

Newsletter **March 2017** – Despite storm Doris, Spring has arrived at Newry Veterinary Centre! With most of us already bagging great Summer holiday deals, our most organised clients are preparing for their pets holiday into kennels or catteries, by ensuring their worming and vaccinations are up to date. Don't forget, otherwise you might find yourself searching for pet-friendly accommodation!

### Cats:

With an average lifespan of 14 years, breeding can result lots of kittens. We advise to neuter both male and female cats before 6 months of age, not only to avoid unwanted litters but to also help prevent disease. Neutering procedure are classed as routine operations, requiring admission before 11am and discharge usually before 5pm the same day.

The Cats Protection League subsidy scheme may also be able to help with the cost of the procedure dependent on your household financial situation. If you would like any further information please speak to a member of staff today.

### Pet Insurance

Insurance can help cover the cost of any unexpected veterinary treatment you animal requires. There are a wide range of policies available from many different providers however not all insurance is the same, so choose your policy wisely!

We recommend the Petplan Lifetime/Covered for life policy. Petplan currently offer a four weeks' **FREE** insurance trial for your dog, cat or rabbit providing cover of up to £2000!

If you are considering renewing, changing or commencing insurance for your pet, speak to a member of staff today.

### VETERINARY CORNER

We would like to welcome back to work Mr. Paul Fegan MVB MRCVS, following his extended holiday... through injury!

### Dogs

Depending on their vaccination history, a single yearly booster could keep them fully protected against potentially life threatening diseases. Speak to a member of our team today, to check if your pet is covered.

Microchipping became a legal requirement from **6<sup>th</sup> April 2016**. If your dog is found to be not microchipped, you may be liable to pay a **£500 fine** and could face **criminal prosecution**. The cost of microchipping with us is only £15. -If you are unsure as to whether or not your dog is microchipped, simply visit the practice and we will scan your pet for free.

### Hamsters

Hamsters can live for 2-3 years, and although they can accept each others company, are sometimes prone to fighting / breeding.

Commercial hamster mix, can provide the correct nutritional requirements, however they love small portions fresh fruit and vegetables (slice of apple) to gnaw and chew. Not only does it help keep their teeth trimmed, hamsters also like to store or bury their food for 'safe keeping'. So you often find them filling their cheek pouches and scurrying off to bed to hide their treasures!

Be careful when approaching/ handling any hamsters. As naturally nocturnal creatures, if they are awoken or alarmed during the day they may bite!

-if she is already awake, check out '**Harriet**' our resident hamster, in reception before you leave the clinic!