



Veterinary Centre

WINTER 2019



NEWS

Practice News

EMMA IS HAVING A BABY!

Huge congratulations to Emma and her husband Carlos, as they are expecting their first baby, a little girl, in December.

Emma started her maternity leave at the beginning of October, but she has promised to keep popping in to practice to visit us, and to bring us cake too! We wish her all the very best while she is off, and we can't wait to meet little baby when she arrives!

VET TEAM GROWS

A big welcome to our new vet Sam Layland, who joined the 387 team in August and takes the number of full time vets here to a total of four. Graduating in veterinary medicine from Bristol University this summer, Sam's knowledge and practical experience covers mixed practice and includes working on a dairy farm for a year and six seasons of lambing. However, Sam feels his real passion and strength lies in companion animal work. Working in a dedicated small animal practice environment provides him with the perfect opportunity to develop his medical and surgical interests, and to make a real difference to owners and their pets.

Sam may look familiar to you, even if you haven't met him in a professional capacity. Over the last 10 years, he has been a regular student visitor in the consult room here, coming first on school work experience and more recently on practical and observational placements as part of his five-year degree. We're delighted that Sam has now come back to 387 as a fully qualified vet!

HELP US BEAT LAST YEAR'S HAUL

GIVE A PET A DINNER THIS CHRISTMAS - HELP FEED LOCAL HOMELESS CATS AND DOGS

DONATE YOUR CAT OR DOG FOOD TINS, WET FOOD OR DRY BISCUITS HERE

This Christmas, we are once again running our 'Give a pet a Christmas dinner' campaign in support of local homeless cats and dogs. Last year, thanks to your amazing generosity, we collected over 470 tins and sachets of wet food, 27kg of dry food and around 50 boxes and packets of treats, not to mention a huge array of toys and accessories for local pet charities. If you are able to donate cat or dog food or other goodies, we know those pets waiting for forever homes would be incredibly grateful. We'll be collecting throughout the whole of December. Look out for our festive donation bin in the waiting room.

New year, new improvements – car park expansion plans



Forecourt parking, 2007



Development of current parking site



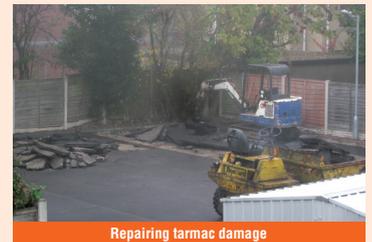
Original car park surfacing



Car fire in 2015



After the fire engines



Repairing tarmac damage

We're really aware that with increasing client footfall and a growing team, it is not always easy to get a parking space when the practice is busy. With this in mind, in January 2020, we will be converting the fenced, undeveloped patch of land on the right as you drive into the car park into a dedicated staff parking area. The current tarmacked, 13 space floodlit car park will revert solely to client use to maximise visitor parking.

There will be some disruption while the new staff car park is under construction. We ask that you please bear with us while we are making changes to improve client experience at 387 Vets.

THE CAR PARK'S EVOLUTION...

It's hard to believe that back in November 2007 we opened with just four parking spaces on the forecourt of number 387! By 2010 we needed to expand our premises and our parking, and managed to secure land at the back of the property to lay a 13-space self-binding gravel car park. Although more environmentally friendly than tarmac, it proved less durable and mucky when wet, leading to pot holes and muddy dog paws! We invested in new tarmac surfacing in 2015. But within four months a large section was seriously damaged when a client's car caught fire and burned to a shell within minutes, melting cars in close proximity with the intensity of the heat. Very thankfully no people or pets were injured. The tarmac you now park on is resurfacing from Autumn 2015 to make the car park as good as new. Here's to the next development and more parking spaces at 387 Vets!





Winter Watch!

The nights are drawing in, it's getting colder and wetter and it's a time for snuggling up and shutting out the cold. Here are a few winter survival tips for keeping your pets in tip top form this Winter:



Festive food alert: Christmas food is delicious. But not so great for our pets! Mince pies and Christmas cake contain grapes and raisins which can cause kidney failure, cooked bones from roast dinners can become impacted and cause internal blockages and chocolate is toxic to dogs. Keep out of reach of inquisitive noses. Contact us if you think your pet has indulged!

Keep up the flea treatment: It's cold outside, but fleas love centrally heated homes so don't stop the flea treatment! Our carpets, sofas, soft furnishing and beds are the ideal breeding ground, and if you do spot a flea on your pet, it's only the tip of the iceberg. Your pet will have spread flea eggs everywhere! Vacuuming only removes 50% of eggs and larvae as they are hidden deep in floors.* Avoid an infestation! Ask us about Vetpost, our parasite treatment home delivery service. Monthly protection delivered direct to your door at no extra cost!

Chill factor warnings: Take care if using antifreeze. Mop up ANY spills. Make sure the container is well sealed and out of reach. Sweet-tasting to pets and wildlife, ingestion most often leads to a traumatic death. Seek immediate vet help if you suspect your pet has had any. Rock salt on gritted walks can cause problems: it can irritate paws and make dogs poorly if ingested so wash your dog's feet on return. And keep pets safe indoors too! Hot in summer, freezing in winter, don't leave dogs in cars or conservatories for any length of time. Hypothermia can develop quickly. Lethargy? Slow breathing? Slowing pulse? Cold skin? Seek immediate help.



Outdoor pets: Check hutches are well insulated – cover with carpet or blankets – and provide lots of extra bedding. Insulate water bottles with bubble wrap. You can bring small furrines in, but nowhere too warm if they normally live outdoors, or they will be far more susceptible to hypothermia and pneumonia when returned outdoors.

Watch the waistline: According to the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association's latest obesity report, 51% of dogs, 44% of cats and 29% of small mammals are overweight or obese.** If your pet is less active through the winter months, they don't need the same calorie intake or they will gain weight. Obesity can lead to lots of health problems, including diabetes, heart disease and joint pain. Ask us for healthy nutritional advice.

Stiffening up: 1 in 5 dogs have osteoarthritis*** and it's a common condition in older cats. Cold can make joints more painful. Stiff? Slowing up? Reluctant to go out? Pets can benefit from anti-inflammatory medicine, joint supplements, non-invasive laser therapy or attendance at our free pain management clinics for physio exercises and supportive lifestyle changes you can carry out at home. Take dogs on shorter but regular walks.

Vaccination is vital!



Vaccination is a hot topic, not only in the human but also the pet world. The World Health Organisation named 'vaccine hesitancy' (the reluctance or refusal to be vaccinated) as one of the top 10 health threats in 2019, and The World Veterinary Association deemed vaccination such an important topic, they made it the theme of 2019's World Veterinary Day.

Vaccination is essential to protect our pets from a range of potentially life-threatening infectious diseases. However, a worrying decline has been identified in the primary vaccination of UK puppies, kittens and rabbits, placing unvaccinated pets at serious risk of avoidable disease.

Now in its ninth year, the PDSA's Animal Wellbeing Report is the largest annual assessment of cat, dog and rabbit welfare in the UK. This year, over 5000 pet-owning adults were surveyed to understand the wellbeing of UK pets. The 2019 survey showed an 18% drop over the last three years in young cats, dogs and rabbits receiving primary vaccinations. And 32% of pets eligible for annual boosters don't receive regular vaccinations, so are not immune to vaccine-preventable disease.



A drop in vaccination rates means a decrease in herd immunity (where a sufficiently high proportion of the population is immune to keep a disease at bay). Without herd immunity we could see a rise in unpleasant pet diseases that high vaccination rates would ordinarily keep at bay. It's even more vital your pet is up to date with their vaccination course.

Puppies, kittens and rabbits require a course of vaccinations when they are young, and then regular booster vaccinations throughout their lives. If you're worried your pet's booster vaccinations may have lapsed, please get in touch. From 1st November to 31st January we're running a vaccination amnesty – so if your pet has missed their booster vaccinations you can take advantage of a full course of injections for the price of an annual booster to get back on vaccination track. Let's work together to keep your pet safe and help to stop the unnecessary spread of disease.