

# THE PRIORY POST

The official newsletter of Priory Lodge Vets

SEPTEMBER 2022



Priory Lodge Vets  
*Caring for pets*



## HAPPY PETS CLUB

Our new and improved monthly subscription service for dogs and cats

The Happy Pets Club covers your pet's annual vaccination and preventative treatments against a broad range of parasites. The best thing about this service is that your pets' parasite treatments are delivered straight to your door every month! No journeys to the vets to collect and no forgetting when its due, fabulous! As well as the main benefits stated, you also benefit from:

20% off all consultations and kennel cough vaccination (for dogs), 10% off pet food & accessories bought at the practice, dental treatments, and long term medications, and to top it off -free nail clips with a nurse!

## Opening Times

Monday	08:30-18:30
Tuesday	08:30-18:30
Wednesday	08:30-18:30
Thursday	08:30-18:30
Friday	08:30-18:30
Saturday	08:30-12:00
Sunday	CLOSED

Visit our brand new website at  
[www.plvet.co.uk](http://www.plvet.co.uk)

September's BRAVERY AWARD goes to ... Grimley, a 12 year old, beautiful, friendly, tortoiseshell cat, who lost her tail as a result of a road traffic accident.

Despite being in considerable pain and having difficulty standing she has been a model patient and loved having strokes and attention from the nurses and vets during her stay in hospital.

This type of tail injury interferes with normal bladder function so she had to put up with having her bladder emptied every day. She was still friends afterwards! Fortunately the damaged nerves have recovered and she is back to normal doing well at home now. Sadly not all cases have such a good outcome.



Amputating her paralysed tail at the beginning of August was the last operation that vet, Ruth Wadsworth, did before she broke her wrist falling at home while gardening. She is in plaster till mid September. Apparently she is getting very bored and looking forward to being back at work!

## ARTHRITIS

**Osteoarthritis** is an inflammation of the joints and can occur in one or more areas. It is estimated that up to 50% of dogs and cats will suffer at some point in their lifetimes, in fact over 60% of cats over 6 can be affected. Common signs of arthritis are stiffness (particularly after laying down for a period of time), reduced mobility, reluctance to exercise/jump or play, restless sleep, licking affected joints, loss of appetite and even altered behaviour due to the chronic pain. It is worth noting that cats very often will hide signs of pain so the symptoms in our feline friends may be much more subtle and harder to spot.

Arthritis is commonly treated with analgesia medications that would be prescribed by the vet and the first stage, if you have any concerns, would be a visit to the clinic but there are a number of other therapies/treatment that can help with the management of the pain and mobility:

**Weight loss** – Pets that are their ideal weight suffer less painful episodes and there may even be a reduction in the progression of the disease. Our nurses run weight clinics to aid your pet in their weight loss journey.

**Physiotherapy**, hydrotherapy and laser therapy can help some pets under the advise of the veterinary surgeon.

**Supplements** such as glucosamine, chondroitin and green lipped mussel.

There is also support you can provide at home:

**Dogs** : Provide a well padded bed in a draught-free area. Make sure the bed is an appropriate size so they can stretch out. You could also try a special orthopaedic bed/mattress. Use non slip mats and rugs on slippery surfaces in the home and use ramps to make access to the garden/car/ favourite spot on the sofa easier.



**Cats** : Also provide well-padded areas around the home they can use to rest. A ramp can help them access favourite spots around the house e.g. onto their cat towers. Increasing the amount of litter trays and bowls and placing them in various spots around the house will help them access them more easily. Cats with arthritis may also have trouble grooming and they may get over-grown claws due to reduced mobility so regular brushing/nail trims may be needed.

# THE PRIORY POST

Welcome to our new Senior RVN. Vicky will be running our theatre department and helping to train our junior nurses. We are also delighted to welcome back our RVN Chloe.



Vicky and Chloe make a brilliant team!!

Our new smiley receptionist Lorraine is already an established part of the team.



Our lovely vet Ruth has been off for a while. Unfortunately, whilst gardening she broke her wrist. She hopes to be back with us late September, initially on light duties.

Our vet Hermione celebrated her wedding to Aaron in June. We congratulate them and wish them a very happy life together.



A very familiar face on reception celebrated 20 years with us this month!! What an amazing achievement and thank you Deborah!

## Pet Blood Bank

We have had a few visits now from PBB. To great success! 11 dogs came along to our July blood donation session and PBB were able to collect 5 units of blood which will potentially save the lives of 20 dogs!! We will keep you informed on our website and social media of their next visit.

Did you know that dogs have different blood types? Just like people, dogs have different blood types and they can either be DEA 1 positive or negative. Negative blood is in very high demand as this type can be given to any dog in an emergency, but it is also rarer with only 30% of dogs having it.

The charity @PetBloodBankUK needs more dogs who are likely to have the rarer negative blood type to come forward as donors and help them ensure this is always available for dogs who need it.

If you think your large, happy, healthy, and confident dog could become a lifesaver, visit Pet Blood Bank's website to find out more [www.petbloodbankuk.org/dogs](http://www.petbloodbankuk.org/dogs)



- Fit and healthy
- Between 1 and 8 years old
- Weigh more than 25kg
- Confident
- Enjoy meeting new people

Could your dog be a lifesaver?

## Nurse Clinics

Our friendly nursing team can provide nurse clinics to support the work our vets do. We can help weigh your pets for flea and worm treatments, making sure that you are dosing the correct amounts, or applying products for you. Or we can just monitor their weight when they are either too skinny or, perhaps more usually (!), overweight. We can advise on diet foods and exercise levels too to try and get your pets' weight to an appropriate level.

Nurses can clip claws for dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs, so long as you are able to help hold a wriggly patient for us!

If your pet gets a tick on them and you would like a nurse to remove it for you please let us know. We can then discuss appropriate tick treatments to help prevent further infections.

Our registered nurses can help with diabetic clinics to help support you, particularly when your pet has been recently diagnosed.



As Autumn and Winter fast approach we're heading into 'firework season'. This can be a stressful time for many of our four legged friends so here are a few tips to help you and your pets be prepared:

**Keep pets inside.** Walk your dogs earlier in the day to avoid taking them outdoors at times when fireworks are likely to be set off. Make sure your **garden and house are secure** so they cannot escape if startled, and make sure their **microchip details** are up to date in case they do.

**Secure dog/cat flaps** - remember to increase the number of litter trays if your cats are used to toileting outside. **Create quiet, safe dens** - could be as simple as a duvet over a chair or blankets in a cardboard box - cats like to be high up so consider making their den somewhere high e.g. on a shelf/cupboard (as long as it's strong enough and safe to do so).

**Don't react to the fireworks yourself** - if you are calm, there is more chance your pet will be too. **Always follow your pet's lead** - if they want to be by themselves, let them. If they want comfort, comfort them. **Close windows and curtains** to muffle the sound and light. **Put on some nice background music** or just turn the TV on - ClassicFM normally have special episodes for pets over the bonfire weekend (nice for both human and animal ears!) **Consider calming pheromone diffusers** and sprays.



As always, **contact us if you have concerns**. If your pet shows very extreme signs of anxiety then it may be appropriate to consider medications that can help alleviate this. However any medication should always be used alongside behavioural modifications so worthwhile discussing with your vet. For more information please follow <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/general/fireworks>