



Newsletter

September 2015

Parvo Virus Alert!

Three puppies were admitted for treatment at the end of August. They were all parvo virus positive, one died within hours, luckily two others responded to supportive treatment.

Parvo is a nasty, highly contagious virus; it causes vomiting and diarrhoea (often bloody) high and low temperatures, collapse and death. In young puppies it can also affect the heart, with long term consequences.

Many breeders will vaccinate their litters at 6 weeks old to offer them protection against this nasty disease. This is great but it should be remembered that the protection is short lived in these very young pups. Protection takes approximately a week to build a decent immune response and will wear off quite quickly. By 10 weeks old and sometimes earlier, the pup will be vulnerable again. It is a mixture of an immature immune system and antibodies, inherited from the mother, that makes this a particularly difficult time to gain long term vaccination benefit. This is why we always recommend that at least one of the vaccination injections is given when they are over 10 weeks old. If your puppy had a single parvo vaccine at 6 weeks old and is now 8 weeks or older, you should be starting their adult vaccination course. This will not only protect against parvo but distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis too.

Parvo virus lasts well in the environment for many months, this means that you, and other members of your household, can bring in the disease on your feet, so kick off those shoes as soon as you get home. This is also why we recommend that puppies are kept at home until at least one week after completion of their full vaccination course.



OPENING HOURS

MON - FRIDAY

8.30AM - 5.00PM

SATURDAY

9.00AM - 12.00PM

24 HR

EMERGENCY COVER

PLEASE USE THE USUAL NUMBER

01559 363318

Did You Know?

Common causes of diarrhoea

Worms - puppies should be wormed from 2 weeks old, every fortnight until 12 weeks old. Then monthly or 3 monthly dependent on whether you have children or vulnerable adults at home.

Sudden diet changes - if you are introducing a new food, particularly to puppies or elderly pets, always mix with the old food gradually increasing the new over a week to 10 days.

Parvo virus - see article.

Giardia - a nasty parasite, that can also affect humans. It can be hard to clear from cattery/kennel environments as it is possible to have carriers that don't display symptoms.

Allergy - some ingredients in dog foods that cause no problems in the average dog, will be highly irritant to another, causing diarrhoea.

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



Join us to raise money for this great charity on Friday September 25th from 11AM. We make the cakes and tea or coffee, you make a small donation to enjoy them.

It's very informal you can nip in, buy a cake and run or take a seat and enjoy a treat and a chat.



Healthy Weight Competition

Successful weight management is a combined effort between the pet owner and veterinary practice, and ROYAL CANIN® actively encourages pet owners to work with their veterinary practice team to achieve an ideal body shape in their pet. For this reason, pets can only be registered and entered into the Healthy Weight Competition by their Veterinary Nurse. Pet owners will however be given the option of being able to log in to the website and update their pets progress before their entry is submitted. For more information pick up a leaflet in Reception.

Using Ear Cleaner

It is more common for dogs than cats to have ear problems. This is because many dog breeds have floppy ears, making a warm, dark and moist environment, perfect for breeding yeasts and bacteria.

If your pet does need to have its ears cleaned then there are a few tips to follow.

Choose a tiled area to treat your pet's ears, they will inevitably shake their head and it's much easier to clean up tiles than carpet.

Put the cleaner in your pocket for 10 minutes before using, to warm it to body temperature. This will make it less of a shock when it enters the ear.

Have nice treats available for when you have finished as a reward (cakes for you, chicken bits for your pet)

Technique : Hold ear flap up over head. Pour some cleaner into ear. Massage the area below the ear. Use some cotton wool to swab away liquid and debris that wells up as you massage. Let your pet shake its head. Swab any debris away that has shifted upwards. **DO NOT USE** cotton buds or poke anything down the ear in case you do damage. If your pet develops a head tilt, stop using cleaner and seek veterinary advice.



Trimming claws and grooming

Some of our most fraught consults in practice can be over nail clips or overgrown coats. It may be that your pet's early experiences of nail clipping or grooming were uncomfortable, making them anxious or your pet is just not used to regular handling ; either scenario makes for a difficult trip to the vet.

So what can we do to improve things?

In an ideal world, your pet has been handled constantly from when it was born. They have had their feet played with, ears peered into, lips lifted to look at their teeth and tails lifted to check their bottoms. If these are done daily, your pet just accepts them as a normal part of life and it should continue into adulthood.

Investing in a nice comb, brush and nail clippers is invaluable as it will make your job quicker and more comfortable for the pet. The main thing to remember is caution, nails are better having tiny amounts taken off regularly than waiting until they are overly long, when you are more likely to catch the quick, which will cause bleeding and pain. This should be avoided but if it does occur quickly give a tasty treat to your pet to distract them. Same with grooming, little and often will keep those matts away. As soon as they form there will be some inevitable pulling to break them down. Never trim with a scissors as it is too easy to cause accidental injury.

Rescue or older un-handled dogs, will need plenty of treats and encouragement to learn new handling rules.

If your dog shows signs of aggression, do not get bitten. You may need a muzzle whilst you go through these learning stages. Treats can still be given through a basket muzzle if you are careful. Don't push it, stroke your pet and give a treat. Extend the stroke to a leg, if there are no upsets, give a treat. Proceed until they like the idea of having their feet handled and you can do it daily. If they growl or snap, don't treat. Never treat in the hope they will stop growling, this will reward bad behaviour. Don't rush the process, some more difficult pets may take weeks of training. It is worth persisting though, as getting your pet used to being handled will reap rewards by building trust and generally better behaviour. If you would like help with these stages, please book into a nurse clinic.

It is worth remembering that a pet avoiding contact may be due to pain or discomfort. An over grown dew claw can bury deeply into a pad and become quite infected before they become lame but they may have avoided you touching the area for some time, so watch for the signal that something is wrong.

In cats, matted fur can be a sign of ill health or bad teeth, making it uncomfortable to groom, and less tolerant of human contact.

Don't feel disheartened if you find it difficult to clip your pet's nails, or their grooming has got out of hand, we will always be happy help you with this. You may find it easier to book a regular visit so that we can also help with the slow and steady learning approach together.



Keep clippers lying flat along pad, only nipping off what protrudes.

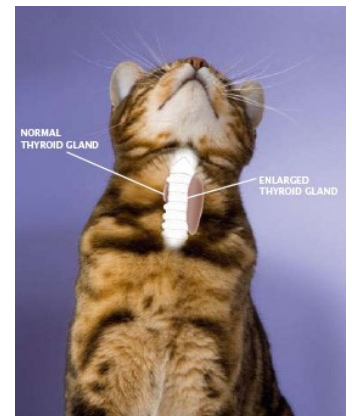


The Hyperthyroid Cat

Did you know that 10% of cats over 10 years old suffer from hyperthyroidism.

The thyroid gland has a number of functions affecting skeleton and brain development in the very young but in the older pet it affects heart rate, metabolism breakdown of fat and production of red blood cells. Hyperthyroidism is usually caused by an abnormal but usually benign tumour of the gland. This causes over-production of hormones resulting in symptoms of

- Excessive hunger or thirst
- Weight loss
- Hyper-activity or nervousness
- High heart rate
- Breathing difficulties
- A lump at the front of the neck



www.cat-hyperthyroidism.co.uk

Diagnosis is usually by a combination of examination and blood tests but can also include specialist digital imaging. There are many treatments available including

- Tablets
 - Special diet
 - Radioactive iodine treatment
- If your cat has symptoms, please book an appointment.

Minnie has joined the team.

A new vet has joined us this month. Georgina Hartnell, likes to be known as Minnie. We will have her profile on the website soon.