Mounts Bay Vets have been awarded Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Accreditation: Small Animal General Practice

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is the regulatory body for the veterinary professions, ensuring that vets and registered nurses are properly qualified and fit to practice – the acronyms RVN (Registered Veterinary Nurse) and MRCVS (Member of the RCVS) signify that they are registered with the RCVS.

The Practice Standards Accreditation Scheme run by the Royal College certifies the level of provision offered by participating veterinary practices. At present about 50% of practices are accredited with The Practice Standards Scheme, offering customers the reassurance that they meet the RCVS’s stringent standards and allowing the pet-owning public to make a more informed choice when looking for a vet.

To ensure standards are maintained, all accredited practices are spot-checked randomly by the RCVS and a full inspection is carried out every four years. The scheme recognises three categories for accreditation: core standards, general practice standards and hospital status.

The first level, ‘RCVS Core Standards’ certifies compliance with all relevant health and safety regulations, provision of 24 hours’ emergency cover and minimum standards of equipment, staffing and transparency.

Mounts Bay Vets have achieved the second level, ‘Small animal General Practice’, which demands a more rigorous standard of compliance regarding hygiene and sterility and provision of, for instance, diagnostic laboratory equipment, client communication /feedback, clinical outcome analysis and staff training. (Mounts Bay Veterinary Centre is also accredited as a veterinary nurse training centre with Duchy College.)

The third level, veterinary hospital status, demands more specialist equipment and veterinary staff must be present on-site at all times.

Mounts Bay Vets is proud to carry Small Animal General Practice RCVS accreditation and you will see the logo displayed in reception along with our certification.

Neutering News

Neutering your dog, cat or rabbit brings many health benefits, and will help reduce the number of puppies, rabbits and kittens who have no home to go to.

Four reasons to neuter your dog:
A female will come into season (into heat) for about 3 weeks twice a year when she will be receptive to the advances of un-neutered male dogs. The urge to mate may increase roaming, anti-social behaviour and injury.

Females’ chance of developing mammary tumours is massively reduced if they are neutered as well as eliminating the risks of pyometra (a womb infection). Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer and reduces occurrence of prostate problems in male dogs. Reduces aggressive behaviour traits in males.

Five reasons to neuter your cat:
Female kittens mature at just 5-8 months and can reproduce a litter from this young age, but pregnancy can stunt growth and the cat may be too young to properly nurture her litter.

Avoid nuisance mating behaviour: Cycles of sexual activity in females occur every three weeks during the breeding season (spring to summer) – cue the yowling and crying chorus. Entire male cats will mark their territory by spraying urine, may get into fights as part of their mating behaviour and are more likely to stray.

Neutered males have a reduced risk of contracting serious infectious diseases transmitted by bites. Neutering helps prevent uterine infection and mammary tumours in females. Early neutering can prevent anti-social behaviours becoming established.

Rabbits: Rabbits reproduce very quickly; in females, neutering ensures no unwanted pregnancies (female escapees often mate with wild rabbits) and removes the risk of uterine cancer in later life. Unneutered male rabbits tend to be aggressive and often sustain injuries in fights as a result. Neutered rabbits are generally calmer and more easily kept in social groups.

Beware snake bites!

As the warmer weather arrives, remember that snakes coming out of hibernation need to absorb energy from the sun and will often bask in the open, on rocks and paths. At this time of year, we often see an increase in the number of snake bite injuries. If you suspect your pet has been bitten by a snake, please call the practice immediately so that an anti-venom treatment can be administered as soon as possible. The sooner your pet is treated, the better the outcome and recovery.
**Ear Problems**

Is your pet scratching at their ears or persistently shaking their head? Perhaps there are signs of redness or discharge in or from the ear. If so, there is probably an underlying cause that needs investigating. Most ear problems in our pets occur in the outer ear canals (the vertical canal and horizontal canal) which carry sound from the ear flap (called the Pinna) down to the ear drum – see cross section diagram.

**What causes these symptoms of ear disease, known as otitis externa?**

**Ear mites** (otodectes cynotis) are tiny eight-legged parasites that feed on skin debris and ear wax and they thrive in warm moist environments such as the ear canal. Signs of infection include a black/brown discharge (looking a bit like coffee grounds) in addition to scratching or head rubbing/shaking.

**Foreign bodies** such as grass seed can get stuck right down deep in the horizontal canal by the ear drum and cause severe pain and irritation.

**Allergies** are another possibility - healthy ears have smooth pink lining but a more general allergic skin condition can affect the ear canal causing it to be reddened and irritated.

It is very important to accurately diagnose the cause of symptoms - ear mites, for instance, are barely visible to the human eye and your vet will use an otoscope (which magnifies and illuminates the ear canal) to fully examine the ear and skin lining. Left untreated, the cat or dog may scratch so much the ear bleeds, causing scabs to form. And they may also develop a haematoma when small blood vessels break as a result of constant head shaking.

**Otitis externa** can also allow other bacterial or yeast infections to colonise the broken skin in the ear canal producing secondary infections which may require further treatment. Prompt action is key in order to avoid secondary complications so please ask for advice.

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### PETPLAN AWARDS

We are delighted to have been nominated for the annual Petplan Awards again this year. Nominations were made in several categories: Best Veterinary Practice, Best Veterinary Surgeon, and Outstanding Support Staff. A big thank you to all our customers who took the time to fill in a nomination; your recognition and appreciation of the service we provide is of great value to us.

### Pet Travel Passports

If you are taking your pet on holiday to Europe, (including Ireland,) your pet must be micro-chipped and can travel three weeks after being vaccinated against rabies. Remember, certification of worming is required for the return trip into the UK.

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### SPECIAL OFFER

**Mounts Bay Vets Voucher worth £10**

for all customers who have purchased a Puppy or Kitten Plus Pack and take out membership of Mounts Bay Pets Health Club for their young pet.

The Pet Health Club provides a comprehensive programme of preventative and routine healthcare, at a 15% discount!

While the Plus Pack covers all your pet’s first needs, membership of Mounts Bay Pets Health Club will ensure that all vaccinations, flea and worming treatments are kept up to date and annual health checks and tests maintained. This in addition to complimentary services such as nail clipping, anal gland expression, and members’ only discounts on goods and services. Includes discounts on all veterinary consultations (including out of hours), routine dental procedures, neutering and certain pet foods.

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### Neutering Instalment Plan.

Neutering your puppy or kitten at the right time is very important for their future health and well-being. Unless you are planning to breed from your pet, it’s best for them to be neutered in early adulthood to reduce the chances of an unwanted pregnancy and the development of illness and disease in later life. To help with this next step, we have a payment plan that runs in conjunction with the Puppy and Kitten Plus Pack to enable you to spread the cost of the operation over several months.

Do ask us for more details and a leaflet.

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For further information on these or any other topics, please contact us on 01736 330331

We hope you find these articles useful. Please note, the information provided in the newsletter is of a general nature and not intended to deal with specific cases of illness or injury where the advice of a veterinary surgeon should be sought.