



Bay Vets Newsletter

The Wildlife Edition



Welcome,

Spring is in the air finally and here at Bay Vets our diary is starting to get busy with the annual events it brings. It is also the time of year our kennels start filling up with fledglings and hedgehogs as they start leaving their nests. This newsletter will hopefully give you some advice on what to do if you find a 'prickly Percy' or a 'featherless Frank' in your garden and you are confused as to what course of action is best.

Hedgehog Rescue during the Spring Months.

Here at Bay Vets we get a lot of Hedgehogs brought in through out the year whether it be a rogue in the garden, an injured little hoglet or a pet hedgehog. Most hedgehogs are taken in by the local rescue centres and we also have a small population now in our large garden at the Lancaster practice. Hibernation comes to an end in March so here is what to look out for.

If you find a young hedgehog during the day and are unsure whether it needs rescuing you should stand back and observe before taking any action. Firstly if you think the hedgehog is in immediate danger eg. playing chicken in the middle of the road - then it needs a helping hand. If the hoglet appears to be on its own for a long time the chances are he has lost mum or his mum has died. If that is the case it will need help. It is also important to check whether his eyes are opened yet as a 'sleeping' hedgehog of any age out in the open isn't safe.

If you find an injured, underweight looking or 'confused' hedgehog use some good gardening gloves to pick them up and put them in a secure box lined with a fluffy towel or blanket. We also recommend a hot water bottle which the Hog can climb off if he gets too hot. Most often than not the hedgehog will need feeding. Fresh water and some cat food will go down nicely—Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant so milk is a no go and bread has no nutritional value either so we wouldn't recommend feeding it. Call your us or wildlife rescue shelter for further guidance.

How can we prevent further Hedgehog Injuries?

- **Cover drains and holes** and place bricks at the side of ponds to give hedgehogs an easy route out. Cover swimming pools overnight and when not in use.
- **Build bonfires** as close to time of lighting as possible and check them thoroughly before lighting.
- **Remove sports or fruit netting** when not in use to prevent hedgehogs becoming entangled, and getting injured.
- **Slug pellets can poison hedgehogs** and should only be used as a last resort. Instead try using one of many "natural" alternatives, like sprinkling crushed eggshells or coffee grounds around the plants you need to protect. If you have to use pellets, place them under a slate which is inaccessible to hedgehogs.

Check for hedgehogs before using strimmers or mowers, particularly under hedges where animals may rest. Check compost heaps for nesting hogs before forking over.

For further information why not visit our blog at www.bayvets.blogspot.co.uk

What to do if you find a baby bird?

We have started to get enquiries in the last couple of weeks about baby birds that are being found out of their nests. We get a lot of fledglings brought in to us by members of the public who mean well but when is it necessary to 'rescue' a baby bird?

So the question always comes up - When to help and when to leave alone?

What should I do if I find a nestling?

Nestlings are baby birds that have no feathers, or only a few. Nestlings will not survive long outside the protection of the nest so take them to your nearest wildlife rehabilitator.

What should I do if I find a fledgling?

Fledglings have all or most of their feathers and leave the nest just before they can fly.

Leave a fledgling alone and watch from a distance as the parents are usually nearby and will still be feeding the bird. If the bird is out in the open you can move it out of harms way under a hedge. If you are worried about the resident cat getting it you can always keep the cat indoors until night time? Never try to return a bird to the nest as this may disturb the other young birds .

Our local wildlife centres look after hundreds of fledglings every year, picked up by well-meaning people. Most of these birds are not orphans and would have been better off left in the wild.

If, after monitoring, you think a fledgling is genuinely orphaned, take it to your nearest wildlife rehabilitator for further treatment.

Please don't try to care for young birds yourself – they need specialist care and facilities to survive.

Capture of baby birds—if it's safe to catch and handle the bird then, wearing suitable gloves, place it into a secure ventilated cardboard box, lined with towel or newspaper. Don't offer food or water as they require a specialised diet.

Keep the bird somewhere warm and quiet and take it to your nearest wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible

Is your pet Microchipped?

We have been getting a lot of 'stray' pets brought in recently that haven't been chipped as you may have seen on our Facebook page.

Did you know for only £15 you can get your pet chipped here with us in a 15 minute appointment. Getting your pet chipped can benefit in a number of ways;

- *It can save your pets life if lost or stolen
- *Proof of ownership
- *It gives you peace of mind that if your pet does get lost there is a high chance you will be reunited
- *It is a quick and simple procedure and lasts forever
- *It helps over-run rescue centres reunite stray animals with their owners
- *It is the Law that all dogs must be microchipped!*

Please consider getting your pet chipped if not already!!

June is National ID Chip Month and here at Bay Vets we are offering Cat Microchipping for a discounted price of £10!!



Rabbit Vaccinations update.

We have recently had a number of cases of VHD confirmed at our surgeries. RVHD (Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease) is highly fatal like Myxomatosis and can affect unvaccinated rabbits. It can be passed from rabbit to rabbit, via insects or vermin and via contaminated clothes/shoes/food and hay. There are many ways to try reduce the risk but the most effective would be to vaccinate your rabbit. Here at Bay Vets we offer the annual vaccination course which covers both strains of VHD and Myxo, it is an annual vaccination and the vet visit also includes a full health check and MOT. Please visit our blog or Facebook page for more details.



This month we were lucky enough to meet this cheeky face. This is Shep who came in to see Vet Louise for his 1st vaccination. He was such a brave boy and he definitely gave us the 'Paws Up' Check out our Facebook page for more Pet Pawsers and for the latest Bay Vets news!!

Dates for your Diary



We will be attending Caton Gala on the 9th June. As always we will be running the dog show—does your pooch have what it takes??

Visit the website on www.catongala.com for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!!



During the month of June we will be offering free rabbit checks with a nurse. This will be a chance to discuss any concerns such as diet and condition.

Don't miss out!...

We have seen a number of cases of VHD2 in the area so its an ideal time to discuss vaccinations. We look forward to seeing you and your Happy Hopper!!

