



The Brookfield Times

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Floss has qualified

Well done to Floss who has recently qualified as a registered veterinary nurse. Floss joined the Brookie team in May 2015 as a receptionist and soon moved onto working as a student nurse in the January of 2016. After two years of hard work and dedication, she passed her OSCE's with flying colours! From now on you shall be seeing Floss in nurse clinics, so feel free to test her on her knowledge!

Cat Friendly Scheme

At Brookfield, our team are currently working towards achieving 'Cat friendly status'. This is an accredited scheme ran by the International Society of Feline Medicine.

This scheme ensures that we provide the best standard of care, help to reduce the stress of your cat's visit to the practice and provide the best facilities and equipment.

How are we doing this?

- Fitting new cattery kennels for both day and hospitalised patients
- Implementing a new separate cat waiting area with shelves for cat boxes
- Using the most up to date cat friendly handling techniques
- Attending CPD (continued professional development)
- Assigned cat advocates

If you would like to know more about the cat friendly scheme or about your cat's trip to the vets then please feel free to speak to a member of the team.

Please go ahead and try out our new cat area and give us any feed back!



Baby Albert is born

A huge congratulations to our vet Louise, on the birth of her little boy Albert Fenn Howarth!

Albert came into the world on 20th January, weighing 7lbs 4oz and loves his big sister Edith.

We all can't wait for Louise to bring him in so that we can have a cuddle.



Chris is running the London Marathon for the homeless

This year Chris has chosen to run the London Marathon (again) on Sunday 28th April for 'Shelter'. This is an organisation that helps millions of people each year with homelessness and bad housing.

We hope one day this charity did not need to exist and hopefully in a small way my fundraising will help bring that day a little closer and help some people in desperate need.

Any donation you can make big or small will be hugely appreciated. Thank you!



Have you heard about our Pet Health Plan?

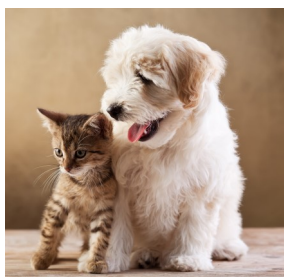
Our Pet Health Plan enables you to be proactive with your pet's health whilst helping you save money with a monthly payment plan.

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**



Starting from £8 per month!

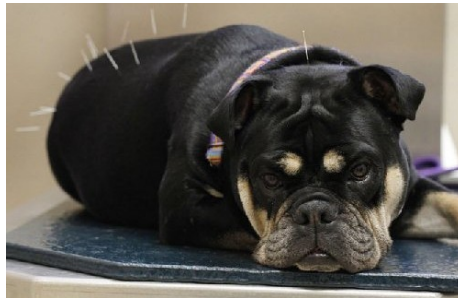
Veterinary Acupuncture

Acupuncture is the practise of inserting fine, solid needles into the body for pain relief. It works through the nervous system. The needles block the pain messages and encourage the brain and central nervous system to produce more of the body's natural painkillers.

Lots of people ask, will it hurt my pet? Acupuncture needles stimulate nerves that do not cause the unpleasant feelings of pain that we're trying to treat. They stimulate other nerves that send a more important message to the brain, which is how they block pain. Most of the time they accept the fine needles very well and often become relaxed and sleepy during the treatment. Usually we find your pet enjoys their acupuncture treatment and will be looking forward to their next session!

We use acupuncture to treat all sorts of acutely and chronically painful conditions such as arthritis, muscle strains, pain secondary to disc disease and bony changes of the spine. The usual course is once a week for four to six weeks. After four weeks we'll be able to tell if the acupuncture is working for your pet and then, depending on the condition and how they've responded, we'll work out a plan that usually involves tailing off the treatment so that the effect is maintained.

Acupuncture is very safe and has good evidence and data to support its efficacy for pain relief. It will usually make up part of a range of measures we recommend for tackling pain.



Ask a Hereford Vet

We have set up a Facebook group called **"Ask a Hereford Vet"** to give pet lovers across Herefordshire access to veterinary professionals. Clearly we can't diagnose problems on Facebook or comment on cases that are already under the care of another vet, but we are able to offer advice where possible. In a case already under treatment or in the event of an emergency - always contact your vet.

If you have a question, we encourage you to start a new post so everyone can see and hopefully learn! Providing specific advice remotely is not prohibited by the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, nor by our Code of Professional Conduct. In this Facebook group, we will adhere to paragraph 2.29 of the Code of Professional Conduct, which states our advice should only be given to the extent appropriate without a physical examination of the animal. In addition, when advised to consult a vet in person for a physical examination, you should provide them with a copy of any remotely provided advice.

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