

## PRACTICE SERVICES

- Appointment system.
- Convenient appointment times.
- Ample parking.
- 24 hour emergency service provided by our own team of vets and nurses.
- Tier 2 RCVS Accredited Practice
- Nurses living on sites.
- Annual health checks.
- Orthopaedic and Small Animal Medicine referral services with certificate holders.
- Modern surgical facilities.
- In house laboratory (Rugby).
- Nurse clinics providing expert advice on tooth care, diet, preventative health care.
- FREE puppy parties (Rugby).
- Hydrotherapy pool and water walker (Leamington)

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday  
8.30am to 7.00pm  
Saturday  
9.00am to 12.00 noon

## SURGERIES

83, High Street, Hillmorton.  
Rugby, Warwickshire.  
CV21 4HD  
Tel: 01788 542221  
Fax: 01788 562242

1, Craven Road.  
Rugby, Warwickshire.  
CV21 3JX  
Tel: 01788 562844  
Fax: 01788 553642

(and Hydrotherapy)  
12, Upper Grove Street.  
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.  
CV32 5AN  
Tel: 01926 422592  
Fax: 01926 334084

[www.rainsbrookvets.co.uk](http://www.rainsbrookvets.co.uk)

24 hour emergency service - call your local surgery direct and follow the instructions.

## Cats Protection - Mid-Warwickshire Notices:

### LOST:

Archie was rehomed in the Sharpe Close area of Warwick about 6 weeks ago and was lost almost immediately. The CP have been looking for him since without any luck. He must be around somewhere and as he is microchipped we will defiantly be able to tell that he is Archie. He is a white neutered male with yellow eyes. Now it has turned cold we all really want to find him and return him to his fosterer, who will look after him until the CP can find him another home. Please look out for him and contact the CP branch with any news.



### NEW HOME NEEDED:

Holly is the Cats Protection cat of the month. She has been stuck in an outdoor pen now for over 6 months and is being completely overlooked by all potential adopters. She is a tortie and white 9 year old neutered female. She is currently on a prescription weight loss diet as she is a little overweight (the special food will be paid for by the CP whilst she is on it). She needs to be homed in a house without other cats or dogs, and with older children only. She can be a little bad tempered at times and so needs an experienced cat owner. Please think about giving her a home she truly deserves.



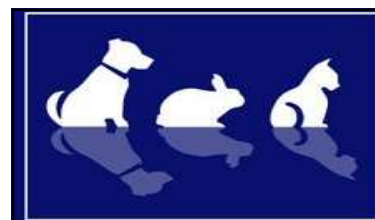
### CONTACT:

Helpline: 01926 334849  
Email: [midwarickcats@hotmail.com](mailto:midwarickcats@hotmail.com)  
Website: <http://midwarwick.cats.org.uk>

### Christmas and New Year Opening Hours:

Thursday 20th December - 8.30am - 7pm **LAST ORDER DAY**  
Friday 21st December - 8.30am - 7pm  
Saturday 22nd December - 9am - 12noon (Hillmorton & Leamington)  
Sunday 23rd December - CLOSED  
Monday 24th December - 8.30am - 4pm (Early closing)  
**Christmas Day - CLOSED** 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE  
**Boxing Day - CLOSED** AVAILABLE  
Thursday 27th December - 8.30am - 7pm  
Friday 28th December - 8.30am - 7pm  
Saturday 29th December - 9am - 12noon  
Sunday 30th December - CLOSED  
Monday 31st December - 8.30am - 4pm (Early closing)  
**New Years Day - CLOSED**  
Wednesday 2nd January - 8.30am - 7pm

Please remember consultations are by appointment only. **Our 24 hour emergency service is covered by our own vets and nurses at our own surgeries.** Ring your local surgery for details.



# RVG News

November 2007  
Volume 1, Issue 7

Rainsbrook Veterinary Group Ltd & Hydrotherapy Centre  
Small and Large Animal Veterinary Surgeons



Welcome to another Rainsbrook Newsletter. If you have any suggestions on articles you would like, or if you and your pet have a story, please contact Stacey Hammond via email on [sch@rainsbrook.com](mailto:sch@rainsbrook.com) or in writing to the Leamington Spa surgery. Thank you and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### Challenge Complete!

So, after much preparation, fund-raising and biting of nails, our team of 'explorers' completed the Talybont Challenge in the Brecon Beacons. The original team of 6 was down a member due to illness, however the rest were in good spirits as the drove to Wales in horrendous weather to their overnight accommodation. A 5am start the following morning saw them having a swift energy packed breakfast and jumping in the saddle for the bike section of the course. Four hours later, they returned to base camp tired, muddy and riddled with minor injuries they prepared for the mountain ascent. All was well until they reached what they presumed was the top! Celebrations occurred and talk of "that wasn't so bad!" turned to disappointment when a sign was pointed out which said 'Continue this way' pointing to cloud covered peak in the distance! Cold and hungry many hours later they reached the top. Fortunately the kayaking was cancelled due to a ferocious side wind across the reservoir, so our group trudged back to case camp for some celebratory food and drink. Within hours they had made it back to the accommodation and were tucked up in bed exhausted, but happy after a day of adventure. The total raised for the Guide Dogs for the Blind was a brilliant £1500 (still rising with donations coming in. Donations can still be made at [www.justgiving.com/rainsbrookvetsteam](http://www.justgiving.com/rainsbrookvetsteam)), and we all would like to thank everyone who helped the team reach this impressive amount. With their appetite for adventure whetted, the team are planning for more fund-raising activities, and are recruiting other members of the Rainsbrook staff to get involved, so watch this space!



### Christmas Time again.....

It is Christmas soon so best be prepared for the Bank Holidays. Please ensure that you have enough of your pet's medication for this period, and if necessary, prescription food too. The last day for ordering medication and food over the Christmas and New Year period will be the **20th December**. If you order by this date we will definitely have your prescription in the next day - after this date our deliveries will be reduced until after the New Year.

Please also take care of your pet's safety during this time of year. We all have the potential to over-indulge (well it is Christmas). For your pet's however, overindulgence can cause many problems from diarrhoea and sickness, to traumatic injury. Please keep tit-bits to a minimum to ensure a stomach trouble-free holiday! Ingestion of foreign objects also peaks during this time of year with tree decorations, meat bones and new toys to contend with. Try and keep these objects out of reach of your pet and try and keep them under supervision. Remember - chocolate is poisonous to dogs and so are Poinsettia plants - contact us straight away if you have any concerns. You also have the weather to contend with! Rinse off your dogs feet after they have walked on gritted roads and make sure your pets do not have access to anti-freeze products. Don't forget your outside pets - make sure your rabbits and guinea pigs are still checked daily and move their hutches if necessary to more sheltered areas.

## THE RAINSBROOK TEAM



DAVID WALKER  
Veterinary surgeon,  
Orthopaedic certificate  
holder and Director



SIMON DANIEL  
Veterinary Surgeon and  
Director



SIAN DAVIES  
Veterinary Surgeon,  
Small Animal Medicine  
certificate holder and  
Director



CHRISTEL OINK  
Veterinary Surgeon



MARY-ANNE FRANK  
Veterinary Surgeon



MARIUS LOUW  
Veterinary Surgeon



HELENA KADOW  
Veterinary Surgeon



BECCI YOUNG RVN  
Practice Manager

## Not all 'Spot On' flea preparations are the same.....

There are several different flea preparations on the market for dogs and cats, some available through your veterinary surgeon, others from a supermarket or pet store. A chemical (insecticide) used in dog over the counter flea products can be fatal to cats and can also cause twitching and convulsions. This insecticide is Permethrin. Permethrin is very dangerous to cats, so dangerous that cats can fall sick just by sharing bedding with a recently treated dog. One in 10 cats have died after coming into contact with the insecticide and 88% of cats will suffer from convulsions resulting in intensive veterinary care.

Several newspapers have highlighted this issue. The inappropriate application of this product is often accidental but it can have serious implications to surrounding felines. We would recommend using a much safer product to treat all your pets.

By far the safest and most effective way to treat your pet for fleas is using a Veterinary Licensed Product. Here at Rainsbrook we recommend **Frontline Combo** which has the insecticide Fipronil which kills adult fleas and in addition, it also contains S-methoprene which kills the flea larvae and eggs helping to break the flea life cycle and prevent home infestation. You may think that Frontline Combo is an expensive topical flea product, however if you add up the cost of the over the counter flea treatments available (such as powders, sprays etc) which are not as effective, the risk to your pet cats and the time spent worrying about fleas and possible infestation, it will be worth it.

The active ingredients in Frontline Combo are such that the product is a **prescription only medicine**, which means your pets need be seen by a veterinary professional every 12 months. You can have your animal checked free of charge by our excellent veterinary nurses during our Nurse Clinics - please contact your local surgery for details. Our nurses are available for other advice such as diet, elderly pets, claw clipping (small charge applies) and much more.

When purchasing any flea preparation, give careful attention to the active ingredients and instructions. Be aware, using a Permethrin based product on your dog can still affect your cat. If in any doubt purchase a Veterinary Licensed Product like Frontline Combo.



### What you need to know about fleas.....

Fleas are small brown/black wingless biting insects that live in the hair coat of dogs, cats and other small pets. Fleas are bloodsuckers with well developed mouth parts than can pierce the skin of animals. When they feed they secrete saliva to clot the blood and it is this saliva that causes skin irritations and allergic reactions. An adult female can begin producing eggs within 24-48 hours of having a blood meal, laying up to 50 days a day! That's up to 2000 eggs in a lifetime. These eggs may survive for up to 3 years! The eggs are laid on your dog or cat, but fall rapidly into the environment, wherever your pet walks or sleeps. Once flea larvae hatch, they move to a warm dark area to mature, often in the carpet, in pet's bedding or even cracks and crevices, feeding on adult flea faeces (digested blood). When conditions of heat and humidity are right, the full life cycle of the flea can be completed in about 2-3 weeks. If the heat and humidity isn't quite right, flea pupae can lay dormant for up to a year before emerging.

### What to look for....

Due to the difficulty in seeing these small insects, they way to spot a flea infestation is usually by the presence of black flakes or specks that the fleas leave behind in your pet's coat - this is flea faeces. Even if you have not actually seen any fleas, but this flea dirt is present, your pet will definitely have live fleas.

Fleas are usually found on the animal's back, rump, stomach and at the base of the tail or around the head. Your pet may scratch and bite themselves if they have fleas especially if the flea bites cause irritation or an allergic reaction. However, not all pets will scratch if they have fleas, especially cats! In cats you may notice little scabs around their necks. This is probably caused by a reaction to the flea bites, and they will need to be treated with an appropriate flea preparation.

If you are worried about your pet, please do not hesitate to contact the surgery and speak to our trained staff - we are happy to help.  
Please remember, to see a vet is by appointment only - contact your local surgery.

## Problems caused by fleas:

**Skin Irritation:** large numbers of fleas moving over the skin and coat can cause irritation. Bites can cause intense itching that can even last long after the fleas are killed. Self trauma can cause hair loss, bleeding and infection.

**Flea allergy dermatitis/flea bite hypersensitivity:** reaction to the flea saliva which can be intense in some cases. Once your pet's skin has become sensitised to the saliva, just one bite is enough to set off a severe reaction.

**Tapeworms:** Dogs and cats can become infected with tapeworms if they swallow infected fleas when grooming. Humans can be infected via accidental ingestion too, but it is rare.

**Flea Anaemia:** Puppies and kittens are particularly at risk from this. If there is a large infestation, the flea population would consume large quantities of the animal's blood, leaving the animal in a life-threatening position.

## Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Accredited Practice Scheme - for your peace of mind.....



The RCVS introduced the voluntary scheme in 2005 to promote the highest standards of veterinary care and give pet owners the assurance of the best of service. There are currently over 1800 Veterinary Practices in the UK, but only 1000 of them have the RCVS Tier 2 Status.

Rainsbrook Veterinary Group has Tier 2 RCVS Accreditation status at our Leamington and Hillmorton practices and a Tier 1 status at our Craven Road branch.

To retain our Accreditation status we are inspected every 4 years and subject to spot checks in between. Our last inspection date was September 2007 and our accreditation has been renewed.

A RCVS inspector that visited us looked at several areas including:

- ◆ Provision of 24 hour care with a system for on site inpatient care
- ◆ Training and recruitment of qualified staff
- ◆ Excellent standards of cleanliness and hygiene
- ◆ Having systems in place for educating and training for all employees
- ◆ Meeting legal and Health & Safety requirements, covering our premises, equipment, clients and employees.

Rainsbrook Veterinary Group is very proud of their achievement and aim to continue to provide excellent standards for you and your pet for years to come.

To find our more please visit our website [www.rainsbrookvets.co.uk](http://www.rainsbrookvets.co.uk), the RCVS website [www.rcvs.org.uk](http://www.rcvs.org.uk) or call into the surgery for more information.

## Danger in the home office- SHREDDERS

It has been noted in the veterinary press of late of the increase in number of injuries caused to dogs by office shredders. If left on standby when not in use, these pieces of equipment are a danger to the curious canine. News of long eared dogs getting their ears caught in the opening, as well as tongues being shredded are unfortunately becoming a common occurrence. One particular incident in the veterinary press was of a Jack Russell who got his tongue caught in the shredder and it ripped it off entirely. He sadly did not survive. So, to everyone out there with any pets, not just dogs, please ensure that the shredding machines are switched off at the wall when not in use, or at least positioned completely out of reach of your pets to avoid any gruesome and potentially fatal accidents.



Courtesy of [www.petpeeves.us](http://www.petpeeves.us)

## THE RAINSBROOK TEAM



LIZ ROTHEN RVNA1  
Head Veterinary Nurse



ALLY COXON RVNA1  
Hydrotherapist and  
Veterinary Nurse



BECKY BOAG RVN  
Veterinary Nurse



BECKY PEARSON RVN  
Veterinary Nurse



CHARLOTTE GLASBEY  
Trainee Veterinary  
Nurse



TRISTEN SMITH  
Trainee Veterinary  
Nurse



ELAINE MILLES  
Auxiliary Nurse



MARIE GUNTON  
Kennel Assistant



BEV BEACHAM  
Hydrotherapy  
Assistant