

Redleaves Veterinary Centre

Welcome to the Winter 2008 issue of our newsletter - keeping you up-to-date with what is happening in the practice.

Practice facilities

- Appointment system
- Ample parking
- Convenient surgery hours
- Dedicated 24 hour emergency service
- Annual health checks
- Modern surgical facilities
- Veterinary nurse appointments
- Weight checks
- In-house laboratory
- Full dental facilities
- Hills Nutritional advisors
- Hills Science Plan
- Hills prescription Diet
- Radiography
- Electrocardiography
- Ultrasound scanner
- Blood pressure monitor
- Pulse oximeter
- Export/health certificates (pet passport)
- Air conditioning
- Radio surgery

Consulting times

Mon - Fri 8.30am - 1.15pm
3pm - 7pm

Saturday 9am - 12pm

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E-mail: Enquiries@
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www.redleavesvet.co.uk

Is your dog losing it's bounce?

Your dog may in fact be older than you think, as a dog's size impacts on life expectancy. For example, a Great Dane can be considered elderly when it is only six years old.

As dogs age, many conditions become more common - for example, diabetes mellitus, arthritis, dental disease, heart disease and kidney disease. Regular check-ups at the practice can help to spot any signs early.

Keeping your dog's weight down with regular exercise and good diet becomes even more important as your dog enters his later years, as being overweight increases the likelihood of diseases such as diabetes and arthritis.

Did you also know that some of the signs that you may take for granted in your older pet as normal signs of ageing can also be significantly alleviated? A general slowing down, lethargy, reluctance to exercise and laboured breathing are signs frequently seen in older dogs. At the same time, dogs can become confused and disorientated, forget some of their training and bark at abnormal times. They also may become less alert and responsive to commands. While it is natural to think that these are simply the signs of age, help is at hand. While the ageing process of course cannot be reversed, treatments are available that restore vitality, agility

and alertness in your ageing dog.

If this sounds like the answer you've been hoping for, contact us on 01784 259606

Could your pet be diabetic?

There are thought to be over a million people with undiagnosed diabetes in the UK. Proportionally, could there be a similar number of undiagnosed diabetic pets?

Dogs and cats can suffer from diabetes mellitus ('sugar diabetes') in the same way as people do. It is thought that approximately 1 in 300 dogs and cats have diabetes - making this one of the most common hormonal diseases in pets. Like other diseases, early diagnosis and treatment is beneficial so it is important to look out for signs of diabetes in your pet. An increase in their drinking is usually the first sign seen (although this is hard to spot in outdoor cats). Other signs to watch out for include weight loss despite a hearty appetite, increased urination and lethargy.

Not all diabetic pets show all these signs however, so if you're worried that your pet may have the condition, please let us know. A simple urine and blood test is usually all that is required to confirm if your pet has the condition. If your pet does, we can treat this disease successfully with insulin.

Staff news

◆ Congratulations to Lucy Glass who has now officially enrolled as a student Veterinary nurse after passing her qualifying examinations.

◆ Joining our team we welcome Michelle who will be helping out on Fridays. Michelle is currently a student a Merrist Wood college and hopes to enrol as a student veteri-

nary nurse following completion of her course.

◆ Sadly, after many years of loyal service on reception and more recently as our Office Administrator, we say goodbye to Barbara Inwood. We wish her all the best for a long and happy retirement.

RedLeaves Veterinary Centre

WINTER NEWSLETTER



Staff

Vets

Barbara Taylor
Sally Goulden
Vicky Hall
Ann Trewren
Sakine Kudat-
Andersson

Nurses

Mel (Senior VN)
Jan C VN
Laura VN
Kylee VN
Jenni SVN
Lucy SVN

Reception

Jan B
Vicky
Pauline M
Pauline P

Administration

Pip (Clinical
administrator)

2008

Boost your Bunny!

Rabbit ownership is booming. Did you know that there are 1.6 million kept as pets throughout the UK? It is alarming to consider therefore, that only one in every 12 owners ensures their pet is properly vaccinated against potentially fatal diseases like myxomatosis and viral haemorrhagic disease. Any rabbit, whatever their lifestyle or breed, is at risk of contracting these nasty diseases at any time of year and the majority of affected rabbits will die - will your pet rabbit be one of them?

Myxomatosis is typically spread by blood sucking insects like the rabbit flea, the disease attacks domestic and wild rabbits alike. In addition to the characteristic bulging of the eye lids, key symptoms include localised swellings around the head, face, ears, lips, anus and genitalia. Severe swelling can lead to blindness and distortion of the face, often resulting in difficulty with drinking and feeding. In many cases, bacterial respiratory infection complicates the disease, encouraging the onset of a fatal pneumonia.

Viral haemorrhagic disease is highly contagious and can be spread directly and indirectly by insects such as flies and also birds. Infection occurs by nasal, conjunctival and oral routes. The incubation period of the disease is short and death soon follows so few clinical symptoms may be noticed.

With no specific treatment, it is crucial that you put controls in place to manage the risk of these diseases; namely controlling parasites and ensuring vaccination. Frequent pet checks for signs of fleas, along with regular use of insecticidal treatment will facilitate a high degree of flea control, lessening the likelihood of bites.

In terms of vaccination, it is recommended that a single dose of myxomatosis vaccine is given to all



healthy, non-pregnant rabbits over the age of six weeks. Ideally, this will occur in early spring so that the rabbits have the optimum protection during the period of the year when they are most at risk. However, as myxomatosis can strike at any time of the year, boosters are recommended once or twice a year, depending on your pet's likely exposure to myxomatosis.

For viral haemorrhagic disease, annual vaccination is recommended.

As owners, you have the power to ensure that your pet is adequately protected and not likely to fall victim to myxomatosis and viral haemorrhagic disease.

Make an appointment today to boost your bunny! Call us on 01784 259606

Is your pet warm & snugly this winter?

SnuggleSafe is excellent for your cat, dog, rabbit, guinea pig and other animals that may need additional thermal support, especially during the winter time. There are no wires, no electrical connections and the case is bite resistant.

Call us today on 01784 259606 to order yours

