

Go on..... I dare you!

Is this the look you've been given when you go to clean your cat's teeth?

Most cats are quite happy to be fussed, pampered and fed, but when it comes to healthcare maintenance or giving pills, well that can be another story! In fear of bites, scratches and stress, owners (and even us vets) are sometimes a little reluctant to approach our feline friends! However, without a regular look inside your pet's mouth, the start of major problems could be overlooked. Some cats are prone to inflammatory diseases of the mouth, which if not treated can cause serious complications. Inflamed swollen gums (gingivitis), and sometimes ulcers or cuts on their tongue, gums or roof of the mouth, can make oral disease an extremely painful experience for your pet.

If you notice any of these signs bring your cat in for a check-up as soon as possible.

- ❖ Excessive drooling
- ❖ Bleeding gums
- ❖ Difficulty or not eating
- ❖ Bad Breath
- ❖ Irritable or depressed
- ❖ Trouble grooming

Once we have had a chance to assess the problem and depending on the type of oral disease we may find, then appropriate treatment can begin.



Regular dental checks are available for your cat here at our surgery, which can help towards detecting oral diseases in their early stages. We'll also show you how to brush your pet's teeth, to help keep their mouths in a healthy condition.

As always we are happy to answer any queries you have. Please contact our surgery for further information



GRASS SEEDS are small, but cause trouble for our pets if they become embedded in ears, toes & pads. Regularly check their coat, skin & body.

GUINEA PIGS are one of the oldest domestic animals, dating back to 1000-500 BC. They are fully developed at birth, & eat normal food from day one.

HICCUPS are quite common in puppies. They get excited very quickly, and when eating or drinking take lots of air down into their stomachs, which sets off the hiccupping! Try keeping them calm for a while, especially after eating.

HAIRBALLS can cause cats to 'gag or retch', as they try to dislodge this ball of swallowed hair from grooming. If you think your cat has developed a hairball, don't hesitate to bring them for a check up, as it can cause complications if not removed.

Vaccination = Protection



Excuse me but who is that coughing at the back there?

If it is your dog they could be suffering from Kennel Cough (Infectious Bronchitis). This is an extremely infectious disease, which is spread between our canine friends by airborne droplets. It can happen especially when they gather in such places as boarding kennels, training classes and dog shows, where there is lots of nose-to-nose contact!

Kennel cough can infect dogs of all ages and unfortunately in some cases, serious complications may arise in the very young, weak or elderly dogs. This disease affects your pet's respiratory tract causing a dry, hacking and unpleasant cough. You may notice some sneezing and a runny nose too. These symptoms can last for many weeks and will normally require some form of treatment. However protection is available against this disease by an intranasal vaccine, so if you would like further information on this please call us at the surgery.



Copthorne

Opening Hours

Weekdays

8.30am - 7pm

Saturday

9am - 12noon 4pm - 5pm

Sunday 9am - 10am

Radbrook

Weekdays

9am - 5.30pm

Consultations by appointment

01743 360614

EMERGENCY HOURS SERVICE



Your Rabbit & Myxomatosis

Rabbit Care

It has been reported that the viral disease myxomatosis, is on the increase in domestic rabbits. If your pet is not protected against this disease, you may want to consider vaccinating them during spring. This virus can be spread from wild rabbits to pet rabbits, by fleas and other biting insects. It causes severe unpleasant swellings around the face, ears, eyes and mouth. The rabbit suffers greatly as this distressing disease causes breathing difficulties and affects their ability to eat, drink and also see. It is heartbreaking for the owners, many who are children, and also for us to see rabbits in this condition. Sadly, it is often fatal. Vaccination against myxomatosis is available from six weeks old, followed by regular boosters to maintain protection.

It is important to provide a healthy and clean environment for pets to live in, which can help towards your rabbit's general well-being. **Flystrike** happens especially in the warmer months. Flies lay their eggs on the soiled hindquarters of a rabbit. Hatching maggots feed on the rabbit's skin and underlying tissue. This serious condition requires immediate veterinary treatment, as sadly flystrike can often be fatal. Check daily to ensure their bottom is clean, dry, egg & maggot free. **Teeth** grow continuously throughout their life. Overgrown teeth can cause eating problems, abscesses, cuts and prevent pets from grooming themselves properly. Regular dental checks and a well-balanced diet help keep teeth in good shape. **Sore eyes**, snuffles, nasal discharge and sneezing require a check-up by the vet as they could have an infection caused by the Pasteurella bacteria. **Hairballs** can form from hair swallowed when grooming and cause an obstruction. Look out for lethargy, not eating and weight loss. **Sore Hocks** may get infected due to long periods of sitting, soiled bedding or if your pet is overweight. **Pop along to the surgery where we'd be happy to give you full advice on caring for your pet rabbit, to keep them 'hoppy' and healthy!**

Please call the surgery to discuss any concerns you may have.

Copthorne Staff News

Well done to trainee nurse **Susan Richards** who enjoyed exam success in January, taking her one step closer to wearing the coveted green uniform of a qualified Veterinary Nurse.

At the end of December, we said **a very sad goodbye** to nurse Sarah Rogers after 8 years at the practice. Sarah had been a popular and senior member of our team, who had been key to building up our hydrotherapy service over the last few years. We wish her well in her new job in Wiltshire.

Babies, babies, babies !!

The Stork has been a very busy little bird around our area the past few months, so **CONGRATULATIONS** go to proud parents.....

Nurse Steph Morris (featured in last newsletter) who delivered a daughter, Amelia in mid December - both mum and daughter doing well. Our former Head Nurse, Corinne, whom many will remember, gave birth to a son, Henry in early January - again, mum and baby doing fine. and **GOOD LUCK** to nurse Sam Carpenter who is expecting her first baby in April, and also to Vet Richard Morris who is expecting number three in June.



Our Radbrook Surgery

Home of **FizzioPets** canine hydrotherapy



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Reuben

Isaac

Vet Martin Hall's family swelled by two when his wife delivered twin boys, Reuben and Isaac, back in the autumn.

We appreciate that times are probably difficult for all our clients at the moment, and we are mindful of the need to continue to provide good value, quality care for all our patients. Please feel free to discuss your pets' treatment needs with us, and to ask for detailed estimates for any treatment that might become necessary. Meanwhile, thank you so much for continuing to trust us with their care.