



CASTLE VETS PETS

Newsletter – February 2023

Tel: 01566 772211 | www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk



Castle Care Club Christmas Raffle Winners

In December we held our annual Christmas raffle for all of our Castle Care Club members, with a chance to win a Christmas hamper.

If you would like to become a member of the Castle Care Club, please contact reception on 01566 772211 for more details.



Congratulations to our Christmas raffle winners!



Cornwall Christmas Box Appeal

This Christmas the staff at Castle Vets decided that rather than do a secret Santa they would donate to the Cornwall Christmas Box Appeal. This is a fantastic appeal where Christmas dinner in a box is donated to families in need. Thank you to all of our wonderful staff who donated 5 boxes.



Introducing 24hr Inpatient Care at Castle Vets

Here at Castle Vets we have always provided an out of hours emergency service, this has meant having a vet on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for when you have needed us. We have also had a registered veterinary nurse (RVN) here at weekends during the day and on call from home overnight, who would return to the practice if help was needed for any anaesthetics or surgery.

As the practice has got busier, we have seen an increased need for some pets to stay with us overnight or at weekends so that they can be closely monitored and nursed whilst receiving treatment. For this reason, we have made the decision to upgrade our out of hours service to having a registered veterinary nurse (RVN) on site 24 hours per day every day. The RVN on site can administer medications under the direction of the vet, monitor vital signs as required, monitor fluid therapy and catheter placement, alert the vet to any changes in patient wellness, make sure patients are taken regularly for walks and that cat litter trays are cleaned promptly, provide appropriate food and water, administer physio as required and also pet/groom them to help them feel settled for their stay with us.

This is an exciting time for the practice and has required our wonderful team of experienced nurses to accommodate this change by altering their own routines.

We have on-site accommodation here so if they do get the chance to sleep, they can. We also have a fully equipped kitchen with lounge/diner, 2 bedrooms and a bathroom. There are video monitors for the kennel rooms and even a camp bed for the nurses who like to rest with the patients. We are so pleased that this will enable us to further improve the level of care that we are able to provide for our patients.

There remains a veterinary surgeon on call for any emergencies that arise out of hours. In an emergency outside of our opening hours please call the usual number 01566 772211.

National Love Your Pet Day

National love your pet day is on February 20th. This is a day to show appreciation to all the furry friends that bring so much joy into our lives. One of the most popular ways to celebrate comes in the form of sharing pet photos on social media. Why not send us a picture of your pet and we will put the best photos on the Castle Vets Facebook page. Please send your picture to info@castlepets.org by the 10th February.



Whether you have a dog, cat, snake, fish, parrot, rabbit, donkey or an even more unusual animal... the important thing is to let them know how much you love them with an extra bit of fuss and attention.

Did you know...

... that pets are more than just a fluffy face when it comes to health benefits. Owning a pet has been proven to reduce blood pressure, ease loneliness, and improve mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression. Now that's worth celebrating!

Pet Dental Health Month



In case you did not know, **February** is Pet Dental Health Month. The health of your mouth can have a significant impact on your general health and wellbeing – for pets, it is no different! Just like us, pets can also suffer from a broad range of oral problems. Dental disease is becoming more and more prevalent requiring younger animals to have teeth extracted.

Do not forget that Castle Vets offer a mouth clean and screen service which is a 'staged' approach to dentistry for dogs and cats. Firstly, one of our Registered Veterinary Nurses will carry out a complimentary dental check-up. If dental disease is identified during this appointment our recommendation is that your pet undergoes a 'Mouth Clean and Screen' procedure.

Mouth Clean and Screen:

- A day procedure involving a short general anaesthetic aimed at cleaning your pet's teeth, assessing and grading their oral health and then making a plan for further treatment if any is required.
- Pre-anaesthetic bloods are included as a screen for any health problems prior to administering an anaesthetic.

- Intravenous fluid therapy will be given to help maintain blood pressure during the procedure.
- X-rays will be taken of all the teeth to allow us to assess the structures below the gumline.
- The teeth will be descaled and polished.
- The gums and teeth will be assessed for any problems such as cavities, fractures or gaps between the teeth and adjacent gums.
- Your pet will then be woken up from the anaesthetic and a treatment plan of any necessary extractions will be made by one of our experienced veterinary surgeons. An accurate estimate of the cost of this treatment will be generated.
- When you come to collect your pet, we will show you the x-rays and dental chart and then run through the recommended treatment plan and explain what is involved.
- If further treatment is recommended, then your pet should be booked in within 6 weeks of the Mouth Clean and Screen for the initial treatment plan and estimate to still be valid.
- All our Mouth Clean and Screen patients receive a homecare 'Smile Kit', post-operative check and a dental check up with a veterinary nurse in 6 months. These are included in the package price.



The Benefits of a Staged Approach:

- Some animals will not require any further treatment. The Mouth Clean and Screen procedure is offered at a significant discount as compared to a standard scale and polish with pre-operative blood test, intravenous fluids and x-rays resulting in great savings for owners. (approximately £125 for cats and £150 for dogs)
- If further treatment is needed then this would be carried out on a different day, resulting in your pet having two shorter general anaesthetics rather than one potentially very long one. This provides the following benefits:
 - Better maintenance of normal blood pressure
 - Better maintenance of normal body temperature
 - Quicker recovery from the procedure as there is less anaesthetic drug used
 - Less time lying still so less muscle and joint stiffness
 - Reduced surgeon fatigue

All of the above have been shown to contribute to a reduction in anaesthetic recovery times and post-operative complications

- We are only able to properly assess your pet's teeth and gums once they are anaesthetised. A thorough examination together with the use of dental x-rays means that we will be much better placed to predict which teeth will require extraction. We can then run through the treatment plan with you so that you know what to expect from the next procedure.
- Being able to plan further treatment in much greater detail means that we can also give you a much more accurate estimate of what the next procedure will cost.
- It is possible that health problems might be flagged on the pre-operative blood test that might otherwise have gone undiagnosed. Your pet can then receive prompt treatment if required.
- X-rays, scale and polish and pre-operative bloods will not be required for the second procedure and there will also be a shorter general anaesthetic - resulting in savings as compared to a non-staged dental.



New Faces

Katie Hale (Dispensary Technician)



Katie joined Castle Vets in December and has settled in really well. When she is not working she loves spending time with her two dogs, Oggy & Nook.

Amiee Light (Assistant to Practice Manager)



Amiee joined Castle Vets in January. In her spare time, she is kept busy looking after her son and two cats, Prudence and Potato. She enjoys walking, running and spending time by the sea.

Goodbye



We are sorry to say goodbye to Rosina who has decided to take some time out of the veterinary profession. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues and clients. We wish her all the best.

Valentine's Day Themed Pet Names

R N B G O F C L F L I E H X C
Y O O J E V U C N X T S G A V
E Q S P M Q P X J I M U Q V B
S I P E O Y I O D S T J A Q A
T R V B R M D O K E U L A G M
Z L E G N A R I Z G E N J B R
M W N A X H L S B N D E E U A
O T I K P T W H T O X C M V H
W K H A M V T I W D C M E C C
O U A E B V N S W E E T I E I
V T A T R E J B I V G T F Q K
S N M U H Z N V U E E M R X R
Y Z O Y W V L A Q D S F X V Y
R I R O O P O H U D Z R D K E
M C E S E S B B F V U Y G T J

Aiko
Aphrodite
Cupid
Rose
Venus

Amore
Beau
Obi
Sweetie

Angel
Charm
Romeo
Valentine