

Hollybank Staff Dance for Charity!

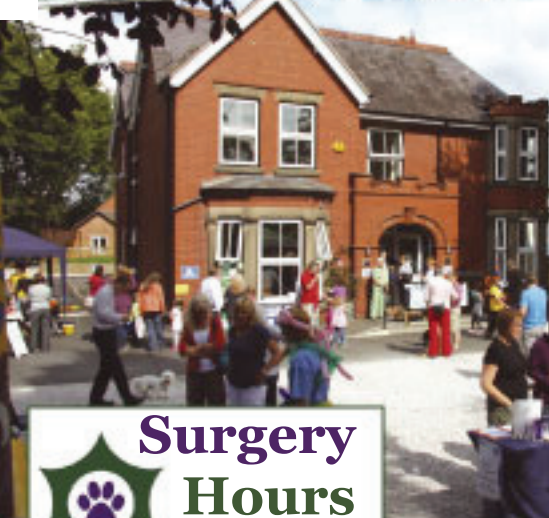
On Sunday 4th September, we hosted our third open day in aid of local children's charity The Joshua Tree. Following the success of last year's event, the pressure was on the team at Hollybank to attract more visitors and beat the total amount raised in 2010 of just under £1000.

Visitors enjoyed tours of the Veterinary Hospital facilities including wards, operating theatres, laboratory and x-ray room. Some of the patients from Hollybank were at hand on the day to help tell their stories of recovery from start to finish. Meanwhile, outside in the grounds of Hollybank, a local DJ provided music and entertainment. Amongst the stalls and attractions were "The Granny's Bakery" cake stall, BBQ, ice cream, bouncy castle, face painting, children's competitions and the Grand Raffle Stall!



Cheshire police dogs attended the event, as did The Groom Room, Ceva Animal Health and Representatives from The Joshua Tree. A fun day was had by all, with many new visitors taking the surgery tour, and plenty of our existing clients coming along to show their support too. Afternoon entertainment saw the entire staff of Hollybank demonstrating the "Cha Cha slide" to the gathering crowds! Practice Principal Richard Hewitt said "The event has been a huge success. We hope visitors have enjoyed learning about what happens behind the scenes at Hollybank, and we have also managed to raise £1058 for the Joshua Tree". More details and photographs from the event can be found at www.hollybankvets.co.uk

A 2012 diary date.....
Open Day scheduled for Sunday 2nd September!



Surgery Hours

Our friendly support staff are available all day for pet healthcare and advice

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

8.30am - 6.30pm

Tuesday & Thursday

9.30am - 7.30pm

Saturday **9am - 12 noon**

Consultations with the vets & nurses are by appointment only

24hr Emergency Service here at the surgery and with your usual vets

Call day or night

01606 880 890

Good Luck to our Student Nurses



Steph

Helen

Congratulations to Helen and Steph, who have started their training to become Qualified Veterinary Nurses. The girls now attend Myerscough College in Preston one day each week, and have been enrolled on a two-year course approved by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Veterinary Nurses are an integral part of the veterinary team and assist the vets in every area of the hospital. Qualified nurses are trained to take x-rays, run laboratory tests, monitor anaesthesia, take blood samples, administer medications and advise pet owners on many aspects of preventative health.

Look a Little Closerat your Cat

Do you think they have lost weight despite having a huge appetite? Are they behaving anxiously or appear agitated? If you answered yes, then a check-up might be in order for your cat, as they could be suffering from **hyperthyroidism** (over-active thyroid glands). This is a common condition, which we see in middle-aged and older cats.

If you would like further information or have any concerns, please contact our surgery for an appointment.

The **thyroid glands** are found on either side of the trachea (windpipe). Their function is to regulate the body's metabolism by producing a hormone. If too little is produced everything slows down. If too much, the body's processes speed up. So it is very important that these glands function correctly to enable the body to run normally.

Hyperthyroidism is generally easy to diagnose through a combination of clinical signs and blood tests. In most cases, the imbalance can be rectified by medication or surgery.

Fireworks screech and fizz in the winter night,
But have you thought they may be causing a fright
To pets who are hiding under tables and stairs,
Nervous and bewildered at the sudden flares.

Spare a few moments to prepare a quiet place,
With toys, treats, blankets and a friendly face.
Play a game, be happy don't scold fearful pets,
And remember help and advice are here at the vets.

Oh No.....Not Again!

We first met Mickey in October 2010 for his primary vaccination course. With the free clinical examination, came four weeks free PetPlan insurance, which we offer to any puppy or kitten less than 12 months, in good health.

This insurance proved invaluable, as just two weeks later, Mickey returned to the surgery. After a game with the other family dogs, he was unable to put any weight on his right back leg, which was swollen around the ankle (hock). Despite being given pain relief, he was very sore, so we sedated Mickey to x-ray his leg for any broken bones. We found a fracture to one of the bones in his hock, which had been pulled apart by the tendon attached to it.

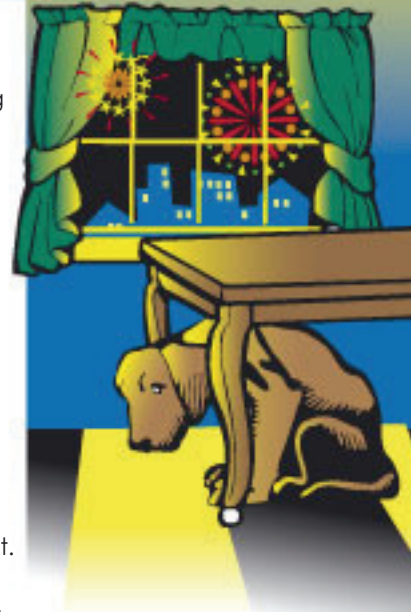


When a young puppy or kitten has a procedure, there are considerations we must take into account that differ to adult animals undergoing any sedations and anaesthetics. Cats and dogs require 'starving' to ensure they are not sick and choke. In young pups like Mickey, care is taken as to the length of time without food, as their blood sugar levels can drop dangerously low. We must also consider the type and amount of drugs given, and the fact that a small young animal is more likely to get cold under sedation.

Mickey was referred to the Small Animal Teaching Hospital, Neston, where an orthopaedic specialist surgeon pinned the fracture. With a large dressing on the leg, he needed rest and pain relief for four weeks. Young age was in his favour, as his bones healed very quickly, and after further x-rays, we removed the pin only five weeks after his injury.

Mickey went home and we thought it would be a while before we saw him again..... but on 27th December Mickey was back, this time at our emergency out-of-hours service, and unable to bear weight on his right back leg again. The previous injury had healed normally, but more games with the family dogs, meant more x-rays, which confirmed Mickey had now managed to fracture his shin bones (tibia and fibula)! A large dressing kept his bones from moving, more pain relief was given, and he was restricted to cage rest. As he broke the same leg twice, and so soon, we needed to rule out any underlying medical cause, such as a low calcium level. Fortunately, blood tests proved normal, so Mickey had just been very unlucky!!

This time the leg was repaired at Hollybank Vets, where an external fixator was secured above and below the fracture to keep the bones in place. Mickey went home, again on strict rest and more pain relief. Six weeks later we x-rayed his leg, and the bones had healed very well, so the external fixator was removed. We recommended he rest for a further week, before starting to return to normal life again. Mickey is now doing very well and with no other mishaps so far..... but just in case, his owners are continuing with his insurance cover!



Hollybank
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www.hollybankvets.co.uk