



# Hunters Lodge

## Veterinary Practice

### Grant is Back!

For those of you who noticed, I was missing from the practice during Autumn - it's always good to be missed - but normal service has resumed again. I took a short sabbatical to do some travelling, to see friends who have emigrated and do some overseas volunteer work. A big thank you to Phil and Helen who with the help of Debbie (locum) covered my day work and night duties whilst I was away. In November I was volunteering at the SPCA (RSPCA equivalent) in Fiji who haven't had a permanent vet since April, surviving only with passing volunteer vets. Fortunately its not the ugliest part of the world so they generally do alright, but aside from the idyllic tourist traps it is an incredibly poor country, and far more '3<sup>rd</sup> world' than you or I would imagine.

### Hit the ground running

When we arrived (my wife and I, both vets) we turned up suitcases and all in sweltering tropical humidity to see some very happy staff at the clinic and some even happier clients. With no vet for 10 days, sick animals were either being referred to the one and only private vet in the country, euthanased or told come back when the new vets arrived! So there was a small list of things to be getting on with ASAP. Most memorably there was a cat poking its head out of a cardboard box, panting with gums white as a sheet. Even two pale faced veterinary volunteer tourists could tell at first glance this cat was in a lot of trouble. The owner had been in daily for the last 2 days with his cat which was struggling to give birth but had passed no kittens. Sure enough on examination there was a tiny tail poking out but no legs - so a caesarean was required. Luckily the nursing staff were locals, experienced and efficient. I had no idea that 10 minutes after getting off the bus I would be scrubbed up, mid

abdomen, pulling out kittens! The kitten stuck fast in her mum's pelvis for 2 days was understandably dead but the other kitten was alive and weak. I am pleased to say the mum survived her dramatic surgery despite her extremely poor condition and the kitten responded well to treatment and went on to thrive.



Photo: Fiji neutering clinic. Lots to get on with.

A special thank you to all the staff and clients who kindly donated over \$700 FJD which went towards stocking the SPCA clinic with much needed medicines and anaesthetics and bedding to treat the sick animals and neuter the healthy ones, the SPCA staff were delighted.



Photo: Ringworm ridden pups

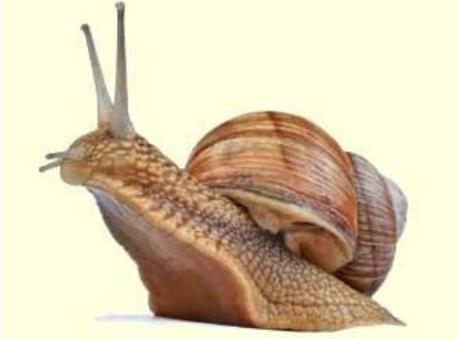
### Discount scheme

We launched our Pet Care Plan in October and it is proving very popular indeed. Clients have enjoyed spreading the cost of caring for their pet and getting valuable discounts at the same time.

Below is a reminder of the costs of the plan. You can sign up any time you bring your pet to the practice. If you are in for your pet's annual booster you can take away 6 months of flea and worming treatment and the booster and just pay the first month's cost on the day. A direct debit will then be set up so that the cost is spread over the rest of the year. In 6 months time you will receive a reminder to bring your pet in to the practice for a free health check and then take the next 6 months worth of flea and worming treatment. Don't forget you will also receive 10% discount on all other treatment, medication and food. Your pet will receive the best preventative care on the market and you will save a good deal of money too.

Pet	Plan Cost/month	Club Member Saving
Rabbit	£8.25	£20.00
Small Dog	£15.00	£114.00
Medium Dog	£16.00	£113.00
Large Dog	£18.00	£114.00
XL Dog	£24.00	£174.00
Cat	£16.50	£91.93

## Lungworm



Lungworm is caused by a parasite found in slugs and snails. If a dog eats or licks where an infected snail has been it can then develop lungworm. Some slugs can be tiny and accidentally eaten when the dog eats grass.



Photo: Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus vasorum*)

The signs are very varied but usually start with coughing or breathing difficulties. Sometimes other strange blood disorders can arise from a lungworm infection. Lungworm is seen in certain pockets of the country and unfortunately is here in Surrey. The good news is that with monthly treatment of Advocate this can be prevented. Advocate also prevents fleas, fox mange and roundworm. It is also available for cats. If your cat is an avid hunter Advocate will provide constant protection against worms. Other worm treatments simply clear out worms that are there but do not prevent your pet acquiring more worms. For these reasons it is the treatment we choose for of our Pet Care Plan.

## Older Cats

As cats get older there are a few common conditions they can develop. There are **3 major diseases** that are often seen in older cats. They can all look quite similar in the signs your cat may show. Common signs are increased drinking, increased urination, weight loss, increase or decrease in appetite.



Photo: cat with hyperthyroidism

**Kidney disease** is very common and almost a normal part of ageing in cats. As cats are carnivores they have a high protein diet which eventually will affect their kidneys. Early detection is the key so the remaining kidney tissue can be looked after for as long as possible. This can be detected by a simple blood and urine test. There is no cure for chronic renal failure in cats but early diagnosis can improve quality and length of life.

**Hyperthyroidism** is caused by an overactive thyroid gland. The patient eats more, drinks more and loses weight. They can sometimes be quite bad tempered. A blood test can diagnose this condition and the good news is it is very treatable with life long medication or an operation to remove the enlarged thyroid gland

**Diabetes** is often seen in older cats. The risk of developing diabetes is increased by obesity just like in people. Diabetes is quite treatable although often complicated and expensive. Treatment will involve

injections of insulin twice a day. If your cat is overweight speak to one of our nurses about a weight loss programme and hopefully avoid diabetes altogether.

**Hypertension** is another name for high blood pressure and is caused by all the conditions above. Often the first sign is sudden blindness which can be very distressing for the cat and owner. We are able to measure blood pressure in the practice and can then treat accordingly. It is a good idea to measure blood pressure in cats over 12 routinely and then to start treatment before a problem becomes obvious.



Photo: Cat having his blood pressure checked

## Practice news

### Wahay we have phones!

Thank you all for bearing us whilst we had all the phone problems that affected the entire village of Ewhurst thanks to some scumbags that pinched the phone cabling. Normal service has now been resumed.

### Video Endoscopy

We love our latest piece of kit. We have had several cases so far that have benefitted from this new equipment. We have reached a useful diagnosis without putting the patient through a major operation. Have a look at the website to see how it works.

## **Ewhurst**

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GU6 7RG

**01483 276464**



## **Guilford**

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Guildford, Surrey  
GU2 9AD

**01483 570782**



## **About Us**

Hunters Lodge is a well-established, independent mixed practice offering a high quality service for all small animals, farm animals and horses.

We understand that clients appreciate continuity of care and always endeavour to arrange an appointment with the vet you request. Our team consists of three veterinary surgeons and five veterinary nurses who aim to provide a caring and individual service to achieve the needs of you and your pet.

We have two fully equipped practices in Guildford and Ewhurst where we can perform all routine and more involved surgical operations.

[www.hunterslodgevets.co.uk](http://www.hunterslodgevets.co.uk)

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