

# The Forest Vet



## Opening Hours

Monday-Friday 8am - 7pm  
Saturday 9am - 1pm

24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
with out of hours emergencies  
with our own vets here at the  
practice in Maresfield.

## Spring 2018

### Latest News

#### Spring Talk: *Wednesday 6th June*

Join us for our Spring Talk "Ditch the Itch", a focus on small animal dermatology. We will be talking about skin problems, allergies and brand new revolutionary treatments. There will be complimentary food and drinks available along with a quiz. Book in advance at the practice as spaces are limited.





## Spring Offers

- Getting ready for summer – one months free flea/worming treatment for all new registrations
- Bring this leaflet with you into the practice to get 20% off a dental
- Get ready for the summer holidays with a Pet Passport and Rabies Vaccine for £85

### The Forest Vet Healthy Pet Club

Pay monthly and receive huge discounts on your preventative health such as vaccines and flea/worming treatments. Free microchip and annual blood screen included, plus 10% off everything in the practice.

### Emergency Service

Our practice truck now adds to our personalised service and allows us to make house visits to patients in any weather. We have zone days where

house visits are free, or we can come out in the event of an emergency as part of our own 24/7 emergency service here at the practice in Maresfield, run by our own vets and nurses.

### Puppy Parties

Our free weekly puppy parties are run by our nursing team, and we now have a small talk each week on a different topic to help with the early stages of owning a puppy.



### Rabbit Awareness Week

2nd - 10th June 2018

Join us at The Forest Vet and participate in R.A.W. The focus this year is “move away from muesli,” encouraging rabbit owners to feed a hay based diet. Calling all rabbit owners to The Forest Vet this week!

- 10% off all rabbit vaccines
- 10% off rabbit neutering
- Free health assessment for rabbits

### Bunny Fact:

**Uterine Adenocarcinoma (a malignant cancer of the uterus), occurs in 60% of female rabbits over 3 years old. Prevent this in your rabbit by having them spayed (ovariohysterectomy).**



## Getting Ready for Summer

### Kennel Cough

As the weather warms and dogs are going out and about more the risk of Kennel Cough rises. The misconception that it is only caught from kennels makes it more dangerous. Its a very infectious cough with symptoms of a severe whooping-like coughing, breathlessness, high temperatures and decreased appetite. The symptoms can last for weeks, and infected dogs must be kept isolated to prevent the spread of the disease. A vaccine is available, and is given via intra-nasal drops. Please contact us at the practice if you would like any further information on the kennel cough vaccine, or would like to book an appointment.

### Parasites

Remember to keep up to date with all flea and worming treatments as parasite numbers increase with the warmer weather. Fleas are the most common ectoparasite in dogs and cats, and prevention is much easier then trying to eliminate an infestation. 95% of the flea population is in the environment so its important to flea spray your house yearly to treat all eggs and larvae in the environment. Ticks are prevalent in areas of vegetation such as the forest, so its important to protect against them

as well. They are also susceptible to intestinal parasites such as roundworm, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms and lungworms. In practice we recommend monthly treatments of either a spot on or tablets to prevent against all parasites.

### Rabbits

As the weather warms, rabbits are at greater risk to the fatal illnesses myxomatosis and VHD, which can be spread by mosquitoes, fleas and biting flies. Make sure vaccines are up to date! Another danger this time of year is fly strike, so make sure to keep checking your rabbits rear end daily for fly eggs. They can often become damp which is what attracts the flies to lay their eggs, which hatch into maggots which can cause life threatening infections. Rearguard can be applied on the fur to prevent maggots from hatching. Also make sure they are kept in a clean environment. For more advice on prevention come into the practice.

### Guinea-Pigs

Its vital for guinea-pigs to be provided with areas of shade so they do not overheat as they are unable to regulate their own body temperatures. They are also vulnerable to sunburn.



## Star Patients

### Star Patient: Rosie

Lungworm, caused by *Angiostrongylus vasorum*, has become more common throughout the UK. Clinical signs can range from a mild cough or tiring more easily, to life threatening bleeding problems and even fitting. Slugs and snails can carry the larval stage, so if a dog eats a slug they can become infected. Once swallowed, the larvae migrate to the heart where they develop into adult worms who live in the heart and the blood vessels supplying their lungs. They lay their eggs which hatch into larvae and migrate into the airways of the lungs where the dog coughs them up, swallows them and sheds them in the faeces. The life cycle starts again.

Prevention is straight forward. In practice we can supply spot-on treatments or tablets which are both effective ways to prevent your dog from getting lung worm.

Treatment once infected can be more challenging. As well as killing the parasite, the other symptoms such as bleeding need to be treated. This is what has sadly lead to many dogs dying because of the parasites.

We are so proud of Rosie who successfully survived a life threatening episode of sever hemorrhaging from lungworm infection. Multiple blood transfusions over the bank holiday weekend by Rachael and Harriet helped her to turn a corner and live to tell the tale.



▲ *Bella and Rosie*

### Star Patient: Bella

Bella has not had the best year! Unfortunately she suffered pyometra, a condition in entire females where the uterus fills with pus. Emergency surgery was performed, by Sarah, which carries high risk of peritonitis, but with intensive nursing she survived! Soon after this Bella developed aggressive mammary tumours which were removed in an extensive surgery by our vet Sarah. So she can hopefully have more happy years. It is best to spey females at 6 months of age to prevent these conditions.

## Found a lump? Don't wait to see if it grows!

By Rachael Vinod Nair

*BSc (Hons.imm) BvetMed (Hons) MRCVS*

I am passionate about oncology. When we find a lump on ourselves some of us will be straight down the doctors demanding a biopsy, (I happen to be of this mentality), others will pretend it's not happening and hope it goes away. One thing I remember distinctly from the Senior oncology specialists when I was training at The Royal Veterinary College, was the statement, 'Don't wait to see if it grows'. I have followed this religiously since I graduated and will always tell my clients the same thing.

If you find a lump on your pet, it doesn't always mean the dreaded C word, it could be an abscess, cyst, haematoma or just an inflammatory reaction. The best thing to do is show your Vet. We can perform a fine needle aspirate to determine this straight away. If it appears to be a tumour the Vet may suggest removal of the lump and histology performed by the lab to determine the next course of action.

### Mast Cell Tumours

One of the reasons we take skin lumps so seriously is to make we sure we don't miss one of these. About 20% of all canine skin tumours are mast cell tumours. There are different grades of these tumours and this is an important prognostic indicator. The primary treatment is surgery. If it is a low grade tumour, surgery can be

curative. In higher grades adjunctive therapy may be indicated such as radiation or chemotherapy.

Chemotherapy in animals is a highly controversial subject. Its important to consider that different types of cancers respond differently to different treatment modalities but also to look at mean survival time afterwards. For example, if a chemotherapy protocol can give an animal 3-4 years of good quality life then that can be 20-25% of their overall lifespan, equivalent to 25 years extra in terms of human life. However, if it can only give them 3 months then I would question whether it would be worth putting the animal through it.

▼ *Rachael Vinod Nair and Bertie*



## Geriatric Feline Clinic

By Sarah Pile  
BVM+S MRCVS

At The Forest Vet, the health of our senior pets is extremely important. We want our elderly pets to have the best quality of life. We recommend an annual senior health check which includes a full health examination and usually a basic blood test on the liver, kidneys, glucose and protein levels and blood pressure check. Early detection of a problem can make a huge difference to the outcome.

Older pets are often suffering from dental disease. The bacteria found in plaque on the teeth can cause infection elsewhere in the body as well as being a constant draw on the immune system. We will assess the teeth to see if dental surgery is required and discuss dental care to maintain healthy teeth.

▼ Sarah Pile



Many pets will develop lumps with age, some of these are benign lumps which can be left but sometimes they are malignant tumours which require surgery. We will often perform a needle biopsy on lumps and send them for histopathological interpretation to decide if surgery is needed.

Like humans, pets can suffer from hypertension. It is most common in older cats. They can present at the vets with bleeding in their eyes or detachment of the retina. High blood pressure also causes damage to vital organs such as the kidneys. A fiddly, but painfree blood pressure check can detect the problem before this often irreversible damage is done.

Most pets will develop arthritis as they age. You may notice stiffness when your pet gets up, reluctance to jump in the car or struggling with stairs. It is important to start managing arthritis straight away to slow the progression. We will examine the pets joints to see which are most affected and discuss treatment options as well as give general advice on exercise, bedding, diets etc.

My own cat Charlie who is now at least sixteen has hyperthyroidism and renal disease. Charlie is on three tablets a day, a special renal diet and currently is suffering from a urine infection! I can sympathise with owners when they struggles to medicate their pets or get them to eat the recommended food.

**Please call the practice if you would like to come in and discuss your senior pets needs.**

## A Word From Some of Our Clients

"Since the very early days of The Forest Vet visits, Brucie has experienced only the most professional care from Rachael and the entire staff at The Forest Vet. They have been there to get us over all our medical moments- always with Brucie's well-being in mind. We cannot imagine Maresfield without them."



**Brucie**



**The piggies**

"I've been to many vets since becoming a piggy mum, never have I been so happy with the care my babies have received. Everyone is so caring and always listens to your fears and worries even if as an owner I'm just over thinking things or being irrational. Every time I've asked about anything after doing my own research they've always taken what I've said into consideration. One of my pigs has recently had an operation here and I was so worried as they're such little creatures. Not only was every little detail precise but the love and care she received while she was recovering was more than I could have hoped for. I always know they're in the safest hands."

"Finding The Forest Vets has been a huge relief for me. I was given my first cat by my parents on my fifth birthday and have been passionate about them from that day. Since buying my first house I have shared my life with 'rescue moggies', all of whom have been classed by local animal sanctuary's as 'difficult' to re-home. At present I have Orphelia, who was diagnosed with diabetes eighteen months ago, and Atticus and Minerva who after 4 years of living with me are still frightened of everybody and everything. I feel that Rachael and the team at The Forest Vet genuinely understand their individual needs and equally how important their care and well being is to me. I frequently sing their praises at any opportunity to friends and neighbours and hope that the practice goes from strength to strength!"



**Atticus and Minerva**



**Penny and Piglet the Rabbits**

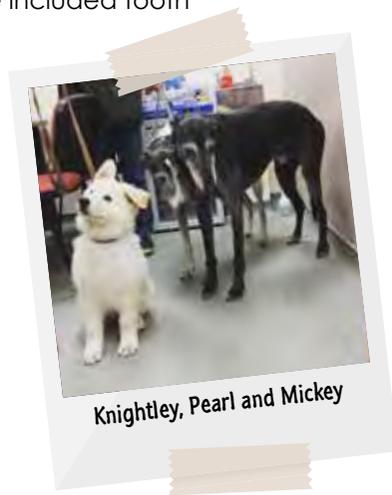
"The Forest Vet did an amazing job when Penny went to be speyed, not just the operation itself but all the after care, including phone calls to see how she was doing which was great as rabbits are delicate little things and it was really reassuring knowing everyone was looking out for her. The service is always brilliant and everyone there is really friendly and knowledgeable which is ace! So glad to have found a vets that really know how to take care of rabbits, happy bunnies all round!"

"Our new German Shepherd puppy 'Knightly' came to live with us in January this year and joined our two Greyhounds 'Micky' & 'Perles'. We decided to register all three dogs with Forest Vet in Maresfield ,our Daughter who also has 2 German Shepherd dogs registered at the same time, we have found the practice extremely friendly and very attentive.

The facilities are clean and up to date with a 24/7 emergency service. The decision to register with Forest Vet was the right one where we had various options open to us, the option we took was The Forest Vet Healthy Pet Club which we considered good value. Plenty of literature is available with an A to Z of treatments from bumps & lumps to vomiting ! Advice on what your pets needs in supplementary vitamins and food was of great help to us.

Already we have had to use the services which have included tooth extraction and an ear infection which have had a satisfactory result after treatment. Unfortunately one of our greyhounds had an accident which left her with a nasty gash, with no hesitation Dr Rachael V. Nair was able to operate immediately and within 3 hours Perles was back home with us.

We are very happy with our choice of Veterinary practice and hopefully will remain so for many years come."



**Knightly, Pearl and Mickey**



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