



Winter 2012

WEARDALE VETERINARY CLINIC

BACK to BASICS

At Weardale Vets, no two days are ever the same, as animal care can involve anything from cut pads that

require stitching, to the more serious cases of road traffic accidents. No matter how much we try to ensure our pet's safety, at times these unfortunate incidents just do happen. However, their all-important routine healthcare is within all pet owners control, and is available here at our practice. To help spread and reduce the cost, we offer a **Pet Health Plan**. Call us for details, or pick up a leaflet at reception.

Whether you are an experienced owner or have just acquired your first pet, it is beneficial to be aware of developments in the animal world, and what is required to help your pets stay healthy and happy. New parasites appear like **Lungworm**, and the recent increase in cases of **Parvovirus**, show us we must never become complacent.

Maintaining effective basic preventative care for your pets, provides a solid foundation for their overall health. A suitable diet, weight control, regular exercise, dental care, healthchecks, vaccinations, flea and worming control, all play a major part in the general well-being of your pets.

Vaccination Protection against Infection

If we want to help our pets remain healthy, protect them and keep infectious diseases at a low level in the animal community, then a primary vaccination course and boosters are important. Diseases are spread via direct contact with or where an infected animal has been. They can also be carried on paws, clothing and our shoes, while other viruses survive in the environment for long periods of time.

Dogs are social animals that enjoy walks, playing with other canine friends, and having a good sniff around. **Distemper, Leptospirosis and Parvovirus**, are just a few of the many diseases your dogs are at risk from.

Cats are quite independent creatures that roam freely in the outside world, and could come into contact with unvaccinated cats. **Feline Leukaemia Virus** for example, is spread via the saliva from sharing food bowls, mutual grooming and fighting.

Protect your **rabbit** against **Myxomatosis** a particularly unpleasant and often fatal disease, spread by fleas from wild bunnies to your pet. It causes nasty swellings around the face, ears, eyes and mouth affecting their ability to eat, drink or see.



Joining in the Celebrations!

Well there has certainly been plenty to celebrate during the months of 2012, and May was no exception.

It saw Crook adorned with flags and bunting, as shops competed in the Crook Jubilee window competition. The event was great fun with some really imaginative windows. Being vets we decided our theme should be animal related, so we celebrated the Queen's Corgis. Although we didn't win we were delighted with our display. The prize, we believe, went to the aptly named 'Queens Head' and you cannot beat that! Congratulations and well done to the winner, and a very big 'Thank you' to everyone who helped with our Corgis.



Don't recycle those empty shoeboxes

.....we have a much better idea! We all like a new pair of shoes. But do you know that the shoebox can be used in an excellent and rewarding way for someone else? Filling your empty box with lots of gifts and goodies, will help bring a smile to the face of a disadvantaged child this Christmas.

We are once again a drop off point for 'Operation Christmas Child' Shoebox Collection. Please ensure you drop it off **before the 18th November** 2012. A big thank you to everyone who filled a box last year.

When to Vaccinate

A primary course can begin at
8 weeks of age for puppies
9 weeks for kittens
over 6 weeks for rabbits

If you have acquired a new adult dog, cat or rabbit, or feel your pet's boosters have lapsed, please contact us for advice. Vaccinations and boosters are quick to administer. So check your pets' vaccination record, to ensure they have an 'up-to-date stamp' in their booklet.



Crook

01388 763743

Monday to Friday
8.30am - 6pm

Saturday 8.30am - 1pm

Stanhope

01388 529348

Monday 1.30pm - 6pm
Tuesday 4.30pm - 6pm
Wednesday 8.30am - 1pm
Thursday Closed
Friday 4.30pm - 6pm

Consultations
by Appointment

EMERGENCY
HOURS SERVICE

Vetsnow



Bubbles and Water all Round!

Our team of Veterinary Nurses do a great job within the practice, and July was National VN Awareness Month. As part of our activities, we organised a **Charity Dog Wash** to raise funds for the **Retired Greyhound Trust**. We had a great (and wet) day with all the dogs on their best behaviour. They all left looking and smelling amazing! A huge 'Thank You' to everyone who came along and supported us, **you helped raise a fantastic £135.91** for a very worthy cause!

WEARDALE'S Seasonal Offers

Be Safe...Be Seen and save money!

As the evenings draw in, your cats still like venturing outside to explore the night air, and your dogs love a walk - whatever time of the day or night! However, while they are out and about in the dark, it is very important to ensure that moving vehicles, pedestrians and you the owner, can see your pets clearly.

We stock a special range of accessories, from **reflective collars** for both cats and dogs, **flashing safety halos and discs** and even **Hi Vis Jackets** available to fit most breeds and size of dogs, and all with **10% OFF throughout October and November**.

Any sizes not in stock can be ordered for collection the following day without any p+p charges.

Has your pet written their Christmas List?!

All I want for Christmas isa Turkey Cranberry Bone? ... Chocolate Santas? ...a Tinsel Mouse? Our extensive range of Christmas gifts will be arriving at the end of October, so shop early for your pet's present to avoid disappointment ...but hide it well or they might just sniff it out before Christmas!



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34 Commercial St
Crook DL15 9HR
01388 763743

3 Cowgarth Hill
Stanhope DL13 2PA
01388 529348

Never say Never Worms Fleas and Ticks

require a host to complete their life cycle, so your pets are the perfect target! **All cats and dogs are at risk**, but by using effective regular treatments, you can help towards keeping your pet parasite free.

Roundworm and Tapeworm

These are the two most common worms found in the intestines. Infected animals pass the eggs in their faeces, which can be ingested by other animals while sniffing around. Mice, rats and birds carry worms too, so on that hunting trip your cat may catch a little more than bargained for! As some worms also pose a threat to humans, please bear this in mind when you, and especially children, are in close contact with pets. It is advisable to give effective worming treatments to your dog or cat every 3 months.

Regular and effective treatments are essential against ALL these parasites, and are available at our surgery. We can advise on those suitable for your pet.

Hand in Hand Fleas eat worm eggs, so an animal with fleas will probably have worms too, as when pets groom and nibble at this biting parasite, they are often swallowed.



Fleas - are a year round problem! They bite to feast on blood, causing sore skin, major irritation, allergic reactions and can infest your house too!

Ticks are also blood-sucking parasites, which are only tiny when they lock their mouths into the skin. After a few days of heavy feeding, they become engorged with blood, and can also transmit Lyme Disease.



Remember
fireworks can frighten pets
Please keep them safe indoors.

www.lungworm.co.uk
be lungworm aware



The latest parasite problem is **LUNGWORM** It is very important for all dog owners to be fully aware of this serious, life-threatening parasite and of its increase in the UK.

Affecting dogs and foxes, an adult lungworm (*Angiostrongylus Vasorum*) lives in the heart and surrounding major blood vessels supplying the lungs.

Snails and slugs carry the lungworm parasite

Some dogs like to snack on snails or slugs, and others accidentally ingest them while eating grass, when sniffing around, from toys in the garden or outdoor water bowls. An infected animal will pass the lungworm larvae in their faeces, spreading the parasite into the environment to begin its life cycle again.

Left untreated lungworm will cause serious illness and can be fatal
Watch out for - breathing difficulties - lethargy - sickness - diarrhoea
coughing - loss of appetite - bleeding problems
Any of these signs - bring your pet in immediately!