

COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025

PROTECTING YOUR PET'S WOUND

When pets get injured, undergo surgery or have traumatic wounds, proper wound care is essential to aid a smooth recovery. Most surgical wounds take 10-14 days to fully heal. In cases of wounds caused by trauma this can vary and can take longer as the body takes time to build new tissue to fill the wound.

One of the setbacks we see is pets licking or chewing at their wounds which can lead to infection, delayed healing or in some cases having to restitch the wound (due to interference with their stitches). For all these reasons it is important to protect your pet's wounds, so they heal quickly and without complications.

There are various ways we can prevent wound interference, from dressings to surgical suits. Sometimes an Elizabethan collar is the most suitable option, and these come in various styles and materials to suit your pet and their condition.

Dressings are usually used on limb wounds, as these areas sometimes can take a bit more time to heal. We do sometimes use them on surgical wounds such as spay wounds to keep them protected for the first few days, but mostly on cases that have had trauma and require regular dressing to help the wound along.



When your pet has a dressing on it is important that it remains in place and they are not permitted to chew at it as they may get to the wound and cause harm. It is important to ensure they are wearing an Elizabethan collar at all times making sure the dressing does not get wet or sweaty as this moisture can affect the wound and can lead to infections which delay healing. In order to prevent this, the use of a foot boot is advised but this must be removed when the pet is resting inside as it increases the chance of sweating.

Surgical suits: Cats, dogs, rabbits, you name it there is a suit for everyone and everything! These suits are usually better tolerated than an Elizabethan collar as they are soft, can be worn all the time and washed as and when needed. Sometimes however they need to be used in conjunction with Elizabethan collars to stop those who are a little more determined to get to their wounds.

Lastly, rest is best! It is very important that your pet gets short lead walks, and is prevented from jumping or running up and down the stairs as too much movement too soon following a procedure can impact the effectiveness of their healing. If this is not adhered to, then complications such as wound breakdown, swellings, and re-dressing wounds can occur. These complications can all be treated but inevitably delay the healing time, so why risk it?

If you would like any further advice on wound healing, please don't hesitate to speak to one of our qualified veterinary nurses.



Congratulations Mr & Mrs Thompson

Huge congratulations to Registered Veterinary Nurse Natalie and her long term partner Daniel who tied the knot on Saturday 16th August.

The ceremony was held at Long Preston church followed by a reception at the Falcon Manor in Settle.

Congratulations again to Mr and Mrs Thompson and a big thank you from all of us at Dalehead for inviting us to be part of your special day.

A NEW FACE - JEN MORPHET

We are sure you will join us in welcoming Jen Morphet to the companion animal veterinary team. Jen grew up feeding the lambs on her grandparents' beef and sheep farm in North Yorkshire. She attended QES in Kirkby Lonsdale, going on to gain a masters degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London before heading to the University of Liverpool to complete her veterinary degree. After lots of enjoyable EMS placements with Dalehead throughout her journey to become a vet, she is really excited to be joining the small animal team.

Outside of vet life Jen enjoys climbing, white water kayaking, generally being outdoors, sheep, and playing the flute and piano.



ITS SHOW TIME!



We had a fantastic day at Malham Show, thank you to everyone who visited our stand.

Come and see us at:

BENTHAM SHOW – SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER & HODDER VALLEY SHOW - SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

We are once again judging the dog show at Bentham with Guy picking up the baton as this year's judge. Rick will be on hand to keep everything running smoothly, so head along to enter a class with your proud pooch and to say hello!



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