



# CASTLE VETERINARY GROUP LTD

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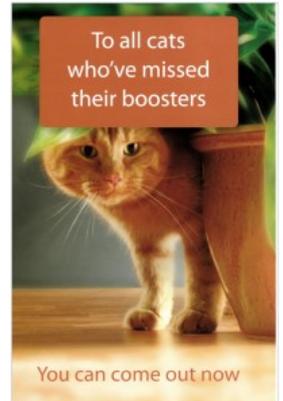
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 6.30pm; Saturday 8.30am – 12.30pm; Sunday closed.  
24hr emergency in-house veterinary cover. Consultations by appointment only.

## MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

### TO ALL CATS AND DOGS WHO'VE MISSED THEIR BOOSTERS!

#### Why is it important to protect your pet by vaccination?

Unless properly vaccinated your pet is at risk of contracting one of several, possible fatal, infectious diseases. Last year thousands of cats and dogs died from infectious diseases that could have been prevented by vaccination. For cats these include feline infectious enteritis (panleucopenia), "cat flu" (infectious respiratory disease) and feline leukaemia. Dogs may also be at risk from various infectious diseases. Distemper and hepatitis are both very dangerous diseases, which although rarely fatal can cause your dog unnecessary suffering. The vaccination also protects against parvovirus and leptospirosis, both of which can prove fatal, the latter of which can also be a serious risk to humans. (Parainfluenza in dogs is now covered by the Kennel Cough vaccine)



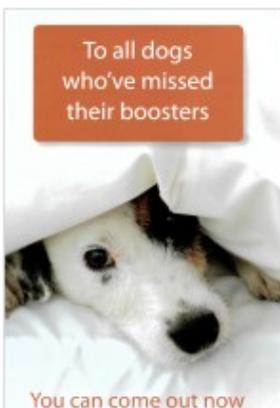
#### Why are booster vaccinations required?

When your cat or dog are vaccinated initially they are given a course of vaccinations to provide them with an immunity to these diseases. However, this immunity doesn't last indefinitely and will gradually fall, leaving your pet at risk and means that the vaccinations need to be "topped up" at regular intervals.

The risk of contracting a particular disease depends on the lifestyle of your pet. For example cats who come into close contact with other cats are at a higher risk of becoming infected with feline leukaemia. The intervals do differ between diseases, for example, leptospirosis vaccines for dogs will only protect your dog for up to 13 months which is why we advise annual boosters.

#### What if my pet's boosters have been allowed to lapse?

If your cat or dog's annual booster has significantly run over the date it was due, protection against some of the diseases may no longer be sufficient and a primary course of two vaccinations will be required. **We are holding a vaccination amnesty in May** to give you a chance to get your pet's vaccinations back up to date. During this time your pet will be offered a complete new primary course for the price of a single booster.



#### What is a vaccination amnesty?

If you bring your cat or dog along for the vaccination amnesty during May, we will also check their general condition. This health check is a vital part of the vaccination programme, as an unhealthy animal may not respond well to vaccination. It also gives you an opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have about your pet's health or diet. If you have any further questions about the amnesty please get in touch.

### **Is your cat or dog behind with their vaccinations?**

**If your pet is no longer protected then it may be eligible for reduced cost restart vaccinations. This special offer is only valid during the month of May so please book an appointment for their first vaccination now to take advantage of this reduced 'booster' price.**

## SPECIAL OFFER ON TICK PREVENTION FOR DOGS—APRIL & MAY 2016

 We have an offer on the flea and tick treatment available as a palatable tablet for dogs. One tablet provides 12 weeks flea and tick prevention, so with our buy 3 tablets and get the 4th one free offer, you will be able to get 12 months cover for  the price of just 9 months, giving you an excellent opportunity to provide your dog with year  round cover. You can choose to purchase them quarterly or all in one go. NB: Offer applies to specified treatment for dogs only.

Please consult your veterinary surgeon if your dog shows any signs of lethargy, fever or anaemia as these can be signs of tick related diseases. Dog owners can also send any ticks they  find to Public Health England's Tick Recording Scheme for identification. For further information  on this project, please go to [www.gov.uk/guidance/tick-recording-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/tick-recording-scheme)

**SPECIAL OFFER: Free flea and tick check for your pet with a nurse during May.**

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## FLYSTRIKE IN RABBITS

Rabbits are said to have flystrike when flies lay eggs upon them and the eggs then hatch into maggots. Some species of fly produce maggots that can very rapidly mature and eat into the living flesh within 24 hours. Flystrike is a very serious condition and is, sadly, often fatal. However, rabbits can make a full recovery if the condition is found and treated quickly. Flyblown rabbits are usually in pain and severe shock, and need skilled veterinary and nursing care. The vet will need to anaesthetise the rabbit to remove all external maggots and treat the infected area. If maggots have already eaten into the rabbit's body, euthanasia may well be the only option. Recovering rabbits will need antibiotics and pain relief. If you discover your rabbit has flystrike, you must treat it as an emergency and call the vet immediately.

All rabbits are at risk from flystrike, but certain factors increase the risk:

Time of year—flystrike is especially common during the summer, but can occur at any time of year.



Rabbits who are unable to keep their bottom clean through grooming (or have a dirty bottom usually caused by a poor diet), or rabbits who have wounds or wet fur, are at a very high risk of flystrike.

Speak to your vet about specific preventative measures. “Rearguard” is a liquid that is applied by sponge to the rabbit and prevents flystrike for up to 10 weeks. It stops maggots maturing to a stage where they become dangerous. We highly recommend applying “Rearguard” to your rabbit in May and July to provide the best cover possible to help prevent this condition occurring.

Free rabbit clinics with a nurse are always available (you will just pay for products used). Please ring the surgery to arrange an appointment.

For further information on Flystrike, the Rabbit Welfare Association have a downloadable leaflet on this, and other health concerns, on their website:

<http://rabbitwelfare.co.uk/resources/index.php?section=leaflets.htm>



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## FUN CORNER

The answers to last month's anagrams are:

Theyfoallively — Lily of the Valley, Fiddloaf — Daffodail, Soccur — Crocus, Thingraypeach — Grape Hyacinth, Ponsword — Snowdrop, Pitul — Tulip, Lebulebel — Bluebell, Sillymara — Amaryllis

May Day has many traditional celebrations around the country. Can you name the celebration which has been held in Padstow since 1803 featuring 'Old' and 'Blue Ribbons' and who/what they are? This spectacle draws crowds of all ages, singing and dancing their way around the narrow streets throughout the day!