

## NEWSLETTER November 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](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

#### Consulting times

Mon - Saturday 9 - 10.00  
Mon/Wed/Fri 4.00 - 6.30  
Tues/Thurs 4.00 - 5.30  
all by appointment only

### 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**

## Canine Prostate Awareness

This November – also known as “[Movember](#)” – men across the UK will be growing weird and wonderful moustaches to raise funds for male prostate and testicular cancer research. But, it is not only men who are affected by prostate disorders – up to 80% of entire (not castrated) dogs over the age of 5 may be affected with benign prostatic hyperplasia (enlarged prostate). In November, Two Rivers is offering **FREE urine testing**, which can help in the diagnosis of prostate disease.



**What causes prostatic hyperplasia?** Prostatic hyperplasia is thought to occur when there is an excess of hormones called androgens (eg. testosterone) inside your dog's body. The primary source of androgen production is the testicles.

**What are the signs?** Benign prostatic hyperplasia can cause constipation, painful and difficult urination or blood in the urine, and weight loss.

**Can prostatic hyperplasia be treated?** Yes. The best treatment for benign prostatic hyperplasia is castration, which can be booked at either surgery at a time that suits you. Medication is also available which can reduce the size of an enlarged prostate by up to 40% in two weeks. A course of tablets needs to be given every day for one week and this must be repeated every 6 months.



A urine sample from your pet can help to diagnose **benign prostatic hyperplasia** (or **diabetes** - see over page). Throughout November, Two Rivers Vets are offering **FREE urine testing**. All you need is a clean jam jar or plastic tub and some patience! Obtaining a sample first thing in the morning, and dropping it off to the surgery as soon as possible (the same day), improves the accuracy of the test results. We will phone you with the results of the urine test within 1-2 days. An abnormal result may need a follow up test or further investigation.

**[FREE urine testing !](#)**



## Pet Diabetes

If you didn't know your dog or cat could develop diabetes, you're not alone. Many owners don't realize diabetes can affect pets too, so learning that your dog or cat has the condition can leave you with many questions.

### What causes diabetes?

Diabetes is a disease caused by a lack of insulin that affects the level of glucose (sugar) in your dog or cat's blood. The glucose comes from the food that your pet eats and is an important source of energy. Glucose is absorbed from the intestines into the bloodstream where it travels to cells throughout the body. Insulin is required for the cells to absorb glucose. Insulin is produced by the pancreas in response to the amount of glucose in the bloodstream. Healthy pets produce insulin easily, but pets with diabetes don't, causing unused glucose to build up in the bloodstream. Throughout November, Two Rivers is offering **FREE urine testing**, which can help in the diagnosis of diabetes by testing for the presence of excess glucose in the urine.



**What are the signs?** Diabetes can cause lethargy, excessive thirst and frequent urination and a thin or dull coat. Early detection can help to avoid the development of complications, such as cataract formation in dogs and hind limb weakness in cats.

**Can diabetes be treated?** Yes, with regular insulin therapy and a strict diet. With proper management and monitoring, a dog or cat with diabetes can lead a healthy, happy, and active life.



## OPEN SURGERIES!

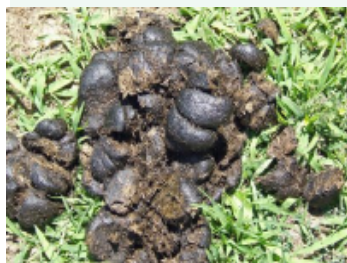
November is the first month where consultations at the Biggar surgery will all be by appointment only. From the beginning of November we will be able to offer appointments in Biggar daily, with no more waiting for your turn!



Please help us to make the changeover by ringing in advance to make an appointment. Appointments will always be offered the same day if necessary for your pet, and emergencies will always be seen straight away as before - just ring before setting off so that we can make sure that a vet is available.

## Time to worm your horse!

Hopefully horse owners have spent the summer 'poo picking' their horses fields and sending us dung samples at regular intervals so that we can carry out **Worm Egg Counts (WECs)**. Only horses showing high egg counts will have been wormed throughout the summer, an approach shown to be effective in keeping worm burdens low, while reducing overall use of worming products and therefore slowing the build-up of resistance to these drugs.



However **WECs** are not reliable in assessing if a horse has **tapeworm**, and so all horses should be wormed in the autumn to control these parasites. Only certain wormers have ingredients effective against tapeworms, so please ask us if you need advice on the correct product to use for your horse.

Routines and general management often change at this time of year, with horses spending more time in the stable, less time at pasture and changing onto hay or haylage instead of grass. Wherever possible try to **change your horse's diet and daily routine as slowly as possible** to reduce the effect on the gastrointestinal system, and to prevent impactions and colic.

Now might also be a good time to have us check your horse's **teeth**, particularly for older horses or ponies or those which tend to lose weight in the winter months.

