



# Newsletter

## Diabetic Pet Carer of the Year Winner

Audrey Cowley from Swindon has been voted Diabetic Pet Carer of the Year. When vet Richard Gowshall heard about this award, he knew that there could only be one winner!

This is Audrey's very special story:

### My Companion and I

I have a 15 year old Abyssinian cat called Symba who has a wonderful temperament and is my constant companion. About 4 years ago Symba was diagnosed with diabetes. It was daunting at the time wondering how I would cope with Symba giving him insulin injections twice a day plus taking blood sugar reading.

I had at the time and still do have excellent help and advice from Richard Gowshall from Eastcott Vets.

I have Motor Neurone Disease with all the problems associated with it Symba has helped me to get through some difficult days. It is hard work but with the support of my husband coping with Symba and his diabetes

is rewarding. Symba and I have a special bond. He has complete trust in me which fortunately allows me to administer his medication.

Dealing with his diabetes is a matter of a strict routine every day. Insulin is given 12 hours apart, Symba's food is measured divided into 4 meals daily and given at the same time each day, plus periodically taking his blood sugar reading adjusting the units of insulin if necessary.

Symba is quite a character; he rides with me up and down in my lift sitting on the seat beside me. He always wakes me up in the morning at the same time purring and with kisses. If he cannot see me he calls me, he can be quite vocal at times.



When he does find me he brings me his favourite toy. If I go out on my return his favourite toy is in the hall waiting for me.

Richard Gowshall Symba's Vet nominated me for the Pet Diabetes Carer of the Year Award and I was thrilled to win. The award involved a Photo shoot; Symba was quite the super Star. Despite my difficulties, treating Symba gives him the quality of life he deserves which I wouldn't change for the world.

## Careers Evening

Thursday 14th May 2015 7.30pm to 9.00pm.

May is Veterinary Nursing month. During this month we focus on the role of the Veterinary Nurse and our nurses will be hosting our annual careers evening. If you are thinking of pursuing a career as a Veterinary Surgeon or Veterinary Nurse, come and join us on 14th May 2015.

There will be demos and a tour of the Hospital.

Entry is a £1 donation with all money going to our chosen charities.

To reserve a place please email [admin@eastcottvets.co.uk](mailto:admin@eastcottvets.co.uk) or call 01793 528341



## New Chewable Flea & Tick Treatment for Dogs



12 weeks of flea and tick protection in a chewable tablet!

If you are a member of our Pet Health Club you can choose to have this tablet as your flea protection in place of the spot on flea treatment.

If you are not a member of our Pet Health Club, just ask our Client Care team or your vet for more information at your next visit.

## Lydiard Bark Dog Charity Dog Show

Sunday 5th July 2015 all are welcome!

This is a fun dog show and all are welcome. You don't have to have a show dog and you don't have to 'handle' your dog like they do at Crufts! It is a purely fun day out for the family. The classes have been announced and are now available for pre booking. A number of spaces will be kept for 'on the day bookings'.

Visit our Facebook page, website or pick up a leaflet in reception or from Lydiard Park for more information.



## What to do if you find an injured 'stray' cat

If you find an injured stray cat it is important that your first point of contact is the RSPCA. The RSPCA can be contacted on 0300 1234999.

They will advise you to take the cat to a vet if needed. Only when they have advised you to take a cat to a vet will they provide a log number. It is important to obtain a log number before taking it to a vet. This log number will mean that the RSPCA will contribute something towards a cat's treatment.

The RSPCA will not contribute towards treatment if the above procedure is not carried out.

This new rule has been in place since November 2014. The RSPCA will not issue a log number to a vet, only members of the public ahead of the cat being taken to the vet.

### Healthy Cats

If you find a healthy cat it may live locally, they do roam and some cats 'adopt' several owners receiving a bowl of food from each. Don't be too quick to pick it up and take it from the area that you found it. You can have it scanned to see if there is a microchip which will enable contact to be made with the owners.



Pick up a loyalty card at Eastcott Grooming and get your 6<sup>th</sup> groom free!

## Recommend a friend prize draw winner

Congratulations to **Pat Oborn** who wins £100 to spend with us!

**Repeat Prescriptions can be ordered via our website**

### Edison Park Clinic & Hospital

Edison Park, Dorcan Way, Swindon SN3 3FR  
For Sat Nav use SN3 3RB  
Mon to Fri 7am - 8pm Sat & Sun 8.30am - 8pm

## Updates from our chosen charities



Our Malawi project manager, Dagmar, met a family and their dog in Blantyre last week - 2 of the dog's puppies were showing signs of rabies and had already bitten three local children. Dagmar put the two puppies to sleep and arranged for rabies diagnostic testing at the local lab - they came back positive. The children are now receiving vital post-exposure vaccines, but it shows the need for our programme in May - vaccinating over 30,000 dogs in Blantyre city in just one month in partnership with SPCA Blantyre to launch a 3 year programme to make rabies history!

## Finding Baby Birds in Your Garden

Very young birds that 'fall' from the nest often do so for a reason, parents can eject young that they feel are sickly. These birds can safely be handled and popped back into the nest although they may be ejected again. If you find a fledgling that can fly a short distance it will have 'flown the nest'. Parents feed them on the ground and they will be gone in a day or so. Cats are a threat and all that you can do is to keep an eye out for them. Nests and fledgling birds may be abandoned if you pay them too much attention, so always observe from a distance. As a last resort you can take baby birds to a vet or animal rescue however 'rescuing' these birds is almost certainly condemning them to death as the majority taken from the wild do not survive. Some will appear to thrive for a short time only to die suddenly (never feed birds bread and milk). Vets will see wild animals free of charge.



### Bath Road Clinic

59 Bath Road, Old Town, Swindon SN1 4AU  
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 7pm Sat 9am - 12pm



**Swindon Branch**

Cats Protection champions neutering as the only effective way to reduce the number of unwanted cats in the UK. We seek to spread the neutering message and make it easier for owners on low incomes to get their cats neutered. We are very aware that cats are often neutered too late in life when they have already produced at least one litter of kittens. Where there were only two cats, now there is suddenly a litter of up to six. **Swindon Branch can help with neutering costs, please contact us to find out how – our helpline number is 01793 644536 or email cats@swindoncp.co.uk**

## Early Neutering Packages for Cats

Very young cats are getting pregnant and contributing to the increasing numbers of unwanted litters. We can neuter cats from 12 weeks of age.

**8-10 weeks** – 1st Vaccination, health check, free dose of flea treatment, worming treatment and 4 weeks free insurance.

**12 weeks** – 2nd Vaccination, Neuter (Spay or Castrate) & Microchip.

**Free post op check** up 3-5 days post surgery. Cats can safely go out 10 days after neutering.

**Package Price** – £110 for female cats and £80 for male cats.

£55 can be paid at the time of the first vaccination and the balance at the time of the second visit when your cat is neutered.

*To qualify for this package cats must receive their 2nd vaccination, Neuter and Microchip by 4 months of age.*

If you would like your cat neutered without taking up this package, we can neuter male and female cats from 12 weeks of age and our standard neutering fees will apply. Please phone or visit our website for more information.

### Cricklade Road Clinic

6 Clive Parade, Cricklade Road, Swindon SN2 1AJ  
Weekdays 8.30am - 10am and 4pm - 7pm