



Treating Banbury's Pets since 1963

Hawthorne Lodge SUMMER 2011

Veterinary Practice

Tel: 01295 259446

NEWS

Doggy donors needed!



Hawthorne Lodge Veterinary Practice is looking for doggy donors to give blood.

The service, which will be run from the practice by the charity "Pet Blood Bank UK", could help to save the lives of dogs across the UK. In order to participate in the scheme, we need a register of forty dogs. Potential donors must be between one and eight years of age, at least 25kg in weight, and free from any medical conditions. Donors receive a free blood test and "doggy bag".

For further information or to register your dog as a potential blood donor, please call the surgery on 01295 259446. Further information on the pet blood bank can be found at:

www.petbloodbankuk.org

Also in this issue:

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- *Does your pet drink like a fish?*

Opening Hours

Monday – Friday
8-00am – 8.00pm

Saturday
9-00am – 4-00pm

24 hour emergency service

Work continues at No.1, West Bar

Redevelopment of Hawthorne Lodge Veterinary Practice's new premises at the old doctor's surgery in West Bar is continuing as planned.

While significant structural alterations are necessary, we hope to retain several of the internal features of the original building. Initial work involved stripping of the old fittings, and removal of asbestos materials to comply with current legislation. Following this, alterations to existing walls have been made to produce the new internal layout.

The design will provide separate dog, cat, and small pet wards and a designated "cat procedure room" for our feline in-patients. There will also be a separate cat waiting area for consultation appointments.

The new site will have two sterile operating theatres, and a dental theatre for "dirty procedures", to minimise the risk of infection.

We also hope to have space in our waiting room to display various "pet accessories" and diets. Much of the equipment for the new premises will require specialist fitting, and as with any construction work, predicting a completion date is difficult. Several phases are likely to be necessary before the project is complete, however we hope to move in during the summer. Once the new site is fully operational, we plan to hold open days to give people the chance to view our new facilities.

We hope the end result will be worth the wait!



Kennel cough – is your dog protected?



DID YOU know that wherever dogs meet they run the risk of picking up Kennel Cough? This is a highly infectious cough, rapidly causing symptoms of severe coughing and breathlessness as well as high temperatures, sore throats and loss of appetite. In the worst cases it can cause severe and prolonged disease and may even be associated with death. Even in young healthy dogs it can cause weeks of coughing.

The condition is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium – *Bordetella Bronchiseptica*. Although your pet's regular booster vaccinations should provide protection against the viral components of the cough, only intranasal vaccine drops can offer protection against *Bordetella*. We recommend that dogs are vaccinated against kennel cough before going into kennels or at any time when the disease is rife. Please contact us if you would like any further information!

Keep a watchful eye out for lumps and bumps!



IN ADDITION to the regular health checks your pet receives when visiting us, it's a great idea to perform some form of routine check yourself. Get your pet used to you looking at their eyes, ears, teeth and giving them a general check-over. This way you will hopefully pick up early signs of problems including any abnormal lumps.

If your pet does develop a lump, there are several possible underlying causes – these include abscesses, hernias and tumours. The most serious of these are tumours which are either *benign* – which tend to be slow growing and remain in one place, or *malignant* – which invade the surrounding tissues and may also spread to other parts of the body.

If you do discover a lump on your pet, it is very important that we examine it as soon as possible in order that we may establish the underlying cause and start any treatment without delay. Timing is everything and delay in appropriate treatment can be the difference between a small mass that is easily treatable by surgical removal and one that is far more difficult to treat. So if you are concerned about a lump on your pet – or any other health problem, please contact us today for an appointment.



Skin lump on the nose of a dog

Lumps may vary considerably in appearance. Some are fairly obvious (such as the photo above), whilst others are harder to detect.

Some lumps move with the skin while others feel 'stuck' to underlying tissues. Some are associated with reddening or bleeding, others are surrounded by swollen or inflamed tissue.

Early detection of lumps is always the "golden rule".



Does your pet drink like a fish?

INCREASED thirst is commonly seen in older pets and whilst warm weather may be a factor, it is an important symptom that shouldn't be ignored, as it may be a sign of a serious underlying disease. Pets may appear relatively normal or show a variety of other symptoms.

In cats it can be particularly noticeable, since most cats spend years showing no interest in water, and then suddenly you are regularly filling their water bowl.

Increased drinking may point to a range of problems including: kidney or liver disease, diabetes mellitus, Cushings disease in dogs and hyperthyroidism in cats (to name just a few!). Additionally, older unspayed female pets are predisposed to pyometra – a life threatening uterine infection that commonly has increased thirst as one of its presenting signs.

So if you think your pet is drinking more than normal, please bring them in for a check-up. As well as giving your pet a thorough clinical examination, **urine and blood tests** are usually very helpful in making a diagnosis. Once the problem is identified, we can hopefully get treatment (tailored to the specific condition), speedily underway.

The good news is that although there is no cure for old age, we do have treatments for many of the conditions mentioned above which will hopefully ease the symptoms and prevent or slow the progression of the disease. Please call us if you are at all worried!

Summertime: The heat is on!

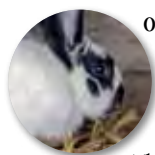


Every summer guinea pigs and rabbits die of heatstroke.



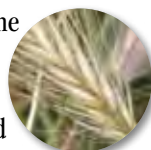
Always provide plenty of water and position any runs (and hutches) in the shade.

Flies also pose a huge problem for rabbits in the warmer months. Rabbit rear ends often become damp and this moist area attracts flies which lay their eggs there.



These in-turn hatch out into maggots, which burrow through the rabbit's skin and into the underlying flesh. During the summer months, rabbit rear ends should be inspected on a **daily** basis for fly eggs and maggots. Please call us at once if you are worried.

Grass seeds are another summer problem – the grass awns of the meadow grasses are easily trapped in the coats of pets – especially dogs. They then migrate and become lodged in



a variety of places including the ears and between the toes.

It is always a good idea to groom your pets regularly, and especially after walks, to keep a close eye out for grass seeds.

The **sun** itself can also pose a hazard. Pets (especially cats) with white ear tips and noses are particularly at risk from sunburn which in turn can lead to cancerous changes in the sunburnt areas. High factor sunblock applied to the at risk (white) areas helps to minimise this risk.



Ear tip of a cat showing early (reddened) cancerous changes. If your pet is showing signs of skin changes, please call us at once.

Also watch out for **bee** and **wasp** stings that may require prompt veterinary attention since some dogs are allergic to their stings.

Finally, please remember that the temperature in **cars** can rise rapidly and death from heat stroke can follow in minutes, so pets should **never** be left unattended in cars.