

S U M M E R 2 0 1 1

# AlphaPet News

Exceptional Care For The Life Of Your Pet

## Out of Hours Cover

AlphaPet is one of only two local practices that continue to offer its own in-house 24-hour Emergency Service and hospitalisation facilities. All other local practices require their clients to travel to either Worthing or Portsmouth if they have an emergency outside of normal hours. Patients requiring hospitalisation overnight often have to be transferred to the designated Out Of Hours (OOH) service provider in Worthing or Portsmouth.

At AlphaPet, we do not believe this is in the best interests of either our patients or our clients and we will continue to operate our own OOH service from our West Meads surgery 24/7 every day of the year.

**facebook**

AlphaPet is now on Facebook, so if you want to keep up to date with what is going on, follow us at [www.facebook.com/AlphaPetVets](http://www.facebook.com/AlphaPetVets)



## AlphaPet Animal Fun Day

Following the amazing success of last year's event, AlphaPet is pleased to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> **AlphaPet Fun Dog Show** on **Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup>** on the **West Meads Community Field**.

Everything kicks off at 10am with the first of 10 show classes beginning at 11am. Entry to all classes will be on the day from 10am. Full details of all classes will be available on the website and at each surgery. Best in Show will be judged at approximately 3pm.

In addition to the dog show, there will be lots of stalls to visit; a Pets Corner for the children (and young at heart adults!), Tombola, Name the Dog, Cakes, Doggy Lucky Dip, a Canine "Temptation Alley", Dog Agility Demonstrations, Have-A-Go-Agility, Dog Training Demonstrations and the Canine AlphaPet Challenge. There will also be refreshments available and a second hand pet accessories stall.

All proceeds this year will be going to **The Cinnamon Trust**. Further details on our website at [www.alphapet.co.uk](http://www.alphapet.co.uk)

Save the Date! **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

## Staff News

**Double congratulations to Emma Nolan, and hubby Gary, on the birth of their baby daughter and also for qualifying as a Veterinary Nurse just before her maternity leave! Congratulations also to Paul and Jackie Irvine-Smith on the birth of their first child, a son!**

There have been a few staff changes since the last newsletter. Louise Washington and Alison Goulding (West Meads reception) have moved on to pastures new and we are sad to be losing nurse Debbie Howe who is moving to Devon. Rachel Avery moved to Hertfordshire to join her fiancée.

However, Rachael Keep has returned after maternity leave and we have a new member of staff joining, Claire Stares.

Aimee Uren is currently awaiting the results of her final nursing exams – we have everything crossed for her!

We are very happy and relieved to have Catherine Williams back after a period of illness and also extend a warm welcome to new vet Laura Wingham.

The staff would also like to say a heart felt thank you to all our clients who have sent cards and letters to express their gratitude for everything we have done to help their pets – it means a lot to know that our efforts are so much appreciated.



## Puppy Parties

If you're getting a new puppy, one of the most important things you can do is to encourage them to become properly socialised as early as possible.

At AlphaPet, we have FREE puppy parties to help you do just this.

They are held at our West Meads surgery starting at 8pm for 3 consecutive Wednesdays each month but they are very popular, so please do book your place early.

As well as being great fun for both you and your new family addition, they are also an ideal opportunity to discuss behavioural and training issues with our vets or nurses running the evenings.

As long as your puppy has had their first vaccination and are under 18 weeks of age, they are safe and eligible to join the parties.

We can always recognise past attendees – they're the dogs that run into AlphaPet dragging their owners behind them!





## Summer Tips

Summer is upon us again but remember that hot weather can be a real threat to your pets. For dogs and cats, the heat really brings out the parasites such as fleas and ticks, so don't forget to keep your monthly treatments up to date.

We have Lyme disease in this area, which is transmitted by ticks so, if you're walking with your dogs, carry a tick removal tool and check them regularly.

Never leave dogs in cars on hot days. It can take as little as 20 minutes for a dog to die of heat stroke in a hot car even on an overcast day. Sadly, we still see cases every year. Even when driving, ensure that there is ample ventilation in the car. We may be able to strip down to T-shirts, but dogs and cats are still wearing fur coats!

When walking dogs, avoid the hottest times of the day by walking in the early morning and late evening.

Slugs and snails not only pose a threat to dogs from lungworm, but owners who use metaldehyde-containing slug and snail pellets, risk poisoning dogs and cats through ingestion. Even small amounts can cause significant toxicity and can be fatal. Please think before using them.

Always make sure that every pet has plenty of clean water available at all times. We recommend taking a supply of fresh water on walks and visits to the beach.

Check rabbits, guinea pigs and other small furries daily for signs of mucky bottoms, which could attract flies and risk "Flystrike" – a common but frequently fatal condition where maggots literally eat your pet alive!

Use non-scented waterproof sunblock on dogs and cats with pink ears and noses to reduce the risk of cancer. Better still, keep them out of the sun during the middle of the day.



## Mount Noddy & Brent Lodge

**AlphaPet provides veterinary services and has close links to both these local charities.**

**In these financially challenging times, please take a moment to spare a thought for the amazing work both these charities do.**

**However, they can only continue to do their work with continued donations from the public, so please support them in whatever way you can and remember them in your wills.**

## Fish Hooks!

Please be careful when you are walking dogs along the seashore. We have had a recent spate of dogs eating baited fish hooks, often from children's crabbing lines, which have resulted in surgery to retrieve them. We are trying to get warning notices placed in the worst affected areas, especially at East Head, but increased owner vigilance is still very necessary.

## AlphaPet Online Shop

AlphaPet now has an online shop where you can buy a variety of pet foods, collars & leads, health supplements, toys and accessories and treats, all at competitive prices.

## Birdham refit

Our Birdham surgery is currently undergoing a major refit and now looks particularly smart! Next on the list is a West Meads refurbishment – watch this space!



**which?** Rates Vetsure  
Pet Insurance

The well-known independent consumer guide, 'Which?' has listed Vetsure amongst its highest scoring pet insurance policies within the cover category of 'lifetime, per condition / per year'. This is the highest level of cover they assess.

'Which?' review dog and cat policies based on a set of criteria that they have defined and list their results on the following web page:

[http://www.which.co.uk/money/insurance/reviews-ns/pet-insurance/pet-policies](http://www.which.co.uk/money/insurance/reviews/ns/pet-insurance/pet-policies)

## Canine Blood Donors

Do you have a fully vaccinated, fit and healthy dog between 1 and 8 years old and weighing over 25kg? If so, then they could help to save another canine life by registering as an AlphaPet Blood Donor.

We have had a number of dogs requiring life-saving blood transfusions in recent months and we need more volunteer donors.

If you are willing to allow your dog to become a life-saver, please call one of our surgeries or write to us at [info@alphapet.co.uk](mailto:info@alphapet.co.uk)

**Website: [www.alphapet.co.uk](http://www.alphapet.co.uk)**

**24 Hour Emergency Phone: 01243 842832**

### West Meads Surgery

11-17 The Precinct, West Meads,  
Bognor Regis, PO21 5SB  
Telephone **01243 842832**

### Kingley Surgery

Oldwick Farm, West Stoke Road  
Lavant, Chichester PO18 9AA  
Telephone **01243 528899**

### Birdham Surgery

Northleigh Farm, Main Road  
Birdham, Chichester PO20 7BY  
Telephone **01243 513514**

