

Spring 2010

Pets ^{1st} NEWS

Runnymede Hill Veterinary Hospital & Chobham Rd Veterinary Centre

Beat the Credit Crunch with



Here at Pets First, we understand that wanting to do the right thing for your animals can also be the expensive thing too! Providing preventative healthcare for your pet is the responsible action to take, but regular recommended vaccinations, worming and preventative flea treatments can all mount up.

So why not spread the cost?

Exclusively to Pets First, we offer a comprehensive healthcare plan that enables you to budget and spread the cost of these treatments throughout the year.

Pets OK is a preventative healthcare scheme that includes

Vaccinations

Flea & worming treatments for 12 months

The cost is spread over 11 months, with direct debits from your bank account, just like your electricity bills!



Special March Promotion

During March 2010, we are offering a **FREE worming tablet** for your cat when they have their **6 monthly**

PROGRAM
(LUFENURON)

flea injection

and to make it easier, we can even administer the tablet for you!



Additional benefits for Pets OK scheme include:

Regular 3 monthly nurse check-ups and health assessments

Free nutritional & weight advice - **Free** nail clips & anal gland checks.

We find puppies particularly benefit from these checks. They begin to see a trip to the vets as routine and fun, rather than stressful, which helps greatly if they have to come in feeling poorly!

If your cat is a monkey to worm, this can be done during their check ups...saving your fingers!!

Pets OK members also benefit from an additional

10% discount on - Microchipping - Neutering - Dental treatments
Pre-anaesthetic blood tests

and a **5% discount** on Hill's Science plan diets.

Please book an appointment with one of our clinic nurses who will be happy to explain the scheme further, and provide you with a personalised quote.

Pets ^{1st} Hours

Our friendly support staff are available for pet healthcare and advice.

Consultations with our Veterinary Surgeons by appointment

Runnymede 01784 436367

Mon & Thurs 8.30am - 8pm

Tues, Weds & Friday
8.30am - 6.30pm

Saturday 9am - 2pm

Sunday 10.30am - 12.30pm

Chobham Rd 01344 620504

Monday 8am - 7pm

Tues, Weds, Thurs & Friday
8am - 6.30pm

Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

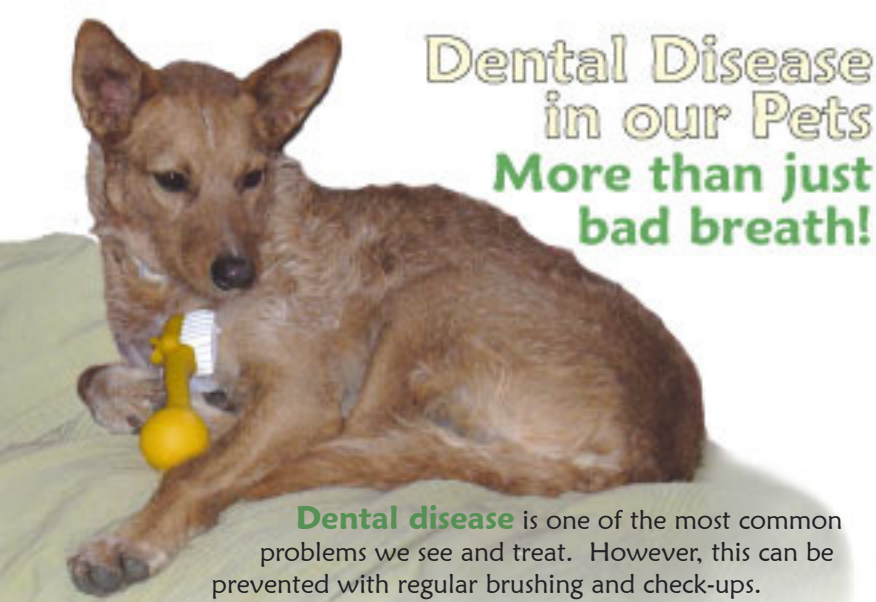
24hr 7day Emergency Service

Pets OK is exclusively a preventative healthcare scheme, and does not include any costs should your pet become unwell.

This is where Pet insurance is invaluable.

Pet Insurance allows a monthly premium to be paid. Should your pet become unwell, the insurance company will cover the cost of investigations and treatment required. We strongly recommend that you check your pet insurance to confirm your level of cover and the initial excess, which varies between companies. We also suggest taking out a 'lifetime' policy, so that if your pet develops an ongoing condition for which lifetime medication is required, such as diabetes, heart disease or arthritis, the company will continue to cover them year on year.





Dental Disease in our Pets More than just bad breath!

Dental disease is one of the most common problems we see and treat. However, this can be prevented with regular brushing and check-ups.

Facts Dogs & cats have a set of temporary teeth that appear within a few weeks of birth. Between 4 and 8 months they are replaced by a new set, and with the correct care, are designed to last for life!

What should I look out for?

Temporary teeth that don't always fall out, resulting in misalignment of the permanent teeth. It can also create pockets where food accumulates, which may lead to gum infection.

Abnormal jaw development can lead to abnormal growth of the teeth.

Gum disease 85% of pets over 3 years of age show signs of gum disease.

Plaque is a grey pasty substance of bacteria and food debris, which builds up on the teeth throughout the day and night. Minerals in the saliva convert the plaque into scale (tartar). As scale builds up, infection starts in the gum margins, leading to the gums receding and the teeth starting to loosen. Eventually the teeth may fall out. Correction of these problems in the advanced stages will then involve anaesthesia and extensive dental surgery. Dental disease is like a launch pad for infections, which travel via the blood to other parts of the body, especially the kidneys, heart and liver.

How can I tackle these problems?

Temporary teeth not fallen out by 8 months, should be removed. Dogs and cats with under or overshot jaws can be monitored for signs of abnormal tooth development. Corrective surgery may be required to prevent further problems later on in life.

Gum disease is largely preventable with routine care, as the crux of good dental hygiene lies in the daily removal of plaque build-up preferably by brushing.

A few tips... Start young so that daily brushing becomes routine. Spend a few moments every day touching in and around your pet's mouth. Progress to rubbing the outside surfaces of the teeth with your finger. Next, cover your finger with a damp cloth and rub the teeth. Once your pet is comfortable with this, use a toothbrush with pet toothpaste - **never human toothpaste!** Don't rush it, always quit while you're ahead and end on a high by praising your pet when it's all over.

We recommend

Feed your pet a **Special Oral Care Diet**, a complete, balanced diet that uses unique fibre technology to clean the teeth while eating. This is equivalent to brushing once a week.

Give regular safe chews - no sticks or stones and avoid cooked bones which can splinter and cause internal problems.

If you would like your pet's teeth checked, or a demonstration on how to brush teeth, please book a FREE nurse appointment. They will be only too happy to discuss dental problems, and remember..... prevention is better than cure!

Published by Vetarazzi.com 0844 5987360

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A Right Ticking Off!



The thought of something attached to our skin sucking blood is truly what nightmares are made of! However, there really are such creatures alive on our planet - ticks. Ticks can be found in long damp grass, by riverbanks and woodlands. These blood-sucking parasites require a host to attach to and feed from while completing each stage in their development. So while your dog is out exercising or your cat is exploring, a tick or two could choose your pet for breakfast, dinner and tea! These bloodsuckers are only tiny when they climb onto and attach their mouths into your pet's skin, but after a few days of heavy feeding they become engorged with blood.

Ticks can cause *irritation *soreness
*skin problems *infections

Not only are ticks very unpleasant for your pet, but they can also transmit infectious diseases such as **Lyme Disease**, and as many pets now travel abroad, **Ehrlichiosis** and **Babesiosis**.

Prevention Check your pet regularly & thoroughly particularly after walks.

Use a protective treatment against ticks.

If you find a tick, pulling it out incorrectly could leave body parts behind, which can cause infections, so it is best to call your vet for advice.

There are products available to protect and treat the problem of ticks, and we can advise on one suitable for your pet.

