

BACK to BASICS

At Westwood Vets, no two days are ever the same, as animal care can involve anything from cut pads that require stitching, to the more serious cases of road traffic accidents. No matter how much we try to ensure our pet's safety, at times these unfortunate incidents just do

happen. However, their all-important routine healthcare is within all pet owners control, and is available here at our practice.

Whether you are an experienced owner or have just acquired your first pet, it is beneficial to be aware of developments in the animal world, and what is required to help your pets stay healthy and happy. New parasites appear like **Lungworm**, and the recent increase in cases of **Parvovirus**, show us we must never become complacent.

Maintaining effective basic preventative care for your pets, provides a solid foundation for their overall health. A suitable diet, weight control, regular exercise, dental care, healthchecks, vaccinations, flea and worming control, all play a major part in the general well-being of your pets.

Vaccination Protection against Infection

If we want to help our pets remain healthy, protect them and keep infectious diseases at a low level in the animal community, then a primary vaccination course and boosters are important. Diseases are spread via direct contact with or where an infected animal has been. They can also be carried on paws, clothing and our shoes, while other viruses survive in the environment for long periods of time.

Dogs are social animals that enjoy walks, playing with other canine friends, and having a good sniff around. **Distemper, Leptospirosis and Parvovirus**, are just a few of the many diseases your dogs are at risk from.

Cats are quite independent creatures that roam freely in the outside world, and could come into contact with unvaccinated cats. **Feline Leukaemia Virus** for example, is spread via the saliva from sharing food bowls, mutual grooming and fighting.

Protect your **rabbit** against **Myxomatosis** a particularly unpleasant and often fatal disease, spread by fleas from wild bunnies to your pet. It causes nasty swellings around the face, ears, eyes and mouth affecting their ability to eat, drink or see.

When to Vaccinate

A primary course can begin at
8 weeks of age for puppies
9 weeks for kittens
over 6 weeks for rabbits

If you have acquired a new adult dog, cat or rabbit, or feel your pet's boosters have lapsed, please contact us for advice. Vaccinations and boosters are quick to administer. So check your pets' vaccination record, to ensure they have an 'up-to-date stamp' in their booklet.



Westwood hours

Consultations
by appointment only

Boston Spa

01937 842210

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6pm

Saturday 8.30am - 1pm

Garforth

01132 320085

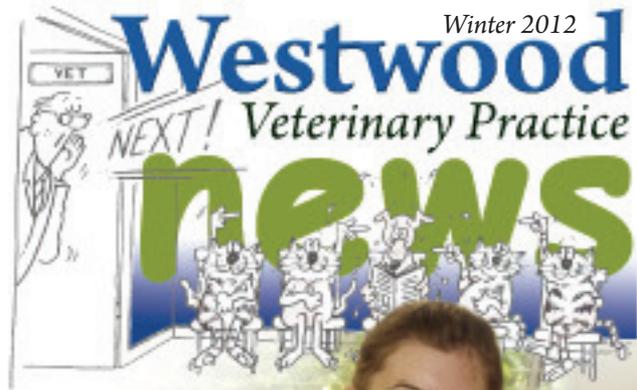
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6pm

**24 Hour 7day
Emergency Service**

by our own Vets for

Pets Equine and Farm

www.westwoodvets.co.uk



Winter 2012



They are **what you feed them**

When the Friday night Chinese, pizza or Indian takeout arrives, do not give in to those pleading eyes of your four-legged friend! Just as for humans, the same rules apply to our pets - watch how much and what is eaten. Generally, given the chance pets will eat any type of food, any quantity, at anytime and look for more! Feeding a measured amount of a well-balanced nutritious diet, and providing regular suitable exercise, will help keep your pets fit, maintain an ideal weight and enjoy a better quality of life. By 'balanced' we mean a correct mix of nutrients in the food to suit the individual animal. Nutrients are elements in food, which are of good value in the diet.

Overfeeding An incorrect diet, too much, lots of treats, titbits from the table and lack of exercise, all contribute to pets being unhealthily overweight.

Obesity in cats and dogs can cause arthritis, heart disease, breathing problems and diabetes. Overweight rabbits have difficulty grooming properly, which can lead to the often fatal condition of 'flystrike'. Flies are attracted to dirty hindquarters where they lay eggs. Hatching maggots then feed on the rabbit's skin and underlying tissue.

Keys to a Healthy Weight

1. Watch how much and how often you are feeding your pet.
2. Keep treats to a minimum. A cuddle is as much a treat as more goodies!
3. Exercise regularly.
4. We can advise you on the correct type of foods and stock prescription diets to suit your pets needs.



For those overweight pets, help and encouragement are available at our surgery to shed those unhealthy extra pounds.

Say Cheese

Well your pets don't smile in the same way we do, but they do have a great set of teeth that are designed to last a lifetime. So regular care is essential to help ensure they stay firmly in place!

How does dental disease happen?

A soft sticky substance called **plaque**, consisting of food debris and bacteria, adheres to the teeth. If not removed, it gradually builds up to form a hard scale called **tartar**, which can cause inflamed and infected gums (gingivitis). As a result, bad breath, tooth decay, and bone loss may occur, so your pet could begin to lose teeth. In severe cases, oral infections can spread via the bloodstream to affect other internal organs like the liver, kidneys and heart.

We are here to help Regular brushing, dental checks and feeding your pet a good diet will assist in keeping their teeth and gums healthy. Our nurses can also show you how to brush your pets' teeth, to help them stay in tiptop condition.

We want to help your purse too

Westwood Vets are pleased to offer.

15% OFF all dental treatment at either of our branches....and it just gets even better as

Pre and postoperative checks are absolutely FREE.

If you would like further information, please call reception or pop in to see us. Our staff are always happy to help.

Don't delay though, our offers are for a limited time only.

Congratulations go to...

Emma and John, who welcomed baby Freddie into the world, and to new parents, Julie and Adam on the arrival of their son Jack.

Also to Vicky who became Mrs Victoria Lenthall, when she married her fiance Phil in August.

On 19 June the Olympic Torch Bearer and procession went right past the front of our practice. To offer our support we all turned out to wave them on.



Never say Never Worms Fleas and Ticks

require a host to complete their life cycle, so your pets are the perfect target! **All cats and dogs are at risk**, but by using effective regular treatments, you can help towards keeping your pet parasite free.

Roundworm and Tapeworm These are the two most common worms found in the intestines. Infected animals pass the eggs in their faeces, which can be ingested by other animals while sniffing around. Mice, rats and birds carry worms too, so on that hunting trip your cat may catch a little more than bargained for! As some worms also pose a threat to humans, please bear this in mind when you, and especially children, are in close contact with pets. It is advisable to give effective worming treatments to your dog or cat every 3 months.

Hand in Hand Fleas eat worm eggs, so an animal with fleas will probably have worms too, as when pets groom and nibble at this biting parasite, they are often swallowed.



Fleas - are a year round problem! They bite to feast on blood, causing sore skin, major irritation, allergic reactions and can infest your house too!

Ticks are also blood-sucking parasites, which are only tiny when they lock their mouths into the skin. After a few days of heavy feeding, they become engorged with blood, and can also transmit Lyme Disease.



Worming Reminder Service

There is a service available that will remind you when your pet is due for their next worming treatment. You can choose from email, text or both. Just go to www.wormpatrol.co.uk and follow the link.



**October
Microchipping
£5 off
now just
£12.50**

Regular and effective treatments are essential against ALL these parasites, and are available at our surgery. We can advise on those suitable for your pet.



**Westwood
Veterinary Practice**

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