



Active VetCare Veterinary Group

Dunshaughlin • Dunboyne • Phibsboro
www.activevetcare.ie

SPRING 2005

NEWS

Active Vetcare Veterinary Clinic

The Poodle Parlour
87 New Cabra Road
Phibsboro
Dublin 7

Tel: 01 8680119

Consulting Hours:

Monday – Friday:

9.00 – 10.00, 12.30 – 2.00
5.30 – 7.00

Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays:

12.00 – 1.00

Dunshaughlin Veterinary Hospital

Main Street
Dunshaughlin
Co. Meath

Tel: 01 8259636

Consulting Hours:

Monday – Friday:

10.30 – 11.30, 6.00 – 7.30

Saturday:

10.00 – 11.00, 3.30 – 4.30

Tolka Veterinary Centre

1 Avondale Terrace
Dunboyne
Co. Meath

Tel: 01 8251125

Opening hours:

Mon – Fri: 9.00 – 7.00

Saturday: 9.00 – 1.00

Consultation by
appointment only

Full Surgical &
Medical Facilities.

Boarding &
Grooming Available.

24h Emergency Service

New Surgery, New Boarding Kennels, New Hours

The New Year has brought some new and exciting changes to the Active Vetcare Veterinary group. Firstly, Tolka Veterinary Centre in Dunboyne has joined the group, and as a result we are delighted to welcome the excellent staff of Aidan Mackey, Jackie Kelly and Nathalie Conway. Our Surgery here will compliment our Hospital in Dunshaughlin and provide more consultation hours for our clients in the area. Our new purpose built kennels are nearing completion and soon we will be using a state of the art boarding facility just outside Dunboyne. Further details can be obtained



from any of our staff or from www.activevetcare.ie. Also please note, in the left hand column, that our consultation times have been extended at our Phibsboro and Dunshaughlin Branches and that consultation at our Dunboyne branch is by appointment only. We are sure that these changes will improve our services and facility provision to all of our clients.

Caring for your new pet!

THE arrival of a new pet is an exciting moment for all the family. In order to keep your pet happy and healthy we've put together a short-list of things to do!



Providing their mother was regularly vaccinated, puppies and kittens should be protected in the first few weeks of life by antibodies from their mother's milk. However this immunity falls with time, leaving them susceptible to infectious diseases. **Vaccination** (to stimulate

this immunity) is the only proven way to protect your pet. Two or more vaccinations are usually given as a primary course, giving your pet immunity for the first year of life. However the immunity provided by the primary vaccination is not indefinite and will gradually fall. Regular booster injections are therefore *vital* to maintain your pet's protection.

The vaccination visit is an excellent time for us to give your pet a general check-over. We are also very happy to advise you on topics such as **worming, dental care, neutering, flea control, early socialisation of puppies and microchipping** – to name



Photos: Jane Burton

Vaccination against infectious diseases

We recommend you regularly vaccinate your pets against the following – potentially deadly, infectious diseases:

Dogs:

- Distemper
- Infectious canine hepatitis
- Parvo virus
- Leptospirosis
- Para influenza virus
- Kennel Cough

Cats:

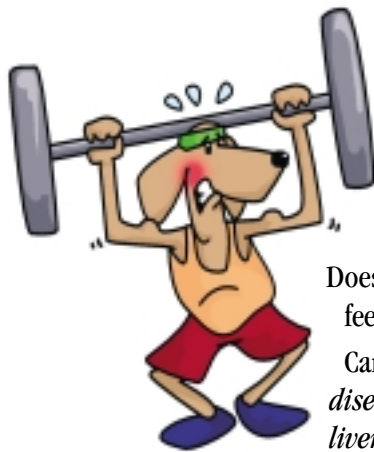
- Cat flu virus
- Feline panleucopenia virus
- Feline leukaemia virus

just a few! Finally, if you would like further information on any of the topics covered in this article, please don't hesitate to ask!

Drontal

FOR FULL AND EFFECTIVE WORM & FLEA TREATMENT FOR YOUR PET
WE RECOMMEND DRONTAL WORMER AND ADVANTAGE SPOT ON.





Can you pinch an inch?

THE winter months are often a time of inactivity for many pets, when it is all too easy to put on a few extra pounds. Whilst it may be a little too late to make any New Year resolutions, perhaps now is the time to have a critical look at your pet! Is he (or she) carrying a bit of extra weight?

Does he have a saggy tummy? Can you feel his ribs or do you just feel flesh? All of these are signs that your pet may be overweight.

Carrying excess weight can predispose pets to *arthritis, heart disease, diabetes mellitus, back problems, skin problems, liver disease and a range of other problems.*

Given the potential health problems associated with excess weight – it's important to address it, and it is here that we can help. If you feel your pet may be getting a little portly, we are happy to weigh him or her and advise you on their ideal weight. We will also carry out a thorough physical examination to check for any medical conditions that can result in weight gain (such as an under-active thyroid gland in middle-aged and older dogs).

Finally, if your pet needs to lose weight, we are happy to advise you on the most suitable diet and exercise programme. Please contact us now for further details!



Could my cat have bad teeth?

APPEARANCES can be deceptive! It's a fact that many cats (and dogs for that matter) live with the pain of long term dental disease, *without* showing any obvious signs of tooth ache.

So how extensive is the problem? Recent surveys have shown that as many as 70% of cats over the age of three may have some form of dental disease.

A common problem in cats (and also dogs *and* humans) is **gum disease**. This is caused by the accumulation of plaque bacteria on the surface of the teeth leading to inflamed and reddened gums.



Gum disease with reddened gum margins. If left untreated, this frequently results in tooth loss.

Another fairly common condition are **tooth resorptive lesions**. These are seen exclusively in cats and are usually found on or below the gum line. They are usually very painful when touched.



Tooth resorptive lesion (arrowed). Despite being painful, many cats show no obvious outward signs.

Please contact us for further information on caring for your pet's teeth, or to arrange a general health examination for your pet.



Pesky parasites: in focus!

DID you know that there are a large number of parasites just *itching* to live on your pet? Here we look at a few of them in closer detail.

Fleas need little introduction to many pet owners! Adult fleas are 2-3mm in length and can be seen without magnification. Fleas survive by feeding on your pet's blood, causing very intense irritation and sometimes allergic skin disease. Fleas also play a major role in transmitting tapeworms in dogs and cats. *Year-round flea control* gives you the best chance of ensuring your pets are not troubled by fleas.

Fur mites are much smaller than fleas and are just visible to the naked eye. Sometimes



Adult flea (x5)
(*Ctenocephalides sp.*)



Fur mite (x30)
(*Cheyletiella sp.*)



Ear mite (x40)
(*Otodectes cynotis*)



Harvest mite (x40)
(*Trombicula autumnalis*)

called 'creeping dandruff', they affect dogs, cats and rabbits. The mites cause variable degrees of itching and may also bite the owners of affected pets.

Ear mites affect dogs and cats and are especially a problem in young animals. The mites, which are visible to the naked eye, cause great irritation and excessive wax production.

Harvest mites can be a problem in late summer and early autumn. The mites are active in long grass and will swarm onto passing pets where they tend to congregate on the ears, feet and underside of the abdomen. They are easily identified as bright orange tightly adhering 'dots' and are often very itchy. Please contact us if you would like any further information on any of the parasites mentioned above, and remember that fleas *never* take holidays and just *love* central heating!

Mites: Maggie Fisher

Cartoons: Gareth Davies