



# Newsletter

February 2015

## February Frosts Fun and Frolics

February is notoriously cold and frosty and along comes Valentines Day to give us a good excuse to cosy up on the sofa and eat chocolate. Ok, so maybe our pets have to avoid the chocolates but they too enjoy a "cwtch" on the sofa.

Of course, too many treats and hogging the couch can soon have unwanted affects. Obesity and the diseases that go with it are an ever increasing problem.

Our free Nurse Clinics help you and your pets get back on the straight and narrow. It was great to meet a couple this week that had just seen Jean a fortnight before for the first time. They had followed her instructions to the letter, cutting out treats and increasing exercise and their dog had already lost half a kilo. For those of you that are worried that a clinic is going to be a telling off and such a strict regime that you and your pet are miserable, it just isn't like that. Most clinics are held by Jean and Erika, they are fun and chatty. They listen to what is happening now and look at realistic and fun changes to your pets day. Exercise doesn't have to be a 3 mile frog march, it might be play in the house, a game where they have to find some of their food rather than it being presented in a bowl once or twice a day.

Cats can be encouraged to play too with torches or feeding balls, running a few biscuits along a tiled floor that have to be chased.

The beauty of play is its good for your pet and fun for us to watch. Our pets interact with us just as much as when they were begging for treats but now they are more active doing it.



## Free Micro-chipping ending this month

The Dogs Trust have supported an excellent campaign for the last year to ensure as many dogs are micro-chipped as possible. We have supported the campaign at Tysul Vets with hundreds now chipped for free. This will end on 28th February 15. The expected law for compulsory chipping has been delayed for a year to come into line with England.



### 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?

There is a tablet for dogs to treat fleas and ticks. A squishy treat that is so easy to give.



There is a spot-on for cats that can treat all worms, fleas and ticks.

Some animals can itch and scratch after just one bite from a flea, whilst others will be alive with them and hardly scratch at all. Regular treatment to all the pets in the house will avoid problems.

If you have a pet that is still scratching despite flea treatment, they may have an allergy. Discuss it with one of our vets.

## Cat Flu

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Very common disease in cats that is preventable by vaccination.

Unfortunately a large percentage of cats are unvaccinated, live semi-wild (feral) or outdoors permanently. It is quite common for these cats to carry disease but not show very many symptoms themselves. They can easily pass on the disease to any unvaccinated kittens or elderly pets leaving them very sick indeed.



We have had some very poorly kittens in this month that were found on a farm. Their runny noses were so bad that they did not want to eat. It is hard to breath through your mouth and eat at the same time. A raised temperature will also stop a pet from eating. Growing kittens struggle very quickly without food.

Their treatment involved antibiotics, treatments to thin the mucus coming from their nose, hot water steaming, wiping their noses many times per day, heat pads, syringe feeding and lots of cuddles. All of this had to be done in isolation away from other cats, wearing gloves and aprons. All bedding, bowls and utensils had to be disinfected before leaving the room for normal washing. Staff also needed to be scrupulously clean.

Flu symptoms, like colds and flu in people can linger on for weeks and can be very time consuming. In a veterinary kennel or rescue environment it is particularly difficult as space and man power are limited, when there are lots of other pets coming in daily for operations or treatment.

These cases make us all too aware of the work involved in the animal charities. If you are able to help, see the text box top right of this page.

If you have a cat, keep it vaccinated, as immunity does not last for ever and needs boosting yearly.



## Could you give a cat or kitten a Foster Home?

Cat Action and RSPCA both use foster carers for their rescued cats.

It is not an easy task, particularly if you already have pets at home. You need a spare room that you can isolate the new arrivals. You often need to provide more than food and water, they are often weak and scared. A gentle approach, treating for fleas and worms and sometimes other veterinary treatments may be required. The work can be very rewarding as you see them develop into healthy pets that can be re-homed. It can equally be heart wrenching, when despite your care they don't survive. You have to be strong enough to know your limits too, it is easy to get all the waifs and strays in the neighbourhood if you don't know how to say no.

The aim is also to rehome, so you mustn't get too attached.

Maybe you can help in other ways, fundraisers, home checkers or just offer a permanent home. They are always needing homes for outdoor feral/farm cats too.

Contact :

C.A.T - 01994 448366 Jane

RSPCA - 01239 810595 Francis



## Insurance for Pets

This month we have had several pets that required referral for specialist treatments. From complicated fractures to obscure medical conditions, these are things that are beyond the scope of a local practice.

The expense of such specialist equipment and expertise can be eye watering, often running into several thousands of pounds.

A regular monthly payment for insurance or into a savings account specifically for your pets unforeseen needs, is something that should be considered.



The advantage of insurance is that the fund will be available within 30 days of your first payment, as long as you have chosen wisely with the company and the cover you have taken out. Always look for a LIFETIME policy; this means that it won't stop paying after a year, even if the condition is something that will affect your pet for the rest of its life. Diseases like diabetes, thyroid problems, arthritis in an injured leg. Look for ACCIDENT and ILLNESS cover if you want these illnesses covered.

## Be seen at night

Even though the days are finally lengthening, we still have a long way to go. I highly recommend Rogz lights, having used one on my dog for the last 18 months. I am on my 3rd set of batteries now but it has been well used. I even use it when she is out in the back garden so that I can see what she is up to. Many of Tysul staff are now using them as they are very effective.

