

PROMOTIONS

Preventative Health Care Scheme

We are launching a new scheme to help maintain your pets' health.

Providing your pet has an annual health check & appropriate annual vaccination at the practice, we will reward you with the following discounts to help maintain optimum health during the subsequent 12 months.



- 15% Off** Annual Parasite Pack
- 10% Off** Life Stage + Prescription Diets
- 10% Off** Dental Surgery Time
- 10% Off** Over the counter products
- 10% Off** The cost of a consultation on ONE other occasion, during the 12 month period stated on card
- 10% Off** The services provided in nurse clinics

Discounted fees must be paid for at that time.

Meet Our Clients

One of our patients Biffo the Bullmastiff and his owner Sheila Hall are making a real difference to children's lives at the residential care home they visit. Biffo is a volunteer with the "Pets as Therapy" Charity.

Sheila and Biffo visit the home for a couple of hours every few weeks where the children groom him and give him loads of fuss. All of the children have learning difficulties and can sometimes be quite excitable. Biffo's visit helps them to relax and calm down, creating a nice atmosphere.

Sheila said "I have been involved with the Charity for just over 18 months and joined after being introduced by a friend from work. I had just re-homed Biffo from some friends where he was a show dog but he didn't really enjoy the showing. He has certainly found his niche in life now! Although he is a large dog he is so laid back and has such a fantastic temperament that it has been great to find something we both enjoy. We are able to make such a difference to other people's lives and put something back into the community. Biffo had to pass an assessment to see if he was suitable but passed with flying colours as he is so chilled out and adores people. Biffo thoroughly enjoys it too – he lies on his back with all four feet in the air. The children pull his ears, stroke him and groom him. He just loves all the attention that he gets from them. I plan to carry on volunteering with Biffo as long as I can. Now I have become involved with the charity I would like to do the same with any other dogs I own in the future as I really enjoy it.

Approximately 4,800 P.A.T. dogs and 140 cats provide comfort, companionship and therapy throughout the U.K. Over 140,000 people benefit every single week from the services provided by Pets As Therapy. They visit hospitals, hospices, residential homes, day care centres, special needs schools and many other establishments often working with phobic children, people suffering from clinical depression or on stroke units.

Pets As Therapy are always looking for new volunteers with friendly, well behaved dogs or cats to visit patients in residential homes, hospitals etc.

Please note the animals will have to be temperament assessed by Pets As Therapy.

Further details: www.petsastherapy.org or telephone 01844-345445



Teenage Kicks

The adolescent years can be tough for anybody, not least our pets. Dogs mature at different

and expensive, but of great importance. As veterinary science progresses there

3. If your pet is not already micro chipped, this can be implanted when they are neutered

rates; larger breeds slower than smaller breeds. Cats mature around 6-8 months.

There are a few things that you will need to be aware of when guiding a teenage pet through adolescence:

1. Training is key and your pet should be socialised from a young age. This will set them up for a fun filled adolescence and mould your pet into a well mannered and well socialised adult.

2. Pet insurance nowadays can be tricky to get right

are more options available for vets and pet owners, this can lead to increased vets bills; and this is where insurance comes into play. Life Cover is the best way forward but always read "Terms and Conditions" thoroughly.

or when they return to the surgery for a 6month check.

4. Your pet's diet will also be changing around this time. A good quality junior / adult food is vital.

5. It is always important to keep your pet up to date with flea and

worming treatment throughout their life, especially at an age where they will be into everything! The 'teenage' years can be tricky, your pet will push boundaries and experiment but remember they can also be fun, so enjoy!!



Easter & Bank Holiday Opening Hours

Easter

Friday 22nd April: closed.

Sat 23rd April: 8.30am - 2.30pm

Sun 24th April: closed

Mon 25th April: closed

Sat 30th April: 8.30am - 2.30pm

Sun 1st May: closed

Mon 2nd May: closed

Spring Bank Holiday

Sat 28th May: 8.30am - 2.30pm

Sun 29th May: closed

Mon 30th May: closed

May Bank Holiday

Fri 29th April: closed

Our out of hours service for emergencies will continue to run throughout this period.

