



Due to recent legislation which will soon make it a legal requirement to have your dog chipped and registered on the national database we are now offering **free micro-chipping** of dogs for 1 year beginning in April 2014. This offer is being run in partnership with the dogs trust who are a charitable organisation and we will be asking for donations at the time of microchipping.



### Canine Parvovirus

Canine Parvovirus is a real threat to your dog in the UK . Periodic outbreaks up and down the country are causing unnecessary suffering to our dogs . As recently as last week outbreaks were confirmed in Cumbria.

#### What is Canine Parvovirus ?

It is a highly contagious viral infection of dogs which your dog can contract by oral contact with infected faeces, soil or other viral infected substances.

#### What symptoms will my dog show ?

By far the most common symptoms exhibited by a dog with CPV infection are severe gastro- intestinal disease characterised by bloody diarrhoea and vomiting . This may be accompanied by a fever, lethargy, dehydration and a painful abdomen. They may also have swollen glandular tissue (lymph nodes). Laboratory tests may show that your dog may be lacking in certain types of white blood cells which are essential for keeping regular every day infections at bay.

#### Can my dog be treated if they have contracted CPV ?

There is no specific treatment for CPV. Maintaining a high level of supportive care is the only way to give your dog a fighting chance . This will almost definitely involve hospitalisation for intensive care. The death rate in untreated animals is approaching 91% With an aggressive treatment regime survival rate can be as high as 80 percent, however this is largely dependent on speed of diagnosis, the age of the animal and the breed involved. It is well known that certain breeds are more predisposed to infection such as Chihuahua, Pomeranian, Rottweiler. Dogs may shed the virus in their faeces for 12 months or more following recovery making them a source of infection for other dogs.



#### How can I protect my dog ?

Vaccination has been shown to be a highly effective way of controlling and preventing CPV. Young puppies from a vaccinated bitch will gain maternal antibodies from the milk. This protection starts to decrease a few weeks after birth. Puppies can then be vaccinated from as early as 6 weeks of age, although in general most commercial vaccination protocols do not finish until at least 10 weeks of age. This timing ensures that all maternal antibodies which may affect the vaccine effectiveness are minimised.

#### Some people say that my dog doesn't need booster vaccinations?

The vaccination of dogs has brought much media attention over the years. Some people have the view that it is not necessary and that initial vaccinations are sufficient. Veterinary vaccine companies have spent millions of pounds on research and development of these products to ensure that they are as effective as possible at providing your pet with all the protection that it needs against CPV and other diseases. Vaccines have been modified over the years to keep up with new emerging strains of these virus' and yearly booster vaccinations are vital to ensure that antibody protection remains high.

### Vaccination Amnesty!!

We are pleased to announce the start of our vaccination amnesty. If your pets vaccines are overdue then you can have the course restarted for the same price as a booster. This is a limited offer and runs until the end of April 2014. Call us to make your appointment now on 01946 693303 (Whitehaven) / 01946 820312 (Egremont)

## Rabbit Awareness Week starts 10th May!!!

Rabbits are popular family pets, unfortunately most people do not realise they are highly complex animals that can have a range of health, dietary and behavioural problems if management is not correct.

Did you know:

- Muesli style foods are not advised for rabbits as they will pick out what they like and not get all the nutrition they need. Pelleted food is preferable.
- 75% of your rabbits diet should consist of hay or grass
- Rabbits should be vaccinated against myxomatosis and viral haemorrhagic disease
- Rabbits are more prone to parasites than dogs and cats and should be treated regularly
- A rabbit's hutch should be large enough for them to stand up on their hind legs and long enough to allow 3 continuous hops
- The rabbit's bedroom should be cleaned out daily
- Rabbits are very social and should be kept in appropriate groups of neutered animals. They should NOT be kept with guinea pigs



**West Lakeland Veterinary Group is offering FREE rabbit checks including eyes, ears teeth, nails, abdomen, heart and weight management for rabbit awareness week (10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May). If you want to book your rabbit an appointment or wish to talk about any of the points mentioned above please ring 01946 693303 (Whitehaven) / 01946 820312 (Egremont)**

## Flystrike

**BE ON YOUR GUARD!!** Usually we would not be worrying about Flystrike until early June, however the hot weather seems to be coming earlier and earlier each year, and an increasing amount of rabbits are contracting Flystrike in early May. A simple application of **Xenex** to your rabbit every 2 weeks along side regular cleaning of the hutch will protect against this distressing condition which can be expensive to treat and unfortunately often fatal.

**Spring has sprung** and the fields are rapidly filling up with ewes and their young lambs. **Please keep your dog on the lead when you are around livestock.** A loose or out of control dog could cause a pregnant ewe to miscarry or cause a newborn lamb to be separated from and rejected by its mother. Sheep will often move away but cows can be very inquisitive and suspicious of dogs, especially when they have their calves with them. If cattle do start to act aggressively, let your dog go and allow it to run to safety while you leave the field as quickly as you can.



## Grooming

We offer a full clipping/bathing service for all breeds of cats and dogs. Prices from £20.00

CLIPPING,  
DE MATTING,  
GROOMING,  
BATHING,  
EAR PLUCKING/CLEANING,  
NAIL CLIPPING,  
**FREE HEALTH CHECK.**

Sedation is available if needed for nervous/unmanageable cats and dogs.

**FREE WORMER for your pet with every groom.**

## Is your pet insured?

Did you know that more people claim against their pet insurance policy than on their household or car insurance (Allianz Insurance plc) and one in three pets will require emergency treatment each year. The average cost of treating a dog or cat with diabetes is £9,307 over their lifetime. **Is it time you**

**got pet insurance?** Leaflets and information are available on request

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