

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024



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Welcome

Welcome to the spring edition of the Rutland Veterinary Centre Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading more about what the team have been up to in the last few months across our branches.

We had some great feedback from the first issue of the newsletter which was greatly appreciated. Please do speak to the team if you would like to see anything in future editions!

Important update

Until now, Rutland Veterinary Centre Ltd. has consisted of both small and large animal departments. After much consideration the directors have taken the decision to formally split into two separate businesses.

This split will be happening as of 02/04/2024, with farm trading under Farm Veterinary Solutions. This should have minimal impact on small animal clients, however please contact us if you have any questions.

Microchipping Laws



From the **10th June 2024** it will be a legal requirement for cats to be microchipped by 20 weeks old. After this date if your cat is not chipped, you may face a fine of up to £500! All cat and dog owners must also ensure their pets microchip details are kept up to date. We can help with this or you can search your chip number at:

<https://www.check-a-chip.co.uk/>

Microchipping can be done with the nurse and costs £20 (FREE on the Lifetime Care Club).

GDPR Update

Information within veterinary records is considered privileged and confidential as it contains your personal information. Under no circumstances can we discuss your account with family members or friends unless express permission has been granted by you and noted on your account. **Please be aware, we may decline to speak to someone if they are not named on the account. Please speak to reception if you wish to update your account.**

Staff spotlight

In this issue we would like to introduce you to one of our veterinary surgeons, Simon Wilkinson MRCVS Cert AVP (GP). Simon Graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2013. Simon is a longstanding member of the team at Rutland Vets, having worked as a branch manager at our Oakham practice since 2019. He has a Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (General Practice) and enjoys emergency work as well as eye cases and small furies.

He has recently taken a sabbatical to Saudi Arabia where he worked with your typical dogs and cats, as well as having the opportunity to work with more exotic animals such as camels, falcons, sea turtles and the occasional lion or cheetah! We are now looking forward to Simon re-joining the team at Oakham in May, continuing to provide an excellent level of client and patient care.



Canine Physiotherapy

If you hadn't already seen, we have been very excited about being able to offer canine physiotherapy for all our clients. Appointments will be based at our Uppingham branch. Canine Physiotherapy can be used to provide pain relief and regain function after injury or surgery. Physiotherapy can also be used for strengthening and optimising performance. Charlotte is one of our newer nurses and started offering appointments back in February. She has hit the ground running and is please to announce she will also be offering some evening taster sessions in May.

Physiotherapy Equipment

Cavaletti Poles

Cavaletti poles can be used for rehabilitation and fitness. They work by re-educating the gait, encouraging even weight bearing and improved range of motion through proprioceptive input. The poles can be raised to increase the intensity of the exercise.



Wobble Cushion

The wobble cushion can be used for rehabilitation, strengthening core musculature and limbs, improving proprioception and providing neural stimulation. It can also be used for improving balance and conditioning in sporting and working dogs.



Laser therapy

Laser therapy is a non-invasive drug-free form of pain relief for chronic or acute pain. It also works to optimise the healing of a range of tissues by modulating inflammation and accelerating tissue regeneration on a cellular level.



Allergies in pets

Just like humans, pets can suffer from allergies which can be distressing for both the pet and owner.

With spring in full force a lot of common pet (and human) allergies have started to flare up. Common symptoms include itching, hair loss, sneezing, redness and inflammation of the skin, gastrointestinal issues such as vomiting or diarrhoea and chronic ear infections.



Treatment options may include antihistamines or corticosteroids to help reduce inflammation and itching, as well as topical treatments or dietary changes. In some cases the vet may recommend diagnostic tests such as blood tests to help identify the cause and guide treatment. Where we know the specific allergen, the vet may recommend immunotherapy to help relieve your pets symptoms.

Common allergies in pets

- **Environmental** - can be caused by pollen, dust, mould and certain plants.
- **Food** - can be caused by a variety of different ingredients e.g. grains or chicken.
- **Fleas** - when fleas bite your pet, their saliva can cause a reaction*.

If you suspect your pet may have an allergy, contact us to book in with the vet.

*Don't forget, parasite treatments are included for pets on our **Lifetime Care Club**.

Sheep worrying

Sheep worrying is sadly a common occurrence throughout the countryside, especially at this time of year. Sheep worrying is when a dog either attacks, chases or is unable to be controlled around sheep. By allowing any of these actions, the owner of the dog is breaking the law.

The dog does not have to physically injure a sheep for it to be an offence. Any out of control dog amongst a flock can cause panic, resulting in the sheep dying from stress or aborting their lambs.

Please remember to keep dogs on a lead around livestock to prevent sheep worrying. If you do let your dog off lead, it is advisable to train a reliable recall command in case of unexpected encounters.



Otter cub update

Manton

Earlier this year we had a poorly orphaned otter cub handed into our Uppingham practice. Our on call vet Emma, provided emergency care before the RSPCA took him in to provide further care. The otter, now named Manton, was then transported to the UK Wild Otter Trust.

The team have been keeping an eye on his progress and have loved seeing him grow and be paired with another little otter called Asha.



**Manton now (bottom)
with Asha (top)**

LCC Direct Debits

Important information about your care plan direct debit: We are moving payment collections from Rutland Veterinary Centre to Easy Direct Debits. You may have noticed a cancellation of your Direct Debit mandate to Rutland Veterinary Centre and a new mandate for Easy Direct Debits. This is part of the process and you do not need to take any action. Please note there have been some issues with the transaction name on some Monzo accounts, if yours is affected please contact the practice. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we make this transition.

Veterinary myths debunked...

“If a pet has diarrhoea you should starve them”

This is a common misconception...

It was traditionally thought that starving a pet with diarrhoea for 24hrs would help relieve stress on the intestines and help resolve the diarrhoea. However, more recent research has indicated that the intestines in fact require food and the energy it provides in order to recover.

Depending on any other symptoms, our advice would usually be to offer a bland, highly digestible diet to help manage diarrhoea irrespective of the underlying cause. This could include cooked chicken or fish with a small amount of white rice or pasta for up to 2-3 days. We can also provide a prescription diet, Hills digestive care, as well as a prebiotic/probiotic paste called intestinal care to help bind their faeces and aid recovery.

Please be aware there are many different conditions that can cause diarrhoea. If your pet has had diarrhoea for more than 24-48hrs or is showing other signs of being unwell such as vomiting, lethargy, being off their food or having blood in the diarrhoea, it is a good idea to have your dog checked by a vet. Please get in touch for advice at any point if you are concerned.



Lifetime Care Club

Quality care made more affordable with convenient monthly payments

Membership provides your pet with:

- Annual vaccinations and health check
- Year round flea and worming*
- Monthly nurse checks
- Discounts on consultations, selected procedures, long term medications, food and pet shop products
- Rabbits benefit from Reargard treatment and a monthly bag of hay or pellets

*Dogs and cats only

To find out more, sign up and start saving money

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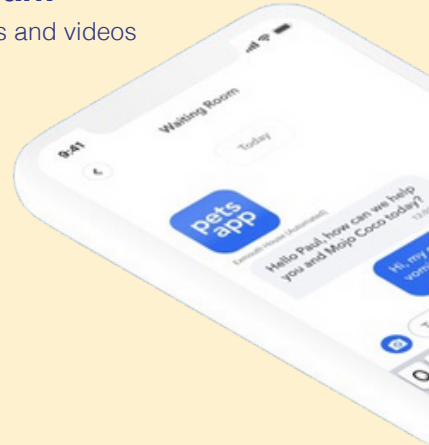
PetsApp

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... Ask us on PetsApp

With PetsApp you can:

- Send and receive pictures and videos
- Request appointments
- Order medication
- Ask for advice
- Request invoices
- Make secure payments
- Give us feedback



This newsletter is provided as an informal information service to our clients who are interested in what goes on at the practice.

The information contained should not be treated as a substitute for veterinary advice.

Please contact the practice if you have an issue with your pet.

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Need us in an emergency?

Please call the practice.

We operate our own out of hours service for our registered clients at our Uppingham branch

