

Essential-only service under COVID lockdown

Under guidance from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons we continue to support the government and the NHS with the COVID lockdown by minimising the number of patients seen on-site at the practice. We continue to operate our full 24-hour emergency service. We also have vets working from home who can offer video consultations wherever possible. If a video consultation is inadequate for a particular case and the pet's condition cannot wait for lockdown to be over, we can of course arrange an appointment at the practice. Once at the practice we are managing social distancing by examining pets inside the building without their owners and speaking to our clients over the telephone whilst they wait in the car park. Medication can be brought out to the table in the car park for collection. We thank our clients for their understanding as we all get used to different ways of doing things. The staff on site have been working extremely hard and have really appreciated the kind words and appreciation that they have been shown by our lovely clients.



Congratulations Kat!

Congratulations to veterinary surgeon Kat Pearson, husband Alex and daughter Summer, on the safe arrival of baby Ashton Forest at the end of April. Baby Ash was born at home weighing an impressive 10 lb 6oz. The team at Acorn will have to make do with cute baby photographs until visits and cuddles are allowed again.

Grooming under lockdown

Just as we are all deciding whether to allow our hair to grow wild, or to risk a home haircut under the COVID lockdown, our pets have been unable to go to the groomer either. For some breeds, regular home brushing is all that is needed, but we are expecting to see some very fluffy poodle crosses in the coming months! There have been reports of owners accidentally cutting their dogs when trying to administer a home trim so our recommendations are:

1. Brush little and often, every day, to avoid knots developing.
2. If it is necessary and you feel confident attempting a DIY haircut, clippers with a length guide on them are least likely to cause accidental injury.
3. Scissors should be used with extreme caution. Always put your fingers between the dog's body and the end of the hair that you are cutting to protect the skin.
4. Do not use scissors at all unless dogs are very calm and still!
5. If cutting nails at home, be cautious and only take off the tips. You can always do a little bit more each week. As a rough guide, the end of the nail should run in line with the flat of the pad for that toe. If you do make a nail bleed, applying firm pressure with cold, damp cotton wool for 5 minutes should halt this. If not, try pushing the end of the nail into a bar of soap.





Vaccinations

On 14th April the COVID lockdown restrictions were lifted a little, and vaccination of those pets considered to be at higher risk of infectious disease was permitted. Pets falling into this category might include puppies and kittens, outdoor rabbits (as it is now myxomatosis season), and adult dogs and cats due their first annual booster. We have contacted the clients that we believe fall into this category to offer appointments and will continue to do this on a rolling monthly basis. At present, adult dogs and cats that have had their initial vaccination course and first annual booster are considered to be low risk if their booster is less than 3 months overdue. This is because immunity fades away very gradually in these patients, and they are not attending high risk environments such as boarding kennels or catteries during the lockdown. Our computer system will allow us to contact clients as their pets become eligible for vaccination under the new guidelines and we will keep our website up to date as restrictions are eased further in the future.

Sid

Last month, Sid returned from his daily exercise unable to use his right hindleg. Xrays showed that he had broken three of the four metatarsal bones in his leg, we assume in a daring jump or adventure that went wrong. Sid had surgery the same day to repair the tiny bones with some even tinier pins. One of the bones had too many cracks in it to be able to hold a pin, but the bones on either side are holding it in the correct position and we are expecting Sid to make a good recovery over the next 6 weeks. Sadly for Sid, he now has to go into his own temporary lockdown in a crate in the living room, whilst his bones heal.



Parasites

As the weather warms up we are starting to see a rise in pets affected by fleas or ticks. Please contact the practice by email at info@acornhousevets.co.uk in the first instance if you need to order more flea, tick or worm treatment. We also recommend that rabbits are treated between May and September with products designed to repel flies and prevent flystrike.

