



## CASTLE VETERINARY GROUP LTD

Pennygillam Way, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 7ED

Tel: Pets 01566 772211; Farm 01566 772371

[www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk](http://www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk)

Monday – Friday 8.30am – 6.30pm; Saturday 8.30am – 3.00pm; Sunday closed.

24hr emergency in-house veterinary cover. Consultations by appointment only.



### JULY 2017

## Tick Awareness Campaign



At Castle Vets we are supporting Tick Awareness to highlight that ticks and tick-borne disease present a risk to our pets in both urban and rural areas. Ticks are active throughout the year and the results from the Big Tick Project suggest that while there may be areas of higher risk across the country, the threat from tick-borne disease is widespread.



This means that particularly for all dog owners especially, there is a need for year-round vigilance and to assess the risk of ticks to both ourselves and our pets. To reduce the risk associated with ticks in dogs, we have innovative and convenient treatments that are only available on prescription. The options available to protect dogs against ticks include spot-ons, usually applied every 4 weeks, oral chewable tablets which can give up to 12 weeks protection, or collars which can last up to 7 months. If you have a dog who is a water-lover or has frequent baths, we would recommend the tablet form to provide the most effective protection.



We also sell “tick twister” tick removers which can be kept for you to safely remove any ticks which may already be attached to your pet or even to you! It can be a good idea to carry a twister tick remover with you on walks so you can quickly remove any ticks. These work by gently freeing the barbs in the tick’s mouth from the host animal avoiding problems with damaging the tick on removal.



Leaving behind the tick’s mouth parts may result in a localised infection, which in severe cases can lead to abscesses or even septicaemia. Compressing the tick’s body may cause fluids to be squeezed back into the bloodstream of its host. These fluids may contain disease-causing organisms. Puncturing the body of the tick may spill infective fluids on to the host, or on to the person removing the tick. Causing injury or irritation to the tick may result in it vomiting infective fluids into the host, potentially causing a serious infection.



To check if your pet has any ticks, examine your pet as thoroughly as possible, as ticks often choose folds of skins or crevices. Brush against, as well as with, the hair-growth to part it so that any ticks may be seen. Check around and inside the ears, around the eyes and mouth, as well as between pads and toes. Unfed sub-adult ticks can often look like scabs or moles so pay attention to these particular areas.



If you think your pet has a tick and would like one of our nurses to safely remove it for you, they will do so free of charge. You are also welcome to bring your cat or dog in for a free flea and tick check with a nurse at any time of the year. At this clinic the nurse can then discuss the most suitable tick prevention treatment to suit their lifestyle to help prevent further problems. Please give us a call on 01566 772211 to book an appointment first. Alternatively have a chat with the reception team who can also help advise you the best products available to use for your pet.



The MSD Big Tick Project interactive tick map, created with the results from the Big Tick survey, is a great start to understanding the risk in your local area. You will see the whole of the South West is recognised as a high risk area. Even if you are in a low risk area, the widespread prevalence of ticks in the UK and the active nature of your pets puts them at risk of exposure to ticks and tick-borne diseases if they are not protected. For more information on The Big Tick Project go to <http://www.bigtickproject.co.uk>

### Free Dental Clinics



Recently you may have seen the TV series “Trust Me I’m A Vet”. There was an interesting piece on dental care for dogs comparing various methods of helping to prevent dental disease. The 22 dogs in question had all had dental treatment so their plaque score was rated as 0. After a six week period of trying the new method they rated the level again and the results were interesting. Those that tried daily dental chews scored 4.1 on the scale, those who tried feeding solely dental kibble scored 4.65 and those who brushed their dogs teeth daily scored just 1.25! This means that toothbrushing is the most effective way to control plaque build-up and to help prevent painful gum and dental disease, and to also help prevent the costs of dental treatment! You will generally find that routine dental treatments are not covered by insurance policies.

We sell different types of toothbrushes and toothpastes depending on what may be easiest to use for your dog. It is best to start this process at a young age but starting at any time will help and it is quite easy to do once you have got your dog used to the process. If you would like advice or a demonstration on how to brush your dog’s teeth, our nurses run FREE dental clinics on a daily basis Monday to Friday. Please give us a call on 01566 772211 to book a clinic. We can also run dental clinics for cats and rabbits, so although it may not be possible to clean their teeth we can check them and give advice on feeding and day-to-day care to help prevent your pet suffering from painful dental disease.

---

### New Staff

Jess Montgomery joins us in mid July as a mixed farm and small animal vet. Jess was previously working at Luxstowe Vets in Liskeard but is moving to work with us here after Luxstowe gave up farm veterinary work in May to become a small animal only practice. Alongside Jess, we have been joined by Luxstowe vets Richard Hillman, a full time farm vet and Eddie Melinte, a TB tester. Also joining the farm team are Graca Oliveira, a full time farm vet and Nikki Hicks, a part-time receptionist. Did you know you can find out more about all our staff on our website: [www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk/staff/](http://www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk/staff/)

---

### Book Sale

We are pleased to report that our May/June book sale raised £92.80 for Alzheimer’s Society. The funds raised during July/August will be given to St Luke’s Hospice. As always, many thanks for your continued support.

---

### Launceston Show

This year’s Launceston Show is held on Thursday 27th July. You will find our stand in its usual place behind the cattle lines by the pedestrian entrance/exit from the main car park into the showground. Please come along for refreshments, homemade cakes, lots of fun and interesting displays and have a friendly chat with our staff. This year we are pleased to have sponsored the Young Handler Sheep classes as well as providing the on-site veterinary care for farm animals.

---

### Launceston College Sports Day

We are also please to provide sponsorship for the 2017 Launceston College Sports Day. This is something we have been doing for several years. As with the young handler classes, it is a pleasure to be able to support the next generation of clients in the endeavours of their younger years!

---

### Fun Corner

Sorry, there is no newsletter quiz this month—please visit our stand at Launceston Show for our fun displays!

How did you get on with the rabbit care quiz? The answers are:

1. The average life expectancy of a rabbit is 5-8 years.
2. Rabbits should be kept with another rabbit.
3. Hay should be provided daily.
4. Rabbits teeth continually grow.
5. The only safe way to pick up a rabbit is a hand on the chest and bum.
6. Fly strike is fly larvae burrowing into the skin.
7. Symptoms of teeth trouble include dribbling, eating less, change in droppings, lumps on jaw/cheeks, change in food preferences, chewing in an odd way.
8. Rabbits should be vaccinated Myxomatosis and Viral Hemorrhagic Disease.

