



# BROADLAND HOUSE VETERINARY SURGERY

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# NEWS

## Spring News

It's the start to another year already.

In our efforts to keep up with the changing world we now have a 'Facebook' page, courtesy of Rachel. If you want to keep up to date with offers and events then please check in and see. For those of you who are visiting the surgery or prefer a more traditional system, Brydy maintains waiting room information boards that change monthly and any topical news or special offers are also displayed.

We will hopefully have our website available by the time this News letter is in print so visit us at [www.broadlandhousevets.co.uk](http://www.broadlandhousevets.co.uk).

It would be good to know how you would best like to be contacted for vaccine reminders, special offers, laboratory reports etc. There will be a form at reception with peoples preferred options be that, phone, e-mail, post or SMS, so please take a few moments to fill it in.

In November 2011 we were lucky enough to come up for a RCVS spot check. This is the veterinary equivalent to an Ofsted spot check. With less than 48 hours notice there was no time to worry and as expected we passed with flying colours. The inspector was very pleased with the standard of the practice, cleanliness, equipment, staff knowledge and professionalism all scoring highly.

Oh and a reminder as the warm weather approaches toward the end of spring adders become active. We had three serious bites in 2011 so please take care on the dunes and heaths. More information is available on our website.

## How healthy are your pet's teeth and gums?

DID YOU know that tooth and gum problems in dogs and cats are very common, with around 85% of pets over three years of age suffering from some degree of dental disease, causing **ill health and pain?**

A **healthy mouth** typically has bright white teeth and pink (or pigmented) gums. However as your pet eats, food particles will naturally accumulate on the tooth surfaces and bacteria in the mouth digest the food particles to form *plaque* – a sticky yellow film seen on the teeth. Over time, accumulation of plaque leads to *inflammation* and *infection* of the gums – a condition called **gingivitis**. Affected gums are more reddened in appearance, and these changes may also be associated with localised mineralisation of the plaque to form calculus (tartar) – see figure 2. If gingivitis is allowed to continue unchecked, it will in time progress to **periodontitis**; here the problem spreads *below* the gum line, leading to infections deep in the tooth socket, eventually resulting in tooth mobility and finally tooth loss.

Unfortunately once a tooth becomes loose, the problem is usually too advanced to save that tooth. However if gum problems are identified at an *earlier* stage, a combination of a Scale and Polish and ongoing Home Care can make a real difference to your pet's oral health (and also their breath!). Please contact us today for a dental check-up!



The progression of gum disease in pets



(1) Healthy mouth



(2) Gingivitis – with early calculus



(3) Periodontitis

### The Scale and Polish



Removing the calculus using an ultrasonic scaler, followed by polishing the teeth is a very effective form of treatment



## Pet Insurance – is your pet protected?

IT'S a sobering thought that in a typical year, roughly 1 in 3 pets will require veterinary treatment, so unexpected veterinary bills can unfortunately occur at any time. Recent advances in veterinary medicine and surgery have meant that treatments that were unimaginable just a few years ago are now a reality; diagnostic procedures such as MRI and CT scans are increasingly routine, and surgical procedures such as cataract removals, spinal surgery and hip replacements are fairly commonplace. In addition, a range of *medical* conditions such as skin disease and arthritis can also be very costly to treat.

On a daily basis we see the heart wrenching decisions some of our clients face regarding the treatment of their pets, but with appropriate pet insurance, we can hopefully ensure that any treatment decisions are made on the basis of *need* rather than cost. So, don't take any chances – make sure you get your pet insured today!



Photos: Warren Photographic