

VIKING NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

IN THIS EDITION:

LATEST GOSSIP

CAT FRIENDLY CLINIC

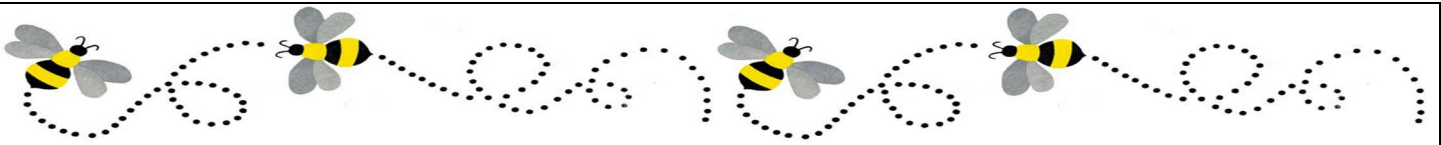
LUNGWORM

VACCINATING YOUR BUNNY

TRAVELLING ABROAD WITH YOUR PETS

THE DANGERS OF IMPORTING PUPPIES





Latest gossip

During March we are raising awareness about lungworm in dogs. To help promote this we are offering 10% off advocate. Please speak to one of the nurses for more information. Offer ends 31st March.



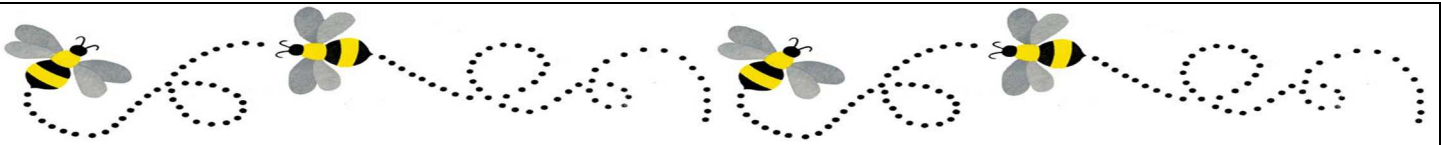
Congratulations to Jenna and Liam on their engagement in January!! Jenna was proposed to in the big Apple- New York City! We wish them every happiness.

Thank you for your patience during the building work. During January we were operating from the cat wing whilst new flooring was laid throughout the existing consulting rooms and waiting room. We are pleased the cat waiting room is now officially open which allows cat owners to access the building from the separate entrance, eliminating the need to walk through a busy waiting room full of dogs. This should minimise stress to both dogs and cats and allow the animals to feel less intimidated. This extension also includes a dedicated cat consulting room and new hospitalisation facilities.

Why not join us on Facebook to keep up to date with deals and monthly campaigns in the practice. You can share photos of your pets and provide helpful feedback for us.

Over the last year Emma has been working hard to complete a certificate in Feline Friendly Nursing at distinction level. This certificate looks at feline behaviour, nutrition, the cat friendly practice and essential care for the different life stages of the cat. This will help to provide the best care of our feline patients and keep clients up to date with the latest feline news.





What does 'Cat Friendly' mean?

The building work has been completed for the cat friendly waiting room, additional consulting room and new cat ward. But you may be asking what does it actually mean to be cat friendly?

The Cat Friendly programme is run by Internal Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM). There are certain requirements regarding design, environment and facilities within the clinic which must be met to achieve the standard. In order to class ourselves as 'cat friendly' we must also provide a high quality of care to our patients and all staff must understand cats and their needs in the practice.

By becoming a cat friendly practice we hope it will improve the clinical care of our feline patients as well as the veterinary experience for our clients.

There are two levels of certification which are silver and gold. Silver standard includes all the essential criteria that must be achieved. In order to achieve Gold standard, more advanced criteria needs to be met including:

- ✔ A hospital ward dedicated to cats
- ✔ Larger cat kennels for long stay patients
- ✔ Additional features in the cat friendly waiting room
- ✔ Additional facilities and other special equipment



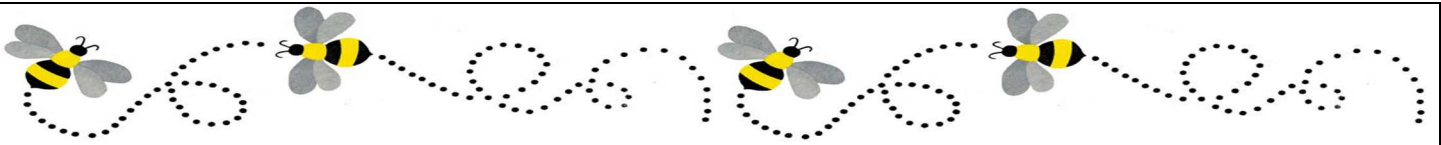
Here at Viking Vets we have implemented a few changes to help minimize stress experienced by cats including a separate waiting room for cats and dogs. We also have feliway plugged in to the consulting room, waiting room and cat ward to help create a calming effect for the patients. We have 2 large long-stay kennels in our cat ward which allow more space for the cat to move about and more room for comfy beds including igloo beds, litter trays and toys. All members of staff understand the importance of approaching and handling cats in a gentle, caring and empathetic manner.

We also have 2 cat advocates who are Denise and Emma and are happy to answer any feline specific questions you have as they both have a keen interest in felines and are excited to promote the cat friendly clinic and best care of our feline patients.

We are pleased to announce that we have achieved 'GOLD STANDARD'.

To find out more about the cat friendly clinic scheme visit the ISFM's website
<http://www.isfm.net/catfriendlyclinic/europe.html>





Update on Lungworm in Dogs

Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus vasorum*) can cause serious health problems in dogs, and can even be fatal if not diagnosed and treated. The larvae of this parasite are carried by slugs and snails which dogs inadvertently eat when playing with sticks, balls, drinking from puddles or eat vegetation with them on such as grass. Foxes can also become infected with lungworm and have been implicated in the spread of the parasite across the country. Dogs and foxes infected with lungworm spread the parasite into the environment as the larvae are expelled in the animal's faeces.



Slugs and snails have recently had a population explosion due to the increasing wet weather and favourable breeding conditions. They will hide themselves in areas of dense vegetation or under objects left in the garden and will seek out areas of moisture in their surroundings. Therefore it is important owners are aware of the potential dangerous of using outdoor water bowls, puddles and ponds which the dog may drink out of. Also take care when leaving toys outside, make sure you give them a thorough clean before use.

Dogs of all ages and breeds can be affected by lungworm, but younger dogs seem to be more prone to the parasite. Dogs who are known to eat snails and slugs are also high risk. There is a wide range of clinical signs for lungworm and some dogs do not show any visible signs. However, some of the common symptoms can include:

- Coughing
- Excessive bleeding from wounds
- Weight loss/ poor appetite
- Vomiting and/ or diarrhoea
- Lethargy

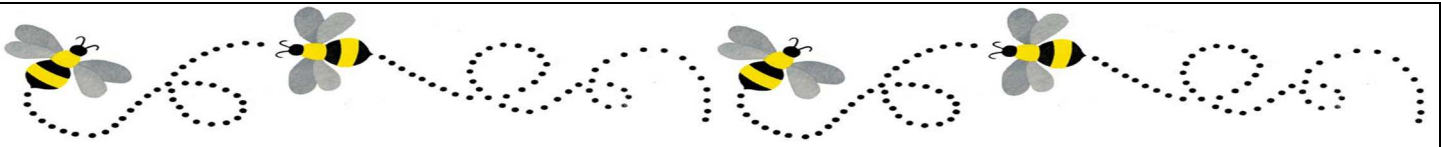


Advocate, applied monthly, has been proven to prevent this serious condition. Unfortunately whilst being extremely effective against fleas and a large variety of worms, it does not treat tapeworm and as such we continue to recommend worming with milbemax tablets twice yearly rather than every 3 months. We recommend leaving at least 48 hours between the application of Advocate and dosing with Milbemax.

Diagnosis of lungworm used to be carried out by the Baermann method, this allows us to sometimes see the immature forms of lungworm in the faeces. It takes 24 hours to complete and offers limited usefulness as it requires faecal samples collected in three successive days. These results can be compromised due to intermittent shedding of the larvae and some dogs may start coughing before they start excreting larvae in their faeces resulting in false negative results. There is now a new test available which detects the parasite in the dog's blood, which is much more accurate.

Treatment for a dog suspected or diagnosed as having lungworm is Advocate and a prolonged course of a liquid wormer called Panacur.





Why Should I Vaccinate My Bunny?

There are two fatal diseases in rabbits that we recommend vaccinating against. These are Myxomatosis and Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD), also known as Viral Haemorrhagic Disease.

Myxomatosis

Myxomatosis is a severe viral disease spread by biting insects such as fleas and mosquitoes.

Symptoms include weepy, puffy eyes leading to blindness, thick discharge from the nose, puffy fluid filled swellings around the head, face and genitals. Rabbits also become anorexic, depressed and death usually results within 12 days.



The main route of infection is via insects such as fleas and mosquitoes that have previously bitten an infected rabbit. Direct contact with infected rabbits can also spread the disease. ALL pet rabbits (indoors and outdoors) are at risk.

Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD)



RHD is a fatal virus spread by direct contact between infected rabbits (both wild and domesticated) as well as indirect contact by fleas, people and even on your clothing. It causes internal bleeding and their internal organs shut down. Death usually follows 1-2 days later.

Symptoms include fever, anorexia, paralysis and seizures. Some rabbits may not show any outward signs of the disease.

Vaccination can prevent both of these fatal diseases.

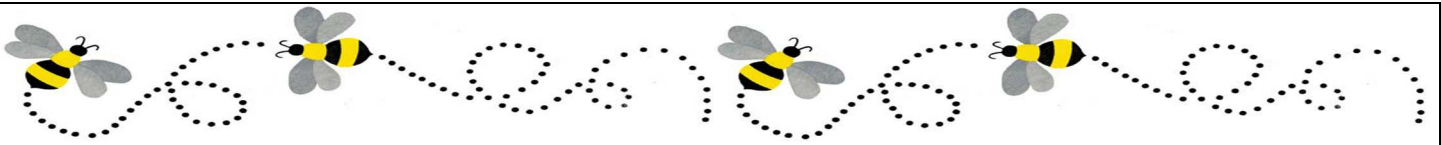
We offer a combined vaccine that protects against both myxomatosis and RHD which can be given from 5 weeks of age. Yearly boosters are necessary to provide ongoing protection.

We will be running rabbit clinics throughout May which include a 30 minute consultation with a qualified vet nurse with full health check, nail clip, groom, bottom clip and clean (if necessary) and weight check. You will also get a little goodie bag for your bunny and can discuss husbandry and any other queries with the nurse.

All this is available for just £15

To book your rabbit in for this fantastic offer, please contact the practice on:
0117 9505888.





Taking your pet abroad

Effective from the 1st January 2012 the Pet travel scheme made it easier to travel with your pet. However you must meet the entry requirements for your pet dog, cat or ferret for the country you're travelling to or coming from.

You will be responsible for any fees or charges for your pet if you don't meet the entry requirements.

Entering the UK from the EU or a listed country

When you enter or return to the UK from another EU or non-EU listed country your pet needs to meet the entry requirements. These include:

- a microchip
- a rabies vaccination
- a pet passport or third country official veterinary certificate
- a tapeworm treatment within 1-5 days of return (for dogs only)

You must also use an approved transport company and an approved route unless you're travelling between the UK and the Republic of Ireland (all other rules still apply).

You must wait 21 whole days from the date of the rabies vaccination before travelling.

Entering the UK from an unlisted country

An 'unlisted' country is any country not included in the list of EU and non-EU countries.

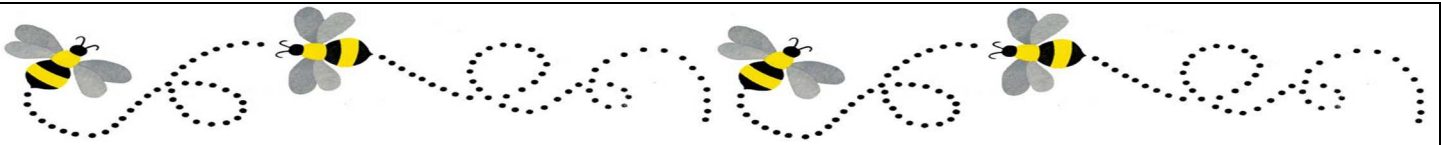
When you enter or return to the UK from an unlisted country, your pet needs to meet the entry requirements. These include:

- a microchip
- a rabies vaccination
- a **blood test** - the vet must take the blood sample at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination (the date of vaccination counts as day 0 not day 1)
- a **third country official veterinary certificate**
- a tapeworm treatment (for dogs only)

You must wait 3 calendar months from the date the blood sample was taken before travelling. The vet must give you a copy of the test results. These must show that the vaccination was successful.

You don't have to wait 3 months if your pet was vaccinated, blood tested and given a pet passport





in the EU before travelling to an unlisted country. You must also use an approved transport company and route.

December 2014 Passport Changes

Changes to the Pet passport scheme in December 2014 have altered the way in which veterinarians complete the information within the passports.

The same rules and requirements still apply to the pet owner with only a few slight changes. If you have a passport issued pre December 2014 you may continue to use it until it is complete. However after this you will be issued with the new style passport.

The vet issuing the pet passport will need to fill in their details on a new 'Issuing of the passport' page and must make sure that all their contact details are included when they certify vaccinations and treatments.

The new style passport will include laminated strips designed to cover those pages with the pet's details, microchip information and each rabies vaccination entry. This will help prevent anyone tampering with this information once it has been completed by a vet. The UK pet passport will also now include a unique passport number printed on every page.

New passport checks have been introduced across the EU. This means you may be asked to present your pet's passport when entering other countries. This is because all EU countries are required to carry out some checks on pet movements within the EU.

From 29 December 2014 your pet must be at least 12 weeks old before it can be vaccinated against rabies for the purposes of pet travel.

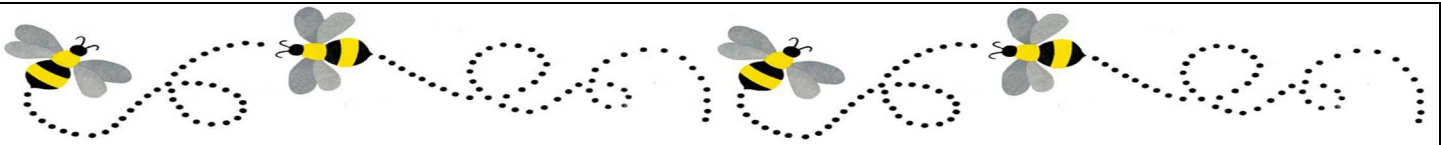
These rules will be the same across the EU to enable officials in carrying out compliance checks. It will also prevent very young pets being moved across the EU.

When you return to the UK staff from the travel company will scan your pet's microchip and check your documents. Your pet will be put into quarantine or sent back to the country it travelled from if:

- you don't have the correct documents
- your pet hasn't been properly prepared for travel

You are responsible for the costs of quarantine or the re-export of your pet.





The Dangers of Importing Puppies

Your puppy could potentially be carrying disease. Diseases that can be brought into the UK include :

Rabies- this is a severe and often fatal disease that affects the dog's brain and central nervous system and can be transferred to other animals and humans. The virus is spread through the animal's saliva so can be transmitted by a bite wound, if the infected animal licks an open wound or if infected saliva comes into contact with mucous membranes. Symptoms can include inability to swallow, shyness or aggression, excessive salivation and a fear of water.

Leishmaniasis- there are two types of this disease; Visceral (which affects the organs of the abdominal cavity) and Cutaneous (which affects the skin). The disease is transmitted through sand flies and is transmitted throughout most of the dog's organs. This disease can also be transmitted to humans.

Ehrlichiosis - this disease is transmitted by ticks and can have three phases: acute, subclinical and chronic. Symptoms can include fever, anorexia, joint pain and anaemia.

And many others

Consequence of illegally importing puppies:

If you are found to have an illegally imported puppy, it WILL be taken into quarantine for potentially 3 months. These fees must be paid by the owners of the puppy, not the seller which could be in excess of £1000.

Signs that your puppy could be illegal:

- Get as much information about where the puppy has come from and beware if the seller is from outside the UK.
- If it is an imported puppy, it should have a pet passport or a veterinary certificate
- If it is under 15 weeks of age (would be too young for rabies vaccine & the required 21 day waiting period prior to travel)
- Passport partially filled in
- No vet signature or address on the puppy's passport or documentation of vaccination
- If the seller has multiple breeds available
- No mother or litter mates to view
- Not microchipped or chip doesn't correspond to passport
- Do not agree to have the puppy delivered to your home address or meet the seller in a random location. Ensure you see the puppy in its home environment
- **NEVER** pay for the puppy in advance.

