

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 open

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

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 open

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

Consulting times

Mon - Sat 9.30 - 10.30
& other times by appt only
Mon/Wed/Fri 1.30 - 2.00
Tues/Thurs 5.00 - 6.00

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

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED PET INSURANCE?

Two Rivers Veterinary Practice strongly recommends that all pet owners consider taking out an insurance policy to help cover the costs of veterinary treatment.

Why should I insure my pet?

With huge advances in veterinary diagnostics and treatments over the last 10 years, many conditions that were previously considered inoperable or too difficult to manage can now be successfully treated in both general practice and in referral centres. The costs of advanced veterinary treatment can be similar to those incurred in doctors' surgeries and hospitals, except that there is no NHS for animals! It is heart-breaking to have to turn down potentially life-saving treatment for a much-loved dog or cat just because of the costs involved.



Even straightforward conditions like a fractured leg or foreign body in the stomach can cost in excess of £1000. Many dogs and cats end up on long-term treatment to control conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, skin disease, diabetes and thyroid disease, with medications, check-ups and blood tests all adding up.

Are all policies the same?

The answer is no, definitely not! It's very important to get quotes from several pet insurance companies, and find out exactly what the policy includes. Next month find out the questions you should ask about a policy you are considering taking out, and what the different types of cover might mean for your pet.

In the meantime if you require further advice on Pet Insurance please telephone the surgery and we will be happy to help.



Christmas Treats for Pets



It's nice to treat your pet at Christmas time too, so why not come in and see the Christmas toys, treats and accessories we have for sale.

We have a selection of dog and cat toys in stock and also a Christmas catalogue for you to browse through. Orders from the catalogue will arrive within 2 - 3 days.

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

We will close at 3pm on Friday 24th December, and will remain closed over the weekend and on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th December. Both surgeries will be open as normal on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th December.

We will close early again on Hogmanay, and will remain closed over the weekend and on Monday 3rd January 2011. From Tuesday 4th January we will be open as usual at both surgeries.

There will always be a vet on call over the festive period when we are closed - if you have an emergency or urgent case please ring the usual telephone number and you will be put through to the vet on duty.

If your pet is on medication or a prescription diet, please check that you have ordered enough to last over the holiday period.

REMEMBER from January you will need to make an appointment to see the vet at Peebles surgery.



Chocolate heaven at Christmas

To most of us, chocolate is a delicious treat we enjoy at Christmas time, with no more resulting problems than an expanding waistline. To dogs, chocolate is also very tasty, but potentially lethal. Cocoa beans contains theobromine, a chemical which is so toxic to dogs because they can only metabolise it very slowly. The darker the chocolate, the more theobromine it contains. Cocoa beans, cocoa powder and dark (plain) chocolate are very toxic to dogs.

The Effects of Chocolate Poisoning

Chocolate poisoning in dogs causes abdominal pain and vomiting. The vomit will often contain obvious chunks of chocolate. The dog may be restless, drooling saliva and could have difficulty standing or walking. Increased thirst is also common. In more severely affected dogs, there is an increase in the rate of breathing, muscle tremors and rigidity. Eventually, the dog may develop convulsions and death is a real possibility.



Because of the slow metabolism, symptoms may not appear for many hours (2 - 24 hours) after the chocolate has been eaten so DO NOT be fooled into thinking everything is ok. It can take as long as three days for the dog to recover completely depending on the type and amount of chocolate eaten.

If your dog eats any quantity of cocoa or dark chocolate please contact us immediately.

Do not wait for symptoms to begin.