



Congratulations to receptionist Becky and her husband Mark on the safe arrival of their son Oliver Peter Pollard born 28th December.

Have you ever thought of trying a new activity with your dog? - Here are four ideas.

CaniX (pronounced Cani-cross) is a brilliant way to get out in the fresh air and spend quality time with your dog. You and your canine chum can enjoy the peace and tranquillity of your surroundings and get in shape at the same time with an invigorating workout. CaniX:

- maintains a healthy lifestyle for you and your dogs.
- strengthens the bond between you and your dogs.
- can be enjoyed by all ages, male or female.
- is a versatile sport that can be practiced anywhere.

There is no handicap for the breed of dog as, regardless of breed, most dogs can run faster than their human team mate. YOU are the weakest link!

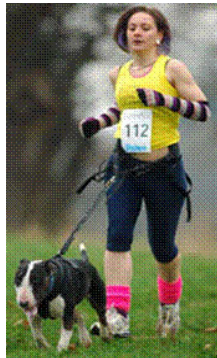
No special equipment or training is needed. You can start today, go out for a training run and enter CaniX races with your dog on collar and lead. Many choose to harness their dog's pulling power and chase instinct with a dog running harness, waist belt and CaniX line. This is more comfortable for both you and your dog and gives you extra assistance (handy for the hills)! Dogs soon learn the difference between their collar and their running harness – understanding that they can pull with one and not the other. The running harness directs all the pulling power to the dogs chest and shoulders away from the neck. The feel is totally different to the collar and significantly more comfortable. Running with your dog in harness can help with loose lead walking.

For more information contact CaniX UK at www.cani-cross.co.uk

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Agility

Dog agility involves the dog negotiating anything up to 20 obstacles, on a course designed by the judge, against the clock. The fastest clear round is the winner, although practice is to place to 10% of the class (so if the entry is 100, places will go down to 10th) plus rosettes for unplaced clear rounds. Faults are incurred for all errors as well as exceeding the course time, and there are several ways of getting eliminated too. The two main types of class are agility and jumping (jumping classes do not have contact equipment in them, agility classes do), but there are many other types of fun



class. If you do not want to compete, there is still no reason why you cannot train your dog, most clubs will have a mix of competing and non-competing members. However, be aware that a lot of handlers started out doing it just for fun!

The essence of the sport of Flyball

Flyball is team relay racing dog sport. In flyball two teams race against each other. Typically the race requires negotiating a series of four hurdles set in a straight line with a target box at the end. Each dog races over the hurdles, hits the flyball trigger to the release of a ball, retrieves the ball, then races back over the hurdles carrying the ball. The dog must stay within its own team's racing lane. The next dog to run must wait until the returning dog has crossed the start line. Skilled teams may allow the dog to start moving toward the start line as long as the dog does not actually cross the line before the returning dog. Completing a course without errors is a "clean run."

Heelwork to Music

Heelwork to Music (HTM) is a relatively recent competitive sport in which participants devise routines of up to four minutes, set to music, and perform the routines with their dog. HTM is divided into two categories - Heelwork to Music and Freestyle - and most shows stage official classes in both categories. Heelwork to Music derived originally from the set exercises forming the heelwork component of competitive Obedience, with a musical backing, but it quickly grew into a much more demanding and creative discipline. The introduction of Freestyle - routines interpreting the music in which predefined heelwork movements form only a third or less of the total - added still further to the growing appeal of the sport. Heelwork to Music has a wide range of facets, from a creative 'play' environment where pet owners develop a bond with their dogs, to opportunities for more competitive training and competition, to an enthralling and moving spectator event.



We would like to welcome new vet Rachel Gibson BVetMed MRCVS who will be joining our team on 20th February 2012. She is moving from Carnforth, Lancashire and very much looking forward to living in the forest with her Springer Spaniel. She loves painting, photography and walking.





New Range

Lyndhurst surgery are now stocking the Red Dingo range of spotted collars and leads for dogs and cats.

The dog collars are made with premium nylon webbing, solid stainless steel D-rings and buckle bone side release buckle. The cat collars are designed for comfort and safety and

made from quality nylon webbing and abrasion resistant ribbon ensure long lasting comfort. Featuring a safety release fish clip and wildlife protection bell.

Choosing a cat collar

Avoid collars with elastic inserts - these can stretch to different extents and some will allow cats to get a leg stuck through. The collar can then become stuck and cause injuries in what we would think of as the 'arm pit', (i.e. under the front leg). Some cats can also get collars stuck over the jaw in the same way.

You should also check the overall quality of the collar – there should be no sharp edges, stitching should not unravel and the buckle should be firm and not sharp. There are few, if any, reports of problems with 'snap open' collars. These have a plastic buckle which snaps together to close it. If sufficient pressure is put on the collar, such as would happen if the cat gets it caught in something or if it gets its leg caught through, it should simply snap open and release the collar and the cat. Check how easily these buckles open – some are firmer than others.

Pet of the Month PIXIE

17 WEEK OLD JACK RUSSELL

Pixie's owners called us for advice as Pixie had eaten a metal tie from around the end of a Chubb (meat food for dogs) two days previously. Her owners had been monitoring her closely and waiting for the tie to be passed in her faeces. Nothing had been noticed but Pixie remained in good health and continued to have a good appetite. We advised that if the metal tie was not seen in her faeces within 24hrs then we should investigate further.

Pixie's owners brought her in the next day to see Justyn, who advised an x-ray to check for the whereabouts of the piece of metal. Pixie was admitted and given a very light sedation in order to obtain x-rays of her abdomen. The x-rays showed that the metal tie was still in her stomach. As we knew what the object was and could tell the size of it by the x-ray (only small), veterinary surgeons Justyn and James decided the best treatment option would be to try and get Pixie to vomit up the tie. If the tie was left it could have caused a problem in the near future, if it passed through into the intestines it could easily have caused a blockage, which could be fatal.

After Pixie had fully recovered from the sedation, she was given an injection to induce vomiting. Within a few minutes she was bringing up her stomach contents and on her third vomit she produced the metal tie!

Pixie was very lucky. Her owners were vigilant and knew the problems that could have occurred with eating an object like the metal tie. She was also very fortunate that we were able to remove the tie by the least invasive way possible. Pixie remains a bright and happy puppy, although maybe a little wary of what our injections can do!



Our "Out of Hours" Emergency Service

We are very proud to be able to offer a personalised 24 hour emergency service for our clients. You may wonder exactly what this means and why it is such a good thing for you and your pets. If your pet becomes ill and needs to be seen outside normal surgery hours many veterinary practices will insist that you travel, often many miles, to be seen by an emergency vet service, who have never seen your pet and will know nothing of its history or previous conditions.

However, at Midforest we will always see your pet either at our Totton or Lyndhurst surgery, so you don't have to travel far to get the urgent care your pet needs, even in the middle of the night. You would always see one of our vets, quite possibly your own regular vet, who will be familiar to you and your pet. The surgeries are linked by a computer system so all your pet's notes can be accessed at either site. This means that the vet can see exactly what treatment your pet has had, whether or not it is on any medication and if there is any other relevant information specific to your pet's health. Any treatment given at this time will be noted on the records so if any follow up treatment is necessary then your regular vet will see this at your next visit and make the necessary changes.

We feel that our emergency service offers the best possible service by providing continuity of care for you and your pet outside the normal surgery hours at what might be a very stressful time.

For emergencies ring 023 8028 2358 and you will be given another telephone number to call Molly, our night receptionist. Molly is very experienced and will liaise with the duty vet for immediate help and advice. Please be aware, however, that using the emergency service will cost more, as out of hours fees will apply to your bill if your pet is seen outside normal surgery hours.



Saying Goodbye to your Pet

Part of the responsibility of caring for your pet means making the difficult decision to have him put to sleep if and when he becomes too ill to enjoy a meaningful quality of life. The vet will advise and help you when the time comes to say goodbye but you can be reassured by the fact that it will be done very quickly and sympathetically, either at the surgery or in your own home (subject to arrangement). Every care is taken to ensure that your pet does not become distressed and, if necessary, a sedative is given first to keep him calm and peaceful. The vet will then carefully inject the animal with an overdose of anaesthetic and he will drift off to sleep. Most owners take the option of leaving their pet with us to arrange cremation. It is possible to request that your pet's ashes be returned although an additional charge has to be made for this. Alternatively, many owners prefer to take their pet home to bury in the garden and are comforted by remembering their pet with a permanent reminder such as a plaque or plant in a favourite place in the garden. Perhaps, however, the greatest comfort to any grieving owner is the knowledge that they have done the best for their pet throughout his life and helped to provide him with a dignified and peaceful end to his old life. We now offer a bereavement counselling service to owners who are over-whelmed by the emotions they experience. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you feel you are not coping well with your grief. There is also some evidence that cats and dogs from multi-cat/dog households go through their own grieving process at the loss of a companion so try and offer them lots of reassurance and attention to help compensate for their loss too.