

April 2018

# Isabelle Vets News

## Thinking of Becoming a Vet?

### World University Rankings

Then you may be interested to know that SIX out of the top twenty Veterinary Universities in the World are British. Seven are in the USA and the remaining Universities scattered throughout the world; the Royal Veterinary College, London was third and Cambridge, fourth. If you are interested in becoming a vet and would like some advice, feel free to contact us. A UK veterinary qualification ensures that pet/animal owners know that the care they receive will be from someone trained to the highest standards of veterinary care.

Read the complete rankings article: <https://goo.gl/7gv3pN>

Is your  
cat old  
or ill?



PET CARE  
FOCUS

Daffodil Bulbs are  
poisonous!



German  
Shepherds



# Is your cat old or ill?

As most of our clients know we advocate routine prophylactic health care which includes vaccines, worming and flea control. However, what we feel is most important in the visit to your vet is the health check that goes with the care package.

Many clients come to the surgery obviously concerned about their ageing cat's welfare and the opening line is, "I think that she is just getting old". What they really mean is that there are changes to their much-loved cat's health. This may be weight loss, increased thirst, a poor coat, bad breath, occasional vomiting; the list is endless. All of these symptoms are potentially serious. The number one cause of death in cats is kidney failure. Diabetes is common in older cats, and bad teeth, poor hearts, arthritis, liver condition are all potential risks. If your pet has a constant weight, bright eyes, normal thirst, good appetite, good coat and is mobile then he or she is probably doing well but if you see any change in any of these parameters, don't assume the cat is just getting old as it probably means that their health is being challenged by some form of disease.

As cats have a far shorter life expectancy than we do, disease tends to occur more rapidly. We advocate a six-monthly health check of all cats, which becomes increasingly important as they get older.



## Daffodil bulbs are poisonous!

As we welcome spring and the early daffodils start to wilt many get enthusiastic about their gardens. It is easy to forget that the garden is full of potentially toxic plants and the daffodil is one of them. Apparently during the occupation in the Second World War hungry German soldiers dug up the bulbs assuming that they were like onions and ate them and (the story goes) that this caused a number of deaths. The whole daffodil is potentially poisonous, but the bulb is particularly rich in a toxin, lycorine, which causes terrible vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal cramps. Liver damage can result. The risks are low as the daffodil bulb also contains a chemical, oxalates, that causes discomfort to the mouth when eaten. However, if you are gardening, be careful if you dig up the bulbs and pets are around as curiosity may get the better of them.



# Choosing a Pet

## German Shepherd

The German Shepherd Dog, also known as the Alsatian in Great Britain and parts of Europe, is among the top 10 most popular dog breeds in the world, and probably one of the world's most recognized breeds.

The German Shepherd may embody some of the best traits of dogs, but is not for everyone. Originally bred to herd flocks all day, this is a high-energy dog who needs a lot of activity and exercise. Without it, they are likely to express boredom and frustration in ways you don't like, such as barking and chewing. The breed also has an aloof and sometimes suspicious nature — which makes them an ideal watchdog.

The German Shepherd is a relatively new breed, dating back to 1899, and owes its existence to one man: Captain Max von Stephanitz, a career captain in the German cavalry with a goal of creating a German breed that would be unmatched as a herding dog.

### Health

German Shepherds are generally healthy, but like all breeds, they're prone to certain health conditions. Not all German Shepherds will get any or all of these diseases, but it's important to be aware of them if you're considering this breed. If you're buying a puppy, find a good breeder who will show you health clearances for both your puppy's parents. Health clearances prove that a dog has been tested for and cleared of a particular condition. In German Shepherds, you should expect to see health clearances for *hip dysplasia* (with a score of fair or better) and *elbow dysplasia*.

Hip Dysplasia is a heritable condition in which the femur doesn't fit snugly into the pelvic socket of the hip joint. Hip dysplasia can exist with or without clinical signs. Some dogs exhibit pain and lameness on one or both rear legs. As the dog ages, arthritis can develop. Dogs with hip dysplasia should not be bred. Ask the breeder for proof that the parents have been tested for hip dysplasia and found to be free of problems.

Elbow Dysplasia is a heritable condition common to large-breed dogs. It's thought to be caused by different growth rates of the three bones that make up the dog's elbow, causing joint laxity. This can lead to painful lameness. Your vet may recommend surgery to correct the problem or medication to control the pain.

### Children And Other Pets

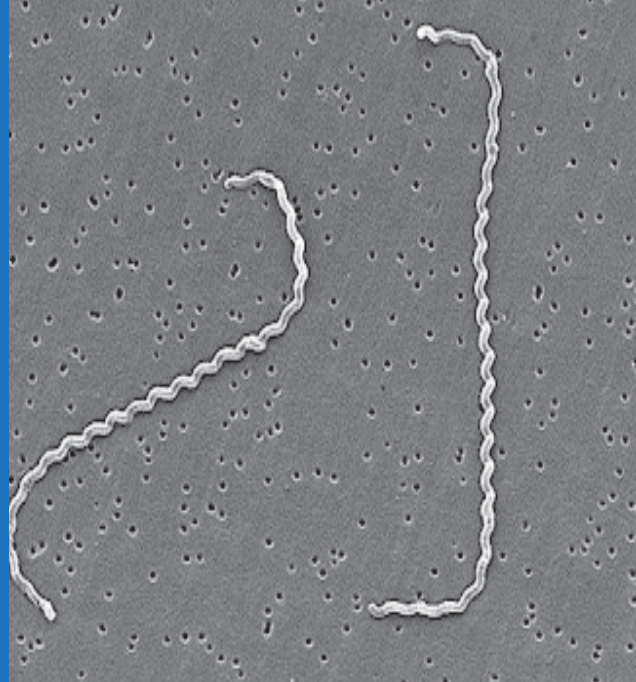
If well trained and often exposed to children, especially as a puppy, a German Shepherd is a great companion for children. In fact, some say he's a cross between a babysitter and a cop, both gentle with, and protective of, the children in their family. This is a big dog, though, capable of mistakenly bumping a toddler or small child. True to their reserved nature, they're not tail-wagging friendly with children or people they don't know, but are generally trustworthy. The German Shepherd can also live peacefully with other dogs and pets, as long as they are taught to do so from puppyhood. Introducing an adult German Shepherd to a household with other pets can be a little more difficult if the dog isn't used to getting along with other dogs or cats. All in all, German Shepherds are rewarding pets, who form a strong bond with their owners and immediate family members.





# Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a large group of bacteria that are present throughout the world. They are divided into 'subgroups', and for years we have provided vaccination protection against the serogroups Canicola and Icterohaemorrhagiae. We know that we have the latter in Guernsey (human Weill's disease) and that it is passed on by rats through their urine. The symptoms are liver and kidney failure followed by death in a very high percentage. Our vaccine is called Lepto2 and so long as it is given on an annual basis, provides sound immunity against these devastating diseases. Over the past few years two additional subgroups, Australis and Grippotyphosa, have moved from the East into northern Europe and have produced a new disease risk. To this date, Isabelle Vets has not isolated either of these subgroups. However, we advise that any dogs travelling to the UK or Europe should have the new upgraded vaccine Lepto4 which will provide the additional protection that is required.



## How Do We Warm your pet!

Did you ever wonder how we warmed up/kept your pet warm in the surgery? The photo shows our 'Mistral Air Warming System' that we can use to keep patients warm during lengthy surgical procedures (our operating tables are also heated) or to help warm patients that are semi-collapsed and are hypothermic. The system relies on the forced movement of warm air under a thermal blanket material and brings the animal temperature to a controlled level. The smaller the animal, the faster they lose heat (it is all down to the surface area to the volume ratio) and hypothermia is not an uncommon finding in sick and collapsed pets. This piece of equipment can save lives, speed recovery and is VERY cosy!

## Quick Tip: How to apply Eye Drops

Applying eye drops to cats and dogs can be problematic, and this is because most owners approach from in-front. The pet understandably sees this as a confrontational act and will tend to back away.

Always bathe an eye if there is any discharge. Warm, salt water is quite adequate and wipe towards and down to the inner corner. Ideally, one other person will hold the pet, and it is better on a raised surface to save you bending down. Once the eye is clear, pick up your bottle of eye drops between finger and thumb and after taking off the top face it downwards. Place the back of your hand that holds the drops on the pet's forehead just above the eye and use the back of the hand to pull the upper eyelid open. At the same time undertake a rocking action with your hand which moves the bottle to directly above the eye. Squeeze and a drop should go onto the eye surface without your pet ever knowing where it has come from.



[www.isabellevets.co.uk](http://www.isabellevets.co.uk)

Opening Hours: Route Isabelle - Mon - Friday 8.00 - 18.30 | Saturday 8.00 - 17.30 | Sunday by appointment

Opening Hours: L'Islet - Mon - Friday 8.30 - 18.00 | Saturday 8.30 - 12.30 | Sunday by appointment

Appointments & Emergencies 01481 723863 | [vets@isabellevets.co.uk](mailto:vets@isabellevets.co.uk).

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