

Ivy Lodge Veterinary Clinic

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Newsletter, Summer 2010

Welcome Sarah

We now have a new senior vet on our team, Sarah Forder.

Sarah graduated with honours from the University of Queensland in Australia, and after working on the Sunshine Coast for several years, decided to migrate to the UK in 2007.



Sarah has been working in a busy small animal practice in East London, and is now looking forward to settling into life at Ivy Lodge and meeting all of our dedicated clients and their pets. She has a special interest in soft tissue surgery and internal medicine, and in her free time tries to travel and explore the UK and Europe as much as possible.

She reluctantly left a high maintenance Shih Tzu cross Lhasa Apso in Australia with her family, but has compensated for this by adopting several cats since arriving in the UK, the latest addition being a ginger kitten called Sebastian.

Open Day

Ivy Lodge is hosting its open day on Sunday 18th July 2010. Doors will be open from 12pm until 4pm, and we have some great events in store.

- The day's events will include:
- Open dog show
 - Owl and Ferret display
 - Hog Roast
 - 'Ask the Vet' sessions
 - Face painting
 - Bouncy Castle
 - Raffles



The surgery will also be open for clients to see behind the scenes of the practice, and to tour our facilities.

Dogs on leads are also welcome.

All proceeds raised from the open day will go to local animal charities, so please give as much as you can; every little helps! Organisations that will be attending the day include: Pussycat Lodge, Wanderers Haven, Greyhound Rescue and South Essex Wildlife Hospital.

Welcome Pebbles



To cover Sarah's maternity leave we have a new nurse, Pebbles Wyard. Pebbles joined us in March this year having worked in practice for 7 years, and qualifying in 2007. She then went on to achieve her assessor qualification in 2008. She has a keen interest in surgical nursing, and has a vast selection of pets including 10 Cats, 7 Dogs, a Rabbit and a Tortoise.

Haverling Card Holders

Receive a 5% discount off of everything!

New Arrival

As many of you will already know, our senior nurse Sarah left us at the end of March to go on maternity leave. We have the pleasure of informing you that she had a beautiful baby girl called Lily on 27th April, and both mother and baby are doing well. We wish them all the best as a happy family.



4 Weeks Free Pet Plan Insurance

For all puppies, kittens and rabbits aged 6 weeks - 1 year! Contact the clinic for more details.

Consulting Times

Monday - Friday
9am - 10:30am
and
4pm - 6:30pm

Saturday
9am - 12pm

24 Hour Emergency Cover Provided By The Queen Mother Hospital

Why Neuter your Pet?

We are often asked why neutering a pet is necessary.

Female cats will come into season regularly after reaching puberty, and the chances are if you let her outside she will get pregnant, even before she reaches adulthood herself. This can adversely affect her health and add to the cat over-population problem already faced in the UK.

Male cats are much more likely to roam and get into fights, as well as spray urine if they aren't castrated. We recommend neutering your cat at 5 – 6 months of age to avoid these potential problems.

Speying your female dog can avoid many health problems. It is a widely accepted fact that the risk of malignant breast cancer increases significantly with each season your dog has. Also the risk of a potentially life



Mammary Tumours in a dog

threatening condition called 'pyometra', where the uterus fills with pus and infection, can be completely avoided by speying.

Medical risks aside, by speying your female dog, you no longer have to worry about unwanted pregnancies and the associated potential cost of breeding. We generally recommend speying your dog before her first season at 5 – 6 months of age.

Male dogs can also benefit from being castrated at this age. A male dog can detect a female dog in season easily and can get very distressed if not allowed to mate. Medically speaking, castrating your dog completely eliminates the risk of testicular cancer and reduces the risk of benign prostatic hyperplasia.

National Vet Nurse Week

The 18th – 24th July is National Veterinary Nursing Week. Veterinary Nurses play a huge role in practices all over the world. They provide expert nursing care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Nurses provide education to owners to help maintain the health of their pets. They can carry out technical procedures and are skilled in performing a range of diagnostic tests, medical treatments and some minor surgical procedures.

Our nurses offer a variety of clinics including:

- Weight monitoring
- Dental Checks
- Parasite Prevention
- Health Checks
- Senior Checks
- Diet Evaluation

And They Are All Free!

Sizzling Summer, Are You Prepared?

As soon as we see any glimpse of sunshine, we are inclined to head straight out to make the most of it, but we often forget how the sun can affect our pets. Thousands of animals come into veterinary practices every year due to heat exhaustion, sun burn, fly strike and grass seeds.

Although sunburn is more common in white / non-pigmented animals, no pet is immune to the dangerous effects of the sun. It is important to discourage pets from sunbathing, especially during the summer months. Heat exhaustion, as with people can be very serious. In the most severe, untreated cases it can even lead to death.

Fly strike most commonly occurs in Rabbits, but can affect any animal. This is when flies lay their eggs onto the pet in dirty and moist areas. Once the eggs are hatched, the maggots then



begin eating the flesh of your pet, causing severe pain and even death.

Grass seeds are often found in pets ears, nose and between their toes. They can cause infection and bring a lot of pain to your pet, with costly surgery often being the only method of removal.

To prevent these highly unpleasant conditions, follow our top tips for keeping your pet safe this summer.

- Sunscreen – yes you can use sunscreen on your pet (try and use ones designed for animal use). Place it onto their ears and the bridge of their nose, as these are the most vulnerable areas. Remember to reapply according to the label.
- Avoid walking your dog in the hottest part of the day. Only walk in the early morning and late evening when temperatures are cooler, and be sure to take plenty of water.
- **NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN A HOT CAR!!** Cars get extremely hot very quickly, and even a few minutes can prove to be a fatal mistake.



- Check your Rabbits daily to ensure that they are clean. Remember to change their bedding daily to deter flies, and ask a nurse about a suitable preventative spray for your Rabbit.
- Check your dogs ears and paws for grass seeds after walks, and check your cats if they have been exploring. If you notice your pet sneezing, having nosebleeds, head shaking or swelling and soreness between the toes, take your pet to the vet.

Unwanted Visitors?

The 'SureFlap' cat flap is activated by your cat's microchip, making uninvited guests a thing of the past. Contact the clinic for more information.