



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

[www.tworiversvets.co.uk](http://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**

## WHAT IS A VETERINARY NURSE?

Veterinary Nurses are very valuable and highly trained members of the team looking after your pet when it comes to the veterinary surgery. Veterinary Nurses can train either by taking a full-time college course, a part-time course while working in a veterinary practice, or by taking a degree in Veterinary Nursing at university. The training is quite intensive and can take 2-4 years. On completion of the course (and if students will become Nurses and will be Royal College of (RCVS).



The tasks that out can include treatments, providing sick animals including bandaging, taking placing catheters, and undertaking and performing diagnostic tests under veterinary supervision. Veterinary Nurses also play an important role in the education of owners on good standards of animal care.

they pass all the exams!), Qualified Veterinary able to register with the Veterinary Surgeons

Veterinary Nurses carry administration of medical skilled supportive care for changing dressings, blood samples and monitoring anaesthesia, minor surgery, dentistry

At Two Rivers Vets we employ Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) in each practice to help us provide the highest levels of care. You can recognise them as they wear the bottle green uniform of a Veterinary Nurse, with nurses badge and fob watch. RVNs are required to keep their knowledge and skills up to date by undertaking continuing professional development (CPD) just like Vets, with accountability to the RCVS.



Our nurses run a range of **FREE clinics** including:

- nutrition & weight loss
- mobility clinics
- dental clinics
- senior pet clinics



## Pet Health Counsellor

Our Veterinary Nurse at Peebles surgery [Laura Robson](#) has recently been on a course to qualify as a [Pet Health Counsellor](#).



Laura says 'The course gave me further detailed knowledge and understanding of nutrition, and looked at several important pet health and behaviour issues. I'm looking forward to running a range of [FREE clinics](#) designed to give better support and advice and help pets live a long and happy life'.

Please contact the surgery for details of our [FREE Pet Health Counsellor Clinics](#).

### Laminitis Risk

As spring approaches, look out for the signs of laminitis, a painful inflammation of the laminae of the hoof in horses and ponies. The most common cause is lush spring grass, but we have seen cases recently with the ground still frozen or covered in snow, so other factors can also cause the disease. Overweight ponies are most at risk.

Affected animals rock backwards to take the weight off their toes, are reluctant to walk and may sweat and flare their nostrils, signs of severe pain. Heart rate, respiratory rate and digital pulses are increased.

If you suspect laminitis please call us immediately. Treatment includes painkillers and anti-inflammatories, frog supports, corrective trimming or shoeing and dietary management. Severe cases may require xrays as the pedal bone can start to 'sink' down through the bottom of the hoof.



Horses should not become too fat, have regular exercise and restricted access to lush grass to reduce the risk of laminitis.



# ROYAL CANIN

## NUTRITION AFTER NEUTERING

Neutering in both cats and dogs causes changes in hormone secretions and slows metabolism down. Pets behaviour may change and the diet fed should take this into account.

It is essential to reduce the number of calories consumed after neutering to avoid weight gain. This can be done by cutting back the normal diet by a third, but this also cuts back all the other important nutrients in the diet.



**Royal canin** has diets specifically formulated for neutered dogs and cats. To help maintain ideal body weight, they have developed a high protein diet with reduced fat that addresses the increased risk of obesity in neutered pets.

**Royal canin** also cater for the different nutritional needs of neutered small, medium and large/giant breed dogs.



The small breed dog food has tartar control in it, essential as small dogs are prone to dental problems, while the medium breed dog food has beneficial skin and coat properties, as these breeds can be more prone to skin complaints. The large breed

dog food has joint support properties, with large breeds being more prone to joint problems.

**Royal canin** neutered cat food has properties that ensure your cat's urine is less likely to develop problematic crystals and stones.

We would encourage clients to bring pets back to us one month after neutering for a **free weight check** to monitor bodyweight, were we can advise on nutrition if required.

