



Hunters Lodge

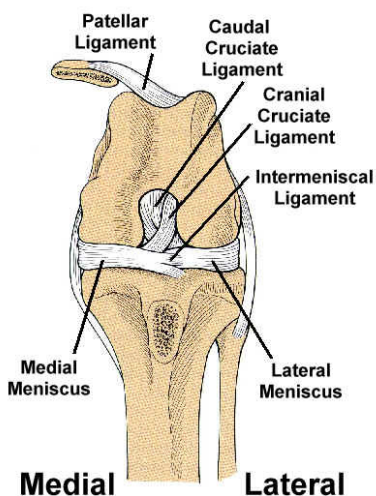
Veterinary Practice

A Pain in the Knee?

The cruciate ligament is found in the knee and is a common cause of lameness of the hind limbs in the dog and cat. Owners often report the dog yelps on a walk and then holds the hind leg off the ground. Sometimes the onset of lameness can be more subtle and long standing.



It is a common injury that footballers have caused by trauma although in cats and dogs there is usually underlying disease of this ligament beforehand. Typical breeds of dogs affected are Staffordshire bull terriers, Jack Russell's, Labradors, Boxers to name but a few. However, any breed can be affected.



If we suspect a dog may have a rupture of the cruciate ligament we will x ray and examine the leg under general anaesthetic. If the diagnosis

is made of cruciate rupture there are several treatment options.

Strict rest. This is only really suitable for very small dogs and cats. We sometimes find that the patient, if left to rest, may become more lame as the cushions in the joint have become damaged and so will still need surgery.

Surgery. There are many different surgical options for this problem. Which one we choose depends on the size of the patient. We usually perform a procedure called a lateral fabellar suture which stabilises the joint. For a heavier or very active dog we will sometimes refer for a TTA or TPLO procedure. We are now able to offer TTA cruciate surgery at Hunters Lodge rather than referring to a specialist. If we think your dog may be an ideal candidate for this procedure we will book you an appointment with Grant who will be able to discuss all the options with you.



X ray of knee joint after TTA procedure

Cruciate disease is a common problem seen mostly in dogs. If your dog has a sudden onset or more long term lameness this may be a cruciate problem and would be worth getting checked out as soon as possible for the best long term recovery.

Pet Smile Month

November is Pet Smile Month which means free dental checks for your cats and dogs with one of our lovely nurses.



Dental problems will affect most pets in their lifetime. It can range from gum disease, to fractured or decayed teeth. Most owners don't know what is going on inside their pet's mouth as they never look. Owners often think their pet's teeth must be OK if they are eating normally. The truth is, pets with severe dental disease will still carry on eating normally as they have no choice, they have to just eat through the discomfort.



Before

After

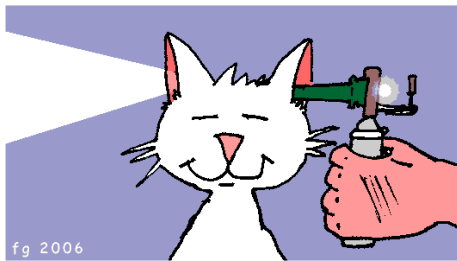
The first sign of dental disease is bad breath. If you have noticed this don't just put it down to "dog or cat breath" it is likely your pet needs their teeth cleaning or even some removed. After a dental your pet will have shiny white teeth and the "dog or cat breath" will be gone. Pets will feel a whole lot better after a dental. Owners often remark on how much happier their pets are following the procedure. Think how much happier you would feel without toothache.

Whether you think your pet has a dental problem or not book them an appointment in November and let us take a look for free.

Vaccination Offer December



We all lead busy lives and it's easy to forget when your pet last had their booster. You may think it was in the last year but it may well have been the year before that. If your pet has not had their vaccinations within the last 18 months they will need to start the course again. The good news is that in December we are offering the whole course for the price of a booster. That means two lots of injections 2-3 weeks apart but you only pay for one visit. This will reduce the cost of the course by around £30. Your pet will also get a full clinical examination at the time which is just as important as the vaccination.



So don't miss out on this great deal. Protect your pet from lots of nasty diseases and get a full health check into the bargain.

Ginger – an interesting case

Ginger is a lovely young ginger male cat. He came in to see us after he had started limping on his back right leg. He was still very happy and walking on this leg but he just looked a bit stiff and lame. He was eating well and still happy going out and about.



Ginger

After a short course of painkillers Ginger had improved but he was still a bit stiff. We decided to take some radiographs and this is what we found.



Fracture of Hip

Ginger had suffered a nasty fracture to his right hip. There were several treatment options for him. We decided the best option for Ginger was an operation to pin the head of the femur back onto the femoral neck. This was going to be a

complicated operation as the bones and pins used are so small. Grant was the man for the job and after a while in theatre he had managed to get Ginger's bones back into alignment.



Post op radiograph with pins in hip

We are pleased to report Ginger is now doing well. He is currently under house arrest to give the bones the best chance of healing. We will see him back in a few weeks for a final radiograph to make sure everything is OK before he is allowed back outside. Well done Ginger....and Grant!

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. 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. 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.

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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.

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