

Practice News



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

We are very proud and excited to announce two awards that the practice has achieved in the last twelve months.

In March Wilbury Veterinary Surgery achieved the Investors in People award and in October we achieved The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Practice Standards Tier 2 award.

The Investors in People award recognises that we meet the national standard for effective development of staff and that we have a coherent and progressive team here at Wilbury Veterinary Surgery. Whilst the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Standard recognises the high level of patient and client care, facilities and expertise available at our practice.

Also in this issue:

- *Can you pinch an inch*
- *Pesky parasites in focus*
- *Could my cat have bad teeth?*

Consulting Times by appointment

Monday - Friday:
9.00 am - 6.30 pm

Saturday:
9.00 am - 12.00 noon

Caring for your new pet!

THE arrival of a new pet is an exciting moment for all the family. In order to keep your pet happy and healthy we've put together a short-list of things to do!



Providing their mother was regularly vaccinated, puppies and kittens should be protected in the first few weeks of life by antibodies from their mother's milk. However this immunity falls with time, leaving them susceptible to infectious diseases.

Vaccination (to stimulate

this immunity) is the only proven way to protect your pet. Two or more vaccinations are usually given as a primary course, giving your pet immunity for the first year of life. However the immunity provided by the primary vaccination is not indefinite and will gradually fall. Regular booster injections are therefore *vital* to maintain your pet's protection.

The vaccination visit is an excellent time for us to give your pet a general check-over. We are also very happy to advise you on topics such as **worming, dental care, grooming, flea control, early socialisation of puppies and microchipping** – to name



Photos: Jane Burton

Vaccination against infectious diseases

We recommend you regularly vaccinate your pets against the following – potentially deadly, infectious diseases:

Dogs:

- Distemper
- Infectious canine hepatitis
- Parvo virus
- Leptospirosis
- Para influenza virus

Cats:

- Cat flu virus
- Feline panleucopenia virus
- Feline leukaemia virus

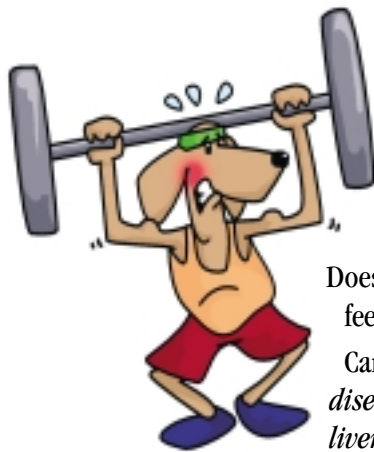
just a few! Finally, if you would like further information on any of the topics covered in this article, please don't hesitate to ask!

Rabbiting on: looking after your rabbit!

Fly strike beware! With the onset of warmer spring and summer weather, the biggest danger faced by rabbits is *flies*. If they are allowed to get at all dirty around their bottom area, flies can lay eggs there which develop into flesh eating maggots within hours – causing pain and sometimes death; so don't forget to check (and if necessary clean) the bottom area on a daily basis. Also please don't hesitate to seek our advice if their droppings are too loose or too hard and predispose to soiling, *and if you do see any signs of fly eggs or maggots – please call us straight away.*



Is your rabbit vaccinated? Did you know that it's not just dogs and cats that require protecting from infectious diseases? We are now able to vaccinate your rabbit against two potentially deadly diseases – *Myxomatosis* and *Viral Haemorrhagic Disease*. Please contact us for further information or an appointment.



Can you pinch an inch?

THE winter months are often a time of inactivity for many pets, when it is all too easy to put on a few extra pounds. Whilst it may be a little too late to make any New Year resolutions, perhaps now is the time to have a critical look at your pet! Is he (or she) carrying a bit of extra weight?

Does he have a saggy tummy? Can you feel his ribs or do you just feel flesh? All of these are signs that your pet may be overweight.

Carrying excess weight can predispose pets to *arthritis, heart disease, diabetes mellitus, back problems, skin problems, liver disease and a range of other problems.*

Given the potential health problems associated with excess weight – it's important to address it, and it is here that we can help. If you feel your pet may be getting a little portly, we are happy to weigh him or her and advise you on their ideal weight. We will also carry out a thorough physical examination to check for any medical conditions that can result in weight gain (such as an under-active thyroid gland in middle-aged and older dogs).

Finally, if your pet needs to lose weight, we are happy to advise you on the most suitable diet and exercise programme. Please contact us now for further details!



Could my cat have bad teeth?

APPEARANCES can be deceptive! It's a fact that many cats (and dogs for that matter) live with the pain of long term dental disease, *without* showing any obvious signs of tooth ache.

So how extensive is the problem? Recent surveys have shown that as many as 70% of cats over the age of three may have some form of dental disease.

A common problem in cats (and also dogs *and* humans) is **gum disease**. This is caused by the accumulation of plaque bacteria on the surface of the teeth leading to inflamed and reddened gums.



Gum disease with reddened gum margins. If left untreated, this frequently results in tooth loss.

Another fairly common condition are **tooth resorptive lesions**. These are seen exclusively in cats and are usually found on or below the gum line. They are usually very painful when touched.



Tooth resorptive lesion (arrowed). Despite being painful, many cats show no obvious outward signs.

Please contact us for further information on caring for your pet's teeth, or to arrange a general health examination for your pet.



Pesky parasites: in focus!

DID you know that there are a large number of parasites just *itching* to live on your pet? Here we look at a few of them in closer detail.

Fleas need little introduction to many pet owners! Adult fleas are 2-3mm in length and can be seen without magnification. Fleas survive by feeding on your pet's blood, causing very intense irritation and sometimes allergic skin disease. Fleas also play a major role in transmitting tapeworms in dogs and cats. *Year-round flea control* gives you the best chance of ensuring your pets are not troubled by fleas.

Fur mites are much smaller than fleas and are just visible to the naked eye. Sometimes



Adult flea (x5)
(*Ctenocephalides sp.*)



Fur mite (x30)
(*Cheyletiella sp.*)



Ear mite (x40)
(*Otodectes cynotis*)



Harvest mite (x40)
(*Trombicula autumnalis*)

called 'creeping dandruff', they affect dogs, cats and rabbits. The mites cause variable degrees of itching and may also bite the owners of affected pets.

Ear mites affect dogs and cats and are especially a problem in young animals. The mites, which are visible to the naked eye, cause great irritation and excessive wax production.

Harvest mites can be a problem in late summer and early autumn. The mites are active in long grass and will swarm onto passing pets where they tend to congregate on the ears, feet and underside of the abdomen. They are easily identified as bright orange tightly adhering 'dots' and are often very itchy.

Please contact us if you would like any further information on any of the parasites mentioned above, and remember that fleas *never* take holidays and just *love* central heating!

Mites: Maggie Fisher