



# Veterinary Surgery News

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## Happy Easter



### Lambing Time



Lambing season is underway, so if you are walking on the Downs this spring please make sure your dogs are well controlled and on a lead if any sheep are present. While your dog may not physically attack sheep, being chased by a strange dog may induce miscarriage in pregnant ewes. If you want to find out more about lambing, plan a visit to a local farm. Coombes Farm in Lancing is welcoming visitors until 23rd April (see the photos of their newborn lambs on their facebook page) and also until 23rd April you can watch lambs being

born at Gaston Farm near Slindon. Please check their websites for times and any updates.

### Spring Bunnies

Rabbits are naturally social animals which live in large groups, and it has been estimated that a rabbit kept on its own in a hutch needs its owner to spend 10 minutes with it - five times each day! Rabbits have been judged to be the most neglected pets; not having a 'voice' means rabbits cannot let us know the depths of their loneliness or boredom. Sadly many rabbits are put to sleep each year as rescue centres become inundated, so if you think you can give a good



home to a rabbit, the RSPCA in Patcham and Lumpy Lodge in Portslade always have plenty awaiting a new family.

Spring is a perfect time to upgrade any small hutches and runs which are just not suitable for such active and inquisitive creatures as rabbits. Bunny Burrows, from local landscape gardener Tam Wilkins, are a far better option. Custom built to blend in to your garden, the fox-proof interconnecting burrows are much more fun for your bun. See Tam's website for more details [www.bunny-burrows.weebly.com](http://www.bunny-burrows.weebly.com) - and find out what a "binky" is!

### Spring Perils

Most people know by now that chocolate can prove fatal to dogs (so hide those Easter eggs!), but did you know that daffodils are even more poisonous? The LD50 (the dose which is lethal to 50% of all dogs) is only 15g and to make matters worse there is no known antidote. Even the water in which cut daffodils are standing can be dangerous, so keep vases well away from your pets. At the first signs of poisoning (dribbling, panting, lethargy, vomiting and unsteadiness) please call us immediately for advice and treatment. Daffodils are less toxic to cats but can still make them very ill.



### Repeat Medication

Don't run out of your pet's tablets this Easter! Please aim to give 24 hours notice when asking for repeat medication. This allows the vets time to review your pet's notes, gives the nurses time to get the medication ready and saves you waiting at the desk at busy times!

For more information, log onto our web-site at [www.acorn-vets.co.uk](http://www.acorn-vets.co.uk).