

Langford Vet Practice News

Autumn 2024



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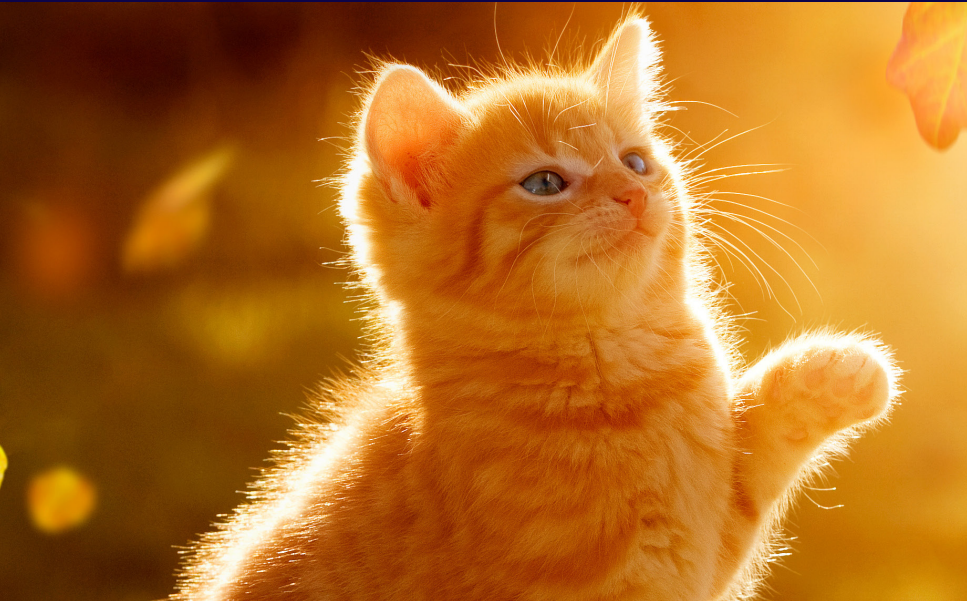
P4. Guinea Pig Advice

Langford Vet Practice



Welcome

Welcome to our Autumn 2024 Newsletter. In this issue we offer seasonal advice, update you on our practice news, discuss our social media campaigns and our current offers.



New Computer System

We're excited to announce that we've upgraded to a new computer system. While we work through the transition, things may take a little longer than usual, so we kindly ask for your patience during this period. We thank you for your understanding and are confident this upgrade will help us to provide an even better service for you and your pets.

Microchipping Law for Cats

On the 10th June 2024 it became law for all cats in the UK to be microchipped before they reach 20 weeks of age and their details be kept up to date in a pet microchipping database.

However, a recent study by Cats Protection shows that 22% (over 2.3 million cats) are still not microchipped. The top reasons for this include that their cats don't go outside, their cat doesn't stray too far or owners had not thought about it. Because indoor cats have limited experience outside, they may easily become lost and struggle to find their way home. Microchipping your cat, even if they mostly stay indoors, is the safest choice, as you can never predict if they might one day venture outside and go missing.



Welcome to the team!

If you have been into the practice recently you may have spotted some new faces! We would love to say a huge welcome to Veterinary Surgeon Siân and Receptionist Dani. Feel free to say hello if you see them on your next visit!



Careers Days

Our team have recently attended the Kings of Wessex and Chew Valley careers days to inspire students and share insights about exciting careers in the veterinary industry.





Practice News

Kitten Story



This beautiful trio of kittens was found alone in a sewer, but thanks to the dedicated care of our excellent clinical staff they are doing wonderfully and are very well socialised ahead of going to their new homes soon. We recently held a naming competition on our socials with the winning names being Roddy, Rita, and Tabitha!

A huge thank you to everyone who submitted their name ideas. With so many great suggestions, it was a tough decision! Be sure to follow our [page](#) to keep up with their adventures as they grow!



The Langford Club

Did you know that The Langford Club members can earn a £10 reward when they recommend a friend to join The Langford Club?

As a member, simply complete the recommendation form, and when your friend signs up, you'll receive a £10 credit on your account. It's that easy! Click [here](#) for more information.

The Langford Club provides pet owners with the support they need to help their pets stay fit and healthy. It covers the regular treatments your pet needs throughout their life including:

- Annual health check and booster vaccinations
- Six month health check
- Year-round flea, tick prevention and worming treatment
- Discounts on selected services and products



RECOMMEND A FRIEND

THE LANGFORD CLUB MEMBERS CAN EARN A **£10 REWARD** WHEN THEY RECOMMEND A FRIEND TO JOIN THE LANGFORD CLUB

Langford Vet Practice 

For more information on The Langford Club head to our [website](#).

Autumn Advice



Poisonous Plants



Autumn is the season where acorns and conkers begin to drop from trees and other plants such as fungi begin to grow.

Acorns and conkers are toxic to dogs and can cause stomach problems, intestinal blockages and vomiting. Make sure to keep an eye on your dog when they are sniffing through leaves on a walk.

Fungi and mushrooms start to appear in damp autumn months. While not all fungi are harmful, some can be toxic to pets so it is best to avoid them and keep your pet safe.

Harmful Plants Include:

- Autumn crocus
- Chrysanthemum
- Cotoneaster
- Horse chestnut
- Hydrangea
- Acorns
- Holly
- Ivy
- Rowan
- Yew
- Amaryllis
- Conkers
- Oleander
- Toadstools

Fleas



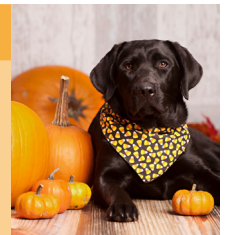
As autumn arrives and the central heating gets turned on, it can sometimes cause dormant flea eggs to hatch.

While it's important to keep your pet warm and cosy in the cooler months, remember that fleas thrive indoors when the heating is on. That's why flea protection is important all year-round. If you're concerned about fleas, talk to your vet about treating your home and pet to help prevent any potential infestations.

To help keep fleas at bay, wash your pet's bedding regularly and use preventative treatments prescribed by your vet.

Halloween

Halloween can be a stressful time for your pets, from scary costumes to loud noises. Here are some ways you can help:



- 🎃 Walk your dog early, before it gets dark, to prevent them getting startled by trick-or-treaters costumes.
- 🎃 Keep sweets and chocolate out of reach.
- 🎃 Create a safe, quiet space away from the door so your pet can relax.
- 🎃 Keep Halloween decorations out of reach to prevent them from accidentally being chewed and swallowed.

Fireworks

Fireworks can cause anxiety and fear for our pets, but there are some ways you can help them.



- 🎆 Create a safe den for your pet to go to when the fireworks start. This should be away from doors and windows, without too many people passing them and large enough to have some water, bedding and toys. Click [here](#) for more information on safe dens.
- 🎆 Turn on the television or radio with the volume moderately high to drown out the noise of the fireworks.
- 🎆 Bring your outdoor pets (rabbits, guinea pigs) into a quiet room, garage or shed if possible. Otherwise, you can cover their hutch to reduce noise and light levels.
- 🎆 Keep your pet indoors and provide them with distractions such as food, treats and toys.



Guinea Pig Advice

We recently joined in with Guinea Pig Awareness Week, which aims to raise awareness of guinea pigs and their welfare needs. Head to our [Facebook Page](#) for our full content.

GUINEA PIG HEALTH CHECK

Eyes and nose
Their eyes should be bright and open. Keep an eye out for any discharge or mucus around their eyes or nose.

Ears
Gently lift their ear flap to check for signs of discharge.

Coat
Healthy guinea pig coats should be well kept and glossy. Check them for signs of dandruff, fleas or any foreign bodies.

Skin
Check their skin for any signs of lumps. Make sure to also check their back end for any signs of wet, which could cause flystrike.

Teeth
Make sure their teeth are well-aligned and not sticking out. Watch out for the length of their teeth too.

Feet
Make sure their nails aren't too long or curling, and check their feet for any sores. Remember, they have four toes on the front and three on the back!

GUINEA PIG COMPANIONSHIP

Guinea pigs are naturally sociable and live in groups in the wild. As such, they should not be kept on their own and are happier kept in pairs or small groups.

Guinea pigs should not be kept with rabbits. They have slightly different dietary requirements and guinea pigs may become deficient if not provided with the correct amount of vitamin C in their diet. Rabbits can also be quite dominant and may result in your guinea pig becoming fearful or withdrawn.



Guinea pigs love to be around you and bonding with them can help you check for any injuries or illness.



5 GUINEA PIG WELFARE NEEDS

1 Behaviour

- Guinea pigs are sociable animals, so should not be kept on their own.
- Being prey animals they can be secretive about any illness.
- They are natural foragers.
- Guinea pigs are crepuscular, meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk.

2 Health

- Check them regularly for signs of injury or illness.
- Provide them with plenty of fibrous food to keep their teeth from becoming overgrown.
- Healthy guinea pigs will look alert, have bright eyes and a good coat.

3 Nutrition

- Have constant access to clean, fresh water.
- Be provided with plenty of fibre, this can be in the form of good quality feeding hay.
- Ensure they have vitamin C in their diet by giving them leafy vegetables or fruit.

4 Environment

- They should have access to a large, secure run.
- Have a large, clean hutch.
- Be provided with additional stimulation such as hidden food and tunnels.

5 Companionship

- Guinea pigs should be kept in pairs or small groups.
- In the wild, they would naturally live in groups.
- They should not be kept with rabbits.

