

Easter Opening Hours

Friday 18 th April GOOD FRIDAY	CLOSED
Saturday 19 th April	8:30am-12:30pm
Sunday 20 th April	CLOSED
Monday 21 st April EASTER MONDAY	CLOSED
Tuesday 22 nd April	Open as Normal

If your pet is on any long-term medications, please ensure that these are ordered with at least 48 hour's notice. In cases of emergencies outside of our opening hours, please call 01606359789 and you will be transferred to VetsNow, our out-of-hours



Spring Tick Alert



Ticks are most active through March – October. They typically live in woodlands and long grasses, waiting to attach themselves onto passing pets, where they can feed off their blood for several days. Unlike fleas, ticks are not itchy but can spread a range of tick-borne diseases. We recommend checking your pets every day, especially after walks to remove any ticks before they have attached. If they have attached themselves, using a tick removing tool is the best action to take as this does not stress or crush the tick. If the tick gets stressed it can increase the risk of disease transmission.

Tick-borne diseases- What are they?

Lyme Disease, also called borreliosis, spread by ticks and can cause a range of symptoms to affected pets and humans, including swollen joints, stiffness, fever, kidney problems and lethargy.

Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis, both particularly prevalent abroad. Emergency tick-borne diseases which attack red blood cells and can be fatal.



Using a regular treatment which covers your pet against parasites such as fleas and ticks is the most effective way of prevention. Please contact the practice for more information – we are happy to help!

Allergies In Pets

Humans are not the only ones that can suffer from allergies. Pets can be allergic to several things, including fleas, foods and environmental factors. Allergies change and develop throughout your pet's life, so things that may have been OK in the past can cause allergy symptoms over time. Most pets are allergic to more than one thing, so finding out the cause of the itching can be an involved process. Looking for patterns can help. Does your pet have problems seasonally or year-round? Do you notice the problems getting worse after your pet gets certain treats or after you changed the diet?

Allergic Skin Disease

Allergic skin conditions can lead to itchy, red skin, usually caused by a reaction of the immune system to allergens in a pet's environment. Symptoms of this include, red skin, scratching, licking or chewing at the skin, persistent ear or skin infections, and hair loss. Although the condition cannot be cured, it can be managed! Continuous, pro-active treatment is key, and symptoms may change seasonally, so watch out for allergens like pollen this spring!

Ear Infections In Dogs

Allergic skin disease is one of the causes of ear infections, where the outer ear canal becomes inflamed or infected. Dogs with ear infections are at a greater risk of repeated infections, so it is important to treat straight away to prevent a narrowing or thickening of the ear canal. Signs of ear infections include, ear scratching, bad smell, head shaking and flapping, redness or thickening of the ears.



If your pet is showing any of the symptoms above, it is important to book them in to see a vet to ensure that the allergies can be controlled to prevent more serious complications.

Travelling With Your Pets

Car Journeys

When transporting your pet, they must be suitably restrained to prevent distraction, this is required by law. This could be a seat belt harness, pet carrier or boot guard.

Some pets may struggle with travelling, i.e. motion sickness or anxiety. If this is the case, please book an appointment with one of the vets to discuss the best way to manage this.

Travelling to Europe

Pets can travel to Europe using an Animal Health Certificate (AHC). This is official paperwork that our veterinary team can organise. There are strict rules, and we WILL NOT sign any paperwork unless we are completely happy with the facts that are stated in it. -All animals travelling must be identified with a microchip. This must be implanted before or at the time of the rabies vaccination.

-All animals traveling MUST have a valid rabies vaccination. A pet can only travel after a full 21 days have elapsed from the date of the rabies vaccine (Full days means that earliest travel is on the 22nd day from the vaccine date).

-You MUST provide a certificate that validates the microchip number and rabies vaccines, this must be presented by a person traveling with the pet and willing to sign the owner declaration.

-On returning to the UK you should visit a foreign vet to have a specific tapeworm product administered and signed for in the AHC. This should be done 24-120 hours before travel. It is your responsibility to organise this.

-If traveling to Ireland (or some less frequent countries) that are free of the tapeworm you will need to do this before you travel FROM the UK. This can be timed along with the issue of the AHC.

If your pet is on regular medications, make sure that you have a sufficient supply for the duration of your holiday. We kindly ask for 24-48 hours when ordering medications.



Easter Treats And Dangers

Spring is here at last with longer days, longer walks and warmer weather. It's time to get out and enjoy the sunshine but watch out for springtime dangers!



Stick To Balls- Avoid playing with sticks as they have great ability to cause throat and mouth injuries, which may necessitate emergency treatment. A safer option is a ball or toy- being mindful to purchase the correct size to ensure that it is large enough, so it doesn't become a choking hazard.

Easter Toxin Alert- Chocolate contains theobromine, which can cause serious harm to dogs. Dogs are very susceptible to chocolate toxicity. The stronger the chocolate the more dangerous it can be. Sultanas and Raisins found in fruit cake and hot cross buns are also toxic to dogs.

Grass Seeds- Grass seed injuries happen when foxtail seeds get trapped in the fur and pierce the skin. They may look small and harmless, but in the wrong place, they can cause a great deal of trouble! Regularly check your pets face, paws and ears and remove any that you may find. Look out for symptoms such as, head shaking, licking feet, swollen toes/paws and red lumps.



Flowers and Bulbs- Some plants are perfectly safe for our pets whilst others may just cause a mild tummy upset. However, others can be highly toxic and life-threatening, so being able to identify poisonous plants is important! With many pets loving to dig up the garden, its vital to keep them well away from any flowers or flower beds. If you suspect that your pet has eaten something that they shouldn't, please contact the practice as soon as possible.

Star Patient



This season's star patient goes to, 'Gertrude' the Speckled Sussex Chicken, who unfortunately had an accident during a winter storm and ended up with a broken leg.

She was brought into practice and examined by vet Caroline. A plan was established to fix the broken bones and return her back to the flock when she was ready.

Gertrude was anaesthetised to enable Caroline to take x-rays of the leg, confirming the type and position of the fracture. When anaesthetising avian species, a lot of the anaesthesia principles are like that of more commonly anaesthetised pets such as dogs and cats.

A splint was placed on the broken leg to stabilise the bones and allow healing to take place. Gertrude was started on pain relief and antibiotics as she also sustained a wound. Her owner settled her in the kitchen for cage rest and to help keep the dressing clean and dry, also making sure, that she had easy access to food and water whilst she wasn't so mobile. She seemed to enjoy life in a warm house while her companions embraced the snow!

Gertrude was anaesthetised weekly for the next 2 weeks to remove the splint and re-xray the fracture to monitor the healing. After 3 weeks there was sufficient healing and stability in the fracture, so the splint was removed. Gertrude had another week of house rest before being let loose with the others. Judging by the photos Gertrude's owner has sent us, she was enjoying bossing about the other pets! Gertrude is now back outside with her chicken companions enjoying her free-range lifestyle once again.

