

Newsletter

January 2015

Happy New Year
Bewyddyn Newydd Dda



We start the year in reflective mood, remembering the highs and lows of the year. Many of us suffered losses that left Christmas tinged with sadness, missing our absent friends and family. As the New Year comes it is good to remember the joy they brought to our lives and the good times shared.

At Tysul we have had our fair share of the highs in 2014, Lowri and Sarah had babies in the Spring. Annwen and Nia both got married. Three new vets joined us Liz, Helen and Sara. Louise passed her final exams and is now a fully qualified Veterinary Nurse. Claire has joined us as a new trainee nurse. The team grows and so does our pet ownership. Louise, Shirley, Marie, Liz, Helen, Charlie, Erika, Nia, Danni and Tracy all took on new pets this year. Several of them have required major surgery or have on-going health problems, which is why most of them came to our door in the first place. Vet staff pets are rarely "normal".

Everyday in veterinary practice brings challenges and celebrations and our staff are always there to help our clients

and their pets whatever their daily need.

One of our patients, Jess, benefitted from some extra sparkle over the Christmas and New Year Period. Erika is always looking to bring some extra happiness to a situation. So Jess's fracture had a selection of festive designs at each dressing change. This was New Years Eve, so fireworks and a moon, brought a smile to all our faces. A good start to the year.



OPENING HOURS

MON - FRIDAY

8.30AM - 5.00PM

SATURDAY

9.00AM - 12.00PM

24 HR

EMERGENCY COVER

PLEASE USE THE USUAL
NUMBER

01559 363318

Did You Know?

Vet Terms

MRI - Magnetic Resonance Imaging - A type of scan using special magnetic waves. It produces a picture of the insides of the body in high detail. Often used to look for cancer or brain and spine deformities.

Endoscope - A fine hollow tube with special optic fibres running along its length providing lighting and the ability to see objects it passes along. It is often used to look at problems with airways or the stomach, where xrays have been suspicious of blockages. Instruments can be passed along the tube to grab foreign objects such as a blade of grass in the trachea (tube from throat to lungs)

Offering Referral

Our vets are great but there are some things that require more specialist care. We will usually suggest referring when there is a fracture or dislocation of a joint or a complicated medical case that is not responding to treatment. Sometimes expensive equipment is required for diagnosis such as an MRI machine or fine endoscope. Referral is not cheap and we would definitely advise taking on pet insurance to cover those unexpected accidents.

We are often asked to cast or splint complicated joint fractures in practice, as this is perceived as a cheaper alternative. Bones and ligaments that are not re-aligned and fixed in place with pins and sutures do not heal well. Casts are very rarely a good solution in these cases for either wound repair or cost. Recasting has to be done at least once per week, usually twice. Complications can arise from the cast itself such as deep sores and infections. These lead to more dressing changes, more antibiotics and pain-relief. At the end of the expected 6 week repair period, the original fracture may not have repaired or the leg healed in a poor position for walking. Referring at this point is often dissatisfying, with far less chance of success. The patient will also require another 6-8 weeks of dressing changes after surgery. We understand that referral costs are pricey and do not offer them lightly. We equally know that early referral has the most successful outcome.

If referral is not an option, the vet may suggest amputation. Four legged animals cope very well on three and wounds repair quickly. Pets will often be running around normally within a couple of weeks. If you have

any doubts, you should talk to Marie, Helen or Liz who have all got pets who have had amputations. Working collies, lurchers, elderly cats and kittens can all be happy tripod.

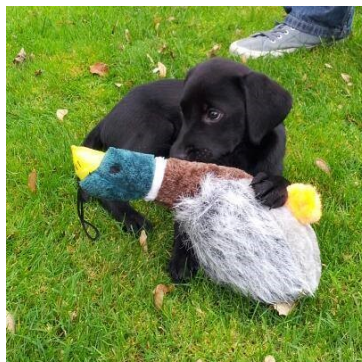
Whatever the injury our vets will discuss the best option for you and your pet. Take time to discuss it with as many of our staff as is required for you to feel comfortable with your decision.

Less than 24hrs after Liz's kitten had her op, she was home and playing.



New Puppy or Kitten over Christmas? What do you do next?

- ◆ Check they are fully vaccinated against Parvo, Lepto, Distemper, Hepatitis and Parainfluenza to avoid illness when they start meeting others.
- ◆ Ensure they are microchipped to avoid losing them forever if they escape.
- ◆ Remember to treat them for fleas and worms monthly, whilst their inquisitive nature makes them more vulnerable to picking up parasites.
- ◆ Choose a good balanced growth food and avoid lots of human treats. Sudden changes in diet can cause stomach upsets, even when they are good quality, so change things slowly.



New Years Resolution?

Book into one of our nursing clinics if your pet needs to lose weight and you have struggled to do it alone. Our nurses chat through what you have tried so far and offer a few tricks of the trade to improve your chances of success.



Fireworks Problems?

If your pet suffers with anxiety due to fireworks, gunshot or loud bangs, there may be help at hand. We have some CDs aimed at de-sensitizing your pet to those noises. You should start now and continue through the year, in readiness for bonfire night and New Year 16.

What they shouldn't have eaten?

This Christmas was particularly bad for pets eating the wrong thing. Chocolate, grapes and raisins were our biggest offenders. We cannot emphasise enough what a disaster this can be. If you have a pet in the house then everyone needs to be alert. Even a two year old can be involved in protecting their loved pet. Sadly the things that kill are often the thing you least expect a pet to pick up, let alone eat. Socks, leads, towels, needle and thread, dummies, toy arrows....this list is just a few of the things I have seen removed from patients and sadly not all survive. Don't assume that if it can be swallowed it will go through, contact us for advice.

Free Chips for Dogs!

Microchips!

We can do free microchips when you are at the practice for boosters or operations OR book in for a nurse chipping clinic.

All dogs to be chipped by law from March 2015

