

The Best Things in Life are Free



Love or hate it, we all need exercise to help keep us healthy, including our pets too! Exercise should suit the age, breed, lifestyle and medical condition of your pet. With us all currently watching our pennies, it's great to know that walking your dog and playing games with your cat, won't cost you a penny!

Dogs When the lead appears there is usually no lack of enthusiasm on their part for walks! Although at times it may be wet, windy and cold and you would rather be in the warm, as pet owners we do have a responsibility to regularly exercise our dogs. In the great outdoors your dog can enjoy investigating the exciting scents, generally have fun, meet other canine friends and play games. Please be careful throwing sticks for play. Sadly there have been some horrific injuries where sticks have become lodged in the mouth or throat, resulting in lengthy operations to remove stick and splinters!

Cats Infamously known for their sedate sleepy life, but it is just as important to maintain their weight and encourage exercise. Some cats enjoy an outdoor life of chasing leaves and climbing trees, but others prefer the indoors.

Tips to encourage exercise - Cats love empty boxes! A variety of shapes and sizes with holes cut out will create a good 'leaping and jumping through' exercise area.

Lightly screwed up tissue paper creates a lovely noise when chased round the room.

Roll a small cardboard tube across the floor for chasing.

Ribbon, string or shoelace tied to a stick and gently waved, encourages play. However, please be aware that these play items can be choking hazards. If swallowed, they could cause a blockage in the throat or intestines. Pack them away after play, and supervise your kitten or cat during exercise time.

Have fun and enjoy exercising your pet. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call us.

GLAVEN SURGERY HOURS

We are open for pet healthcare and advice during the hours of

Holt 01263 713200

Monday to Friday
8.30am - 6pm

Saturday 9am - 12noon

Wells 01328 711022

Monday to Friday
9am - 12noon
3pm - 6pm

Consultations with our
Veterinary Surgeons and Nurses
are by appointment

**24 HOUR 7 DAY
EMERGENCY SERVICE**

01263 713200

www.glavenets.com

Spring 2024 GLAVEN Veterinary Practice News

Glaven Team News

A very warm welcome to new vets joining our team.

Rebecca Flynn MRCVS has been working within the practice, mainly at Wells as a locum since October 2020, and has really enjoyed getting to know some of the lovely animals in the area. She is a very familiar face, so it is with great pleasure to say that as from January 2024 she has become a permanent member of the vet team! You can see her at our Wells branch Monday to Wednesday and at Holt on Thursdays.



Julie Dixon MRCVS has recently joined the vet team working at our Wells branch on Wednesday and Friday. She has a love of cats and holds a Certificate in Feline medicine, hence why she is part of our new Cat Clinic team based at our Wells branch on Wednesdays.

Proud of our Nurse Team!

At Glaven we are very keen to develop and support the development of our nursing team in areas of interest to be able to expand the range of services that we can offer to our clients.

Charlie has a special interest in dog behaviour and has recently completed her **Level 4 Advanced Canine Behaviour Diploma** with distinction. She intends to study further at Level 5 so she can then officially register as a **dog behaviourist**.

Clare has a specialist interest in cats and holds **regular cat clinics** at Holt and now at Wells with our newest vet Julie. Clare has completed a number of cat related qualifications, her most recent being **ISFM Certificate in Feline Critical and Emergency Care**. Like Charlie in the autumn, she is going to be undertaking an additional feline behaviour qualification so she can register as a **cat behaviourist**.

Student vet nurse **Chloe** has completed all but of her final practical exams happening in March for her vet nursing qualification and is **on the home run to become a qualified vet nurse** in the not too distance future.

Congratulations on your fantastic achievements!



Cat Chipping Reminder From 10th June 2024 cat microchipping will be mandatory. Please call now for an appointment. Full details can be found at www.gov.uk/government/news/treasured-pets-now-safer-as-microchipping-for-cats-becomes-compulsory

Just for Cats



Is Your Cat Happy in a Carrier?

Reduce stress and create a positive travelling experience for your cat.

Cats are naturally independent and territorial. Your feline friend will always want to be in control of his or her surroundings and for these reasons, **travelling in a cat carrier can cause stress** to your cat, but this can be reduced by choosing the right design. A sturdy plastic based carrier that separates into top/bottom, allows a nervous cat to remain in the bottom

part where it can feel safer during examination. This needs to have at least two openings on the sides, and is easier to use when training your cat to become familiar with its carrier.



Avoid using a backpack carrier; these do not allow enough space for cats to move or reposition, which can be very unsettling for your pets and contribute to their anxieties.

A roof entry can be useful for cats that are reluctant to voluntarily go into the carrier via the front door, as they can be easily lifted in and out. **Physically forcing your cat inside will only enhance the negative association with its carrier.**

Placing your cat's favourite toys and bedding inside can help your pet feel more secure and create positivity.

A familiar blanket or towel can comfort your cat especially if feeling anxious. In multi cat households there may be only one carrier, which can mean that cats are put in together when travelling. **Even if cats have an amicable relationship, being confined in a small space can cause stress and tension for them both.**

Top Tips

- Book appointments during cat clinics or quieter times of the day.
- Keep the carrier as part of the familiar environment and not an item to be feared when pulled out of storage.
- Treats or toys inside help encourage your cat to explore the carrier.
- Try not to feed your cat before a journey to avoid vomiting or toileting.
- If your cat stresses in the waiting room then staying in the car might be a better option. Ask reception to call you when the vet/nurse are ready for your appointment.
- Use of chemical pheromones such as Feliway or Pet Remedy sprayed onto their bedding at least 15 minutes before placing them in the carrier may help give the perception it is a safe and secure place.
- Place the carrier up high at the vets – not on the floor. We have towels and blankets that you can spray and place over the carrier whilst waiting for your appointment.

Please call us if you would like further help or advice.

Tongue Twister

A dog's lolling pink tongue can look quite comical, but this part of the canine anatomy is actually a very powerful tool. It helps your pet to lap water, manipulate food, identify taste and texture, clean, regulate body temperature and is of course responsible for that very wet slobbery greeting across the face!

Tongue Talk Under the tongue is a band of tissue called the **frenulum**, which attaches it to the floor of the mouth. Humans can boast 9,000 taste buds, but dogs have only around 1,700. Their buds situated on the tongue tip, are especially designed for tasting water. The slight roughness you can feel as your dog licks your hand, are the small surface bumps called **papillae**.

Built-In Air Conditioning!

When a dog gets too hot, it cannot sweat through the skin, but can cool down a little via sweating through paw pads. The main source of lowering their body temperature is by panting, as this pulls air across the capillaries in the tongue, so helping cooler blood to circulate through the body. A tongue is also used as a form of communication between a mum and her puppies to help create bonding.

Check it Out It's a good idea to regularly look at and under your pet's tongue. Watch for any cuts, lumps, bumps or swellings and be aware that broken or sharp teeth may aggravate the tongue.

Your dog's tongue is an amazing piece of equipment. A dog from Illinois set the World Record in June 2023 for the longest dog tongue at over 13cm! Get your tape measures out, maybe your dog can beat that!



CAT ONLY CLINICS Wednesdays at Wells from 1pm - 3pm

To accommodate our **sensitive feline friends** we are very pleased to offer this special clinic.

- Longer appointments
- No dogs
- Practice only open for cats

Pre-booked appointments only
If you feel your cat would benefit from our **Special Cat Clinic**, please call to book a time with our vet **Julie Dixon**.



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