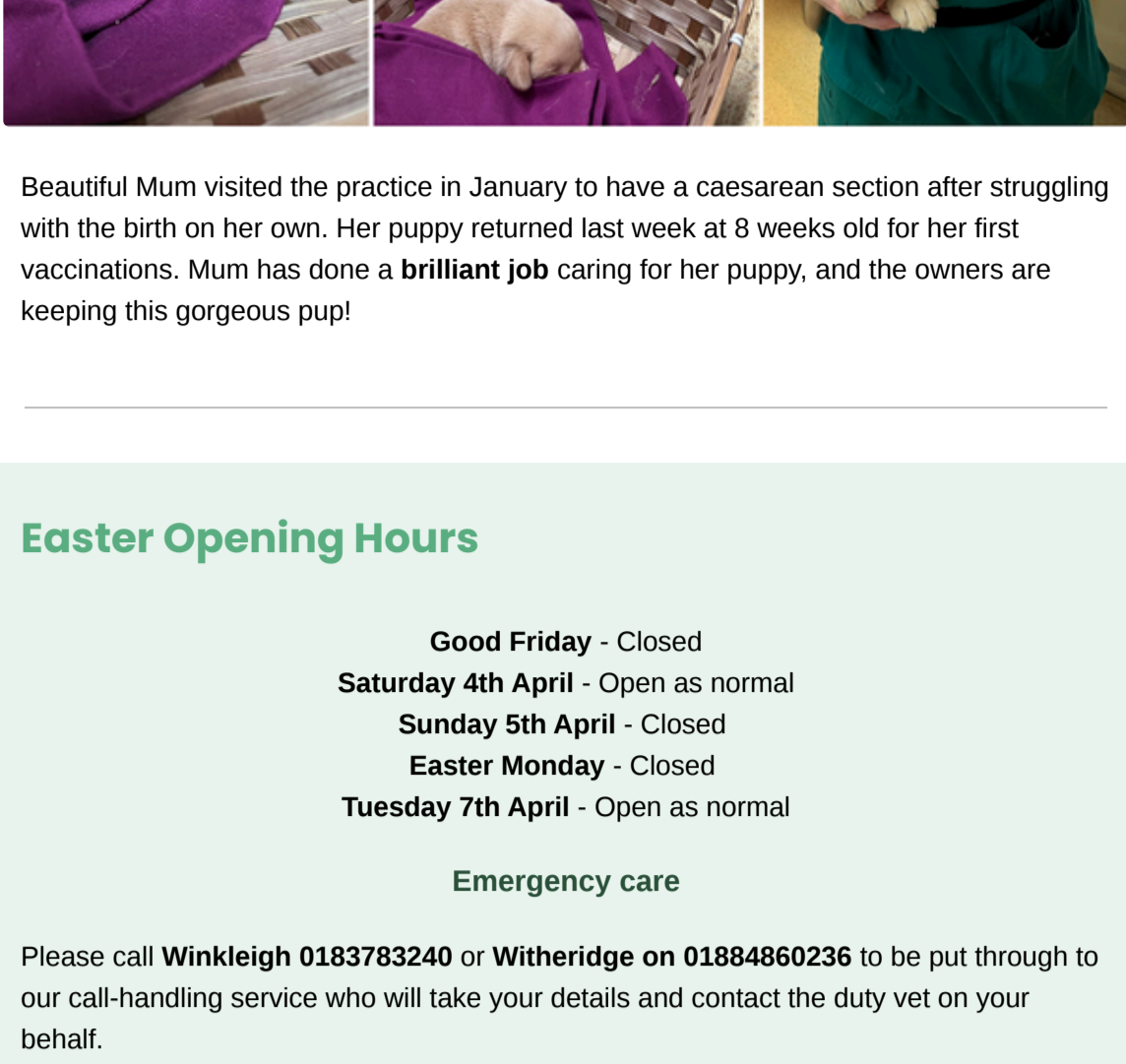


Spring 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

In this newsletter we look at: Star Patient, Easter Opening Hours, Nurse Clinics, Fleas, Ticks and Worms, Spring Pet Hazards and Seasonal Pet Allergies.

Star Patient



Beautiful Mum visited the practice in January to have a caesarean section after struggling with the birth on her own. Her puppy returned last week at 8 weeks old for her first vaccinations. Mum has done a **brilliant job** caring for her puppy, and the owners are keeping this gorgeous pup!

Easter Opening Hours

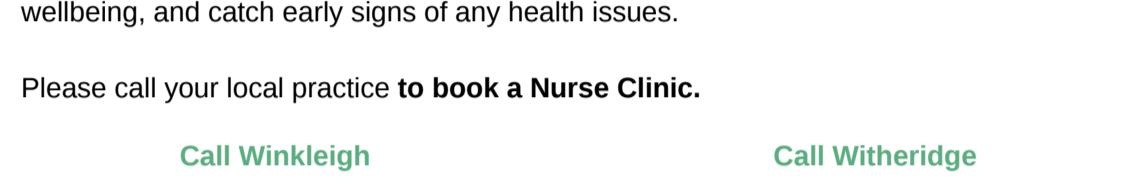
Good Friday - Closed
Saturday 4th April - Open as normal
Sunday 5th April - Closed
Easter Monday - Closed
Tuesday 7th April - Open as normal

Emergency care

Please call **Winkleigh 0183783240** or **Witheridge on 01884860236** to be put through to our call-handling service who will take your details and contact the duty vet on your behalf.

Please remember to check supplies of any regular medications and **give us 48-hours notice for any repeat prescriptions** needed in advance of the Bank Holiday Weekend.

Nurse Clinics



Here at West Ridge Vets we have a team of dedicated and passionate Registered Veterinary Nurses who are here to help you care for your pets. Our experienced nursing team **offer a range of Nurse Clinics**.

Our Nurse Clinic appointments **include:**

- Nail clipping
- Microchipping
- Wellness screening
- Anal Gland expression
- 2nd Vaccinations
- Administering medications and parasite treatments
- Medication demonstrations
- Post-surgery checks and Post neutering weight checks
- Senior Pet Health (pets over 7 years)
- Weight management
- Puppy and Kitten in practice socialisation
- Dental care
- Wound and bandage management

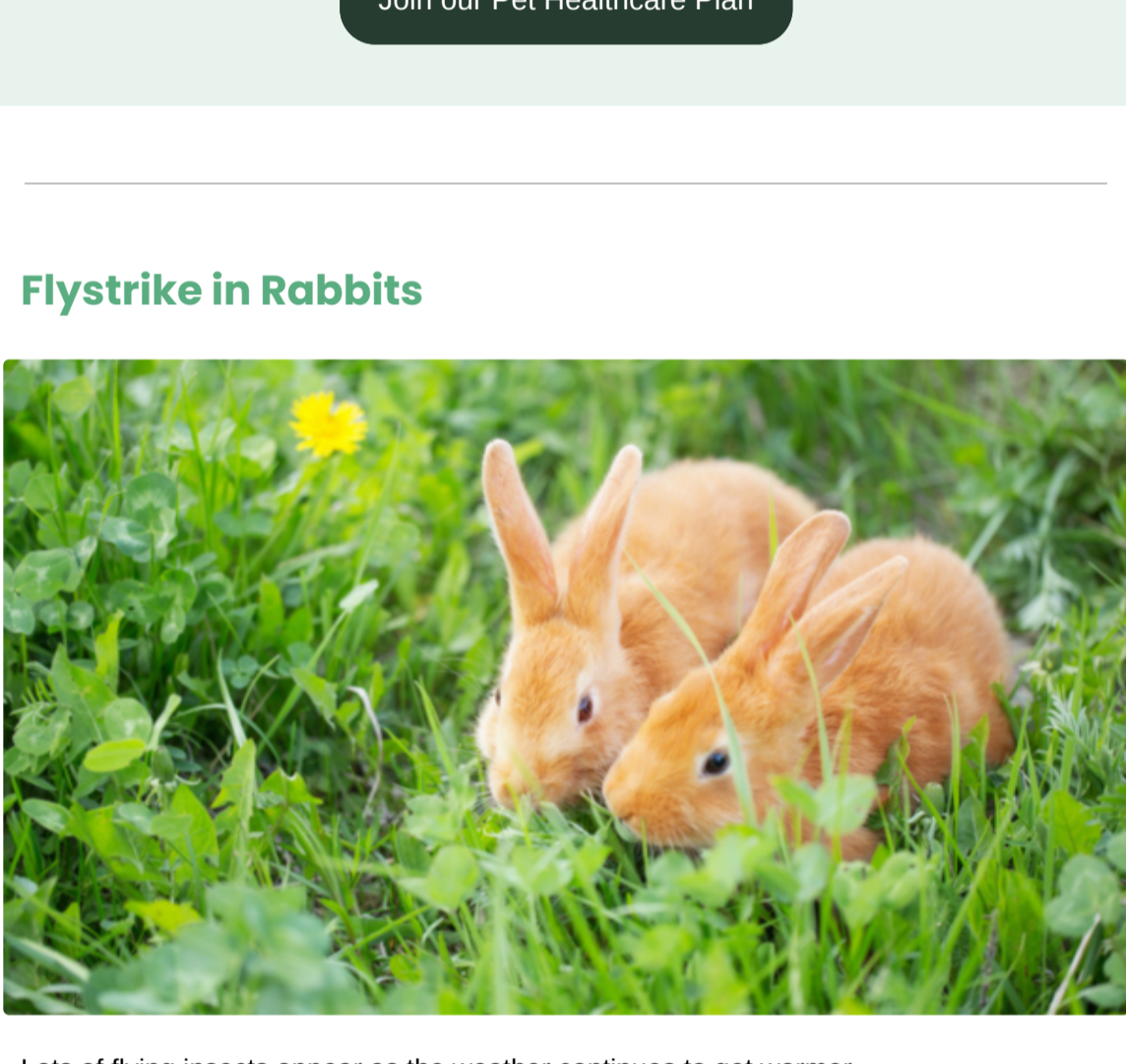
These appointments are a **great opportunity** to ask questions, monitor your pet's wellbeing, and catch early signs of any health issues.

Please call your local practice to **book a Nurse Clinic**.

Call Winkleigh
01837 83240

Call Witheridge
01884 860236

Fleas, Ticks and Worms



Preventative treatment is essential for keeping your pet healthy and protected throughout the year.

Year-round protection is important because fleas, ticks, and worms **aren't just a spring problem**—they're a constant, year-round risk. These parasites can survive in many environments, including inside your home, and can cause discomfort, illness, and more serious health issues if left untreated.

Using regular preventative treatment helps you stay ahead of parasites and keep your pet protected — so you can enjoy your spring adventures.

Call us on 0183783240 or 01884860236 to discuss the best treatment for your pet.



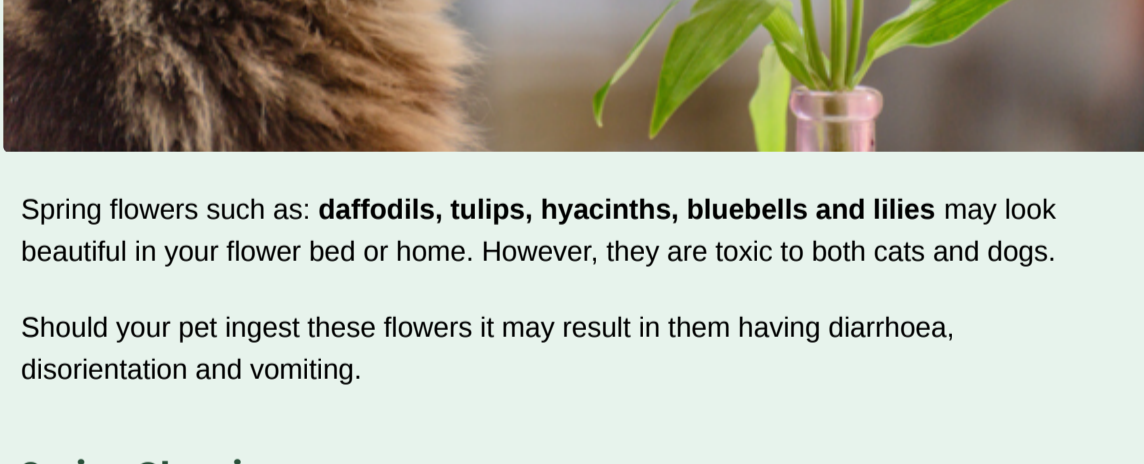
Our Pet Healthcare Plans can help keep your pet protected

A **year's supply of flea, tick and worm prevention** for cats and dogs is included in our [Pet Healthcare Plans](#).

For more information or to join the club, please **click the button below**.

Join our Pet Healthcare Plan

Flystrike in Rabbits



Lots of flying insects appear as the weather continues to get warmer.

How to ensure your rabbit is **protected** from flystrike:

- **Keep your rabbit's environment clean.** Remove soiled bedding at least once daily. Using a pet-friendly disinfectant, clean your rabbits housing regularly.
- **Check your rabbit daily.** To spot early signs of fly strike you should check your rabbit daily for soiled fur or wounds. Focusing on the belly, tail and bottom areas, as these are where the droppings may accumulate.
- **Use fly repellent.** Fly repellent can be used to help protect your rabbit's housing. We can recommend spot-on treatments that can be applied directly to your rabbit to prevent fly eggs from hatching.

If you would like to **discuss spot-on treatment options for your rabbit**, please call us at your local branch.

Spring Pet Hazards

Toxic Treats

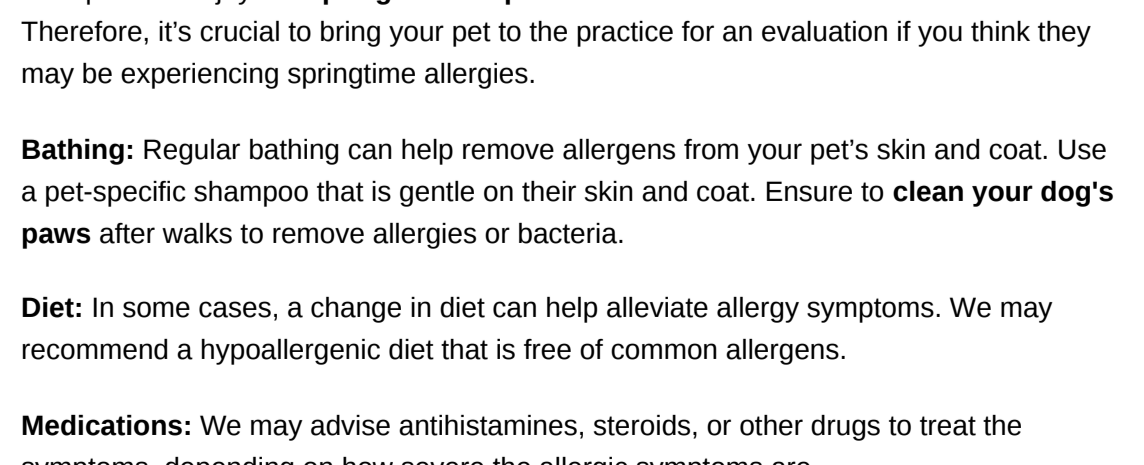


During Easter, many of us indulge in delicious treats, however, some of these can be **harmful** or even fatal to our pets.

Below are some tips to keep your furry friends safe during the Easter period:

- **Keep chocolate out of reach of pets**, particularly dogs. They will try their best to get to any chocolate lying around, so remember to keep it out of paw's reach.
- **Throw a pet friendly Easter egg hunt** by ensuring no chocolate is left lying around afterwards.
- **Hot cross buns** are another Easter treat that can be harmful to our pets. They contain ingredients such as raisins, and dried sultanas which are toxic and can be fatal.

Harmful Plants



Spring flowers such as: **daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, bluebells and lilies** may look beautiful in your flower bed or home. However, they are toxic to both cats and dogs.

Should your pet ingest these flowers it may result in them having diarrhoea, disorientation and vomiting.

Spring Cleaning

Some of us use the bank holiday weekend to do a bit of spring cleaning. Don't forget that many cleaning products such as bleach and heavily scented disinfectants and diffusers can be **harmful** to nosey pets.

Spring is a good time to give your pet's belongings a deep clean to remove dirt and bacteria. It's important to remember to use **pet-safe** products at this point.

If your pet is **showing signs of being unwell**, or you believe they have come into contact with any of the hazards above, please contact us immediately.

Seasonal Pet Allergies

Springtime allergies are not simply a problem for people; they can also affect pets. To keep your furry friend healthy and comfortable, it's good to know the signs of springtime allergies in pets and how to treat them.

Symptoms

Itchy skin: Can cause our pets to scratch, bite, and lick themselves. This could lead to hot patches, skin infections, and hair loss.

Sneezing and coughing: This can be a result of an allergic reaction to pollen, dust, or other airborne allergens.

Runny nose and eyes: Your pet may be uncomfortable due to a discharge from their eyes and nose.

Ear infections: Ears can become itchy and inflamed due to allergies, leading to the development of bacterial or fungal infections.

Treatments

Your pet can enjoy the **spring season pain-free** with the correct care and treatment. Therefore, it's crucial to **bring your pet to the practice** for an evaluation if you think they may be experiencing springtime allergies.

Bathing: Regular bathing can help remove allergens from your pet's skin and coat. Use a pet-specific shampoo that is gentle on their skin and coat. Ensure to **clean your dog's paws** after walks to remove allergens or bacteria.

Diet: In some cases, a change in diet can help alleviate allergy symptoms. We may recommend a hypoallergenic diet that is free of common allergens.

Medications: We may advise antihistamines, steroids, or other drugs to treat the symptoms, depending on how severe the allergic symptoms are.

Need more information?

If you **want more information** or feel your pet may require veterinary care due to springtime allergies, please call us at your local branch.

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

We hope you and your pet have a happy and safe spring!

Best wishes,

The team at West Ridge Vets