

Vets Viewpoint - Important Bees-ness!

Whether you love eating their delicious honey or are terrified of their stingy backsides it is worth thinking about bees. All kinds of solitary, bumble and honey bees could do with a little helping hand at present. In the UK, in recent years, we have lost a lot of the diverse unimproved habitats that all kinds of insect wildlife have depended on for their survival. However **YOU CAN HELP**- from the smallest town garden, even window boxes you can provide important sources of nectar and pollen and also valuable winter nesting sites. A few general hints to get you started- **Be less tidy** – the scruffy corners of your garden are important as refuges for insects as well as allowing some “weeds” to grow taller and flower. Old bamboo canes and rotting wood piled up provide winter homes for solitary bees. Don’t worry, you won’t even know that they are there!

Save the dandelion – the humble dandelion, the bane of lots of gardeners’ lives is a real life-saver for bees. It provides one of the first sources of pollen and nectar in the year, just when bees need a boost after a potentially long winter. So how about leaving their cheery yellow flowers for a few days in your lawn before mowing them off?

Doubles - double flowered plant have been bred by us to provide more brightly coloured petals. They do look stunning. But all that colour is at the expense of bees; the sources of pollen and nectar from double flowers are less accessible. So when buying new roses for example consider some of the older single flowered varieties.

Tree power – a flowering tree, like a sycamore, lime, chestnut, willow, or fruit tree has the potential to support many thousands of pollinators in a season. You could plant a flowering tree now and watch it grow over the coming years, safe in the knowledge that you are doing you bit for our pollinators.

Adopt a hive – The British Beekeepers Association website is a mine of information, and gives you the opportunity to be indirectly involved with beekeeping though their beehive adoption scheme – check out

www.bbka.org.uk and follow links for ‘Friends of the Honey Bee’.

And finally **Eat more Honey!** – eating more local honey helps support our local beekeepers which of course benefits local honey bees as well.

It is possible to do as little or as much as you like to help our pollinators, but at this time give them a little consideration. They do need our help.

Nurses News – Guinea Pigs



Did you know?

When a guinea pig is happy they will jump straight up and down in the air. This is called “popcorning”

A guinea pig can make the perfect pet as they are kind natured, lively and vocal little characters.

Guinea pigs are very sociable animals and like to be housed in same specie pairs or groups but not on their own as they get very lonely.

A guinea pig’s hutch should be:

- Big enough to allow them to lie down and stretch out.
- Tall enough for them to sit and to stand.
- They should have an outdoor area where there can graze the grass and run about. In the wild, guinea pigs are hunted by predators so it is essential that they have hiding places so they feel safe.

Guinea pigs also need additional vitamin C in their diet as they cannot synthesize their own therefore feeding leafy green vegetables e.g. parsley and kale is very important.

New Nurse Clinics for Nervous Dogs

Does your dog get itself into a state coming into the vets? Do you have difficulty enticing your dog through the door? Our qualified nurses, Emma and Gemma, are available on a Monday and Friday at 3.00pm or 3.30pm to offer you a **free clinic** to help your dog see the vets as a pleasant place to be, making visits less stressful for you, your dog and even for us! Please give us a ring on 01566 772211 to book a free half hour appointment.

Launceston Show

As usual we will have a stand at Launceston Show on Thursday 30th July and would love to see you all. We will have refreshments, competitions and free goodies for the kids. Staff will be on hand all day to answer any questions you may have. Fingers crossed for a sunny day!

Weightwatchers Competition

Don't forget that we started our "Launceston's Biggest Loser" pet weight loss competition in June but it's not too late to join if your pet needs a little help in losing weight. The nurses will carefully monitor your pet's weight and give responsible advice on their daily exercise and feeding management to help you to reduce your pet's weight. The competition and clinics are free, with prizes to be won for you and your pet. *****WIN! A £25 shopping voucher for you plus a hamper of goodies worth £25 for your pet!*****

Book Sale

Back by popular demand! We are selling books and DVDs from 1st July to raise funds for Michelle who runs Wildthingz, our local Wildlife Rescue. Our vets will check over any wild animals brought into the surgery and if they are not too badly injured, Michelle will kindly take them in for recuperation before releasing them back into the wild once they are well enough.

Please feel free to pop in and browse our sale at any time. We are also happy to take in your unwanted books and DVDs to sell.

Michelle had been caring and looking after wildlife for about 5 years before setting up Wildthingz. She will take in all kinds of wildlife, such as hedgehogs, rabbits, bats, wild garden birds, birds of prey and has even been rescuing marine life as a volunteer for British Divers Marine Life Rescue.

Unfortunately, she does not have large accommodation for bigger mammals such as deer, badgers or foxes, but we have other contacts who will take these animals. Find out more about her work on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/WildthingzRescue



Fun Corner

July quiz:

I-Spy with my little eye.... Here are some things you will be sure to see while you're at Launceston Show.

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Answers to June quiz:

The Queen's real birthday is 21st April.
She was born in 1926.
Her father was King George VI
Her full name is Elizabeth Alexandra Mary.
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh married 20th November 1947.
Their 4 children are Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward.
She has 8 grandchildren.
Her accession to the throne was 6th February 1952.
Her coronation was 2nd June 1953.