

Dear Client,

As I write this newsletter we are safely on the other side of Storm Emma meets Beast from the East and look forward to welcoming a bit of spring sunshine. It was glorious to see the countryside coated in snow, although it did play havoc with our daily routines and running of the practice, as for everyone else! So it is nice to see the back of it and get back to normal.

Spring tends to be Moorgate's busiest time of the year here. Our vets will be kept busy helping out our farm clients with lambings, calvings and a few kiddings and unpackings! As well as this behind the scenes we are still busy working towards starting renovation and extension work at our Bovey Tracey surgery which we hope to get fully underway in the summer.

In this edition of our Companion Animal Newsletter we have highlighted a few issues that have come to light recently in the press and within the practice. We also welcome our new vet Polly Vogel who has settled into the practice really well and we all thoroughly enjoy working with her.

As always if there is something in particular you would like to see included in our newsletters, please do let me know.

Lottie Bowden
Practice Manager

DOG IDENTIFICATION LAWS

As many of you know from April 2016 it became compulsory for all dog owners to ensure their dog is microchipped. There are several parts to this compulsory requirement.

One requirement is that owners must ensure their registration details are kept up to date. So if you move house, change your phone number, etc. you must remember to update your dog's microchip registration details. Unfortunately this is not something we can do for you. Each microchip is assigned to a specific database (such as Petlog or Chipworks), you should have received a confirmation letter or email when you dog was first microchipped from the database which would include an ID number as well as your dog's microchip number. You must contact this database to update your details.

If you do not have these details and know your dog's microchip number contact us and we can carry out a search to find out which database your dog's microchip is registered with. If you do not know your dog's microchip number we can scan your dog to obtain this.

Another requirement is that all breeders are responsible for microchipping and registering (with a specific database) puppies by 8 weeks of age. Microchips must be registered in the breeders name. When the puppy goes to its new home the new owner must then transfer the puppy to their ownership by contacting the database and passing on their details.

As well as microchipping being a compulsory requirement the Control of Dogs Order 1992 mandates that any dog in a public place must wear a collar with the name and address (including postcode) of the owner engraved or written on it, or engraved on a tag. Your telephone number is optional (but advisable).

We are aware some client's dogs normally remain on private property throughout the duration of the day but please consider that at any point your dog could become lost and enter a public place and therefore should be appropriately identified.

Working dogs such as gun dogs, farm dogs are required to follow this requirement, however when being used for work (rounding sheep, flushing drives) they are exempt from wearing an identification collar, once the work has been completed the collar must be reapplied.

Although there is no legal requirement for cats to be microchipped, but it is a great idea. Due to cats inquisitive natures they are more likely to become lost or stray from home. Collars can easily become lost from cats so are not guaranteed methods of identification. Also friendly cats can sometimes be taken in by concerned neighbours and microchipping is the only way to prove ownership.

As well being able to engrave pet tags whilst you wait (at our Bovey Tracey surgery), we offer reduced price microchipping to responsible breeders who are getting litters health checked. Please ask a member of our team for further information. If you would like to get your cat microchipped call us or pop into reception and we can make an appointment for this quick and easy procedure.



BIRD FLU – WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR BACKYARD FLOCK

Due to bird flu being found in wild birds in this country, an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone was put in place from the 18th January 2018 in England. From 25 January 2018 a similar Prevention Zone was put in place in Wales. If you keep poultry or birds, you must follow strict biosecurity requirements set by the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA), whether you have commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock.

If you keep birds then you can continue to allow your birds outdoors into fenced areas, but only if these areas meet certain conditions including:

- you have made the areas unattractive to wild birds, for example by netting ponds, and by removing wild bird food sources.
- you have taken action to reduce any existing contamination, such as cleansing and disinfecting concrete areas, and fencing off wet or boggy areas.
- you have assessed the risk of contact with wild birds or contamination from them.

Please note that the information provided is correct at the time we write this newsletter (12.03.18). If you keep birds ensure you keep up to date with the recent bird flu outbreak by visiting: www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu.

Anyone who finds dead wild birds should report them to the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW VET POLLY

Polly Vogel has joined us after spending six months at Powderham Vets following her graduation from Liverpool University in July 2017. Polly grew up in the area and carried out some of her clinical placement with us. She also has a degree in Animal Science and PGCE in primary teaching. She has also worked at Newquay Zoo for 2 years as an education officer. In her spare time she enjoys riding her horse Archie and walking Danny, her Collie cross.

Polly joined us in early January and carried out a few weeks induction before joining the other four full time vets on the rota. She is looking forward to meeting our clients and carrying out plenty of large animal and equine work.

As our team of vets is now larger than it's ever been Ulli Arnold has seized the moment and has taken the decision to reduce his working hours, no longer being available on Wednesdays. We hope this change will mean he will not be forced into early retirement.



LAMBING TIME

We all enjoy the beautiful countryside we live in. We urge all dog owners to respect the countryside and those who farm it. Keep to the footpaths and keep your dog on a lead when near livestock. At this time of the year we sadly see a peak in dog attack numbers as sheep are at their most vulnerable. Remember, if your dog attacks livestock you the owner, could be responsible for the crime. Also remember that a farmer has the right to protect their livestock.



EASTER - KEEP YOUR CHOCOLATE OUT OF REACH

Please remind everyone in your family of the danger of chocolate and ask them to take extra precautions to keep Easter chocolate out of your dog's reach. Don't allow small children to have chocolate when the dog is nearby. Remind guests not to share Easter goodies with your friendly pet.

WORMING OFFER
BUY 1 YEARS SUPPLY OF
WORMING TABLETS FOR
YOUR CAT OR DOG AND
RECEIVE A
25% DISCOUNT

Practice Facilities

Appointment System
Parking
24 Hour Emergency Service
Modern Surgical Facilities
Nurse Clinics
In-House Laboratory
Digital X Ray Machine
Endoscopy
Pet Care Plans

BOVEY TRACEY SURGERY

Mill House, Station Road,
Bovey Tracey, Newton
Abbot, TQ13 9AL
TELEPHONE ; 01626
833023

MORETONHAMPSTEAD SURGERY

31 Court Street,
Moretonhampstead,
Newton Abbot, TQ13 8LG
TELEPHONE ; 01647
440441

CHRISTOW SURGERY

Old Mines Road, Christow,
Exeter, EX6 7NS
For appointments/repeat
prescriptions etc.
telephone; 01626 833023

FOR OUT OF HOUR EMERGENCIES PLEASE

TELEPHONE : 01647
440441

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