



Forest Lodge Veterinary Practice



RCVS
ACCREDITED
PRACTICE
SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE

Volume 3 Issue 3

Summer 2014 Newsletter



HERE COMES THE SUN!



We all love Summer, but the good weather brings some challenges for our pets.

HEAT— Make sure there is always fresh water and shade available. Avoid exercising dogs in the heat of the mid-day sun, particularly older or overweight dogs. Pavements can get very hot by the afternoon, try touching the concrete before venturing out with your dog and remember they don't wear shoes! Make sure small pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs and birds have adequate shade.

FLIES—can be a big problem for rabbits in the summer months, they are attracted to soiled bedding and can lay



their eggs on the rabbits bottom, which rapidly hatch into flesh eating maggots. Its important to clean them out regularly and check their bottoms on a daily basis. There are products available to prevent fly strike, contact us for more details.

FLEA AND TICK PREVENTION—These are particularly active during the summer months so make sure your preventative products are up to date. Prevention is better than cure and we have lots of new products available to suit your pets individual needs. Our nurses and vets will be happy to assist you in your choice.



GRASS SEEDS— Meadow grass seeds are easily trapped in

pets fur coats and can become embedded and track around the body. Regular grooming paying particular attention to ears and between the toes after walks are recommended. This can help with tick removal too.



SUNBURN—can be a problem for white pets, particularly if they have white ear tips and noses which can be vulnerable to sunburn and cancer. The risk can be reduced by applying animal sun block regularly or restricting sunbathing.



CARS -Remember to NEVER leave pets in cars on a hot day.

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

and Facebook & Twitter!



New and improved website

Our website has been recently updated and now provides all our usual useful information in an improved format. It is now possible to register with us online by filling out a simple form and you can also request a repeat prescription by clicking on the tab and completing the boxes. You can even select which surgery you would like to collect your prescription from. *Please note we need 24 hours notice for repeat prescriptions.*

Have you signed up for our Pet Health Plan yet?

Details of prices and benefits are on our website and all you need to do is phone the Pet Health Plans team on **0800 1699958** to join and save money today. You can even get a **free Gourmet Society Membership card** valid for 12 months if you sign up between 1st July and the 31st August, so don't delay your application!

PHOTO OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

Don't forget to keep sending your photos to:

Lymsurg@forestlodgevets.com for a chance to appear on our website and Facebook page.



Spotlight on rabbits!

Rabbits are more than just children's pets, they are intelligent and fun little creatures, however they can live 10 years + so are a big long term commitment and their care can be quite complex. Here are some handy tips to help you:



Rabbits need their own space, they can live inside or out but they do need their own hutch for safety. A hutch should be dry, well ventilated and kept cool. It should be lined with newspaper and covered with bedding.

The hutch should be large enough for the rabbit to stand tall on their hind legs and make at least 3 or 4 hops in any direction.

Rabbits need exercise and mental stimulation! They should be exercised daily either in the house supervised or an outside run.

The hutch should be cleaned every 2 to 3 days, hygiene is very important to avoid flystrike — when

flies lay eggs on the rabbit which hatch into flesh eating maggots. Check your rabbit daily for any signs of this. There are products available to protect from flies.

Rabbits can be housetrained! Provide them with a litter tray in the corner filled with an appropriate substance (ideally not cat litter). This will help to keep the hutch clean. *We now stock a new dual bedding and litter that has added parasite control and super absorbency—designed to make life easier!*



Provide unlimited water and grass hay such as timothy hay. We stock commercially available forage, this should provide the main bulk of the diet. Commercially available pellets can also supplement the diet, but in moderation. Avoid the muesli type foods as they can select the bits they like and avoid the bits they don't!

Provide lots of leafy greens such as dandelion, apple and blackberry. Occasionally vegetables can be given although carrots are high in sugar.

Rabbits need to chew, their teeth constantly grow and if not used appropriately their teeth can end up needing to be trimmed or burred down by a vet so feed fruit branches.

Rabbits are social animals and are best kept in pairs, but neutering is important to avoid unwanted pregnancies, it can also help with aggression that is hormonally driven.

Rabbits need yearly vaccinations against Myxomatosis and VHD, both diseases are highly



infectious and nearly always fatal so do keep them up to date.

We provide a variety of rabbit products at our surgeries, as well as offering rabbit clinics with our very knowledgeable nurses. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries regarding rabbit care.

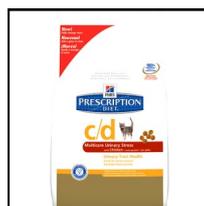
JULY/ AUGUST OFFERS



10% OFF MERILYM VACCINATIONS FOR LYMES DISEASE IN DOGS.

10% OFF HILLS CD URINARY STRESS DIET FOR CATS SUFFERING FROM RECURRENT CYSTITIS.

Please speak to your vet for more information on this new Prescription diet.



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Pick up your reward card today!

FOCUS ON STAFF

REBECCA FREEMAN MRCVS

Rebecca qualified from the Royal Veterinary College in London in 2013. She has a special interest in cardiology fuelled by her love for Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. She lives with two beautiful Cavaliers, Jakob and Rueben and a cat named Patchy.

