

# Colne Valley News – Spring 2019



*The Bluebells are not quite there yet – but it won't be long.*

## Welcome Back Kate!

Time flies by and it seems hard to believe that it's been a year since our vet Kate took a break from work to have her baby. We are really looking forward to welcoming her back to the practice when she starts again in early April. No doubt, a number of you and your pets will be pleased to see her back too.

## Easter hazards

We are experiencing the annual procession of dogs presenting for us to cause vomiting after they have eaten hot cross buns. Intra-venous fluid therapy may subsequently be recommended to avoid kidney failure developing. Any bakery product containing dried fruit (currants, raisins, sultanas) could present a health risk to your pet. The risk is not related to the quantity eaten, and it also applies to grapes. This is a health hazard best avoided - please keep grapes, hot cross buns and other foods containing dried fruit out of your pets' reach!

Similarly, Easter has become a celebration of chocolate with Easter eggs available in the shops almost as soon as the Christmas decorations have been taken down and put away. There is a dose-related risk so please contact us as soon as possible if your dog has eaten chocolate with details of the type of chocolate, an approximation of the amount eaten and percentage of cocoa solids if known. We should then be able to advise you as to whether or not treatment is needed.

### Has your rabbit been vaccinated?

Cases of the new variant of Viral Haemorrhagic Disease have recently been reported nationally. In our practice, we also saw a number of cases of this disease last year. We have had the vaccine protecting against VHD-2 for some years now and would recommend annual vaccination. This can be done two or more weeks after the annual vaccination against myxomatosis which includes classic VHD. If you are not sure of your bunny's current vaccination status then please contact reception to find out and book an appointment as appropriate.

### Watch this space (again!)

As the situation with Brexit continues in uncertainty, it remains unclear as to what you will need to do if you want to take your pet abroad once the UK is no longer part of the European Union. Please keep an eye on our Web Site and our Facebook page and we will post any updates as and when they become available.

### Easter opening times

The main surgery at The Hythe will be closing at 7pm on Thursday 18th April for Good Friday, re-opening at 8.30am on Saturday 20th April. We will not be open on Easter Bank Holiday Monday. The branch surgery at Wivenhoe will be closed on Good Friday 19th April and Easter Bank Holiday Monday 22nd April. Vets Now will be providing emergency cover when the practice is closed - if you ring the practice when we are closed, then your call will be re-directed to Vets Now.

Please ensure you have sufficient medication and food for your pet over Easter, remembering that we need 24 hours' notice and that a medication review may be needed before we can dispense your pet's prescription treatment.

We will also be closed on the Bank Holiday Mondays 6th and 27th May.

