



# Forest Lodge Veterinary Practice

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

Volume 4 Issue 3

Autumn/Winter 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!



## A Worry Free Winter

Keep the winter blues away with our seasonal tips:

Make sure outdoor pets have access to fresh water. Check regularly that it has not frozen and provide adequate shelter from the cold, wind and rain.

If pets get cold they need to be towel dried as soon as possible. This is especially important in the very young, the old and very short coated breeds that have little protection against the elements. Some breeds may benefit from coats when the weather is cold. Be aware of the symptoms of hypothermia such as shivering and lethargy and seek veterinary help if you notice your pet seems unwell. Arthritis may be at its worst in the winter, look out for



any joint stiffness or limping after getting up. Older pets may benefit from joint supplements and painkillers to make them more comfortable. Be safe in the dark: ensure you and your pet are wearing reflective wear, collars or accessories when exercising after dark. Try to get your cat in during dark rush hour times to lessen the risk of road traffic accidents.

Make sure your pet is up to date with flea control, with modern central heating fleas are no longer just a summer problem. If you see fleas on your pet remember to treat your home as well as your pet as they live and breed in the cracks and crevices of your rooms, not on your pet! Our nurses are happy to discuss the best flea control products for you.



Help your dogs through the firework period. keep pets in after dusk, provide comfy hiding places, pull the curtains, drown out any sound with the TV or radio and use anti-anxiety supplements and medication if your pet finds the noise particularly frightening.

Make your Christmas stress free for your pets. Try to keep in a routine. Be careful with decorations; tinsel and ribbon can be attractive to some pets! Don't allow your pet to eat chocolate, grapes, raisins or sultanas and be careful with lilies if you have cats in your home as these can all cause organ damage if ingested.

Have a safe and magical winter time!



## New Senior Pet Health Plan

Ageing is an inevitable fact of life for our pets, unfortunately we can't prevent it but we can improve quality and quantity of life by early monitoring for signs of the ageing process. This comes at an inevitable financial cost, so to help spread this cost we have introduced an add on service to our Pet Health Plan. This offers all the usual benefits of paying for routine preventative treatments by monthly direct debit (plus extra discounts) with preventative testing for senior pets at an additional cost of £6 a month. The plan includes:

Annual blood and urine tests to check organ function.

An annual tear production test for dogs and blood pressure monitoring for cats.

You can join at any time, simply call 0800 1699958. Early intervention can be invaluable so we strongly recommend regular monitoring as your pets start to age.

## 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.



## Blood Donors Required

We occasionally need a dog or cat to donate blood to a specific patient due to illness or trauma. We are currently updating our blood donor lists so that we have a database of owners to call when the need arises.

As with people blood transfusions can be a lifesaving procedure; sometimes due to blood loss through injury such as an RTA or rodenticide (Wafarin) poisoning, sometimes an animal's immune system can attack its own red blood cells (Immune Mediated Haemolytic Anaemia, also known as IMHA) and a blood transfusion is needed to prevent fatal anaemia occurring whilst medical treatment is starting to work. In these circumstances whole fresh blood can make all the difference.

**For your animal to be a blood donor they need to meet certain criteria:**

\*Be healthy, fully vaccinated and not receiving medication other than preventative parasitic treatment.

\*Be of a suitable temperament and able to sit quietly whilst blood is taken.

\*Be more than 25kg lean body weight.

\*Be 1-8 years old.

\*Have no history of receiving a blood transfusion.

\*Have not been vaccinated within the previous 14 days.

\*Have no history of travel outside of the UK.

If your dog meets this criteria and you would like him/her to become a blood donor please call us on 01425 614482 to discuss joining the register.

It is rare that we need a feline donor but feel free to contact us if you would like your cat to be added to the register should the need arise.



## Winter Warnings!

This time of year can bring with it certain risks to be aware of. We are entering the time of year when we traditionally see cases of CRGV (Alabama Rot) occurring. If you find suspicious looking sores suddenly developing, contact us as soon as possible even if your dog appears well as kidney failure can occur within days of the sores appearing. The cause is still unknown and does not seem to be restricted to the New Forest.

Watch out for seasonal poisons. Acorns and conkers can be harmful if large quantities are ingested. Tiny amounts of anti-freeze can be fatal to both dogs and cats. Contact us immediately if you suspect your pet has eaten something toxic.

## Staff News

Congratulations to Hayley who has passed her first year Nursing exams, and is one step closer to being a fully qualified VN and to Robyn for passing her final nursing exams (see below).

Sarah, our Office Manager, is now on Maternity leave after the birth of her son Eddie. We are pleased to say that both mother and son are doing very well. Lucy will be taking over her role with regard to insurance claims so please be patient whilst she learns the ropes. Making sure that all forms are fully completed before they are submitted, including the condition you are claiming for, (we are not allowed to fill in anything for you) will help to speed up the processing of your claim.

Rebecca Freeman and Aidan Borrill left at the end of October to move onto pastures new; we wish them well. However, we will be seeing Aidan again in the New Year as he will be coming back to join us again then. We are also welcoming a new Vet to the team, Capucine Torke, who has now joined us (see below).

### FOCUS ON STAFF CAPUCINE TORKE BVSc MRCVS



Capucine is the newest member of our Veterinary team. Born in Avignon in France she has been in the UK for 5 years and has just recently moved to the area. She trained at Liverpool Veterinary School,

graduating in the Summer of 2015. She has enjoyed her time in the UK and is looking forwards to exploring the local area.

### FOCUS ON STAFF ROBYN YOUNG RVN

We would like to congratulate Robyn on passing her



nursing exams and becoming a fully qualified Veterinary Nurse. Having been with us for 2 years whilst undertaking training Robyn has become a valuable member of our fantastic nursing team. She also has a recent addition to her family, a beautiful Springer cross Labrador pup named Barley.