



Open day at Hambleton – Sunday 15th April

Would you like to see behind the scenes at your Veterinary practice? Well why not pop along to our Open Day on Sunday 15th April at our Hambleton branch. There will be a look behind the scenes to see what and where it all happens. The Team will be there to greet you, talk you through equipment and procedures of what happens to your beloved pet once they are admitted for the day.



Pet Plan Awards

Did you know that this year Moy Vets got six nominations in the Pet Plan Vet Awards? These are known in the industry as the Oscars of the Veterinary profession.

The Team are delighted to be nominated in four different categories this year by **you**, our clients, in recognition for their hard work and commitment.

Our nominations were for:



Practice of the Year

The Team have settled into their new premises in Hambleton. They are all delighted with the facilities that they are able to offer the clients.

Clients too have commented that the facilities that they now have has made the prospect of their pet going to see the Vet a calmer experience. The easier accessibility of being on the

main road has also been an improvement. Plans for refurbishment of the Thornton Practice are well under way.



Vet of the Year

We have two nominees for this category

Audrey Gallacher is a Glasgow University Graduate twice over, first in '88 with a BVMS and again in '96 with PGCE (Primary). So, the old adage, never work with children and animals clearly passed her by. She has an interest in feline medicine and acupuncture for arthritic pets.

Georgina Stanford Davis mainly works from the Thornton branch and has been with Moy Vets since June 2015. Georgina graduated from Liverpool University in 2012 and has a special interest in surgery and critical care.



Vet Nurse of the Year

Vicky Foster was nominated in the Vet Nurse of the Year category. Vicky has been with Moy Vets for many years and after completing her nurse training was promoted to the position of Head Nurse.

Vicky has a horse called Axle and likes to spend her spare time caring for him and riding him on hacks out.

Practice Support Staff of the Year



Chloe Jordan is a relatively new member to the Moy Vets Reception team at Thornton. Her sunny and helpful disposition has quickly earned her respect with clients and other team members alike.

Charlotte Haigh has been with Moy Vets at Thornton since August 2016 when she was offered a full-time position after being our Saturday girl. She hopes to commence her training to become an RVN soon.

Before going to press with this, our Spring newsletter, the winners hadn't been announced... but we all had our fingers crossed for our fellow colleagues and indeed the practice as a whole.

Gorgeous guinea pigs!



Guinea pigs make excellent pets since they are easy to handle, are very inquisitive, rarely bite and can be very 'chatty', communicating with a range of sounds. There are different

breeds of guinea pigs with many varieties of coat types, length and colour.

Guinea pigs are sociable animals and should be kept in groups or pairs; males reach sexual maturity at 9-10 weeks, females even earlier at 4-6 weeks so it is essential that the male, at least, is neutered to prevent unwanted pregnancy. Housing guinea pigs with rabbits is not recommended due to different nutritional requirements between the species, the risk of disease transmission and the risk of rabbits bullying guinea pigs.

Housing should be away from draughts, kept out of direct sunlight and guinea pigs housed outside must have access to shade. Housing should be as large as possible, with the enclosure being 1.2 x 0.6m, or larger (for each pair of guinea pigs), with permanent access to a 2 x 1.5m run.



Regular opportunities to graze and exercise are essential. Also, the run should be secure and prevent predators (dogs, cats, birds of prey) from entering the enclosure. Shelters

should be provided to allow areas to hide, provide enrichment and help them feel secure (boxes or pipes). Owners should also provide branches from untreated apple trees, willow or poplar to gnaw on. Please note that branches from cherry, plum, cedar, walnut and oleander are poisonous.



Guinea pigs require a high fibre diet, and grass hay must be available at all times. Guinea pigs also need approximately one quarter of a cup per adult guinea pig of a commercial pelleted diet, plus leafy green foods to provide vitamin C and other nutrients.

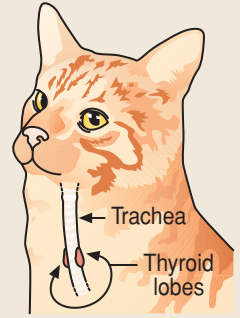
Guinea pigs instinctively hide any signs of pain and illness, therefore it is important to check them at least once a day. If appetite decreases and/or droppings become smaller and less frequent, or are not produced, then this is deemed as an emergency. Guinea pigs can get dental disease (overgrowth of incisors and cheek teeth) and gastrointestinal stasis as a result of an inappropriate diet or as a sequel to pain or an underlying illness. Nail overgrowth is also common in guinea pigs, especially in animals housed indoors. Guinea pigs are also prone to mites which can cause intense itching, crusting and scaling of the skin and hair loss.

We are here to help, so if you have any questions regarding your guinea pigs, give us a call today.

Thyroid problems – is your pet affected?

Most of us have heard of the thyroid gland, but did you know that thyroid problems are surprisingly common in pets? The thyroid glands consist of two lobes, located on either side of the trachea (windpipe) in your pet's neck (see diagram). Usually they are not noticeable and can't be easily felt through the skin.

The thyroid gland produces thyroid hormone which regulates your pet's metabolic rate. Too much thyroid hormone (hyperthyroidism) speeds up the body's metabolism, whilst too little (hypothyroidism) slows it down.



Hyperthyroidism is a common condition in older cats. Most frequently they develop a benign growth (or goitre), which produces excess thyroid hormone. The symptoms of this include rapid weight loss despite a ravenous appetite, hyperactivity, drinking excessively and gastrointestinal signs such as sickness and diarrhoea. When the thyroid level is too high, it also puts pressure on the other body organs with associated high blood pressure, heart disease and kidney damage.

Diagnosis is usually based on clinical signs and a blood test. Once thyroid disease is diagnosed, medication can be started to allow your pet to put on weight and reduce the adverse clinical signs. Other treatment options include special diets, surgery to remove the affected glands and radioactive iodine at a specialist centre.

Hypothyroidism: Dogs can sometimes develop an under-active thyroid and some breeds may be more prone to hypothyroidism. Lowered production of thyroid hormone leads to a decrease in the metabolic rate, usually leading to weight gain (with no increased appetite) and generalised lethargy. Other signs often include coat problems, and recurrent skin and ear infections.

Diagnosis of hypothyroidism can be more tricky, but in confirmed cases, daily treatment with oral thyroid supplements can be very successful in treating this condition.

Once on treatment your pet may require monitoring blood tests and weight checks to make sure they are doing well. If you notice any of the symptoms in your pet, or if you are concerned your pet may be suffering from thyroid disease, please call us to make an appointment to examine your pet.



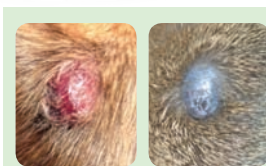
Don't ignore lumps and bumps!

Lumps and bumps can come in a variety of shapes and sizes. If you notice a lump (also called a mass or growth) on your pet, it is important to make an appointment so we can check it.

If your pet does develop a lump, there are several underlying causes including: allergic reactions (such as an insect bite), abscesses (very common in cats), hernias (often seen in younger pets) and tumours.

Tumours are understandably the most worrying and are either *benign* – which tend to be slow growing and remain in one place, or *malignant* – which can be fast growing, invade the surrounding tissue and have the potential to spread to other parts of the body.

If you do find a lump on your pet, it is very important that we examine it as soon as possible. Speed is of the essence and a delay in appropriate treatment can be the difference between a small mass that is easily treatable and one that is far more difficult to treat.



Skin lump on a dog Skin lump on a cat
Lumps may vary considerably in appearance. Some are fairly obvious (such as the photos above), whilst others are much harder to detect.

Routinely grooming your pet is a great way to keep an eye out for lumps, bumps, ticks and any other problems. Just give us a call if you find anything unusual.