

Mackie & Brechin

VETERINARY SURGEONS LTD ESTABLISHED 1930



PRACTICE NEWS

Welcome to the Mackie & Brechin Spring Newsletter.

As the days grow longer and the flowers begin to bloom, we are excited to bring you the latest updates from our practice.

In this issue we highlight canine brucellosis, pet travel requirements and the seasonal hazards for this time of year.

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CANINE BRUCELLOSIS

Until recently canine brucellosis may not have been on many peoples' radar. However, some of you may have heard about it in the media or if you have been involved in rehoming a dog from abroad. It has become a bit of a hot topic and does have implications for both human and animal health. Please do get in touch with us if you have any questions and especially if you have imported a dog or are thinking of doing so.

Canine brucellosis is caused by the pathogen *Brucella canis* and is a zoonosis, meaning that it can also infect people. The prevalence of this disease has been increasing over the last few years due to an increase in the numbers of dogs being imported from overseas and in particular eastern Europe and Spain. It is primarily a reproductive disease of dogs but can cause other symptoms and often non-specific but potentially severe illness in humans. The risk to humans in the general population is low but this increases with the type of contact and health status of the individual. For instance infants, the elderly, those with compromised immune systems or pregnant women may be more at risk of infection and may experience more severe disease if infected.

At present it is not a statutory requirement for dogs to be tested for brucellosis prior to entry to the UK, but this may change in the future. Brucellosis is, however, classed as a reportable disease meaning that positive results must be made known to the authorities for tracing purposes. As a practice we require all newly imported dogs to be tested for brucellosis. For existing clients with historically imported dogs we would strongly encourage testing to confirm negative status. This is especially the case for entire individuals (ie. not spayed or castrated) as they are at most risk of carrying and spreading infection. In the first instance we would ask you to contact us to discuss the situation and the associated risks. Going forward, inability to confirm negative status in imported animals may affect the services that general practice and referral centres are able to offer, and indeed this is something that we have already seen.

Many of you who travel abroad on holiday with your dogs will be wondering how this will affect you. We feel that so long as these animals are not mixing or mating with others whilst abroad, they will be at very low risk of infection and so testing on return should not be necessary.

For further information please follow the link below to the British Veterinary Association website and please contact us if you have any questions.

<https://www.bva.co.uk/pet-owners-and-breeders/advice-for-pet-owners/brucella-canis-what-animal-owners-need-to-know/>



PET TRAVEL

~ 10% DISCOUNT FOR HEALTHPLAN CLIENTS ~

Are you travelling abroad to Europe with your pet this year?

Since Brexit, UK issued pet passports have become obsolete and so you will require an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) for entry to the EU. This is a single use document that can be issued within 10 days of entry to the EU and allows 4 months worth of onward travel within the EU. A current rabies vaccination is required which must be given at least 3 weeks prior to the AHC. There are also requirements for a worming treatment to be administered by a vet prior to coming home and other parasite prevention considerations while abroad.

It can all seem quite daunting so we would advise letting us know as soon as possible so we can help you plan in advance. Also, regulations change so always make sure you check the requirements of the country you are visiting and contact us if you have any questions. To help a bit more we offer a **10% discount** for rabies vaccinations and the AHC paperwork and **25% off** additional parasite prevention for all Pet Healthcare Plan members.



SEASONAL HAZARDS



Did you know that a lot of plants in your garden are poisonous to your pets? Please make sure that if you have any of the flowers on the left, that your pet is supervised whilst in your garden. For more information see [here](#).

Easter eggs are a springtime treat to humans but can be dangerous for your four-legged friend. Throughout the year and especially with Easter approaching, we regularly see dogs that have eaten human chocolate.

Please ensure that you store chocolate in the same way as you would store medicine - well out of your pets' reach.



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TICKS

~ 10% off Tick Prevention in March & April ~



As we enter tick season, it is important to stay vigilant about protecting your pets from these potentially harmful pests. Ticks are found on rough ground especially where sheep and deer graze and so tick prevention should be considered for all dogs and cats who access these areas. They feed by latching on to the skin and taking a blood meal, a process which can also transmit disease such as Lyme disease. We therefore recommend using tick prevention products such as collars, topical treatments or oral medication to safeguard your pet. Additionally, regularly check your pet for ticks after walks, especially if they have been in wooded and grassy areas. Preventative medication and prompt removal of ticks can reduce disease transmission so please get in touch if you would like to discuss the options.

Please remember our tablet based 'Alternative Health Plan' and 'Outdoor Cat Healthplan' both include tick prevention and all healthplan members are entitled to inclusive nurse clinics if you find a tick that needs removed. 'Standard / Spot-on Health Plan' members get 25% off tick prevention all year round and during March and April we are offering 10% off tick prevention to all clients. Please speak to one of our vets or nurses if you think your pet is at risk.



BRAVECTO
1,000 MG FLURALANER

> 20 – 40 kg

1 chewable tablet



Chewable tablet for large dogs



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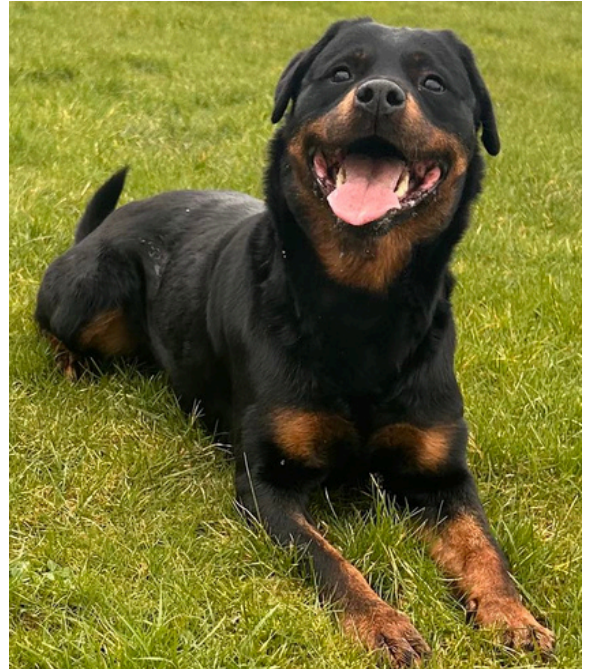
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PET BLOOD BANK

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in donating to the Pet Blood Bank. Our last session was held on Sunday 19th January with fantastic results.

Nessie is retiring and gave her final donation on that day. I think you will agree she looks very pleased with herself!

Our next session is on Sunday 18th May 2025. Please get in touch if you would be interested in donating.



USEFUL INFORMATION

ONLINE PRESCRIPTION ORDERING

Please remember that as well as ordering your prescriptions by telephone, you can also order them online. Go to our website and follow the link on our home page or follow the link below:

www.mackieandbrechin.co.uk/services/repeat-prescriptions

Please remember to give us at least 2 working days notice before collection.

OUT OF HOURS

If you require a vet outside normal opening hours please call 0131 333 3203. You will hear a message directing you to VetsNow, our out of hours emergency care provider.



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Pet Healthcare Plan

The aim of our Pet Healthcare plan is to provide your pet with the best possible preventative healthcare, whilst allowing you to spread the cost with affordable monthly payments throughout the year.

Vaccination is extremely important to protect your pet from infectious diseases and maintain good health. All plans therefore incorporate **annual boosters** including **kennel cough** for dogs and risk assessed **feline leukaemia virus** for cats. Parasite prevention, especially worming, is also vital in protecting the health of your pet and family. All treatments should be based on risk and so we have two options for dogs and cats with tick and worming treatments dependent on their lifestyle:

Dog Healthplan	Yearly Boosters	Kennel Cough	Formulation	Lungworm Protection	Tick Protection
Standard	✓	✓	Spot-On	✓	25% discount
Alternative	✓	✓	Tablet	✓	✓

Cat Healthplan	Yearly Boosters	Feline Leukaemia	Worming	Combined Flea/Tick/Worming
Indoor	✓	✓ (risk assessed)	YEARLY	-
Outdoor	✓	✓	-	3-MONTHLY

In addition to the above all plans come with the following benefits:

6 monthly health check

25% discount on 3 monthly med checks for animals on long-term medication

25% discount on tick prevention where required

Unlimited nurse consultations

(eg. weight clinics, nail clips, routine gland clearing)

Text and email reminders

£10 microchipping

10% DISCOUNTS on:

Surgery, Neutering, Imaging, In-house Blood Tests, Additional Vaccinations (eg Rabies), Travel Documents (health and export certificates) Dental Treatment, Food & Treats, Preventative Healthcare Products.

Joining is very straightforward. If you are interested in a simple, affordable way of protecting your pet's health please ask a member of staff or have a look on our website.



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