



# Drumahoe Veterinary Clinic

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# NEWS

## Going on holiday?

**Remember to book your kennels.**  
 We have excellent DARD approved kennels for dogs and cats.



We require all animals to be fully vaccinated including Kennel Cough in the case of dogs.

The dogs and cats are kennelled in heated separate kennels and are not in contact with any other dogs or cats. We cater for a range of dogs, small to large in size and can accommodate groups of dogs as well as groups of cats.

We endeavour to ensure that your pet is safe, warm, comfortable and well fed to make sure their stay with us is a happy one. Food and bedding are provided.

The cats have their own little gym to allow them to exercise and equally have fun.

Special arrangements can be made to cater for rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and other small companions and provide for their individual needs.

## Consulting Times

*Monday - Friday:*  
 8.30 - 9.30am, 1.30 - 2.30pm,  
 6.00 - 7.00pm

*Saturday:*  
 8.30 - 9.30am, 1 - 2pm

**Please note: Consultations by appointment**

**24 HOUR SERVICE FOR EMERGENCIES**  
 ☎ (028) 71 311448

## COMPANION THERAPY LASER

Help your pet heal with therapy laser. Drug Free. Surgery Free. Relief for your pet. Therapy Lasers have been scientifically proven and successful in treating post-pain and many acute and chronic conditions.

### Acute Conditions

- Wounds
- Allergies
- Infections
- Cuts/ Bites
- Inflammations
- Tooth Extraction Pain Relief
- Sprains, Strains & Fractures
- Post-Surgical Healing / Pain Relief



Head Veterinary Nurse Sharon Kee is seen here using Laser Therapy on Molly the dog.

### Chronic Conditions

- Degenerative Joint Disease
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Periodontal Disease
- Lick Granulomas
- Geriatric Care
- Hip Dysplasia
- Feline Acne
- Tendonitis
- Arthritis

## Charity Challenge

Thank you for all your brilliant support.

We raised the magnificent sum of £3000.


Rainbow Rehoming Centre and PDSA each received £1500.



## Adding a new pet to the family!

Introducing a pet into the family is a lot of fun and also a big responsibility. So – to help keep your new arrival fit and well, here is a short “to-do” list!

**Vaccinations:** One of the key reasons pets are living longer is that we are able to vaccinate them against a range of infectious diseases (see panel right) that, without regular vaccination, pose a deadly threat to our pets. **Regular booster vaccinations**, combined with a **health check**, are the best way of protecting your pet, plus at the same time keeping a watchful eye out for any other emerging health issues.

 **Fleas:** Most puppies and kittens will arrive with a fair number of fleas, so it is a good idea for us to give them a check over on arrival! Spot-on treatments are ideal for treating your pets, whilst household sprays are great for treating your home.

**Worming:** If their parents were not regularly de-wormed, there is a very high prevalence of **roundworm** infections in puppies and kittens. As they grow up they are susceptible to infection with both **roundworms** and **tapeworms** and will require regular worming treatment. Additionally, **lungworm** is posing an increasing threat for many dogs (see overleaf for further information).

**Life-stage diets:** We can now offer pets a tailored series of diets from tiny kittens and puppies, through adulthood and into their senior years. These diets are designed to offer the ideal balance of nutrients for each life stage. The good news is that these diets can make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of pets.

**Lost and found:** It is important to get your pet identified as soon as possible. As well as a collar and tag, we also recommend having your pet microchipped as a more secure and permanent form of identification.

Finally it is well worth considering **pet insurance** – covering your pet against those unexpected vet bills!

**We are here to help**, so please don't hesitate to ask us for further information on any aspect of caring for your pets!



### Vaccination against infectious diseases

We recommend you regularly vaccinate your pets against the following, potentially fatal, infectious diseases:

#### Dogs:

- Distemper
- Infectious canine hepatitis
- Parvo virus
- Leptospirosis
- Para influenza virus

#### Cats:

- Cat flu virus
- Feline panleukopenia virus
- Feline leukaemia virus



## Spring has sprung!

With the onset of Spring sunshine it's time to get out and about! Here are a few things to watch out for:

**Fledgling birds** are a feature of the Spring and Summer months and it is not uncommon to see fully feathered baby birds hopping around. Fledglings spend a few days on the ground whilst their feathers finish developing, before they start properly flying. So, if you find a young fully feathered bird out of its nest, it's likely to be a fledgling and there is no need to be worried. The parents are probably close by, waiting for you to leave before retrieving their young.



Photos: Warren Photographic



## Rabbits: keeping one jump ahead!



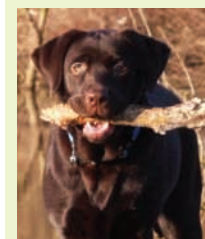
WITH the onset of warmer weather, we look at some top tips for keeping your pet rabbit fit and healthy!

**Make sure they are vaccinated!** Rabbits should be vaccinated yearly (even indoor rabbits) against two potentially deadly diseases: **Myxomatosis** can be spread by biting flies, and **Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD)** which spreads easily from rabbit to rabbit, or via contaminated hutches, bedding, food or human clothing.

**Protect them from flies!** As the weather warms up, flies can be annoying for humans, but for rabbits they can be deadly. Flies are attracted to rabbits if they have soiled bottoms and will lay their eggs there. These rapidly hatch out into flesh eating maggots which can be painful and fatal if left untreated. Make sure your rabbit's hutch is cleaned out daily and check your rabbit's bottom **every day** to make sure it is clean – call us immediately if you are worried. Remember that pets in outside runs need a *shaded area* to get away from the sun.

**What about neutering?** It's a good idea to neuter rabbits not intended for breeding and this can be done from 12-16 weeks of age. Apart from the obvious benefits of preventing unwanted pregnancies, neutered rabbits are generally calmer (and can be kept in groups without fighting) and are protected from cancer of the reproductive organs.

If you would like any further information on **vaccination**, **neutering** or **general rabbit care** – please call us today! Don't forget it is really important to keep your rabbit vaccinated!

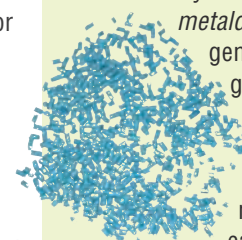


### Stick to toys!

Dogs love sticks and will bring them to you in the hope that you will throw them – **DON'T!!**

Every year we see horrendous stick injuries where dogs attempt to catch sticks. Specially designed dog toys are a much safer option.

**Toxic alert!** The spring garden can be full of hazards – and one of the most lethal is **slug pellets**. Slug pellets commonly contain the chemical



*metaldehyde* and are generally blue or green in colour.

Metaldehyde is very toxic to pets and since many dogs will eat almost any-

thing, slug pellets should only be used with great care, keeping pets away from areas where they are used and stored.

Fledgling photo: Andy Bright