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NEWS

The Pet Care Plan

ELANDS ARE PLEASED to announce the launch of their **new Gold Standard Pet Care Plan** – the easy way to care for your pet in simply monthly instalments.

The Pet Care Plan provides regular veterinary health checks and advice, includes all annual vaccinations, worming treatments and flea treatments. We offer dietary advice and support and if your cat or dog is not yet microchipped we will include that too.

We offer a joining gift when you sign up – currently a bottle of Dentagen Aqua, fantastic at reducing plaque build up and we hope that this time next year we will be needing to recommend far fewer dental procedures for pets using the product.

It is our aim at Elands to give the best possible preventive care to each and every pet and support our owners by allowing them to spread the cost of this care over monthly direct debits, as well as benefitting from a generous discount.

Please call in or **call 01732 452333** us to find out more – you can join at any time and we highly recommend the plan to you all.

COMPLETE PEACE OF MIND

PET CARE PLAN.
THE AFFORDABLE WAY TO KEEP YOUR PET FIT AND HEALTHY.

Otford Village Fete 2015 – Elands Dog Show



The Elands team were all up early on Bank Holiday Monday putting the finishing touches to their preparation for Otford Village Fete 2015 – and putting up their big event tent!

The overcast weather belied the fact that we were set to be inundated with entries and our 6 classes were oversubscribed with wonderful dogs of all ages, shapes and sizes.

All our staff who were involved in judging and stewarding commented how difficult it was to choose the winners but they did very well and 1st to 6th places went home with rosettes and prizes. We also awarded a few special rosettes, where particularly deserved, such as to Bertie Edwards who was competing on his birthday and Jessie Delaney a beautiful rescued doggie who had made a wonderful recovery in her new home following a broken hip.

OUR WINNERS WERE:

Most Handsome Dog: *Teddy Coleman*

Prettiest Bitch: *Vera Wallbank*

Best Rescue: *Tiger Haskins*

Waggiest Tail: *Tim Ferguson*

Fancy Dress: *Tarika Armstrong*

Dog the judge would most like to take home:
Jake Petch

We also run a couple of competitions and I am pleased to announce Lottie was the winner of a bag of Hill's Veterinary Essentials food for her pets. Kaya was the winner of our name the teddy competition with the name Englebert – we are pleased Engelbert is going to a good home!

Practice Principal, Philip Lhermette, judged the **Best in Show** Class at the end of the day and chose deserving rescue dog *Tiger Haskins* as the overall winner (pictured left).



The heat is on!



At last, the prospect of warm lazy days and balmy barbecue weather! But as the weather warms up, do take the time to make sure your pets stay safe. Here we look at a few steps you can take to keep them fit and well.

Heat can be a real killer for many pets and for this reason it's a good idea to walk dogs in the morning or evening – before 8am and after 5pm.



If you have space, dogs love cooling down in a paddling pool. Frozen ice treats (photo left) are also a good way of cooling your dog down on a hot day.

Rabbits and guinea pigs are very susceptible to problems arising from excess heat, because – unlike dogs, if they overheat, they cannot pant effectively or sweat to cool themselves down. It is vitally important that they have access to shade at all times, plus cool water – preferably in a bowl (not a bottle).

Factor 50! Cats are natural sunbathers and for many cats this causes no problems. However cats with white ear tips and noses are prone to sunburn and this can lead to cancerous changes over time. High factor sun block applied to the at-risk areas helps to minimise this risk. Call us if you are worried.



Ear tip of a cat with early (reddened) cancerous changes. If your pet is showing signs of skin changes, please call us at once



A grass seed has become lodged between the toes in a dog causing an interdigital cyst

Grass awns of the meadow grasses are an issue at this time of year. They are commonly trapped in dogs' ears (see article right), and may also become embedded in the feet (see photo left) or other areas. In view of this, thorough inspection of the coat is advisable following walks.

Flies are another summer hazard. 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.

Finally, please remember that the temperature in cars can rise rapidly and death from heat stroke can follow in minutes, so **pets should NEVER be left unattended in cars.**

Kennel Cough – is your dog vaccinated?



Kennel cough is a highly contagious infection of the upper respiratory tract of dogs and in fact, unlike its name, can be caught anywhere that dogs meet – out on walks, training classes, dog shows, and of course boarding kennels.

Dogs of all ages can be affected and signs include a harsh, dry, whooping-type cough. Whilst some dogs recover

relatively rapidly, others may cough for weeks and some may get more serious complications such as pneumonia.

Prevention is much better than cure, because without vaccination, treatment of kennel cough can be a costly and lengthy process involving isolation and antibiotic therapy. Kennel cough is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium – *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. At Elands we believe the kennel cough vaccination, given intranasally, is a vital component of our vaccination protocol and we recommend that it is given once a year when your dog has their other vaccinations. We have, of course, included Kennel Cough in our Pet Care Plan too. Please see page 1 or contact us for more information and to ensure your pet has the very best protection available.

Fact file: Ear disease



Does your pet show signs of head shaking and ear scratching? These are commonly seen in dogs and cats and, combined with other symptoms such as ear redness and discharge – point to ear disease as a problem.

The ear is protected externally by a pinna (or flap). A narrow ear canal carries sound to the ear drum where it passes onto the middle and inner ear.

Unlike the situation in humans where middle ear disease is common, most of the problems seen in pets occur in the *external* ear canal – with an often very painful condition called otitis externa.

The key to diagnosing and treating otitis externa is to identify the *underlying* cause. These include:

- **Ear mite infestations** with *Otodectes cynotis* is commonly seen in puppies and kittens and are typically associated with a crusty brown discharge (see photo right). The mites can be identified under the microscope (see inset photo).
- **Foreign bodies** such as grass awns (see panel left) are a common problem in pets and typically present with sudden onset severe head shaking.
- **Allergic dermatitis:** since the ear canal is lined with skin, it can be affected by *localised* allergic skin disease affecting the skin lining the external ear canal. This is often seen as part of a more generalised allergic skin condition, typically involving foot chewing and face rubbing.

In order to effectively treat otitis externa it is very important to identify the underlying cause. Some, such as ear mites or foreign bodies are easily identified and treated. However, over time, the underlying cause is commonly obscured and made worse by *secondary* opportunistic bacterial and fungal infections. So – if your pet is showing signs of ear disease, such as head shaking, ear rubbing or just having a smelly ear, it is very important that we examine them and establish the *underlying* cause of the problem as soon as we can, since this will give us the best chance of a successful long term outcome. Call us today for an appointment!

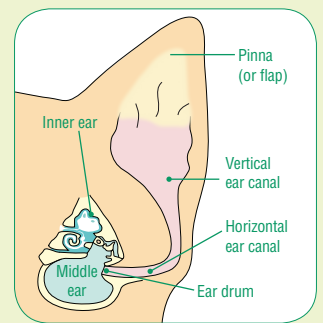
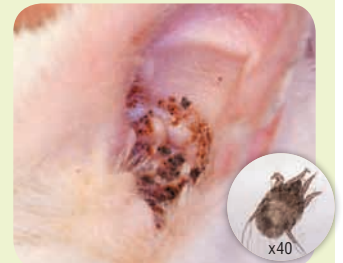


Diagram of the ear. Most problems occur in the vertical and horizontal ear canals



Opening to the vertical ear canal in a cat with a crusty brown discharge typical of **ear mites** *Otodectes cynotis* (inset)



Opening to the vertical ear canal in a dog showing redness and itchiness typical of **allergic skin disease**