



**24 hour emergency facilities
covered by our own veterinary surgeons**

Surgeries

Banchory 01330 822648
Bielside 01224 861161
Kingswells 01224 749191
Millburn 01224 588770
Rubislaw 01224 311555
Westhill 01224 741685

Spring Newsletter

30 Years of Town & Country Veterinary Group

Town & Country Veterinary Group is delighted to announce that this year will see the practice celebrate 30 years of providing quality veterinary care in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

The business was started at our Rubislaw practice in June 1987 by Chris Wiper MRCVS and Liz Geraerts MRCVS. Three years later in 1990, the practices at Westhill and Banchory were acquired from retiring partners, and Bielside came up for sale 6 weeks later!

Chris ran the Banchory practice, undertaking farm, equine and small animal work (the "Country" part of our practice!) and Liz worked at the other three with the help of a part time vet.

We opened our Kingswells branch in 1997 in order to be able to undertake a larger number of surgical operations, and finally in 2001 we acquired our Millburn practice from a retiring vet and rebuilt it in 2005.

The practice no longer undertakes farm and equine work, and concentrates solely on small animal practice; in fact we are the second largest small animal-only practice in Scotland and the largest in the north east of Scotland!

The business now employs almost 50 staff, full and part time, across the 6 practices, and provides veterinary support for the SSPCA and Cats Protection amongst others. We regularly receive nominations for staff members in the prestigious Petplan Veterinary Awards which we feel reflects their dedication to the care of the animals we see in our surgeries. Chris and Liz have largely stepped back from active practice, but still oversee the general business aspects



Liz managing the administrative side of the company, assisted by the HR Manager and Office Administrator, and Chris overseeing the practice in general.

There will be a number of events and promotions planned across all six branches throughout the year to mark this milestone in the practice's history, and we do hope that you and your pets will be able to come along and help us to celebrate in style!

Please look out for posters in your local branch, announcements on Facebook and in the local press.

The above picture shows (L-R) Chris Wiper and Liz Geraerts, practice founders and senior partners, at Banchory show in 1997 with former Banchory veterinary nurse Christine Ross and former Practice Manager Shirley Allan

Joiners & Leavers

Recent weeks have seen us bid farewell to two Millburn staff; vet Ashleigh Black, who has moved on to pastures new, and head nurse Sally Rose who is leaving to spend more time with her family. Laura Marnoch has been promoted to head nurse at Millburn. Banchory is delighted to welcome back nurse Tracey Coutts who has been on sick leave, and Kingswells welcomes Carly Priestley as a final year Veterinary Nurse student from North Highland College, previously with the Moray Coast Veterinary Group.

We would like to wish them all well.

Customer Feedback

Town & Country Veterinary Group is constantly looking to improve its services and relies on the views of our clients.

If you would like to comment on the service you receive from us please collect a feedback form in your usual branch or alternatively you can visit our website at www.townandcountryvet.co.uk/feedback.html.

If you would like to be kept informed of updates please remember to include your contact details.

Walking All Over Cancer

During March our Westhill vet Karen Shewan will be Walking All Over Cancer, doing 10,000 steps every day to raise money for Cancer Research UK. You can donate at <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/karen-stepping-for-cancer>

Warm Weather Pet Problems!

The weather warming up is always something to celebrate – except for your pet. Parasites thrive in warmer weather and the more time we spend outdoors, the more likely your pet is to pick them up. Make sure your pet stays healthy this spring with regular treatments.

Fight the fleas

Your pet shares gardens, parks, woods, heathland and fields with many other untreated animals that can leave a trail of flea eggs behind them. And the warmer months enable fleas to reproduce faster, making them a bigger problem. Don't wait to see fleas on your pet. Regularly treat your pet with a product that kills fleas before they reproduce and always use the correct treatment for the weight of your pet.

Treat the ticks

These blood-sucking parasites lurk on the edge of vegetation and can attach to your pet as they brush past. Be alert if your pet exercises outdoors or you take your dog travelling in the UK or overseas.

When ticks feed on blood they can transmit disease – in fact, ticks are second only to mosquitoes in transmitting infectious diseases to humans and animals. Lyme disease is on the rise in the UK and babesiosis has been reported in the UK. To protect your pet, regularly use a treatment that kills ticks as well as fleas. Ask your vet to recommend which product is best for your pet.

Wash out the worms

Worms are a constant threat to pets. They are easily picked up from contaminated areas and other animals, and they can spread quickly to your other pets and humans too, especially children. They can cause serious discomfort to your pet, from a bloated tummy and diarrhoea to a lack of energy or even coughing. Heavy infestations can even be deadly.

Make sure you ask your vet about a suitable treatment and keep your pet regularly protected.



Dog Breed Word Search

AIREDALE
AKITA
BASSET HOUND
BEAGLE
BOXER
BULLDOG
CHIHUAHUA
CHOW CHOW
COLLIE
DACHSHUND
DALMATIAN
GERMAN SHEPHERD
GREAT DANE
LHASA APSO
MALAMUTE
MALTESE
MASTIFF
PEKINGESE
POMERANIAN
POODLE
PUG



ROTTWEILER
SAINT BERNARD
SAMOYED
SCHIPPERKE
SHAR-PEI
SHIH-TZU
WEIMARANER



A Visit to Crufts

Laura Smeaton, our nursing assistant at our Banchory practice will be attending Crufts this year as a competitor.

Laura does dog obedience and training and started doing one-to-one training with Misha, a Shiba Inu who was imported from Japan and is also a client of Town & Country Veterinary Group. They progressed to Ring Craft training, and qualified in December 2016 to take part in Crufts 2017. Pictured right are Laura and Misha qualifying. We would like to wish them the very best of luck!



Send us your story!

If you would like us to feature your pet on our Facebook page, you can send pictures of them to us via email at office@townandcountryvet.co.uk.