



Newsletter No9
Autumn 2006
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Hello to all our clients new and old!
We are almost 6 years old now and firmly established in our aim to provide first class, complete care for your cats. As we get busier we are also considering ways to extend our services. We hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and we'll take a rather premature opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

PET INSURANCE

It is hard to remember the days before insurance but it is certain that hundreds of cats receive the very best treatment available when the financial burden is less of an issue. We recommend that you choose a policy that will support your cats with LIFETIME COVER, irrespective of the complaint. Frequently we find that many of the budget insurance companies will only support you through the claims in one year and thereafter exclude you. Dentistry is becoming increasingly difficult to claim for so please make sure you read the small print relating to this. The companies usually stipulate that the cat must have an annual or even bi-annual dental check which can be done at the same time as the booster and we must provide a two year dental history with any claim.

IF YOUR CAT IS NOT INSURED, WE CAN GIVE HIM OR HER A FREE HEALTH CHECK AND 2 MONTHS FREE INSURANCE WITH PET PLAN!

AUTUMN SPECIAL OFFER

20% off a PROGRAM injection which will protect your cat against fleas (by sterilising the eggs) for a whole 6 months! It is 100% effective at preventing flea infestations and is guaranteed by the manufacturers. We will also give you a **FREE wormer!!**
Offer available until the end of 2006

"TOMBOYS" CALENDAR

In case you have missed out on the banter in the waiting room, we have produced a 2007 calendar starring some of our most delightful and very game male clients and their cats. The result is an extremely tasteful and artistic version of "the calendar girls" and will be sold for £7 each with the profits going entirely to The Ark RSPCA shelter at Stubbington. A perfect and very original Christmas present for any cat lover!
Our sincere thanks to all our volunteers and to Kevin at Chamaeleon Imaging who donated his photographic skills. Please contact the surgery if you would like to volunteer for next year!



GOOD NEWS!

We have just been awarded a bronze award in the National Feline- Friendly Veterinary Practice of the Year awards!

Don't forget that we provide a 10% loyalty discount scheme for clients who buy their dried food from us. Please tell the nurse if you would like to register.
24hrs notice is needed for large food orders

BLADDER PROBLEMS

Cats and their ability to pee properly is becoming a real medical and surgical issue. They are naturally desert animals and therefore attempt to concentrate their urine as much as possible. Unfortunately, many modern wet and dry diets contain a lot of additives, especially salts such as magnesium which are highly addictive. The body rids itself of these salts through the urine. They commonly crystallise (a bit like stalagmites in a cave) which cause bladder irritation. The result is discomfort when urinating, sometimes with blood. In extreme cases the urethra becomes totally blocked which is a real emergency. Our tips to help avoid this include:

1. Feed a small amount of wet food each day.
 2. Feed a good quality dry food such as Royal Canin or Hill's which are known to be very low in dangerous elements and also contain glucosamine to protect the bladder lining
 3. Encourage your cat to drink plenty of water. Make several sites available including running water. We sell water fountains which provide a ready source of oxygenated, purified water for your cat.
- If you think your cat is experiencing problems we can supply a test kit which will allow our nurses to test the urine.

WINTER WEIGHT GAIN

Cats, as we know, are naturally more comfortable in the warm summer months and tend to become couch potatoes in the winter. Their reduced activity should mean that we should be easing up slightly on the amount of food we feed them during the winter. It is not uncommon for us to find that cats put on over 10% of their body weight between now and March and many of them struggle to lose it again!!

If you think you have a tubby tabby then why not pop in for a free weight check and some free samples of lower calorie foods.

Please remember that we run an appointment- only service. If you cannot make your appointment or you are running late then we would be most grateful if you could let us know. We cannot always guarantee that non-emergencies can be given a same-day appointment although we will always make every effort to do so.

ARTHRITIS STUDY

We have agreed to take part in some national trials by a major pet food company to develop nutritional supplementation to relieve the symptoms of arthritis. If you have a cat that is becoming stiffer or is known to be arthritic but is not currently on any medication then we would be grateful if you would consider volunteering. There will be a financial incentive as well as 3 months free specified prescription food. All veterinary consultations and treatment during the trial period will be free of charge. The study will commence in early January and will last 3-4 months. Participants must be put forward by the end of November.

Flea protection with Frontline Spot-on

This has now been taken off the prescription register so we can supply it to you without having to see your cat (the Frontline Combo, which protects the environment also, is still prescription-only)

CAT FLU.....

Is definitely on the increase and results in life-long complications. We see the effects of it every week. Ensure your cat is protected by yearly vaccinations.

HYPERTHYROIDISM

This is a condition which affects approximately 1 in 15 cats over 10 years of age. The symptoms can vary but include: increased appetite and sometimes thirst, weight loss, diarrhoea, odd vocalisation and changes in behaviour. If you have a senior cat and are concerned then we can provide blood test results within 48 hours. The condition is 95% treatable and this extends a cat's life by many years.