

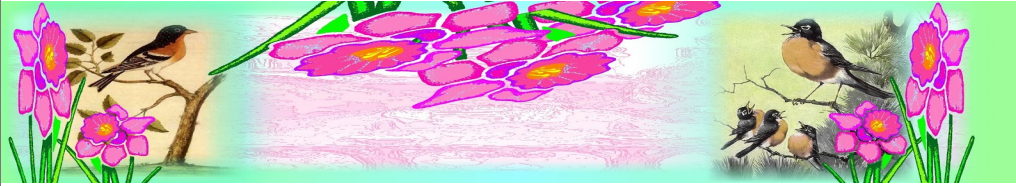


24 hour emergency facilities always covered by
our own veterinary surgeons

Spring Newsletter 2015
Special addition

**Town & Country
Veterinary Group**

24 Hour emergency facilities
Spring 2015



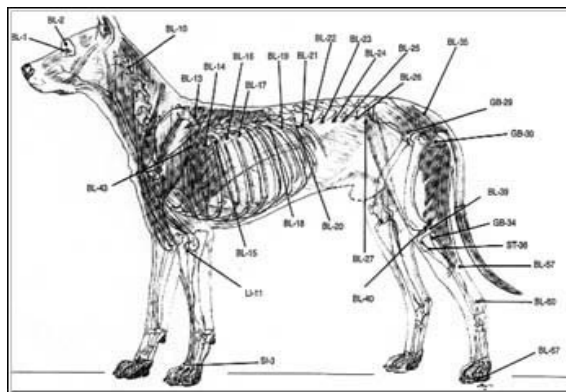
Have you seen our new website? www.townandcountryvet.co.uk

Acupuncture appointments are now available for your pet at our Millburn Surgery. Please telephone reception for an appointment

Acupuncture is the insertion of needles into specific points on the body in order to bring about a desired healing effect. Today it is used all over the world, either by itself or in conjunction with other alternative modalities and/or western Medicine. Modern acupuncture techniques involve the use of fine, solid needles, bleeding needles, electricity, heat, massage and low power cold lasers to stimulate acupuncture points.

According to ancient Chinese medical philosophy, illness is a result of an imbalance of vital energy within the body. Acupuncture balances this energy and allows the body to heal. From the Western point of view the activation of specific acupuncture points results in neuro-hormonal effects that influence the somato-visceral responses of the body. For example, acupuncture can stimulate nerves, increase blood circulation, relieve muscle spasms, and cause the release of cortisol and endorphins. Although the philosophy as to mode of action varies between Eastern and Western philosophies the effective result is constant.

The placement of needles causes very little, if any, discomfort. Once situated they are painless. During a treatment most animals become very relaxed, they may become sleepy and yawn. The number of needles, their placement and needling technique employed varies from case to case, as does the duration of treatment. The number of sessions and their timing varies with the problem being treated. Most cases will need up to six treatments at varying time intervals, however some will require only one or two treatments.



Town & Country Veterinary Group Client notice March 2015

We are delighted to inform you in Summer 2015 Our **Westhill** surgery will be moving to our brand new premises.

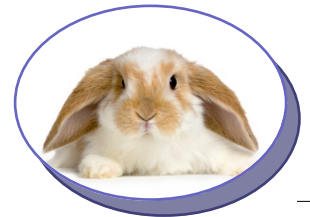
Don't worry we are not going far we will be just across from the Royal Bank of Scotland. Keep watching our notice board /Website/Facebook page For more information.

Caring for your rabbit

With the onset of warmer weather, we look at some tips for keeping your pet rabbit fit and healthy!

Protection from fleas— As the weather warms up, fleas can be annoying for humans, but for rabbits they can be deadly. Flies are attracted to rabbits. If the rabbits have soiled bottoms, the flies will lay their eggs. These rapidly hatch out into flesh-eating maggots, which can be very painful and fatal, if left untreated. Make sure your rabbit's hutch is cleaned out daily and check your rabbit's bottom every day to make sure it is clean—Call us immediately, if you are worried.

Make sure your rabbit is vaccinated—Just like cats and dogs, rabbits need to be vaccinated to protect them against two potentially deadly diseases—Myxomatosis and Viral Haemorrhagic Disease. Contact reception for further information.



Banchory: 01 330 822648

Bieldside: 01224 861161

Kingswells: 01224 749191

Millburn: 01224 588770

Rubislaw: 01224 311555

Westhill: 01224 741685

SSPCA DRUMOAK

Town & Country Veterinary Group is delighted that the SSPCA has chosen us to look after the animals at the new re-homing centre in Drumoak.

Nikki King—Works at our Kingswells surgery. Nikki has kindly agreed to tell us about her deafness, the obstacles she has had to cross and to highlight the charity for **Hearing Dogs for deaf people**. Nikki's story so far ...



I was born profoundly deaf which came as a shock to my parents as there was no history of deafness in my family. I was fitted with hearing aids when I was almost a year old but got little benefit from them.

When I was five my parents started to look into the possibility of my having a cochlear implant (a surgically implanted electronic device which provides a simulation of sound by stimulating the nerves in the cochlea). I was implanted at the age of six and have never looked back.

Before my implant my main means of communication was sign language. After my implant I could hear a lot more and gradually learned to speak. Now people say they can't shut me up.

I have always loved animals, I got my first hamster when I was 8 and my lovely cocker spaniel, Cassie when I was 11. In my teens I started to think about pursuing a career with animals but not sure what that would be.

When I was 19 I started an HND (Higher National Diploma) in Animal Care. I enjoyed the course and many of the lecturers were veterinary nurses who spoke about their experiences. I also did work experience at a couple of vet practices and decided to train to be a veterinary nurse. I studied at Barony College near Dumfries and completed my training with the **Town and Country Veterinary Group**. I qualified in April 2013 and was offered a job with Town and Country at their Kingswells branch.

In 2011 I had decided to apply to the charity **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** for a Hearing Dog. I was surprised to find that there was a five year waiting list. I was told I could expect to get a dog around October 2016.

Hearing dogs make a big difference to the lives of deaf people. They alert deaf people to important sounds and also, because deafness is an invisible disability, they make people aware of their owners' deafness which is also important.

I knew that, at some point, I would want to have my own place and I felt that having a Hearing Dog would be really beneficial to me. It will alert me to sounds like the doorbell, the cooker timer, my mobile phone and most importantly at night when I take my hearing aid off and I can hear nothing it will alert me to my alarm clock and smoke detector etc. For most sounds it will alert me by putting its paw on my leg and when I say 'what is it?' it will take me to the source of the sound. If it is the smoke detector it will alert me and then lie down to indicate danger.

It will also be helpful when I am outside, especially in a noisy environment. I don't always hear people trying to get my attention and they may think I am just being rude and ignoring them. A Hearing Dog will make them realise I am deaf.

The waiting list for Hearing Dogs has come down and I am now hoping I might get one during the next year.

The dog will come to work with me and Hearing Dogs have carried out an assessment of both my home and work environment to check they are suitable for the dog. **Town and Country have been very supportive** in working with the charity to ensure that the Kingswells practice will be suitable for the dog I get. We have agreed on a resting place where the dog will stay while I am at work.

As my job involves a lot of contact with people and animals this will be taken into account and the Hearing Dogs charity will train my dog to be very relaxed around animals. I am expecting to be given a Labrador or similar breed as they tend to be very laid back dogs.

So, I am excitedly waiting for an e-mail to tell me that they have found a potential match. I will then go to one of their training centres for a week to work with the dog. If they decide it is a good match I will be able to take the dog home and start our new life together.

If you want further information regarding **Hearing Dogs for Deaf people** please visit their website www.hearingdogs.org.uk



Find us on
Facebook

Visit our facebook page.

Send us your pets pictures to shirley@townandcountryvet.co.uk and we will share them (with your permission with our facebook friends)

