

Lydiard Bark Charity Dog Show 2016

Thank you to everybody who supported this year's charity event. The weather was kind to us and there was a very good turn-out. Our very worthy winners of Best in Show were Rachel and Buddy who have a very special bond.

Rachel & Buddy's story:

I'm Rachel, I'm 14 and I have been diagnosed with N.E.A.D (non-epileptic attack disorder). With my condition, I struggle with some things. For example, I find school very difficult. Also, I stay at home a lot because I don't like having a fit in front of people. I have had this condition since early May this year, just a couple of months after I had my appendix out. I have always wanted my own dog. Me and my Mum decided to get a Shichon to see if it would help me. Ever since I got Buddy my life has changed for the better. I haven't stopped fitting but Buddy has made my life so much better. He relaxes me and makes me feel my old self again, he is just a bundle of joy. When we went to the dog show I didn't think I would win anything. When I won Best Child Handler with him I was over the moon and then to win Best in Show... well it was the best thing ever. I will be doing loads more shows and will be back next year.

With dog show entry fees and the charity raffle of generously donated prizes, we are delighted to have raised £2,300 for our chosen charity. We presented Oak and Furrows Wildlife Rescue Centre with the cheque which will be put towards their appeal for a new Wildlife Ambulance. The proceeds of other fundraising within the practice including the Christmas Hamper Raffle, will be presented to Oak and Furrows Wildlife Rescue Centre at the end of the year.



Rachel and Buddy at the Dog Show

Online Bookings

We now offer an online booking facility via our website. Please select the 'Already visited the practice' option when you use online booking for the first time if you have pets registered with us. This will enable you to set up a password and book appointments. We do require an up to date phone number and email address in order for the system to verify your details and forward a password link. If you feel that your details may have changed since you

first registered, please contact our Client Care team who can update your records.



Changes to Direct Insurance Claims for Ultimate Pet Partners Group

We are no longer able to process Direct Insurance claims for companies in this group. This includes:

Ultimate Pet Partners, Green Insurance Company, Kwik Fit, Paws and Claws, Purely Pets, Legal and General, Saga, AA, Caravan Club and Vetsure. If you have a pet insured through these companies or any company with Ultimate Pet in the paperwork, payment will be required at the time of treatment. This can then be claimed back from insurers. We will need to complete the Vet Section of insurance forms and there will be no charge for this service. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Hamsters, don't they bite?

We train our dogs not to bite, so why not our hamsters?

It is all down to your early handling. It can take just days and sometimes only hours to tame your hamster. New hamsters are often very nervous in their new surroundings so allow them a little time to settle when you bring them home.

Tips for taming your hamster:

- Try not to be deterred from handling your hamster if you get bitten the first few times you handle them. A few nips early on are very normal. The worst thing you could do is to become frustrated, put them back in the cage and stop handling them
- Don't wake your hamster up! Wait until they have naturally woken up
- Always let your hamster know that you are around and do not surprise them from behind. It can be helpful to rub your hands in their unsoiled bedding so that you smell familiar
- Scoop your hamster up and cup them in your hands. Do this over a soft surface or your lap in case you drop them or they jump out of your hands
- Allow your hamster to walk from hand to hand, placing them back down on a surface from time to time. This lets them know that whenever they are handled, they will always be put back
- If they jump out of your hands, pick them back up. Similarly, if they bite you, stay calm and pick them back up



- When you are handling your hamster, giving them a few treats will provide positive reinforcement. Try to avoid feeding treats through the bars of your cage as future misplaced fingers may be mistaken for food

After a few days of doing this for a few hours you will notice a different hamster who is desperate to come out of his cage for a cuddle.

Hamsters can make good pets for children and adults alike!

Urgent Product Recall of Flea & Tick Drops for Dogs and Cats

An unknown quantity of the Armitage Pet Care Flea and Tick Drops for Dogs 702mg containing permethrin has been distributed in packaging mislabelled as Armitage Flea Drops for Cats and Kittens. Exposure to even small quantities of concentrated permethrin can cause severe and fatal poisoning in cats. If you have one of the products, do not use it on your cat. Return the product

to the place of purchase or contact the company: John Tharratt, Bio-Tech solutions Tel 08704 450154 or email JTharratt@btsl.uk.com.

Eastcott Vets does not stock or sell Armitage Flea and Tick Drops.

There has been recent speculation on local Social Media regarding the safety of Frontline Spot On flea treatment for cats. We can confirm that the reaction seen in 2 cats was related to the administration of a product containing permethrin not Frontline as first reported.



THE ACTIVE AGENT IN FRONTLINE IS FIPRONIL, NOT PERMETHRIN.



Retired Greyhounds Looking for Homes

...but don't they need lots of exercise?

Many people think we need lots of exercise but we have done all that. As you humans say 'been there, done that and worn the T-shirt', or in our case the 'racing jacket'.

A little walk once a day is plenty plus a play in the garden and a nap in your favourite chair or better still the sofa will keep us happy. We have a knack of knowing the finer things in life!

If you want to have a break and take a holiday without us we don't mind as our friend Dave will look after us and we might see some old friends.

If I have you a little interested, please call 01793 433007 and ask to speak to Steve or Blanche who will give you more information.



RVHD2 VACCINE
NOW AVAILABLE



Paracetamol Poisoning in Cats

Paracetamol, a simple over the counter medication, is used frequently by people managing pain, but did you know that the drug is highly toxic to cats? Just one tablet can cause death in some cases. It is advisable never to give cats or dogs human medication as they can react very differently to you and I. Paracetamol comes in many different forms and all can harm our pets. This includes liquid formulations designed for children, tablets and powders.

Although a curious cat may nibble a paracetamol tablet if it is left in reach, sadly the majority of paracetamol poisoning cases are caused by well-meaning owners giving part or a whole tablet, or a few millilitres of a paracetamol containing suspension to their cat.

It is important not to treat pets with medications intended for humans. If your pet is in pain, please contact us so that we can investigate the cause and prescribe a suitable pet safe medication if required.



Be Lungworm Alert – Confirmed cases in Swindon



lungworm as larvae in the fluid taken from the lungs of the patient in 2014

In 2014 we reported our first confirmed case of lungworm in a dog in Swindon. We have seen 2 further lungworm cases within the last month.

Although hardly an epidemic it is clear that these parasites exist in our region so we must be alert. The disease can lead to severe lung disease but also clotting disorders that can cause life-threatening haemorrhage.

Lungworm facts:

- The worm is known as *Angiostrongylus vasorum*
- It develops in tissues of slugs and snails and when ingested by dogs enters the blood stream
- It then matures in the blood vessels of the lungs where it lays eggs
- The eggs are trapped in the small blood vessels (capillaries of the lungs) causing inflammation and the larvae emerge to be coughed up, swallowed and excreted in the dog's faeces
- Slugs and snails become infected when in contact with the faeces and the cycle begins again

Contact the surgery if you are concerned about lungworm in your dog or cat. Suitable worm tablets and Spot On products can keep your pet protected.

Recommend a Friend

PRIZE DRAW

Congratulations to Mr Dane Hunter who has won £100 worth of Eastcott vouchers in this quarter's draw to spend on Beau.

To read more about Recommend a Friend, visit our website or pick up a form from one of our waiting rooms.

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

Bath Road Clinic

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

Cricklade Road Clinic

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