



WELCOME TO CLAWS & PAWS  
Paxton Vet Clinics' Newsletter

Here you'll find great advice, offers for you and your pet, news, hints & tips, seasonal advice and much, much more!

PRACTICE NEWS



**\*\* Paxton Veterinary Clinics' Christmas Photo Competition - Winners announcement \*\***

Upon finishing our competition, incredible pictures were submitted! We were very glad to see all the stars that showed up on our gallery. They definitely brought us much cheer this season, so we thank you so much for all the enthusiasm and participation.

We are very happy to announce that the winners are:

**FIRST PLACE:** Jamie E Clements with 12 votes  
**Prize:** £25 Voucher to spend on anything at Paxton Veterinary Clinics

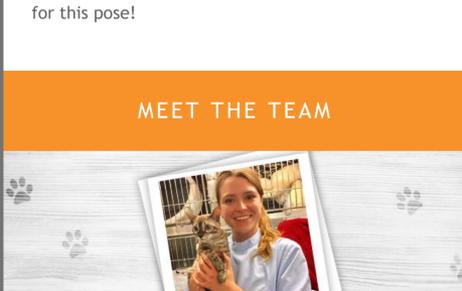
**SECOND PLACE:** Sharmela Thomas with 10 votes  
**Prize:** £15 Voucher to spend on anything at Paxton Veterinary Clinics

**THIRD PLACE:** Jenny Lindsay McLaughlin with 9 votes  
**Prize:** £10 Voucher to spend on anything at Paxton Veterinary Clinics

We hear the sleigh bells ring one last time to deliver prizes straight to our most voted pictures! Your vouchers will be ready to collect from 30 Clifton Rd, London SE25 6NJ from the 13th January onwards. If you would like for us to post or email your vouchers please send us a private message with your email or address to let us know.

Thank you for entering our competition!

STAR OF THE MONTH:

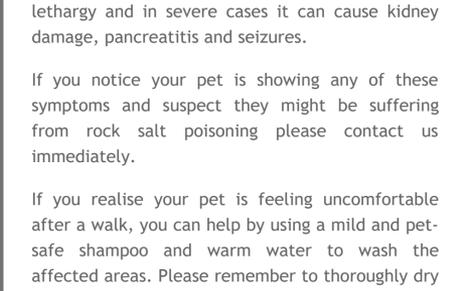


This is Gaja, a beautiful Golden Retriever. She used to be hugely overweight at 47kg, with constant skin infections and patches of baldness, when she moved here from Poland in 2011. The team at Paxton Vet Clinics diagnosed her with HYPOTHYROIDISM by running a simple blood test. Her underactive thyroid gland was causing a very low metabolic rate, meaning she gained weight easily, and lead to poor skin health.

Luckily there is a treatment for this, and she has been on medication daily since 2011 which has made a radical difference to her life.

She now has a beautiful thick winter coat and is a svelt 31kg, meaning she's was carrying around an extra 15kg (50% of what she weighs today!) She is more energetic and enjoying life to the full - we are all so happy for her, to have been able to help change her life around so dramatically.

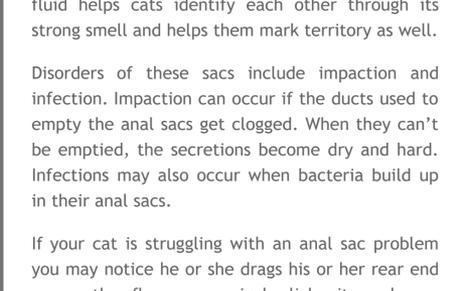
CLIENTS PETS



Gorgeous Baloo and Timo are brother and sister, and came for their first visit recently.

They settled down together on the Reception chair for this pose!

MEET THE TEAM



**Frankie Brookes-Hoy MRCVS**

I graduated from the University of Bristol in 2014 and moved back to London where I grew up. Having worked in practices in the South East, I joined the Paxton Team in 2016.

I have a particularly strong interest in surgery.

Outside of work I enjoy scuba diving and sailing - I own a small sailing boat moored off the Kent Coast, which I have successfully managed to ground 3 times!

In the winter months you'll find me practising my snowboarding skills in Europe.

PROTECT YOUR PET

During winter rock salt is commonly used to clear our roads and paths, to keep them free from snow and ice. Rock salt can be dangerous to pets since it is toxic if ingested.

This will usually happen when pets go out for their walks, playing and stepping on gritted snow.

The substance can cause some level of irritation and pets will try to get rid of it by licking it off their paws and fur.

Unfortunately, even small quantities can be very dangerous for pets and cause thirst, vomiting, lethargy and in severe cases it can cause kidney damage, pancreatitis and seizures.

If you notice your pet is showing any of these symptoms and suspect they might be suffering from rock salt poisoning please contact us immediately.

If you realise your pet is feeling uncomfortable after a walk, you can help by using a mild and pet-safe shampoo and warm water to wash the affected areas. Please remember to thoroughly dry their fur with a towel afterwards.

DID YOU KNOW THAT CATS HAVE ANAL SACS?

Cats have two anal sacs: one on each side of their anus, approximately at 4 and 8 o'clock positions. These sacs have multiple glands that produce a foul smelling fluid.

It is important that your cat's faeces have a normal consistency, so that when he or she defecates the anal sacs can be expressed. When cats defecate the sacs are compressed, releasing the fluid to the anus through a small duct and giving a characteristic odour to the faeces. This fluid helps cats identify each other through its strong smell and helps them mark territory as well.

Disorders of these sacs include impaction and infection. Impaction can occur if the ducts used to empty the anal sacs get clogged. When they can't be emptied, the secretions become dry and hard. Infections may also occur when bacteria build up in their anal sacs.

If your cat is struggling with an anal sac problem you may notice he or she drags his or her rear end across the floor, excessively licks it or has a discharge from it. Due to pain, your cat may also become aggressive. If you notice any of these signs on your cat do not hesitate and bring your pet to the vet!

WE LOVE THIS VIDEO! WHICH KITTEN IS YOUR FAVOURITE?

We'd love this newsletter to be about you & your pet too...

- Have you got a story to tell?
- Would you like an answer to a question?
- We'd love to see a photo of your pet that we can share
- Have they been brave lately ... have they survived an accident or illness?

Please email to

[clifton@paxtonvets.co.uk](mailto:clifton@paxtonvets.co.uk)

OR

Post directly to our

[Facebook Page](#)



DOG TRIVIA

Chewbacca, the hairy Wookiee in the Star Wars movies, was inspired by George Lucas' Alaskan Malamute.

CAT FACT

Did you know cats are crepuscular, which means that they are most active at dawn and dusk.



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