



# CASTLE VETS PETS

Newsletter – November 2023

Tel: 01566 772211 | [www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk](http://www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk)



## Exciting News – A New Branch for Castle Vets in Liskeard!

A new Branch of Castle Vets will be opening in Heathland Road, Liskeard soon!

We will be open from Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 6pm with Pet Consultations available every weekday from 9am to 5.00pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 10am to 6.00pm Tuesday and Thursday. Please note that all surgical and investigative procedures or animals that need inpatient care will need to go to our main Launceston Practice at Pennygillam. We will, of course, provide 24-hour emergency cover for our customers and pets registered at Liskeard but it will be located at our Launceston branch in Pennygillam Way, where we have 24-hour nursing available for patients needing emergency treatment and can provide the best intensive care.

If you would like to register with us, please go on our website [www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk](http://www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk) and complete the form.

We will provide more information in the weeks ahead and announce our opening date as soon as we can.

Please spread the news!!



## Winter Weight Gain

The cold wet weather and darker evenings during the winter months can make your normal dog walks seem less than appealing. You may even find that your dog doesn't want to go out either! However, any reduction in exercise levels at this time of the year could result in joint stiffness or weight gain for your dog.

If your pooch is reluctant to head out in cooler weather, a doggy coat may help keep them cosy and encourage them outside. Make sure to avoid icy roads and pavements and clean your dog's paws when you return home to remove salt or grit which could cause irritation.

If you are unable to go out, keep your dog active and entertained by playing indoor games with them. You could teach them a new trick, set up obstacle courses or play games like hide and seek.

If you have any concerns regarding your dogs weight, please contact the practice on 01566 772211 for further information and to book a Nurse Weight Clinic. Our Nurse Weight Clinics are designed to engage, educate and empower owners to tackle the issue of increased weight or obesity in their pets in a safe and sustainable way.

## Bella's Weight Loss Journey

Bella has been coming to see Olivia for weight clinics since January and has had a very successful weight loss journey. After being spayed it was noticed that Bella had started to gain some weight, which her owners were very keen to help her lose. Olivia then created a diet plan and Bella came to the practice for regular weight clinics. With the help of Olivia, Bella's owners were able to ensure Bella lost the weight she had gained in a safe and controlled way, enabling her to reach her ideal target weight. Bella has done extremely well losing 4kg since starting her weight loss journey. Her owners report that since losing weight Bella's energy levels have increased and she seems much happier in herself.



## Keep Hedgehogs Safe on Bonfire Night

Woodpiles are ideal places for hedgehogs to take shelter and if they mistake your bonfire for a cozy resting place this puts them in real danger. Sadly, many hedgehogs fall foul of un-checked bonfires and are killed because of it.

Here are 8 tips to help you avoid harming hedgehogs in your bonfire pile as recommended by the Wildlife Trust (<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-check-your-bonfire-hedgehogs>):

1. Build it on the same day that you will light it. The longer it's left for, the more likely it is that a hedgehog will wander in.
2. Place chicken wire one metre high, at an outward angle, all the way around the bottom while you're building it.
3. If you have stored materials for your bonfire outdoors then move them to a different patch of ground.
4. Always place the bonfire on open ground – never on a pile of leaves as a hedgehog may be hiding underneath.
5. Always check the entire bonfire for hedgehogs before lighting it. They tend to hide in the centre and bottom two feet in particular.
6. When checking, lift parts of the bonfire section by section using a pole or broom. Do not use a fork, spade or rake as this may injure a hedgehog.
7. Use a torch to look inside the bonfire and listen for a hissing sound, as this is the noise that hedgehogs make when they are disturbed or distressed.
8. Always light your bonfire from one corner, rather than in the centre, in order to give hedgehogs a chance to escape if they need to.

If you do find a hedgehog then move slowly and calmly. Pick it up with gardening gloves, along with any nesting material it may have been sitting in, and place it in a cardboard box lined with newspaper. Relocate the box to a safe location that is far from any fires or wait until the bonfire is over and dampen down the fire site with water before releasing the hedgehog under a bush or a log pile.



## Important Information Regarding Cat Vaccines



Due to manufacturing and supply issues we are currently unable to get hold of FeLV vaccines. We do not anticipate being able to get any more until the first quarter of next year. We are hoping this will be in January but we haven't been given any guarantees. We are currently trying to see if there are any alternatives available.

The plan going forward is to honour appointments already booked and continue to book kitten/2nd vaccines as normal, as well as first year boosters. For all other boosters, we are looking at extending them to 2-3 months past when they are due, by which point we are hoping to have more vaccines in stock.

If you are part of the Castle Care Club your vaccination reminder will now only be sent out when your cat is coming up to the 3 month overdue mark. The reminders will be sent 4 weeks before that point, to give you plenty of time to get them booked.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and if you have any concerns or questions please give us a call on 01566 772211.



# Nigel Hicks – much loved and highly respected Veterinary Surgeon

Nigel Hicks has reached the amazing milestone of being in Veterinary Practice for 50 years!

Before he became a Vet, when he was still at school, Nigel would spend his holidays “seeing practice” at Castle Vets with Johnny Mann. He went on to qualify from Bristol Veterinary School in 1973 and has been in Practice in Devon and Cornwall ever since – probably a record! The world of veterinary medicine was very different to today, there was very little specialisation and just about all Vets worked in Mixed Practice and dealt with all species.

I met Nigel in the mid 1990s when he was running a successful practice from Lifton, and worked with him once he joined Castle Vets in Launceston. Now having “retired” he is as busy as ever. He, with his wife, Sara, run Ovoid - an International Charity dedicated to providing veterinary care and improving welfare for Orangutans. He still works as a practicing Vet from time to time, having helped the Practice out during the pandemic and other times since in the Small Animal Department. He is always happy to help and has a wealth of experience not to mention some good stories. We would like to add our congratulations at this milestone.

If you would like to support Nigel’s work, please visit [www.ovaoid.org/donate-ovaoid](http://www.ovaoid.org/donate-ovaoid)

Mark Tucker





## **MISSING**

**Jack has been missing from Lower Stockadon Farm,  
Landulph, PL12 6QF since 22.15 on Friday 22 September  
2023**

**Please check your sheds and spread the word!**

**He is very friendly but may be scared.**

**Please call 07774 295027 or 07779 792552  
with any information**

