



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**

Happy New Year!

Top 5 Tips for a Winning Smile in 2012

Dental disease is the most common infectious disease of our pets. Over 80% of cats and dogs over the age of 3 require dental treatment now. Dental disease can affect other organs in the body - bacteria in the mouth can get into the blood stream and affect the kidneys, liver, lung and heart. The majority of dental problems are treatable, however prevention is always better than cure. Here are our **Top 5 Tips** to maintain your pet's oral hygiene:



1. Brushing Brushing your cat or dog's teeth daily is the best way to prevent dental disease. The key is to make it as enjoyable as possible so that it becomes part of your daily routine rather than a chore. If your pet's teeth have never been brushed before, now is the time to start! Begin by gradually introducing your pet to the sensation of having their teeth and gums touched, then progress to a fingerbrush and finally a toothbrush. There are meat-flavoured tooth gels and pastes made especially for pets.



2. Dental Food Even with persistence, some pets will not tolerate daily brushing. If so, they may benefit from being fed **Royal Canin Dental Food**, which reduces calcium deposits on the teeth and tartar build up. The dry kibble helps to dislodge plaque during chewing. Join the **Royal Canin Food Loyalty Scheme**, where you will receive a free bag for every 6 purchased.

3. Dental Chews The most well-known dental chews are Pedigree's Dentastix, which can reduce up to 80% of tartar and are given once daily. Logic Rawhide Chews have a one-up on Dentastix, as they are coated in an antibacterial enzyme which breaks down plaque.

4. Mouthwash Nobody likes doggy breath! Hexarinse is an antibacterial mouthwash especially for pets. Aquadent is a solution which is added to your pet's drinking water, so as they drink, their mouth is treated and rinsed.

5. Free dental clinics Although your pet's teeth will be examined during the annual health check and booster, **FREE Nurse Dental Clinics** are available throughout the year. Here you can have your pet's mouth examined for signs of periodontal disease, learn how to brush their teeth or try a **FREE** sample of beef-flavoured teethcleaning gel!



Chicken Corner : Scaly Leg

Scaly leg is a common disease seen in chickens. It is caused by the mite *Knemidocoptes*. The mite burrows under the skin, most commonly under the scales in the legs. The legs can become quite painful and birds will then be reluctant to walk to their food and water.



There are many out-dated methods for treating scaly leg mite at home, such as smearing Vaseline over the scales in an attempt to smother mites, or by brushing harmful chemicals onto the legs.

A much safer treatment can be prescribed by the practice, consisting of a topical treatment which kills the mites, with 2 or 3 treatments given 2 weeks apart. Not all birds exposed to scaly leg mites will develop the condition, so group treatment is not always necessary.



APPOINTMENTS

Please remember that we now operate an appointment-only system at both Biggar and Peebles surgeries. We have appointments at both surgeries Monday to Saturday, and are happy to see your animal at any time for emergency treatment but please ring the practice (on either telephone number) first.

Winter Fleas : dont get caught on the hop!

These days the advent of winter no longer stops fleas in their tracks! Fleas love central heating and will breed in the carpets and bedding, as well as the cracks in hard flooring. In addition, flea development can continue on the coat of most animals. Worse still, adult female fleas can lay in excess of 50 eggs per day - thus a brief infestation can result in thousands of eggs being produced!



Common symptoms of bites include itchiness, red rashes, hair loss and severe irritation, which is particularly marked in pets with an allergy to flea saliva. Some affected pets develop secondary skin infections and may require antibiotics and treatment to relieve their itching.



Thus, for optimal flea control, and peace of mind, treatment should ideally be all year round. Spot-ons and sprays can be used to kill fleas on the pets, whilst larvicidal house sprays can be used to prevent fleas developing in the home. We are happy to advise you on the most suitable form of flea control for your pet and your home (don't forget you need to treat both)!

Two Rivers staff starring roles!!

Two of our staff starred recently in the Biggar Theatre Workshop production of 'Aladdin'. Vet David Campbell took on the role of The Genie of the Ring, while Veterinary Nurse Julie Devine played Aladdin. The pantomime, which ran for 5 nights in December, was a great success, thoroughly entertaining with very few empty seats throughout the week.

David regularly performs in the Biggar Christmas panto, but this was Julie's first starring role. The pair worked hard in rehearsals for months leading up to the performances, and David was delighted to get a whole week off evening surgeries and on-call duties to appear as the genie!

