



# The Brookfield Times

[www.brookfieldvets.co.uk](http://www.brookfieldvets.co.uk)



## Every day's a school day!

Here at Brookfield Vets, we like to stay current with modern thinking and we encourage our staff to undertake courses and certificates so that we stay up to date with the latest veterinary knowledge. Clare is starting her certificate in Surgery with the University of Liverpool, which will take two years and will give her further knowledge in soft tissue surgery and orthopaedics. She is our lead surgeon for Laparoscopic Spays and loves all things surgical. She says her favourite operations are caesarean section's - who doesn't love puppies and kittens?!

Louise started her medicine certificate with Liverpool University three years ago and has carried on studying even when on maternity leave. This has given her a more in depth knowledge of all the non surgical cases seen by vets in general practice. She is on her last module and will then be eligible to apply for her Advanced Practitioner status. Kelly already has this certificate and their combined knowledge has been a huge help to all of us especially with our more complex cases.

Our practice director Chris completed his GP certificate in diagnostic imaging (x-rays and ultrasound scanning) in 2016. He is now writing a series of essays and literature reviews with Harper Adams University in order to achieve his Advanced Practitioner status, as well as looking after four children, two dogs, one crazy kitten and running two practices!

We are always learning, so that we can provide the best care for your pet.



## Our new addition to the Reception team

We are delighted to introduce Madeleine to the Brookie team, where she will be working full time on reception from March 20th. Maddy is a mum of two year old Alexia, one hamster Buddy and four crazy dogs, Jess and Bean the Labradors and Nelly and Bruce the Spaniels. Living in the Forest of Dean, Maddy likes to take her dogs on many of the lovely walks around there with her family; she also enjoys running and yoga.

## Dental Awareness

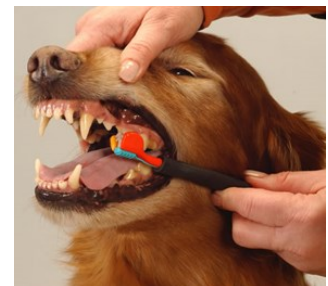
Here at Brookfield vets we are trying to increase awareness in owners about their pet's dental health. It is estimated that 80% of all cats and dogs over the age of 3 suffer from dental disease and it is important to try and prevent it. You can book in for a free appointment with one of our nurses for a dental check and advice on brushing techniques and products.

### Signs of dental disease:

- Smelly breath
- Inflamed/bleeding gums
- Pain when eating
- Salivating more than usual

### How often do you brush your dogs teeth?

We recommend our gold standard dental care, which would be brushing your pet's teeth daily, if this is not possible then we have the option of using the Dentagen dental chews every other day; these come in a pack of 14 which will last you a month.



Feel free to speak to a member of the team for more information.



**PLEASE LEAVE US A REVIEW**

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date on:

- Offers and promotions
- Useful facts and information
- Interesting cases
- Practice news and lots, lots more.

### GET SOCIAL WITH US!

We love to read your comments and, see pictures of your pets enjoying themselves.

## Alabama rot

(cutaneous and renal glomerular vasculopathy)

### What is Alabama rot?

It is a disease that causes damage to the blood vessels of the skin and kidneys. It causes small blood clots to form within blood vessels, these can block the vessels and lead to damage.

### What causes Alabama rot?

The cause of the disease is still unknown and research is ongoing.

### How to prevent Alabama rot?

Unfortunately as it is not known what is causing the disease advice on prevention is difficult. There is suspicion of an environmental link possibly associated with woodland areas, with an increased incidence of cases between November and May.

We would recommend bathing all areas of your dog that become muddy and wet after a walk.

### Symptoms to look for?

Redness, sores or swelling of the skin that can't be explained.

Particularly on the paws or legs (but also the body, face, tongue and mouth). Skin lesions are usually the first signs. The lesions can appear very similar to cuts, bites and stings so if you have any doubt it's best to seek veterinary advice.

Not all skin lesions caused by the disease will lead to kidney problems. But signs of kidney disease can include an increased thirst, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal signs and lethargy.

Alabama rot can be very serious so it is best to seek veterinary advice if you have any concerns. However it is important to note that cases are rare and between November 2012 to January 2018 there have been only 122 confirmed cases across the UK.



## Easter time and your pet



**With Easter on the way, we need to be aware and mindful of the dangers posed from our Easter treats and decorations.**

### Chocolate

Super tasty and moreish for humans BUT toxic for your fluffy friend, it can cause vomiting and diarrhoea, high blood pressure and tachycardia (increased heart rate).

### Hot cross buns

The currents and raisins in these traditional treat can do some serious damage such as kidney failure and stomach problems (if your pet consumes one then please seek prompt veterinary attention)

### Daffodils and Tulips

They can brighten up your garden or room but unfortunately for your pet it can be poisonous and cause vomiting, diarrhoea, irritation in the mouth and stomach, collapsing and ataxia.



## Have you heard about our Pet Health Plan?

Our Pet Health Plan enables you to be proactive with your pet's health whilst helping you save money with a monthly payment plan. The plan includes routine healthcare such as vaccinations, parasite control and health checks. It also provides discounts for other preventative healthcare treatments such as neutering, dental care, microchipping and our life stage pet foods.

**You could save £50 per year for dogs and £25 per year for cats.**

You can find more information on our website or speak to a member of the team.

**Alternatively you can call the Pet Health Plan's team on 0800 169 9958**