



# Elands Veterinary Clinic Newsletter - Summer 2019



Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter. We are here to give advice and update you on what's new at Elands!

**Coming Soon in Autumn  
2019.**

### **'Caring for the senior pet and arthritis awareness.'**

Our pet's care has improved greatly over the years, which means they are living longer and happier lives. However, as they age, certain processes can affect their quality of life. As owners we need to be aware of these and treat as soon as they arise.

Elands will be hosting a client information evening on 'caring for the senior pet and arthritis awareness' joined by our physiotherapist Stephanie Wilson ACPAT. Everyone is welcome to join.

### **LAPAROSCOPIC SPAYS**

We believe our pets deserve the best we can give them.

At Elands we are fortunate enough to offer laparoscopic minimally invasive surgery which Philip Lhermette pioneered himself in cats and dogs.

Laparoscopic spays are a form of minimally invasive surgery which results in less pain, faster recovery times and a reduced chance of needing the dreaded buster collar!

Two small wounds are made either side of the umbilicus where cameras are passed to be able to visualise the abdomen. A huge advantage of this procedure is that you can visualise the whole abdomen unlike in a traditional open spay. We have picked up several small abnormalities during a lap spay which you wouldn't have seen using the traditional method.



At Elands we are happy to do laparoscopic spays in all sizes of cats and dogs, from Chihuahua's and kittens to Great Danes, as no matter the size your pet deserves the best.

All our vets are capable of completing laparoscopic spays so please do contact us to book in. 01732 452 333



### **\*\*DATE FOR YOUR DIARY\*\***

**Don't Forget Otford Dog  
Show 27th May 2019!  
Kemsing Dog Show 22nd  
June 2019**

*Raising money for Pet Savers  
and Elands Wildlife and Stray  
Fund*

### **AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS**

**Dunton Green &  
Kemsing**

Closed: Monday 26th August  
2019

**\*Please order prescriptions to  
cover this period by 20th  
August 2019\***

**Any routine prescriptions  
must be ordered at least 24  
hours in advance for us to be  
able to order and process  
them.**

### **SUMMER HEAT WAVE IS BACK!**



The summer brings long and warm days which is fabulous. However, the high temperatures can be a cause for concern. Heatstroke can occur quickly and without much warning. Obese animals & brachycephalic breeds of cats and dogs (e.g. **Persian cats, French Bulldogs, English Bulldogs, Boxers**) are at higher risk of heatstroke as they are unable to

lose heat quickly due to their conformation. Signs of heatstroke include:

- Excessive panting, increased respiratory and heart rate
- Excessive thirst and drooling
- Red or purple gums/tongue
- Staggering, weakness or collapse, unable to walk
- Seizures



During high temperatures only walk your dogs at dusk & dawn when the air temperature is cooler. Make sure pavements are cool to walk on - if you cannot leave your hand on the pavement for longer than 5 seconds then it is too hot for your pet. Have plenty of water available at all times - ice cubes can be added as an extra treat.



Don't forget small furies; ensure rabbits/guinea pigs have plenty of shade in their runs, ice cubes make great cooling treats too.

### **NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN THE CAR DURING THE DAY**

Temperatures easily reach 40C+ within a matter of minutes causing heatstroke and sometimes death.

Please do not just hose an animal with cold water when in heatstroke, their temperature must be monitored and cooled *slowly*. Please contact your vet first.

**If you are concerned your pet is showing signs of heat-  
stroke please contact us immediately on 01732 452333 or  
01732 761650**



## Elands Rabbit Awareness Week 1st-9th June 2018



This year the focus is on preventative health care and most importantly **vaccinations**, in particular the **viral haemorrhagic disease**.

Rabbits are vaccinated against 2 main diseases; both of which are fatal to our rabbits - Myxomatosis and viral haemorrhagic disease (1 and 2).

### Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease 2

The rabbit viral haemorrhagic disease 2 (RVHD2) is a new strain of the virus and causes internal bleeding. RVHD2 has no symptoms making it very hard to spot early on. Potential symptoms include fever, lethargy, neurological signs, coma and blood clotting problems.

**Mode of transmission** - the virus is carried by:

- birds and insects and their droppings,
- the wind,
- soles of shoes,
- car tyres,
- other pets feet,
- an infected rabbit or their droppings,
- owners' hands or clothes.



So practically there is no way to stop the virus getting to your rabbits whether living in indoor or outdoor environments. The only way to protect your rabbit is via vaccination.

There is **no treatment** for viral haemorrhagic disease other than supportive care. So we strongly recommend vaccination.

**During rabbit awareness week we are giving away complimentary rabbit packs with lots of information and a free sample of food with every vaccination.**

## Meet the Team - Registered Veterinary Nurses



Emma Barty HND (VNS) RVN - Head Nurse - Emma joined us in 2005 and is devoted to ensuring the best possible care for our patients. She ensures the smooth running of the practice daily. Emma also has two gorgeous cats Tabitha and Noodle.



Josephine Ellison FdSc RVN - Josephine joined in 2012 and has a keen interest in laboratory work and dental care. Josephine runs dental care clinics to help keep our pet's teeth squeaky clean. Josephine also has a cat Milly at home to keep her busy.



Erica Wilkes BSc (Hons) RVN - Erica joined us in 2014 and is a big dog lover. She is our resident dispensary fairy - keeping all our medication in order. She ensures all our patients get the love and top quality care they deserve. She also enjoys spending her time riding her horses and eating.



Laura Compton BSc (Hons) RVN - Laura joined us in 2014 along with Erica. She has a keen interest in our pet's nutrition and runs regular weight clinics. She is a keen animal lover and outside of work she also enjoys horse riding and eating!



### TOP TIP \*FLYSTRIKE\*



This is a horrible condition where flies lay eggs that develop into maggots, which then feed upon the living host. This causes shock and death in severe cases.

Any animal can be targeted but sick animals & small furies are most at risk. Check bottoms daily keeping an eye out for any signs of fly strike.

**This is an emergency!** Please contact us if you are concerned your pet has contracted fly strike. On 01732 452333 or 01732 761650 for our Kemsing branch.

## Pet Travel

With holiday season upon us, many of us are thinking about booking pet friendly holidays.

Here are some top tips to look into before you go:

- Check the area - is it pet friendly? Is the place you're staying pet friendly?
- Are there any risks to your pet in that area? Is it a high tick/lungworm risk? Are they up to date on flea and worming treatment?
- Do you know a local vets? Always worth checking just in case of emergencies. If going abroad they will need a vet check prior to coming back to the UK.
- Are you travelling abroad? If so, are vaccinations up to date? This is important as in some countries your pet is at higher risk of contracting diseases. Are there specific requirements needed for the country you are travelling to?

Due to Brexit there are some changes occurring with regards to travelling to Europe with our pets. Until Brexit actually happens we are unsure what will be required to travel to Europe - there are several possibilities.

1. If we leave, depending on the deal, pet passports may still be valid and the protocol may be the same.
2. If there is a no deal brexit then your pet may require a rabies antibody blood test at least 30 days post vaccination. Should they pass they cannot then travel for 3 months post passing this test. They may then require an animal health certificate to travel which must be issued within 10 days before travel - this certificate will last you 4 months of travelling.

We always recommend checking the requirements needed regarding the country you are travelling to as they do vary and if you get it wrong your animal may not be allowed in the country.

**This is your responsibility to check what is required!**

