



Newsletter



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Autumn 2017

Arrowfield Up-

Celebrations

We have had many events to celebrate this year. Our Head Receptionist, Sally Perkins has worked for the practice for 30 years. Sally started coming to the practice for school work experience over thirty years ago which progressed onto helping on Saturdays. As soon as she finished school Sally was full time. Back then there were only 3 lay staff that would assist the running of the practice from reception and pharmacy to nursing patients. A sign of how the practice has grown and the veterinary world has changed over these years is seen in how the lay staff teams have grown to 8 receptionists and 8 in the nursing team. Apart from keeping all the vets organised and knowing the directions to every farm she has been coordinating the TB testing for the last 25 years. Sally wonders what changes there will be in the next 30 years! We hope you will all join us in this celebration recognising Sally's dedication to the practice over such a long period of time.

Also Vet Nurse Lorna got married in July. We joined her celebrating at an amazing wedding on the family farm. We wish Lorna and Tom every happiness.

New Staff

We are happy to welcome a new member of staff to the Nursing Team. Bethan Davies is an experienced Veterinary Nurse who has been qualified for over 12 years. Beth's particular interest is medical nursing. Outside work Beth is kept busy with her 3 young boys and 3 dogs.

Charity update: Charity Cards

We have run a competition this year for photographic images to reflect 'your countryside'. 20 stunning images have been turned into cards and will be on sale soon. Raising money for our chosen charities: Hearing dogs for the Deaf and Cancer Research



Pet Proof your Garden

During your autumn gardening clearing consider how you can make it safer for your dog or cat and less frustrating for you. Raised beds are less likely to be run over and cause damage to plants. If your dog likes to dig then consider a small area where they are allowed to do this— encourage them by hiding treats or toys in this area.

We see many dogs every year that are made quite ill from mouldy food eaten from compost heaps. Fencing it off or making it inaccessible in another way can avoid a stay at the practice. Remember too many apples and conkers can cause tummy upsets too.

Avoid using slug pellets containing metaldehydes, which can be very dangerous to both pets and young children.

When putting in new plants or bulbs consider that some can be toxic to pets. Common toxic plants include: mistletoe, yew, onion, rhubarb, hyacinth bulbs, daffodil and cyclamen. For cats consider planting cat nip (*Nepeta cataria*) or cat grass, so they can have something safe to chew on.

KINGTON SHOW

Once again we were pleased to support Kington Show, sponsoring classes as well as being the honorary Veterinary Surgeons at the show. Despite the awful weather forecast we were lucky to have a mostly dry day catching up with clients young and old. The playdough modelling for children was very popular. We will be there again next year so do remember to come and say hello.



24 hour emergency service, 7 days a week 365 days a year by our own vets

01544 230567

Fireworks—Tips and Advice



- **Build a den** so that your pet has somewhere to hide and feel safe. Ideally this should be done a few weeks in advance so that they become accustomed to the den. Allow free access to the den rather than shutting them in. **Our nurses can provide more advice on this.**
- **Keep your pet inside** during fireworks and make sure that doors and windows are closed to prevent escaping and reduce noise— check that microchip details are correct just in case.
- **Distractions**—Putting the radio or television on can mask noise and a new toy or chew may also help if you know the time fireworks are planned in your locality.
- Plug in pheromone diffusers such as **ADAPTIL®** for dogs or **FELIWAY®** for cats or **PET REMEDY** calming diffuser can help . We also stock *nutraceutical capsules* containing ingredients to promote a calmer demeanour

Health tips

- The peak time for **TICKS** is late summer and early autumn. Remember not to drop your guard against them. They can cause a marked reaction in the skin where they attach and they can spread Lyme disease to pets and humans. If you find a tick use a tick hook to remove it, using a twisting action. It is important that all parts of the tick are removed. If you would like advice about products that will prevent ticks and fleas and the easy to use tick hooks please contact the practice.
- During the colder and darker time of the year we all usually go on shorter dog walks and this can cause a decline in their and your **mobility**. Affected pets may show signs of joint stiffness—particularly after rest. It is a good idea to keep a close eye on your dogs **weight** as they often gain a few pounds during this time. If you are at all concerned please book your pet in for a check up. The nurses also offer free weight clinics and diet advice.
- It is worth keeping an eye on how much your pet is drinking. An increase in drinking can be an early sign of a variety of diseases, including liver and kidney disease, diabetes and diseases of the womb. Contact us for an appointment if you are concerned.

Practice Factfile

Facilities

- ◆ Appointment system
- ◆ Ample off road parking
- ◆ Convenient surgery hours
- ◆ Qualified Nurses
- ◆ 24 hour emergency cover
- ◆ In-house laboratory
- ◆ Fully equipped operating theatre
- ◆ Digital x-ray facilities
- ◆ Diagnostic ultrasound
- ◆ Modern anaesthetic equipment
- ◆ Full dental equipment
- ◆ Free nurses clinics



Opening Times.

Kington

Monday to Friday 8.45am—7pm

Saturday: 8.45am—1.00pm

Presteigne Branch Surgery

Monday to Friday: 8.45am—6pm

Saturday : 8.45am —10.30am

All Consultations by Appointment

Out of hours veterinary care is provided by our own vets at Kington

Contact Details.

Kington

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Presteigne

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