

Summer Offers

May and June 2010

**FREE dental check plus
10% off all dental proce-
dures and products**

If your pet has bad breath, inflamed gums and/or brown teeth, they may well have dental disease and be in pain. Make the most of this offer, get your pet's teeth checked now. *See over...*

**10% off tick treatment
for dogs**

Tick season is here again (May and June). If your dog likes to walk through long grass and wooded areas, we suggest you protect them now from these nasty parasites.

The main danger is that they carry all kinds of horrid diseases, including Lyme disease that can cause heart, kidney, joint and neurological problems.

July and August 2010

**Microchipping for
only £10**

If your pet is not already microchipped, **BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW!** Permanent identification for your pet that can't be lost or tampered with. Read all about microchips overleaf. Contact your branch surgery to take advantage of this offer.

**Vaccination Amnesty
Full vaccination course
for the price of a booster**

All pets should be vaccinated every year. Even if they have had their primary course of injections, without a yearly booster their immunity will lapse. Make the most of this offer and **protect your pet!**

A Makeover for Brislington Surgery



Highcroft's Brislington surgery has never looked better as it gleams from its recent makeover. The reception area has been brightened up with a new colour-scheme, chairs and wood-effect flooring, whilst the surgery has all new flooring, cabinets and fittings.

Full-time receptionist, Kim Davies, is delighted with her new working environment and lapping up compliments from clients.

Open 6 days a week, our Brislington surgery continues to welcome new pets from the surrounding area, including exotic pets such as lizards, tortoises and birds, who benefit from veterinary surgeon Polly Cornwell's additional qualifications and experience in dealing with these species.

Hospital Expansion

The veterinary hospital at Wells Road, Whitchurch, is currently undergoing substantial building work in order to provide over double its present space. This increased capacity will provide fantastic new kennels, cattery and exotic ward, three state-of-the-art operating theatres, an x-ray room and new isolation facilities.

A new CT scanner is to be installed – the first in the South West – which will provide the best possible diagnostics for many conditions. In addition to the clinical facilities, we will have a spacious office area for staff with a conference room for evening client meetings.

The practice continuously strives to provide the very best facilities and diagnostics for all its clients and their pets and we anticipate that the new veterinary hospital will be one of the leading veterinary centres in the country.

We hope to complete the building work this autumn, meanwhile we assure you that we are doing everything we can to minimise any inconvenience it may cause to our clients.



Did you know that exotic pets can be insured too?

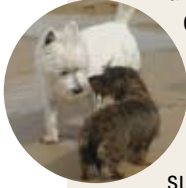
Exotic pets – small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds – have very particular veterinary needs and we are fortunate to have veterinary skills, staff and facilities to meet most of their requirements. However, treatment and care can be very complex, costs can escalate and the last thing any of us want is for treatment to be compromised by cost.

If you have an exotic pet and would like more information about insurance, please contact your branch surgery for advice.



Don't get caught out by the cough!

KENNEL COUGH, otherwise known as infectious bronchitis, is a highly contagious disease of the dog's respiratory tract. The cough is passed from dog to dog wherever they meet – out on walks, on the beach in the summer, at training classes, dog shows and of course boarding kennels!



Dogs of all ages can be affected and signs include a harsh, dry, whooping-type cough. Whilst some dogs recover relatively rapidly, others may cough for weeks and some may get more serious complications such as pneumonia.

Prevention is much better than cure, because without vaccination, treatment of kennel cough can be a costly and lengthy process involving isolation and antibiotic therapy. Kennel cough is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium – *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. We strongly recommend that dogs are vaccinated before staying in a boarding kennels and at any other time when the disease is rife. Please contact us for an appointment today!



Beat the heat this summer!

AS WE enjoy the warm sunny summer weather it's worth sparing a thought for our four legged friends. Here we look at a few steps you can take to keep them fit and well!

- Make sure fresh clean water is always available to all pets – you may even need to take some on walks and avoid exercise in the heat of the day – particularly with old, overweight dogs with heart problems; stick to early mornings and evenings.
- Cats are natural sun bathers, but cats with white noses and ear tips are particularly vulnerable to sun burn and subsequent skin cancer. This risk can be reduced by keeping them out of the sun, or by applying sunblock to these areas during the summer months.
- Watch out also for grass seeds (awns) of the meadow grasses. They commonly become trapped in dogs ears – causing violent head shaking, or may become embedded in the feet or other areas.
- Bee and wasp stings are another seasonal problem. Some pets are allergic to their stings and may need prompt veterinary attention.
- If your pet is going into kennels this summer, don't forget to make sure they are up to date with their vaccinations!
- Don't forget to keep treating your pets regularly against fleas, ticks and worms and **never ever leave a pet in a car on a hot day.**



Ear tip of a cat showing cancerous changes



Grass awns of the summer grasses



Paw of a dog with an interdigital cyst caused by a grass seed



Bees and wasps can be a summer hazard for inquisitive pets

Teeth – time for a check-up?



HAVE YOU flipped up your pet's lip recently and had a look at his teeth? Did you know that gum disease is probably the single most common long term disease that our pets will suffer from in their lives?

A healthy mouth usually has pale pink gums, and bright white teeth. However, over time, accumulation of plaque bacteria on the surface of the teeth can lead to *inflammation* of the gums – a condition called **gingivitis**. This is frequently accompanied by the accumulation of calculus (tartar) on the surface of the teeth, and also very bad breath!

SPECIAL OFFER – Free dental check up and 10% off all dental procedures throughout May and June 2010. Contact your branch surgery!

Progression of dental disease



Healthy mouth with white teeth and healthy pink gums



Unhealthy mouth with gingivitis and calculus

Staff News

A warm welcome to two new members of staff. **Rebecca Gibb BVM&S MRCVS** joins us full time having worked as a locum here. Rebecca qualified from Edinburgh in 2006 and has a special interest in small animal medicine. **Stacey Cripps** joins the reception team at Keynsham Veterinary Centre whilst Debbie goes off on maternity leave.



Help me – I'm lost....

HAVE YOU ever wondered how you would cope if your pet went missing? Regardless of how much you care for them you can't be in control all the time; cats roam very widely and dogs may stray. If your pet does become lost or is injured, it is essential that he or she can be reliably identified. Sadly, many pets are never reunited with their owners due to lack of identification.

The good news is that in addition to the traditional collar and tag (which can unfortunately become detached and lost), modern technology has come to our aid – giving us a far more reliable form of pet identification – the microchip implant.

A tiny microchip (about the size of a grain of rice) is quickly and easily implanted under the skin, permanently identifying your pet. Each microchip contains a unique code which identifies your pet and these details are stored on a central computer database. Should your pet go missing, when found, the chip can be read using special hand held scanners (see photo right). Veterinary practices, the police and animal welfare organisations routinely scan strays, hopefully ensuring that if the unthinkable happens, you can be speedily reunited. **SPECIAL OFFER** – have your pet microchipped for only £10 during July and August 2010. Contact your surgery for an appointment!



Microchip implant

