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Paws Up!

Paws Up! Who has missed their pet's booster vaccinations?

With busy lives it is all too easy for booster vaccinations to be missed, leaving your pet vulnerable to serious diseases.

The good news is that during March, Cinque Ports Vets are having a special offer to help save you money and protect your pet by getting their vaccinations back on track. We will provide a full healthcheck for your dog or cat and a complete course of two vaccinations all for the price of a single booster, **saving 30%**.

Once your pet's vaccinations are back on track why not consider joining our Pet Healthcare Plan? For a monthly subscription all future vaccinations, worming and flea control are taken care of with substantial savings. We want you to use the best products available for your pet's protection and so we include products which protect against lungworm in our healthcare plan.

Find out more information at www.cinqueportsvets.co.uk

Chip your Dog - Time is Running Out!

In England, all dogs will need to be microchipped from 6 April 2016. Dog owners will need to:

- Have their dog microchipped and registered on one of the authorised commercial databases
- Keep their contact details up-to-date on the databases
- Where a dog is transferred to a new keeper, the new keeper must, unless the previous keeper has already done so, record their details and any change in the dog's name with the database on which the dog's details are recorded

Even if your dog is already microchipped, take this opportunity to check their details are up to date on the database. Over 20% of vets couldn't reunite lost dogs with their owners due to incorrect information on the microchip database. Find out more at www.petlog.org.uk We can also check if their chip is working correctly so why not pop in and see us.

Don't forget your cats! Although it will not be a legal requirement for cats, a microchip is a vital form of identification should your pet go missing. Please contact us for more details about microchipping and to arrange an appointment.

Time is running out...



Your dog must be microchipped by April 6th
Ask your vet today
Find out more

Vaccination Amnesty
February and March
Full course for price of a single booster

Includes **FREE** healthcheck

Call now for an appointment
Special offer for microchipping if you restart your pet's vaccinations.



Star Pet of the Month!

We have our own Pet Gallery for you to send us your favourite photos of your furry family members. Each month we will choose one to be our Star Pet of the Month and will send them an award! Why not email us at:

pets@cinqueportsvets.co.uk or post your pictures on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CinquePortsVets

Just like Bert did!





Torn Apart - Be Lungworm Aware

You may have noticed a number of reports in the press recently about the potentially life threatening lungworm parasite *Angiostrongylus vasorum*.

Unlike intestinal worms, once inside your dog's system, this parasite travels through their body eventually ending up in the heart. If the infection is left untreated, your dog's health can rapidly deteriorate, often resulting in death.

The parasite is carried by slugs and snails, and the problem arises when dogs purposefully or accidentally eat these common garden visitors when they are rummaging through undergrowth, eating grass or drinking from outdoor water bowls.

Evidence from the Royal Veterinary College confirms the lungworm parasite has spread across the UK, from its traditional habitat in the south of England and Wales, now being widespread in Central England and also reaching northern regions and Scotland. It is thought that the spread of this parasite is due to a number of factors such as:

- **The increase in fox numbers over the last 40 years (foxes are carriers of this parasite)**
- **Warmer, wetter winters see slugs and snails living longer and sometimes not dying off at all**
- **The increased movement of dogs in and out of areas of infection**

Treatment can result in full recovery, but as this parasite can be fatal it is important to consider prevention. Preventative products are available and with regular use prevention is easy to achieve; always speak to your vet because not all worming products are effective against this particular parasite.

Lungworm infection – what to look out for

Any dog can potentially become infected with *Angiostrongylus vasorum* if they happen to swallow a slug or snail carrying the larvae of the parasite. Symptoms are many and varied but can include breathing difficulties, ranging from a lack of energy to coughing. Dogs may also show general signs of being unwell including weight loss, reduced appetite and vomiting. Persistent bleeding, even from minor cuts is also a sign to watch out for. However, the symptoms can be varied so if you are concerned about your dog's health, you should seek veterinary advice immediately.

Bayer Animal Health has launched their Be Lungworm Aware campaign as part of it's wider 'It's a Jungle Out There' parasite protection initiative. You can help spread the word, and read the experiences of other vets and pet owners at [facebook.com/jungleforpets](https://www.facebook.com/jungleforpets) or by following 'JungleForPets' on Twitter.

If you would like further advice on this parasite, as well as information on how to protect your pet and family from the risks posed by other parasites such as fleas, worms and mites, please give us a call or pop into your local branch.

Symptoms Checklist

Breathing problems

- Coughing
- Tiring Easily

Poor blood clotting

- Excessive Bleeding
- Nose Bleeds
- Bleeding into the eye
- Anaemia

General Sickness

- Weight Loss
- Poor appetite
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea

Changes in Behaviour

- Depression
- Tiring Easily
- Seizures (fits)