



AVENUE VET CENTRE NEWS

Winter 2011
Edition

Our services:

Acupuncture

Arthroscopy

Digital x-ray
including Hip and
Elbow dysplasia
scheme

Endoscopy

Farm animal
services

Full Equine
Clinics including
x-rays

Microchipping

Nurse Clinics

Orthopaedic
Surgery

PETS travel
scheme

Puppy Parties

Vaccinations

This Edition:
Festive Advice

Blood Drive

Rabbit news

Spider Info

COPD

Equine dentistry

Festive Hazards

It's not all fun and frolics around Christmas - many of the standard festive fare can cause a lot of problems for our pets so extra care is needed:

- Tinsel can be fun for your pet to play with but if swallowed it can cause intestinal blockages.

- Fairy lights may look pretty but can give nasty shocks to curious pets if chewed on.

- Pine needles from a real tree will shed and can become lodged in between toes and pads making them sore.

- Chocolate is highly toxic to pets, especially dogs, so should be avoided completely.

- Raisins and sultanas are also toxic to pets. So no feeding them left over Christmas pudding!

- Keep pets away from mistletoe as both the leaves and the berries are extremely toxic if eaten.



Blood donors required

Dog blood donors? A novel idea maybe, but a potentially life-saving one at that. Pet Blood Bank UK (PBBuk) is the UK's only not-for-profit blood bank and they need our help urgently. Increasing demand is being placed on the blood bank these days but unfortunately the supply is finding it difficult to keep up. Luckily, there is something we can do to help. A single 10 minute donation from a dog in a simple and painless procedure (with lots of fuss afterwards!) can help save the lives of up to 4 dogs. Unfortunately there are a few criteria that need to be met in order to be an eligible donor, including:

- Be between 1-8 years of age
- Weigh more than 25kg
- Have a good temperament (sitting still for 10 minutes can be difficult!)
- Have never travelled abroad
- Be fully vaccinated
- Be fit and healthy (i.e. not on any medication)

If your dog fits this description and you would be interested in helping, please give us a call or visit the PBBuk website at petbloodbankuk.org. You could be giving some family a very happy Christmas.



Myxomatosis

This awful, man-made disease of rabbits is unfortunately on the rise again. We have seen several cases in the last month - most with a tragic end.

Myxomatosis is a viral infection spread by blood sucking insects e.g. rabbit fleas and mosquitoes. The virus multiplies on the skin leading to blindness and difficulties eating. Affected rabbits become very ill and sadly many die.

While there is no effective treatment for this horrible disease, there is an effective vaccination. In this case, prevention is infinitely better than a cure, so we highly recommend regular vaccinations for your bunnies every 6 months.



For more news, visit us at
www.avenuevetsgrantham.co.uk or call us on
(01476)563371



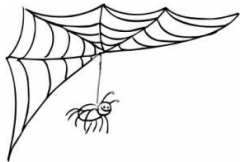
Recurrent Airway Obstruction (RAO) *aka COPD, 'Heaves', IAD*

RAO is a common condition in the stabled horse or pony, characterised by increased breathing effort, coughing, nasal discharge, and poor performance when exercised. It is an allergic response to environmental particles, typically found in bedding or food (usually hay). The affected horse is often otherwise quite bright but can become lethargic in severe cases.



Management of this condition involves improving environmental conditions, or housing your horse or pony outdoors when weather permits. It may be necessary to remove hay from your horse's diet or improve the quality of the hay provided, as well as using special bedding in the stable (e.g. paper or rubber matting). Improving the hygiene and ventilation in the stable is also advisable. Medical therapy, in the form of bronchodilators and anti-inflammatory treatment, is often required in addition to environmental control. In some cases prolonged therapy is required.

The outcome for horses with ROA is generally good. However, elimination of the source of the problem can be difficult and some horses require permanent environmental management.



Spider Info

In Autumn/Winter, while the weather maybe cooling down and we start enjoying some early nights in front of the fire, daily life for a spider is hotting up as they start to look for a mate. Competition can be fierce and so the females begin furiously fattening up in an attempt to attract a suitable male.

Did you know:

- Spiders have 7 different types of silk producing glands, each with different properties.
- Spider silk is 5 times stronger than steel of the same diameter.
- Silk is used to make a web to catch prey, wrap up an awkward insect and immobilise it ready to eat.
- Silk is used to make a shelter and protect egg sacs.
- Silk is used like a balloon to waft the spider on air currents to a new site.
- Spiders don't have a bony skeleton like we do. Instead, all their organs are held in place by muscles attached to their exoskeleton (outer skin).

Staff News

We would like to welcome the newest member to the AVC team, **Becks Steeples**. Becks is a vet nurse with an interest in all species, especially her own numerous pets! She is here on maternity cover for one of our other nurses and we hope she soon feels part of the family!



All of us here at the AVC want to wish all our patients and clients a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

