

Our Canine Heroes

pet blood bank^{uk}
A charity supported by Vets Now



We have now been working alongside 'Pet Blood Bank UK' for over one year and

what a fantastic response we have had! Our canine clients from all around Lancaster, Morecambe and the surrounding area have been helping save lives with us by donating blood at our quarterly donor sessions at Bay Vets Lancaster.



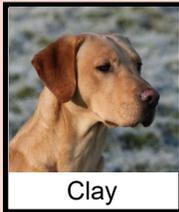
Each time the Pet Blood Bank team visit at least 15 waggie tailed life savers come along and donate 1 unit of blood (450ml) each. These donations are then used all over the country for dogs in need. We are so pleased with the amount we have donated to this fantastic cause and can't thank all of our clients enough. We hope to keep up the good work in 2018.

Pet Blood Bank is a charity, therefore no money is made from the blood donations and dogs in need receive the blood products free of charge.



Beau

Beau is one of our nurses dogs who unfortunately had to undergo emergency surgery to remove his spleen. Blood loss in this surgery is high and Beau required a blood transfusion. Beau was fortunate enough to receive blood donated by his brother Clay who has attended each of our donor sessions so far. Pet Blood Bank provided us with the products we needed and a fantastic service enabling us to get Beau back up on his feet after his surgery.



Clay

We are always looking for more donors so if you would like your dog to be a life saver contact us on 01524 32696 or go to petbloodbankuk.org for more info.

Lancaster:

Baldrand House
Bowerham Road
Lancaster
LA1 3AJ
01524 32696

Morecambe:

194 Lancaster Road
Morecambe
LA4 5TL
01524 410867

Milnthorpe:

12 The Square
Milnthorpe
LA7 7QJ
015395 62770

Caton:

20 Hornby Road
Caton
LA2 9QS
01524 770615

www.bayvets.co.uk

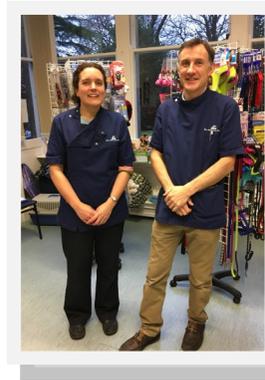
Info@bayvets.co.uk



Bay Vets Gazette The Community Vets

Winter 2017/18

2018 sees the start of a bright new future for Bay Vets. After many many years of hard work and dedication our Chairman Richard Bottom has retired, together with Administrative Director Anita Lewis and well known Senior Vet Paul Higton. They have certainly left the team in great shape, with a sound basis for the business to grow and develop upon. Our values and focus will continue to be about our patients' welfare and care and our clients are at the forefront of everything we do.



Heading our committed team of passionate staff are new owners Katie Kyle BVetMed MRCVS and Colin Houstin BVM&S CertSAS MRCVS. As large numbers of people in the local area are aware, Katie has worked for the practice for 17 years and is hugely popular with many of our clients due to her care and compassion to owner and patient. As well as working for our first opinion clients, Colin has run our Referrals business for the past 6 years and many, many patients from around the north west have benefited from his caring nature and highly skilled orthopaedic and soft tissue expertise.

WELCOME

We are all looking forward to continuing the success of Bay Vets and ensuring we maintain our position as a highly skilled, caring, patient/client focused veterinary practice. In the last six months we have welcomed some new faces to the team:

Karen Postlethwaite - Practice & Finance Manager

Kirsten Patrick - Veterinary Surgeon

Kirsty Thomson - Registered Veterinary Nurse

Kate Bell - Receptionist at Lancaster

Alyson Wakefield - Receptionist at Milnthorpe

Rachel Simpson - Auxiliary Nurse

Vicki Peters - Auxiliary Nurse

Sadly there are always some goodbyes as lives change course and new, exciting challenges face them. Their contribution to our happy team is missed and we wish them every future success.

Chris - Ambulance driver

Mairi - Auxiliary Nurse

Manii - Registered Veterinary Nurse

Linda - Boutique

Has your pet over indulged at Christmas?



When was the last time you really looked and considered your pet's current body shape? Pull out photos of their early years and compare then to now. Apply slight pressure to their sides - can you feel the ribs without an excess of fat? Feel along the sides - can the waist indentation be felt and seen from above. Is the abdomen hanging low or is it tucked in? Dogs should have a similar figures to wolves, cats resemble the cheetah and rabbits should be sleek like those in the wild.

However content your pet may look, being overweight is a danger to their well-being. They are uncomfortable, less able to play and exercise, and being overweight may also cause or exacerbate problems such as heart and liver disease, mobility disorders, diabetes mellitus and lowered resistance to infectious diseases. If not addressed, weight problems can lead to shortened life expectancy. What your companion eats and how much exercise they get is down to you ... and it will be the easiest diet you will ever have to enforce! In all cases the solution will be a combination of diet, exercise and time – and it will be worth it!

Lifestage – Diets should match the maturity of each animal. Pet food manufacturers supply a range of puppy, kitten, junior, adult, senior/mature options. Even rabbits have size and age specific options. Neutered food is ideal for animals following spaying or castration even when neutered at a young age. Lifestages in dogs depend greatly on their breed size so check with your vet as to the key diet change ages.



Our surgeries are well stocked with a wide range of options to suit all species, breeds, age and size.



Read the Feeding Guidelines – most complete diets give clear guidelines on the appropriate weight of food to feed your size of pet. It is usually listed as the total amount per day which can then be split into as many meals as you want. Some diets are higher in colours, sugars and additives, so you may need to adjust the recommended quantity down (or up) depending on your pet's lifestyle or consider changing to a better brand. Remember if you are supplementing a diet with other treats or products you must reduce the recommended amount to allow for these additional calories. 80% of a rabbit's daily allowance should consist of hay or grass. The remaining 20% should be made up of a measured portion of pellet (not muesli style) and fresh greens such as kale, broccoli, cabbage.

Weigh Out Portions – Take time to weigh the correct portion of food. Put a container onto your kitchen scales, reset to zero and then measure the amount into the container. Draw a line around the container to indicate the level the food reaches and use as a guide each day. Be clear as to whether this amount is the total daily amount or the amount per meal. Don't be tempted to give a little extra if our pet appears to be hungry later in the day.



Scavenging – If your pet still seems hungry and begins scavenging or crying for food you may need to increase the fibre content in the diet which helps our pets to feel fuller. Compare fibre contents of different diets. Many weight management diets have good levels of fibre. Remember sometimes cats just want attention rather than food so don't give in to feeding too quickly.

Hunting – Traditionally animals were capable hunters and domestication has not quashed this skill. Making your pet search for its food is brilliant exercise and makes life a little less boring. Instead of putting a bowl of food down twice a day in the same place, put a portion in a treat ball so the ball has to be moved to get the food out. Hiding bowls of food at different levels around the house will encourage movement and jumping. Rabbits, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs will all benefit from a game of hide and seek so let's not be too predictable.

Treats – Avoid human food - it is very calorific for pets. Low calorie treats are available. Take care with fruit and high sugar vegetables such as carrots. Take into account the calorie content of dental chews and reduce the daily allowance to equal the treats being given in that day. Explain the problem to family members, friends and neighbours – “do not feed me” collars can help others to remember.

Increase Exercise – A crucial part of any weight loss programme but make it fit easily into your busy lifestyle and consider their weight, fitness level and general health. Build up fitness levels slowly. For older dog shorter walks more often and swimming is great for the joints. Cats can be encouraged to play by rotating toys to keep their interest and using interactive toys such as laser lights, activity centres, balls of string. For smaller pets tunnels and climbing areas all encourage movement. They will love the mental stimulation too.

Get regular weight checks – Pop into your vets on a regular basis to weigh your pets. They will record your progress.

Be patient and stick with it – you will soon start to see how much better and more active your pet looks and feels.

DON'T FORGET... If you are concerned about your pet's weight, or would like some advice on the correct food for your pet our nurses will be happy to help.

All our surgeries offer appointments with one of our nurses for a free weight check. Just call your local surgery to book.

