



CASTLE VETERINARY GROUP LTD

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Monday – Friday 8.30am – 6.30pm; Saturday 8.30am – 12.30pm; Sunday closed.

PET PASSPORTS

With summer approaching I'm sure some of you will be thinking about your summer holidays and whether or not you would like to take your pet with you when going abroad. Here is a list of the main requirements of the Pet Passport Scheme for travelling with dogs, cats or ferrets. They must be over 12 weeks of age and require the following:

- Microchipping
- Vaccination against rabies
- A pet passport issued by an authorized vet

You must wait for a period of 21 days after the primary rabies vaccination before you travel. Then before you return to the UK your dog must be treated against the EM tapeworm.

Please be aware that if your pet is returning or travelling from an unlisted third country, they will need a blood test 30 days after vaccination and require a waiting period of three months following blood sampling.

There are exceptions to some of these preparations in certain circumstances.

It is your responsibility to ensure you meet all the requirements needed for the country you are travelling to.

If you are planning to travel with your pet, you must read the detailed guidance at:
www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners



FIVE MOST COMMON SIGNS OF COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION

1. Disorientation – confused behavior in the house and wandering around aimlessly. Pets may regularly get lost on walks or perhaps go to the wrong side when opening doors. Pets may also lose the ability to recognize people they are frequently in contact with, or other pets.

2. Decreased social interaction – pets may hide away more, especially if there are new people in the house. There may be reduced greeting behavior and this may just be perceived by pet owners as their pet being tired or less interested or excited. There may also be increased vocalization, or rarely, aggression towards particular situations.

3. Loss of prior house training – one of the most noticeable signs for pet owners. This is obviously distressing for all involved. Toilet training is a key, learned behavior, and so can be one of the first behaviours lost with cognitive dysfunction.

4. Disturbance in sleep pattern – a key feature of cognitive dysfunction. There is an increase in total sleep, but this can often be broken in shorter periods and often pets can be awake at night, when previously they did not disturb the pet owner. Again, this can be distressing for the owner, especially if coupled with vocalization and toileting in the house.

5. Decreased activity – dogs and cats will be less keen to exercise and less excited by toys and other previously rewarding events. Owners will sometimes describe their pets as depressed.

Maintaining healthy brain function is extremely important in dogs and cats as it can help support memory and learning abilities and ultimately a pet's quality of life as well as those looking after it. Please ask your vet for further information on how to help.

MICROCHIPPING FOR DOGS LAW - EFFECTIVE FROM 6th APRIL 2016

A final reminder that the new law comes into effect on 6th April. All dogs must be microchipped and registered on the national database before this date.

We will be microchipping in our usual nurse clinics Monday – Friday 9.30am – 12pm & 2.30pm – 5pm. Please phone if you wish to make an appointment. We like to allow 20 minutes to check your dog is not already chipped, insert the chip, check all your details and register them online before giving your paper confirmation to take home. The price of this is £16.50. As standard practice, pets undergoing a general anaesthetic for surgery are offered the microchip to be inserted at the same time for the price of £14.00.

Alongside the above, we have decided to run three drop-in microchip clinics on Wednesday 16th, 23rd & 30th March only between 3pm and 4pm. These clinics will give you the opportunity to have your dog microchipped and registered for the reduced price of £10. These are drop-in clinics so please just turn up and sit to wait your turn. Please note this special price offer is limited to these clinics only.

BOOK SALE

Once again we have had a great response to our second hand book sale over the last two months raising £113.50 for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Over the next two months we will be raising funds for Marie Curie in support of their annual Daffodil Appeal. We always welcome your donations of books too so we can keep a good range for our clients to choose from! Please note we generally only sell fiction books so we'd prefer not to receive non-fiction books if possible. Thank you.

FUN CORNER

BAKE YOUR DOG SOME EASTER BISCUIT TREATS

As Easter is approaching, please remember that chocolate is dangerous for all pets and highly toxic to dogs so keep all your Easter eggs well out of their reach. If you would like to take the opportunity to make your dog a little Easter treat of their own why not have a go at making some tasty biscuits for your dog. The Dogs Trust have provided a recipe for these cheesy biscuits which sound rather good and healthy for us humans too! Do remember though that some dogs can have an intolerance to dairy products and although the cheese used in this recipe is only a small amount, some dogs can be sensitive to it.

Ingredients:

180g strong stoneground wholemeal flour
150g porridge oats
80g mature cheddar, grated
1 egg, beaten with a little water

Method:

Set oven to 180c/gas mark 4.
To make a smoother biscuit, whizz the porridge oats together with the grated cheese in a food processor.
Line a baking tray with greased baking paper.
Mix all the dry ingredients together..
Add beaten egg and water.
Mix to a firm dough, adding more water as necessary.
Roll out on a floured board to a thickened of between 1/4 and 1/2 inch.
Check biscuits after 20 minutes and turn over for a further ten minutes for a crunchier biscuit.
Cool on a wire tray and store in an airtight container for two weeks or they can also be frozen to enjoy later.



Take a photo of your dog enjoying your home baked doggy biscuits and post it on our Facebook page. We can't wait to see them!

FEEDBACK

If you love us please leave us a review. You can either Google Castle Veterinary Group and leave a Google review if you have a gmail account. If you use Facebook you can leave a review on our Facebook page — or maybe even both!