



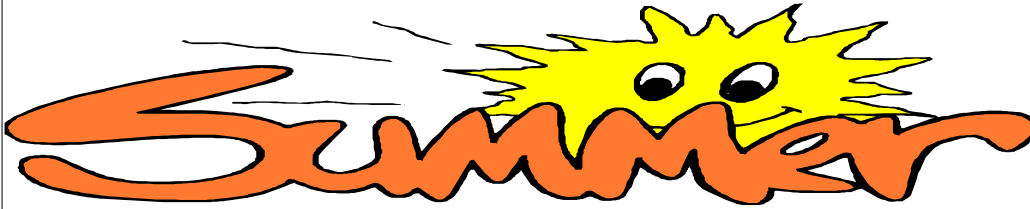
24 hour emergency facilities always covered by our own veterinary surgeons

Town & Country Veterinary Group

Summer Newsletter

24 Hour emergency facilities
Summer 2015

Caring for your rabbit



Summertime Has Arrived!

Summer has arrived, but while we enjoy the sunshine, please remember to spare a thought for your pets. Here are a few things that will help keep them safe and well:

Grass seeds – During walks in the meadows, forests and just around the open fields, grass seeds can be a problem. They can get trapped in dog’s ears, or embedded in their paws, or other areas. It is a good idea, after walks, to examine paws and coats.

Sun burn – Cats love sun bathing! Please remember cats with white ears and noses are particularly at risk from sun burn and subsequent cancer. The risk is reduced, if you keep them out of the sun, or as odd as it may sound, by applying sunblock to these areas during the hot weather.

Bee & wasp stings - are another seasonal problem. As with humans, some pets have an allergic reaction to them, and may require veterinary treatment, if stung.

Fleas & ticks - A flea outbreak can be distressing to the dog, to your family and to your bank balance. It is better to treat your dog regularly to prevent him/her from getting fleas. Usually a “spot on” is applied every month to keep fleas at bay. Some products will also help prevent ticks, or mites too. It is advised that products are purchased through the vet. Some products are available elsewhere, but not being prescription drugs, are generally less effective and can even be harmful, if administered incorrectly.

Lumps and bumps—Grooming and regularly stroking your pets is a very important part of pet care— not just because you and your pet will enjoy it, but also to alert you to any ticks, embedded grass seeds, developing lumps, and a host of other issues. If you do find a lump on your pet, there are several possible underlying causes. These include: abscess, bee and wasp stings, hernias (often seen in younger pets) and tumours. Tumours are understandably the most worrying and are either benign which tend to be slow growing and remain in one place, or malignant which can be fast growing, invade the surrounding tissue and have the potential to spread to other parts of the body.

If you do find a lump on your pet, it is important that we examine it as soon as possible. Speed is of the essence and a delay in appropriate treatment can be the difference between a small mass that is easily treatable and one that is far more difficult to treat or sadly sometimes untreatable.

So, now is a good time to check your pet over and give us a call if you find anything unusual.



NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN A CAR ON A HOT DAY

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

Protection from fly strike

As the weather warms up, flies 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 their rehoming centre in Drumoak.

Belt up!!

Car Harness or car cage We do from time to time see pets that are injured while in a car that was either involved in a road traffic accident or the driver has had to break quickly. **The Highway Code** states “when in a vehicle make sure dogs or other animals are suitably restrained so they cannot distract you while you are driving or injure you, or themselves, if you stop quickly”. We are happy to advise you on a suitable harness or car cage for your pet. Our friendly team will help you choose the correct size for your pet.



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.

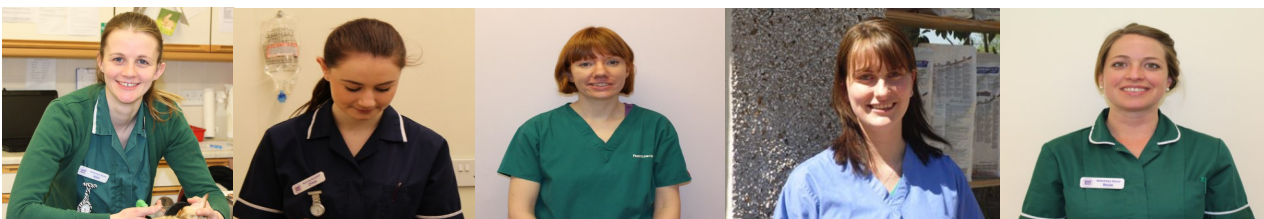
The waiting list for Hearing Dogs has come down and I am now hoping I might get one during the next year.

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.

Five of our staff are bravely doing the Race for Life on 14th June 2015. Karen Strewan our Westhill vet, Gemma Insley our Kingswells vet, Chloe Fraser our nursing assistant at our Kingswells surgery, Rosie Waller & Nikki King both nurses at our Kingswells surgery. Wish them luck!



GOOD LUCK LADIES!!

