

NEWSLETTER February 2011

Welcome to the latest issue of our newsletter designed to keep you up to date with what's happening in the practice.

www.tworiversvets.co.uk

BIGGAR SURGERY

157 High Street
Biggar
ML12 6DL
01899 220073

Office hours

Mon/Wed/Fri 8.30 - 6.30
Tues/Thurs 8.30 - 5.30
Saturday 9.00 - 12.00

Open consulting times

Mon - Saturday 9 - 9.30
Mon/Wed/Fri 5.30 - 6.30
Other times welcome
by appointment

PEEBLES SURGERY

15 Old Town
Peebles
EH45 8JF
01721 722879

Office hours

Mon/Wed/Fri 8.45 - 5.30
Tues/Thurs 8.45 - 6.30
Saturday 10.00 - 12.30

Consulting times

Mon - Fri 9.30 - 10.30
Mon/Wed/Fri 4.00 - 5.00
Tues/Thurs 4.00 - 6.00
Sat 11.00 - 12.00
all by appointment only

**24 HOUR
EMERGENCY SERVICE
on either phone number**

Why should I vaccinate my pet?

There's more to looking after a pet than just providing food and water. Every pet needs some loving attention, time for exercise and a warm place to sleep. Vaccinations and regular health assessments are also an important part of keeping pets healthy.

Vaccination protects your dog or cat against serious infectious diseases that can kill. Vaccines stimulate the immune system so that antibodies are produced - when the dog or cat is exposed to the disease it has been vaccinated against, the antibodies will rapidly start working to prevent illness.



The diseases we can vaccinate against are:



DOGS canine distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, parainfluenza, leptospirosis, kennel cough (and rabies for travel)

CATS calicivirus, feline herpes virus, feline panleucopenia virus, feline leukaemia virus (and rabies for travel)

Puppies and kittens need a primary course of two vaccinations. Puppies can be vaccinated at 6 weeks old and then 10 weeks old. Kittens should be 9 weeks old for their first vaccination and 12 weeks old for their second vaccination. Booster vaccination is given yearly thereafter to maintain protection against disease.

Only healthy dogs and cats should be vaccinated, which is why your pet is given a health check before the booster is given. This also provides the opportunity to discuss any concerns about your pet's health with the vet.

Please contact us to arrange a vaccination course for a puppy or kitten, or a vaccination course or yearly booster for your dog or cat.



RODENTICIDE POISONING IN PETS

Many pet owners are unaware that rodenticide (rat bait) is poisonous to our pets if they ingest it.



Potentially dangerous to all mammals and birds, **anticoagulant rodenticides** are the most frequent cause of poisoning in pets. Pets and wildlife may be poisoned directly from bait or indirectly by eating dead rats or mice.

Your pet may present with **signs** such as lethargy and weakness, bruising, pale gums, nose bleeds, blood in the urine or faeces, difficulty breathing and coughing up blood, distended belly - due to blood in the abdomen, or collapsed - due to a major bleed into a body cavity.

These signs reflect **haemorrhage** (bleeding). This is because in order to clot, the blood requires clotting factors. These clotting factors are produced in liver the presence of vitamin K, but anticoagulant rodenticides inhibit vitamin K production. This leads to the depletion of clotting factors resulting in profuse bleeding in any area of the body.

Anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning is usually diagnosed based on history of **ingestion** of the substance. However, diagnosis can prove difficult as owners don't always see what their dog picks up or eats when out on a walk, and cat owners are unaware of what their cat eats when roaming about outside. Signs of this poisoning may be delayed by 1-5 days after exposure. Standard treatment for rodenticide poisoning is administration of vitamin K, but blood transfusions may also be necessary. Unfortunately poisoning may be fatal.

If your **see your pet eat rodenticide**, or your pet displays any of the **symptoms** mentioned please **contact us immediately** - the prognosis is better if treatment is started soon after exposure to the poison. The prognosis is more guarded if bleeding has already started, lots of poison has been ingested or it has been more than a few hours since ingestion.



New Pet Accessory Stand

There is now a new pet accessory stand in our Peebles surgery reception area, which offers a bigger and better variety of pet toys, collars, leads, and other accessories. Why not come in and have a look and see if there's something to suit your pet! Don't forget we can also order bedding, litter, food, cages, pet carriers, bowls, mats and anything else you might need for your dog, cat, rabbit or small pet.

Royal Canin Pet Food

We have a full range of Royal Canin food for sale in both surgeries and also have lots of free samples available for tasting.



Weight Loss Clinics!

Due to the extreme weather conditions we have experienced over the last few months, many cats and dogs have not been able to exercise as normal. This lack of exercise may have led to weight gain.

If you feel your pet may have gained weight please feel free to bring him or her along to our Weight Clinic, where we will give you free advice on the correct bodyweight, nutrition, exercise and weight loss. The clinics are run by our qualified Veterinary Nurses, with input from the vet if required. We can then arrange to see the pet regularly to assess progress. If you are interested in this free service please ring either surgery to make an appointment.

