



MOOR COTTAGE

VETERINARY HOSPITAL
London Road, Binfield, Bracknell RG42 4AA

NEWS

**For Appointments
Tel: 01344 450345**

Monday – Friday
8:30am – 7:30pm

Saturday
8:30am – 12:30pm

**24 Hour
Emergency Service**

Moor about us!

Welcome to **Nick Gardner** who has joined our Reception team. Nick's special interest is tropical fish and in particular, Piranhas! In this case, their bite is worse than their bark!

September is our **PETSMILE** month. 75% of cats and dogs over the age of 3yrs have some form of dental disease and they need regular dental care. Discounts will be available on dental work, clinics and products. A good homecare regime will keep your pet smelling sweet.

Wildlife casualties are lucky to have the care of our Veterinary Nurses: **Ros Buchanan** and **Janice Clapham**. The treatment and rehabilitation varies according to the individual patient needs.

Moor Cottage is proud to sponsor two local football teams: **The Wokingham and Embrook Belles (girls) U11's** and **Reeves Rangers Blue (boys) U12's**. Both teams play in local leagues sporting our name – Good Luck in the coming season!

Take care of those teeth!

WE ALL learn as children the importance of looking after our teeth, but what about our pets?

The good news is that our pets are usually born with healthy mouths – with bright

white teeth and firm pink (or pigmented) gums. However, from a very early age, food material, bacteria and saliva deposit naturally and continuously on the surface of the teeth and gums forming **plaque**.



Photo: Jane Burton.

As plaque accumulates, tox-ins produced by the plaque bacteria cause inflammation of the gum tissue – termed **gingivitis**. At the same time as this, the plaque may also become mineralised forming calculus (tartar) which is usually very tightly bonded to the tooth surface. This often results in very bad breath!

If gingivitis is allowed to go unchecked the plaque bacteria will start to penetrate *below* the gum line, leading

to destruction of the bone and other tooth supporting structures – a condition termed **periodontitis**. This is a far more serious condition and – if left untreated, results in tooth loosening and eventual tooth loss.

If your pet's breath leaves a little to be desired we are here to help! Dental disease is best prevented, but failing that, early diagnosis of problems can make a real difference to your pet's health.



Feline Leukaemia Virus – is your cat vaccinated?

IT'S a sad fact that Feline Leukaemia virus (FeLV) is now one of the commonest causes of premature death in cats.

Whilst the virus does on occasions cause true leukaemia, in many cases the effects are more related to suppression of the cats immune system, sadly leaving it fatally exposed to infections that a healthy cat would normally recover from. The virus is found in the saliva of infected cats and is mainly transmitted by licking or biting.

However the good news is that there are very effective vaccines against the virus, and your cat can be vaccinated at the same time as the annual health check and other vaccinations. Don't take the risk – please contact us for further information or an appointment!



"I can relax – I am!"

Cartoon: Gareth Davies

Keeping pet rabbits fit and well – some tips!



IT'S not just dogs and cats that need regular check-ups and vaccinations! Rabbits are also susceptible to two potentially deadly diseases:-

Myxomatosis is a distressing viral disease spread by rabbit fleas and other blood sucking insects. Swollen eyes are usually the first symptoms, rapidly progressing to blindness. Affected rabbits become very ill and most will die as a result.

Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD) is a very infectious disease that spreads easily between rabbits, or via contaminated hutches, bedding or food. It can also be inadvertently transported by people or birds. Affected rabbits show a range of symptoms including loss of appetite, lethargy and nose bleeds. Sadly most will die.

Please contact us for further information on vaccinating your rabbit against infectious disease, or any other aspect of rabbit care including **dental care** and **neutering**.



Autumn alarm!

underside of the abdomen. Like fleas, the mites can cause intense itchiness in susceptible individuals at this time of year, with itchy crusty lesions developing on affected areas. Please contact us for more details.

WITH the onset of cooler autumn weather, we look at some of the issues facing our pets at this time of year.

Although the temperature is dropping and the nights are drawing in, it is important to remember to continue **anti-parasite treatments** to prevent disease associated with **fleas**. These tiny wing-



less insects are a major cause of irritation to both pets and their owners and, with our centrally heated homes, are a year round menace!

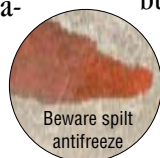
Now is also the time to remember to keep pets indoors in the evenings to avoid **firework** injuries. Dogs with **noise phobias** may benefit from medication to help relieve anxiety associated with fireworks; habituation to loud noises over a long period of time can also be helpful. Please ask us for an appointment to discuss this further.

Harvest mites are another problem seen in the late summer and autumn. The mites are picked up in long grass and tend to congregate on the ears, eyelids, feet and



Harvest mite (x40)

This is also the time of year that many car owners prepare for winter. **Antifreeze** (used in car radiators) is a very palatable poison. If ingested, even small amounts



Fleas: what to look out for!



One of the commonest signs of fleas is finding specks of flea "dirt" (flea faeces) in the coat.

can cause serious kidney failure and usually death.

The autumn is also the time for **tortoise** owners to ensure that their pets are adequately prepared for hibernation. Please come and see us for a pre-hibernation check-up!

And finally... don't forget that old dogs and cats tend to feel their **joints** more in the cold weather – make sure they have plenty of warm bedding, but ensure they don't snuggle up too close to the radiator or burns can result. Keep an eye on their mobility and contact us for an appointment if they are getting stiff and sore.

An eerie tale! Ear Disease: is your pet affected?



DID you know that ear disease is a fairly common problem, affecting pets of all ages? Whilst the ear is a very complex structure, most of the ear problems seen in pets involve disease of the *external* ear canal. Disease of this area is called **otitis externa** (also termed *canker*). Symptoms, which can be gradual or sudden in onset, include head shaking, ear rubbing, reddening of the skin lining the external ear canal, and frequently a discharge (as seen in the case below).



Otitis externa in a cat with ear mites. Note the characteristic crusty brown discharge.

There are several underlying causes of otitis externa.

These include **ear mites, trapped foreign bodies** (such as grass awns) and **localised inflammation** of the skin lining the ear canals. Worse still, the condition is often complicated by opportunistic bacterial and fungal infections.



Microscopic view of an ear mite (x40) (*Otodectes cynotis*)

Early diagnosis and treatment gives us the best chance of curing this often painful condition. So if your pet is showing *any* signs of ear disease, please bring them in for a thorough examination.