



CASTLE VETS PETS

Newsletter – May 2023

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Veterinary Nurse Awareness Month

May is Veterinary Nursing Awareness month, so we thought we would take this opportunity to celebrate our nursing team and show our appreciation for all the hard work they do.

The title of Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) can only be achieved by completing extensive training and education to gain their qualification. This takes a minimum of three years, either via a nursing diploma or degree. All RVNs must pass their final exams, be regulated by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and follow the code of professional conduct. All nurses are required to undertake continuing professional development (CPD) to ensure their skills are kept up to date.

Our veterinary nurses are an integral part of the Castle Vets team. Their role is varied and at times very demanding. Not only do they support the vets, RVNs also run their own clinics, help with reception duties, perform procedures and support owners, all while caring for in-patients too!

We would be lost without the nursing team at Castle Vets and we hope you will join us in our celebration and thanks.

Thank you, veterinary nurses!



Keeping Dogs Active



Just like humans, exercise is key when it comes to keeping your dog healthy. Exercising your pet does not have to mean running for miles or going on lengthy hikes. The most important thing is that they have regular walks and the opportunity to run and play off the lead in a safe environment. If you are able to make their indoor environment stimulating this will also help to get them moving. It is worth noting that different dog breeds require different levels of exercise, so it is advisable to seek guidance on how much activity is recommended.

Some great ways for dogs to stay active are:

- Schedule a dog play date
- Take your dog somewhere with a canine friendly obstacle course or make your own
- Play fetch (**NOT WITH A STICK** – we see a lot of injuries caused by sticks, please only play fetch with a dog toy/ball)
- Give your dog a new toy
- Dog-friendly beach trip
- Swimming (This is really great if you have an older dog as it is non-weight bearing)
- Hide and seek with a ball/treats at home

A walk can make a dog very happy. They get the opportunity to check out different sights and smells and they love spending time with you. Studies have shown that elderly dogs can really benefit from a slow walk with lots of sniffing which can even help to improve their mental health. A dog that does not get the amount of exercise it requires can easily become bored or destructive and could become overweight.

Greener Taskforce Update



Here at Castle Vets we are continuing to work on our green mission as we strive to become a more environmentally friendly practice. We thought we would update you with what we are doing to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

- We are currently looking into ways of calculating our carbon emissions in the hope that we will then be able to identify our highest emission sources. This will then allow us to implement emission reduction strategies.
- We use approximately 10,100 sheets of paper a month! We are going to source more environmentally friendly paper and try to find ways of reducing the amount of paper used.
- The eco-friendly cleaning products we use have proved to be a very successful way of reducing our plastic waste. Once the cleaning product container is empty, we simply return it to the supplier to be refilled. We are also finding that we need much less of the product therefore making it last longer between refills.
- Hopefully you will have spotted our display of Beco products in the waiting room. Their products include toys, poo bags, travel bowls and treats which are all created ethically using traceable resources.
- Trewithen Dairy are a local company who supply our milk for the machine in the staff kitchen. This is another way we have managed to keep plastic use to a minimum.

We would also like to start reusing plastic medicine bottles. We are asking that our clients return any veterinary medication bottles (with lids) to the practice. The recycling collection point will be located in the foyer of small animal reception.

May Bank Holidays

Monday 1st May (early May bank holiday) – **Closed**

Monday 8th May (following the coronation of King Charles III) – **Closed**

Monday 29th May (Spring bank holiday) – **Closed**

Please do not worry if your pet should need a vet on any of the above bank holidays, or indeed any time outside of our normal opening hours, just call us on the usual number 01566 772211. We always have vets on duty 24/7 (Please note, extra charges do apply).

With the Coronation Fast Approaching Which Pooch Will be Crowned Royal Canine?



It is well known that Queen Elizabeth II had a great fondness for Corgis and it would seem that King Charles also has a favoured breed of dog too, Jack Russell Terriers. The most famous of which would be Tigga who was often featured in family portraits in the 1990s until he passed away at the grand old age of 18.

Today, King Charles and Camilla Queen Consort have two Jack Russells, Bluebell and Beth, who were adopted from Battersea dogs home.

Jack Russell terriers were specifically bred for hunting in the 1800s and their hunting instinct cannot be eliminated through training. They are tough, tenacious and energetic dogs, so this breed is not for everyone.

Caring for a Senior Cat Webinar

Last month you would have read about our senior cat clinics that our veterinary nurses are running. We would also like to share with you the “Caring for a Senior Cat” series with Dr Sarah Caney. These webinars aim to help owners spot the signs of senior cat conditions and work with their vets to improve the cat’s quality of life. Follow the below link for more information and to find out how to register:

<https://bova.co.uk/resources/bova-scholars/animal-owner-educational-webinars/>

