

In this issue:

- Nurses - what do they do?
- Why does the title matter?
- Being independent - a closer look
- Dog-friendly days out!
- What being cat friendly means
- The Whiskers family got bigger....

Why the title 'Veterinary Nurse' matters



'Veterinary Nurse' is not a protected title in the U.K.

DID YOU KNOW?

What does this mean?

Unlike 'Doctor' or 'Paramedic', the title 'Veterinary Nurse' is not protected in the UK, **meaning anyone, qualified or not, can use it.** This puts pets at risk, as unqualified individuals may lack the necessary skills, training and standards.

So... what about Whiskers?

At Whiskers Veterinary Practice, **we only employ fully qualified and Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs)** who have undergone extensive training and are held to strict professional standards.

When you bring your pet to us, you can trust they are in expert hands.

In May it was Veterinary Nurse Awareness Month but we feel like our nurses need more than just a month to celebrate their dedication! At Whiskers Vets our Veterinary Nurses are at the heart of our team, providing high medical care, supporting vets in surgery and ensuring your pets receive the best possible treatment.



What Do Our Veterinary Nurses Do?

General Anaesthesia & Surgical Support – Monitoring pets under anaesthesia, assisting in surgery, and ensuring safety throughout procedures.

Blood Sampling & Lab Testing – Performing diagnostic tests to detect infections and organ issues

X-rays & Imaging – Taking clear, accurate X-rays to help diagnose a wide range of conditions.

Dental Care – Performing scale and polish treatments and promoting oral health.

Patient & Post-Operative Care – Managing pain, wound care, hydration, and general T.L.C. for hospitalised pets.

Educating Pet Owners – Offering guidance on diet, preventive care, and working together with the Veterinary team to manage long-term conditions.

We want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to our amazing nurses for their dedication, skill, and compassion. Next time you visit, be sure to show them some appreciation—they truly are the unsung heroes of veterinary care!

Thank you to our fantastic veterinary nurses!





A Closer look...

Corporate veterinary chains often come with a set of benefits, such as access to large resources or advanced technologies. However, these advantages can come at a cost—both for pets and their owners. Here's what you need to know about the key differences:

Independent

- **Locally owned** and operated with complete flexibility in decision-making.
- Tailored care based on **your pet's individual needs**, not corporate guidelines.
- **Continuity of care** with the same team of professionals every visit, allowing for better monitoring of your pet's health.

Corporate

- Typically part of **larger chains**, often owned by investment groups.
- **Standardised protocols** across locations, which may not always allow for personalised care.
- **Financial targets** often guide decisions, and staff have **limited autonomy** in patient care.

The decision between corporate and independent care can significantly impact your pet's overall health experience. At Whiskers, we understand that it's not just about clinical treatment; it's about building a long-term relationship with both you and your pet.

Personalised, Tailored Care:

Your pet is unique, and so are their healthcare needs. At Whiskers, we take the time to understand your pet's individual health history, behaviour and lifestyle. We then create care plans that are as unique as they are, without being bound by corporate policies that prioritise financial goals over Health outcomes.

Continuity and Trust:

Having the same dedicated team care for your pet on every visit fosters a sense of comfort and trust. It also ensures that your pet's health is monitored consistently, with a complete picture of their wellbeing. Pets, like people, feel safer when they're in familiar surroundings with familiar faces.



Community-Focused Care:

By supporting a local, independent practice like Whiskers, you're contributing to the local economy and the well-being of pets in your community. We're not just here for the bottom line—we care deeply about the health of every pet and build lasting relationships with local families.

Reinvestment in Your Pet's Care:

As an independent practice, we continuously reinvest in the practice to offer the best care possible. Whether it's upgrading medical equipment, bringing in new treatment options, or providing ongoing training for our team, we're dedicated to ensuring your pet receives the highest standard of care. And yes, we've even invested in a new coffee machine for our clients and staff—because a visit to the vet should always feel like a pleasant one.

At Whiskers, we are passionate about providing compassionate, quality care for your pet. As an independent, locally-run practice, we have the freedom to prioritise what matters most: your pet's health, comfort, and safety. Unlike corporate chains, we don't answer to shareholders or investors—we answer to you and your pet.

Discover Dog-Friendly Walks, Pubs, and Areas: A Guide from Whiskers Vets



At Whiskers Vets, we understand that your dog is more than just a pet—they're family! That's why we love sharing our top local spots where you and your furry friend can enjoy nature, great walks, and a delicious pub lunch. Whether you're after a gentle stroll or an adventurous hike, the local area has plenty to offer both you and your dog.



BECKY FALLS®
The Perfect Adventure


Nestled in the heart of Dartmoor, Becky Falls offers stunning woodland walks and spectacular views. The varied trails cater to all fitness levels, so whether your dog is full of energy or prefers a slower pace, there's something for everyone. After your adventure, relax at the on-site café, where dogs are always welcome and often treated to a snack!
Tip: Keep your dog on a lead near the waterfall, as the rocks can be slippery.




Lustleigh Cleave
A walk full of Charm

If you're looking for a beautiful mix of woodland, meadows, and Dartmoor views, Lustleigh Cleave is a must-visit. This walk is a bit more challenging, perfect for adventurous dogs who love to explore. After your trek, head to The Cleave Pub in Lustleigh, where the friendly staff will make both you and your dog feel right at home.

Ashburton Woods and River




For a gentler walk, head to Ashburton Woods and follow the picturesque River Ashburn. It's ideal for warmer days when you want to keep your dog cool in the shade. The river is always a hit with dogs, offering plenty of opportunities for a splash. Finish your walk with a stop at The Dartmoor Lodge, where you and your dog will be treated to great food and drink.

Stover Country Park
A Local Favourite





Stover Country Park is a local treasure, offering 114 acres of woodlands, meadows, and lakes. It's the perfect spot for dogs of all sizes and energy levels, with a designated off-lead area for free-roaming fun. After your walk, grab a bite at The Welcome Stranger, where dogs are always welcome to join in for a relaxed meal.

Bovey Valley Woods
Quiet and Scenic



If you prefer a more tranquil walk, Bovey Valley Woods in Liverton is a hidden gem. With winding paths and the River Bovey running through, it's the perfect spot for dogs to explore at their own pace. Afterward, head to The Star Inn, where you can unwind in the dog-friendly beer garden.

Morten-Hampstead
Treks for the Rugged Explorer

For those who love the rugged landscape of Dartmoor, Mortenhampstead offers wide open moorland walks with stunning views. It's perfect for energetic dogs who need to burn off some energy. Just be sure to keep your dog on a lead near livestock. After your trek, The Horse in Mortenhampstead provides a cosy, dog-friendly environment to relax and recharge.



- Always carry water to keep your dog hydrated—especially on warm days!
- Be mindful of livestock—keep your dog on a lead near farm animals.
- Check for ticks after walks in wooded or grassy areas.
- Pack extra treats to reward your dog for good behaviour!
- Carry poo bags to keep our local areas clean.

Meet Jean Pierre!

Our pet superstar of the season!

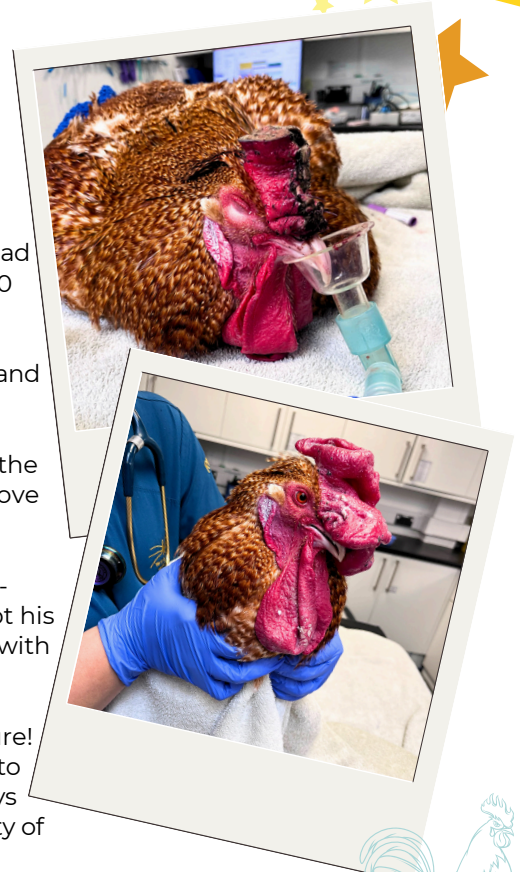
Jean Pierre is a truly magnificent cockerel who recently underwent a big procedure for an even bigger comb!



Over the past two years, Jean Pierre's comb had grown significantly - more rapidly in the last 10 months - eventually covering his nostrils and making it difficult for him to eat and breathe comfortably. Despite being otherwise bright and healthy, it was clearly time for intervention.

We performed a partial surgical removal of the comb to help relieve the pressure and improve his day-to-day comfort.

Jean Pierre's mum truly stepped up to the challenge of nursing him through recovery - ensuring he received all his medication, kept his wound clean and dry, and surrounded him with love (and luxury!). His post-op care included plenty of rest and even some time spent recovering on the family's very fancy furniture! We're delighted to report Jean Pierre is back to his confident, charming self, and his mum says the surgery has massively improved his quality of life. **A true superstar!**



Staff news...

The Whiskers Family got a little bigger again...



Welcome to the world Aurelie!

Our fearless leader Alexia is soaking up every moment of maternity leave with her beautiful daughter, little Aurelie, who's growing fast and already charming everyone with her bright smiles and strong spirit! A huge congratulations to Lex, and we can't wait to see them both soon! 🥰

Why a cat friendly clinic is the best choice for your furry friend

What does this mean?

Cats are known for their independence and unique personalities, and their veterinary care should reflect that. At Whiskers Veterinary Practice, **we're proud to be an ISFM Cat-Friendly Clinic.** This means we've designed our clinic to meet the specific needs of cats, creating an environment that reduces stress and anxiety during visits.

What Does a Cat-Friendly Clinic Mean for You and Your Cat?

As a Cat-Friendly Clinic, we focus on:

- Calm, quiet environments that minimise noise and commotion.
- Special handling techniques to ensure your cat feels at ease.
- Feline-only spaces, separate from the hustle and bustle from dogs.

Marie's Expertise – Cat Health in Trusted Hands

Our Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN), Marie, holds a feline nursing certificate and is very experienced in all aspects of cat care. She's available for telephone consultations to assist with concerns such as cat behaviour, nutrition, or any other cat-related issues you may face. Call today to book!

