



# Forest Lodge Veterinary Practice

**RCVS**  
**ACCREDITED**  
**PRACTICE**  
SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE

Volume 4 Issue 2

Spring/Summer Newsletter



## Spring Essentials

*Spring is a beautiful time of year but the improvement in weather does bring some challenges to pet owners.*

\* The good weather encourages many cats to wander further afield than usual, increasing the risk of traffic collisions, spread of disease and unwanted pregnancy. Make sure your cat is **neutered, micro-chipped and up to date with vaccinations** to help protect your pet. (Our Pet Health Plan can help reduce and spread the cost of this.) The same principles apply to dogs, micro-chipping, vaccinations and a tag on their collar is essential.

\* **Parasites such as fleas and ticks** love the warmer weather so make sure your dogs and cats are protected, there are a range of products available such as spot-ons, collars and tablets so there is something to suit all circumstances and budgets. For more information please book a free appointment with our nurse to discuss the options.



Another sun worshipper that can cause problems are **snakes**, particularly adders. Found mainly in heath land and by the coast they can deliver a potentially fatal bite if disturbed. If your dog is bitten, they will need veterinary treatment immediately, keep them as still and quiet as possible and phone ahead to warn us you are on your way, even during out of



hours there is always one of our vets available to help. Signs that your dog has been bitten (usually around the face or on the leg), two puncture marks on closer inspection, pain and sudden lethargy. Remember, even the most placid dog in pain may bite so do take care when moving your dog.

\* Rabbits start to become at risk of **flystrike** as the flies increase. Make sure the hutch is cleaned regularly, and your rabbit is protected with special fly repellent applied to their rear end. Check your rabbit daily for fly eggs or maggots and seek our help immediately if you find any. Our Pet Health Plan also covers rabbits and covers the cost of their myxomatosis vaccines and fly protection.

**Enjoy the sun and protect your pets!**



### 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!



## New Senior Pet Health Plan

We will be launching a new level of Pet Health Plan for senior pets (age 8 and above for dogs and 11 years and above for cats) which offers;

- Discounted annual blood and urine tests for dogs and cats.
- Blood Pressure checks for cats.
- Dry eye checks for dogs.

All these extras on top of the usual Plan benefits for an additional cost of just £6 a month enabling us to spot any minor changes as your pet ages, which often caught sooner can be treated or managed to increase your pets quality of life and in some cases prolong the length of time they may have with

### 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.



## Baby birds—Fledglings

It is not uncommon in the spring to find baby birds on the ground without any signs of their parents, this is perfectly normal. These fledglings are doing exactly what nature intended, and left the nest deliberately a short while before they are able to fly. Its likely the parents are nearby, even if you cannot see them and will return with food soon. Moving these birds could have disastrous consequences and should only be done if the bird is injured, in serious danger or there is evidence it has definitely been abandoned.

The young of most familiar garden birds fledge once they are fully feathered, but before they are able to fly. These fledglings spend a day or two, sometimes longer, on the ground while their flight feathers complete their growth. If the bird is on a busy path or road,

or other potentially dangerous, exposed location, you could pick it up and move it a short distance to a safer place. Make sure you leave it within hearing distance of where it was found. Birds have a poor sense of smell so handling a young bird does not cause its parents to abandon it.

If the young bird is un-feathered or covered in fluffy down (a nestling) and has obviously fallen out of a nest by accident, it may be possible to put it back. Only do this if you are sure which nest the chick came from, and if it appears strong and healthy. **If a healthy chick cannot be returned to its nest, it will be dependent on humans for survival, and will need to be euthanased or passed to a wildlife expert as soon as possible to avoid suffering.**



## The Danger of Fish Hooks!

Scruff was a young Yorkshire terrier who was admitted to our hospital as an emergency after swallowing a discarded fish hook at the beach, sadly quite a common problem in this area. We carried out several X-rays to determine the location of the hook. Unfortunately it was too far down the digestive tract for us to remove it by an endoscope. Scruff required emergency surgery (a laparotomy) to remove the hook from his stomach. The surgery went smoothly and he spent 48hrs in our hospital having intensive nursing and lots of tender loving care from the nursing team. He is now back home on the road to recovery.



## New Improved Pheromone Diffusers

Feliway and Adaptil diffusers have now been updated and improved to increase efficacy and safety. Unfortunately the new diffusers are not compatible with the old style refills so it is important to replace your current diffuser. The good news is that the starter kit is cur-

rently the same price as the refill! Ceva, the manufacturers, recommend replacing the diffuser units every 6 refills (so every 6 months if being used constantly). Feliway and Adaptil products are very effective in helping with stressful situations to help your pet relax and improve their behaviour, so why not give it a try?



## COMING SOON...

We will soon be launching a new **online appointment booking system** on our website for your convenience!

We are also launching our own **You-Tube channel** with lots of useful videos designed to help pet owners.

Don't forget to follow us on **Facebook** to keep up to date with all the latest information.

## New V-gel Tubes

**We are now using V-gels for our cat and rabbit operations.** These are new soft gel-like material tubes designed to give a high quality pressure seal that avoids laryngeal and tracheal trauma, which means safer anaesthetics and easier recoveries, particularly important in rabbit ops where anaesthetics can be risky. As a result we are now able to perform rabbit operations at our Lymington branch as well as at New Milton Surgery.



## FOCUS ON STAFF

**ANDY MORRIS**

**BSc (Hons)BVSc CertAVP(GSAS) MRCVS**

*We recognise that sometimes major orthopaedic operations require a more experienced touch. Andy Morris (Vetfix) offers a secondary referral and mobile orthopedic service through our New Milton*

*Surgery avoiding any stressful*

*travelling to a referral centre where appropriate.*

*We are happy to discuss this option with you if we feel it is a sensible option for you and your pet.*

