

Irritation Irritation!

Just think how much easier it would be if our pets could talk to us. With a few words of 'my leg hurts, my eyes feel sore, I have a toothache or I'm itching all over', we would immediately know they had a problem. But talking animals are only in the movies! So it is up to us, to look out for any unusual behaviour, like **excessive** licking, scratching and nibbling, as this could be your pet's way of telling you that something is up!

Nibbling the Itch If you have ever found yourself in one of those vicious circles, you will know just how frustrating it can be. The more you try sorting the problem, the worse it gets! For a moment put yourself in your pet's paws. There is an itchy patch on your leg. You have licked and nibbled to ease it, but the more you do, the more irritating it gets. You have made it very red and sore, and now the irritation has begun on the other leg too. This could be a skin condition developing, due to a number of possible causes. Maybe you have a bacterial or yeast infection, an allergy to food, house dust, or the environment. Ear disease, damp or poorly groomed coats, flea and mite infestations can also be a factor.

The Underlying Cause

Skin conditions can develop anywhere on your pet's skin. Leaving them to continuously lick, scratch and nibble will only make matters worse, resulting in a non-stop and painful irritation for your pet.

It is important that the underlying cause is identified and treated. We will examine your pet, and have an in-depth chat about their lifestyle, what they eat, where they exercise etc. Skin and hair tests may also assist us in diagnosis.

Watch out for

- **excessive or constant licking, scratching and gnawing**
- **agitated behaviour**
- **hair loss**
- **redness/sore areas of skin**
- **shaking head & ears**
- **pawing at the face or rubbing against furniture**

If you notice any of the above, please bring your pet along for a check-up without delay.

COPTHORNE VETS NEWS

Winter 2011/12



Beryl the Bear Raises Money for the CINNAMON TRUST

The only specialist national charity for people in their last years and their much-loved, much-needed companion animals.

We raised £94 for this worthwhile charity in our 'Guess the Name of the Veterinary Nurse Bear' competition, held during the BVNA Veterinary Nursing Week. The Trust has 15,000 volunteers who help owners provide vital loving care for their pets, like walking a dog every day for a housebound owner, fostering pets when owners need hospital care, fetching the cat food, or even cleaning out the bird cage. When staying at home is no longer an option, their Pet Friendly Care Homes Register, lists residential/nursing homes that are happy to accept residents with pets. When a pet is bereaved, the trust will take on full lifetime care. If you would like to know more about the great work of the Cinnamon Trust, please contact us here at the surgery or visit www.cinnamon.org.uk



Beryl arrives at her new home Oxon Primary School. She was presented to Carol Evans by Head Nurse Emma Clare and her dog Ralphie, who were on a visit to teach the children responsible pet care.

Festive Food Encounters

Thoughts are probably turning towards the festive season, when all the advance preparation of baking Christmas cakes and steaming puddings begins. Please be aware that a main ingredient used in these foods are raisins. **It has been found that raisins and grapes can be toxic to dogs.** Although it is still unclear as to why these fruits are poisonous, if ingested, the dog could suffer kidney failure.



Please put all packages or any foods containing raisins and also fresh grapes, well out of your pet's reach. If you do suspect that your dog has eaten these fruits, or recognise any signs of - **restlessness, vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy, stomach pain or a reluctance to eat,** immediately contact the surgery for advice.

COPTHORNE HOURS

Weekdays

8.30am - 7pm

Saturday

9am - 12noon 4pm - 5pm

Sunday 9am - 10am

Consultations by appointment

01743 360614

EMERGENCY HOURS SERVICE

Vets Now



Congratulations Hollie

Student Veterinary Nurse Hollie, is getting ever closer to becoming qualified, after passing her written exams in August. She hopes to complete her final practical exams in December 2011, and begin next year as a valued member of our qualified Veterinary Nursing team. Good Luck Hollie!

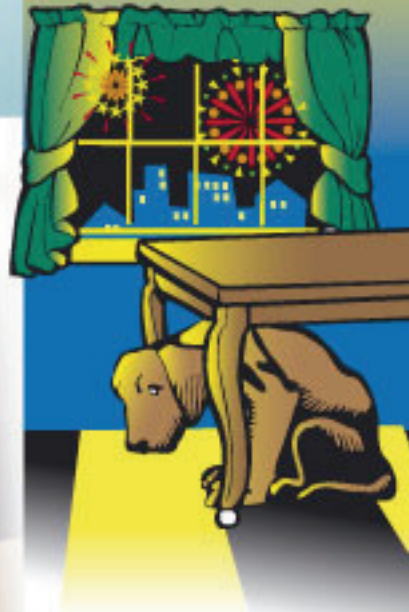


Welcome Back Corinne

who has returned to the practice after her maternity leave and taken up the role as Practice Manager. Along with her daily duties, Corinne is very committed to our Nurse Clinic service offered by our qualified Veterinary Nurses, and hopes to expand the variety of appointments that are currently available. The clinics are not only beneficial for your pet but also informative for you. Advice is available on weight loss, fleas, worming treatments and our nurses can even show you how to clean your pet's teeth. If you would like to find out more about Nurse Clinics or have any suggestions, please do contact our surgery or ask at reception on your next visit.

Fireworks screech and fizz in the winter night,
But have you thought they may be causing a fright
To pets who are hiding under tables and stairs,
Nervous and bewildered at the sudden flares.

Spare a few moments to prepare a quiet place,
With toys, treats, blankets and a friendly face.
Play a game, be happy don't scold fearful pets,
And remember help and advice are here at the vets.



Is everything covered?

With busy lifestyles these days, it is inevitable that something will be forgotten! Check out our list below, to help you maintain that all-important routine preventative healthcare.

Primary Vaccinations or Boosters are they due?

Protect your pet from illness, and help keep infectious, often fatal diseases at a low level in the animal community.

Fleas Ticks and Worms A year round problem. Regular effective treatments are available, so please contact us and we can suggest those suitable for your pet.

Kennel Cough Vaccination required?

If your pet is boarding, ensure they are protected in plenty of time, as this disease is spread via airborne droplets and nose-to-nose contact.

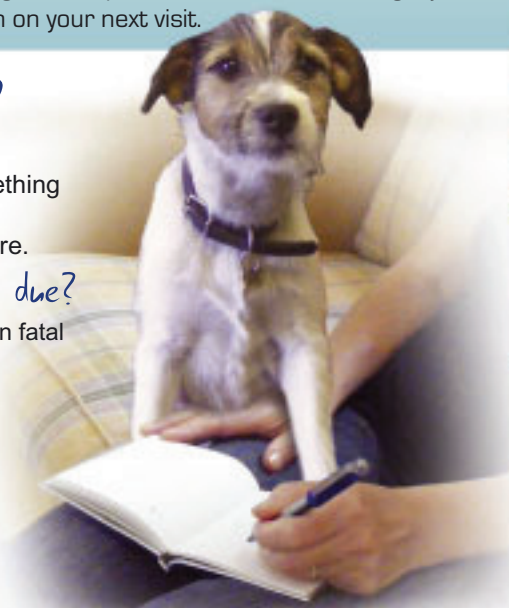
Teeth Regular check-ups and brushing help to prevent tooth decay, gum disease and keep breath fragrant. Our nurses can show you how to clean your pet's teeth.

Weight Watch Too many treats and lack of exercise may result in your pet piling on the pounds, causing them to be at risk from heart disease, diabetes and arthritis. We can advise on diet, suitable exercise and provide regular weigh-ins.

Ears Important for hearing and balance, so any signs of excess wax, nasty odour, frequent scratching or rubbing, pop your pet in for a check-up.

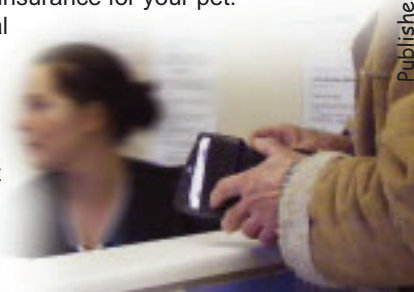
Eyes Sensitive and complex. Discharge, weepiness, red or sore looking eyes, should be examined as soon as possible.

Claws Need a quick trim? Our experienced nurses can assist.



The Unexpected

So now you have your pet's routine healthcare in hand, what about those cases of sudden illness or accidents? They can happen when you are least expecting them, and be an anxious time for owners, but take comfort that we are here to care for your poorly pet. The constant advancement of modern veterinary medicine, enables us to diagnose and treat a wide range of conditions that may previously have been incurable. However, such treatments can often incur expensive procedures and the last thing you need is the added worry of costs. So it is advisable to consider lifelong insurance for your pet. Instead of worrying about the financial expense of tests, operations and treatments, you can relax knowing that your chosen insurance company can help cover the cost. There are many different policies available, so it is important to read them thoroughly to see exactly what is included.



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