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PAWPRINTS

Bringing you all the latest news from Spinney Vets

Issue 01



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Spinney Vets

PWPRINTS Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter, which can also be read online on our website

www.northampton-vets.co.uk

It's a time of positive change here at Spinney Vets – a new name, new logo, new website and the refurbishment of our Wootton Fields practice – so we felt we couldn't leave our newsletter out!

I hope you like our all-new newsletter. We love it and it is designed to go hand-in-hand with our recent rebrand, as we freshen up our look!

One thing that will definitely not be changing, though, is the trusted service we hope you enjoy from Spinney Vets.

Our pledge remains exactly the same as it always has: Our expert staff will offer a loving and caring service for our patients 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We take that pledge very seriously. That's why we have invested so much in recruiting and maintaining a highly-trained and experienced team dedicated to delivering the best possible results in all aspects of animal care.

It is also why we have invested extensively to provide the very latest equipment and best facilities at our Veterinary Hospital in Kettering Road and our new-look Wootton Fields Veterinary Surgery.

And we will continue to invest to ensure our level of service and care keeps us at the forefront in the veterinary world and you can, as always, bring your pet to us with complete confidence.

I hope you enjoy this first edition of our all-singing, all-dancing newsletter. Here on page two you can read about how to tackle ticks and fleas, while on page three you can see just how our Wootton practice looks. Finally, on page four we have a couple of nice news stories to let you know what has been going on at Spinney Vets since the start of the year!

Iain Fletcher, Clinical Director



A vet administering preventative parasite treatments

Don't let your pets get ticked off with parasites!

With summer just around the corner, we are reminding cat and dog owners to protect their pets from the misery of fleas, ticks and worms.

Although they are a year-round concern, parasites such as ticks and fleas are much more prevalent as the weather gets warmer and pets begin to spend more time outdoors.

Ticks can infect animals, and their owners, with conditions such as Lyme disease and ehrlichiosis, a bacterial illness which causes flu-like symptoms. Pets can also get worms from fleas and ticks, while tapeworm, roundworm and hookworm can travel from pets to their owners and have potentially serious consequences for both.

Our clinical director Iain Fletcher is urging owners to check their pets carefully and make sure all preventative treatments are up-to-date to combat the risk of potentially serious health problems.

Iain said: "It is really important owners protect their pets from fleas, ticks and worms as we head into summer and the risk of getting bitten increases as animals, like us, spend much more time outdoors.

"Owners should regularly check their pet's coat for any signs of ticks or fleas by running their fingers through the fur or, even better, by using a fine-toothed comb.

"They should also be on the look-out for any excessive scratching, itching and biting, which are classic signs of a problem, along with scabs, hair loss, allergic reactions and pale gums.

"We'd encourage anyone who hasn't already got preventative care in place to book an appointment with one of our vet nurses. This will ensure they get expert advice and information about appropriate treatments to keep their pets in the best possible health this summer and beyond."

We offer an annual Pet Health Club membership, which incorporates ongoing preventative care, including expert advice and treatments for ticks and fleas, across the year – please see page three for more details on that!

Exciting times at Spinney Vets

It's such an exciting time for all of us at Spinney Vets.

Not only have we recently rebranded from Spinney Lodge to Spinney Vets and launched a fantastic new website for all our clients – which we hope you have seen and approve of! – but a massive transformation has also taken place at our Wootton Fields practice.

In total, we have invested £215,000 at the practice, expanding it into a disused building next door to add much more space and allowing us to introduce an array of new top-class facilities.

We have doubled the number of consulting rooms from two to four and we have a dedicated theatre area.

Our diagnostic capabilities will now be even better, as we also have an X-ray area for the first time.

We have expanded our ability to monitor patients under general anaesthetic to include constant ECG, blood pressure, oxygenation, temperature and CO2 levels to further improve patient safety.

We also now have six dog kennels, doubling our previous number, and our nurses will be able to hold more weight clinics, Happy Hoppers sessions for rabbits and senior health clinics which are extremely popular.

This has been a huge project and we are extremely excited about the amazing transformation that has taken place at Wootton Fields.

If you want to know what else is going on at all our practices, head to our new website as it is brimming with all the latest Spinney Vets news.



There is also information on special offers which clients can take advantage of, details on all the services we offer and a wealth of great advice on how to care for your pet.

Take a look at our new website by visiting www.northampton-vets.co.uk.



Join our Pet Health Club and you could win a prize

We have a great way you and your family can have peace of mind when it comes to your pet's health and be in with the chance of winning a superb prize.

Our Pet Health Club is a convenient and affordable way of making sure your pet's important routine treatments are up-to-date. Our club offers comprehensive care and great value for money throughout your pet's life.

You can spread your annual preventative healthcare costs through 12 low monthly payments, which will guarantee you and your family make savings on our main regular services.

Sign up today and you could also win a PitPat dog activity tracker

or a GPS tracker for cats in our prize draw, so it's not just your pet's health that is being looked after..

Included in our club is a full vaccination course, year-round flea, worm and parasite prevention, annual booster and kennel cough vaccinations, nail clipping, microchipping and one free consultation every year.

Being in our club also opens the door to a host of discounts for you and your pet and becoming a member costs from just £12.50 per month.

For more information about the Pet Health Club, visit www.northampton-vets.co.uk/our-services/pet-health-club



Make sure you and your dog avoid any sticky situations

As the summer slowly starts to creep into view, we will all (hopefully!) soon be enjoying some longer walks in the sunshine with our dogs.

While taking a stroll with your beloved pets is always something we would encourage, we'd also like to give you a gentle reminder not to throw sticks for your dog to chase.

Over the years, we have unfortunately had to deal with a number of cases in which dogs have been injured by sticks.

Not only can dogs impale themselves when chasing down a stick and running onto them, causing major trauma to their mouths and necks, but they can also be swallowed or fragments broken off, meaning the throat can be damaged.



We would urge all clients to avoid sticks and advise going well equipped for your summer walks by taking toys such as balls or tug ropes to throw for your dog – avoiding an impromptu visit to see us in the process!

Our vets work their magic on TV star's pet Blammo

We're often thanked for working our magic with people's poorly pets, and this was certainly the case when we were able to save the life of a magician's pedigree dog.

TV entertainer David Penn was in Las Vegas when he received a transatlantic call from his dog sitter saying she'd rushed his Samoyed pet, Blammo, to see us.

Our experts confirmed the eight-year-old had suffered a double rupture of the bladder.

David said: "My overriding concern was that I did not want him to suffer and we did actually have a conversation about whether it was better to put him down.

"However, they said they could operate and try to repair the damage although they also made it plain that the operation was a big risk in itself.

"So yes, absolutely I knew the danger was very real and that he could die but I wanted to give him every chance to survive and to recover.

"Thanks to the brilliance of the Spinney Vets team he has pulled through and I can't thank them enough. They were magic."

Iain Fletcher, Spinney Vets' clinical director, said: "Our X-rays showed many urinary kidney stones in his urethra which were preventing

Blammo from urinating and leading to massive pressure in his bladder.

"This caused his bladder to effectively burst inside, which must have been very painful for Blammo.

"We couldn't operate to remove the stones from the urethra so we positioned a catheter there to flush the wedged stones back into his bladder."

During surgery, Iain and the team removed 54 stones before stitching all the holes in Blammo's bladder to reconstruct a watertight seal.

We were all delighted Blammo made a rapid recovery from such a serious operation and was soon eating and drinking normally, although regaining full bladder control took a little while longer.



Blammo with delighted owner David Penn and Spinney Vets Clinical Director Iain Fletcher

Veterinary Hospital
491 Kettering Rd
Northampton
NN3 6QW

Telephone: 01604 648221

OUT OF HOURS COVER
Telephone: 01604 648221

Veterinary Surgery
Wootton Fields, Tudor Court,
Wootton Hope Drive,
Wootton Fields,
Northampton, NN4 6FF

Telephone: 01604 700366

OUT OF HOURS COVER
Telephone: 01604 648221

