

# Newsletter

*Kingsteignton Veterinary Group*



Issue 5 | Tel: 01626 354260

## Savings on tick and flea treatments

With the arrival of warmer weather, it is important to ensure your pets are protected from ticks and fleas. As well as causing discomfort, ticks – if left untreated – may lead to the transmission of disease between animal and human (such as Lyme disease), and fleas can cause allergic reactions leading to skin irritation and hair loss.

We are therefore offering our loyal clients prescription tick and flea products at a reduced cost. You'll find enclosed savings vouchers for you to use in practice.

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## See you at the Ram Roasting fair

We are looking forward to being involved once again in the annual Kingsteignton Ram Roasting fair on the 26th May.

Our family dog show was very popular last year and we have been asked by the event organisers to run it again, but this time with a slot in the main arena!

The dog show is a fun event with prizes for various categories, including the waggiest tail, best smile and most like owner! Entry is free of charge and the event is our way of saying thank you to the Kingsteignton community for all their support over the past 110 years.

We hope the family dog show will become an annual fixture at future Ram Roasting fairs.



## Microchipping offer

Following the Government's announcement that from April 2016 it will be a legal requirement for dogs to be microchipped, we are offering a reduced fee of £7.50 to microchip your pet.



## Scope that pet!

We constantly strive to improve services for patients. Our latest acquisition is a state-of-the-art endoscopy unit, which means we are now better able to look up noses, into stomachs, down windpipes and even up bottoms!

Endoscopes are used to look for growths or foreign bodies and aid diagnosis without the need for an investigative operation. With three different size endoscopes, we can investigate health issues in any size cat or dog. There is also a video screen that projects the live images with impressive clarity during the procedure.

## New developments in arthritis care

Arthritis is a painful condition, and although there is not a cure there are many options for easing this process and improving quality of life for your pet.

Anti-inflammatory medicines reduce inflammation of the joints. Similarly, Glucosamines slow joint degeneration and prevent inflammation before it occurs. Acupuncture, physiotherapy and magnetic collars can also ease arthritis, and for elderly animals, a steroid injection into the affected joint can be an effective option.

However, there is now an even better solution. Both doctors and vets have always known that injecting a patient's own blood into an arthritic joint helps ease symptoms. This is because blood contains growth factors that reduce the damage to the joint.

This new solution involves extracting the red blood cells from the blood sample (normally collected under sedation) through a filter and only injecting the "good bits" to provide a better, more concentrated sample. This is then injected immediately into the patient's joint(s) while still under sedation.



We believe this method could have great benefits and are therefore keen to offer the treatment to any client who may be interested. Please contact the practice for more details.



## Keeping teeth clean: Animal dentistry

Over recent years, we have become increasingly aware of the value of dental care for cats and dogs. Our nurses, therefore, offer free dental checks where you can discuss any concerns you may have about your pet's teeth, as well as providing a range of dental care products.

Nonetheless, unfortunately even with the best preventative care, some pets will eventually require further dental treatment. This may include descaling and polishing to remove plaque and tartar, and extraction of any teeth that are loose, decayed or that have significant gum recession. These procedures require a general anaesthetic, during which your pet will be monitored by our qualified nurses.

Animal dentistry can be expensive, so to try to help where we can, we are offering our clients a 20% discount off dental procedures until 30th November 2014. Please find an enclosed savings voucher for you to use in practice.



Following any dental treatment, it is important to ensure you continue to care for your pet's teeth, otherwise the benefits may only last one to two years and further procedures may be required.

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## Is your dog protected?

Over the years, there has been some negative press about the over-use of vaccinations. While there is no official evidence for the detrimental effects of frequent vaccinations – and the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages – there is an alternative way to ensuring your pet is protected.

We now provide a test that analyses a sample of your dog's blood to assess whether s/he is still protected from distemper, hepatitis and parvo-virus (DHP). This is a simple test costing £35, which can be carried out annually to determine whether and/or when repeat vaccination is necessary.

Please note, the DHP vaccine is only given by Kingsteignton Veterinary Group every three years in accordance with guidance from the pharmaceutical manufacturer. The first blood test would be run three years after the first DHP vaccination, and then yearly thereafter.



# Seasonal Issues – Spring/Summer Pet Care Tips

While enjoying the sunshine and warmer weather with your pets this summer, bear in mind the following hazards. For more information about protecting your pet this season, please contact the practice.

## Slug perils

Lungworm is a parasite transmitted by slugs and snails, and can be fatal to dogs if left untreated. Treatment for lungworm is by a specific spot-on treatment prescribed by the practice.

Similarly, slug pellets, if eaten, can be fatal to pets, so if you're looking to protect your garden from these slippery creatures try alternatives such as beer traps, sharp sand, soot or even by simply encouraging frogs into your garden to eat them.



## Sun protection

In warm weather it is important to be vigilant against heatstroke. Unlike humans, dogs do not sweat to keep themselves cool; rather, they pant. In hot weather, dogs are at risk of being unable to lower their body temperature, leading to heatstroke.

Take extra care with very young, senior or overweight dogs, as well as those with short snouts, a muscular build or long-haired coat. Always ensure there is a cool shady spot for your dog to rest when out in the sun; a constant supply of drinking water must be available; regular grooming and a summer haircut will benefit long-haired breeds; do not excessively exercise your dog in hot weather; and never leave your dog in a car for any period of time.

## Summer bunnies

Most bulb plants and evergreens are poisonous to rabbits, so take care when allowing your bunny to explore the garden this summer.

## Kingsteignton Surgery Opening Times

### Monday to Friday

09.00 - 10.30 Appointment required  
14.00 - 15.30 Appointment required  
(not Wednesday)  
17.00 - 18.30 Appointment required

### Saturday

09.00 - 10.30 Appointment required

### Sunday

We are closed

## Bovey Tracey Surgery Opening Times

### Monday to Friday

08.30 - 09.30 Appointment required  
16.30 - 17.30 Appointment required  
(not Wednesday afternoon)

### Saturday

We are closed

### Sunday

We are closed

## Chudleigh Surgery Opening Times

### Monday to Friday

08.15 - 09.00 No appointment required  
13.30 - 14.00 No appointment required  
(not Wednesday)  
Please phone ahead to check availability

### Saturday

We are closed

### Sunday

We are closed

We provide a 24/7 out of hours emergency service, please phone us on 01626 354260, if you wish to speak to us out of hours.