



Westmorland  
Veterinary Group

PET SERVICES

## WESTMORLAND SMALL ANIMAL NEWS

*kendal*

*kirkby lonsdale*

# SPRING

Dear Readers,  
Welcome to our first 2024 newsletter! In this edition, meet our newest vet, Holly, learn about rabbits with Beccy, and learn about some of the dangers that come with Spring. Plus, stay updated on crucial information for you and your pets. Thanks for your ongoing support and feedback; it means the world to us at Westmorland Veterinary Group.



### NOTICES

#### PRESCRIBING MEDICINES

Recent RCVS guidelines state that before prescribing any antifungal, antibiotic, antiparasitic or antiviral treatment, the animal must have had a physical examination by a vet.

The RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) is the regulatory body for all vets in the UK.

#### CAT MICROCHIPPING

New rules state that all cats **MUST** have a microchip implanted before 20 weeks of age. This will be a legal requirement.

Please get in touch if you would like us to check your cat's chip or implant one.



# INTRODUCING

Meet Holly who has been working as a vet at Westmorland for 6 months. A proud graduate from the University of Nottingham, Holly brings a passion for veterinary care and a particular fondness for surgery. When not in the operating room, she finds joy in the company of cats, a sentiment mirrored by her affectionate ginger cat, Edward. At home, Holly shares her space with a lovable black Labrador named Bruce. We're delighted to have Holly as a valued member of our team!



## ... AND GOODBYE TO JANE!



Farewell to Jane, one of our vet nurses, who retired at the end of 2023. Thank you for almost 40 years of service and dedication to our practice. We wish you a well-deserved and enjoyable retirement.



# spring dangers

### PLANTS

Many spring time plants can be toxic to cats and dogs. These include lillies, daffodils and azaleas. Be aware of plants in your home and garden.

### SPRING CLEANING

Lots of cleaning products are harmful to animals, particularly aquatics. Always store securely and follow instructions.

### ALLERGIES

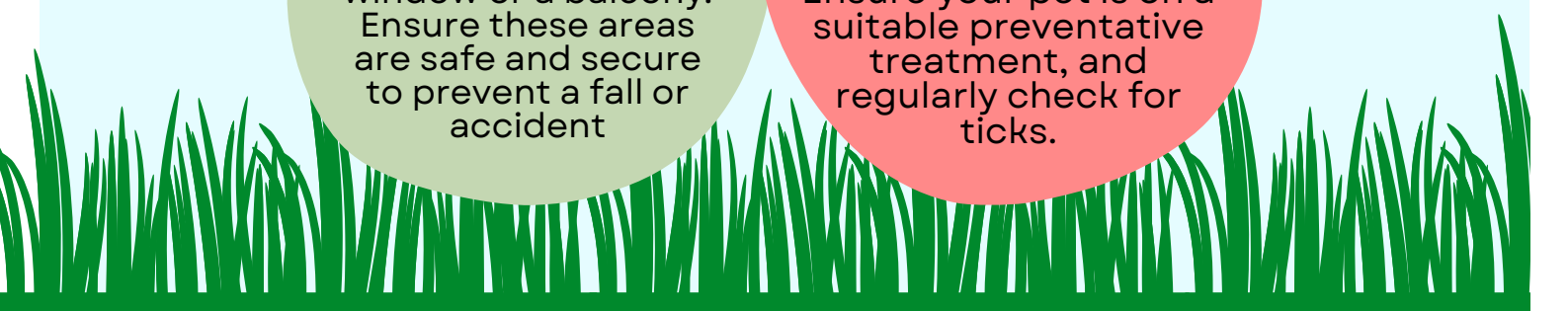
Just like humans, our pets' allergies can get worse in spring time. If you notice scratching, licking or red eyes contact us for an appointment.

### OPEN WINDOWS

Cats in particular may be keen to explore an open window or a balcony. Ensure these areas are safe and secure to prevent a fall or accident.

### PARASITES

Warmer weather means increased activity for ticks, fleas, and mosquitoes. Ensure your pet is on a suitable preventative treatment, and regularly check for ticks.





Resident rabbit enthusiast  
Rebecca Frost talks us through  
what it takes to own a pet rabbit!

# Is a rabbit for me?

Rabbits can make great pets, but, if you are considering getting a rabbit, will it make a suitable pet for you? Read on to find out.

## **Safety Considerations:**

Rabbits, as prey animals, have powerful hind legs and sharp chisel teeth that can cause wounds. While they usually dislike being picked up, they enjoy ground-level stroking. If a rabbit grinds its teeth while being stroked, it indicates relaxation.

## **Managing Expectations:**

Consider your expectations before getting a rabbit. If you seek a cuddly pet, it may not align with a rabbit's preferences. However, if you enjoy interactive pets that engage on their terms and are fun to observe, a rabbit might be a suitable companion for you.

## **Rabbits around children:**

People often buy rabbits to teach responsibility to children. If kids get bitten or scratched then a cute rabbit may soon be left alone and slowly neglected. Children should never be left as sole charge of the rabbit.

## **Important welfare points for keeping a rabbit:**

- It is recommended to keep rabbits in bonded pairs or groups.
- Rabbits require a diet mainly comprising grass and hay; good quality hay can be costly.
- Diet should include a variety of vegetables and, if necessary, high-fibre pellets.
- Rabbits need ample space, whether indoors or outdoors.
- Hutches or small cages (if indoors) are unsuitable as the sole accommodation for rabbits.
- The minimum size of any sleeping accommodation is 1.8mx0.6mx0.6m, this should be permanently attached to an enclosure of at least 3mx2mx1m in size.
- **IMPORTANTLY:** just because something is available in a pet shop it does not mean it is suitable.

**Vet costs:** Be aware that rabbits will need neutering and vaccination. Should your rabbit be taken ill, vet bills may be costly as they require such intensive care.

If you can provide everything a rabbit needs they can make excellent and rewarding pets. They are highly trainable and you can waste hours watching them!

For more information visit [rabbitwelfare.co.uk](http://rabbitwelfare.co.uk)

# Lifetime Care Club



## Cats

£15 monthly

£180 per year save up to 36%

## Small Dogs 0-10kg



£15 monthly

£180 per year save up to 36%

Savings are based on using full yearly treatments of Bravecto and Milbevet

- ✓ Boosters
- ✓ Ticks
- ✓ Fleas
- ✓ Wormers

Plus MANY MORE advantages and discounts

## Medium Dogs 10-25kg



£16 monthly

£192 per year save up to 37%

## Large Dogs 25-40kg



£18 monthly

£216 per year save up to 40%



Kendal 01539 722692  
Kirkby Lonsdale 015242 71221

## **CHANGES TO OUR OUT OF HOURS SERVICE**

From February 26th 2024 we will be partnering with Vets Now to provide emergency out of hours care at our Kendal practice. This collaboration is a big step towards providing on-site 24 hour care for our patients. Please do not hesitate to talk to a member of our team if you have any questions.