

March 2020



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Monthly Special!

This March we have FREE **DENTAL CHECKS** where you can make an appointment to ensure your pets' teeth are in good health. Dental disease is on the rise in our pet population, so include a health check in your pets routine check up.

Who Likes A Varied and interesting Diet?



Well your pets have their paws up too! Try varying your pet's diet instead of the same old thing, night after night. One night have cooked meats, other times pet biscuits, a soup, or even a mix of all types. Remember, your pet is just like you... they like variety too

Random Facts: Polydactyl cats is a cat with 1 -2 extra toes on their paws, have this 'gift' as a result of a genetic mutation. Often referred to as 'Hemingway cats' because the writer Ernest Hemingway reportedly owned dozens of them at his home in Florida! Talk about cute kitties!

Cheltenham Veterinary Clinic Many will be sighing with relief at the end of summer and hoping for cooler temperatures with the start of autumn. The summer has been full of heartache and despair with the fires that have raged the land. Wildlife dramas have produced a plethora of caring people who have stepped up and offered help to stressed and injured creatures. They have also extended assistance to the people who have suffered. It is wonderful how people pull together in a disaster to help one another and other species. But back to you, autumn pet care includes keeping up with preventative measures in the war against parasites. Fleas and tick activity may slow with the cooler weather, but they are survivors and are always a force to be reckoned with! So keep up with the preventative measures – be the winner in this battle!



Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). A viral condition that is slow moving but can affect your cat's immune system severely once the disease gets a grip. FIV is passed from cat to cat via injuries in aggressive cat fights over territory (a good reason to keep your cat inside) or it can be passed from an infected mother to her kitten. FIV cannot be transmitted from cat to human. If you suspect your cat has this condition, bring them into us for an examination. Symptoms include a poor appetite, weight loss, fever, and more. There is no 'cure' but treatment focuses on easing the effects of the virus and much can be done to help your cat enjoy a good quality of life. There is a FIV vaccine so that may be a preventative measure you could consider. Come in and

A Collapsed Trachea in Dogs. This is a chronic progressive condition that affects most middle aged to elderly dogs, usually of the smaller variety. The trachea or windpipe consists of a series of sturdy rings of cartilage that make up the tube shape. But a smaller part is made up of a thin membrane of tissue, and when this loses its rigidity or strength, then breathing becomes a problem as it collapses. A sudden attack of persistent dry coughing is a symptom and it can worsen at night, with excitement, hot weather or with environmental irritants such as dust or smoke. Smaller dogs have a higher predisposition for this condition such as Toy Poodles, Pomeranians, Chihuahuas and Yorkshire Terriers. This is a serious condition that requires medical help. An accurate diagnosis is vital, otherwise it is nearly impossible for your dog to get better without veterinary help so please contact us immediately.

Fun Facts about Cats



A Little Touch of Humour

Q: What is the unluckiest kind of cat to have?

A: A catastrophe!

Q: What did the dog say when he lost all his money?

A: I'm paw!

Canine Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CCDS)

CCDS is a type of dementia that strikes dogs as they age, usually from the age of ten.

Disorientation, lower energy, strange behaviour patterns, changes to their sleep patterns are all part of it. They may become confused and do their toileting in the house. Sadly there is no cure for this condition, but maintaining a healthy and stimulating environment will help slow your dogs cognitive decline. In other words, a daily routine of exercise, play and training plus a special balanced diet will all help.

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Broken Bones – Helping Your Pet to Cope.

Broken bones do happen for a lot of reasons – a car accident, or perhaps a fall. Behind the injury is usually a sudden impact or great force to the body. An exposed bone through the skin is obvious, but limping, whining/crying, excessive licking of the area are other signs. With a broken bone there are three steps to immediate care.

Don't try to re-set a fracture; Don't use antiseptics or ointments with an open fracture; and get your pet to the us immediately! If your dog is in pain, they may instinctively bite so you may need to muzzle them before you move them. Gently put them onto a flat board without bending them. Strap them to limit movement but avoid putting any pressure on the neck or back. Be very careful when transporting them to the vet. If in doubt [please call us](#) and we can advise on what to do.



Please check out our Facebook page and our Website for a wealth of information!

<https://www.facebook.com/cheltenhamvetclinic/>

<http://www.cheltenhamvet.com/>

Socialising Your Pup! It is of vital importance that dogs, especially young pups, are taught to mix and relate to other people and dogs outside of their owners property. This must be done in a safe and positive environment, and a [Puppy School](#) is ideal. Learning the acceptable behaviour will help your puppy to grow up into a responsible, confident dog. Without these skills, a dog can become fearful, anxious and disobedient, and dangerous! Starting gently at 3 -17 weeks of a puppy's life can ease them into social exposure. Always guide and encourage your pup and protect them from boisterous older dogs who 'just want to have fun!' Visit our clinic without an appointment so your dog grows to love a vet visit. Take them to the mall, local parks, to the beach. Socialising grows health happy pups who are a pleasure to all they meet.

Caring for Your Dog's Torn Toenail. Broken or torn toenails are a common injury in dogs. The dewclaws which is the highest nail upon your canines front feet tend to get broken most often. If your dog is licking its paw often, limping or you see blood then it is time for a closer look. Dogs are often sensitive about feet and if they are in pain, proceed with caution as they may bite without meaning to. If there is active bleeding, apply gentle firm pressure using a clean cloth and then gently wash the area. Tidy up the nail with dog nail clippers (human clippers are not strong enough for canine toenails) while speaking to your pup in a calm, soothing tone. Having a second person to help hold your dog may help, as long as its someone your dog knows and trusts. If it is more complicated, or if your dog gets upset with the procedure, come into the clinic. The injury may need a pain medication or a short course of antibiotics and a bandage. A treat after the ordeal will no doubt put a positive spin on this for your dog.

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