



## Rabbit Awareness Week

Rabbit awareness week returns on the 24<sup>th</sup> June and this year the campaign is focusing on **Healthy Diet, Happy Bunnies**.



Rabbits need a well-balanced diet and plenty of exercise in order to stay healthy. Good quality hay and grass should be a rabbits main food source as this helps their digestive system to function properly. As a guide, each rabbit should have at least their own body size in feeding hay every day. A small handful of rabbit-safe leafy greens or herbs can be given but fruit and root vegetables such as carrots, should only be given in small portions as a treat. The key to a healthy diet is to provide a rabbit with food based on what they would eat naturally. Muesli-style foods should be avoided as they are associated with health problems. If you do decide to feed your rabbit commercial rabbit pellets ('nuggets') make sure you follow manufacturer's instructions. Rabbits must also have constant access to fresh clean drinking water. Without water rabbits become seriously ill.

Did you know that Castle Veterinary Group are in the rabbit friendly vet directory after receiving a prestigious silver award following an assessment by the Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund. If you would like to discuss your rabbit's diet or have any other concerns, our team of friendly vets are always happy to advise.



**SILVER 2023/24**

# The Role of the Veterinary Nurse



**We couldn't be without our nursing team here at Castle Vets, but do you know what they do for your pet?**

Working within our supportive veterinary team, our nurses care for our pet patients every need from the moment they come through the consulting room door.

The role of the veterinary nurse has evolved greatly, and every day is varied with the odd emergency or two thrown into the mix.

Veterinary nurses have a variety of jobs within practice and are an important part of the day to day which allows the practice to run.

Clients only see a small area of what nurses do such as admitting/discharging animals, reception duties (answering the phone, taking payments and booking appointments), nurse clinics (second vaccinations, puppy/kitten clinic, weight clinics, microchipping, nail clipping and post op checks).

However, a veterinary nurse has many other hidden talents which are not always seen and these are: anaesthetist (calculating medication, gas flow rates, maintaining anaesthetic machines/circuits monitoring patients vitals and recovering patients), surgical assistant (scrubbing into surgical procedures to help the vets when needed), radiographer (positioning patients, calculating x-ray settings, taking x-ray pictures and processing them alongside taking into account safety), phlebotomist (taking blood samples and putting in intravenous catheters), lab technician (running urine/blood samples, looking at slides under the microscope and prepping samples for external testing), infection control keeper (ensuring everything is cleaned to a high standard), administrator (booking operations and inpatient treatments), nutritionist (giving advice on the best food), pharmacist (administering, labelling, recording, dispensing, preparing and restocking medication) and general advice giver.



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We also have designated inpatient nurses here at Castle Vets who look after the inpatients ensuring they have everything they need, checking vitals, that they are getting the correct nutrition, pain management, wound management, fluid therapy management and administering medication under the veterinary surgeon's direction.

As an independent practice Castle vets are proud that we can offer our own 24-hour nursing care on site, this means that the inpatients have a nurse with them at all times. We have 8-night nurses who share the night shift rota and 11 nurses who share the weekend day rota. While doing these shifts, the nurses are dealing with the inpatients and any emergencies that come into the practice.

Veterinary nurses are very important to the practice and we are so lucky here at Castle vets to have such an amazing, knowledgeable and experienced team of nurses.

## **The Castle Vets Team Try Their Hand at Gig Rowing**

Thanks to the Boscastle and Crackington Gig Club the Castle Vets Team had the opportunity to test out their gig rowing skills. The first boat to set off on the water were blessed with glorious sunshine and had a very successful row followed by a picnic, however, the second team were not so fortunate! Boat number two made it to the middle of the lake when suddenly and rather unexpectedly the heavens opened with one almighty downpour and the team were forced to return to shore. Luckily everyone saw the funny side and enjoyed the experience despite the rain and soggy quiches!





## Liskeard Show - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July

We will have a stand at Liskeard show on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July which will be a great opportunity to meet members of the team and find out more about all of the services that Castle Vets offer. There will also be games, competitions and refreshments, so please come along and say hello.