



Contact us

Route Isabelle Surgery
Tel 01481 723863

Make an appointment online
www.isabellevets.co.uk

Introducing our Pet Health Plan

We're delighted to introduce our new Pet Health Plan, aimed at bringing you peace of mind when dealing with those routine costs and procedures that Pet Insurance fails to cover.

We strongly believe the old adage 'prevention is better than cure' so the Pet Health Plan has been designed to provide your pet with the care, product and expertise to reduce the risk of disease.

As everyday life costs spiral for all of us, we appreciate the attraction of being able to spread the financial load and pet care is no different - so we have designed our Pet Health Plan specifically to spread these costs throughout the year through monthly direct debit payments. We are also offering discounts for all pets on the scheme.

For further information or to enrol your pet on the scheme, please visit us at Route Isabelle or L'Islet, call us on 723863 during our normal surgery hours, or call freephone 0800 169 9958 to Pet Health Plans direct from Monday to Friday any time between 8.30am and 7pm. Additional information can be found on the website at www.isabellevets.co.uk

Our Pet Health Plan

- x2 yearly examinations
- Different plans for different ages of cat / dog
- Monthly direct debit scheme
- Full vaccinations
- Total annual flea protection
- All wormer requirements
- 10% off out of hours fees
- Additional discounted services
- 10% off Pet Foods
- 10% off neutering
- Discounts for additional pets

Doreen Ford

BVMS, CertSAS, MRCVS

We'd like to welcome Doreen Ford to Isabelle Vets'.

Doreen graduated from Glasgow Vet School in 1995 with merit in medicine and started work in a mixed

species practice in the Lake District covering a similar 'mix' of animals to that in Guernsey. She moved to a small animal veterinary hospital in 1996 in Nottingham where she obtained the RCVS Certificate in Small Animal Surgery (2003). This allowed her to take on a senior surgical role including companion animal surgical referral from neighbouring practices. Her interest in providing veterinary excellence and working in a hospital environment provided her with the enthusiasm to become a council member of the British Veterinary Hospital Association. Doreen is also a lecturer at the Nottingham University Veterinary School in soft tissue surgery.

We're extremely pleased to have Doreen working in the Practice as her surgical qualifications and experience are unique in the Bailiwick. Now more specialist cases will be dealt with at Isabelle Vets rather than being transferred to the UK, reducing stress for pet and owner alike.



Why a cough might signal heart disease

It doesn't have to be an old dog to have heart disease. Unfortunately some *people* have heart disease from an early age due to deformities and later on in life from disease or through smoking. There are many similarities in dogs although they obviously don't smoke and interestingly, rarely develop the blocking of the coronary arteries attributed to that habit.

Certain breeds are notorious for heart problems: Cavalier Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, Dobermans and most 'giant breeds'. But all breeds can be affected by heart disease. The heart consists of four primary

chambers with left and right sides; two upper filling chambers, the atria and two large muscular pumping chambers, the ventricles. The left side is fed from the lungs and if it malfunctions, blood is 'dammed back' into the chest causing fluid to build up in the lung structure. We call this pulmonary oedema. The result is a soft, non-productive, cough which as it develops can end with a retch.

So, if your dog has a chronic, gentle cough which cannot be explained away it may be developing the early stage of heart failure and would warrant a veterinary examination and health check. Early stage heart disease can often be very successfully treated and positive action may allow your pet to live for many years to come.

Gourmet food for rabbits



Not long ago rabbits were fed hay and kept in hutches. Not surprisingly they had short lives. There are basic requirements for good rabbit nutrition; sunlight, exercise, fresh water,

balanced nutrition (with good calcium levels) and at least 6 hours of grazing per day. Initially rabbit food was a mixture of dried pieces, of different colours and shapes. But the rabbits picked out the 'tasty bits' and left the unpalatable pellets where all the important supplements (calcium and vitamins) were.

Now, however, companies such as Burgess realise small rabbits need smaller pellets, that fat rabbits require reduced calorie feed and that many rabbits are prone to urinary infection (the addition of dandelion and marigold can help reduce this risk). Isabelle Vets stock a range of Burgess foods and run a rabbit clinic to provide information on the best food type available for your bunny.

Molly's story

In December 2008 Molly was run over by a car. She was lucky to be alive with terrible pelvic and spinal injuries as well as significant injuries to her abdomen. The pelvis was broken in four places, she had fractured her hip had nerve damage to her bladder and rectum and had a major hernia caused by rupture of the abdominal wall. She was unable to feed herself or take on adequate fluid.

She was fed through naso-gastric tubes and drip lines provided fluid. Slowly nerve function returned to her bladder and rectum so that she could go to the toilet herself. Major surgery was performed to repair the large hernia and also on the damaged

hip joint. Molly went home where she was nursed through a long recovery. It wasn't easy but as the weeks went by she became stronger.

Molly's owners recently sent us a photo of her looking healthy and happy (pictured). She has made a good recovery and we wish her a long and happy future.



Diseases In Older Cats Part 1: Hyperthyroidism

The thyroid gland has two parts. They are like long, thin, cigars and sit on each side of the windpipe. The thyroid is the 'engine house' of the body. It is controlled from the pituitary gland in the brain and it produces hormones that control many areas of body function. The thyroid is responsible for such wide-reaching actions from altering heart rate, to hair growth, to energy levels, to the production of liver enzymes. It effects all levels of the bodies metabolism.

Hyperthyroidism is where there is too much thyroid hormone and the whole body becomes overactive. Occasionally the cause can be cancer of the thyroid gland but more often it is due to thyroid hyperplasia where for unknown reasons the thyroid gland produces too much hormone producing tissue. Cats with hyperthyroidism are very bright, in fact owner's often complement themselves how active their old cat is! Most cases are over twelve years old although younger cats occasionally suffer from this disorder. With time the hyperthyroid cat becomes then, even though he is eating well, has a strong thirst and often yowls and howls. He becomes twitchy and restless and eventually if not diagnosed and treated will go into liver or heart failure.

Diagnosis is easy by a blood test that we undertake at the surgery and treatment can be either by tablet or surgery. Positive treatment can be very effective and save the cats life and improve his life quality. So, if you have a thin, restless, hungry and vocal senior cat ask yourself whether he might be suffering from hyperthyroidism!