

Dear Client,

As I write this newsletter, we have had a week of wet weather and wind thanks to Storm Gareth. Hopefully we can welcome some warmer spring weather soon; we are sure many of our clients would appreciate a dry spell.

Behind the scenes, our vets are busy with calvings and lambings. We have finally started building work at our Bovey Tracey surgery. We first submitted plans for the work in 2016, so we are pleased to be able to get underway with the planned work. These works will allow the surgery to be completely re-modernised. As well as giving our well used and loved surgery a new lease of life, it will give us purpose built kennelling facilities, including a spacious walk in kennel for our larger doggy patients. Amongst other things we will also benefit from a designated laboratory space, a second fully appointed consulting room which will enable us to offer additional nurses clinics and further services.

Whilst the building work is being carried out, clients visiting the Bovey Tracey surgery by car will find the car park partly filled with a construction compound, however limited parking will still be available for clients.

The building work has been meticulously planned into three separate phases in order to allow us to continue providing veterinary services to our clients. However, it is inevitable that the work will cause some disruption within the surgery and to the services we offer. We do aim to keep this to a minimum where possible and we thank clients for their understanding during times of disruptions.

Throughout the works we will of course continue to offer our 24 hour emergency service which is provided by our own veterinary team.

In February we welcomed Sophie Hickson to our team. Sophie joins as an Office Administrator at our Bovey Tracey surgery. Sophie has plenty of previous administrating experience. With great customer service skills and enthusiasm she has settled in well. Of course Sophie is a pet lover, having two cats of her own. In her spare time she enjoys singing in a local choir and plenty of outdoor activities, including rock climbing, cycling and hiking.

We hope the points covered in this newsletter are of interest, we welcome any suggestions for future newsletter editions if there is anything in particular our clients would like us to cover.

Lottie Bowden
Practice Manager



TICKS

As the weather warms tick activity increases. Ticks are generally unpleasant creatures. More than that, they pose a threat to the health of your pet and your family.

Ticks are common in woodland, grassland and heath areas, but can also be found in your garden if you live in an area with lots of wildlife. You are most likely to come across them in areas with lots of deer or sheep.

Ticks transmit microbes that cause diseases, such as Lyme disease and babesiosis.

It's a good idea to use a tick treatment that will either repel ticks or kill them if they attach. Spot on treatments, tablets and collars are available from us and we are able to advise on the suitability of each product for your pet.

We also offer a vaccination which is available for dogs to protect them against Lyme disease; ask one of the members of our team for further information.



SEASIDE VISITS

As the warm spring weather arrives, and before dog beach bans are enforced we all hope to be able to make some trips to the seaside with our canine companions.

As well as keeping yourself and your dog out of danger from cliffs and dangerous tidal areas here are a few other cautions to take into consideration when visiting the seaside:

Swallowing sand can cause stomach problems for your dog. Choose toys that pick up less sand – for example, a Frisbee will pick up less sand than a fuzzy tennis ball.

Drinking salty water can give your dog a nasty bout of diarrhoea. Rinse your dog off with fresh water after swimming and offer plenty of fresh water for drinking.

If your dog eats seaweed stalks they can cause a blockage in your dog's stomach or gut; your dog may need a serious operation to remove the stalk. Keep an eye on your dog to make sure they do not eat an indigestible snack!

For more information the PDSA have some great factsheets on their website, giving pet owners helpful advice.



UNCERTAINTY WITH REGARDS TO PETS TRAVEL DUE TO BREXIT

At the time this newsletter is written, the Brexit situation looks more unclear than it ever has done before. We have previously provided information to clients with regards to how Brexit may affect the Pets Travel Scheme however if the UK leaves the EU on 29th March 2019 (now 12th April 2019) with no agreement in place, it is now likely that the UK will become an unlisted third country with regard to the EU Pet Travel Regulations.

If this is the case the government has provided the following advice:

"The rules for taking your pet to any EU country will change if the UK leaves the EU with no deal and is treated as an unlisted country.

You must get your dog, cat or ferret microchipped and then vaccinated against rabies before it can travel.

However, to allow effective contingency planning in the worst case scenario of the UK not being granted third country status, you'll need to take the following steps to make sure your pet can travel after 29 March 2019:

You must get your dog, cat or ferret microchipped and then vaccinated against rabies before it can travel.

Your pet must have a blood sample taken at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination. You'll need to talk to your vet about whether you need a rabies vaccination or booster before this test.

Your vet must send the blood sample to an EU-approved blood testing laboratory.

The results of the blood test must show that the vaccination was successful (Your pet must have a rabies antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml).

You must wait 3 months from the date the successful blood sample was taken before you travel.

You must take your pet to a Official Veterinarian (OV), no more than 10 days before travel to get a health certificate.

A pet health certificate would be valid for:

- 10 days after the date of issue for entry into the EU
- 4 months of onward travel within the EU
- re-entry to the UK for 4 months after the date of issue

If there's no deal, pet passports issued in the UK would not be valid for travel to the EU."

With the above in mind pet owners wishing to travel should contact us at least 4 months before they plan on travelling to any EU country.

As your Veterinary Surgeons we would recommend, either holding off plans for travelling with your pet until clearer information has been provided by the government OR prepare for the above scenario, as this should cover all eventualities. If pet passports remain valid they can be issued at any stage, providing the correct procedures have been followed.

We hope to be able to offer clients clearer advice soon.

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.

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

www.moorgatevets.co.uk

