

Keynsham Veterinary Centre has WOW factor!

Keynsham Veterinary Centre was recently **highly commended** for its front of house design, facilities and services, by the **Veterinary Practice WOW factor awards**.

Partner, Richard Killen, is feeling very proud "It's great to get recognition for all the hard work that went into the re-design and refurbishment of the practice in 2007.

"We really pushed the boat out to design a practice that is warm and welcoming, inside and out, and that offers such high levels of care. We get lots of 'wow's' and positive feedback from clients and visitors, and I believe that giving such a great first impression inspires confidence in the services we provide."



The reception area is bright and spacious with lots of information on hand and vet recommended products to choose from, and the reception staff are highly trained to offer pet health and product advice and to look after the clients whilst they wait.

Come and see for yourself!

Does your pet have dental disease?

If your pet is over 2 years old and has persistent bad breath then the chances are that they have dental disease. This painful and debilitating disease is the most common infectious disease found in our cats, dogs and rabbits and one of the most overlooked – it is estimated that **80% of cats and dogs have it**.

Dental disease is caused by the build up of tartar on the teeth. This tartar build up is full of harmful bacteria which, over time, leads to infection of the gums and eventually abscesses and tooth loss. Meanwhile your pet is in pain, most likely without you realising. Here are some warning signs that you can look out for:

- Red and swollen gums
- Difficulty in eating – often eating on one side of the mouth, going off dry food
- Drooling



- Persistent bad breath
 - Pus in the mouth and around the gum area
 - Swelling around the mouth
- What's more, left untreated, the bacteria from dental disease will release toxins into the blood which could harm your pet's liver, kidney and heart.
- Put a smile back on your pet's face** – throughout May and June 2009 we are offering

a **free dental check** for your pet, plus **20% off dental procedures** should your pet require treatment.

You will also be offered lots of **advice** and an **oral hygiene demonstration** so that you can keep your pet's teeth in tip top condition.

Call your branch surgery now to book an appointment. (Offer limited to availability)

Attention all Dog Breeders

BVA Eye Scheme Certification *now at Highcroft*



- Eye testing by **Jim Carter BVetMed DVOPhthal MRCVS**, specialist Veterinary Ophthalmologist and BVA Eye Scheme Panellist.
- Checking for **11 different hereditary diseases on 50 breeds of dog**.
- **Testing days** held on **1st Monday of every month**, starting May 2009, at Highcroft Veterinary Group, 80 Hollway Road, Stockwood, Bristol BS14 8PG.
- If you are unable to come on the 'testing days' you are welcome to book an appointment for another Monday (Jim's eye referral clinic days).

- Off-site testing days for breed groups by arrangement.
- BVA pricing applies, discounts for groups

By appointment only, please call 01275 830000

Kennel Cough: is your pet protected?



KENNEL COUGH is a highly contagious condition in dogs and is easily spread wherever dogs meet – out on walks, at training classes, dog shows and of course in boarding kennels.

Dogs with kennel cough typically have a dry hacking cough, commonly followed by retching. The cough is often described as having a “honking” sound. In mild cases, dogs will continue to eat and be active and alert. However in more severe cases the symptoms may progress and include lethargy, fever and lack of interest in food. While some mildly affected dogs recover relatively rapidly (usually in 5-10 days), others may take several weeks to recover fully and antibiotic treatment is often required.

The condition is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium – *Bordetella Bronchiseptica*. Although your pet’s regular booster vaccinations should provide protection against the viral components of the cough, only intranasal vaccine drops can offer protection against *Bordetella*. Don’t take any chances with kennel cough – contact us to ensure your pet is vaccinated!

Some like it hot: summer survival tips!



AS WE enjoy the lovely sunny weather how prepared are our pets for this challenging time of year? Here are a few tips to keep your pet safe this summer:

When going on walks it’s always a good idea to start early or late, rather than going out in the midday heat. You may also wish to consider taking some water with you on the walk as well.

Ticks are a particular problem for pets roaming through long grass and woodland areas. Ticks swarm onto passing pets

firmly attaching themselves before feeding on your pet’s blood.

Worse still they can also spread a range of diseases including *Lyme disease* and *Babesiosis*. Please ask us to advise you on the best method of preventing and (if necessary) removing ticks from your pet.



Don’t forget that **fleas** are also a cause of great irritation at this time of year – so make sure you keep your flea treatments going all year round!

Grass seeds are another summer problem – the grass awns of the meadow grasses are easily trapped in the coats of pets – especially dogs. They then migrate and become lodged in a variety of places including the ears (causing severe head shaking)



and between toes (causing abscesses). It is always a very good idea to groom your pets regularly – and especially after walks – to keep a close eye out for both ticks and grass seeds.

The **sun** itself can also pose a hazard! Pets (especially cats), with white ear tips and noses are at risk of sunburn, which in turn can lead to *cancerous changes* in the sunburnt areas. High factor sun block applied to at risk (white) areas will help in minimising this risk.



Ear tip of a cat showing early (reddened) cancerous changes.

If your pet is showing any signs of skin changes, please call us at once.

Flies can pose a big problem for rabbits as the weather warms up. Flies are very

attracted to rabbits if they have soiled bottoms – here they lay their eggs, which rapidly hatch out into flesh eating maggots. It is important to check bunnies’ bottoms on a daily basis and call us at once if you are worried. Also remember that pets in outside runs need a *shaded area* to get away from the sun.



Bees are often irresistible to inquisitive pets who may get stung for their troubles! Some stings can

– in allergic pets, swell very alarmingly and may require urgent veterinary treatment.

Finally, please give us a call or drop in for further information on fleas and ticks or on any of the other topics in this article.



Kelly, your secret is out!



We all know that planning a wedding can get the happy couple rather frazzled and threatening to elope, but not many actually go through with it.

Well Kelly Monks (now Rogers), and her then boyfriend, Tim, did just that last October! Without telling a soul, they headed off to Cancun in Mexico for an intimate wedding for two, and came back two blissful weeks later to face the music.

Thankfully, friends and family have just about forgiven them and we all wish them both much love and happiness.

Client evenings raise money for local animal charities

We do as much as we can to help local charities and were recently able to present around £150 to **Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary, Bristol League for Cats** and **Cotton Tails** through donations from clients at our recent **First Aid for Pets** and **Healthy Hopper evenings**.

Once again we thank all our clients who, in one way or another, support us in helping these worthy causes.