



# Forest Lodge Veterinary Practice

**RCVS**

**ACCREDITED  
PRACTICE**  
SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE

Volume 6 Issue 1

Spring/ Summer Newsletter

## Our Surgeries

### New Milton

14 Barton Court Road

BH25 6NP

Tel: 01425 614482

### Lymington

66 Milford Road

SO41 8DU

Tel: 01590 673687

## Emergencies

Out of normal hours:

Tel: 01425 614482

## Surgery Hours

9:00–6:30pm Mon-Fri

9:00-5 pm Sat (NM)

9:00-1pm (Lym)

Visit us at:

[www.forestlodgevets.com](http://www.forestlodgevets.com)

and Facebook &  
Twitter!



**Time for Spring Cleaning.**  
*Spring is traditionally the time to freshen up the house and garden but its important to be aware that this can come as a risk to our furry friends.*

Carefully read instructions on use and storage of cleaning products such as weed killer, rat and mice killer, detergents and products such as oil and creosote. Make sure they are stored out of the reach of determined dogs and cats—remember cats can climb and the most determined dogs can open cupboard doors. Slug pellets commonly contain metaldehyde which is toxic to animals.

They are generally blue or green in colour.



Cocoa shell mulch contains theobromine (the toxic ingredient in chocolate) and is sometimes used in flowerbeds. Keep dogs and cats away from treated areas if you must use them and source a pet safe

product wherever possible. Spring bulbs are also toxic if eaten by your pet, Tulips and daffodils are very toxic to dogs and cats and lilies can cause fatal kidney failure to cats.

As a general rule it is important to always read the label when adding anything to your garden to make sure it is pet safe.

If you think your pet has eaten anything toxic or come into contact with a hazardous substance please contact us immediately as they can cause a variety of symptoms from digestive upset to organ failure depending on the product.

Signs to watch out for include: Vomiting, Diarrhoea, drooling or frothing at the mouth, lethargy, panting, muscle tremors/fitting and agitation. Please keep the packet the



product came in so we can contact the Veterinary Poisons Information Service for accurate information regarding toxic effects and antidotes. You can also contact the

**Animal PoisonLine** yourself if you need to on **01202 509 000**, do keep the number handy in case of emergencies. There is a charge for this service but their advice can be invaluable.

Do not make your animal sick without the advice of a veterinary surgeon as this can do more harm than good in some circumstances.

Spring is also the time to watch out for snakes as they start waking up. (See section on adders for more information.)

*If you haven't already done so it is important to make sure your pet is treated for fleas, ticks and other parasites that become more of an issue as the weather warms up. Please contact us to purchase the best product for your pet and enquire about our Pet Health Club which covers these treatments.*

## **PETS Travel**



Now is the time to start thinking about your travel plans. If you are planning on taking your dog or cat abroad you will need a valid passport issued by an Official Veterinarian. Your pet will need a rabies vaccine, a microchip and a passport issued and they are allowed to travel to EU approved countries. Three weeks have to have passed from the date of the vaccine before they are allowed to return to the UK. They will also need a specific tapeworm treatment 1-5 days before re entry to the UK, currently no less than 24 hours and 120 hours. Please check the latest requirements before you travel. You need to make sure your pet is protected against diseases they may be exposed to in warmer climate countries such as Leishmaniasis (carried by Sandflies) and tick-borne diseases such as Lyme Disease and Babesiosis. There are vaccines available as well as collars and spot ons to use as a preventative which is highly recommended for travel to countries where these diseases are endemic. Safe Travels!

## **PHOTO OF THE MONTH COMPETITION**

**Don't forget to keep sending your photos to:**  
[Lymsurg@forestlodgevets.com](mailto:Lymsurg@forestlodgevets.com)  
**for a chance to appear on our website & Facebook page.**



**Is your cat stressed?**

Unfortunately for many cats our busy lifestyle is not compatible with many feline needs. Prolonged periods of stress can cause chronic cystitis (FLUTD) and over-grooming amongst other stress related illnesses. It is important to recognise when your cat is stressed and put steps in place to help calm them.



Signs of stress include:

Muscle tension in the face and body, flattened ears, swishing tail and stiffened or withdrawn whiskers.

Vocalisation such as hissing, yowling, spitting or excessive meowing.

Attempting to escape or hide for prolonged periods of time and hypervigilance making relaxing difficult.

Increase in marking behaviours such as head and flank rubbing against furniture and doors or excessive scratching.

Some cats are more prone to stress by nature and may not adapt well to change.

Cats are not naturally designed to live with other non-related cats and this may cause conflict, cats are very good at bullying without actually showing fighting behaviour. Cats are naturally territorial so many cats feel stressed when they live in a busy neighbourhood of cats and they enter their garden.

Its important that cats feel they have control so lots of hiding places and shelves up high that they can run to will help them feel safe. Make sure litter trays are easily available have one per cat plus one extra and avoid putting it in areas near windows as many cats will avoid toileting when watched.



Cats are very scent orientated and use pheromones to mark their territory. Products such as Feliway and Feliway

Friends come in diffusers and sprays and can be very useful when dealing with change, travel or introducing a new cat into their territory. Herbal valerian based products also help calm multi-pet and busy households.

Provide plenty of toys to prevent boredom, play helps to relieve stress. Try to keep to a routine and avoid washing all bedding at once as this can remove all familiar scents and increase insecurity.

Special calm diet or food supplements can also increase serotonin levels which help to alleviate stress.

If you feel your cat is stressed we are happy to advise, please contact the surgery.



**Be Adder Aware!**

The warm weather has caused a surge in adders and a subsequent increase in dogs being bitten.



Snakes are shy creatures but like to bask in the sun but cannot always move quick enough to avoid you so feel the need to strike to defend themselves. They are often considered to be in the New Forest but not everyone realises that they also are found in large numbers along the cliff tops and along the sea wall in Lymington and Keyhaven.

Adder bites usually result in a dark coloured acute swelling. You will usually see two small puncture wounds in the centre of the swelling. Your dog will appear lethargic, painful and sometimes show signs such as pale gums, drooling, vomiting and diarrhoea, drowsiness and dehydration. If bitten around the face the swelling can cause breathing difficulties. If left untreated dogs may collapse, have clotting problems or fits.

If bitten your dog will need treating quickly so it is important that you call ahead so that the team can prepare all the supportive treatments required. Keep them as quiet as possible. Some bites are not severe enough to require anti-venom, it can be costly and also has risks associated with its use, so the vet will decided on a case by case basis if it is needed. Although very serious and painful it is not often fatal with swift treatment so do not delay to contact us.

**FOCUS ON STAFF:  
GEMMA MAGUDIA MRCVS**



Having grown up in the West Midlands in a house full of animals Gemma knew from a very young age that she wanted to be a vet. She fulfilled her life's ambition by graduating from the Royal Veterinary College, London, in 2007.

During her final year at university

she featured in many episodes of Supervet, you may remember the memorable episodes with "Buddy" the foal. Gemma has since worked in many small animal practices, most notably the Blue Cross Animal Hospital in Grimsby. Gemma enjoys all aspects of first opinion practice but has a particular interest in medicine.

In her spare time, Gemma enjoys spending time with her young family exploring the New Forest and the local beaches.

**STAFF NEWS**



The start of this year has seen a few changes amongst our staff. We are sad to say a fond farewell to Sandra Tyler, previously a partner and latterly a Clinical Director, Sandra has decided that the time is right to retire and enjoy some free time! We wish her well!

We welcome Gemma Magudia to our Veterinary Team (see Focus on Staff).

The acupuncture clinic has been handed over to Mehul Magudia and Senior Nurse Lucy Burden-Ince. If you have an interest in your pet receiving acupuncture please call the surgery for more information.

We also welcome Jo Smith RVN as our new Head Nurse.

Congratulations to Natasha and Gemma for passing the next stage of their nursing exams, one step closer to being fully qualified, well done!

We are also very pleased to welcome Sue Gibbs to our Reception team. Please be patient whilst she learns the ropes.