

NEWSLETTER May 2011

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

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**

May is National Vaccination Month!

Thousands of animals die each year from preventable diseases. That's why at Two Rivers Vets we are taking part in **National Vaccination Month**, which aims to ensure that every dog, cat, rabbit and horse is fully protected.

If your dog or cat is over 18 months of age, your rabbit is over 9 months, or your horse is over 12 months and behind with its vaccinations, you could be eligible for major reductions in the cost of restarting your pet or horse's vaccinations throughout **May 2011**.



Restarting vaccinations involves **two injections** several weeks apart. As part of National Vaccination Month we will be providing the **2nd injection free of charge** to clients who missed their pet's annual vaccination. The vaccination also includes a **free health check**.

For further details or to take part, log on to www.nvmonline.co.uk. To claim your **free second injection**, fill in your details online and print out a voucher to bring along to the surgery with you. If you dont have internet access we can print a voucher at reception for you.

Its really important to ensure vaccinations are up to date. Diseases such as parvovirus (dogs), leukaemia (cats), myxomatosis (rabbits) and tetanus (horses) are often fatal. They can affect any age of animal, and all unvaccinated pets and horses are at riak. Please take advantage of this offer (made possible by some of the major vaccine manufacturers) if your animal's boosters are overdue.

Just telephone either surgery asking for an appointment for **National Vaccination Month**, and dont forget your voucher!



May 2011

Is Sweet Itch affecting your horse?

Sweet itch is a condition where horses have an allergic reaction to the saliva from biting midges and flies. It is a seasonal condition, with affected horses showing signs between April and November.

Signs include intense itching, thickened flaky skin and hair loss. The mane and tail are the most commonly affected areas.

Minimising exposure to midges and flies is an important step in preventing signs. Avoid turning out at dusk and dawn when midges feed the most, and avoid turning out in fields with marshy, wet areas or ponds as these attract midges and flies.

Fly repellent is essential, sometimes with multiple applications being required throughout the day. Using a fan in the stable can prevent midges being able to fly.

The most effective way to control sweet itch, especially if the horse is already a sufferer of this condition, is to use a light rug and hood as this prevents the midges and flies from being able to bite.



A Warm Welcome to Our New Veterinary Nurse

Steph Smith is the newest member of the Two Rivers Veterinary team. Steph studied an honours degree in Veterinary Nursing at Napier University in Edinburgh, after completing the Veterinary Nursing Preliminary Course at Telford College.

She has a special interest in feline medicine and behaviour, and has just finished a research project studying arthritis in cats.



Steph's other interests include gardening, cycling, card-making and cake baking. She moved to Peebles in April and is looking forward to getting out and about exploring the Borders and of course to meeting the pets and their owners at Two Rivers Vets.

Rabbit Awareness Week 23rd - 29th May 2011

Because rabbits get a RAW deal! We will be offering FREE rabbit health checks during Rabbit Awareness Week, at which time we will examine your rabbit and can also give you advice on your rabbit's diet, weight and any other relevant health issues. Please phone either surgery to make an appointment.

Is your Rabbit at risk of Flystrike?

Flystrike occurs when flies lay eggs on the rabbit and the eggs then hatch into maggots. Some species of fly (eg bluebottles and greenbottles) produce maggots that can very rapidly mature and eat into the rabbits flesh within 24 hours. Flystrike is especially common during the summer, but can occur at any time of the year.



Any rabbit can get flystrike, but certain factors increase the risk. Overweight or obese rabbits, or those with large dewlaps are more prone to flystrike, as are rabbits with wounds or discharging abscesses, those with diarrhoea or loose stools, or any older rabbit. It is very important to keep the rabbits living quarters clean and dry, as flies are attracted by damp, smelly conditions.

High-risk rabbits should have their bottoms checked twice daily, especially in summer. However, if any rabbit is quiet and listless, or appears restless and shows signs of discomfort, pick it up immediately and check for eggs or maggots. If you find maggots, contact us immediately. Flystrike is a very serious condition and sadly is often fatal.

However, rabbits can make a full recovery if the condition is found and treated quickly. Treatment consists of clipping away the fur, usually under sedation, then carefully removing the maggots and flushing the area thoroughly. Rabbits will also need fluid therapy, antibiotics to treat infection and plenty of pain relief.

Login to www.rabbitawarenessweek.co.uk for further details